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Urey warns NEC, CDC



Opposition leader Mr. Benoni Urey



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Continental News

South Africa ex-leader Zuma 'received death threats'

South African former President Jacob Zuma says he and his family received death threats after his testimony at an inquiry into corruption under his rule. He told the judge-led inquiry on Tuesday that the threats had followed his testimony on the previous day.

In the earlier testimony, he said he had been the target of assassination attempts in the past.

He was forced from office in early 2018 amid widespread allegations of cronyism and abuse of power - which he denies.

Mr Zuma was replaced by his then deputy Cyril Ramaphosa, who promised to tackle corruption and described his predecessor's nine years in office as "wasted". On Monday Mr Zuma, 77, said the allegations were part of a decades-long "conspiracy" to remove him from the political scene.

The inquiry is investigating allegations that Mr Zuma oversaw a web of corruption during his term in office.

The accusations focus on his relationship with the controversial Gupta family, which was accused of influencing cabinet appointments and winning

lucrative state tenders through corruption.

Both Mr Zuma and the family deny any wrongdoing. The inquiry got off to a dramatic start as Mr Zuma told the judge that his personal assistant had received a phone call threatening to kill him and his

children. His lawyer was also threatened, Mr Zuma said.

Raymond Zondo, the country's deputy chief justice who is chairing the inquiry, said that death threats were "totally unacceptable" and it was important to protect witnesses.

In his testimony, Mr Zuma emphatically denied that he had discussed cabinet appointments with the Gupta family.

"No, never," he said. "I have been vilified, alleged to be

the king of corrupt people," Mr Zuma told the inquiry on Monday.

He lashed out at what he said was a decades-long conspiracy against him.

He implied that the UK and US had been - and still were - part of an elaborate plot to discredit him, even as he tried to bring about political and economic change in South Africa. Other foreign trained agents had tried to poison him, Mr Zuma said, without naming them. BBC



Zuma supporters attended his speech following the inquiry on Monday

Turkish sailors held hostage off Nigerian coast

A group of 10 Turkish sailors has been kidnapped by pirates off the coast of Nigeria, reportedly for ransom.

The Paksoy-1 was sailing from Cameroon to Ivory Coast when the pirates boarded the ship in the Gulf of Guinea.

It was not carrying freight and eight sailors managed to

escape. Turkey says it is working to secure the release of those seized.

The International Maritime Bureau says the Gulf of Guinea is the most dangerous sea in the world for piracy.

Ömer Çelik, spokesman for Turkey's ruling AK Party, said the ministry was following the case closely and "working on it".

Numan Paksoy, operations manager at Kadi oğlu Maritime, told reporters: "We contacted those who were not kidnapped and found out that all crew members hid when the assailants boarded the ship."

"All of them had to come out of hiding when the assailants found some and threatened to kill them if the others did not come out. The assailants then picked 10 sailors at random among all the crew members and let others go," he added, according to Turkish media Daily Sabah. 73% of all sea kidnappings and 92% of hostage-takings occur in the Gulf of Guinea off Nigeria, Guinea, Togo, Benin and Cameroon, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB). Recently, the organisation has noted "a welcome and marked decrease" in attacks in the region due to an increase in Nigerian Navy patrols.

Twenty-one incidents have been recorded around Nigeria so far this year, compared to 31 in the same period of 2018. BBC

Ex-football star killed in South Africa

South African former footballer Marc Batchelor has been shot dead near his home in Johannesburg.

Batchelor played for Kaizer Chiefs, Orlando Pirates and Mamelodi Sundowns in South Africa.

"He was attacked by two men who were driving a motorbike," a police spokesman Col Lungelo Dlamini told South African Broadcasting Corporation.

"He was about to drive into his premises. The suspects shot several times at him."

Dlamini added: "He died inside the car and they drove

peace." Marc Batchelor was a colourful and controversial individual in South Africa. He retired from the game in 2003 and by 2007 had lost his job as a television pundit after being involved in a punch-up with a businessman in a restaurant.

He was very close to some well-known figures in the Johannesburg underworld, which is why there is strong speculation about his killing being a hit. Also, nothing was taken from him or his vehicle.

As a player he was one of an elite group to have scored for both Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs, South Africa's two biggest clubs, in the Soweto derby which



away without taking anything.

"At this stage, we are still investigating what the motive for the attack was and these suspects have not yet been identified."

Dlamini also told eNCA news Batchelor was travelling with a gardener, who was unharmed.

"I am shocked to learn about the passing of former Kaizer Chiefs player Marc Batchelor," said the club's chairman Kaizer Motaung.

"On behalf of Kaizer Chiefs, I wish to express my deepest heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends and the football fraternity. May his soul rest in eternal

peace." Both clubs have expressed their condolences.

In a statement, Pirates recalled Batchelor's role in helping the team to win the CAF Champions League title in 1995 when they beat Asec Mimosas in the final and chairman Irvin Khoza described him as a "hero".

Khoza, who is also chairman of South Africa's Premier Soccer League, recalled that during apartheid years the striker would train in the townships and use the same showers as black players. BBC

"Along with [white players] Mark Fish and Gavin Lane, Marc Batchelor made South Africa



The Nigerian navy has increased patrol boats to tackle piracy

EDITORIAL

Taxes should benefit the people

THE LIBERIA REVENUE Authority (LRA) awards 50 taxpayers, including individuals, businesses and organizations for their strong support and valuable contributions to tax payment and revenue collection in Liberia.

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.

WHILE WE WELCOME the recognition as a sign of motivation to faithful taxpayers, the real issue is government using funds generated from taxes to benefit the people.

TAXES SHOULD GO towards providing basic services to the citizenry such as health, education and infrastructure, among others. But if outcries on the current draft national budget before the House of Representatives for lack of expenditure report from the previous fiscal year are anything to go by, then there is much to be desired relative to how our taxes are utilized.

THE WAY TAXES are expended in our country is not unique to the Weah administration. We recall very well how previous administrations had misapplied taxes and royalties at the expense of the people. For instance, foreign companies operated in Bong Mines and Yekepa beginning with the Tubman, Tolbert and Doe administrations for decades without roads for those communities.

CURRENTLY, SOCIAL AND county development funds paid by concessionaires such as ArcelorMittal, Firestone Liberia and others are not reaching the people, who should be the direct beneficiaries.

A CLASSIC EXAMPLE is Nimba County, where social and county development funds and other royalties are being held in escrow from the Sirleaf administration up to the present administration, denying the people what is rightfully theirs.

IT IS NOT enough for Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. to recognize the significant contributions of taxpayers to the country's revenue envelop, but said revenue should go towards improving standard of life of the people thru basic services and economic development.

"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.

LRA COMMISSIONER GENERAL Thomas Doe Nah describes Tax payment as a civic duty and lawful, noting that without taxes, the government will be unable to meet demands of society. We agree with the Commissioner General. However, what is obtaining on the ground is a complete opposite, as wasteful spending and luxurious lifestyles of public officials take precedent over general welfare of the people in a shamble economy.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Patrick Bolton , Stephen Cecchetti
& Jean-Pierre Danthine, Xavier Vives

How to Keep Central Banks Independent

Some observers say central banks can best mitigate risks to their independence by returning to the narrow price-stability mandate that served them so well prior to the global financial crisis. But this advice is misguided: central banks must revive their original role as guardians of financial stability.

BARCELONA - The global financial crisis that erupted in 2008 transformed the role of central bankers and the scale and scope of their policy toolkit. Today, financial stability is once again at the core of central banks' missions, and interest rates in a number of rich countries are likely to remain at or even below zero for some time. This means that central bankers' actions will be more visible and politically sensitive than they were even a decade ago. And that poses a growing threat to one of the great institutional innovations of the late twentieth century: central-bank independence.

Some observers say central banks can best guard against political interference by retreating to the narrow price-stability mandate that served them so well prior to the crisis. This advice is misguided. There can be no avoiding the imperative for central banks to revive their original role as guardians of financial stability.

After all, price stability is not an end in itself. It is merely one pillar supporting the macroeconomic stability that society needs. Financial stability is a second part of this foundation, as the recent crisis amply demonstrated.

In this broader context, central bankers will inevitably find themselves in discussions with politicians, regulators, and financial supervisors about their role in society. That is as it should be: such engagement is essential to sustaining central-bank independence.

Our recent report, *Sound At Last? Assessing a Decade of Financial Regulation*, highlights three important ways in which the 2008 crisis changed our collective view of central banking. First, when interest rates hit the zero lower bound (ZLB), further monetary-policy actions resemble, and often simply substitute for, measures normally taken by others. Second, the scale of central-bank lending has increased dramatically. Third, today's policymakers are rightly focusing on lowering systemic risk to reduce the frequency and severity of financial crises.

Revisiting the status of central banks is prudent, given the very real possibility that rates will be at or near the ZLB in the future. Specifically, we call for the formal establishment of a special regime, triggered by the ZLB, whereby the executive branches of government and the central bank contribute their views and jointly agree on the entire range of available policy options.

When policy rates reach zero, the various players should meet at regular intervals under transparent rules. Following each meeting, a joint public statement would provide an assessment of current economic conditions, available policy options, and the chosen course of action. In case of disagreements, democratically elected government officials would inevitably have the final say, although

they would be required to explain fully the various arguments and the rationale for the decision. This special ZLB regime would help to protect the central bank's independence by providing a political endorsement of unconventional policies.

The unprecedented scale and scope of central banks' actions as lenders of last resort (LOLRs) since the outset of the crisis continue to attract substantial attention. It is essential that such activities remain legitimate in the eyes of the public. Central banks must therefore clarify both the purpose and the operational structure of their LOLR activities, and end the increasingly untenable doctrine of constructive ambiguity, whereby policymakers were intentionally vague about to whom and under what conditions they were willing to lend. Here, as in many other economic-policy arenas, ensuring democratic legitimacy requires transparency and commitment.

In addition, the emphasis on systemic risk and "macroprudential" policies makes it necessary to amend central banks' mandate. Although there is no agreement on how best to organize the various components of financial and monetary policy, we favor the "one-roof" model, in which the central bank has the dual objective of price stability and financial stability. Meeting these goals requires central banks to be both a transparent LOLR and a macroprudential authority with appropriate tools.

Institutional constraints will lead to variations in this model across countries. In some (possibly many) cases, several authorities will share responsibility for financial stability, making coordination and full accountability essential. The agencies involved should acknowledge the inherent operational difficulties when multiple authorities with diverse objectives have a common responsibility, and the authorities should confront head-on the risk that fragmentation and a lack of coordination lead to inaction.

As with monetary and fiscal policy coordination at the ZLB, public statements should accompany deliberations concerning financial stability, with disagreements made a part of the public record. In short, the common standards of communication for monetary-policy decisions should also apply to the decisions of a financial-stability committee.

Protecting central-bank independence requires adaptation. In the post-crisis world, governments and citizens will continue to delegate increasingly broad policymaking powers to an unelected independent institution. Central banks must therefore become increasingly accountable in order to maintain their legitimacy. We need a public debate to forge agreement on a framework for central banks' objectives, tools, and communication mechanisms. Failure to have such a discussion would pose a risk not only to central-bank independence, but also to financial stability and overall social welfare.

O-PED

By Jayati Ghosh

The Exploitation Time Bomb

NEW DELHI - Since reducing inequality became an official goal of the international community, income disparities have widened. This trend, typically blamed on trade liberalization and technological advances that have weakened the bargaining power of labor vis-à-vis capital, has generated a political backlash in many countries, with voters blaming their economic plight on “others” rather than on national policies. And such sentiments of course merely aggravate social tensions without addressing the root causes of worsening inequality.

But in an important new article, University of Cambridge economist José Gabriel Palma argues that national income distributions are the result not of impersonal global forces, but rather of policy choices that reflect the control and lobbying power of the rich. In particular, Palma describes the significant recent increase in inequality in OECD countries, the former socialist economies of Central and Eastern Europe, and China and India, as a process of “reverse catching-up.” These countries, Palma says, increasingly resemble many unequal Latin American economies, with rent-oriented elites grabbing most of the fruits of growth.

In his earlier work, Palma showed how middle and upper-middle income groups’ share of total income has remained remarkably stable in most countries over time, at about one-half. Changes in aggregate income distribution, therefore, resulted largely from changes in the respective shares of the top 10% and the bottom 40% of the population (the ratio between these shares is now called the “Palma ratio”).

In other words, the huge variation in inequality across countries, and particularly between middle-income economies, is essentially the outcome of a fight for around one-half of national income involving one-half of the population. Only in cases of extreme inequality (such as South Africa) did the top 10% also manage to encroach on the income share of the middle.

It is misleading, therefore, to view rising per capita incomes in middle-income countries as indicating a general improvement in standard of living. In unequal middle-income economies such as those in Latin America, the incomes of the top 10% are already on par with those of their rich-country counterparts. The incomes of the bottom 40% are closer to the Sub-Saharan African average.

The driving force behind these trends is market inequality, meaning the income distribution before taxes and government transfers. Most OECD countries continually attempt to mitigate this through the tax and transfer system, resulting in much lower levels of inequality in terms of disposable income.

But fiscal policy is a complicated and increasingly inefficient way to reduce inequality, because today it relies less on progressive taxation and more on transfers that increase public debt. For example, European Union governments’ spending on social protection, health care, and education now accounts for two-thirds of public expenditure, but this is funded by tax policies that let off the rich and big corporations while heavily burdening the middle classes, and by adding to the stock of government debt. As Palma puts it, “in their new tax status, corporations and the very rich now prefer to part-pay/part-lend their taxes, and part-pay/part-lend their wages.”

In rich countries, middle-income groups have largely maintained their share of national income. But their living standards have fallen, owing to the rising costs of essential goods and services (such as housing, health care, and education), falling real pensions, regressive taxation, and rising personal debt. Most emerging-economy governments, meanwhile, are not implementing significant fiscal measures to reduce market inequality.

The dramatic increase in market inequality reflects the ability of the top 10% to extract more value created by others and to profit from existing assets - including those that should be public property, such as natural resources. Specifically, this increase in value extraction is the result of policies for which the rich have actively lobbied: privatization; deregulation of share buybacks that artificially inflate stock prices; patent laws that make drugs much more expensive; reduction or elimination of top marginal tax rates; and much else.

Giving the rich all this additional income has not resulted in higher investment rates in the OECD or in unequal middle-income countries. Instead, the rich are content to pluck the low-hanging fruit of rent extraction, market manipulation, and lobbying power. High profits therefore coexist with low investment and increasing market inequality, in a self-reinforcing pattern. This trend not only magnifies the risk of economic stagnation and market failures; political changes around the world suggest that it has also become a profound threat to democracy.

Addressing this dangerous state of affairs will require that governments use their power to tax and regulate to channel more private capital into productive spending and increase the amount of public investment financed by progressive taxation, along the lines of a Global Green New Deal. If policymakers fail to mount a response that is proportionate to the problem, the rich will continue to get richer, and the poor to get poorer, faster than ever. Who will address the problem then?

OPINION

By Nouriel Roubini

The Great Crypto Heist

NEW YORK - There is a good reason why every civilized country in the world tightly regulates its financial system. The 2008 global financial crisis, after all, was largely the result of rolling back financial regulation. Crooks, criminals, and grifters are a fact of life, and no financial system can serve its proper purpose unless investors are protected from them.

Hence, there are regulations requiring that securities be registered, that money-servicing activities be licensed, that capital controls include “anti-money-laundering” (AML) and “know your customer” (KYC) provisions (to prevent tax evasion and other illicit financial flows), and that money managers serve their clients’ interests. Because these laws and regulations protect investors and society, the compliance costs associated with them are reasonable and appropriate.

But the current regulatory regime does not capture all financial activity. Cryptocurrencies are routinely launched and traded outside the domain of official financial oversight, where avoidance of compliance costs is advertised as a source of efficiency. The result is that crypto land has become an unregulated casino, where unchecked criminality runs riot.

This is not mere conjecture. Some of the biggest crypto players may be openly involved in systematic illegality. Consider BitMEX, an unregulated trillion-dollar exchange of crypto derivatives that is domiciled in the Seychelles but active globally. Its CEO, Arthur Hayes, boasted openly that the BitMEX business model involves peddling to “degenerate gamblers” (meaning clueless retail investors) crypto derivatives with 100-to-one leverage.

To be clear, with 100-to-one leverage, even a 1% change in the price of the underlying assets could trigger a margin call and wipe out all of one’s investment. Worse, BitMEX applies high fees whenever one buys or sells its toxic instruments, and then it takes another bite of the apple by siphoning customers’ savings into a “liquidation fund” that is likely to be many times larger than what is necessary to avoid counter-party risk. It is little wonder that, according to one independent researcher’s estimates, liquidations at times account for up to half of BitMEX’s revenue.

BitMEX insiders revealed to me that this exchange is also used daily for money laundering on a massive scale by terrorists and other criminals from Russia, Iran, and elsewhere; the exchange does nothing to stop this, as it profits from these transactions.

As if that were not enough, BitMEX also has an internal for-profit trading desk (supposedly for the purpose of market making) that has been accused of front running its own clients. Hayes has denied this, but because BitMEX is totally unregulated, there are no independent audits of its accounts, and thus no way of knowing what happens behind the scenes.

At any rate, we do know that BitMEX skirts AML/KYC regulations. Though it claims not to serve US and UK investors who are subject to such laws, its method of “verifying” their citizenship is to check their IP address, which can easily be masked with a standard VPN application. This lack of due diligence constitutes a brazen violation of securities laws and regulations. Hayes even openly challenged anyone to try to sue him in the unregulated Seychelles, knowing he operates in the shadow of laws and regulations.

Earlier this month, I debated Hayes in Taipei and called out his racket. But, unbeknownst to me, he had secured exclusive rights to the video of the event from the conference organizers, and refused for a week to release it in full. Instead, he published cherry-picked “highlights” to create the impression that he performed well. I suppose this is par for the course among crypto scammers, but it is ironic that someone who claims to represent the “resistance” against censorship has become the father of all censors now that his con has been exposed. Finally, shamed in public by his own supporters, he relented and released the video.

On the same day we debated, the United Kingdom’s Financial Conduct Authority proposed an outright ban on retail high-risk crypto investments. Yet, barring a concerted response by policymakers, retail investors who are lured into the crypto domain will continue to be suckered. Price manipulation is rampant across all the crypto exchanges, owing to pump-and-dump schemes, wash trading, spoofing, front running, and other forms of manipulation. According to one study, up to 95% of all transactions in Bitcoin are fake, indicating that fraud is not the exception but the rule.

Of course, it is no surprise that an unregulated market would become the playground of con artists, criminals, and snake-oil salesmen. Crypto trading has created a multi-billion-dollar industry, comprising not just the exchanges, but also propagandists posing as journalists, opportunists talking up their own financial books to peddle “shitcoin,” and lobbyists seeking regulatory exemptions. Behind it all is an emerging criminal racket that would put the Cosa Nostra to shame.

It is high time that US and other law-enforcement agencies stepped in. So far, regulators have been asleep at the wheel as the crypto cancer has metastasized. According to one study, 80% of “initial coin offerings” in 2017 were scams. At a minimum, Hayes and all the others overseeing similar rackets from offshore safe havens should be investigated, before millions more retail investors get scammed into financial ruin. Even US Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin - no fan of financial regulation - agrees that cryptocurrencies must not be allowed to “become the equivalent of secret numbered accounts,” which have long been the preserve of terrorists, gangsters, and other criminals.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Garbage Overflow In The Streets Of Monrovia: The Impact On Human Health And The Environment.

By TaiyeeQuenneh, Ph.D.

The world has a garbage crisis. All nations generate an estimated 1.3 billion tons of garbage annually, and that number is expected to grow in the coming years. The United States, China, Brazil, Japan, and Germany account for the largest proportion of garbage generated, according to an LA Times story written by Ann Simmons. Overpopulation, urbanization, industrialization, the lack of regular trash collection and disposal are key drivers for the surging garbage crisis.

Middle to high-income countries like China, Brazil, Japan, Germany, and the United States can manage their garbage through an efficient collection and disposal system, coupled with bioconversion technologies that produce fuel for electricity generation. These countries are also able to collect and dispose of 90% of their waste. Unlike low-income countries, many of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, less than 30% of their waste is collected and disposed of. More than 2/3 of their waste is openly dumped.

What we are seeing in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, where garbage is swallowing up major streets and markets in Duala, West Point, Paynesville and other key parts of the city, is not an uncommon phenomenon; it is prevalent in Mombasa, Kenya, Lagos, Nigeria, and Beirut, Lebanon. The causes of this phenomenon cannot be separated from overpopulation, the lack of regular garbage collection and proper disposal. Monrovia was built to host less than 600,000 people. Now, more than 1.2 million people inhabit the city. The infrastructure (roads, sanitation, sewer system, electric grid, etc.) was built with limited consideration for population growth and urbanization. In addition to population dynamics, the lack of individual responsibility, the lack of a trash management system, limited or nonexistent regular trash collection and disposal, the unsustainable fix or Band-Aid solution that obscured Monrovia's garbage crisis in the last 13 years is now visible.

Liberia has to look within for solutions to this crisis. The country has to develop the inclination to pay the cost of cleaning after itself. Everyone pays for the cost to make phone calls. Everyone pays for the energy that lights up his or her home. Everyone pays for water for household use. Therefore, deferring the financial responsibility to clean up our waste to the sympathies of international donors is a poor strategy. Just as we pay for every other service we enjoy, let's pay to clean up our waste. The longer



Beirut, Lebanon

this crisis stays unsolved, the greater the risk it poses to human health and the environment.

Impact on human health and the environment

Exposure to bacteria and viruses

Open-air garbage exposure as seen in Monrovia today provides the perfect habitat for insects, bacteria, and vermin. The flies, rodents and stray dogs that scavenge the garbage sites also roam the neighborhoods. They come in contact with your food and water sources thus increasing the risk of contracting diseases like typhoid fever, enteric fever, food poisoning, gastroenteritis, and other illnesses.

The raining season compounds the health risk as well; garbage and liquid waste are flushed into waterways and drainage system which then seep into wells that serve as sources of drinking water in most communities in the city. The risk of contracting cholera, a bacterial disease that causes severe diarrhea and dehydration, increases as stormwater contaminates drinking water. The ecosystem is also affected as other hazardous household and commercial wastes enter nearby rivers and streams, poisoning water animals such as fish, crabs, scrimps, snail and "kiss meat."

Extreme caution must be taken to protect Monrovia City Corporation's staff who will be handling any cleanup efforts. They risk contracting skin and blood infections through existing wounds and from the bites of animals feeding on the waste.



The Author

Broken bottles, sharp objects, and other hazardous waste are potentially risky to waste collection staff.

Air pollution and respiratory diseases

Not only does the garbage emit bad smells, it also pollutes the air with toxic substances such as nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, and methane. Breathing these substances can cause various respiratory diseases such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), common cold, asthma, acute lower respiratory tract infections, and lung cancer. Children and the elderly are most susceptible to the derivatives of air pollution.

Black eye for Liberian tourism

Visitors and tourists like to visit clean and beautiful places to have fun and create memories. The beautiful the sites and scenes, the more money visitors and tourists will spend. That creates a huge benefit for local businesses and helps employment. On the other hand, a smelly city with piles of garbage all over the place is a repellent for both tourists and investors.

Liberia should use this garbage crisis and experience to create an efficient waste collection and management system. Do not wait until a molehill grows into a mountain.

About author

TaiyeeQuenneh is an adjunct professor of public health at Ashford University

He can be reached at Taiyee.Quenneh@Faculty.Ashford.edu.



Mombasa, Kenya

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Protest, nat'l security threat

-Rep. Snowe

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Bomi County Representative and Liberia's Representative to the Economic Community of West Africa Parliament Edwin Melvin Snowe said that the recent pronouncement made by the Council of Patriots, organizers of the June 07 protest, of staging another protest ahead of this July 26 Independence Day celebrations is a national security threat and could be a national embarrassment to the country and its people.

The Council of Patriots had earlier announced staging series of protests commencing July 24 and would continue to the July 26 celebrations.

Speaking on the government owned radio station, the Liberia Broadcasting System, Tuesday, July 16, in Paynesville, Rep. Snowe said protesting on the day Liberia

will be hosting international guests from the sub region including the presidents of Nigeria, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia will tell the rest of the world that the country is not safe.

The former speaker during

the early days of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf administration noted that protest is part of the democratic process that cannot be overlooked by anyone but doing so on the national event with presidents

trooping into the country speaks lot of negative factors.

He intimated that protest will not stop the five heads of states from coming but the image of the country out there could look bad and it could also send wrong indications about a country that had 14 years of civil wars, and sanctions from the international community. He noted that the action of the protesters could have an over shadow effect on the country that may affect everyone.

He narrated that during the regime of former President Charles Taylor, when the United Nations placed sanctions on the regime, former President Sirleaf at the time termed it as 'smart sanctions' but everyone who residing here left the impact

and Taylor and officials of government only.

He urged the protesters to abort the protest until the celebrations are over, adding; that if the presidents were coming for the celebration of President George Manneh Weah birthday, it would have been in place but now, the only option Liberians should wait for is 2023 elections where under the constitution they vote Weah out democratically.

According to him, interestingly, leaders of the protest are the very leaders of the opposition political parties here and it would be decent for opposition to call space a space then to wearing two jackets at the same time.

He noted that some of the leaders of the protesters are contesting in these elections, and at the same time calling for protest, that's unfair.



VP Taylor cautions on Domestic Violence Bill

By Ethel A. Tweh

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor says the Domestic Violence Bill that was passed by the House of Representatives and sent to the Liberian Senate for concurrence needs to be signed by the President before it be passed into law.

Presiding over the 48th day sitting of the 2nd session Tuesday July 16, 2019, Vice President Taylor said the Domestic Violence Bill of 2019

Representatives to the Liberian Senate, saying that if it is full force of the law, which means there is nothing the Senate can do about it.

She added that after the bill was passed by the House of Representatives, President Weah supposed to sign it before it turns to hand bill into law, noting that the Bill hasn't been signed by the President.

The Domestic violence Bill of 2019 which was passed by House of Representatives last

UNDP Facilitates for Gov't's Internal Auditors

The Internal Audit Agency (IAA) with funding support from UNDP, concludes a 10-day Certified Government Auditing Professional Training (CGAP) in Monrovia.

The training was to build the capacity of Internal Auditors to acquire internationally recognized certification in government auditing.

It targeted 46 internal auditors assigned to government ministries and agencies.

During the closing ceremony, Sidiki A. Quisia National Program Specialist of UNDP Sustainable Economic Transformation Pillar

recounted support to IAA.

UNDP has over the years, supported the IAA in strengthening the capacity of internal auditors, to execute their mandate in general government spending, based on value for money and to deter fraud.

Mr. Quisia urged beneficiaries to use the skills and knowledge acquired to contribute to the professionalization of their workforce.

"The focus of this training is not on the number of days or weeks, but how well you can use the knowledge to become professionals in your respective functions," says Quisia.

He assured the IAA of UNDP support to government core functions to meet the objectives set out in the national framework of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

J. Wellington Barchue, Senior Economist and UN Focal Point at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) paid tribute to UNDP for the continued partnership.

Barchue assured that the Ministry will continue to work with UNDP in providing catalytic interventions for core government functions.

"We appreciate the continued support from UNDP for core government functions and reducing waste in public financial management," stressed Barchue.

He admonished the trainees to see the training as an opportunity to step up their game plan in executing their audit functions and principles.

For his part, the Director General of IAA Emmanuel Nyeswa, said that he was pleased and proud that UNDP continues to support the IAA.

"UNDP is not only supporting the CGAP training but also the development of a step by step procedure of the Audit Act and regulation," notes Nyeswa.

He said that this training will help the auditors acquire an internationally recognized certification program.

The focus of the IAA is on



cannot be passed into the full force of the law by the House of Representatives and be sent to the Liberian Senate without the President signing it.

Madam Taylor, who is the president of the Liberian Senate, warns the secretary of the Liberian Senate, Mr. Nanbolor Singbe to be careful with how the Bills are sent from the House of

Thursday was sent to the Liberian Senate Tuesday July 16, for concurrence.

Senator Peter Coleman of Grand Kru County made the motion that copy of the bill be sent to all the Senators and the Bill be submitted to the committees on Judiciary, Health and Gender and report to plenary in the soonest possible time.

Professional certification programs like CGAP, CIA etc to enhance the capacity of Auditors to compete with their counterparts in other jurisdictions in Auditing.

Nyeswa appealed to UNDP to include the IAA in its new program cycle 2020-2024, stressing the need also for logistical support.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AFL Officers graduate from Nigeria Command College

Armed Forces of Liberia Majors Eden Theophilus Jallay and Joseph Vannah Sumo graduated with the Master of Science (M.Sc.) degrees from the Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC) in Jaji, Kaduna State, Nigeria on Saturday, July 13, 2019.

A release from the Liberian Embassy in Abuja says the two Liberian army personnel were members of a graduating class totaling 207, including 13 international officers from 11 African countries and the Republic of Korea who received advanced degrees in the nearly one-year course in International Affairs and Defense Studies.

The training of Majors Jallay and Sumo was made possible by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Security Cooperation between the governments of the Republic of Liberia and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the release recalls.

Commenting the graduates, Keynote Speaker President Muhammadu Buhari, who is the Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, said that their nations expected their full commitment to duty, loyalty and service in meeting the

challenges of combating security threats of insurgencies and terrorism.

According to the release, President Buhari observed that many of the emerging regional security threats are trans-border in nature, necessitating the strengthening of military cooperation between African states.

He alluded, as an example, to the Multinational Joint Task Force comprising of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Benin and Chad in decimating Boko Haram terrorists in the Lake Chad Basin and other regions.

President Buhari also praised the Armed Forces of Nigeria for defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nigeria, especially in combating the Boko Haram insurgency in Northeastern Nigeria and for their gallant peacekeeping operations around the world. He said that the Armed Forces continues to be the bastion of the unity of Nigeria.

The Nigerian leader congratulated the graduates for going through the rigorous training of the AFCSC. He encouraged the international graduates to return home with

fond memories of the AFCSC in order to strengthen the bond of friendship and cooperation between their countries and Nigeria.

Liberia's Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Al-Hassan Conteh, was represented at the colorful program by Mr. Daniel Rogers, First Secretary at Liberia's Abuja Mission. Accompanying Mr. Rogers were Mrs. Ara Pinky Lloyd, Chairperson of Kaduna Chapter of the Organization of Liberian Association in Nigeria (OLICON) and Mercy SwenOdu, a member of her Executive Committee.

The Armed Forces Command

and Staff College of Nigeria was established on May 29, 1976. It administers a 48-week advanced training course in International Affairs and Defense Studies. Its original name was the Army Command and Staff College (ACSC), which was founded in collaboration with the British government to train tactical and operational level officers. It has to date trained more than fifteen thousand Commissioned Officers and four thousand non-Commissioned officers from Nigeria and other friendly states, the release concludes.



President Buhari poses with the graduating class after the program

Locals receive Cocoa farming equipment

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Several farming groups in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties have benefited over US\$500,000 worth of equipment to help with extension services in the cocoa sector.

The equipment were made available to them by international NGO working in the Cocoa sector of Liberia Solidaridad.

The donated equipment include yamaha motorbike,

Ghana and has set them at different locations for farmers here to pay little cost and do their planting, using high variety seedlings.

The Solidaridad Program Officer explains that the organization's partners also financially contributed to the purchase of the equipment.

Mr. Bafaie maintains that the extension services will primarily be provided to smallholder cocoa farmers to

Commerce threatens expired food sellers

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Ministry of Commerce office in Bong County has condemned the sale of expired food commodities especially chicken and fish on the market, threatening it will take action against those involved.

The Ministry through its Bong County Inspector Godin

Manbia says it has come to the attention of the Ministry that cold - storage owners and petty traders are conspiring to sell expired commodities to citizens for consumption.

Mr. Manbia spoke with our Bong County correspondent recently at the Gbarnga Central Market during a one - day awareness about the effect of expired food

commodities.

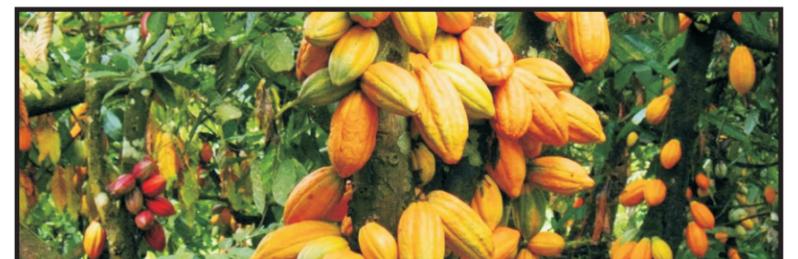
Mr. Manbia alarms that the situation has a serious health impediment. He announced that beginning Monday, 15 July, Commerce Ministry agents will be inspecting business centers and table markets where fishes and chickens are sold.

The Commerce County Inspector indicates that those who will be discovered selling rotten chickens and fishes will be arrested and charged accordingly.

He told journalists that it is demoralizing for people to be selling expired food to citizens.

Mr. Manbia explains that while the government of President George Manneh Weah is exerting efforts to stabilize the status of the economy, it is necessary for all citizens, including the business community to jointly support the government instead of undermining the progress of the President.

Mr. Manbia argues that selling expired commodities to the locals is an act of creating sicknesses because rotten chicken and fish develop health problems.



solar panels, desktop computers and printers, among others.

At the official presentation of the materials over the weekend, Solidaridad Program Officer Mr. Boima Bafaie says the equipment will be used to carry out extension services under its Liberia Cocoa Sector Improvement program.

Mr. Bafaie adds that Solidaridad has brought one million cocoa seedlings from

help boost their production.

Beneficiaries of the gesture extended commendation to Solidaridad for the collaboration and promised to use the equipment for the intended purpose.

According to them, the equipment will help them in their job as direct partners to Solidaridad.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry destroyed over hundred cartons of expired chicken from the National Frozen Food Center branch #6 located on Gbarnga Broad Street.

The Ministry describes its recent action as a deterrence to would - be violators of the Commerce guidelines, maintaining that such action will not stop until those involved in the sale of expired

commodities desist.

At the same time Mr. Godin Manbia has pledged his full commitment in working with the people of Bong County to support President Weah's Pro - poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

He says with the level of work President Weah is doing, he foresees that Liberia's slack economy will become better as soon as possible.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Les députés se chargent de la lutte contre la corruption

Le Comité parlementaire sur les affaires judiciaires s'est saisi de la lutte contre la corruption. Il entend jouer un rôle important dans l'opération de récupération des deniers publics prétendument détournés par des individus.

La décision du comité a été prise à la suite d'audiences publiques tenues le lundi 15 juillet dans la salle de conférence de la Chambre des Représentants.

Faisant l'annonce, le président de la commission parlementaire sur les affaires judiciaires, Me Jonathan Fonati Koffa, du comté de Grand Kru, a précisé que le fait de se saisir de la lutte ne signifie pas que la Chambre des représentants suspend l'opération totalement, mais il s'agit plutôt de suivre de près le processus avec toute l'attention.

Selon Me Koffa, le comité accorde une attention particulière à la lutte contre la corruption lancée par le procureur général et le gouvernement libérien, et veut que le processus soit

conforme à la Constitution libérienne.

Le législateur du comté de Grand Kru a indiqué avoir observé que la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria et le ministère de la Justice ne collaborent pas étroitement dans la lutte contre la corruption comme il le faut.

Il a insisté sur la nécessité de régler la tension qui règne entre les deux institutions avant de procéder à des poursuites judiciaires.

A en croire Me Koffa, le comité parlementaire invitera la semaine prochaine les responsables de la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria pour

s'enquérir des étapes franchies jusque-là dans le cadre de la lutte en cours et pour solliciter également l'opinion des professionnels sur le sujet.

Un peu plus tôt, le procureur général avait déclaré lors de l'audience que le ministère était sur le point de commencer une opération qui consistait à récupérer les sommes d'argent détournés par un certain nombre d'individus pendant qu'ils occupaient des postes de responsabilité.

Selon Me Syrenius Cephus, l'Etat travaille afin que les fonds volés soient récupérés de manière légale: « Il n'y a pas d'océan, de montagne, de vallée ou de route qui paraisse difficile aux yeux du gouvernement car il tient à faire en sorte que les deniers publics détournés soient restitués. Le combat commence aujourd'hui, après la clôture de l'audience », a-t-il déclaré.

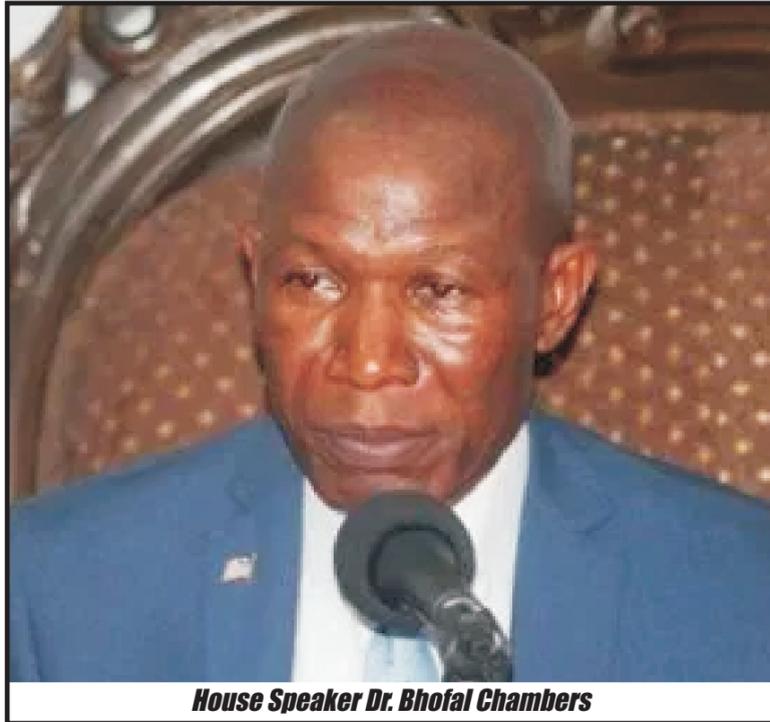
Me Cephus estime qu'un certain nombre d'individus se sont accaparés de plusieurs milliards de dollars américains qui appartiennent à l'Etat. C'est pourquoi, selon lui, le président George Manneh Weah et son équipe s'attaqueront sans relâche à ces derniers conformément aux lois et à la constitution du Libéria. La commission d'enquête chargée de mener des investigations sur les avoirs et de procéder à la restitution des biens mal acquis est composée du ministère de la

Justice et de la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria. Elle s'est dite prête à mobiliser tous les efforts pour récupérer tous les fonds qui appartiennent à l'Etat et au peuple.

Le bureau du procureur général de la république aurait reçu 256 rapports d'audit de la part de la Commission générale des audits. Et selon ces rapports, le gouvernement aurait perdu environ 4,6 milliards de dollars américains. Ces fonds auraient été détournés par des individus sans vergogne qui se seraient servis des moyens scandaleux.

Selon le procureur de la république, son bureau et d'autres institutions gouvernementales de la moralisation de la vie publique travaillent déjà sur 15 rapports d'audit selon lesquels le gouvernement aurait perdu environ 400 millions de dollars américains. Il leur faut cependant la bagatelle de 2,1 millions de dollars américains pour faire leur travail de manière efficace.

Le 18 juin 2019, le procureur général de la république avait formulé une demande pour des rapports d'audit sur la rénovation de palais présidentiel dont les travaux sont encore en cours, sur la Société nationale pétrolière du Libéria (NOCAL), sur la vente du bloc pétrolier 13 à Exxon Mobile par NOCAL, sur la NASSCORP et sur la Banque centrale du Libéria.



House Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers

La faim poursuit sa progression dans le monde

Selon un rapport publié ce lundi 15 juillet par les Nations unies, la faim dans le monde affectait 821,6 millions de personnes en 2018, contre 811 l'année précédente. Après des décennies de baisse, il s'agit de la troisième année consécutive de hausse de la sous-alimentation, appelée aussi insécurité alimentaire.

Après des années de baisse, la sous-alimentation ne cesse d'augmenter depuis 2015. L'année dernière, elle touchait 821,6 millions de personnes, indique un rapport annuel

publié ce lundi par plus organisations des Nations unies. Une personne sur neuf souffre ainsi de la faim. En cause, notamment : les conflits et le réchauffement climatique.

La perspective d'un monde sans aucune personne en état de sous-alimentation à l'horizon 2030, qui est l'un des objectifs de développement durable fixés pour cette échéance, relève d'un « immense défi », note le rapport. « On n'atteindra pas d'ici 2030 » cet objectif, a asséné lors d'une conférence au siège des Nations unies le patron du

Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), David Beasley.

« Sans sécurité alimentaire, nous n'aurons jamais de paix et de stabilité », a-t-il averti, en soulignant l'interaction entre ces paramètres. Partout où des groupes extrémistes ont de l'influence, la faim est utilisée par eux comme une arme pour diviser ou recruter, a mis en garde David Beasley.

20 % de la population concernée en Afrique

Le rapport, rédigé par l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, avec le concours du Fonds international pour le développement de l'agriculture, l'Unicef, le PAM et l'OMS, relève que la sous-alimentation reste prévalente sur de nombreux continents. En Afrique, elle touche près de 20 % de la population ; en Asie, plus de 11 % ; en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes, moins de 7%.

En ajoutant à ces personnes souffrant de la faim celles touchées par l'insécurité alimentaire, les Nations unies estiment que plus de 2 milliards d'habitants de la planète, dont 8 % vivent en Amérique du Nord et en Europe, n'ont pas régulièrement accès à des aliments sains, nutritifs et en quantité suffisante.

Paradoxalement, le rapport

observe que la surcharge pondérale et l'obésité continuent d'augmenter dans toutes les régions, en particulier chez les enfants d'âge scolaire et les adultes. En 2018, environ 40 millions d'enfants de moins de cinq ans présentaient ainsi un excès de poids. En 2016, 131 millions d'enfants de 5 à 9 ans, 207 millions d'adolescents et 2 milliards d'adultes étaient en surpoids, selon le rapport.

Près de 256 millions d'Africains n'ont pas mangé à leur faim en 2018, et 676 millions sont en situation d'insécurité alimentaire : ils n'ont pas accès régulièrement à une nourriture saine et équilibrée. Si l'ensemble du continent est concerné, l'Afrique de l'Est est la région où la situation est la plus alarmante, avec une personne sur trois souffrant de malnutrition.

Pour la troisième année consécutive, les indicateurs se

dégradent, s'alarme l'ONU, au point qu'il parait de plus en plus difficile d'atteindre l'objectif d'éradiquer la faim à l'horizon 2030. Les causes de cette dégradation sont de trois ordres, les conflits, le dérèglement climatique, et - troisième cause plus spécifiquement étudiée cette année - les crises économiques et la montée des inégalités sociales.

Le rapport montre aussi que les pays où la faim augmente le plus ne sont pas les plus pauvres, mais ceux qui sont fortement dépendants des échanges extérieurs. L'ONG Oxfam, qui publie elle aussi un rapport sur la faim, dénonce la trop grande spécialisation de certains pays, adeptes de la monoculture, qui les expose aux variations des prix mondiaux, tout en réduisant les terres disponibles pour les cultures vivrières. Là où l'ONU pointe l'abandon des politiques sociales, les ONG dénoncent les méfaits de la mondialisation.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

Éditorial

Il faut que le peuple bénéficie des impôts

L'Autorité des Revenus du Liberia (LRA) a récompensé 50 contribuables, dont des particuliers, des entreprises et des organisations, pour « leur soutien indéfectible et leurs précieuses contributions au paiement des impôts et à la collecte des recettes au Libéria ».

Les lauréats ont été sélectionnés pour s'être conformés aux exigences fiscales et de s'être acquittés de la totalité de leurs impôts au cours de l'exercice financier 2017/2018, c'est-à-dire du 1er juillet 2017 au 30 juin 2018.

Nous saluons cette reconnaissance qui est un signe de motivation pour les contribuables fidèles, mais ce qui est le véritable problème est le fait que le gouvernement n'utilise pas les fonds générés par les impôts au profit de la population.

Les impôts devraient servir à fournir aux citoyens des services de base telles que la santé, l'éducation et les infrastructures, entre autres. Si l'on s'en tient aux préoccupations concernant le projet de budget national qui est actuellement au niveau de la Chambre des représentants pour manque de rapport de dépenses de l'exercice précédent, on dira que beaucoup à désirer en ce qui concerne l'utilisation de nos impôts.

La façon dont les taxes sont dépensées dans notre pays n'est pas quelque chose de nouveau. C'était ainsi bien avant l'administration Weah. Nous nous souvenons très bien de la façon dont les administrations précédentes ont géré les impôts et les redevances, ce, au détriment de la population. Par exemple, depuis le temps du Président Tubman jusqu'au régime du Président Samuel Doe en passant par celui de M. Tolbert, des sociétés étrangères ont exploité les mines de Bong Mines et de Yekepa pendant des décennies, mais les populations riveraines n'ont bénéficié jusqu'aujourd'hui d'aucune route adéquate.

À l'heure actuelle, les fonds régionaux de développement social que les entreprises concessionnaires comme ArcelorMittal, Firestone Liberia et d'autres ont donnés n'ont jamais servi les populations qui devraient normalement en être les bénéficiaires directs.

Le comté de Nimba est un exemple classique : des fonds régionaux de développement sociaux ainsi que d'autres redevances sont bloquées, ce, depuis l'administration Sirleaf, et aujourd'hui l'administration Weah, privant ainsi le peuple de ce qui lui revient de droit.

Reconnaître l'importance de la contribution des contribuables pour le développement du Libéria n'est pas suffisant pour le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement du Libéria, Samuel D. Tweah, d'autant plus qu'il a ajouté que les recettes devraient servir à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations pourvoyant des services de base et en développant l'économie.

« Les impôts sont indispensables car le gouvernement collecte ces fonds pour les utiliser dans la réalisation des projets. En plus des salaires des fonctionnaires du gouvernement, l'argent des contribuables aide également à soutenir les services de sécurité, à construire des routes communautaires et des routes principales, mais surtout, il participe à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des citoyens. Il est également indispensable à la réussite du programme pour les pauvres », a-t-il dit.

Le commissaire général de la LRA, Thomas Doe Nah, a quant à lui décrit le paiement des taxes comme un devoir civique et légal, notant que sans impôts, le gouvernement ne sera pas en mesure de répondre aux demandes de la société. Nous sommes d'accord avec le commissaire général.

Cependant, nous constatons que ce qui se passe en réalité sur le terrain semble être tout le contraire. D'ailleurs les dépenses inutiles et les modes de vie luxueux des hauts cadres de l'Etat ont l'air d'être plus importants aux yeux des gouvernants par rapport au bien-être général des citoyens, surtout en ces temps de crise économique.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Patrick Bolton, Stephen Cecchetti & Jean-Pierre Danthine, Xavier Vives

Comment préserver l'indépendance des banques centrales

BARCELONE - La crise financière mondiale survenue en 2008 a transformé le rôle des banquiers centraux, ainsi que la portée et le champ de leur boîte à outils politique. Aujourd'hui, la stabilité financière s'inscrit de nouveau au cœur de la mission des banques centrales, et il faut s'attendre à ce que les taux d'intérêts dans un certain nombre de pays riches demeurent proches de zéro, voire négatifs, pendant quelque temps encore. Cela signifie que l'action des banquiers centraux sera plus visible et politiquement plus sensible qu'elle ne l'était il y a une dizaine d'années. Cela signifie également l'existence d'une menace croissante pour l'une des plus grandes innovations institutionnelles de la fin du XXe siècle : l'indépendance des banques centrales.

Pour certains observateurs, c'est en se retranchant dans leur étroite mission de stabilité des prix, démarche qui leur convenait si bien avant la crise, que les banques centrales pourraient le mieux se protéger contre les ingérences politiques. C'est un mauvais conseil. Les banques centrales ne sauraient négliger l'impératif consistant pour elles à renouer avec leur rôle originel de garants de la stabilité financière.

La stabilité des prix ne constitue en effet pas une fin en soi. Elle n'est que l'un des piliers en soutien de la stabilité macroéconomique nécessaire à la société. La stabilité financière constitue un deuxième pilier de ces fondations, comme l'a amplement illustré la dernière crise.

Dans ce plus large contexte, les banquiers centraux sont inévitablement voués à échanger avec les responsables politiques, régulateurs et superviseurs financiers sur la question de leur rôle dans la société. Il doit en être ainsi : ces interactions sont essentielles à la pérennité de l'indépendance des banques centrales.

Notre dernier rapport, intitulé *Sound At Last? Assessing a Decade of Financial Regulation*, souligne trois égards importants auxquels la crise de 2008 a transformé notre vision collective des banques centrales. Premièrement, lorsque les taux d'intérêt atteignent le plancher zéro (ZLB, pour zero lower bound), les nouvelles mesures de politique monétaire ressemblent - et souvent se substituent tout simplement - aux mesures normalement appliquées par d'autres. Deuxièmement, l'ampleur des prêts des banques centrales a considérablement augmenté. Troisièmement, les décideurs politiques d'aujourd'hui se concentrent à juste titre sur l'atténuation du risque systémique, afin de réduire la fréquence et la sévérité des crises financières.

Il est utile de se pencher sur le statut des banques centrales, compte tenu de la possibilité tout à fait réelle de voir les taux d'intérêts atteindre ou approcher le ZLB à l'avenir. Nous appelons plus précisément à la mise en place formelle d'un régime spécifique, déclenché par le ZLB, en vertu duquel les branches exécutives du gouvernement et de la banque centrale mettraient à profit leurs points de vue, et s'entendraient mutuellement sur l'ensemble des options disponibles en termes de politiques.

Lorsque les taux directs atteignent le niveau zéro, il serait judicieux que les différents acteurs se réunissent à intervalles réguliers, dans le cadre de règles transparentes. À l'issue de chaque rencontre, une déclaration publique conjointe formulerait une évaluation des conditions économiques du moment, des options de mesures

disponibles, et du plan d'action décidé. Ce régime ZLB spécifique contribuerait à préserver l'indépendance des banques centrales, en permettant l'approbation politique de mesures non conventionnelles.

L'ampleur et la portée sans précédent de l'action des banques centrales en tant que prêteurs de dernier ressort (PDR) depuis l'apparition de la crise continuent de susciter une importante attention. Il est essentiel que ces activités demeurent légitimes aux yeux du public. Les banques centrales doivent par conséquent clarifier à la fois l'objectif et la structure opérationnelle de leurs activités de PDR, et mettre un terme à la doctrine de plus en plus indéfendable de l'ambiguïté constructive, en vertu de laquelle les décideurs politiques sont restés intentionnellement vagues quant aux conditions ainsi qu'aux bénéficiaires auxquels elles étaient disposées à prêter. Ici, comme dans bien d'autres domaines de la politique économique, la préservation d'une légitimité démocratique exige transparence et engagement.

Par ailleurs, l'accent placé sur le risque systémique et sur les politiques « macroprudentielles » rend nécessaire la révision du mandat des banques centrales. Bien qu'il n'existe pas de consensus sur la manière d'organiser au mieux les différentes composantes de la politique financière et monétaire, nous sommes favorables à un modèle à une seule entité, dans lequel la banque centrale a pour double mission la stabilité des prix et la stabilité financière. L'accomplissement de ces objectifs nécessite qu'une banque centrale soit à la fois un PDR transparent et une autorité macroprudentielle dotée des outils appropriés.

Les contraintes institutionnelles conduiront à des variantes de ce modèle en fonction des pays. Dans certains cas (potentiellement nombreux), plusieurs autorités partageront la responsabilité de la stabilité financière, coordination et pleine responsabilité étant alors essentielles. Les agences impliquées devraient admettre les difficultés opérationnelles inhérentes aux situations dans lesquelles plusieurs autorités aux objectifs différents partagent une responsabilité commune, et les autorités devraient s'attaquer de front au risque de voir la fragmentation et le manque de coordination conduire à l'inaction.

Comme pour la coordination des politiques monétaires et budgétaires en situation de ZLB, des déclarations publiques devraient accompagner les délibérations relatives à la stabilité financière, et les désaccords être révélés publiquement. Autrement dit, les normes courantes de communication s'agissant des décisions de politique monétaire devraient également s'appliquer aux décisions d'un comité de stabilité financière.

La préservation de l'indépendance des banques centrales exige de l'adaptation. Dans le monde d'après-crise, gouvernements et citoyens continueront de déléguer des pouvoirs d'élaboration politique de plus en plus larges à une institution indépendante non élue. Les banques centrales doivent par conséquent rendre de plus en plus de comptes pour maintenir leur légitimité. Nous avons besoin d'un débat public qui permette de forger un accord autour d'un cadre régissant les objectifs, les outils et les mécanismes de communication des banques centrales. L'incapacité à mener une telle discussion soulèverait un risque non seulement pour l'indépendance des banques centrales, mais également pour la stabilité financière et le bien-être social dans son ensemble.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pastor held for rape

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

The Women and Children Division of the Liberia National Police charges a 37-year-old Pastor of the Royal Apostolic Church in Ganta, Nimba County with rape.

Pastor Lowise Lulu Donzo, who falsely identified himself to the Police as Lowise Falapay Fanandex was arrested Monday, 15 July at the Ganta-Guinea border while en-route to Guinea with a 14-year-old minor.

The prelate, who was trained in Nigeria for over five years before coming to Liberia, has spent two years in Ganta prior to the incident.

He was taking the minor to his spiritual mother in the Republic of Guinea for prayers when joint security apprehended and turned him over to the Women and Children Division where he confessed that the victim is instead, his wife.

According to Police charged sheet, Pastor Donzo has allegedly been in sexual relationship with the minor for over two years before his arrest.

Rape cases are on the increase in Ganta, Nimba County and other parts of Liberia.

Suspect Donzo is being held at the Sanniquellie Central Prison in Sanniquellie City, awaiting trial.



Pastor Lowise Lulu Donzo in cuff

The arrest of the Royal Apostolic Church Pastor brings to nine the number of suspected rapists arrested in Ganta and surrounding towns and villages in less than five months.

A report from the Women and Children Division of the Police lists the suspects as 43-year-old Kamanseh Nya, a resident of Larry Village in District#8 along the Ganta-Gbarnga highway, who was arrested for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl, while Sundayboy Suah 36, allegedly raped his 17-year-old step-daughter, impregnating her. Others include, a 23-year-old

Nigerian, Trokon Hawe, who allegedly raped a 10-year-old minor in Ganta, 42-year-old Nya Borbor of District#2 for allegedly raping his 7-year-old daughter, who came from school and was on her way to their farm when she fell prey to her dad, and 32-year-old Pastor Prince Nuah, currently on trial in Sanniquellie, among others.

Until last year, rape had been a non-bailable offense here with penalty ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment, but perpetrators seem undeterred. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

support the two candidates during the elections, he will join the ruling CDC.

His argument is that if the CDC wins the pending elections, it would suggest that Liberians are happy about the state of affairs of the country, and therefore he will officially join the CDC.

The District #10 lawmaker indicates that his stance against ills in the country is not a personal fight, but a fight for the ordinary people who can barely afford daily meal.

Rep. Kolubah points out that if the fight to pressure the CDC government will be successful, there is a need for all, irrespective of political affiliation, to support the fight.

"As I speak to you, for the past few months we have not received salary, and if the Liberian people vote for the CDC candidates, it means all is alright in the country," Mr. Kolubah says.

"It means people are happy about the way the country is going under this CDC-led government," he concludes.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

I will sue Weah if...

Starts from back page

influence the removal of President [Charles] Taylor from office, at the conclusion of it, they should have written to say these people committed no crime," Urey complains.

According to him, he has made it clear to the UN Human Rights office how putting somebody's name on a list without investigating them has got people going on national radio to call him a criminal.

Notwithstanding Mr. Urey says of all of the noise here with people accusing him falsely, he is not afraid of anything.

According to Mr. Urey, he was put on sanctions list not because he stole, but because of his association with imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

He indicates that for years he was investigated and audited by many international institutions including the European Union, the State Department, the Government of Liberia and the local auditing firm here, saying "all those were cleared."

"Nobody can point to one cent that I have ever stolen in my life. I challenge them. I have never even been forward to the GAC (General Auditing Commission) for audit or LACC (Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission) for investigation. Never in my life," Mr. Urey

argues.

He says as the longest serving Commissioner at the Liberia Maritime Affairs, he was never a signatory to any of the accounts abroad or locally.

Further, Mr. Urey explains that if he used his proximity to the president to make money, or his connection to make money, "it's not a crime."

"It's not a crime. I did it, and I did it successfully. All the people who were higher than me in government under Mr. Taylor, where are they today?" he asks.

The 2017 presidential candidate expresses observation that while others spent their money flying first class, he flew economy class when he had to travel.

Additionally, Mr Urey reveals that all the time he was commissioner of Maritime, he never bought a new vehicle, but all his deputies and assistants had new vehicles.

Speaking of his business, Mr. Urey explains that he did not buy the land on which he is farming today, but he inherited it.

He believes that the greatest crime in Liberia is to be successful, as he challenges anybody to say that he was investigated for misappropriation or corruption.

Rep. Kolubah vows to join CDC

By Bridgett Milton

Controversial Montserrado County District #10 Rep. Yekeh Kolubah has vowed to join the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) if opposition candidates Ms. Telia Urey and Mr. Darius Dillon do not win the upcoming Montserrado representative and senatorial by-elections.

Mr. Kolubah has been a

ruthless critic of President George Manneh Weah and the CDC regime, but his latest utterance could shock many especially days after his wife and children were denied travel by immigration authorities at the airport over concerns of not having exit clearance to carry the kids.

Rep. Kolubah told reporters Tuesday, 16 July at the Capitol that if supporters of the four collaborating parties don't

3 inmates set free at Gbarnga Central Prison

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Center for Legal Education Human Rights and Peace Studies in consultation with the Ministry of Justice has set free three inmates at the Gbarnga Central Prison in Bong County.

The three inmates were set free after being detained at the Gbarnga Central Prison for over two months for alleged theft of property and criminal conspiracy.

Serving Humanity for Empowerment and Development is partnering with several international organizations for fast track program.

Addressing journalists following the legal hearing of the three detainees, Anthony Lawrance Tomah told reporters that the organization works with the courts under the Ministry of Justice's pre-trial

detainees at the various prison facilities across five counties here.

Mr. Tomah explains that the organization informs the courts about pre-trial detainees who have stayed behind bars without trial.

According to him, the detainees' rights have been violated by the government of Liberia.

For their part, the three inmates speaking to reporters extended gratitude to the Center for Legal Education Human Rights and Peace Studies and partners for the legal representation.

They praised the organizations for setting them free in order to be reintegrated in the society so as to contribute to the growth and development of the Country.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley



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Urey warns NEC, CDC

By Winston W. Parley

The chair of Liberia's four collaborating opposition political parties Businessman Benoni Urey has warned the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) that the collaborating parties will not accept cheating in the pending senatorial and representative by - elections.

"We're sending out this warning to NEC and all Liberians, even the CDCians, don't try to cheat in these elections. We will not accept nothing less than the will of the Liberian people," Mr. Urey said Tuesday, 16 July in an exclusive interview with the NewDawn in Logan Town, Bushrod Island.

"You see, for once, we must stand together and say we'll accept nothing other than the actual results of these elections," he notes.

Mr. Urey's daughter Ms. Telia Urey is standing as the



Opposition leader Mr. Benoni Urey

Montserrado District #15 representative candidate for the four collaborating opposition parties, while Mr. Darius Dillon also stands as the senatorial candidate for the four collaborating parties in the by - elections.

With just four days to the polls, the NEC recently suspended the by - elections indefinitely due to delays in the arrival of the "pre - packed kits" in the country, making the conduct of the by - elections on July 8 impossible.

But Mr. Urey warns that the NEC and the CDC should not try to cheat in the pending by - elections, boasting that in spite of the rain, the crowd at Mr. Dillon's campaign launch on Saturday, 13 July "far exceeds that of CDC."

"These people have spoken. The voice of the people must be heard," Mr. Urey adds.

He indicates that these by - elections are not about the candidates that are in the race, suggesting that they are about President George Manneh Weah versus the Liberian people.

Concerning his daughter Telia Urey's quest to represent District #15 in the House of Representatives, Mr. Urey indicates that Telia has won the district already because she got the people's support.

Mr. Urey emphasizes that "we will not accept cheating this time" because the people will speak as they have been doing from the time the campaign was declared opened.

The businessman - turned politician also claims that everywhere his daughter Telia is way ahead, insisting that the polls cannot be stolen.

He says the claim by rivals that Telia is not a resident of District #15 is a joke, explaining how the candidate inherited the Urey family's home in Caldwell, a property he says the family had for more than 30 years.

According to him, Telia has been living with the people in Caldwell and her community people are the ones spearheading her campaign.

He warns that no one person owns Montserrado County, but the Liberian people.

Meanwhile, Mr. Urey says as Chair of the four collaborating parties - Unity Party, All Liberian Party, Alternative National Congress and Liberty Party, he represented all of the political leaders at the campaign launch of Mr. Dillon, dismissing the suggestion that the other political leaders abandoned the senatorial candidate on Saturday.

"I represent the four heads - Unity Party, ALP, ANC and Liberty Party. We are one," Mr. Urey says, adding that it's a group thing and the bond of the collaborating parties is stronger than it has ever been.

On the day that Mr. Dillon launched his campaign, Mr. Urey explains that Liberty Party's Charles Walker Brumskine had to go for medical treatment, while Alternative National Congress' Alexander Cummings had some board meetings and other obligations to attend to.

Further, Mr. Urey indicates that Liberty Party Sen. NyonbleeKarna Lawrence is still in a state of mourning, so she could not be present.

He also says Unity Party's Joseph Nyumah Boakai had lost his wife's mother, so he had to be with the family.

Mr. Urey was on Tuesday seen with his daughter's supporters in Logan Town, working out things to engage residents of the district in preparation for the pending election.

'Shameful'

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

A stalwart of the former ruling Unity Party, Senator ConmanyWesseh of River Gee County has described as shameful a recent action by the party taking some of its partisans to the Supreme Court.

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Sen. Wesseh, Mrs. Atty. Medina Wesseh, former national secretary general Patrick Worzi were expelled from the party for what officials said were lack of support from them during the 2017 Presidential and Representatives elections.

But the board of commissioners at the National Elections Commission has since ruled that those expelled be reinstated without delay or any conditions.

However, the Unity Party national chairman, Mr. Wilmot Paye and chairman emeritus, Senator Varney Sherman took an appeal to seek legal redress before the full bench of the Liberian Supreme Court.

Speaking to the NewDawn Tuesday, July 16, at his Capitol Building office in Monrovia, Sen. Wesseh said those that took the matter before the Supreme Court are not stalwarts of the party but pretending to be leaders of the Unity Party who do not have the interest of the party at heart, instead they want to score political points and create more division among partisans.

Narrating further, Sen. Wesseh said, the meetings that expelled them were unconstitutional and did not meet the required quorum to have taken such decision in

accordance with the party's constitution.

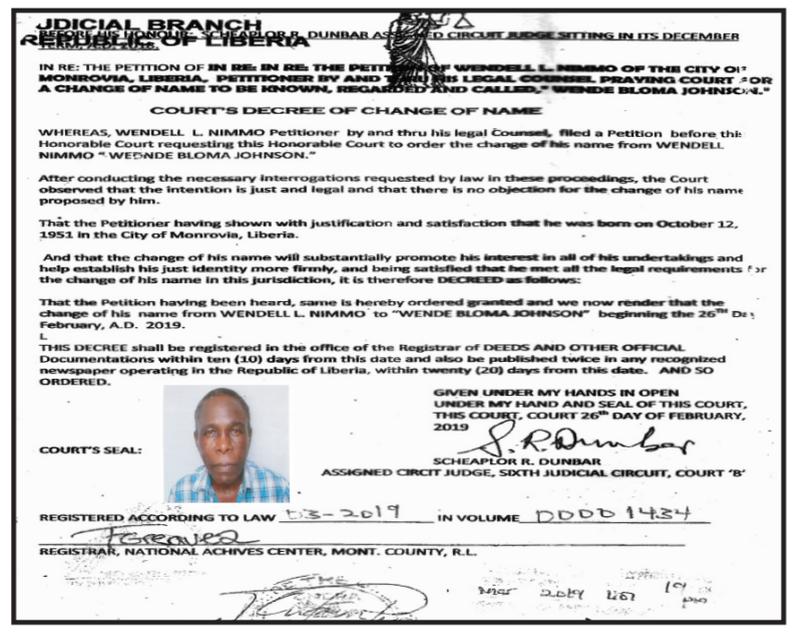
He noted that during the constitution of the campaign team for the election of Vice President Joseph NyumahBoakai who was taking over from his boss, former President Sirleaf, influential people including Madam Sirleaf, himself and others were kicked out of the process, giving them no alternative to serve.

The decision of expulsion of a woman who led the party to victory is a bad signal and terrible thing to do to someone who had brought the Unity Party to political limelight.

He intimated that Madam Sirleaf led the party to two successive elections for 12 years-first of its kind in the history of the party since its establishment.

He added that if those expelled were not as important and left out during the electoral process while expelled them and shift blame of defeat on them after leaving them out during the electoral process-that's 'shameful' on the part of the leadership of the Unity Party.

The qualification of the Unity Party by the National Elections Commission to have come second place behind the Coalition for Democratic Change was best position to have mobilized people to win, "but, look at the result, 14 of the 15 counties were won by the Coalition for Democratic Change that we defeated twice. But our party spent time all the time in the court making a case that wouldn't have benefited the Unity Party



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf



Ex-VP Boakai

anyway. If the Supreme Court had ruled for the rerun of the entire electoral process, the Unity Party would have been a loser," he added.

He told the New Dawn conference that the choice of running to court was a 'bad judgment' especially for the vice president who serves under Madam Sirleaf to have supported the idea.

"The Unity Party as a political party campaigned

against itself during the 2017 elections by kicking influential people who had the capacity of turn the table around during such crucial national electoral period. The Unity Party longer time in the court crying electoral fraud, that time should have been used to mobilize the people but to join a third placer was terrible," he concluded.

I will sue Weah if...

Urey angered by accusations



By Winston W. Parley

Opposition leader Mr. Benoni Urey is considering options to sue President George Manneh Weah if it is advised by lawyers, following the latter's recent claim that Mr. Urey is an alleged killer and thief.

"But let me tell you something, we're looking at all legal options. Nobody ain't going to call me a criminal and gets away at that level," Mr. Urey told an exclusive interview with the NewDawn Tuesday, 16 July in Logan Town, Bushrod Island.

"And I want to say and

overemphasize it, if you say I am criminal, bring the war crimes tribunal. I never financed warring faction. I never held no gun, I never ever been arrested one day in my life," Urey who heads Liberia's four collaborating opposition parties says.

"I will sue him if he doesn't publicly offer me an apology. I will sue him. Even if I will win or don't win ... he has no right to violate my right. I have never publicly abused Mr. Weah or accused him of anything. Why should he publicly go and abuse me and insult my family?" Urey wonders.

The businessman - turned politician tells this paper that he is not a warrior, neither does he know how to support warring factions financially.

"I never fought any war; I never have been accused of anything, you know. But when the UN put us on this list ... to



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Afcon 2019: Senegal and Algeria face off in finals

Senegal resurfaces to the Afcon finals after 17 years as they take on Algeria for the 2019 bragging rights on the continent.

On Saturday players and staff of Madagascar pull thousands to the street as the team was received home by the President and supporters. Prior to the 32nd edition of the Afcon a couple of players naturally assumed a spotlight position and



carried the anticipation of millions of fans.

They lived in a group of their own called players to watch out for and permit me say they were actually on the spotlight maybe for the unexpected reasons find out in this edition. For the records Senegal's coach Aliou Cisse was captain for the lions at the 2004 Afcon in Tunisia while Algeria's coach Djamel Belmadi also captained Algeria at the same tournament.

Today they have beat the odds and once again at least a local coach is set to win the Afcon since 2010. The Republic of Congo says it is not ready to host next year's competition given the current state of economic affairs we shall be getting a report from Brazzaville as to the decision.

Semifinal losers Tunisia and Nigeria will meet in a third-place playoff on Wednesday.

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