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Opposition admits blunder

July protest is misplaced - U.S. Ambassador



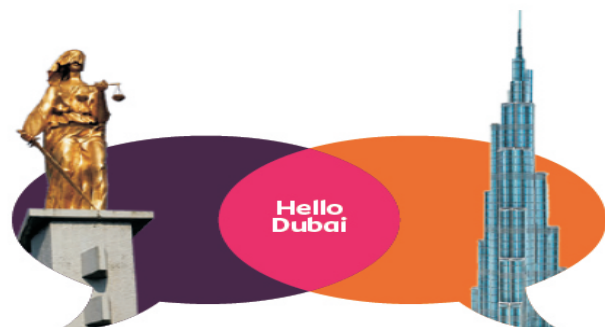
U.S. Amb. Christine Elder

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Continental News

Death penalty for Morocco tourist murderers

Three Islamic State group supporters who murdered two Scandinavian hikers in Morocco have been sentenced to death.

The verdicts for ringleader Abdessamad Ejjoud, Younes Ouaziyyad and Rachid Afatti follow petitions on social media calling for their execution.

Louisa Vesterager Jespersen, 24, from Denmark, and Maren Ueland, 28, from Norway, were found beheaded in the High Atlas mountains in December.

If the executions go ahead, they will be the first in Morocco since 1993.

That year saw the country introduce a moratorium on capital punishment.

During the trial, it emerged that Ejjoud, 25, and Ouaziyyad, 27, had beheaded the two women while Afatti, 33, filmed the murders on his mobile phone. "The most just thing would be to give these beasts the death penalty they deserve," Helle Petersen, Ms

Jespersen's mother, said in a letter that was read out in court last week. The verdict follows an 11-week trial in Salé near the capital Rabat.

Ejjoud, an underground imam, admitted killing one of the two women in May. "I beheaded one of them... I regret it," the street vendor

told the court. French media report that Ejjoud had served a prison sentence in Morocco for trying to join the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria, and was released in 2015. Afatti filmed the attack on his mobile phone. A video appearing to show one of the women being beheaded was shared online by

IS supporters. The three men all said they were IS supporters, although IS has not said it was behind the killings.

In court, Ejjoud said: "We loved Islamic State and prayed to God for it."

Their defence team said there were "mitigating circumstances on account of their precarious social conditions and psychological disequilibrium", AFP reported.

They said the men had a "very low" level of education and came from modest backgrounds.

Kevin Zoller Guervos, a Spanish-Swiss convert to Islam, was the only non-Moroccan on trial.

He was accused of teaching the main suspects how to use an encrypted messaging service and to use weapons.

He was sentenced to 20 years in prison for "joining a terrorist group", AFP reported. Morocco's anti-terror chief, quoted by the AFP news agency, said the group was inspired by IS - but had no contact with IS militants in combat zones.

The prosecution labelled the three killers as "bloodthirsty monsters" after

the autopsy report found 23 injuries on Ms Jespersen's decapitated body and seven on that of Ms Ueland. Ms Jespersen and Ms Ueland were flatmates at Norway's Bo University.

Their bodies were found on 17 December in a tent in an isolated area near Mount Toubkal, Morocco's highest peak and a popular destination for hikers. Both had taken full precautions ahead of their trip, Ms Ueland's mother said last year. The women were on a Christmas camping trip and were studying to become tour guides. The killers took four days to identify the women as targets, the prosecution said, and chose them because other potential victims were with guides, AFP said. Moroccan authorities were criticised by Ms Vesterager Jespersen's lawyer for failing to monitor the suspects' activities, which could have prevented the women being killed.

The Jespersen family requested 10m dirhams (\$1m; £800,000) compensation from the Moroccan government for its "moral responsibility" but this was rejected by the court, AFP reported, but the three men who were convicted were ordered to pay 2m dirhams in compensation. BBC



The suspects arrived in court under heavy guard

Ebola: Your questions answered

The latest Ebola outbreak, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been declared a "public health emergency of international concern" by the World Health Organization. This outbreak is the second biggest on record and has infected 2,500 people, of which more than 1,600 have died.

The biggest outbreak was the epidemic that ravaged parts of West Africa from

2014 to 2016, killing more than 11,000 people.

You sent us your questions about the virus, which BBC health and science correspondent James Gallagher has answered. Norman: Where did Ebola come from and when was it first detected?

Ebola was discovered in 1976, when there were two deadly outbreaks of the disease. One was in the

Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire, in a village near the Ebola river, hence the virus's name. However, exactly where Ebola comes from remains something of a mystery.

People are not the "natural hosts" of Ebola. And in every outbreak, the virus has transferred to humans from another animal species. Fruit bats are a very likely culprit - but this has not been definitively confirmed. Masitano: What are the factors contributing to the mistrust of healthcare workers in DR Congo and to what extent is this a challenge?

Mistrust is a massive problem. It stems from decades of conflict in the region eroding faith in local authorities and leading to widespread mistrust of foreigners. The motives of healthcare workers and their security escorts (needed because of the risk of violence) are questioned.

And a survey, in The Lancet Infectious Diseases, suggests one in four people in DR Congo does not even believe Ebola is real.

Rumours Ebola has been

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made up for financial gain (such as through organ trafficking) circulate.

This is all dangerous because Ebola can be tackled only by working with the community.

A third of deaths are in people's homes - where they risk spreading the disease - rather than in Ebola treatment centres.

And tracing contacts of Ebola patients is impossible if people do not cooperate. Simply because the World Health Organization thinks restrictions could make things worse. It said it was essential to avoid "punitive economic consequences" of imposing trade and travel restrictions and it was

necessary to protect people's livelihoods.

"It is also crucial that states do not use the public health emergency of international concern as an excuse to impose trade or travel restrictions, which would have a negative impact on the response and on the lives and livelihoods of people in the region," said Prof Robert Steffen, who chairs the WHO's Emergency Committee.

Instead of closing borders, there is extensive screening to detect people who may have been infected with the disease. In the past week, more than 2.1 million screening tests (which involve a temperature test to detect fever) were conducted on major transport routes. BBC



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 Nouriel Roubini

The Great Crypto Heist

Cryptocurrencies have given rise to an entire new criminal industry, comprising unregulated offshore exchanges, paid propagandists, and an army of scammers looking to fleece retail investors. Yet, despite the overwhelming evidence of rampant fraud and abuse, financial regulators and law-enforcement agencies remain asleep at the wheel.

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.¹



Lord, what else can you expect?

Dear Father:

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

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

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

Yes, my son.

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

You joking my son!

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

Wait now, he thinks that political ground there?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Liberia Maritime Authority
20th Street, Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – NCB
Invitation for bids Scratch Cards
Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/003/19/20



The Liberia Maritime Authority has allocated funding from its 2019 -2020 fiscal year Corporate budgets for the procurement of the following budgetary line items (herein referred to as goods Scratch Cards).The Authority wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable, eligible, and qualified suppliers for the supply of the following;

#	IFB NO.	ITEM	Quantity	Description
1	IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/003/19/20	Assorted Scratch Cards	8,796 pieces	Lone Star, Orange,

Interested Bidders that are fully qualified and capacitated to deliver these goods are required to obtain a Standard Bidding documents at no cost from the Procurement section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) head office, 20th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia. Other information may be obtained between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. from Thursday, July 4, to Wednesday, July 31, 2019. All would be interested supplier should submit sealed bid labeled to:

Scratch Cards
IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/003/19/20
The Procurement Committee
Liberia Maritime Authority P.O .Box 10 -9042.
20th Street, Sinkor
1000Monrovia10 Liberia

Requirement

All bidders should have a Current Business Registration Certificate, Current Tax Clearance, Profile, A list of current clients and their immediate contacts, the ability to supply at all time as the need be, discount and capacity to pre-finance could be an added advantage. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least (2%) of the total bid cost. Must have an evidence of PPCC vendor's registry. Electronic bid will not be accepted. Final submission date for bid (Scratch Cards) is on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 1:30 p.m., subsequently followed by the bid opening ceremony on the same day of submission. All bids will be opened in the presence of bidder representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. In the training/conference room.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – NCB
Invitation for Catering Service
For Catering & Hall Rental services
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/008/19/20



The Liberia Maritime Authority has allocated a portion of its Corporate Funds from its 2019/2020 Fiscal Year Corporate Budget towards catering and Hall Rental Services for the Liberia Maritime Authority

The LiMA now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for catering and hall rental services .This notice of invitation is for the purpose of securing the services of a cater and hall rental . All interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform these services are required to obtain a Standard Bidding Document at no cost from the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20th Street, Sinkor between the hours of 10:00a.m., through 4:00p. m. Thursday, July 4, to Wednesday, July 31, 2019

All qualified bidders should have a Restaurant, /Catering shop, a conference hall, Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance .Profile, a list of previous clients and a certified Health Certificate from the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare R.L. The capacity to pre-finance and discount could be an added advantage. Must have evidence of PPCC Vendor's Registry.

Final submission date is 1:30p.m. On Wednesday August 7, 2019, subsequently followed by the bid opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

All would be interested entities should submit sealed bid to the Procurement Section Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), located on 20th Street, Sinkor.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

presence of bidder representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. In the training/conference room.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
The Charles B. Alphonso Caine Building
Headquarters of the Liberia National Police
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Monrovia, Liberia



Office of the Chief of Procurement

+231-770800153/0776096251

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Procurement of Vehicle Spare Parts & Stationery
(IFB No. LNP/NCB/001/19/20) July 19, 2019

- The Liberia National Police (has set aside public funds) received from Government of Liberia's fiscal allotment to payments under the contract for Procurement of Vehicle Spare Parts, Procurement of Stationery under the contracts for Vehicle Spare Parts (IFB No. LNP/NCB/001/19/20) and Stationery (IFB No. LNP/NCB/002/19/20).
- The Liberia National Police now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of the procurement packages as mentioned above.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure specified in the PPCA 2010 and approved by the PPCC, and is open to all qualified and eligible bidders across Liberia as defined in the Guidelines. Bidders can bid for one or all of the contract Packages below:

Code	Contract Package	Bid Security (Bank Guarantee)	Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
IFB No.LNP/NCB/001/19/20	Vehicle Spare Parts	USD \$960.00	20 th Aug. 2019 10:00 AM	20 th Aug 2019 10:15 AM
IFB No.LNP/NCB/002/19/20	Stationery	USD \$936.00	20 th Aug. 2019 1:00 PM	20 th Aug. 2019 1:10 PM

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Liberia National Police (LNP); ACP. Mark S.D. Giddings Jr, Chief of Procurement, e-mail: giddings2011@gmail.com and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday- Friday 9:00-4:30 beginning July 23, 2019.
- Interested bidders may collect a complete set of Bidding Documents in (English) from the Procurement Section of the address below, you may pick your Bidding document with a non refundable fee of Fifty united states dollar (\$ 20.00USD).
- All Tenders shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline for Tender submission. All Tenders must be accompanied by its requisite Bid Security in Bank Guarantee from a recognized bank in the republic of Liberia as mentioned in the chart above. Late Tenders will be rejected.
- All Tenderers should also note that the winner/s of these procurement proceedings will be entering into a **Frame Work Management Agreement for the entire fiscal period**. This frame work agreement will be effective during the period of 1/12th and will extend to the end of the fiscal period. By this frame work agreement, Government is only committed when order is placed through the GOL's local purchase order (LPO).The frame work agreement will be further demystified in the bidding documents accompanying this advert.
- The Liberia National Police reserve the right to accept, nullify, reject or negotiate any or all bids, to waive or not waive informalities or irregularities in bids or bidding procedures, to rebid the project/purchase, and to accept any bid determined by the LNP to be in the best interest of the Agency, regardless of price. The reason for rejection may include past performance issues, and compatibility with existing reality or technical nature of the bid. **Bidders are required to consider every section of the bidding documents following this advert when preparing their bids.**

10. Bidding Requirements

Qualifications requirements include: key technical, financial, legal and other requirements as stated in the bidding documents accompanying this advert. However, the minimum requirement include:

- Valid Tax Clearance
- Valid Business Registration Certificate (with the right universal standard business activity code)
- Valid Article of Incorporation
- Bid Security in Bank Guarantee Form
- Social Security Certificate
- Prove of registration on the PPCC vendor database
- Record of past experience for at two (2) years.

Procurement Section, Director's Floor
Liberia National Police
The Charles Alphonso Caine Building
Ministry of Justice
Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia
Telephone: +231-0776096251/0770800153

Signed:
Acp. Mark S.D. Giddings
Chief of Procurement

BRANCH OF LIBERIA

00149868
12TH DAY JURY SITTING
JUNE TERM A.D. 2019
JULY 2, 2019

BEFORE HIS HONOR: YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR., CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF JENNEH P. KAMARA PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE REFERRED TO AND CALLED AS "JENNEH SHERIFF."

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner by and thru her legal counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from JENNEH P. KAMARA to JENNEH SHERIFF.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true family identity. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by her.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on May 1, 1991 in the Republic of Liberia, and that she was born unto the union of Mr. Mohamed Sheriff and Madam Hayva Kamara, all of the Republic of Liberia; and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just identity more firmly and that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction.

The petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name JENNEH P. KAMARA be changed to JENNEH SHERIFF beginning this 2ND day of JULY, A.D. 2019. That all documents signed by the petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within(10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT SEAL:

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS COURT
THIS 2ND DAY OF JULY, A.D. 2019

HIS HONOR YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR.
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, SIXTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 07-2019 PAGE(S) 0014986

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO, R.L.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN LEGALLY REGISTERED AND FILED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON THIS 2ND DAY OF JULY, 2019 AT 12:25 PM

BRANCH OF LIBERIA

00149868
8TH DAY JURY SITTING
JUNE TERM A.D. 2019
JULY 6, 2019

BEFORE HIS HONOR: YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR., ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF BANGALEE M. TRAORE PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE, REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "BANGALEE KAMARA."

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner by and thru his legal counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from Bangalee M. Traore to "Bangalee Kamara."

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true family name and render his identity more explicit and absolute.

After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by his.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on March 21st 2000 in Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born unto the union of Mr. Mohammed Kamara and Madam Aichia Kamara, all of the Republic of Liberia; and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identity more firmly, and being satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

The petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Bangalee M. Traore be changed to Bangalee Kamara beginning this 3rd day of July, A.D. 2019. That all documents signed by the petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within(10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT SEAL:

GIVEN UNDER MY HANDS IN OPEN COURT, THIS
5TH DAY OF JULY, A.D. 2019

YAMIE QUIQUI GBEISAY, SR.
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, RESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 07-2019 PAGE(S) 0014986

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO, R.L.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN LEGALLY REGISTERED AND FILED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON THIS 5TH DAY OF JULY, 2019 AT 12:25 PM

EU, media hold strategic roundtable

A host of Liberian media personalities, officials of government and representatives of political parties as well as key social media influencers have conveyed strong messages on the need to maximize the power of the media for the public good, rather than to use it to undermine the peace, stability and development of Liberia.

the media as a vehicle to disseminate inflammatory messages and hate speech that are detrimental for the peace and stability of the country.

Participants in the dialogue discussed challenges to national and local media in providing reliable information within the present political, social and economic context.



According to a press release issued in Monrovia, the messages were made Thursday, 18 July during a strategic media roundtable organized by the European Union Delegation to Liberia.

They also discussed the sources/triggers of inflammatory/hate messages and obstacles in self-regulating hate speech in media/social media.

The dialogue addressed the role of the media as a powerful agent for enhancing peace, reconciliation, good governance, accountability and development in Liberia.

The journalists, government representatives, politicians and social media influencers during the dialogue identified the economic constraints which affect media



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sen. Johnson opposes July 24th protest

By Bridgett Milton

A member of the Council of Patriots (CoP) Senator Sando Johnson of Bomi County distances himself from the July 24th protest.

Addressing Legislative reporters Thursday, 18 July at the Capitol he says he would not join the pending protest because the timing is not expedient.

Senator Johnson notes that the CoP is a democratic institution and at one of their recent meetings, some members of the executive opted for another protest on July 24th, but he objected because this period is around the July 26 Independence Celebration.

According to him, he appeals to fellow executive members to defer the protest but they refused and voted in favor.

However, Johnson says he still remains a member of the CoP and his decision to not be part of the pending protest was reached two weeks ago and not because of statement made by Deputy Presidential

Press Secretary, Smith Toby.

He notes that the very day the Executive members made their decision to protest, the same day he told them that he is not going to be a part and he respects their decision.

The CoP recently announced there would be another protest, beginning July 24 leading to the July 26

Independence Celebration and beyond until government addresses its demands.

But this is not feasible because during the July 26 celebration, government will be dedicating various projects across the country coupled with presence of foreign guests so it would not be a good time to stage a protest.



Senator Sando Johnson of Bomi County

Liberia lacks French textbooks -French Teachers Association

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia lacks French textbooks to support the country's French curriculum, according to the President of the Liberia Secondary School French Teachers' Association, Mr. Michel B. Konan

He made the observation here Tuesday, 16 July at the official launch of the Liberia Secondary School French Teachers' Association training exercise under the theme, "Importance of Using a Unique French Language Curriculum in the School

System."

Mr. Konan further notes that besides the lack of French textbooks, teachers are limited in preparing their lessons, because they lack reference materials, while students have nothing to use as study guide to deepen their knowledge about the French language, indicating that French is not included among the subjects administered by the West African Examinations Council or WAEC.

He emphasizes that this has very serious consequences for the teaching and learning of

the French language in Liberian schools, as lessons given by teachers from one school to another are not in conformity.

According to him, since 2013, there has been no training seminar for French teachers due to lack of financial support.

He appeals to the Government of Liberia for support to enable the Association obtain materials and financial resources to capacitate teachers for their training seminar, which was expected to have started from 16th to 18th July on the campus of the B.W. Harris High School on Broad Street, Monrovia.

He also wants the government to prioritize French so that the curriculum can fully be placed at the disposal of teachers, including textbooks for proper research, which would also enable students to do references and assignments, while stressing the to include French in the Liberian Senior High School Exams and the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations or WASSCE.

Deputizing for the Minister of Education, the Regional Education Officer for Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa Counties, George S. S. Wuo, underscores the importance of having the French language



U.S.-based group installs 435 solar suitcases

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A non-profit organization called We Care Solar, based in California, USA says it has installed 435 Solar Suitcases in 430 health facilities across Liberia.

The organization working in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) here is dedicated to improving maternal health care in health facilities through access to renewable energy.

We Care Solar Global Program Officer Kim Gordon presented the evaluation study result of the organization at a one-day conference held at the Paynesville City Hall outside Monrovia on 18 July.

During the presentation, Mr. Gordon said 518 health facilities were assessed and it was found that 430 were in need of reliable electricity, following which 435 solar suitcases were installed in 430 health facilities.

According to him, 44 installers were trained; 2,203 health workers trained; and 220,000 mothers and newborns served in health facilities using Solar Suitcases.

He discloses that since 2010, the organization has designed technology and developed programs to bring compact rugged solar electric systems-Solar Suitcases-to under-resourced health centers.

To date, Mr. Gordon reveals that more than 3,800 health centers globally have been equipped with this technology, replacing candles and kerosene lanterns with bright, efficient LED lights which provide electricity for photo charging,

fetal monitoring and small medical devices which enable health workers to promote life-saving care.

He notes that the organization had a special interest in supporting Liberia conduct a plot solar suitcases program in Bong and Lofa counties in 2011, in partnership with Liberian Institute of Biomedical Research and the Light Every Birth initiative.

Mr. Gordon discloses that funding came from UN DESA, UBS Optimus Foundation, Gilead Foundation, Music for Relief, Meadow Fund, and other generous donors.

According to him, assessment of health facility electricity needs was conducted by the Family Health Division of the Ministry of Health, County Health Teams and We Care Solar.

In order to qualify for solar suitcase development, he says the health facility must offer delivery services by a skilled trained professional, have unreliable electricity and lighting, and be a building suitcase for installation, among others.

Liberia's Minister of Health Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah expressed gratitude to We Care Solar for helping to save the lives of newborns in health facilities across the country.

She assured the organization of government's continued commitment to collaborating with it in achieving the goal of providing solar suitcase to every health facility in Liberia.—Edited by Winston W. Parley

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taught in schools across the country.

Mr. Wuo agrees that this is very important because it has a positive impact on not only students, but parents and people involved in cross-border trade and activities.

He assures the Association that the Ministry will contact a group in the United States to print and supply French textbooks to Liberia for primary and secondary levels.

He calls on the leadership of Association to select some French teachers to undergo

further studies of the French language to build their knowledge and skills, emphasizing the need for people to stop overlooking French lessons that could positively contribute to students speaking good French.

For his part, the Director for French studies at the Ministry of Education pledges the Ministry's commitment to meeting the needs of French teachers in the country in enhancing the teaching of French subject in schools here.—Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate concurs with House on Domestic Violence Bill



By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate on Thursday, 18 July passed the Domestic Violence Bill, concurring with the House of Representatives which earlier passed the instrument.

Bill indicates in Chapter 16.21 that a person in a domestic relationship who engages in an act which results to domestic violence as defined by the Act commits an offense of domestic violence and shall be guilty of

such crime.

The Domestic Violence Act was sent to the Senate Committees on Health and Gender and Judiciary.

It defines Domestic Violence as any act of violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, men, or children, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life between parties in an

existing or former domestic relationship.

The Bill addresses the concerns of threats to commit or committing acts constituting economic abuse; deliberately preventing a person from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity, and use and enjoyment of conjugal property or property owned in common.

Further, the Bill addresses issues of threats to deprive a person of a legal right; cause or attempt to cause a person to engage in any sexual activity which does not constitute rape by force, threat or intimidation.

Attempts to unlawfully restrict a person's freedom of movement or conduct; stalking or repeatedly following, pursuing, or accosting a person are prohibited by in the Bill.

It also touches on harassment, dowry-related violence, all other controlling or abusive behavior towards a person, where the conduct harms, or may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or wellbeing of the person in a domestic relationship.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

EU, media hold

Cont'd from page 5

viability, politicians' penetration and ownership of media outlets, as well as challenges in media self-regulation as key challenges that hinder the dissemination of accurate information by the local and national media.

The roundtable's participants also highlighted the need for media institutions to be robust in exercising their gate-keeping role to prevent divisive messages and those with self-seeking agendas to use the media to accomplish their goals.

Addressing the roundtable, Ambassador Hélène Cavé, Head of the European Union Delegation to Liberia said it is important for each Liberian to reflect on how their actions or inactions, their words or silence have an impact on the country's peace.

"The democracy, peace and stability being enjoyed in Liberia today are possible because of the collective contributions of each of you. Every Liberian - the youth, the leaders, the women, the media - have an important role to play in consolidating Liberia's peace and ensuring that Liberia remains on the path of development and progress," Amb. Hélène Cavé.

Thursday's roundtable was also attended by Information Minister Len Eugene Nagbe and Mr. Charles Coffey, President of the Press Union of Liberia.

In his remarks, Minister Nagbe spoke of the important

role of the media in the promotion of democracy, peace and development in Liberia.

"The Liberian media is very vibrant and it is a fundamental indispensable partner. Without a strong and vibrant media, we cannot have a democratic society," Min. Nagbe emphasized.

For his part, Press Union of Liberia President Charles Coffey said while there is a lot for the media to celebrate, there are still some challenges.

Mr. Coffey said there are some existing policies and institutional mechanisms to address these challenges but they need to be strengthened.

Thursday's strategic media roundtable was also intended to enhance the European Union's collaboration and partnership with the Liberian media for improved information sharing on the EU-Liberia relations and greater visibility of the impact of EU interventions in Liberia.

Special guests at the media roundtable included: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden Ingrid Wetterqvist; Ambassador of Germany Hubert J. Jäger; Pa Lamin Beyai, Country Representative of the United National Development Program as well as representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Jake Baptist College holds 10th Convocation

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Jake Memorial Baptist College, a theological seminary located on 11th Street Sinkor in Monrovia convenes its 10th graduation convocation here Saturday, 20 July at the Beawo Baptist Church on 17th Street.

The Dean of Students of the college, Rev. Moses U-Joe Weidehgar, Sr., says a total of eleven (11) candidates who has successfully completed their academic studies in both Theology and Christian Education respectively, will receive degrees.

He discloses that Rev. Dr. Randy L. Nelson of Sioux Falls University in South Dakota, United States of America (USA) will serve as Commencement Speaker.

He says the exercise represents the 10th graduation and convocation since the college was established in 1995.

Rev. Weidehgar emphasizes that the process leading to the conferring of full degree program by academic 2020 has already been authorized by the Commission on Higher Education at the Ministry of



Commencement Speaker, Rev. Dr. Randy L. Nelson

Education.

The Jake Memorial Baptist College is constructing a new home adjacent the Edward Biyan Kesselly Military Barracks on the Monrovia-Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway in Lower Margibi County.

According to Rev. Weidehgar, the conferring of full degree program is authorized by the Commission

on Higher Education after an official application, coupled with submission of instructional staff, who hold Master's and PhD degrees.

He encourages students desirous of attending the Jake Memorial Baptist College where the word of God is taught with commitment and faithfulness to the Lord, to do in acquiring sound and quality Christian Education.

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Convocation Speaker, Rev. Dr. Randy L. Nelson, an Associate Professor and Director of International Education, earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and German at the University of Sioux Falls. He later earned a Master's of Arts in Selected Studies in English at Augustana University and then a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at the University of St. Thomas,

Minneapolis, respectively. He has also completed graduate coursework in Germany and Austria.

During his 28 years of teaching high school English and German, Dr. Nelson taught in South Dakota and Minnesota, and spent a year teaching in the public school system in Berlin, Germany, among other achievements. —*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Urey nie avoir commandé des hélicoptères de guerre et se dit déçu

L'opposant Benoni Urey réfute les accusations selon lesquelles il aurait donné l'ordre de décaisser 620 000 dollars américains pour acheter deux hélicoptères MI-2 afin qu'ils fussent utilisés pendant la guerre. L'ancien proche collaborateur de l'ancien président Charles Ghankay Taylor a du mal à comprendre pourquoi l'Organisation des Nations Unies lui en voulait.

« Les hélicoptères MI-2 n'ont jamais été utilisés pour la guerre. L'un était utilisé par la police et l'autre par le service de sécurité spéciale. En fait, ces hélicoptères ont été utilisés pour transporter le personnel de l'ONU dans tout le pays », a-t-il déclaré au cours d'une interview exclusive qu'il a accordée à ce quotidien le mardi 16 juillet à Logan Town.

M. Urey, qui fut commissaire des affaires maritimes du Libéria sous le régime du président Taylor, regrette que l'ONU l'ait

accusé à tort d'avoir décaissé 620 000 dollars américains pour procéder à l'achat des deux hélicoptères MI-2.

Pourtant, ces engins, selon lui, ont été utilisés par les forces onusiennes. Il a expliqué au New Dawn que, lorsque le personnel de l'ONU

était malade, les hélicoptères étaient utilisés pour les transporter de l'intérieur vers les hôpitaux ou à l'extérieur du pays.

Il a admis cependant avoir simplement relayé une instruction donnée par le président de la république

d'utiliser l'argent pour acheter les hélicoptères en question.

M. Urey a affirmé avoir été instruit par l'ancien ministre des Finances, M. Nathaniel Barnes, sur ordre du président Taylor, de donner instruction aux agents du Registre international des navires et des sociétés du Libéria de transférer 620 000 dollars pour l'achat de deux hélicoptères.

« Le ministre des Finances de l'époque, Nathaniel Barnes, m'a donné l'instruction que le président avait ordonné que j'instruisse les agents -LISCR de transférer 620 000 dollars... pour acheter les deux hélicoptères. Je n'ai pas transféré d'argent », a déclaré Urey.

« J'ai écrit à mon contrôleur américain, par directive du président par le biais du ministre des Finances, "vous êtes chargé d'ordonner à nos agents de virer cet argent pour l'achat des deux engins..." et heureusement pour moi, j'avais la copie du document », a-t-il expliqué.

Il aurait même expliqué à l'ONU et aux agents de la sécurité intérieure des États-Unis qu'il n'avait pas viré l'argent, mais que c'était le LISCR qui avait effectué le transfert. Mais, hélas, sans enquête aucune, il a fait l'objet d'une sanction. « Pourquoi n'ont-ils pas pu enquêter ? Je n'ai fait que donner une instruction », regrette-t-il.

Contacté, l'ancien ministre des Finances, M. Nathaniel Barnes, a nié avoir eu

connaissance de l'affaire. « Je ne sais pas de quoi parle M. Urey, je suis désolé de le dire. Je veux dire, il y a longtemps que j'ai été ministre des Finances et je ne sais pas de quoi il parle », a déclaré M. Barnes, avant d'ajouter : « si vous ne possédez aucun document portant mon nom pour authentifier ce que j'ai fait, je ne sais pas de quoi il parle ».

Mais lors de l'interview mercredi, M. Urey nous a conseillé de parler à l'ancien contrôleur du ministère des Finances, Lewis Roberts, pour authentifier ce qu'il disait, mais le téléphone de ce dernier a sonné sans cesse, sans qu'il ne réponde.

Par ailleurs, M. Urey a dit qu'il n'a jamais fait de guerre et qu'il ne sait pas non plus comment soutenir financièrement des factions en guerre.

« Je n'ai jamais combattu; Je n'ai jamais été accusé de rien, vous savez. Mais quand l'ONU nous a mis sur cette liste... pour influencer la destitution du président [Charles] Taylor, à la fin de celle-ci, ils auraient dû écrire pour dire que ces personnes n'avaient commis aucun crime », se plaint Urey.

A l'opposant farouche au régime de George Weah d'indiquer avoir fait part de sa déception au bureau des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies pour avoir mis son nom sur une liste sans procéder à une enquête et aujourd'hui il est traité injustement de criminel sur les ondes.



Mr. Benoni Urey

Ex. Pres. Taylor

Mr. Nathaniel Barnes

Trois nouveaux membres du Conseil d'administration de la CBL ont prêté serment

Trois cadres dont la nomination comme membres du Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque Centrale du Libéria (CBL) a été confirmée récemment par le Sénat libérien ont prêté serment le mercredi 17 juillet dans la salle du conseil de la CBL. Ils se sont engagés à œuvrer au rétablissement de l'indépendance et de la crédibilité de la Banque.

Les trois nouveaux

membres du conseil des gouverneurs de la CBL sont MM. Richard A. Dorley, Timothy Thomas et James B. Dennis. Ils ont exprimé leur gratitude au président George M. Weah d'avoir placé sa confiance en eux.

M. Richard A. Dorley, qui fut déjà par le passé membre au conseil d'administration de la CBL, a promis d'aider à relever les défis auxquels fait face la CBL, en procédant par une

nouvelle approche de résolution des problèmes. Il a aussi dit avoir cependant besoin de la coopération du personnel de la CBL pour résoudre le plus tôt possible les problèmes auxquels se trouve confrontée la banque.

M. Timothy E. Thomas a promis de mettre à profit ses 42 années d'expérience professionnelle pour contribuer à relever les défis économiques. Il a souligné la nécessité de réfléchir à des solutions nouvelles avec un esprit ouvert.

M. James B. Dennis, qui n'est pas non plus étranger à la CBL, a, pour sa part, indiqué qu'il retourne à la banque pour travailler au rétablissement de la crédibilité et de l'indépendance de l'institution. Sa mission sera de faire en sorte que la confiance quelque peu érodée par une série de scandales soit rétablie. Il a lui aussi promis de mettre à profit ses nombreuses années d'expérience pour un ouf de soulagement dans le secteur financier du pays.

Prenant la parole, Sheba Brown, membre du conseil d'administration de la CBL, a souhaité la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres. Elle se



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veut optimiste, déclarant qu'il y a de l'espoir quoique les choses soient difficiles aujourd'hui. Le devoir des nouveaux membres du Conseil d'administration des gouverneurs, a-t-elle dit, est de rétablir l'intégrité morale et institutionnelle de la CBL, ainsi que de régler le problème de l'endettement du gouvernement. Elle a également mentionné la nécessité de modifier les

textes de la banque qui, selon elle, étouffe les progrès de l'institution.

Le gouverneur exécutif de CBL et président du conseil des gouverneurs a félicité les nouveaux membres du conseil d'administration, affirmant qu'ils sont des éléments très importants pour la Banque. Il a promis de leur fournir tous les documents d'information nécessaires pour faciliter leur travail.

Français

Mali : regain de tension à Kidal dans le Nord

La matinée du 17 juillet a été tumultueuse à Kidal, ville malienne toujours aux mains d'ex-rebelles. Au cours d'une manifestation qui a réuni de nombreux jeunes, le drapeau malien a été brûlé et des symboles de la République détruits. Difficile pour l'instant de savoir exactement ce qui s'est passé à Kidal, dans le nord du Mali. Impossible de dire s'il s'agit d'une conséquence de problèmes internes à l'ex-rébellion de la Coopération des mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) ou des actes de révolte

malien. Manifestation spontanée ? Autre scène vue par des témoins, des jeunes ont effacé du fronton du gouvernorat de la ville le nom « Mali » avant d'exhiber le drapeau du mouvement indépendantiste, le Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNL). Mais quelques heures avant, dans la même ville, des symboles du mouvement indépendantiste avaient été détruits. Dans un communiqué, le ministre malien de la Communication et porte-parole du gouvernement, Yaya



contre la tentative de rendre les honneurs au drapeau national lors d'un séjour dans la ville de députés maliens. Ce mercredi 17 juillet, de nombreux jeunes Maliens, hommes et femmes, de la ville de Kidal ont manifesté. Certains scandaient « Vive l'Azawad ». Des témoins ont vu par exemple le drapeau national traîné à terre, attaché à l'arrière de motos de manifestants. D'autres ont même brûlé le même drapeau

Sangaré, dénonce « l'outrage au drapeau du Mali et aux symboles nationaux à Kidal ». L'ex-rébellion de la CMA, dont Kidal est le fief, a également réagi par communiqué. Elle condamne l'acte de brûler le drapeau national et précise qu'il s'agit d'une manifestation spontanée d'activistes de la société civile de Kidal qui a dégénéré en marge d'une visite de députés maliens. RFI

Le Libéria et la Belgique signent un accord de transport aérien

Les gouvernements du Libéria et du Royaume de Belgique ont signé un accord de transport aérien visant à renforcer les services aériens entre les deux pays.

La cérémonie de signature a eu lieu le mercredi 17 juillet 2019 dans la salle de conférence au 4^{ème} étage du ministère des Affaires étrangères.

Le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères, Gbehzohngar Milton Findley, a signé au nom du gouvernement libérien, tandis que l'ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire du Royaume de Belgique au Libéria, H. E. Hugues Chantry, a signé pour son gouvernement.

S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie haute en couleurs, le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Gbehzohngar Milton Findley, a qualifié le nouvel accord de

renouvellement des relations bilatérales concrètes entre le Libéria et le Royaume de Belgique, en particulier dans le secteur de l'aviation.

Tout en rappelant le rôle joué par la Belgique dans le processus de relèvement du Libéria, le ministre des Affaires étrangères, M. Findley, a rappelé les efforts remarquables du SM Brussels Flight au plus fort de la crise d'Ebola au Libéria, lorsque le transporteur belge a apporté des fournitures médicales essentielles pour aider à lutter contre l'épidémie d'Ebola.

Pour sa part, l'ambassadeur de la Belgique au Libéria, Hugues Chantry, a déclaré que l'accord sur le transport aérien constitue un jalon historique qui ouvrira la voie à une relation de travail cordiale entre SM Brussels Flight et l'Autorité de l'aviation civile du Libéria, en particulier sur les questions touchant aux activités aéronautiques.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Nouriel Roubini

Crypto-monnaie : le casse du siècle

NEW YORK - Il existe une bonne raison pour que tous les pays civilisés dans le monde régulent strictement leur système financier. La crise globale de 2008, après tout, a largement été causée par le laisser-faire et la régression réglementaire. Escrocs, délinquants et filous font partie de la vie, et aucun système financier ne peut remplir sa fonction sans en protéger les investisseurs.

D'où les réglementations, qui stipulent que les titres cotés doivent être enregistrés, que les prestations de services monétaires sont soumises à une autorisation, que la réglementation bancaire comporte un volet de lutte contre le blanchiment (anti-money laundering - AML) et une clause de vérification de l'identité de la clientèle (know your customer - KYC), afin de prévenir l'évasion fiscale et autres flux financiers illicites, et que les gérants de fonds doivent être au service des intérêts de leurs clients. Étant donné que ces lois et dispositions réglementaires protègent les investisseurs et la société, les coûts liés à leur mise en œuvre et à leur respect sont raisonnables et justifiés.

Mais tel qu'il fonctionne aujourd'hui, le régime réglementaire ne contrôle pas toute l'activité financière. Des crypto-monnaies sont sans cesse émises et échangées, hors d'atteinte de l'activité officielle de contrôle financier, et l'économie des coûts de surveillance est avancée comme argument de leur efficacité. Résultat, un « cryptoland », devenu un vaste casino dérégulé, où se déchaîne librement la délinquance.

Il ne s'agit pas de simples conjectures. Certains des crypto-acteurs les plus importants sont ouvertement impliqués dans une illégalité systématique. Prenons l'exemple de BitMEX, une bourse non régulée de crypto-dérivés, qui brasse mille milliards de dollars, domiciliée aux Seychelles, mais active dans le monde entier. Son PDG, Arthur Hayes, se vante publiquement d'un modèle économique qui consiste à revendre des crypto-dérivés avec un levier de 100 pour un à des « joueurs invétérés » (en l'occurrence des petits porteurs ignorants).

Soyons clairs : avec un tel levier, même une variation de 1 % du prix des actifs peut déclencher un appel de marge et anéantir tout ce qu'aura investi l'heureux « joueur ». Pis, BitMEX réclame des honoraires exorbitants sur la vente et l'achat de ses instruments toxiques, puis il prend encore un morceau du gâteau en siphonnant les économies de ses clients pour approvisionner un « fonds de liquidation », probablement plusieurs fois supérieur à ce qui serait nécessaire pour faire face au risque de contrepartie. Aussi ne faut-il guère s'étonner que, selon les estimations d'un chercheur indépendant, les liquidations aient parfois représenté jusqu'à la moitié des recettes de BitMEX.

Des gens de la maison m'ont révélé que cette crypto-bourse était quotidiennement utilisée pour du blanchiment d'argent à grande échelle, que ce soit par des terroristes ou par des fraudeurs de Russie, d'Iran et d'ailleurs. La plateforme ne fait rien pour y mettre un terme, puisque ses profits sont indexés sur les transactions qui s'y opèrent.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, BitMEX dispose aussi de sa propre table de négociation (à but lucratif, soi-disant pour assurer la tenue du marché), accusée de délits d'initié vis-à-vis de ses propres clients ! Hayes s'en est défendu, mais comme BitMEX est totalement dérégulé, il n'existe aucun audit indépendant de ses comptes, par conséquent aucun moyen de savoir ce qui se passe en coulisses.

Quoi qu'il en soit, nous savons que BitMEX contourne

les dispositions réglementaires contre le blanchiment ainsi que celles qui concernent l'identité de la clientèle. Bien que la société prétende ne pas représenter les intérêts d'investisseurs américains ou britanniques, soumis à ces réglementations, sa méthode de « vérification » est pour le moins faillible, puisqu'elle repose sur le contrôle de l'adresse IP, qui peut être aisément maquillée avec une simple application de réseau virtuel privé. Cette absence de vérification approfondie constitue une violation patente des lois et des réglementations sur les valeurs mobilières. Hayes a pourtant défié quiconque de le poursuivre aux Seychelles, où la réglementation est inexistante, sachant bien qu'il opère dans une zone d'ombre juridique.

Au début de ce mois, lors d'un débat avec Hayes, j'ai dénoncé son entourloupe. Mais il avait sans que je le sache acheté aux organisateurs de la conférence les droits d'exclusivité sur l'enregistrement vidéo, dont il a refusé, pendant une semaine, la diffusion in extenso, lui préférant des extraits soigneusement choisis à son avantage. Je suppose que ce genre de pratique est monnaie courante chez les crypto-escrocs, mais il est paradoxal que quelqu'un prétendant faire de la « résistance » à la censure soit devenu, dès lors que sa combine était menacée, son incarnation même. Finalement, vilipendé par ses propres partisans, il a cédé et divulgué la vidéo.

Le jour même où nous débattions, l'Autorité de [bonne] conduite financière du Royaume-Uni (Financial Conduct Authority) proposait d'interdire purement et simplement aux petits porteurs les crypto-investissements à risque. Mais sauf réponse concertée des dirigeants politiques, les petits investisseurs attirés par les transactions cryptées continueront de se faire avoir. La manipulation des prix est endémique dans tous les échanges cryptés, en raison des mécanismes de gonflement-débarras (pump-and-dump) [qui voient certains acteurs acheter en grosse quantité pour faire monter les cours puis se défaire brusquement de leurs actifs], des achats purement spéculatifs (wash trading), des ventes ou des achats intempestifs de titres afin de manipuler les cours (spoofing), des délits d'initiés et de diverses formes d'opérations frauduleuses. Une étude affirme que jusqu'à 95 % de l'ensemble des transactions réalisées en Bitcoin sont factices, ce qui laisse penser que la fraude n'est pas l'exception, mais bien la règle.

Évidemment, il n'est guère surprenant qu'un marché non régulé devienne le terrain de jeu des artistes en arnaque, des délinquants et autres charlatans. Les échanges cryptés ont créé une industrie de plusieurs milliards de dollars, qui dépasse largement celle des titres proprement dits, puisqu'y prolifèrent propagandistes s'affirmant journalistes, opportunistes qui y vont de leurs livres de conseils financiers pour fourguer cette « monnaie de pacotille », sans compter les lobbyistes en quête de nouvelles exemptions réglementaires. Derrière tout cela est en train de naître une vaste combine criminelle, à faire rougir de honte (ou d'envie) la Cosa Nostra.

Il est temps que la force publique, aux États-Unis et ailleurs, intervienne. Jusqu'ici, les autorités de régulation se sont endormies à la tâche et le crypto-cancer s'est métastasié. Selon une autre étude, 80 % de « émissions de crypto-monnaie » étaient en 2017 de l'escroquerie. La moindre des choses serait que Hayes et tous ceux qui président aux destinées des mêmes combines dans des paradis fiscaux fassent l'objet d'une enquête, avant que de nouveaux petits porteurs soient par millions poussés à la ruine. Le secrétaire au Trésor Steven Mnuchin lui-même, pourtant peu suspect de sympathie envers la régulation financière, reconnaît qu'on ne peut permettre aux crypto-monnaies de « devenir l'équivalent de compte chiffrés », qui sont depuis

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

With Ben Polee Wese



Dance Liberia coming soon

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Starzoo Music, George McGill a.k.a GeniusBeat is up with another classic initiative under the brand, Dance Liberia aimed taking children off the streets to give them an opportunity to benefit from their God-given talent.

GeniusBeat, who is also one of Liberia's best and youngest engineer, singer and song writer, amongst others discloses in an exclusive interview with Culture and Entertainment that Dance Liberia is a nonprofit organization established on July 1, 2019.

According to him, survey shows that 60 percent children in Liberia with dancing talent were affected during the country's 14 years of civil unrest and are now left with no option but drug abuse.

GeniusBeat explains that

he got inspired recently while on a business trip in Sweden and has come to realize that it is important to establish a state of the art dancing studio in Liberia to spot upcoming talents.

He says the plan is to get kids in school to live a happy lifestyle, teach them to fear God, help single parents, while providing livelihood for people living with mental illness/disabilities as well as

getting disadvantaged youth off the street.

GeniusBeat narrates that Dance Liberia aims to dance poverty out of Liberia, detailing that funds generated from such program will go towards getting disadvantaged children back in school.

He discloses that by August this year the modern dancing studio will completed and

Dance Liberia team will visit the streets, ghettos, schools and communities around Montserrado County to recruit people with dancing talent and those with the desire to dancing from ages 5 to 26.

Read the next week edition to know why GeniusBeat apologizes to the entertainment industry



Semah Weefur wins prestigious award

Liberia's young musical artist, Semah G. Weefur wins a prestigious award from Capitol One Spark Business in Washington D.C., the United States of America.

Born on April 17, 2006, Semah is a visually impaired Liberian gospel singer and performer, who began his musical career as a lead singer up to now.

The young and brilliant talent, who is noted for thrilling his audience, received the award on June 21, 2019 which is intended to not only enhance community development in Liberia but to

also impact lives of other Liberian children living with disabilities.

He gained spotlight here after being spotted by Nigerian artist Flavor, during a visit to Liberia. Flavor subsequently took him to Nigeria and featured him in the hitz "God You're so Good" followed by several other great efforts to exposed the Liberian teenager internationally, thanks to Liberian Culture Ambassador, Julie Endee.

Presenting the award to the chief executive officer/president of the Christian Association of the Blind Beyan Kota, Semah lauds

him for his efforts, including his colleagues at the school, promising that God is surely going to make a way for them.

"This award is going to bring more blessings to me and my friends not only here at the center but also other children that are living with disabilities across the country," he notes.

Semah: "Thank God for such a prestigious award. This is quite a blessing to all Liberian children that are physically challenged as this will continue to encourage our brothers and sisters to work hard to showcase their talents one of these days."

Spark's mission is to promote financial literacy and empower students and young professionals with the tools and mindset to make educated financial decisions and become responsible global citizens.

Commenting after receiving the award on behalf of the center, Mr. Kota, also visually impaired, encourages kids with special needs to emulate the good example of Semah by discovering their talents early and exploring the horizons to bring glory to their families and friends. According to Capitol One Spark Foundation, financial literacy is an essential 21st century skill that gives students and those with special needs the edge to excel in life. Spark is sponsored by Capital One Financial Corporation. The Corporation is a bank holding company that specializes in credit cards, auto loans, and banking services,

MTN Liberia Music Award shifts blame on scam awards

We reported in our last edition that MTN Liberia Music Award have given Liberian artists, music lovers and their loyal fans the biggest April fooled of the year, as the was no cash prize for award winners, as promised.

Now, the organizer has release a press statement, pointing out that on November 27, 2018 the Liberia Music Award Foundation (LMA), Lonestar Cell MTN and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism held a press conference to announce that the Liberia Music Award,

allowing this mistaken and unauthorized statement to go uncorrected publicly and to ensure that this does not occur again, the foundation has put in place new procedures to make sure that no official communication are presented to the public in the future that has not gone through the proper channels".

MLMA continues that as a practice, the foundation does not give out cash prizes to award winners and how all proceeds from the award are used to support the growth of the Liberian music industry.

The group noted that the



an annual event hosted by the LMA foundation, would be coming to Liberia.

"In what was the 5th year of the award ceremony, the foundation partnered with Lonestar Cell MTN to host the event, effectively christened the MTN Liberia Music Award MLMA. In that press conference, mistakenly and without authorization, representative of the Liberia Music Award foundation made mention of cash prizes for award winners," MLMA press statement disclosed.

Further pointing "the foundation apologizes for

partnership with Lonestar Cell MTN has allowed the foundation to bring the music award home so that more Liberian artists can have access to the event and to other opportunities to benefit their careers.

"The foundation aims to deliver a world-class musical experience to highlight wishes to express its gratitude to its sponsors, partners, participant and winners and to reiterate its commitment to supporting the growth of the Liberian music industry," MLMA mentioned.



headquartered in McLean, Virginia, the United States.

Capital One ranks 10th on the list of largest banks in the United States based on its assets. It has 755 branches, including 30 café style locations and 2,000 ATMs. It is 98th on the Fortune 500, 17th on Fortune's 100 Best Companies to Work For list, and conducts business in the United States,

Canada, and the United Kingdom, respectively.

The company also helped in pioneering mass marketing of credit cards in the 1990s. In 2016, it was the 5th largest credit card issuer by purchase volume, after American Express, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and Citigroup.

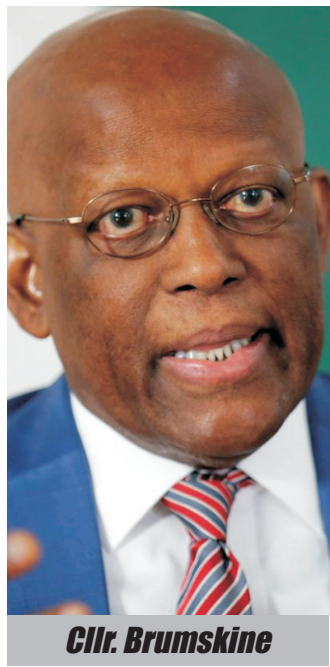
Opposition admits blunder

By Winston W. Parley

The chair of Liberia's four collaborating opposition parties Benoni Urey says failure to unite in the second round of the 2017 presidential election caused their defeat, conceding to their blunder in winning the presidency.

"But I stood with Joe Boakai you know, and if other would have done the same, we wouldn't be where we are today. And you know we continue to make mistakes as a people. But we must unite because we are rapidly losing our country," Urey cautions in an exclusive interview with this paper.

He complains of current high foreign exchange rate, prices of basic commodities, mainly Liberia's staple, rice



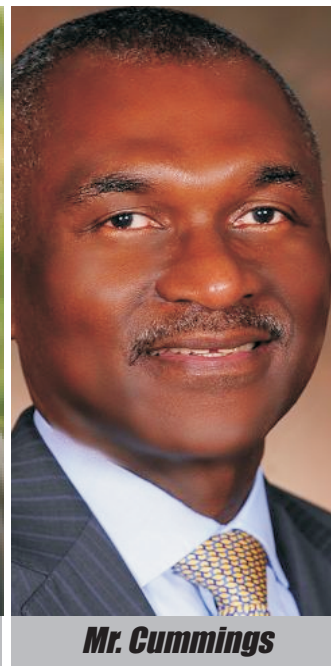
Cllr. Brumskine



Ex-VP Boakai



Mr. Urey



Mr. Cummings

and foreign nationals allegedly gaining monopoly over businesses here as indications that Liberians are rapidly

losing their country.

Former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai lost the polls on the then ruling Unity

Party ticket to President George Manneh Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in 2017.

It remains public perception here that ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf did not also demonstrate support for her deputy Mr. Boakai in the 2017 polls to enable him succeed her.

Some of the parties that now make up the collaborating

opposition parties, except Mr. Urey's All Liberian Party (ALP) did not clearly direct their partisans and supporters to follow a particular candidate, leaving them with the decision to make.

"You know what, we need to learn from - if during the second round we had stayed together as we are today, we won't be where we are," Mr. Urey says.

The businessman turned politician casts blame on the failure of some opposition leaders to direct their supporters to vote a particular candidate, but leaving them with the choice to find their own candidates.

He tells this paper that he tried to unite the group, "but there were external forces outside of the group; there was money being passed around."

"You know people must learn to control their emotions. If you're angry, you know, if you're unhappy, you must think about the Liberian people," he cautions.

July protest is misplaced

The United States Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Christine Elder says, while the U.S. Embassy here supports the rights of citizens to lawfully apply to assemble or convey their views to elected officials, the intent to do so during the week of July 22 is misplaced.

But the COP reportedly terms the statement as a caution not only to it, but the Government of Liberia.

In a two-paragraph official response to the Council of Patriots' press release, specifically calling on the international community to join the 'long march', Ambassador Elder notes that particularly from a group carrying the banner 'Council of Patriots' and from a group which avows that patriotism remains central to their efforts, staging such actions as they have outlined, during independence celebrations, would instead, convey a lack of commitment to national development.

"Ideally, events surrounding national celebrations should be devoid of partisan promotion or posturing, focusing instead on working together for the



U.S. Amb. Christine Elder

common good of the Liberian people", Ambassador Elder notes in her statement here Thursday, July 18.

However, the U.S. Envoy commends the peaceful conduct of thousands of protestors who by their actions on June 7 conveyed they are interested in progress and national dialogue over aggression or demands.

On June 7, the COP staged a successful protest in Monrovia monitored by national and international observers,

including ECOWAS, the AU and the United Nations to draw government's attention to the current state affairs, but stopped short of presenting its petition to the government.

The petition was subsequently read at a press conference by lead campaigner and talk show host Henry Costa, demanding, among others, reinstatement of impeached Associate Justice Kabinah Ja'neh. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Embassy of the United States of America, Monrovia

502 Benson Street
Phone: 0776-777-405

Statement by Ambassador Elder

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Christine Elder issued the below statement July 18:

"The U.S. Embassy read with interest the statement of the Council of Patriots (COP) issued July 12 announcing their intent to stage a nationwide protest beginning July 24. While the U.S. Embassy supports the rights of citizens to lawfully apply to assemble or convey their views to elected officials, the intent to do so during the week of July 22 is misplaced. We commend the peaceful conduct of thousands of protestors who by their actions on June 7 conveyed they are interested in progress and national dialogue over aggression or demands.

As the COP press release specifically calls on the international community to join their 'long march,' the U.S. Embassy responds by sharing its view that, particularly from a group carrying the banner 'Council of Patriots' and from a group which avows that patriotism remains central to their efforts, staging such actions as they have outlined, during independence celebrations, would instead convey a lack of commitment to national development. Ideally, events surrounding upcoming national celebrations should be devoid of partisan promotion or posturing, focusing instead on working together for the common good of the Liberian people."

Christine Elder
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia

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Ajax defender completes \$84M transfer to Juventus



Matthijs de Ligt became the most expensive defender in Serie A history after completing a 75 million euro (\$85 million) transfer from Ajax on Thursday. Juventus announced the deal's completion, saying it had signed the Netherlands international to a five-year contract. The 19-year-old De Ligt was captain of the Ajax squad that reached the Champions League semifinals last

season, having scored the winning goal against Juventus in the quarterfinals. The highly regarded center back is set to join a veteran defense featuring Juventus stalwarts Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci. Juventus said in a statement that the deal was "reached for a consideration of 75 million euros, payable in five financial years, and additional costs of 10.5 million euros." While contract details were

not revealed, De Ligt's contract is reportedly worth 8 million euros per season, and could reach 12 million euros with bonuses. De Ligt's signing follows that of midfielders Aaron Ramsey and Adrien Rabiot by Juventus, with goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon also back after one season away at Paris Saint-Germain. And as Cristiano Ronaldo enters his second season at Juventus, the Turin club is putting together a serious bid to win the elusive Champions League. Since Juventus' last title in 1996, it has finished runner-up five times in the top European competition. Strong both on the ground and in the air, De Ligt scored twice with headers in the Champions League last season – with only Ronaldo (four) managing more. He becomes the fifth Dutch player for Juventus after Ouasim Bouy, Eljero Elia, Edwin van der Sar and Edgar Davids.

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Logostar Cell MTN

Ighalo goal gives Nigeria third-place win in AFCON

Odion Ighalo's early goal gave Nigeria a 1-0 win over Tunisia in their third-place playoff at the Africa Cup of Nations on Wednesday. The 30-year-old forward, who is the tournament's top scorer with five goals, was gifted an easy tap-in following a Tunisian defensive mix-up at the Al Salam Stadium. Jamilu Collins' cross from the left was poorly parried



by goalkeeper Moez Ben Cherifa against the legs of defender Yassine Meriah, who tried to stop it from going over the line before Ighalo pounced to give Nigeria a third-minute lead. It proved a costly blunder for Tunisia, who lost Sunday's semi-final in extra time to Senegal in similar circumstances. Ben Cherifa attempted to make up for his error with some good saves in the second

half, first denying Samuel Chukwueze's left-footed shot just after the hour mark before saving two efforts from substitute Samuel Kalu in stoppage time. Nigeria, who dominated the game, have won the bronze medal at eight different Cup of Nations' tournaments. Algeria play Senegal in the Cup of Nations final in Cairo on Friday.

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