



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

WWW

**Advertize Here!**

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

# The New Dawn

FRENCH VERSION INSIDE

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**Advertize Here For Low Rate**

VOL.9 NO. 117

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Opposition leaders abandon Dillon

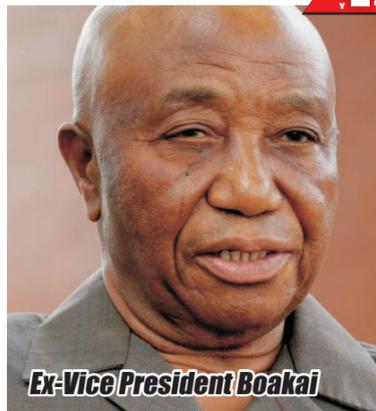


Abraham Darios Dillon

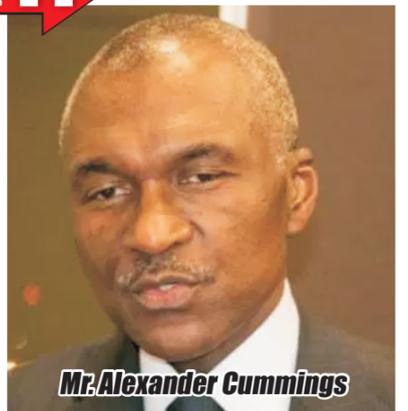


Cllr. Brumskine

**P11**



Ex-Vice President Boakai



Mr. Alexander Cummings



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

**P11**

# Gov't taunting Yekeh Kolubah?

**3 Days Free Calls**

Dial \*156\*4#

#Here4U

everywhere you go

MTN MoMo

LIBERTY BUNDLE

LRD 100

PLUS 10 mins TO OTHER NETWORKS





# Continental News

## Sudan protester 'shot dead' as talks stall

**A** Sudanese protester has been shot dead by members of a feared paramilitary group, pro-opposition doctors say.

The man was shot in the head by members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the south-eastern Sinnar state, during a protest against allegations of RSF brutality, they say.

Neither the RSF nor Sudan's ruling military council has commented.

The shooting comes as the signing of a power-sharing deal agreed earlier this month has once more been delayed.

The military seized power in April following months of street demonstrations against long-time leader Omar al-Bashir but the protest leaders feared that real power remained in the march in the Sinnar town of al-Suki was called to demand that RSF fighters leave the town, which lies 340 km (201 miles) south-east of the capital, Khartoum. The same hands and continued their sit-

ins. "RSF members deployed and initially started shooting in the air but later they opened fire at residents, killing a man and wounding several other people," a witness, who declined to be named for security reasons, told the AFP news agency. On Saturday, thousands of people marched

through Khartoum calling for justice for those killed on 3 June, when the RSF attacked a protest camp, reportedly killing at least 128 people - a figure disputed by the military authorities.

Some of the marchers lit candles, while others used the torches on their mobile phones

to commemorate the "martyrs", on the 40th day since their deaths, an important milestone in many cultures. Two men who said they were serving RSF officers have told the BBC that the attack was ordered by the RSF leadership. Their allegations could not be independently verified by the BBC. The RSF leadership has denied responsibility, and claimed that rogue elements were behind the attack.

The RSF grew out of the Janjaweed militia which was accused of carrying out a genocide in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

What's going on with the talks? The RSF commander, General Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti" Dagolo, is the vice-

president of the military council, seen by many as the real power in the country. On Saturday, he gave a speech calling for all Sudanese to support the power-sharing deal and warned that without it, there was a risk of Sudan sliding into civil conflict.

Under the deal, the military would head a transitional authority for 21 months, with a civilian figure in charge for the next 18 months, after which elections would be held.

The agreement, brokered by African Union negotiators, also included a pledge to investigate the recent violence. However, it has still not been signed 10 days after it was agreed, with negotiators reported to still be haggling over the details. BBC



A march was held on Saturday to mark 40 days since the killings of pro-democracy campaigners.

## UN calls for Libyan migrant detention centres to be shut

**T**he UN has called for the dismantling of all detention centres for refugees in Libya, saying the facilities are not fit to house migrants.

The appeal comes nearly two weeks after more than 50 people were killed in an air strike on a holding facility in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

The victims were mostly Africans attempting to reach

Europe on boats after fleeing poverty and conflict.

The UN refugee agency has called the facilities in the centres "awful".

Thousands of migrants are being held in dire conditions in government-run detention centres across Libya. The recent air strike on one of them during fighting in Tripoli has revealed how dangerous these facilities can be.

The UN refugee agency said the centres should be dismantled immediately, and their detainees freed into their surrounding communities. The agency said it is ready to help support them there.

The UN has been critical of European policies that favour returning to Libya migrants who are rescued at sea, stating that the country isn't safe for them. Some 120 migrants were inside a hangar at the Tajoura Detention Centre when it was hit on 3 July, with women and children among the 50 fatalities. The UN-backed government, led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, accused the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) of carrying out an air strike on the centre.

The LNA said it had attacked a pro-government camp near the centre and pro-government forces had fired shells in response, hitting the migrant centre by accident. A UN official later said the attack could constitute a war crime.

Libya has been torn by violence and division since long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011. BBC



## Uganda clears all suspects of Ebola

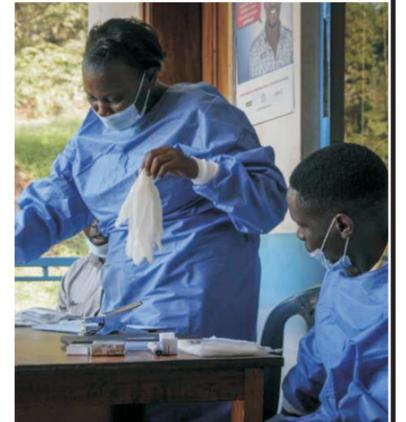
**A**uthorities in Uganda say the country's healthcare system has succeeded in stemming further spread of the deadly Ebola virus that killed at least three people in Kasese, a border district with the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has been battling it over the past 11 months.

The announcement came as the US government announced close to \$100 million in aid to the DRC government to bolster efforts to contain the outbreak. The contribution raises hope that the epidemic will be controlled.

But concerns remain among other neighbours, especially South Sudan, Kenya and Rwanda that the risk the disease may still spread. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced that DRC's Ebola funding needs amounted to \$98 million, out of which \$44 million had been received. He said funding was a major issue in the DRC Ebola control efforts.

"We will continue mobilising global and regional support to control this outbreak as soon as possible. It is not clear until the outbreak in DRC is finished," said Dr Tedros in Uganda on his way from DRC in June.

Second-largest outbreak In response, USAid last



week bridged the gap that is expected to help curb the epidemic that has ravaged DRC since August 2018.

The Ebola Virus Disease Zaire subtype has claimed close to 1,600 lives while 2,244 cases confirmed among the Congolese as of July 5. This is the second largest recorded outbreak of Ebola after the 2014 West Africa epidemic that killed more than 11,000 people.

USAid administrator Mark Green in June visited Ebola-affected areas in the DRC to observe programming and response, where he met local community leaders, visited health care systems and partner staff responding to the outbreak. The USAid funds will support infection prevention and control activities, training for health care workers, community engagement interventions, promotion of safe and dignified burials, and food assistance for people and communities affected by Ebola. 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.

# COMMENTARY

By Sami Mahroum

## How an AI Utopia Would Work

*After centuries of industrialism, we are now on the cusp of a technological revolution that has the potential to abolish all necessary work, giving rise to societies built around leisure and a classical ideal of freedom. The biggest hurdle to realizing such societies is cultural, not technological.*

**ANTWERP** - It is more than 500 years since Sir Thomas More found inspiration for the "Kingdom of Utopia" while strolling the streets of Antwerp. So, when I traveled there from Dubai in May to speak about artificial intelligence (AI), I couldn't help but draw parallels to Raphael Hythloday, the character in Utopia who regales sixteenth-century Englanders with tales of a better world.

As home to the world's first Minister of AI, as well as museums, academies, and foundations dedicated to studying the future, Dubai is on its own Hythloday-esque voyage. Whereas Europe, in general, has grown increasingly anxious about technological threats to employment, the United Arab Emirates has enthusiastically embraced the labor-saving potential of AI and automation.

There are practical reasons for this. The ratio of indigenous-to-foreign labor in the Gulf states is highly imbalanced, ranging from a high of 67% in Saudi Arabia to a low of 11% in the UAE. And because the region's desert environment cannot support further population growth, the prospect of replacing people with machines has become increasingly attractive.

But there is also a deeper cultural difference between the two regions. Unlike Western Europe, the birthplace of both the Industrial Revolution and the "Protestant work ethic," Arab societies generally do not "live to work," but rather "work to live," placing a greater value on leisure time. Such attitudes are not particularly compatible with economic systems that require squeezing ever more productivity out of labor, but they are well suited for an age of AI and automation.

In the industrialized West, technological forces threaten social contracts that have long rested on the three pillars of capital, labor, and the state. For centuries, capital provided investment in machines, workers operated the machines to produce goods and services, and governments collected taxes, furnished public goods, and redistributed resources as needed. But this division of labor created a social system that is far more complicated than those of the Arab world and other non-industrialized economies.

For their part, Arab states have nationalized natural resources, managed major industries, traded internationally, and distributed surplus resources to society. Until recently, population growth and declining revenues from natural resources thus threatened the social contract. But with technologies that can produce and distribute most of the goods and services required by what is essentially a leisure society, the existing social contract could actually be enhanced, rather than disrupted.

Back in the West, the technological revolution appears to have widened the gap between capital owners and everyone else. While productivity has been increasing, labor's share of total income has shrunk. Apart from the capital owners, a leisure class of yuppies and heirs has also captured a sizable share of the surplus created by productivity-enhancing technologies. The biggest losers are those with low incomes and less education.

Yet, even here, focusing on AI's potential impact on the relationship between capital and employment is shortsighted. After all, populism has surged in many Western countries at a time of near-historic

lows in unemployment. Arguably, the current discontent reflects a desire for a better quality of life, not more work. The French "yellow vest" protesters were initially responding to policies that would have raised the costs of their commutes; the Britons who voted to leave the European Union were hoping that contributions to the bloc would be redirected to public services at home. Most anti-globalization and anti-immigration rhetoric is born of an anxiety about crime, cultural change, and other quality-of-life issues, not jobs.

The problem is that, under the Western social contract, a desire for more leisure can translate into mutually incompatible demands. Voters want reduced working hours but higher incomes, and they expect governments to continue generating enough tax revenue to provide health care, pensions, and education. It is little wonder that Western politics has come to an impasse.

Fortunately, AI and data-driven innovation could offer a way forward. In what could be perceived as a kind of AI utopia, the paradox of a bigger state with a smaller budget could be reconciled, because the government would have the tools to expand public goods and services at a very small cost.

The biggest hurdle would be cultural: As early as 1948, the German philosopher Joseph Pieper warned against the "proletarianization" of people and called for leisure to be the basis for culture. Westerners would have to abandon their obsession with the work ethic, as well as their deep-seated resentment toward "free riders." They would have to start differentiating between work that is necessary for a dignified existence, and work that is geared toward amassing wealth and achieving status. The former could potentially be all but eliminated.

With the right mindset, all societies could start to forge a new AI-driven social contract, wherein the state would capture a larger share of the return on assets, and distribute the surplus generated by AI and automation to residents. Publicly-owned machines would produce a wide range of goods and services, from generic drugs, food, clothes, and housing, to basic research, security, and transportation.

Some will view these outlays as unjustified market intervention; others will worry that the government might fail to meet public demand for various goods and services. But, again, such arguments are shortsighted. Given the pace of advances in AI and automation, state-owned production systems - operating nonstop - will have an almost unlimited supply capacity. The only limitation will be natural resources, a constraint that would continue to drive technological innovation in search of more sustainable management.

In an AI utopia, government intervention would be the norm, and private production the exception. The private sector would correct for government or collective failures, rather than the government correcting for market failures.

Imagine traveling forward in time to 2071, the UAE's centenary. A future Raphael Hythloday visiting Antwerp from Dubai would bear the following news: Where I live, the government owns and operates the machines that produce most necessary goods and services, allowing the people to spend their time on leisure, creative, and spiritual pursuits. All worries about employment and tax rates have been consigned to the past. That could be your world, too.

## O-PED

By Martin Rees

## Is Immortality Worth It?

**C**AMBRIDGE - Humans have long sought the elixir of youth, so it is not surprising that even non-scientists closely follow the latest research into aging. But is what most people consider simply a fact of life actually a “disease” that can be cured? Or is there some insurmountable limit to the lifespan of human bodies?

Of course, almost everyone would welcome an extension of their healthy lifespan, and some scientists are looking at increasingly extreme ways to achieve that. Yet if we could stay alive only with the help of extreme measures, many of us would opt instead for non-resuscitation and solely palliative treatment. We might also find comfort in having the option of “assisted dying” as soon as our quality of life and our prognosis dipped below a certain threshold. Moreover, a huge increase in life expectancy could have undesirable and far-reaching consequences for society as a whole.

Much serious research into aging now focuses on stretches of DNA called telomeres that shorten as people age. By adjusting the telomeres of nematode worms, for example, scientists have managed to increase the lifespan of these creatures tenfold, although the same approach has less effect on more complex animals. The only effective way to extend the life of rats is to give them a near-starvation diet. But the naked mole rat may have some special biological lessons for us; some of them live more than 30 years - several times longer than the lifespan of other small mammals.

Any major breakthrough in extending human life would drastically alter population projections. The social effects, while obviously huge, would depend on whether the years of senility were prolonged, too; whether women’s age at menopause would increase; and how families would be structured if many generations were alive at the same time. Expensive treatments to extend human lives could also have implications for inequality; as in many other areas of technology, the wealthy would be most able to afford such services.

The powerful desire for a longer lifespan creates a ready market for exotic therapies of untested efficacy. For example, Ambrosia, a US start-up founded in 2016, has been offering Silicon Valley executives a transfusion of “young blood,” although the company halted the treatment earlier this year following a warning from US regulators. Another recent life-extending craze was metformin, a drug intended to treat diabetes, but which some claim can stave off dementia and cancer in otherwise healthy people.

More credibly, human-genome analysis by US company 23andMe has yielded interesting insights into our vulnerability to some diseases, as well as regarding our ancestry. And Craig Venter, a pioneer in mapping the human genome, aims to analyze the genomes of the thousands of species of bacteria in our gut - an internal ecosystem that may very well be crucial to our health.

The longing for eternal youth in Silicon Valley stems not only from the immense wealth of its leading lights, but also from a culture that regards those above the age of 30 as over the hill. The futurist Ray Kurzweil hopes for a metaphorical “escape velocity,” when medicine advances so fast that life expectancy increases by more than a year each year, offering the prospect of immortality. Or perhaps computers will become so advanced that we will be able to download our brains into an electronic simulacrum, and perpetuate our consciousness and memories that way.

But hardcore longevity enthusiasts worry that “escape velocity” may not be reached within their expected natural lifetime, and therefore want their bodies frozen from the moment they die until immortality is possible. Not so long ago, three academics in the United Kingdom (though not, I’m glad to say, from Cambridge, my university) signed up to have their dead bodies’ blood replaced with liquid nitrogen. One went all-in with the Michigan-based Cryonics Institute, while two took the lower-price option of having an Arizona-based company called Alcor freeze just their heads. The three accept that the chance of resurrection is small, but point out that it would be zero otherwise.

I find it hard to take this aspiration seriously, and I would rather end my days in an English churchyard than an American freezer. And I don’t think it would be good if cryonics ever did succeed. Let’s suppose Alcor stays in business and dutifully cares for its cryogenically frozen bodies for the requisite number of centuries. The corpses would then be revived in a world where they would be strangers - refugees from the past.

Perhaps they would be treated indulgently, as most people believe distressed asylum seekers or displaced Amazonian tribespeople should be treated today. The difference, however, is that the thawed-out corpses would be burdening future generations by choice, so it is not clear how much consideration they would deserve.

## OPINION

By Keyu Jin

## The Art of Wait and See

**B**EIJING - Those now hoping for an eventual trade deal between China and the United States should not hold their breath. Contrary to what US President Donald Trump seems to think, the Chinese have not reached their wits’ end, and will not suddenly accede to his demands.

A successful negotiation usually requires that each side understand the other’s perspective. One can question the wisdom of China’s approach to the dispute thus far, but without a deeper apprehension of the country’s short- and long-term thinking, little progress will be made.

Trump’s supporters insist that he should be taken seriously, not literally. Chinese leaders seem to agree. They have shrugged off the Trump administration’s excessive and unreasonable demands, but harbor little doubts about its intent: to keep China down. That objective has little to do with specific business concerns, and may even derive from “civilizational” - if not racist - hostility. The Chinese thus have had to adjust their strategic calculus, both in the short and long run.

Beyond the latest “truce” between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, China’s overall approach to the trade dispute is to play it cool. The Chinese have realized with hindsight that appearing too eager for a deal made them look weak and vulnerable during the earlier stages of the conflict. They now know that if you give Trump an inch, he will try to take a mile. After China offered major concessions in the last round of talks in May, the US threatened to impose still more tariffs on Chinese exports; and even with the new truce, existing tariffs remain in place.

The Chinese government would hate nothing more than to resemble the court of the Qing Dynasty in its decline. Hence, its current wait-and-see strategy is premised on two judgments. First, the Chinese have concluded that Trump’s flailing truculence will continue to wreak havoc on the US economy, potentially forcing him to back off in the run-up to the 2020 US presidential election.

Second, the Chinese know that Trump’s recent declaration of victory over Mexico was an act of theater in response to growing market jitters; the latest US-Mexico deal was based almost entirely on previously concluded agreements and fictitious Mexican concessions that exist only in Trump’s Twitter account. At any rate, China is not going to rush to make concessions when market unease could force a change in the US position at any moment.

More to the point, given Chinese leaders’ doubt that the Trump administration’s real interest is in making a deal, rather than in undercutting China’s economy, they will have prepared for another breakdown in the negotiations. To manage the economic costs of the trade war, China has already activated a number of compensatory levers, many of which are not available to the US. These include fiscal and monetary stimulus, measures to encourage more lending, and a strengthening of the Chinese financial system. And this, in turn, has allowed for a weakening of the renminbi to offset the competitive disadvantage stemming from tariffs.

In the emerging Chinese view, any leverage or advantage the US has over China in trade is far exceeded by the Chinese people’s willingness to withstand the pressure. They will make the sacrifices necessary to maintain national pride and avoid the appearance of subservience to the West. This patriotic impetus has been fueled further by studying the US-Japanese trade conflict of the 1980s.

“Know your enemy and know yourself,” wrote Sun Tzu in *The Art of War*, “and you won’t lose a single battle out of a hundred.” Over the years, Chinese leaders have heeded this advice, going to great lengths to understand the internal political dynamics of the US. They know that Trump is tapping into deep-seated domestic fears of China, and that this must be met with strategic realignment, rather than mere tactical management.

Accordingly, the Chinese have accepted that preparing for a protracted trade war will require more than just domestic economic policies and an attitude of self-reliance. China also needs to make new friends and appease former foes, which is why it is mending fences with Japan and - thanks to Trump - Russia. Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of investment and infrastructure projects across Eurasia would not be possible without the Kremlin’s implicit consent. As a sign of China and Russia’s deepening cooperation, a Russian gas pipeline originally heading to Japan has now been rerouted to China.

At the same time, China is taking advantage of doubts about Western liberalism by pushing a new worldview of its own. The West’s vulnerability has been exposed by its slow economic recovery since the 2008 financial crisis, declining life expectancy among some cohorts, stagnant standards of living, and the breakdown of traditional alliances. In exporting an alternative agenda, China is unapologetically advocating increased state intervention to improve livelihoods, as well as a value system that ranks collective welfare above individual desires. It is also making efforts to bypass or otherwise mitigate the effects of the exclusionary military alliances that underpin the Western-led order.

Still, China cannot simply write off economic and trade relations with the US. At some point, it will need to contribute to the global trading system in equal measure to what it has gained from that system. This may mean importing more and getting serious about intellectual-property protection. But in the near term, it is unrealistic to expect China to change its laws or abandon its development model, as the Trump administration is demanding.

The US, for its part, should consider the Chinese perspective. China, a 5,000-year-old civilization, knows that those desperate for a deal will end up losing in the end, while those who remain patient and aloof will come out on top. That stance will guide China’s strategy, both in the near term and in the years to come.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Russia among BRICS in Africa

By KesterKennKlomegah\*

Despite its highly praised global status, experts and researchers have said Russia has still lagged far behind economic engagement, compared to key foreign players, in Africa since Soviet's collapse in 1991.

In separate interviews, they pointed to how the African continent is more confidently integrating into the world economy and called for more development-oriented foreign policies that would help the continent overcome its development problems.

In an exclusive interview, the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community, Stergomena Lawrence Tax, said Russia has a long history of bilateral engagements with the Southern African countries.

“The official visit of the Russian Foreign Minister H.E. Sergey Lavrov to the Republics of Angola, Ethiopia, Namibia and Zimbabwe, (as we understand it) was largely focused on signing of economic cooperation agreements to attract Russian investments in key areas such as mining, aviation and energy sectors, as well as fostering military technical cooperation.”

Like most of the developing countries, Southern African countries have, over the years, largely relied on multilateral and regional development financial institutions to fund their development projects.

In this regard, SADC welcomes investors from all over the world, she said, and added “In reality, Russia has not been that visible in the region as compared to China, India or Brazil. But, it is encouraging that, of recent, Russia has positioned itself to be a major partner with Southern Africa and being part of the BRICS promotes her engagement with the region, particularly in investment in minerals, aviation, defense and energy sectors.”

According to many experts, most often talked about economic diplomacy. What is abundantly clear is how to stimulate African governments into exploring investment opportunities in Russia and Russian investors into Africa within some framework of mutual-cooperation.

Professor Vladimir Shubin, the Deputy Director of the Institute for African Studies, told me in an interview that “African leaders also have to pay high attention to and take significant steps in promoting their achievements and highlighting their main developmental needs.”

In an acknowledgement, he said Africa has great potential for bilateral relationships with Russia. But, the relations in many spheres, especially in economic cooperation, are lagging behind.

Shubin, however, pointed to the truth that “Africans have to acknowledge the fact that the world has progressively changed, and they must be seen changing with a similar positive pace. It's about time Africans take development issues seriously and work progressively towards establishing good governance and drastically seek improvement in the welfare for its large impoverished population.”

Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Russia, Major General (rtd) Nicholas Mike Sango, told me in an interview discussion that, “For a long time, Russia's foreign policy on Africa has failed to pronounce itself in practical terms as evidenced by the countable forays into Africa by Russian officials. The Russian Federation has the capacity and ability to assist Africa overcome these challenges leveraging on Africa's vast resources.”

Sango further expressed his views as follows: “Africa's expectation is that Russia, while largely in the extractive industry, will steadily transfer technologies



for local processing of raw materials as a catalyst for Africa's development.”

Professor Gerrit Olivier at the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria, and former South African Ambassador to the Russian Federation, said Soviet influence in Africa disappeared almost like a mirage with the collapse of the Soviet system in 1991.

And today, Russia's influence in Africa, despite efforts towards resuscitation, remains marginal. Many foreign players are involved in building infrastructure, have engaged in agriculture and industry, and Russians only noted for their diplomacy characterized by “frequent official visits” to and from Africa.

Dr. Ojijo Al Pascal, Ugandan lawyer and business consultant based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in East Africa, wrote an email and suggested that “Russia needs to have its own mega or corporate projects. And it should have them in strategic economic areas.”

Ojijo underlined the fact that Russia, in essence, could use its history of electrifying the Soviet rural areas to help Africa. It could promote the establishment of manufacturing hubs and mega projects, promote its technologies in mutually beneficial spheres while cooperating with individual countries in Africa.

Russia could target priority development projects in Africa. “There are so many investment areas”, says Dr. ShaabaniNzori, a Moscow-based Oil and Gas specialist and Foreign Policy Expert, “What is important is to identify investment sectors and here Russia has the chance to transfer its technology to agriculture and industry in Africa.”

Rex Essenowo, Member of the Board of Trustees of Nigerians in Diaspora Europe and Senior Executive of Asian Africa Trade, a Moscow based business lobbying NGO, said African leaders also have to treat Russia with some kind of objective understanding.

“Apart from sanctions, Russia is struggling with the challenges after the breakdown of Soviet Union and economic meltdown of the 90's in the country. Russia, as it seeks to restore and strengthen its position, has

very limited human resources specially trained to implement policies in Africa,” he added.

“Nevertheless, diving into muddy waters could be very risky and dangerous for Russia. On the other hand, Russian authorities are studying what the Chinese and other foreign players are doing very closely before even thinking about going into the first five or ten preferred destinations within the next five years in Africa. Watch out my words!”

There has been, for a long time, interest from Russia to revive its old economic ties with Africa. Russia and Russian enterprises are in a much stronger position today to capitalize on this opportunity than a few decades ago.

At the same time, not ignoring the fact that the continued economic sanctions imposed by the West, has made Russia to reinforce its strategic partnerships with other regions, and currently on the move towards Africa where it has had good historical ties from the Soviet era.

VyacheslavVolodin, the Chairman of the State Duma, told an instant meeting held with the Ambassadors of African ambassadors in the Russian Federation that Russia would take adequate steps to deliver on pledges and promises with Africa countries. “We propose to move from intentions to concrete steps,” he said.

In an official report posted it's the ministry's website, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said: “We have been consistently advocating the strengthening of the legal and democratic principles of the international life, respect for all people's identity and their right to independently choose ways of their political and socioeconomic development.”

The first Russia-Africa summit scheduled to take place in Sochi on October 24 and will be co-chaired by President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who currently chairs the African Union. \*KesterKennKlomegah writes frequently about Russia-Africa and the BRICS.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**CDC denies 'trucking' people**

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President George Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is fighting to distance itself of allegation by the opposition bloc here that it is trooping people from the counties into Monrovia to register for the stalled by-elections in Montserrado County.

Instead, the CDC is pointing fingers at the opposition for a purported letter on social media that has gone viral in which the ruling party mandates its county coordinators to truck partisans from across the country for quick voters registration in Monrovia allegedly to be executed by registrants of the National Elections Commission for the stalled by-elections in Montserrado and Electoral District#15, respectively in order to vote for CDC's Senatorial Candidate Ms. Paulita Wie and Representative Candidate Abu Kamara respectively.

But CDC national chairman Mulbah Morlu describes the communication as cheap trick, signaling defeat of the opposition.

Four collaborating opposition political parties here have endorsed Mr. Darius

Dillon as their candidate for the senatorial seat and Ms. Telia Urey as their representative candidate for Electoral District#15.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia Thursday, July 11, Chairman

Morlu argues the CDC has no history of cheating in elections; rather, he says it is the former ruling Unity Party.

"The letter is fake in structure, style, in formation of CDC's document, and totally charged with grammatical errors. This is their making, that's what they do and been doing since 2005, 2011 and all legislative by-elections. We are far above this", Morlu defends.

According to him, the opposition community is creating side distraction but minds of partisans of the CDC are made up to go out and campaign to win the two legislative seats.

He says the opposition is griped with fear, seeing the huge turnout of partisans and supporters of the CDC in communities, which is clear indication of defeat for the opposition.

He continues that it is shameful and national embarrassment for people who reportedly participated in the spoils of the 12 years regime of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to have created fake document and spread falsehood on social media against realities on the grounds.

The opposition here claimed on Monday, 8 July that they saw bus loads of unidentified people within premises of the Sinkor Headquarters of the National Elections Commission, adding that when confronted, many of the bus riders said they had been encouraged and transported to the Commission to obtain Voter's Identification Cards to cast their votes in the

by-elections something, they describe as deliberate efforts by elements within the National Elections Commission and the government to replay the Sinoe County scenario.

"We note with concern that the Commission had previously, in preparation for the stalled by-elections, released a Calendar of Events by which candidates have been conducting their campaign activities. This Calendar of Events provides timelines for Replacement of Lost or Damaged Voter Identification Cards, which period had ended long before 8 July 2019, the date set for the stalled by-elections", the opposition asserts in a statement.

According to them, this is not the first time such a strange movement has been detected, as previously, many people from different parts of Liberia had been spotted in the premises of the National Elections Commission (NEC's) Sinkor headquarters purporting to have been "sent" to obtain their Voter Cards.

"When confronted by political parties during two (2) recent meetings of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC), the Commission superficially addressed this strange development without providing any guarantee that nothing sinister was in the offing, even if not official."

The National Elections Commission has dismissed the allegation as baseless, clarifying that the replacement of damaged voter's cards had since ended, and there is no such thing like the NEC continuing replacement of damaged cards or people being trucked to its headquarters for registration. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



**Luxurious hotels more into power theft**

-Pro-Tempore Chie  
By Ethel A. Tweh

The President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate Mr. Albert T. Chie says most of the power theft in Liberia is not just done by ordinary people, but luxurious hotels in town are mainly into power theft.

Also speaking Thursday, 11 July, Grand Kru County Sen. Dr. Peter Coleman said up to 70% of the power given is stolen.

He complains that it

reduces the capacity of the Liberia Electricity Corporation to provide more services to others.

He notes that the (Power Theft) Bill is not only targeting those that do the connections, but those that are exploiting the economy for their own benefits. He expresses fears that given the power theft situation in Monrovia, power theft will be more when LEC extends its operation in the various parts of the country.

"Two years ago, we passed the electricity law where we stated that LEC lacked the

capacity to deal with disturbing transmission and even collecting its own bills," he says.

Also speaking, Maryland County Sen. J. Gbleh-bo Brown says the report is incomplete because the committee on Judiciary should be the lead committee on the report.

He suggests that the Bill should have court implication in it, reminding his colleagues that there is no way one can be caught and charged for stealing current without being carried to court.

Additionally Sen. Brown observes that the report does not provide how one can be determined as someone who steals power.

He argues that "You can't just see someone on a pole and say the person is stealing current."

"What determines that? And that person needs to go to court to be charged," he continues.

Meanwhile, Sinoe County Sen. J. Milton Teahjay says the Bill should not cover power alone, suggesting the need to include water theft.

Mr. Teahjay says there is a need to criminalize the theft of public services, including water, current, and telecommunications, among others.

Teahjay expresses concern that the Bill is centered around Monrovia alone, noting that it should cover the whole

country.

According to him, government needs to put electricity in all parts of the country, saying Liberians are not only the people in Monrovia.

Sinoe County Sen. Augustine Chea recommends that the legality of the bill be given serious consideration, saying that there are serious legal [flaws] in the Bill.

Sen. Chea indicates that nowhere in the law has to do with criminality, further saying there is no penalty in terms of guilt.

Notwithstanding, Bong County Sen. Henry Yallah raises concern that it takes LEC too long to respond to people if they have problem

with their power line. To add to the problem, he says when the LEC workers get to the person who has problem with supply line, money is allegedly requested before connecting the person.

On the basis of this concern, Sen. Yallah believes that LEC is helping the people to steal the current.

He suggests that while people are being jailed for stealing current, LEC too needs to pay fine for facilitating the crime.

Following deliberations by the Senators, the Bill was sent back to the committee to consider the inputs made by the various senators. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Read the NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# LRA awards highest taxpayers

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has awarded several taxpayers for their strong support and valuable contributions to tax payment and revenue collection in Liberia.

About 50 individuals, businesses and organizations received awards and certificates of special recognition. The awardees were selected based on either their total tax compliance or the amount of tax contributions during the 2017/2018 fiscal period year - July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

According to a press release, Orange-Liberia GSM operator for the second time in a roll won the Gold Award as the Highest Tax Contributor nationwide, while Arcelor Mittal-Liberia won the Silver Award as the second highest tax contributor followed by Monrovia Club Breweries, Bronze Award, as third highest in the tax payment category.

APM Terminals-Liberia was awarded as the Most Compliant Taxpayer nationwide in the Large Tax Division, Kpassakoi Trading Corporation was named as the Most Compliant



Finance Minister Samuel Tweah presents an award to USAID-Liberia

Taxpayer nationwide for Medium Tax, while the John Building Materials Center received the Most Compliant Taxpayer for the Small Tax segment.

The LRA explains that Large taxpayers are businesses with yearly total income of L\$30,000,000 and above. Medium taxpayers are businesses with yearly total income below L\$30,000,000 but not less than L\$3,000,000, while Small taxpayers are businesses making annual gross income of below L\$3,000,000 but not less

than L\$200,000.

Meanwhile, Firestone Liberia for the second time in a roll won the Most Compliant Taxpayer award in the Natural Resource Sector, while Kumba Joseph Business Center was awarded as the Most Compliant Petty Trader for the second time in a roll.

In the Real Property Tax payment sector, Madam Adeline Morris was named as highest tax contributor for industrial property, the residential property highest tax contributor award was received by Bong

County Senator Henrique Tokpa, while Total-Liberia was recognized as the highest tax contributor for commercial property.

Under the Customs category, DHL- Liberia was most compliant taxpayer using the Direct Transfer Platform; Fresh Frozen Food Inc, first-placed highest tax contributor in General Merchandise; Bridgeway Corporation took first place as most compliant importer as Total-Liberia carried the first place as highest tax contributor in the petroleum industry and also most compliant taxpayer using e-Filing, among others.

LRA former Commissioner General Elfrieda Stewart Tamba received special recognition award for setting the pace for the current LRA, while recognition also went to several donor partners for their unflinching support to the work of the LRA. They include USAID/Liberia, World Bank Group, European Union, Open Society Initiative for West Africa, UNDP, African Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and GIZ, among others. Speaking during the appreciation program held at the Paynesville City Hall, LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah commends taxpayers who made the efforts to contribute to the revenue envelope. He describes Tax payment as a civic duty and is in line with law, saying that

without taxes, the government will be unable to meet the demands of society.

"Taxes are crucial because the government collects the money and use it for projects. Also, in addition to paying the salaries of government workers, tax dollars also help support the security services, build community roads and main highways, but importantly it improves the quality of life for citizens and it is critical to the success of the Pro Poor Agenda," CG Nah asserted.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. recognizes the significant contributions of taxpayers to the country's revenue envelop. He lauds employees of the LRA for upholding their high moral standards in ensuring government needed taxes are collected timely while pledging government's support to the operations of the Authority. He thanks the honorees for paying their taxes to support government's development programs. The annual Taxpayer Appreciation Day launched in 2017, appreciates all taxpayers in the country and specifically recognizes compliant and highest taxpayers for meeting all their tax obligations on time and in full. This year's event was held under the theme: "Increase Tax Compliance To Enhance Domestic Resource Mobilization", supported by the United Nations Development Program and USAID-funded Revenue Generation, Governance & Growth (RG3) Project. *Press Release*

# NEC terms report as dangerous attempt

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Chairman of the National Elections Commission, Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya terms a recent report by a local daily that the Commission is secretly issuing voter's card to individuals as dangerous.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia Friday, Chairman Korkoya notes that similar allegation has also been made by some political actors, dismissing it as "total falsehood and misleading."

He says the NEC, in no uncertain terms, categorically denies these allegations, saying, "This story has no basis

in fact; it is false and a dangerous attempt to undermine the electoral process and expose the Commission to disrepute."

He explains that the commission does not operate in secrecy, as all of its operations are open and observed by independent observers.

Chairman Korkoya maintains that political actors also have right under the law to observe various aspects of the electoral process.

He clarifies the replacement of lost or damaged voter's cards is different from voter registration.

"Under voter registration,

the Commission registers eligible Liberians at a particular point in time and issue them cards to vote in subsequent elections. For the replacement exercise, the Commission replaces voter's cards for voters who have lost or damaged their cards. No new voter is added on the voter's roll during a replacement exercise. While cards are issued during both exercises, the cards issued during replacement are marked "Replaced", thereby making the cards they replaced unusable."

He says under the law, as recorded in Section 3.5 (2) of the New Elections Law of Liberia, "In the event of loss or destruction of the registration card and after proof has been established, the Registrar shall issue a new card for a minimum fee of \$5.00 to be paid in the Internal Revenue account."

The NEC boss continues that for these by-elections, the Commission initially decided to go in strict adherence to the provision of the law on replacement and opened two replacement centers at the magisterial offices in Brewerville and Bensonville, respectively in Montserrado County, beginning Friday, June 21 through Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

"The Commission later extended the period to Thursday, June 27 and opened another center at the NEC Headquarters following our

*Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!*

request to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) to provide funds to cover the cost of replacing the cards. Our request to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning stemmed from a huge outcry from the public to remove the fees and reduce the distance voters were to travel to replace their cards."

He further details that at the close of the replacement exercise, the total number of replacement Identification cards issued was 1,649:573 from the Brewerville office; 337 from the Bensonville office and 739 at the NEC Headquarters respectively.

Korkoya assures Liberians that NEC, as has been its practice since 2005, is very strict in its adherence to the requirements of the law in that, only individuals who were proven to be on the original Final Registration Roll (FRR) of

2017, but had lost or damaged their voter's cards were issued replacement cards.

"The Final Registration Roll of 2017 produced the following statistics: total number of registered voters in Liberia: 2,183,268; total number of registered voters in Montserrado: 778,291; total number of registered voters in District#15, 39,005; total number of precincts in Liberia; 2,080, total number of precincts in Montserrado: 488; and, total number of precincts in District #15, 31," he explains.

He urges political parties and other stakeholders to also have in their possession a copy of the 2017 final voters' roll of 2,183,268 registered voters nationwide, saying, "Under our law, political parties have the right to inspect or scrutinize the voters' roll." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# Français

## Visite de Georges Weah à Conakry : le Football aussi était au rendez-vous

Cette démonstration d'Alpha Condé à la Bluezone de Kaloum devant l'ancien ballon d'or, est l'un des moments forts de la visite d'Etat et d'amitié du président du Libéria à Conakry.

« Notre grande surprise, c'est quand on a été à la Bluezone où de petits enfants étaient en train de jouer au foot. Je leur ai demandé s'ils le connaissent, ils ont dit 'oui, Ballon d'or'. Et Weah m'a dit 'président, quand j'avais 11 ans, je disais que je serai le futur Pelé», révèle Alpha Condé qui dit ne pas connaître AKB (Abdoul Karim Bangoura sur la photo), ancien sociétaire du Syli national, un ami à Georges Weah.

Élu à la tête du Libéria, en janvier 2018, l'ancien footballeur a effectué une visite d'amitié et de fraternité de 48 h à Conakry.

Selon Mamadi Touré, ministre des Affaires

étrangères, cette visite de Georges Weah portait essentiellement sur le raffermissement des relations entre la Guinée et le Libéria :

« Il s'agira pour les deux chefs d'Etat et leurs délégations de revoir à quel

niveau se trouve notre coopération bilatérale, pour voir de quelle façon on peut approfondir et diversifier davantage ces relations dans l'intérêt des deux pays », a expliqué le Chef de la Diplomatie guinéenne.

Ajoutant qu'Alpha Condé

et son hôte étudieront la possibilité de signer des accords dans bien des domaines :

« Il y aura un communiqué qui va exprimer la volonté politique des deux Etats à trouver des accords, à s'entendre sur des domaines. Il y a plusieurs domaines dans lesquels on peut coopérer. C'est notamment dans les domaines des investissements, des mines,

des transports ou encore de la défense. Ce n'est pas garanti que des accords seront signés, mais cela pourrait se faire dans un proche avenir », a précisé Mamadi Touré.

Au cours de cette visite de deux jours, Georges Weah et Alpha Condé se sont rendus au port conteneur et à la Bluezone (à Kaloum). La visite a été couronnée par un dîner avec les deux chefs d'Etat dans la soirée du jeudi.



## Côte d'Ivoire : croissance stable, des risques planent selon la Banque Mondiale

L'économie ivoirienne se maintient. Sa croissance est stable, selon le dernier rapport de la Banque mondiale qui prévoit un taux de croissance de 7,2% en 2019 contre 7,4% en 2018. Mais plusieurs risques planent toutefois sur cette économie.

La croissance à plus de 7% qui fait la fierté des autorités depuis 2012 devrait se maintenir à condition « que l'économie ivoirienne ne subisse pas de chocs extérieurs majeurs et que l'environnement politique

mobilisation des recettes fiscales, en particulier la TVA. Et puis l'économie ivoirienne est encore très dépendante du secteur agricole (21,5% du PIB), secteur dont la croissance a fortement ralenti l'année dernière.

La fluctuation des marchés, le changement climatique font donc peser de lourdes menaces sur cette économie ivoirienne, tout comme le risque terroriste et l'incertitude autour des possibles troubles liés au processus électoral à venir.

« Cette possible dégradation de

## Coopération militaire : ce que les ministres guinéen et libérien de la Défense se sont dit ce vendredi à Conakry

En marge de la visite du président Georges Weah à Conakry, le ministre d'Etat chargé de la Défense nationale Dr. Mohamed Diané a reçu dans la matinée de ce vendredi 12 juillet, au Camp Samory,

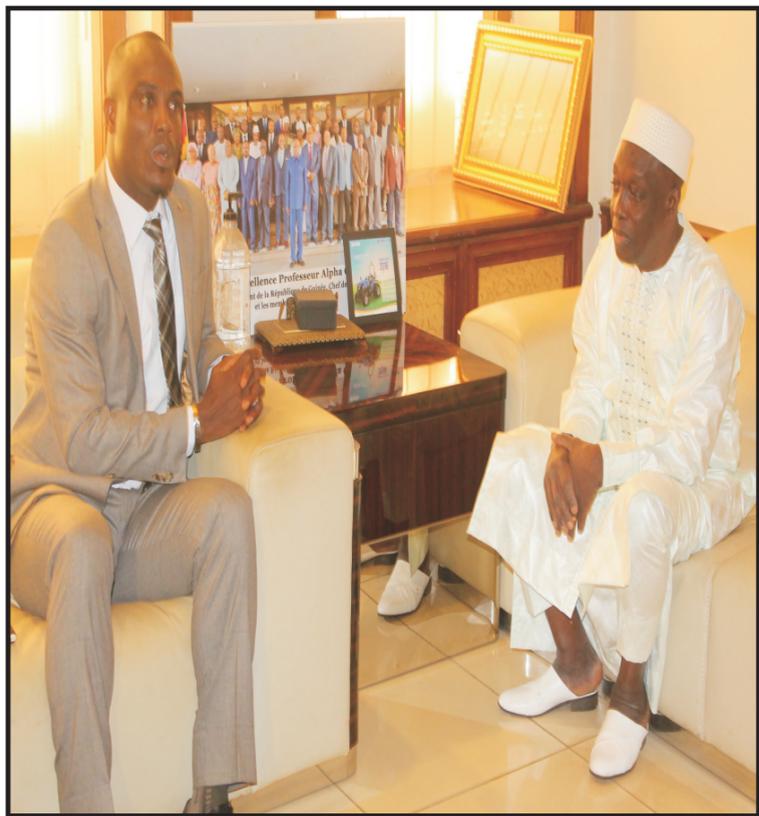
son homologue libérien Daniel D. Ziankahn.

L'entretien entre les deux ministres s'est déroulé en présence des proches collaborateurs de Dr. Mohamed Diané et a porté essentiellement sur le renforcement de la

coopération militaire entre Conakry et Monrovia, à travers notamment la mise en place prochaine de patrouilles mixtes le long des frontières et le partage d'informations au niveau des différents Etats-majors.

Le ministre Diané a rassuré Daniel Ziankahn de la disponibilité des autorités guinéennes à tout mettre en oeuvre pour que règne la paix et la stabilité, non seulement dans l'espace de la Mano river union, mais aussi et globalement dans la sous-région.

Le ministre libérien de la Défense tout en rappelant le rôle majeur joué par la Guinée pour le retour à une paix définitive dans son pays après les années difficiles de la guerre civile, a indiqué que son Liberia ne servira jamais de base arrière pour déstabiliser un pays voisin. Daniel Ziankahn a souhaité établir une ligne directe avec son homologue guinéen pour traiter efficacement toutes les questions liées à la sécurité des deux pays amis.



reste apaisé à l'approche de la présidentielle de 2020 », estime la Banque mondiale dans son rapport intitulé « Au pays du cacao, comment transformer la Côte d'Ivoire ».

D'autres indicateurs sont au vert : une inflation faible à 0,3% en 2018 et un déficit budgétaire à 4% et en baisse. L'objectif des 3% exigés par l'UEMOA pour intégrer la monnaie unique l'an prochain est à portée de main.

La Banque mondiale pointe toutefois plusieurs problèmes. Problème de

l'environnement politique pourrait aussi conduire les opérateurs privés à ralentir leurs investissements », note le rapport. Pour l'instant, ce n'est pas le cas puisque les investissements directs étrangers sont en hausse en 2018. « Ces risques politiques pourraient être exacerbés par le partage relativement limité des fruits de la croissance », ajoute la Banque mondiale. Selon les dernières statistiques disponibles sur la question et datant de 2015 : 46% des ivoiriens vivent sous le seuil de pauvreté.

# 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 MannehWeah. 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 Sami Mahroum

### Le fonctionnement d'une utopie de l'IA

**A**NVERS - Il y a maintenant plus de 500 ans que Sir Thomas More a trouvé son inspiration pour le « Royaume de l'Utopie » en flânant dans les rues d'Anvers. Lorsque j'ai voyagé de Dubaï à Anvers au mois de mai pour parler de l'intelligence artificielle (IA), je n'ai pas pu m'empêcher de faire des parallèles avec Raphael Hythloday, le personnage d'Utopie qui fait les délices des habitants de la Nouvelle-Angleterre du XVIème siècle avec ses récits d'un monde meilleur.

La ville de Dubaï, qui abrite le premier Ministère de l'IA, ainsi que des musées, des académies et des fondations consacrées à l'étude de l'avenir, poursuit son propre périple à l'image de celui de Hythloday. Alors que l'Europe, en général, se montre de plus en plus anxieuse quant aux menaces technologiques envers l'emploi, les Émirats Arabes Unis ont accueilli avec enthousiasme le potentiel d'économie de main-d'œuvre de l'IA et de l'automatisation.

Il y a des raisons pratiques à cela. Le ratio autochtone / étranger de main-d'œuvre dans les États du Golfe est fortement déséquilibré, allant d'un maximum de 67 % en Arabie saoudite à un minimum de 11% dans les Émirats arabes unis. Parce que l'environnement désertique de la région ne peut pas soutenir davantage la croissance de la population, la perspective de remplacer les personnes par des machines est devenue de plus en plus séduisante.

Mais il existe également une différence culturelle entre les deux régions. Contrairement à l'Europe de l'Ouest, berceau de la révolution industrielle et de « l'éthique protestante du travail », les sociétés arabes en général ne « vivent pas pour travailler », mais plutôt « travaillent pour vivre », en accordant une plus grande valeur au temps de loisir. De telles attitudes ne sont pas particulièrement compatibles avec les systèmes économiques qui exigent d'extraire toujours plus de productivité de la main-d'œuvre, mais elles sont bien adaptées à l'âge de l'IA et de l'automatisation.

Dans l'Ouest industrialisé, les forces technologiques menacent des contrats sociaux qui ont longtemps reposé sur les trois piliers du capital, du travail et de l'État. Durant des siècles, le capital fournissait les investissements dans les machines, les travailleurs faisaient fonctionner les machines pour produire des biens et services et les gouvernements percevaient les impôts, fournissaient les biens publics et redistribuaient les ressources en fonction des besoins. Mais cette division du travail a créé un système social qui est beaucoup plus compliqué que celui du monde arabe et d'autres économies non industrialisées.

De leur côté, les États arabes ont nationalisé les ressources naturelles, ont géré d'importantes industries, ont fait du commerce international et ont distribué les excédents de ressources dans la société. Jusqu'à

récemment, la croissance de la population et la baisse des revenus tirés des ressources naturelles ont menacé le contrat social. Mais avec des technologies capables de produire et de distribuer la plupart des biens et services requis par ce qui est essentiellement une société de loisirs, le contrat social existant pourrait être amélioré, plutôt que perturbé.

En Occident, la révolution technologique semble avoir creusé le fossé entre les détenteurs du capital et tous les autres. Si la productivité a augmenté, la part de la main-d'œuvre sur le revenu total a diminué. Outre les propriétaires du capital, une classe de loisirs de yuppies et d'héritiers a également pris une part importante du surplus créé par les technologies qui améliorent la productivité. Les plus grands perdants sont les personnes à faibles revenus et les moins éduquées.

Pourtant là encore, l'accent sur l'incidence potentielle de l'IA sur la relation entre le capital et l'emploi est à courte vue. Après tout, le populisme a augmenté dans de nombreux pays occidentaux, à une époque quasi-historique des plus bas taux de chômage. On peut dire que le mécontentement actuel reflète un désir d'une meilleure qualité de vie - et non pas le désir de davantage de travail. Les manifestants français des « Gilets jaunes » ont d'abord répondu à des mesures qui étaient censées augmenter leurs frais de déplacements ; les Britanniques qui ont voté pour quitter l'Union européenne espéraient que les contributions à l'Union seraient réorientées vers les services publics au niveau national. La plus grande part de la rhétorique anti-mondialisation et anti-immigration est née d'une inquiétude quant à la criminalité, au changement culturel et à d'autres questions liées à la qualité de vie - pas à l'emploi.

Le problème est qu'en vertu du contrat social occidental, un désir de davantage de loisirs peut se traduire par des exigences incompatibles entre elles. Les électeurs veulent une réduction de la durée du travail mais des revenus plus élevés et s'attendent à ce que les gouvernements continuent de générer suffisamment de recettes fiscales pour fournir les services de santé, les retraites et l'éducation. Il n'est pas étonnant que la politique occidentale soit dans l'impasse.

Heureusement, l'IA et l'innovation fondée sur des données pourraient offrir une voie à suivre. Dans ce qui pourrait être perçu comme une sorte d'utopie de l'IA, le paradoxe d'un État plus grand avec un plus petit budget pourrait être réconcilié, parce que le gouvernement aurait les moyens de développer les biens et services à très faible coût.

Le principal obstacle serait culturel : dès 1948, le philosophe allemand Joseph Pieper a mis en garde contre la « prolétarisation » des personnes et a exigé que le loisir soit placé à la base de la culture. Les Occidentaux devraient renoncer à leur obsession de l'éthique du travail, ainsi qu'à leur profond ressentiment envers les « resquilleurs. » Ils devraient commencer à faire la différence entre le travail qui est nécessaire à une existence digne - et le travail qui vise à

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Several marketers affected in demolition

Monrovia City Major Jefferson Koijee and Kru Borough Governor Alice Weah are on a demolition of market structures, including warehouses and concrete shops in Duala Market, Bushrod Island to erect garbage centers, affecting several marketers.

Armed security accompanied Mayor Koijee and Governor Weah to the market during night hours to breakdown structures.

Duala Market Superintendent Madam Haja Sirleaf and several affected marketers complain that Mayor Koijee and Governor Weah broke down their warehouses and shops under the cover of darkness causing them to lose several hundred bags of charcoal and other goods.

They explain that armed police officers of the Monrovia City Corporation marketers executed the act early this week while Governor Weah on Monday and Tuesday, ordering demolition of more structures.

The marketers say Montserrado County

District#16 Representative Dixon Sebo, visited the area and promised to promptly intervene, but to no avail. The exercise came about a day after Miss Liberia-2017, Wokie Dolo removed stockpiled of garbage in the Dual Market and its environs.

Miss Liberia Dolo and a team of volunteers launched the cleanup campaign over the weekend, voluntarily

clearing garbage.

Madam Massa Massalley, leader for the charcoal field in Duala Market appeals to President George Manneh Weah to intervene urgently to avoid a deeper crisis between aggrieved marketers and the MCC. Madam Massalley laments the market provides the only source of feeding their families, paying their children's school fees, paying

taxes to government and repaying loans to bank.

"We don't want trouble, we want peace and long life, let government come to our aid before it gets too late", she pleads.

The Director of Technical Services of the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA), Gbaylee P. Wah, Sr. says the LMA knows nothing about what he terms unlawful and uncivilized demolition exercises in Duala Market by

the MCC and Governor Weah.

Director Wah notes that government does not break down warehouses and private properties under cover of darkness, but criminals only do, adding those responsible should pay for properties and businesses destroyed.

When contacted on the demolition ground, Governor Alice Weah declines to comment, while Major Koijee is said to be busy. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Charcoal warehouses demolished

## UAE, top Australian miner here to explore Liberia

By Winston W. Parley

Top level business delegations from the royal family of Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and an Australian mining investor are here in Liberia to engage authorities in an effort to explore investment opportunities.

In furtherance to President George Manneh Weah's visit to the UAE, Sheikh Ahmed Dolmook Al MakToum and his delegation arrived at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi Sunday, 14 July to explore investment opportunities here.

Minutes after Sheikh Toum's arrival, Australian mining

sectors are trying to come into Liberia to look at opportunities to explore and to make sure to bring in money into the country.

But Mr. Kpui declines to say if this visit will see both sides signing any document or whether it is just an assessment visit.

He however says the Liberian government has technical teams, sectorial ministries and ministers that will be engaging [the guests] in one - on - one interactive and technical conversations.

Mr. Andrew T. Forrest, CEO of Forescue Mining Company, says he is here to see if he can help Liberian children, expressing his interest in seeing that this

# Refus Neufville attacks COP's new plan to protest

A former supporter of the Council of Patriots (COP), organizer of the June 7 peaceful protest, Mr. Rufus Neufville, has claimed that the COP's plan to hold another protest on 24 July is an alleged attempt to extort money from the Government

and not in the interest of the Liberian people. Mr. Neufville, who has broken away from the COP, has formed his own version of the organization he calls Independent Council of Patriots (ICOP). According to a press release, Mr. Neufville told journalists over the weekend that the COP has lost

relevance due to alleged greed by its members. He cites the withdrawal of Senator Oscar Cooper; the Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia from the COP, as well as others that he says have formed the Independent COP. He believes that the intent of the COP is to generate money to cater to family needs for the July 26 celebration. Mr. Neufville wants Liberians not to take COP serious.

Mr. Neufville's comments comes after Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah announced on July 10, 2019 that another protest will be held in the Country beginning July 24. The COP is saying that the Government of President George Manneh Weah has refused to implement recommendations made to government after the June 7 protest. Mr. Neufville also calls on Rep. Yekeh Kolubah to use his authority as a lawmaker to Chanel his disagreement with the government rather than engaging into street protest. —*Press release*



investor Mr. Andrew T. Forrest, CEO of Forescue Mining Company which is said to be the fourth largest mining company in the world, also touched down at RIA.

The foreign partners were led to Monrovia on Sunday by Liberian officials on a convoy to be engaged in interactive technical meetings with Liberian teams from sectorial ministries and agencies.

Minister of State Without Portfolio Mr. Trokon Kpui told journalists at RIA that Mr. Al MakToum runs an office that is interested in doing business in Liberia.

Mr. Kpui recalls that a couple of months back, a delegation came from UAE following President Weah's visit there.

Due to the bilateral relationship, Mr. Kpui explains that both the private and public

country does not suffer slavery among other nations.

"I'm particularly interested to making sure that your young people have economic opportunities and I would be very excited to help in developing your economy," says Mr. Forrest.

He assures that he will be in Liberia many times, expressing confidence that he and the Liberian government can reach harmony.

Mr. Forrest describes his company Forescue as probably the world's best known effective miner for getting things done quickly, saying if the company comes to your country, then it will be seen as world's command.

# Gov't taunting Yekeh Kolubah?

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian immigration authorities have intercepted and prevented the wife of Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah from traveling out of Liberia with seven children, over claims of lack of exit clearance for their journey to Ghana to conform to anti-trafficking measures.

Following Saturday's incident at the Roberts International Airport (RIA), Liberian Immigration Service (LIS) Commissioner General Col. Robert Budy told the NewDawn via Mobile Sunday, 14 July that all of the affected persons had diplomatic passports, but "the proper procedure was not followed yesterday" so "the children did not travel."

Col. Budy says during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's term, the UN raised some concerns about child being trafficked from Liberia, following which the Child Protection Section Desk was put at the Ministry of Justice to do due diligence



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

before a child is taken out of Liberia.

Col. Budy argues that the decision taken was not about politics, but Rep. Yekeh Kolubah's wife did not have exit clearance to carry the seven children along with her to Ghana.

He says Rep. Kolubah's wife appeared at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) Immigration desk on Saturday,

13 July, attempting to travel to Ghana with seven children, when immigration officers asked her for the exit clearance or records to show that she was authorized to carry the children along.

In return, Col. Budy says the lady asked the immigration officers what they meant by exit clearance.

He adds that when Rep. Kolubah was notified by his

wife about the situation at the Airport, the lawmaker got there enraged.

"And then he thought because of the ne exeat republica that is placed on him by the court not to leave the country, he thought that was what was transferring on his wife and the children," Budy says.

"But he did not know that they have a mechanism in place that nobody is authorized to take their minor out of the country without going through that process, because he does not know about that," he adds.

The Immigration Chief explains further that there was no document to that effect for all the seven children to travel.

He confirms that all of them had diplomatic passport, but the immigration is not concerned about the travel documents, saying immigration had to take the necessary measures to be in line with international protocol.

Col. Budy suggests that even if they had traveled to Ghana, they would have been denied at the Port of entry and asked to return to Liberia once they did not have exit clearance.

According to Col Budy, there's a system in place at the Ministry of Justice that require exit clearance.

Giving a historical background, he narrates that Liberia was put in certain category and warned that if it did not put in control measures how children are leaving Liberia to go to other parts of the world, international aid to Liberia would have been cut off.

According to Col Budy, there was lot of concerns that one parent would take a child away without the consent of the other parent.

He says this situation prompted the institution of this system to ensure the appearance of both parents to confirm that they are in the know of the child's travel.

"Then the Section will do a communication to the Commissioner General of Immigration that they have done their due diligence, and they will instruct the Commissioner General to issue an exit clearance," he says.

According to him, this process has to be followed when taken biological or adopted children out of Liberia to authenticate that it meets both parents' consent to take the child out of Liberia.

"And by doing that, it will prevent trafficking of children out of the country," Col. Budy explains.

In a video interview at his house, Rep. Kolubah says his wife and children were travelling for a one week vacation to come back for the

pending protest expected beginning 24 July.

While his family was at the airport, Rep. Kolubah says he was called to come and clarify that he was aware that his wife was travelling with his children.

According to him, when he went to the airport and talked with the Immigration commander there, the officer indicated that he simply wanted to know that he (Kolubah) was aware of the children's travel.

He says he was called back and told that he needed to fill a form, and the Immigration had stamped his wife and children's passports.

But in the next 20 minutes, Kolubah says President George Manneh Weah landed at the airport.

In the process of his (Kolubah's) wife and children getting out, Kolubah says his family was called back and told that higher ups had instructed that they should not travel.

He additionally says the Immigration commander indicated that their passports could not also be released to them.

Kolubah narrates that he informed the then Acting Justice Ministry about the situation, but the authority allegedly indicated that it was President Weah's instruction that Kolubah's family shouldn't leave the country.

He claims that the Acting Justice Minister said they had been ordered to even seize Kolubah's families' luggage.

However, in an official statement, the government said it did not prohibit family members of Representative Yekeh Kolubah from leaving the country out of any political consideration or ongoing legal case he has with the courts. Instead, immigration officers acted purely in keeping with anti-human trafficking regulations.

According to the Government, Madam Georgetta Joyce Kolubah - believed to be the wife of the Representative - was due to leave the country on Saturday, June 13, accompanied by seven children, five of whom had diplomatic passports. The other two had laissez-passers. During routined checks, Madam Kolubah could not prove that all the children were hers, or that they were traveling with the consent of both parents in keeping with anti-human trafficking procedures.

"When she didn't produce the necessary legal instrument which would have validated her claims, Mrs. Kolubah was duly informed on how such documentation could be obtained, without which she cannot leave the country with the children. This is standard practice which other adults accompanied by even a single child have had to face, the government said."

## Opposition leaders abandon Dillon

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The campaign launch of senatorial candidate Abraham Darius Dillon from the opposition bloc for the Montserrado County by-election took place over the weekend with the conspicuous absence of key opposition leaders except for businessman turned politician Benoni Urey of the All Liberian Party.

Mr. Dillon's Liberty Party is a member of four opposition collaborating parties here, including the former Unity Party of Ex-Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine of the Liberty Party, Alternative National Congress of Alexander Cummings, and the ALP of Mr. Urey.

At Saturday's (July 13) launch, the UP leader Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai, and his former running mate Emmanuel Nuquay were both absent, so were Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence and Cllr. Charles Brumskine of the LP, including the ANC leader, Alexander Cummings and his running mate, Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh, among others.

However, the ALP leader Mr. Urey was the only opposition leader present at the rally. Political commentators believe Urey's presence was primarily intended to show support for his daughter, Ms. Telia Urey, who is vying for Montserrado County Electoral District #15 seat.

Mr. Darius Dillon launched his campaign, promising voters that he won't disappoint them

if they elected him to the senate.

The vacancy in the Liberian Senate came about as a result of the late Senator Geraldine Doe-Sherif died in Accra, Ghana, after a protracted illness.

At his campaign rally held in the compound of the Unity Party, he further vows that if elected, he would work with other senators to reduce salary of lawmakers to US\$5,000 as take-home pay.

At the moment, salary of lawmakers, including senators is not public here. Some projections put the figure at US\$12,000, 15,000 or 17,000.

"Let me make a commitment to you; it is not only that I am going to fight not to fail you, but I will fight to change things to give hope to our people that all is not lost. We want to show the ruling party what is meant by 'hope for change or change for hope'," Dillon promises.

He throws an open challenge to President George Weah and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to withdraw the candidacy of Mr. Abu Kamara for the ruling party in District#15 to allow Ms Urey, the only female candidate for the district to sail thru.

The representative by-election in District#15 is intended to replace the late Representative Adolph Lawrence, who died in a car crash in March. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



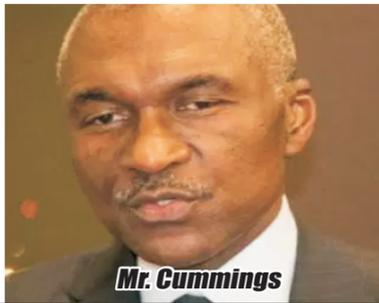
Abraham Darius Dillon



Cllr. Brumskine



Ex-Vice President Boakai



Mr. Cummings

## Senegal beat Tunisia to reach Afcon final



Senegal reached the Africa Cup of Nations final for the second time as Tunisia defender Dylan Bronn's extra-time own goal gave them victory.

Both sides had penalties saved in normal time before Bronn inadvertently headed the only goal of the game.

Mouez Hassen tipped Sadio Mane's free-kick on to Bronn's head as Senegal - who face Algeria in Friday's final - moved closer to a first Afcon title. Tunisia had a late penalty award overturned by VAR.

After Salif Sane's headed clearance ricocheted off Idrissa Gueye's elbow, the referee initially pointed to the spot before overturning his decision after reviewing video footage. Senegal dominated the first half, producing seven shots to Tunisia's two, with Mane spurning their best opportunity when he missed an open goal.

Tunisia improved after the interval and were awarded a penalty when Ferjani Sassi's effort struck Kalidou Koulibaly's arm, but Sassi's spot-kick lacked power and

direction and was saved by Alfred Gomis.

Four minutes later Senegal were given a penalty of their own when Ismaila Sarr was brought down by Bronn, but Henri Saivet's shot was kept out by Hassen. The Tunisia goalkeeper then inadvertently gifted victory to Senegal, who will be without influential captain Koulibaly for the final as he is suspended. Analysis

BBC Sport's Piers Edwards at the 30 June Stadium

This was an incredible Nations Cup semi-final - packed with incident, drama and decisions that will be debated for years.

Ultimately, Senegal got lucky after Hassen's appalling error enabled the Teranga Lions to lead through an own goal Bronn knew nothing about - then again when the penalty against Gueye late on was overturned by VAR. Any contact with a hand in the area often leads to a spot-kick these days, but Gueye was clearly trying to move his arm away from the ball.

**MTN MoMo**

**LIBERTY BUNDLE**

**7 Days Free Calls**

**LRD 200**

**PLUS 20 mins TO OTHER NETWORKS**

**Dial \*156\*4#**

**#Here4U**

**everywhere you go**

Logos for Lonestar Cell and MTN.

## Mahrez free-kick sends Algeria to final

Riyad Mahrez scored a stunning free-kick with virtually the last kick of the game as Algeria beat Nigeria to reach the Africa Cup of Nations final. With the match heading for extra time, Manchester City forward Mahrez whipped a fierce set-piece into the top corner.

A William Troost-Ekong own goal had given Algeria the lead before Odion Ighalo's penalty levelled the scores.

Algeria will face Senegal,



who earlier beat Tunisia thanks to an extra-time own goal, in the final on Friday.

Algeria started brightly and came close on two occasions thanks to the dangerous Baghdad Bounedjah.

The striker first poked the ball past Kenneth Omeruo then shot straight at Daniel Akpeyi, before bursting through on goal only for Jamilu Collins to narrowly lift the ball over his own crossbar.

But Algeria took a deserved

lead when Troost-Ekong turned Mahrez's deflected cross into his own net from close range.

Nigeria equalised through Ighalo after Aissa Mandi was penalised, following a VAR review, for handling Peter Etebo's shot.

That was just the second goal Algeria have conceded in the tournament, but they responded well, and Mahrez's late strike kept alive their hopes of a second Afcon title. BBC

### The NewDawn Press

**2 colors Heidelberg printing machines**



**We Offer The Following Printing Services:**

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