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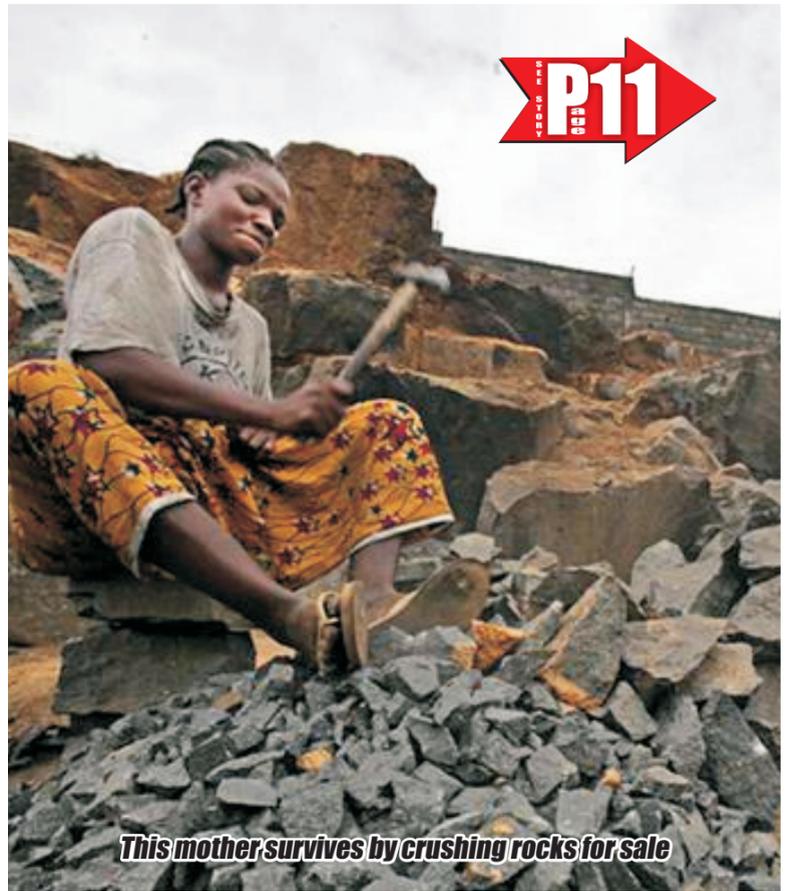
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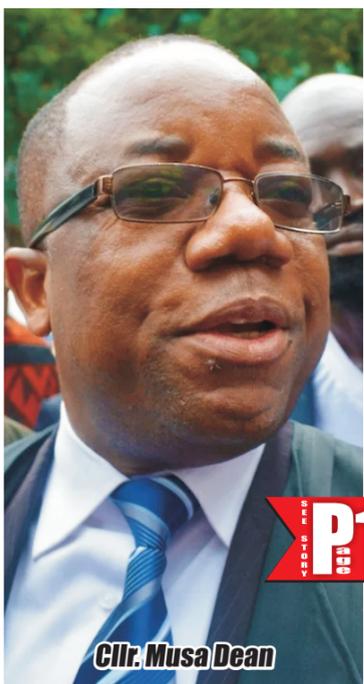
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# Tough times ahead

**-Liberians warned**



*This mother survives by crushing rocks for sale*



**Cllr. Musa Dean**



**Senator Varney Sherman**

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# Continental News

## Tanzania denies death of investigative journalist

**T**anzania's government spokesman has posted a series of tweets denying that the foreign minister had said in a BBC interview that a missing journalist was dead.

Spokesman Hassan Abbas tweets that the minister was speaking "contextually", the Tanzanian government still has no confirmation whether the journalist is dead or alive and that the issue is still being investigated: In his interview with the BBC's Focus on Africa programme, Foreign Minister Palamagamba Kabudi appeared to refer to investigative journalist Azory Gwanda as dead three times:

Quote Message: "In the Rufiji area, [it] is not only Azory Gwanda, Azory who has disappeared and died..."

"In the Rufiji area, [it] is not only Azory Gwanda, Azory who has disappeared and died..."

Quote Message: Azory Gwanda is part of many other Tanzanians which had been killed in that area...Azory

Gwanda is part of many other Tanzanians which had been killed in that area...

Quote Message: The state is dealing with all those who have unfortunately died and disappeared in Rufiji... it was very painful for someone who was doing his job to pass on

The state is dealing with all

those who have unfortunately died and disappeared in Rufiji... it was very painful for someone who was doing his job to pass on

Mr Kabudi was attending a conference on media freedom in London when the BBC's Peter Okwoche asked him about Mr Gwanda: Mr Gwanda went

missing in 2017 after investigating a spate of murders.

Mr Gwanda's wife, Anna Pinon, told the BBC's Esther Namuhisa that the authorities have not contacted her for a year and a half and she believes he is still alive.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has been campaigning for the authorities to investigate the case properly.

The CPJ's Robert Mahoney expressed outrage at Mr Kabudi's comments:

"For a year and a half, Azory Gwanda's family and the Tanzanian media have pleaded with the government to explain what happened to their loved one and colleague. Then suddenly the foreign minister mentions, almost in passing, that the journalist is apparently dead. This is wholly inadequate and distressing."

His wife says the last time she saw him was when he left their farm in a white Land Cruiser with four men she did not recognise, the CPJ adds. BBC



*Azory Gwanda went missing in 2017 after investigating a spate of murders*

## UN chief: West Africa anti-terror fight is insufficient

**U**N Secretary General Antonio Guterres says the current fight against terror in West Africa's Sahel region is insufficient.

He was speaking at a UN summit on counter-terrorism, where he urged donors to do more to

support military and developmental efforts to stop violent extremism.

Recently the Sahel has suffered an increase in jihadist and ethnic violence, and sometimes a combination of both.

The G5 Sahel, a multinational counter-

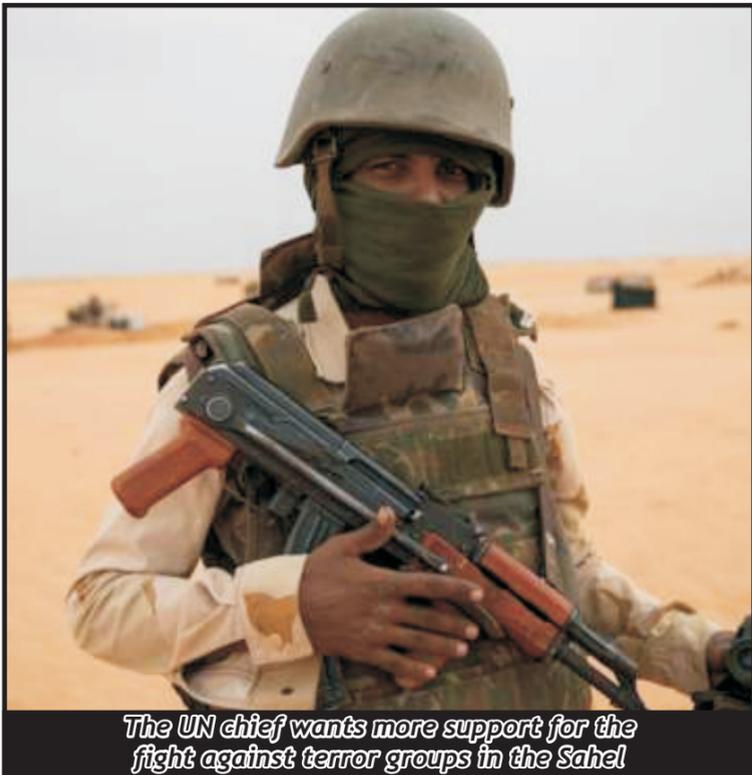
terrorism force in the region, has been largely underfunded and failed to counter the threat from groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

Mr Guterres thinks there needs to be a change in attitude towards the force and its job, and he wants the international community to care more.

"I think we need on one hand to make the mandate stronger, we need to make the funding more predictable but I think probably the G5 is no longer enough," he told the BBC.

"I think we need to look into a broader regional context. We need to engage with the countries of West Africa with stronger support from the international community," he said.

This week the European Union pledged an additional \$150m (£120m) to the G5 Sahel force, but many other donors have failed to deliver promised funds. And two years after it was formed, the force has barely got off the ground. BBC



*The UN chief wants more support for the fight against terror groups in the Sahel*

## Kenya orders halt to online betting payments

**K**enya's interior ministry has said it has not renewed the licenses of 27 betting companies including the country's biggest, SportPesa.

In a letter to telecoms company Safaricom, the government says that the companies have not met the "outstanding renewal requirements". But, correspondents say, it is not clear what exactly these requirements are.

estimated 12 million clients should still have access to the funds they have deposited in their betting accounts. It has asked for permission to keep the short codes to allow people to withdraw the money.

In addition, it points out that SportPesa has an outstanding court case with the authorities on a previous ruling.

It has also asked the



SportPesa is known worldwide as a sponsor of English Premier League clubs. The company's name currently appears on Everton shirts.

Most people in Kenya who want to gamble use their mobile phones to place bets. The government has asked Safaricom to suspend the betting companies' telephone short codes.

In a response through its lawyer, Safaricom says its

government to make a public announcement about the ruling on the licenses.

Gambling has become big business in the country in recent years as companies have taken advantage of technology that makes it easier to sell their services. Some have expressed concern that a growing number of young people are spending their money on gambling. BBC

# 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 Paulo Gomes

## Why Investors Should Go Beyond African GDP

*Amid bleak GDP-based forecasts of Africa's economic performance, some investors are tempted to write off the entire continent. But those who seize opportunities to gain an accurate and nuanced picture of Africa's economic performance and prospects could reap vast rewards.*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Gross domestic product has been the ultimate measure of an economy's welfare for over 80 years. But, as the world's economies become increasingly complex and technology-focused, economists are increasingly questioning GDP's usefulness as a gauge of an economy's health, with some arguing for a radically new approach. Africa's experience shows why such an approach is badly needed.

Africa has long suffered as a result of GDP's shortcomings. In January, the global credit-ratings agency Fitch Solutions forecast that while Africa's GDP growth will average 4.5% annually over the next decade, its average GDP per capita will stagnate. But such bleak projections are misleading - and threaten to drive away investors.

The first problem with GDP projections for Africa is that they are based on scarce data. The majority of the continent's national statistics services are underdeveloped. They lack sufficient funding and independence to acquire comprehensive data and calculate benchmark economic indicators. In other words, official GDP figures may be very wrong.

Consider Nigeria, which in 2014 overhauled its GDP data for the first time in over two decades. Such "rebasings" - needed to capture structural changes to the economy - should take place every five years or so. But Nigeria's national statistical agency had lacked the funding, data, and political will to rebase regularly. When it finally did, GDP skyrocketed to \$510 billion, nearly double the previous estimate of \$270 billion. With that, Nigeria overtook South Africa as the continent's largest economy.

The fact that much of economic activity in Africa occurs in the informal sector further undermines the reliability of GDP statistics. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the informal economy accounts for two-thirds of all employment; in cities such as Kampala and Dakar, that figure reaches or even exceeds 80%. In Nigeria, the informal sector represents 50-65% of total economic output. A metric that fails to measure so much economic activity can't possibly be a sound basis for investment decisions.

Even if country- and continent-level GDP averages were more reliable, they would amount to a cumbersome guide for investors, especially given how large and diverse Africa is. In fact, African countries with vastly different GDPs may share more - and more important - features than countries with similar GDPs.

For example, Namibia's diversified economy has more in common with South Africa, a country with nearly 30 times the GDP, than it does with Senegal, a country of similar economic size when measured by GDP. Nigeria's GDP is far larger than Chad's, yet their economies are often compared to each other because of the dynamics of their oil sectors. Such structural commonalities provide more nuanced insights for investors than ungainly GDP averages ever could.

But perhaps the best way to gain an appropriately nuanced understanding of African economies' health and prospects is by focusing on their cities - the continent's main engines of economic development. While 60% of Africans still live in rural areas, the continent is undergoing rapid urbanization. In the next 15 years, the world's ten fastest-growing cities will all be in Africa. The economic output of Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, is larger than that of Kenya, one of the continent's most promising economies.

Already, some multinationals are using city-based models to guide their African investment strategies. They know that dismal national GDP averages can obscure pockets of increasingly prosperous consumers who are eager to purchase high-quality goods and services from abroad. So, when determining a market's viability, they often focus on cities, considering diverse indicators like mobile-phone penetration, electricity usage, and Internet bandwidth.

One global packaged-food manufacturer, for example, has focused its Africa strategy on 15 cities that collectively represent about 25% of the total growth in packaged-food sales expected across Africa in the next five years. More broadly, foreign direct investment has been flowing primarily toward Africa's four main megacities: Cairo, Johannesburg, Nairobi, and Lagos.

Of course, whether at the city or country level, comprehensive and reliable data are needed to provide a strong foundation for investment strategies. Private companies - including African tech startups - can take advantage of new technologies to help deliver this. For example, Terragon, a Nigerian data analytics firm, pulls data on mobile-phone usage and matches it against data provided by its business clients to produce insights about African consumers.

Investors who seize such opportunities to gain an accurate and nuanced picture of Africa's economic performance and prospects could reap vast rewards. Those who write off the entire continent based on simplistic and incomplete GDP data will lose out.



## Lord, what else can you expect?

Dear Father:

*Huh, so they say this old man na take his behavior from the Traditional Council to the Elders at the Palaver Hut eh? They say the man na carry his interest business at the place oo.*

*Who the man my son and what kind of behavior are you talking about?*

*Oh Father, you remember da oldman the Country Giant took from the Traditional Council sometime ago and took him to the Elders to join them at the Palaver Hut?*

*Yes, my son.*

*Ah, the man thinks he is still at the Traditional Council where they do things on interest basis oo.*

*You joking my son!*

*Am telling you some serious Father. The man thinks da interest business down there-where they can go from one person room to another saying this is my interest.*

*Wait now, he thinks that political ground there?*

*But what else can you expect from the man Father-most of the things the people do at the Traditional Council are pure politics and they don't care much for the village Oracle, had it been the case asked my man who they used 4G approach to remove him from the Palaver Hut-It's all about interest.*

*So that the same thing they say our man na carry to the Palaver Hut. They say he can't sit down in his office these days running from one office to another telling the other Elders to go easy on his interest.*

*The other day my man say they were in a meeting talking to the head of the Palaver Hut, about how the Country Giant had appointed some people who did not go to our big Oracle school at the Hill of Learning- they say the man just walked in the meeting-nobody must touch the man, the man da my interest.*

*Can you imagine this Father? The man is wrongly place and if care is not taken he will destroy all the good things his friends have done trying to restore sanity at the Palaver Hut oo.*

*Puah, you expect the monkey to leave his black hands behind-that's what the man is used to-it's all about the greed for money and power.*

*Yes, Father, like they often say a crook is always a crook no matter where he or she is found they will always exhibit their crooked ways. The person is already used to compromising for personal gain so what good can you expect of him where he is going around from one room to another identifying his interests.*

*We will learn sense in this village here. Ehn we na go nowhere yet-now he has turn his greedy hands on town criers while sitting behind the scene but his days are gradually being numbered.*

## OPINION

By Michael Poyker

### America's Captive Labor

**N**EW YORK - Blaming manufacturing-job losses on low-wage foreign competition, or, increasingly, on automation has become a staple of populist politics in developed countries. Nowhere is this truer than in the United States, where President Donald Trump campaigned on the issue in 2016 and has since launched a trade war with China. But US workers have long faced another source of competition much closer to home: prison labor.

Many Americans may assume that the country's convict-labor system is a thing of the past, especially given unflattering Western media coverage of other countries' reliance on prison labor to produce export goods. But in 2005 - the most recent year for which a fairly complete set of countrywide data is available - America's convict-labor system employed nearly 1.4 million inmates, of which about 600,000 worked in manufacturing. That is 4.2% of total US manufacturing employment.

America's prisons represent a large and growing pool of available labor: since 1932, the number of inmates in the US has soared, from approximately 140,000 to more than 2.2 million in 2014. They work for companies like Walmart, AT&T, Victoria's Secret, and Whole Foods Market; yet they earn less than \$1 per hour, on average - far less than the legal minimum wage for non-incarcerated workers. As a result, convict labor is not only exploitative; it also distorts market competition.

This is precisely the complaint that has been leveled against China since its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001 - an event now widely referred to as the "China shock." Yet, over the course of its history, convict labor has affected US manufacturing at least as much as the China shock.

That effect was apparent from the 1870s; in 1886, prisoners constituted up to 2% of all manufacturing employees and accounted for 4.2% of total manufacturing output. Unlimited working hours and physical punishments, together with new industrial machinery, were a formula for super-profits.

Private forms of convict labor were first abolished by 1941; however, the practice was reintroduced in 1979 in order to finance the growing prison population. Labor markets were again affected.

One might expect that prison labor became most prevalent in the South after the Civil War, given the region's history of convict leasing and chain gangs. But the overwhelming majority of inmates were employed in the Northeast and Midwest in 1886-1941, producing manufacturing goods. While convict labor came to be used to some extent in almost all industries, it was concentrated in only a few. For example, in 1886, 10% of all furniture was produced in prisons, though most employed convicts produced clothes and shoes. In the same year, in South Carolina, prisoners produced more clothes than free laborers did.

Among free laborers, women - who tended to dominate the apparel and shoemaking industries - suffered the most, as inmates filled their jobs and drove down their wages. And male inmates could not use their newly acquired skills after their release, because apparel and shoe manufacturers tended to favor women when hiring free labor.

When the China shock came, its overall impact may have been compounded by its effect on convict labor. From 2000 to 2005, the number of convicts employed in manufacturing increased by 92%, as some firms embraced cheap prison labor in an effort to remain competitive, while others in their industry lowered their wage bills by moving their operations abroad. Overall, convict labor is responsible for 5% of the total manufacturing-employment decline in the US from 2000 to 2007.

If the Trump administration is serious about protecting the livelihoods of US workers and the integrity of market competition, addressing the problems raised by prison labor is a good place to start. Companies should be required to pay prisoners wages that are closer to the market rate. At the very least, companies (such as Boeing) should have to bid for the right to use convict labor. Even if all the proceeds didn't go to the convicts themselves, the difference could be used to help defray prison costs.

Yet, far from reducing the distortions created by the convict-labor system, some governments are exacerbating them. In Colorado, for example, state agencies must purchase certain goods, such as office furniture, from the state's correctional industries, a requirement that puts firms without access to convict labor at a distinct disadvantage. A lack of transparency in the process of determining which firms may use convict labor does not help.

Historically, competition from convict labor did have one unintended benefit: while it wiped out some industries in certain locations, it also forced firms to adapt, including by adopting more advanced technologies. Those companies that survived did so by investing in laborsaving machinery and even patenting their own innovations.

But this outcome, too, had a steep downside: because it caused returns to capital to increase relative to returns to labor, it benefited capital owners at the expense of low-skilled wage earners.

Colorado recently voted to change the language in its state constitution, so that it no longer allows "slavery" as a form of punishment. And yet prisoners in the state are producing furniture for the University of Colorado for \$2.45 per day. What are they, if not slaves?

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

# A COMMENTARY: "COMFORT ZONE AND NEC POSTPONES BY-ELECTIONS"

As an eternal Pro-Democracy political animal, I was attracted, naturally, to the youthful writer Martin Kollie's "Leave (the) Comfort Zone" message (Analyst Liberia, July 4, 2019) and warning to political party opposition leaders of the political organization in opposition to the ruling party government. Curious out of the questions raised by the message about "comfort zone", I read and re-read the message several times for an idea of writer Kollie's categorization of comfort zone in this context might be. Is it:

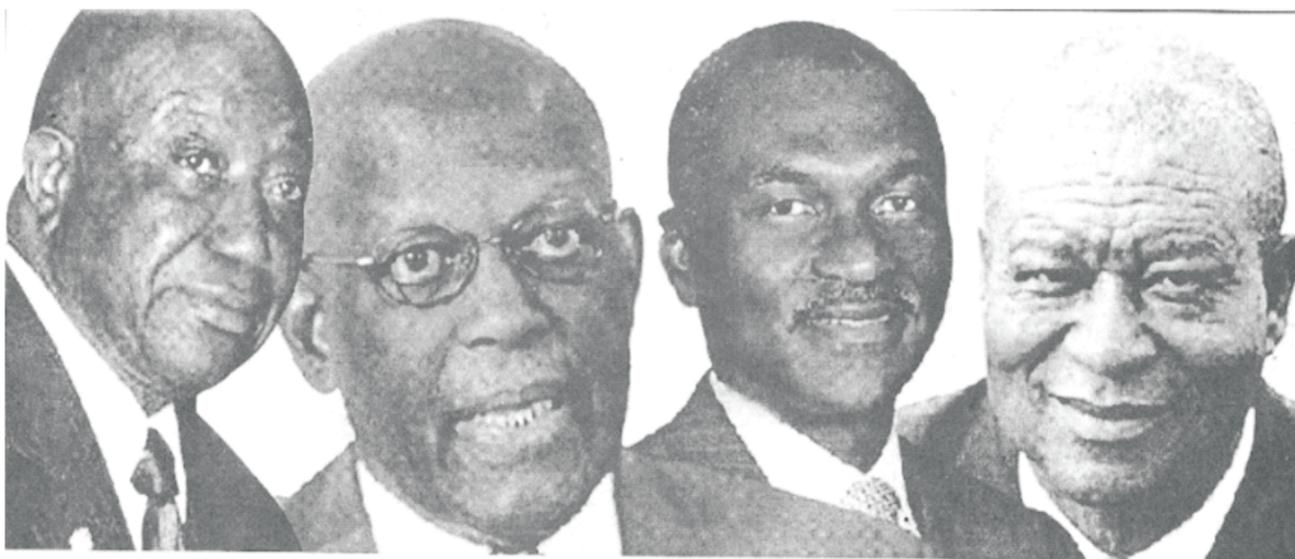
1) Being in opposition, simply, of a political party government in power that practices of un-democratic social cultural, economic and political tyranny despite professional warnings and advice; or

2) Specifically, being in opposition of a political party government in power that is organized by an inherited system with continuation of ordained, inherited practices of un-democratic social cultural, economic and political tyranny despite professional warnings and advice.

This categorization is very important because of the members of the ruling party government and members of the political parties in opposition are positioned differently. I suppose that young Kollie's reference of "comfort zone" is Point 2 above, given the prevailing circumstances and conditions of the ruling party and government being inheritors of TWP system of government and members of the political parties in opposition being off-springs and member of the Originators of the TWP system of government.

The Ruling Party Government operations are based on the inherited TWP system (of government & governance) that created the city of Monrovia Ghetto Slums now the national voting-age majority in Montserrado County. The system, also, isolated and rendered Rural Liberia dependent politically, economically on Monrovia, Montserrado County for survival. The NEC was created to support and continue this system.

The crucial question now is who are the present, practicing opposition political party beneficiaries of the inherited TWP system? Certainly, it must be both the ruling party government and the opposition. But the most major beneficiary



UP Boakai

LP Brumskine

ANC Cummings

ALP Urey

## 'Leave Comfort Zones.

## By-elections postponed



is the ruling party government because it is in power and controls everything; whereas, the opposition is, in fact, in competition for power and the benefits thereof. They are:

a) Former Vice President, the Honorable Joseph N. Boakai. Indigenous citizen "baptized" into the TWP system of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for political reasons. Unfortunately, Honorable Boakai supported the illegal appointment of Cllr. Jerome Korkoyah as chairman of the NEC.

b) Counselor-at-Law Mr. Charles Brumskine. Cllr. Brumskine was, and is, not only the legal brains and guru of them all - the TWP System - but also one of the major supporters of Charles Taylor-insurgency and served as President Protempore of the Taylor-Senate. Politician Brumskine supported the illegal appointment of Cllr. Korkoyah as Chairman of the NEC.

c) Politician Alexander Cummings. Not only that Mr. Cummings is the off-spring of members of the TWP Americo-Liberians, but also, that he is citizen of a foreign

country in flagrant violation of Article 52(c) of the Constitution which provides that "no person shall be eligible to stand for the office of president unless that person is resident in the Republic ten years prior to his election, and Section 2.9 of the New Elections Law and Guide Lines regarding citizenship. Politician Cummings supported the illegal appointment of Cllr. Korkoyah as chairman of the NEC.

d) Businessman Benoni Urey. Mr. Urey was born not only an Americo-Liberian TWP political system, but also served as the nation's maritime commissioner under former President Charles Taylor, leader of the civil war insurgency. According to UN reports, Mr. Urey as Maritime Commissioner in collaboration with LISCR, Maritime shipping agents, purchased the arms and ammunitions that took the lives of quarter of a million Liberians. Politician Urey supported the illegal appointment of Cllr. Korkoyah as Chairman of the NEC.

Now the NEC has postponed the By-Elections!!

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Weah arrives in Conakry for two-day State Visit

President George Manneh Weah arrived in the Guinean capital, Conakry, for a two-day official state visit on Thursday, 11 July.

The Executive Mansion says in a press release that President Weah and entourage were Thursday morning, 11 July met on arrival at the Gbessia International Airport in Conakry, by his Guinean counterpart, Prof. Alpha Conde, and an array of high-ranking officials of the Guinean Government and members of the diplomatic corps.

From the airport which lies parallel to the south shore of the Kaloum Peninsula approximately five kilometers from its tip, President Weah was accompanied to his hotel by President Conde to begin official business germane to the visit.

During his visit, President Weah will participate in

several functions, including a visit to the Container Port, hold a tête-à-tête at the Palace of Sekhoutourea and attend a formal decoration ceremony in the Presidential Palace Banquet Hall.

President Weah will then

hold a closed door meeting with Prof. Conde.

The President's visit continues with bilateral discussions that will highlight issues of peace and security in the Mano River (MRU) Basin, as well as on trade and

commerce, and the improvement of diplomatic ties between Liberia and Guinea.

President Weah, who is visiting Guinea for the first time since his ascendancy to the highest office of the land, recently stressed the need for direct flights between and among nations of the MRU and the ECOWAS sub-region to facilitate the free movement of citizens and goods.

Members of the President's delegation include Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah, Jr.,

Defense Minister Daniel Ziahkhan, Minister of Justice, Cllr. Musa Dean, Minister of State Without Portfolio TrokonKpui, and Managing Director of the National Port Authority, Bill Tweahway among others.

While President Weah is away, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Chief of Office Staff, Nathaniel F. McGill, will act as chair of the cabinet in close consultations with the Vice President and via telephone contact with the President.—*Press release*



## Sen. Yallah seeks VP Taylor's support ahead of 2020?

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong County

There are visible signs in Bong County that Sen. Henry Yallah might be seeking the support of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor in the upcoming 2020 senatorial elections in the County.

Our Bong County Correspondent says relations between the two have improved drastically and that the two have become closer than ever before leaving the public to paint a picture that the senator might get support from the Vice President.

Sen. Yallah who has over

the past been vocal on the Coalition for Democratic Change led government has taken another trend in recent weeks as he is seen in every corner of the county explaining the achievements of President George Weah and Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

Sen. Yallah is an Executive member of the People's Unification Party or PUP, a political party that supported the Standard Bearer of the former governing Unity Party Joseph NyumahBoakai in 2017 election.

The senator is said to have smoked a peace pipe with the Vice President in recent time

ahead of soliciting her support.

Our Bong County Correspondent says Senator Yallah after the 2017 Presidential elections, was seen lambasting the citizens on why they voted the CDC government to power, but since he decided to solicit support from President Weah and Madam Taylor, his messages have completely changed and he is now praising the government like its official spokesperson.

An insider who begged not to be named said Senator Yallah usually calls the Vice President and some top officials of the CDC government asking for the support of the Party (CDC).

Our Source referenced the impeachment of former Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, as the beginning of Senator Yallah's desire to seek favor from the officials of the CDC in an effort to gain relevant.

That led him to his support for the removal of Justice Ja'neh, an impeachment bill that was filed by Representatives Moses Acarous Moses and Thomas Fallah of the CDC.

Our Source said Sen. Yallah was again seen on Wednesday 10 July with Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor during her private visit in the county.

Meanwhile, Sen. Yallah is yet to respond to concerns about lobbying with the Vice President ahead of his 2020 bid.



## One in 4 people in Africa pay bribe for service

**-New survey reveals**

The tenth edition of Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) - Africa, released on African Anti-Corruption Day by Transparency International in partnership with Afrobarometer, reveals that more than half of all citizens surveyed in 35 African countries think corruption is getting worse in their country. Fifty-nine per cent of people think their government is doing badly at tackling corruption.

The largest and most detailed survey of citizens' views on bribery and other forms of corruption in Africa, the survey asked 47,000 citizens in 35 countries about their perceptions of corruption and direct experiences of bribery.

The results show more than 1 in 4 people who accessed public services, such as health care and education, paid a bribe in the previous year. This is equivalent to approximately 130 million people.

The report also highlights that corruption disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, with the poorest paying bribes twice as often as the richest. Young people pay more bribes than those over 55 years old.

"Corruption is hindering Africa's economic, political and social development. It is a major barrier to economic growth, good governance and basic freedoms, like freedom of speech or citizens' right to hold governments to account," said Patricia Moreira, Managing Director of Transparency International. "While governments have a long way to go in regaining citizens' trust and reducing corruption, these things don't exist in a vacuum. Foreign bribery and money laundering divert

critical resources away from public services, and ordinary citizens suffer most."

The police is considered the most corrupt institution, with 47 per cent of people believing that most or all police are corrupt. Many citizens also think government officials and parliamentarians are highly corrupt, at 39 per cent and 36 per cent respectively.

As in the previous edition of the GCB for Africa, the police consistently earn the highest bribery rate across the continent. This may be one of the reasons that two-thirds of those surveyed fear retaliation for reporting corruption. On a positive note, more than half of citizens believe that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption.

"To reduce the heavy burden of corruption on ordinary people, African states that have not done so should ratify and effectively implement the African Union Convention to Prevent and Combat Corruption," said Paul Banoba, Regional Advisor for East Africa at Transparency International. "Africans believe they can make a difference. Governments must allow them the space to do so."

Transparency International urges governments to put anti-corruption commitments into practice and to: investigate, prosecute and sanction all reported cases of corruption in both the public and the private sector, with no exception; develop minimum standards and guidelines for ethical procurement and build strong procurement practice throughout the continent with training, monitoring and research; adopt open contracting practices, which make data and documentation clearer and easier to analyze and ensure transparency in hiring procedures; create

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MIA, GC launch local government awareness

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Governance Commission have begun engagements with local government stakeholders to explain the contents of the Local Government Act (LGA) of 2018.

Signed into law on September 19, 2018 by President George Manneh Weah, the Local Government Law among other things seeks to form a greater shared-governance partnership between central Government in Monrovia and local governments at the County level through the transfer of certain administrative, fiscal and political powers and authority.

The Law is also intended to establish legitimate system of local self-governance that is decentralized, gender-sensitive, participatory and accountable, and in which the power to make local political decisions is inherent in the local communities and the locally elected administration and councils based on democratic



principles.

A release from the Ministry of Internal Affairs says County Superintendents, traditional Chiefs, representatives of Civil Society organizations, marginalized groups including Mr. Beyan Kota of the Christian Association of the Blind and women leaders are meeting in Gompa City, Nimba County from Wednesday, July 10th, to

Friday, July 12, 2019.

Speaking at the opening, Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Research and Development Planning, Honorable Olayee S. Collins told the gathering that the engagement is meant to deepen understanding of participants on what the law says and how it will apply to local government.

“Signing of the LGA by President George Manneh Weah in September 2018 represents a huge change in how government should operate, which now makes it our responsibility to spread the message of the law, while a full implementation plan is being done”. Honorable Collins stressed.

He disclosed that Minister Varney A. Sirleaf has secured commitment of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to fund the crafting of a 10-year systematic implementation plan of the Law in the next 2-3 months, which is aligned with the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

The Internal Affairs Ministry official encouraged the participants to take the engagements seriously because it sets the basis for the law to be accepted, understood and fully rolled out.

Speaking earlier, Chairman of the Governance Commission, Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike said it is important to note here that a decentralized governance system will play a major role in determining development outcomes in Liberia, and local governments are the principal agents of the decentralization strategy, and that the core responsibility of local governments is to deliver services based on the extent of power, authority and resources available to them.

Cllr. Nwabudike also made

specific reference to the implementation plan which according to him, will focus on increasing the capacity of government institutions, at the local level, to make incremental and sustained progress in the implementation of the Local Government Act of 2018; Strengthen the capacity of county administrators to coordinate and provide oversight of government activities across sectors; Improve the capacity of cities to manager evenuesand deliver services; and increase citizens’ representation in planning and decision making on service delivery in counties and cities.

Prominent Local Government and Decentralization experts are serving as facilitators of the exercise to include; former Governance Commissioner Dr. Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, Cuttington University Lecturer of Government studies Dr. Alfred Kula and Professor Felix Adesina of the Institute of Local government Studies, among others.

The Local Government Law awareness exercise is being carried out through the Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSP), which is implemented by the Government with funding for the Swedish Government and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Nimba event will be followed by series of engagements at various levels and through various channels of communication in the coming days. -Press release

## Mercy Corps Graduates over Fifty in Bong

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong County

Mercy Corps Liberia has graduated and certificated over fifty beneficiaries from its PROSPECTs program in Gbarnga, Bong County.

Prospects is implemented by Mercy Corps and is currently supported by the Swedish Embassy in Liberia, EXXON Mobile/NOCAL and Coca Cola Africa Foundation.

Prospects is a youth empowerment program which works with youth, businesses, government, education institutions and

other service providers to support Liberian youth to be better positioned to take advantage of employment opportunities in order to gain economic and social empowerment.

Prospects combines direct service delivery with efforts to stimulate positive universal changes in terms of youths’ role in the labor and job hiring markets.

The graduation ceremony which took place in Gbarnga, brought together, Executives of Mercy Corps, business representatives, members of the civil society and the media

respectively.

Giving overview of the PROSPECTs program, Mercy Corps PROSPECTs Program Manager Nyema Richards extended gratitude to business centers for the employment of some participants who benefited recently from Mercy Corps program.

Mr. Nyema Richards stated that the program started in 2017 and is expected to end on October 2020, adding that they intend to target twenty thousand (20,000) young people in the Country.

The Mercy Executive recounted that at the moment, they have trained at -least eleven thousand (11, 0000) youths in Bong, and other counties of Liberia.

“Mercy Corps works with a range of partnerships to deliver specialized services. Mercy Corps partners with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to implement the National Cadet Program, through which promising youth undertake placements in government ministries” he said.

According to him, the program has worked across the full spectrum of youth demographics in Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Bong counties and it is expected to expand into Nimba County.

Nyema Richards at the same time used the medium to call

on the youthful populace to make used of their programs for the betterment of environments.

Also speaking at the end of the graduation exercise, two beneficiaries of the program, Emmanuel Harris and Betty Tutu- Girl King commended the

management and staff of Mercy Corps for the training provided them.

Betty and Emmanuel on behalf of their colleagues promised to implement the knowledge and skills acquired from the training.



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# Français

## Affaire Sable Mining : Le rédacteur en chef du New Dawn dans le collimateur de la justice pour diffamation

Le rédacteur en chef du journal New Dawn, M. Othello B. Garblah, a été accusé d'outrage au tribunal par le juge Peter Gbeneweleh, de la Cour pénale « C », 24 heures après la publication d'un article qui relate la visite de l'un des juges adjoints de la Cour Suprême, Joseph Nagbe, au tribunal où se tenait une audience du Procès dans l'affaire Sable Mining.

L'article en question intitulé « Est-ce-t-il un complot pour blanchir les accusés? » a été publié dans l'édition du mardi 9 juillet du New Dawn. L'auteur n'avait que fait part de ses préoccupations concernant le procès en cours. Les inquiétudes font suite aux spéculations qui ont émergé après la visite du juge associé Nagbe, qui a provoqué une sorte de murmure devant le tribunal.

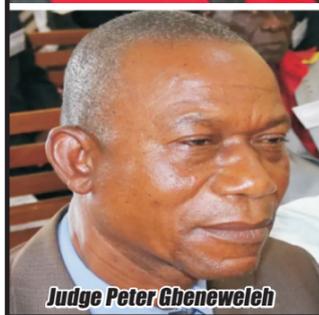
Vendredi dernier, le juge associée Nagbe a rendu visite au tribunal, contraignant le juge Peter Gbeneweleh de suspendre le procès pendant



Asso. Justice Joseph Nagbe



Cllr. Musa Dean



Judge Peter Gbeneweleh



Senators Varney Sherman



près de 25 minutes. Les deux hommes avaient eu un tête-à-tête dans le bureau du juge.

À son retour du bureau du juge Gbeneweleh, le juge Nagbe a salué de la main les accusés avec un sourire avant de sortir de la salle d'audience.

Dans l'ordonnance du mercredi 10 juillet 2019, M. Garblah a été invité à comparaître et à expliquer

pourquoi il ne devrait pas être jugé coupable d'outrage au tribunal pour la publication qui avait trait à la visite du juge associé Nagbe à la cour lors du procès de trois de ses anciens collègues législateurs - les sénateurs Varney Sherman, Morris Saytuma et l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Alex Tyler.

La visite du juge associé

Nagbe à la cour a été rapportée dans plusieurs autres médias, mais il semble que le tribunal veuille donner l'exemple avec le New Dawn.

Il convient de noter que l'équipe dirigeante du Département de la justice du pays faisait partie de l'équipe de défense des accusés sous le régime de la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Les archives judiciaires montrent que Me Musa Doyen du cabinet d'avocats Dean & Associates, devenu ministre de la Justice, Me Cyrenus Cephus de Cyma & Associates, devenu Solliciteur général et Me Edward K. Matins de Cyma & Associate, qui est aujourd'hui procureur du comté de Montserrado, sont toujours tous membres de l'équipe de la défense de Me Sherman, l'un des accusés dans l'affaire Sable Mining. Il n'y a aucune lettre qui fait état de leur

retrait de l'équipe.

Pour M. Garblah, cela soulève de graves conflits d'intérêts et se demande pourquoi le ministère de la Justice actuel n'a pas maintenu le groupe de travail présidentiel avec de différents procureurs pour poursuivre l'affaire. Des problèmes similaires de conflit d'intérêts avaient été soulevés sous le régime de la présidente Sirleaf, ce qui avait d'ailleurs conduit à la création du groupe de travail présidentiel.

Me Betty Lamin, alors solliciteur général, avait travaillé pour le cabinet d'avocats Sherman and Sherman Law et Me Varney Sherman étant son ancien patron, elle ne pouvait pas le poursuivre. C'est aussi le cas pour Me Fredrick Cheru, ancien ministre de la Justice, qui s'est lui aussi retiré de l'affaire en invoquant également des conflits d'intérêts.

S'exprimant au sujet de l'accusation d'outrage au tribunal, M. Garblah a déclaré qu'il ne cherchait nullement à attaquer le pouvoir judiciaire, mais les préoccupations qu'il a soulevées dans son article ne sont que le reflet de certaines des préoccupations du public concernant le procès en cours.

Le sénateur Sherman et d'autres personnes sont jugés dans le cadre d'une présumée affaire de corruption. Plusieurs hauts cadres, anciens comme actuels, auraient reçu 950 000 US \$ en pots-de-vin pour modifier une loi minière locale en faveur d'une société britannique Sable Mining, à en croire le rapport de Global Witness.

## Côte d'Ivoire : Tout est maintenant bien en place pour le métro d'Abidjan

Les choses sont maintenant bien en place en ce qui concerne le projet du métro d'Abidjan, a indiqué le président Ouattara, mercredi, de retour à Abidjan, après sa participation au 12ème sommet extraordinaire des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de l'Union

africaine à Niamey et une rencontre avec son homologue français Emmanuel Macron à Paris.

« Au plan national, nous avons évoqué les dossiers en cours tels que le métro d'Abidjan. Les choses sont maintenant bien en place en ce qui concerne les discussions, l'accord sur les

prix et les détails techniques », a déclaré Alassane Ouattara relativement à sa rencontre avec le président français.

Le Métro d'Abidjan est un réseau ferroviaire de transport urbain qui desservira l'agglomération d'Abidjan comprenant quelque 5 millions d'habitants.

La France a accordé à l'Etat de Côte d'Ivoire 1.394 milliard de francs CFA sur la période 2017-2020. Sur cet appui financier, un peu plus des deux tiers, soit 918,33 milliards de francs CFA devraient permettre de couvrir l'engagement total pour cette infrastructure ferroviaire. Pour M. Ouattara, cette rencontre avec M. Macron, s'inscrit dans le cadre de leurs consultations régulières. « Nous avons évoqué également l'académie internationale de lutte contre le terrorisme où les travaux vont commencer assez rapidement ainsi que d'autres projets d'intérêt national », a relevé le chef

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de l'Etat. Poursuivant, le chef de l'Etat a indiqué avoir abordé avec le président français, les questions régionales, notamment la persistance des foyers de tensions et de conflits communautaires dans certains pays de la sous-région. « Nous sommes convenus de continuer de mutualiser nos efforts et

nous avons noté leurs préoccupations de tout faire pour que ces difficultés ne s'étendent pas sur le reste du continent », a déclaré Alassane Ouattara.

Le président ivoirien a eu mardi à l'Élysée un entretien de plus d'une heure avec son homologue français Emmanuel Macron, rappelle-t-on.

# Français

## Éditorial

### Le forum économique de la LCB passe à côté de l'essentiel

Le Gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, Nathaniel R. Patray, n'a pas eu « froid aux yeux » pour dire aux Libériens qu'il mettrait de côté les normes et les règles de la Banque pour satisfaire le président George Manneh Weah. C'était lorsqu'il a pris les rênes de l'autorité de la Banque centrale du Libéria l'année dernière.

C'est bien tout ce qu'il a réussi à faire, ce, au détriment de la politique monétaire du pays, ce qui a naturellement fait grimper le taux de change et provoqué la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires et des produits de première nécessité.

Maintenant le Gouverneur exécutif Patray lance un forum économique à la Banque centrale du Libéria avec un dialogue public sur le thème « Bilan de la politique monétaire et des opérations de la Banque centrale du Libéria au cours des dix-huit dernières années (2000 - 2018) ».

Pourquoi le gouverneur exécutif souhaite-t-il nous ramener 18 ans en arrière alors que l'état actuel de l'économie, en particulier le système monétaire sous sa direction n'a jamais aussi été mauvais, pas moins que pendant la guerre civile libérienne.

Non, non, le taux n'a jamais atteint plus de 200 dollars libériens pour un dollar américain, pas même pendant toute la période de la guerre civile, encore moins depuis le rétablissement de la gouvernance démocratique, pas avant l'arrivée du président Weah au pouvoir non plus. Si Patray et les autres autorités de la CBL étaient de bonne foi, le dialogue public porterait essentiellement sur comment peut-on améliorer l'économie.

Les Libériens aspirent à des solutions pour sauver le mauvais état de l'économie, et non pour nous mener vers le passé. Nous voulons aller de l'avant avec une économie saine. Le gouverneur Patray devrait d'ailleurs d'abord expliquer aux Libériens comment les 25 millions de dollars ont pu être injectés dans l'économie sans que cela n'ait eu aucun impact sur notre système monétaire.

À un moment donné, la CBL sous le gouverneur Patray ne pouvait pas verser de l'argent aux banques commerciales pour servir le public, limitant ainsi les clients à des retraits fixes même s'ils disposaient de plus d'argent sur leurs comptes.

Le Gouverneur exécutif a également coprésidé l'équipe de gestion technique économique (TEMD) avec le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, dans le cadre de l'opération controversée de la diminution de l'excès de liquidité de la monnaie locale sur le marché monétaire local. 25 millions de dollars US avaient, dit-on, été injectés à cet effet dans l'économie. L'opération a été marquée par un manque de transparence si bien que le résultat demeure un mystère, en dépit de l'audit réalisé par la Commission générale des audits.

Le président Weah a décidé de mettre M. Patray à la retraite de façon honorable avec tous les bénéfices qui lui sont dus pour avoir satisfait ses intérêts égoïstes (le président Weah) au détriment de l'intérêt général du pays en contribuant grandement à la décadence de l'économie. Le gouverneur sera récompensé en bénéficiant de tous les avantages en tant que Gouverneur exécutif à la retraite pour avoir contribué à paralyser notre économie.

Par conséquent, nous considérons le lancement du prétendu Forum économique par le gouverneur Patray comme une tentative astucieuse de détourner l'attention du public de la dégradation de l'état actuel de l'économie, car il n'a pas de stratégie viable pour progresser.

Comme cela a été démontré à la CBL, Patray devrait rester silencieux et attendre que le président Weah lui prépare un plan de retraite élaboré. Il s'est dit satisfait durant toute sa carrière de gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale, au lieu de nous ramener dans le passé qui était beaucoup mieux que maintenant.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Paulo Gomes

### Le PIB de l'Afrique, un indicateur trompeur

WASHINGTON - Depuis plus de 80 ans, le PIB est considéré comme le nec plus ultra de la mesure d'une économie. Mais l'économie mondiale devenant de plus en plus complexe et centrée sur la technologie, certains économistes remettent en question le rôle de cet indicateur pour traduire les performances d'une économie et proposent de procéder tout à fait autrement. L'exemple africain montre pourquoi un changement radical est indispensable.

L'Afrique souffre depuis longtemps des défauts du PIB en tant qu'instrument de mesure. En janvier, l'agence de notation Fitch prévoyait que le taux de croissance moyen du PIB du continent serait de l'ordre de 4,5% au cours des 10 prochaines années, mais que le PIB par habitant allait stagner. Or ce type de prévision de mauvais augure induit en erreur et peut détourner les investisseurs.

Premier problème induit par les prévisions de l'évolution du PIB en Afrique : elles se fondent sur des données en nombre insuffisant. Les services de statistiques du continent sont majoritairement peu développés. Leur financement est insuffisant et ils ne disposent pas de l'indépendance voulue pour acquérir des données complètes et calculer des indicateurs économiques fiables. Autrement dit, le PIB officiel pourrait être erroné.

Prenons l'exemple du Nigéria qui a réexaminé en 2014, la première fois depuis 20 ans, les chiffres ayant servi à calculer son PIB. Ce type de vérification, indispensable pour mettre en évidence les changements économiques structurels, devrait avoir lieu à peu près tous les 5 ans. Mais le budget et les chiffres dont disposait l'Agence nationale de statistique du Nigéria étaient insuffisants pour cela. Finalement, quand elle a pu procéder à ce réexamen, son évaluation du PIB a presque doublé, passant de 270 milliards à 510 milliards de dollars. Dans ces conditions, c'est le Nigéria, et non l'Afrique du Sud, qui était cette année là la première économie du continent.

Une grande partie de l'activité économique de l'Afrique relève du secteur informel, ce qui remet encore davantage en question la fiabilité de la mesure de son PIB. Dans l'Afrique subsaharienne, 66% des emplois relèvent du secteur informel de l'économie ; et dans des villes comme Kampala ou Dakar, ce taux atteint ou même dépasse 80%. Au Nigéria, le secteur informel représente 50 à 65% de la production. Un indicateur tel que le PIB qui ne prend pas en compte une aussi grande partie de l'activité économique ne peut constituer une référence satisfaisante pour les investisseurs.

Même si la mesure du PIB était plus fiable, ce ne serait pas un indicateur satisfaisant pour les investisseurs, surtout compte tenu de la taille de l'Afrique et sa diversité. Il est tout à fait possible que des pays dont les PIB sont très éloignés aient davantage de caractéristiques communes importantes que d'autres pays dont les PIB sont voisins.

Ainsi l'économie très diversifiée de la Namibie a plus en commun avec l'Afrique du Sud dont le PIB est presque 30 fois plus élevé, qu'avec le Sénégal, un pays d'une économie de taille voisine en terme de PIB. Le PIB du Nigéria est très supérieur à celui du Tchad, pourtant on compare souvent leurs économies en raison de la dynamique de leur secteur pétrolier. Ces caractéristiques structurelles communes offrent une perspective économique plus nuancée que des mesures hasardeuses du PIB.

Mais peut-être la meilleure façon d'appréhender la qualité et les perspectives des économies africaines est-elle d'observer les villes du continent, le principal moteur de son développement économique. Alors que 60% des Africains vivent dans les campagnes, le continent connaît une urbanisation rapide. Au cours des 15 prochaines années, les 10 villes dont la population va croître le plus rapidement sont toutes en Afrique. En terme d'économie, la production de Lagos, la plus grande ville du Nigéria, est supérieure à celle du Kenya, l'une des économies les plus prometteuses du continent.

Certaines multinationales se basent déjà aujourd'hui sur les grandes villes africaines pour orienter leurs investissements dans le continent. Elles savent qu'un mauvais PIB au niveau d'un pays peut masquer l'existence de groupes de consommateurs de plus en plus prospères, avides de biens et de services étrangers de qualité. Aussi, pour évaluer un marché, elles se focalisent souvent sur les villes et prennent en compte des indicateurs tels que la consommation d'électricité, l'utilisation d'Internet ou le taux de pénétration des téléphones portables.

Un grand producteur mondial de nourriture conditionnée base sa stratégie en Afrique sur 15 villes qui devraient représenter à elles seules environ le quart de la croissance attendue des ventes de nourriture conditionnée en Afrique au cours des 5 prochaines années. Plus généralement, les investissements directs étrangers vont en priorité vers les 4 grandes métropoles africaines : Le Caire, Johannesburg, Nairobi et Lagos.

Certes, que ce soit au niveau d'une ville ou d'un pays, il faut des chiffres d'ensemble fiables pour définir une stratégie d'investissement. Les entreprises privées, dont les start-up africaines, peuvent s'appuyer sur les nouvelles technologies pour y parvenir. Ainsi, Terragon, une société nigériane spécialisée dans l'analyse des données, utilise les données sur l'utilisation des téléphones mobiles et les croise avec à celles fournies par ses entreprises clientes pour en tirer des conclusions sur le comportement des consommateurs africains.

Les investisseurs qui saisissent les occasions d'obtenir une image exacte et nuancée des résultats et des perspectives des économies africaines pourraient gagner gros ; par contre ceux qui écartent le continent à partir de chiffres simplistes et incomplets sur le PIB seront perdants.

## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# Analysis of China 70 Years of Remarkable Achievement in Human History

By: Prof. Josephus Moses Gray  
Assistant Professor of International Relations

Cont'd from last edition

Fascinated Statistics about China

In this contemporary era, dozens of scholars have viewed China's recent engagement with other countries as a development partner. Their basis of the argument is that China's presence presents an opportunity for development and economic growth, by providing aid to poverty struck and marginalized countries especially positioned in Africa, the Caribbean region and Southern Asia. The Chinese approach to development has helped to provide foreign aid assistance, visible infrastructure development, debt annulment, constructions of roads and bridges, support to health care delivery and education systems, and long and short term scholarship schemes to empower and train other nationals in several disciplines.

The National Bureau of Statistics of China discloses that the country's industrial output in 2018 expanded to 6.8%, while fresh data also showed that China's GDP rose to 80 trillion yuan, which is estimated at 12.3 trillion US dollars. In a short period of time, over 13 million jobs were created, while more than 700 million of which 10 million are rural residents were lifted out of poverty which amounted to over 70 percent global poverty reduction. In the area of traditional diplomacy, Beijing maintains a diplomatic relationship with 54 of the 55 African states, and that Africa is the largest overseas destination for Chinese investors and visitors.

Further figures from the National Bureau of Statistics; show that China's GDP has averaged a yearly growth rate of about 9.5 percent. While in terms of foreign trade, China has registered a yearly growth of over 14.5 percent in U.S. dollars. In the last 10 years, with China's strength in the workforce, capital, market and technology, the nation, on average, contributed 30 percent of the global economic growth yearly, sharing the benefits of China's development with the world.

Similarly, the country's share in the global economic growth rose from 2.7 to 16 percent; its per-capita GDP exceeded US\$800 in 2017. China is the first developing country to meet the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations in terms of poverty reduction; it has backed up this proposal with a fund of US\$60 billion for major capital projects, which researchers believed are tied to developing locals' economic capacity, and geared towards a win-win cooperation to be sustainable.

The fourth factor but not the least is China's overseas Chinese or Chinese descent living abroad. The World Bank's Migration and Development Brief published in 2017, revealed that these Chinese diaspora has sent remittances estimated at \$64 billion. On the other hand, some of these overseas Chinese came back home to benefit from China's booming economy and offer their expertise gained abroad, mostly in Western countries such as western Europe and North America, including Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain, France, Spain, Netherlands, and United States of America.

Reflections on 40th years reforms

In his recent publication, *The Governance of China*, President Xi Jinping disclosed that from 1950 to 2016, China provided foreign countries with over RMB400 billion in aid, and will continue to increase assistance. He further explained that President Xi China has contributed on average over 30 percent of global growth each year and revealed that in the coming years, China is expected to import US\$8 trillion worth of goods, attract US\$600 billion in foreign investment, and made US\$750 billion in outbound investment.

The People's Daily (2018) in one of its editions, reported that President Xi Jinping made a powerful voice to the world that China will stay committed to reform and opening up at a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the great revolution held on Dec. 18 in Beijing. President Xi, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission.



According to the author of the People's Daily publication, President Xi speech reviewed the remarkable achievements made in the past 40 years of reform and opening-up and summarizing the valuable experiences. The president told the gathering that during the past 40 years, China has made an economic miracle through brave exploration and concrete actions. Thanks to the Chinese people's pioneering spirit for innovation and resilience for self-dependence, they boosted the country's GDP growth by an annual average of 9.5 percent.

He reflected that within a short time span of several decades, the country has accomplished what took developed countries hundreds of years to accomplish and become an upper-middle income country from a low-income one. It 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.

Setting a textbook-like example in the world economic history, China has greatly enhanced the confidence of underdeveloped countries to shake off poverty and catch up with the world. China has established close relations with global partners through its openness and the aspiration to embrace the world. Under the non-alignment principle, China made friends with the world and opened its doors for construction.

It established various partnerships with over 100 countries and international organizations and is committed to building equal and balanced partnerships for global development as well as creating common development opportunities and space. President Xi noted that over the past 40 years, China's trade in goods has increased 198 fold, and trade in services 147 fold. It has attracted investment totaling \$2 trillion, becoming the world's largest trader of goods, the largest tourism market, and a major trading partner of over 130 countries.

The joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative promotes interconnectivity among countries, as a result of which a pattern of interconnected development has been formed, while China has gained rich experiences in human development by focusing on development and the welfare of the people.

Life expectancy is such a sensitive indicator or overall social conditions because it sums up in a single figure all positive including rising living standards, good education, good health care, environmental protection and negative including poverty, lack of education, poor health care, pollution trends. From a critical analysis, one can conclude that China's life expectancy is better than would be expected purely from its economic development.

Technological, Innovation and Infrastructure

Accordingly, Chinese industries are not only getting closer to the technological frontier in conventional areas such as electronics, machinery, automobiles, high-speed railways and aviation but also driving technological innovations in emerging areas.

Technological innovation is intrinsically about capturing a new phenomenon through the identification or the creation of new combinations of component best

technologies. Improvements in the structure, design, or method of an existing technology that delivers a better performance are called incremental innovations. According to an article published by a China researcher, Prof. Hung Ho, China's has attracted not only many of the best technologies, but also many of the best scientific and technological talents globally, while the Wall Street Journal, citing "executives at Chinese and Western companies," put it, "China's technology sector is reaching a critical mass of expertise, talent and financial firepower that could realign the power structure of the global technology industry in the years ahead."

In addition, in searching for the best supply chain capability to commercialize innovations, high-tech industries increasingly look to China for manufacturing solutions, a kind of complementary innovation. Apple's products are typical examples.

China's internal market, now with 1.4 billion consumers and a per capita income of \$8,000+ is also a blessing to innovation in many ways. The huge market size promises sufficient return to cover the costs of either acquiring foreign technology or undertaking a cumulative learning process to catch up with frontier foreign technologies, Prof. Hung Ho asserted.

The Chinese tradition of emphasizing education is also crucially important for its technological rise. Globally, China has the highest number of students studying overseas and the ratio of these students returning to China has been increasing. China's recent phenomenal achievements in science and technology show exactly the contrary.

Infrastructure and basic industries used to be a major bottleneck in China's economic development. Over the past 70 years, China has increased investment in the construction of base industries and infrastructure, such as energy, transportation, and telecommunication, and remarkable achievement has been made in this regard.

Nowadays, China has become the second largest energy producer in the world, next only to the United States of America. The total self-sufficient rate of energy is 90 percent in China, the statistics from the Chinese Bureau of Statistics have revealed. The country has over the past 60 years greatly enhanced its transportation capacity, with railways, highways, airports, and ports built one after another. The length of railway lines in service increased from 21,800 km in 1949 to 120,000 km in 2018.

According to a global index report, China conducted economic and cultural exchanges with over 220 countries and regions in the world. China today opens wider to the outside world and has become a major trading power in the world today. China has been actively participating in international competition and economic cooperation, increasing investment in overseas projects.

In the 21st century, the pace of socio-economic development quickens the pace in China. Great progress has been made in educational undertakings, with the educational popularization rate and the level of education approaching the average of medium-income countries. Further statistics show that in the early 1950s, illiterates and semi-illiterates made up over 60 percent of the total population of China. In 2007, the gross attendance rate of schools of higher learning, high schools, middle schools, and primary schools reached 99.5 from 23.5 percent, the report has said.

As the Chinese people celebrate their seven decades of reforms and opening up characterized by growth and socio-economic development, others under-developed 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'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 maintaining world peace and stability as well as promoting interconnectivity between countries and regions. *Authored by Josephus Moses Gray, Assistant Professor of International Relations, University of Liberia Graduate Program of International Studies. Contact: Mobile-(+231)880-3302-99/ Email: graymoses@yahoo.com*

# Tough times ahead

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Amid current economic hardship, Liberians are being warned to brace themselves for more tough times ahead, the Central Bank of Liberia alerts here.

The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Nathaniel Patray has warn Liberians to prepare themselves for a tough time as the country economic suffers depreciation.

The Bank sounds the warning Thursday, 11 July during the launch of a public dialogue dubbed Economic Forum under the title: "Taking Stock of the Central Bank of Liberia Monetary Policy Regime and Operations."

This is not what a nation retrogressing to grinding poverty and severe hardship wants to hear, but outgoing Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Nathaniel R. Patray, III who launched the maiden edition



of the Forum, which is expected to be a series of public discussions on the Bank's monetary policy, says the CBL continues to implement the Remittance Split Policy (RSP) as key instrument for building Gross International Reserves (GIR) for the purpose of withstanding unexpected

external shocks to the economy.

He says the Forum comes at a time when the CBL is transitioning from an exchange rate targeting to interest rate targeting framework, as part of the process of modernizing its monetary policy operations.

Governor Patray asserts that defining the monetary

policy framework of any country is largely influenced by its exchange rate regime and policy, noting that Liberia being a highly dollarized economy has significantly influenced both the exchange rate regime and monetary policy framework, and to a large extent, limited the monetary policy function and operations of the CBL over the past years.

He adds that as a result, the monetary policy framework of the Bank has been classified to be exchange rate targeting over the years, while its exchange rate policy has been classified largely as managed float (IMF would call it 'other managed').

He also explains that the adoption of an interest rate targeting framework in the medium-term will make interest rate as an effective channel of monetary policy transmission, saying, this will require developing the monetary and financial markets, which is a matter of priority for the Bank.

Liberians generally look forward to workable prescriptions that would reverse the current dismal trend of the economy to enable them put food on the table adequately and take care of other basic needs. The deterioration of the economy is largely derived from rapid depreciation of the Liberian dollars and an inverse increase in prices.

But Governor Patray argues that it is important to note that issues of exchange rate stability and price stability, in as much as they are monetary phenomena, require collective effort of all key policy stakeholders.

He notes that as enshrined in the government development blueprint, Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), the key role of the CBL is to promote price stability ("I should add in concert with all stakeholders") which is critical in ensuring conducive microeconomic environment.

He expresses the CBL's commitment to taking the Forum to the larger society, adding that "inflation trended downward in Q1 2019 to 22.8 percent from 28.4 percent in

Q4 2018. Inflation remains high above long term trend (far above the ECOWAS convergence criterion of single-digit) mainly due to exchange rate depreciation and structural issues. Forecast of inflation for Q2 2019, though slightly high, is below the 22.8 percent recorded in March 2019, on account of favorable commodity prices. However, inflation is expected to rise beginning the last month of the quarter due to likely depreciation of the Liberian dollar as a result of increased demand for foreign currency."

The Governor explains that sources of inflationary pressure include the pass-through effect of the depreciation of the Liberian dollar due to a relatively high Liberian dollar liquidity (about 92 percent of currency outside the bank) and high dependence on imported commodities (over 80 percent) which puts high demand on foreign exchange; surcharges on petroleum products; arbitrage practices by some businesses for profiteering; and infrastructural challenges, as well as high energy and utility costs.

For his part, Mr. P. Mah Kruah, Assistant Director for Statistics, Research, Policy and Planning at the Central Bank of Liberia says given these challenges, the effectiveness of the CBL Monetary Policy is gravely constrained.

However, he notes, that serious works are ongoing to improve the Monetary Policy Operation of the Bank, establish a Financial Market Department to facilitate and deepen the Money and Capital Market.

He names revision of the CBL Act to reflect greater independence; re-design of the Monetary Policy Framework and Operation; introduction market-base Monetary Policy instrument or Standing Facilities, as some steps necessary to resuscitating the economy. Mr. Kruah also points to establishment of Microeconomic Forecasting and Analysis unit at the Bank to enhance robust model-based Monetary Policy Analysis.

The forum brought together participants from several banking institutions here. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## Court purges NewDawn boss of contempt

By Winston W. Parley

Criminal Court "C" Judge Peter W. Gbeneweleh has purged of contempt (cleared of guilt) the Publisher of NewDawn newspaper Mr. Othello B. Garblah after hearing a contempt case called Thursday, 11 July against a publication that the court sees as embarrassing.

The Publisher and Managing Editor of this paper Mr. Garblah was called for a contempt hearing after publishing a story in the Tuesday, 9 July edition of the NewDawn headlined: "Plot to exonerate defendants?"

The publication raised concerns that Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe visited Court "C" during hearing of the ongoing Sable Mining US\$950,000 alleged bribery trial on Friday which compelled presiding Judge Gbeneweleh to halt the trial

for nearly 25 minutes as they both proceeded in his chambers.

But Judge Gbeneweleh states that the NewDawn newspaper's publication with the caption "Plot to exonerate defendants?" which carried photos of Justice Nagbe and the presiding Judge "is so embarrassing to the Court."

He says Justice Nagbe and Judge Gbeneweleh are not defendants in the Sable Mining case that requested the court to subpoena witnesses to testify ... which will justify putting their (Justice Nagbe's and Judge Gbeneweleh's) photos on the NewDawn.

Several top Liberian officials - past and present are standing trial at Court "C" based on allegations that they received bribes offered by British mining firm Sable Mining totaling US\$950,000 to insert Section 75 in the Public Procurement and Concession

Commission (PPCC) Act.

The indictment of former House Speaker Alex Tyler, Grand Cape Mount County Sen. H. Varney G. Sherman, Bomi County Sen. Morris Saytumah, Dr. Richard Tolbert, Mr. E.C.B. Jones and others is based on claims that Sable Mining paid alleged bribe to get undue advantage over iron ore deposits at Wologisi Mountain in Lofa.

However the NewDawn's Tuesday, 9 July publication raised concern that during the regime of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf [when the Sable Mining case emerged], the current team heading the country's Justice Department was part of the team of defense counsels that represented the defendants.

But at the contempt hearing, Judge Gbeneweleh emphatically indicates that he "will dispense justice without favor or fear," as he took oath as a judge to uphold and protect the Constitution and laws of his dear country.

Judge Gbeneweleh continues that "This Judge cannot be influenced" with his decision in this case "and will render a fair and transparent judgment in this case like in other cases in the past."

Based on a request by Cllr. Eugene Massaquoi who represented the Publisher of the NewDawn, Judge Gbeneweleh purged the paper of contempt of court.

Earlier, the Friend of Court and Liberian National Bar Associate President Cllr. TiawanGongloe joined Cllr. Massaquoi in pleading with the

Court to purge the respondent of contempt.

Cllr. Gogloe says although the caption had the potential of casting doubt over the trial, the Amicus Curie (Friend of the Court) strongly believed that the case being not a jury trial, the harm that could [have] been done by any publication in the jury trial cannot be done in this case as the judge sits as judge of the law and facts.

As such, Cllr. Gongloe concludes that the judge cannot be persuaded by any act of report or any publication in the case. In an interview with

reporters following the contempt hearing, Mr. Garblah indicates that the use of pictures are different in newspapers, explaining that when you use authority's picture it's like "you need to act."

Mr. Garblah notes that the publication did not go outside of anything in the court, saying he understands the judge's concerns.

However, Mr. Garblah notes that the story is a continuous story, saying as long as there are stories concerning the case, they will be reported.



Cllr. Musa Dean



Senators Varney Sherman

## Clubs in Europe to share £2.9bn



Clubs competing in the Champions League, Europa League and Uefa Super Cup this season will receive a share of 3.25bn euros (£2.9bn).

That figure is unchanged from what clubs received last season.

European football's governing body Uefa says 523m euros (£470m) will be deducted to pay for organisational costs and solidarity payments.

Champions League winners Liverpool will face Europa League champions

Chelsea in the Uefa Super Cup in Turkey in August.

How is the Champions League fund allocated?

A total of 2.04bn euros (£1.8bn) will be divided into four categories:

**Starting fee:** Each of the 32 clubs who qualify for the group stage will receive 15.25m euros (£13.7m) each.

**Fixed amounts:** Group stage bonuses will be paid each match - 2.75m euros (£2.5m) for a win and 900,000 euros (£808,000) for draw.

Clubs will also receive 9.5m euros (£8.5m) for reaching the last 16, 10.5m euros (£9.4m)

for the quarter-finals, 12m euros (£10.8m) for the semi-finals and 15m euros (£13.5m) for the final. The winner will receive an additional 4m euros (£3.6m).

**Coefficient ranking:** Based on a 10-year period, the ranking list will see the lowest group-stage team receive a c (£1m) share and same amount will be added on to each position.

**Market pool:** Clubs will also receive a share of 292m euros (£262m), which is distributed in accordance with the value of each national television market.

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## Gerard Pique told to pay £1.89m in tax arrears and fines

Barcelona defender Gerard Pique has been ordered to pay the Spanish authorities £1.89 million in tax arrears and fines for tax evasion.

The Tribunal Económico-Administrativo Central in Madrid upheld a decision from Spain's country's National Court concerning image rights payments from 2008 to 2010.

The Ex-Spanish international has the right to



appeal to the Supreme Court.

Pique has not made any comment on the verdict.

There have been several high-profile cases of tax evasion in Spain in recent years with Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Jose Mourinho all fined.

Messi, paid a two million euro (£1.8m) fine in 2016 and received a 21-month jail term, although the prison sentence was later reduced to a further fine of 252,000 euros

(£227,000). Former Real Madrid striker Ronaldo had a suspended two-year prison sentence before he agreed to pay 18.8 million euros (£16.9m) in fines and back taxes.

The verdict on World Cup winner Pique comes a month after his wife, Colombian musician Shakira, was questioned by a judge near Barcelona over alleged evasion of 14.5 million euros (£13m) in taxes.

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