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Continental News

Kenyan finance minister arrested on corruption charges over mega dam project

Kenya's Finance Minister Henry Rotich and other treasury officials were arrested on Monday on corruption and fraud charges over a multi-million dollar project to build two mega dams, police said.

Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji had ordered the arrest and prosecution of Rotich and 27 other top officials on charges of fraud, abuse of office and financial misconduct in the latest scandal to rock graft-ravaged Kenya.

Mr Rotich, his principal secretary and the chief executive of Kenya's environmental authority then presented themselves to the police.

Mr Haji claimed the conception, procurement and payment processes for the dam project - part of a bid to improve water supply in the drought-prone country - was "riddled with irregularities".

The arrests are part of a drive by President Uhuru

Kenyatta to combat corruption in the poverty-plagued country, which has seen hundreds of millions of dollars disappear due to fraud.

A string of top officials have been charged since last year, when a damning report from

the auditor general showed that the government could not account for \$400 million (£321m) in public funds.

But it is unprecedented for a sitting minister to be arrested for corruption.

Detailing the charges, the

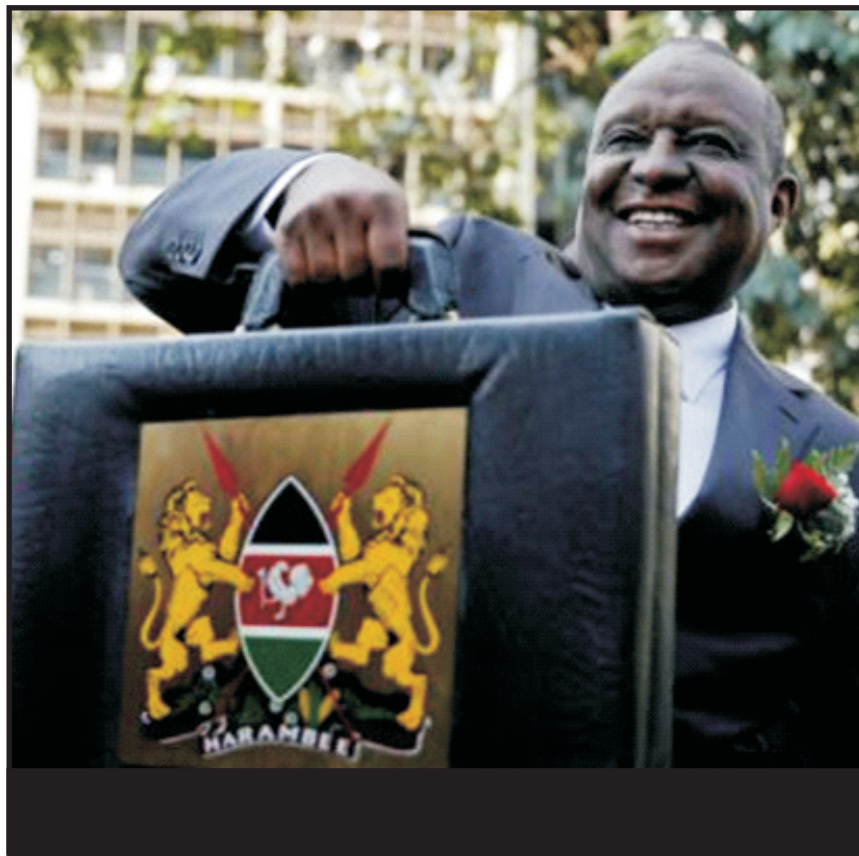
chief prosecutor pointed to the awarding of the contract to Italian firm CMC di Ravenna in a manner that he said flouted proper procurement procedures, and despite financial woes that forced the company into liquidation and had led to it failing complete three other mega-dam projects.

According to the contract, the project was to cost a total of \$450 million (£361m), but the treasury had increased this amount by \$164 million "without regard to performance or works," said Mr Haji. Some \$180 million has

already been paid out, with little construction to show for it, while a further \$6 million was supposedly spent on resettlement but without the acquisition of any land.

"Under the guise of carrying out legitimate commercial transactions, colossal amounts were unjustifiably and illegally paid out through a well-choreographed scheme by government officers in collusion with private individuals and institutions, Mr Haji said.

Mr Rotich has previously denied any wrongdoing, as has CMC di Ravenna. -AFP



South Sudan's Kiir bans singing of anthem in his absence

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has banned anyone from singing the national anthem unless he is present, a minister said Monday.

Information Minister Michael Makuei told AFP that different leaders and

institutions were playing the anthem at whim, which was an abuse of the national tune, written shortly before independence in 2011.

"For the information of everybody the national anthem is only meant for the president, in a function only

attended by the president, not for everybody," Makuei said.

"We are seeing now even a minister, undersecretary, even governor or state minister, whenever there is a function the national anthem is sung."

He said Kiir's order was passed during a cabinet meeting on Friday.

Makuei said that with the exception of South Sudan's embassies, which represent the president, and schools where children are taught the anthem, no one was allowed to sing the song in Kiir's absence.

The minister said that military leaders have also been banned from addressing the public when in uniform.

He did not give details on what the punishment would be if the orders are not followed.

"These are orders and of course when you disobey the orders of the president then you carry your cross," Makuei said. -AFP



The government says the national anthem should be played only if the president is present (AFP Photo/Yasuyoshi CHIBA)

Malawi opposition party offices brunt down

Malawi's main opposition party, which has been lobbying to annul the result of the May presidential election, said Monday its headquarters were burnt to the ground in an arson attack.

The Malawi Congress Party (MCP) said the offices in the commercial capital

was robbed of victory by fraud after losing by a narrow margin.

Mutharika claimed the protests were aimed at unseating his government and has vowed to end them.

The MCP and the United Transformation Movement (UTM) party, which came third in the polls, have launched a



Chakwera claims he was robbed of victory by fraud (AFP Photo/Amos GUMULIRA)

Blantyre had been "bombed" on Sunday evening, though police said there was no confirmed cause of the fire.

Months of protests have erupted in usually stable Malawi since President Peter Mutharika won a second term in a disputed vote count.

Lazarus Chakwera, leader of the MCP, alleges he

legal battle against the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the electoral commission.

The next court hearing in the case is due on Monday.

Allegations of electoral fraud included that many result sheets were altered using typewriter correction fluid. AFP

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EDITORIAL

Human trafficking is modern slavery

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR to Liberia Christine Elder underscores here the need to bring issue of human trafficking to the public discourse, noting that it is one that affects Liberia's children today, a situation that should be reversed.

AMB. ELDER RAISED the issue recently when she addressed students of the African Methodist Episcopal University Graduate School in Monrovia on "Human Trafficking in Liberia."

SHE NOTES THAT the most common form of trafficking in Liberia does not involve foreign traffickers or movement to another country but kids who end up forced to work.

"WE ALL KNOW what this form of trafficking looks like because we see it in Liberia every day. We all know that there are adults who take children with the intent of working them on the streets, without sending them to school, and without providing them even the most basic care. Recently, an American diplomat joined two social workers as they did a routine assessment of child labor near ELWA junction. They simply walked along the street and spoke with kids selling food, t-shirts, and water. In two hours, they spoke with 15 kids. Of those, 13 had been transported to Monrovia by an "auntie" or "uncle" who had no blood relationship with the child, and who had promised the child an education. None of them were going to school", she recalls.

THE U.S. ENVOY further explains that while it is common and acceptable in Liberia for extended networks of family and friends to take care of children from more rural areas, it should not be common or acceptable for adults to exploit children for their own gain, without any concerns for their welfare or future.

WE CAN'T AGREE with the Ambassador any better. This practice is prevalent in Liberia where people go in the interior and take children sometimes as young as 10 and 12 years, and bring them to Monrovia, putting parents of those unsuspecting little ones under the influence that their kids are coming to town to enroll in school, but this is far from reality.

THOSE CHILDREN WOULD never see road to a school building. They are either confined in homes and subjected to endless chores or sent in the streets to sell cold water, bread, plastic bags, among others to feed the home. In other words, they become breadwinners for their so-called guardians.

BUT AMBASSADOR ELDER points put that fighting trafficking begins with addressing some of its root causes, saying, "It requires helping people find a way to security in terms of food and shelter

SHE POINTS TO a clear distinction between willingly working to support oneself and even one's family, and working because someone has made false promises and uses a child or even an adult without the power to leave the situation.

WHILE THERE ARE laws on the book such as the 2005 Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons within the Republic of Liberia, constant public awareness and prompt enforcement still remain a serious challenge for the country.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

No Economic Peace for Palestinians

For the Palestinians, accepting an economic deal that is not an annex to a convincing political solution would be tantamount to betraying Palestinian refugees - and, indeed, the dream of statehood - for a fistful of dollars. But that does not mean that they should reject the Trump administration's "Peace to Prosperity" plan outright.

TEL AVIV - Last month, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, unveiled an ambitious plan to strengthen the Palestinian economy, in the hopes that billions of dollars in investment will open the way for an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement. But, far from being the "deal of the century" that Trump has called it, the so-called Peace to Prosperity plan is divorced from reality - and doomed to fail.

The notion that economic carrots can convince Palestinians to accept Israeli supremacy has a long pedigree. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, some early Zionists, and even local Arabs argued decades before 1948 that the Zionist enterprise was in the economic interest of the indigenous population.

More recently, Israel's right-wing prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, took up the mantle of "economic peace." In 1988, he argued that rapid economic growth would give ordinary Palestinians a "stake" in peace and would "support and bolster the achievement of political settlements down the line." There is, of course, nothing wrong with the promise of economic prosperity; but, coming from Netanyahu, who has never offered a convincing political deal, such a plan could never be credible to the Palestinians.

Now, the Trump administration is attempting to realize this vision. Essentially a Marshall Plan for the Middle East, the Peace to Prosperity proposal aims to facilitate up to \$50 billion in new regional and international investment in the Palestinian economy over the next decade. The Trump administration contends that this should also boost the economies of Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan, all of which are directly affected by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yet Kushner's plan fails to mention, let alone address, some of the highest barriers to economic development, such as Israel's arbitrary use of Palestinian natural resources and its security checkpoints, which stymie free movement and raise the cost of transportation. For Peace to Prosperity to deliver the results the Trump administration promises, such barriers would have to be dismantled.

But that still wouldn't be enough to convince the Palestinians to accept the plan, for a simple reason: the Palestinian national movement remains in its revolutionary phase, when economic considerations always come second to political aspirations. This has been the case even for wealthy Catalonia, where the flight of over 3,000 companies has failed to weaken public support for the separatist cause. The offices of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and his predecessor, Yasser Arafat, were adorned, when I visited, with images of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque

(Islam's third-holiest site) and maps of occupied Palestine, not with photos of John Maynard Keynes or Jean Monnet.

These priorities have been reflected in policy. In February, for example, Abbas chose to risk economic collapse, rather than accept the tax revenues that Israel collects on its behalf, which comprise 63% of the Palestinian government's budget. Abbas was protesting Israel's unilateral decision to deduct about 5% of the total against the amount the PA pays in stipends to the families of Palestinians convicted of terrorism and serving time in Israeli prisons.

Through 52 years of military occupation, two society-shattering intifadas, and the devastating collapse of two peace plans that seemed set to offer redemption, the Palestinians' fundamental demands have never changed. They want a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders, which includes the right of return for sizeable numbers of Palestinian refugees. And, in fact, an independent Palestine, free to trade with the Arab world and Europe, would secure revenues and GDP growth that far exceed what Kushner's plan would bring.

For the Palestinians, accepting an economic deal that is not an annex to a convincing political solution would be tantamount to betraying Palestinian refugees - and, indeed, the dream of statehood - for a fistful of dollars. But that does not mean that they should reject it outright.

The Palestinians have rejected many peace plans, most of them far more reasonable than Kushner's. What they have not done is engage the international community with a comprehensive counterproposal. Their offer - which would have to go much further than the 2002 Arab peace initiative or a portfolio of relevant United Nations resolutions - could even incorporate the Kushner plan as part of the transition to a final settlement.

In the past, transitional agreements have amounted to what George Orwell called "catastrophic gradualism." But, with the inclusion of a robust economic strategy, this could be transformed into "auspicious gradualism." After all, economic development would go a long way toward stabilizing Palestinian society in preparation for statehood, drastically boosting the peace settlement's chances of long-term success.

In 1923, none other than the founder of the Zionist right, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, called it a "childish fantasy" to believe that the Palestinians would "sell out their homeland for a railroad network." That has not changed. But, rather than rejecting such payoffs outright, the Palestinians should make an offer of their own, thereby recovering the diplomatic initiative in a world that has largely lost interest in their cause.

O-PED

By Anne-Marie Slaughter
& Elina Ribakova

Post-American Networks

WASHINGTON, DC - In today's world, access to global networks is a critical source of power, but the resulting interdependence can also generate vulnerability. The power flows from centrality: being a hub that connects all (or most) other nodes. The threat of denying access to such hubs can be a powerful sanction against bad actors. But if that power is abused - if asymmetrical interdependence is weaponized - participants in a network may decide to create alternative networks of their own.

That is the risk the United States is currently running. It holds the world's principal reserve currency and enjoys a central role in global financial networks. But it is using that position to pursue foreign-policy goals that are likely to weaken its centrality, and thus its leverage over the long term.

A prime example is the mounting crisis with Iran, which started in May 2018, when the US unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal, known officially as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Worse, the US has since imposed its decision on the other signatories - Britain, France, Russia, China, Germany, and the European Union - by threatening secondary sanctions against third parties honoring the JCPOA.

In theory, the remaining parties to the JCPOA should have been able to continue doing business with Iran. But the US, invoking a cooperation agreement with the EU that was originally designed for the fight against al-Qaeda, has been able to enforce its secondary sanctions through the Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

Under pressure from the US, SWIFT has had to bar Iranian banks from the global payments system it oversees, effectively locking Iran out of the global financial system and curtailing its ability to conduct business even with countries that have not sanctioned it.

Like many European companies, SWIFT has a legal presence and a data center in the US. Had it refused to comply, it could have faced significant fines, the loss of US visas for its staff, or a denial of access to US dollars.

France, Germany, and the United Kingdom then announced plans to create a special-purpose vehicle called INSTEX, which, by netting exports and imports, allows goods to flow between Europe and Iran without direct bilateral money flows. Yet, in practice, INSTEX transactions have been limited to humanitarian goods that are not subject to US sanctions. The US has effectively frozen participation in the deal.

But, regardless of whether it succeeds in bending Iran to its will - an outcome that currently looks highly unlikely - the Trump administration has strengthened other countries' incentives to bypass the US financial system altogether. In response to Western sanctions imposed following its intervention in Ukraine in 2014, Russia decreased its external vulnerabilities. It is now the only major emerging market with fiscal and current-account surpluses, low government debt, and high reserves. It no longer fears losing access to global funding markets. Russia has also forged stronger ties with China. The two countries recently announced a new cross-border payments system for settling bilateral trade in renminbi and rubles, with initial transactions planned for this year. And Iran and Turkey have since expressed an interest in joining.

Meanwhile, India and Japan already have independent domestic payments systems, and Russia has launched a card payments system to circumvent US-based credit card networks. Similarly, in China, mobile payment apps such as Alibaba's Alipay and Tencent's WeChat Pay allow consumers to forego credit cards altogether, paying directly with their smartphones. Not to be left behind, Facebook has announced the creation of a new cryptocurrency that presumably will be available to all of its users, many more of whom live outside the US than within it.

Such moves from US adversaries were predictable, but Europeans, too, are looking for alternatives. A number of European countries maintain close ties to Russia, and some have already signed up to participate in China's "Belt and Road Initiative." Linking to a Russian-Chinese payment system could offer valuable protection against potential US efforts to sanction projects that are critical to European interests, such as the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Russia and Germany.

Moreover, the EU has become more assertive in declaring its economic sovereignty, and it has invited other JCPOA parties to join INSTEX. The EU's official position has long been that it neither encourages nor discourages an international role for the euro. But the European Commission recently outlined proposals that would expand use of the euro by non-residents, including for trade in the energy, food, and aerospace sectors. Europe's desire to reduce its dependence on the US financial system may provide an impetus for deeper monetary and fiscal integration, especially come 2020, when new EU leaders are installed and Brexit is completed.

As Barry Eichengreen of the University of California, Berkeley, has shown, a rebalancing of power within the global financial system can come either from historical cataclysms, such as world wars, or from institutional changes. The establishment of the US Federal Reserve System, for example, shifted the center of gravity in global finance from the UK to the US.

This time around, the system's central player is abusing its position in ways that are prodding others - including its own allies - to develop alternative networks. In a networked world, where the power of economic coercion depends on specific webs of connections, the networks themselves are a valuable resource. But they are not natural resources; they must be built and maintained through responsible stewardship. The Trump administration should not take them for granted.

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OPINION

By Carl Bildt

Our Kind of Diplomat

STOCKHOLM - Our Man, the American journalist George Packer's new 600-page biography of Richard Holbrooke, is a masterful book, not just for what it says about the late US diplomat himself, but also for how it portrays the evolution of US diplomacy more broadly.

Of Holbrooke, Packer tells us that he "devoted three years of his life to a small war in an obscure place with no consequences in the long run beyond itself." Here, I must confess some bias. While working to bring an end to that dreadful war in Bosnia (Packer's "obscure place") in the 1990s, I came to know Holbrooke fairly well. And, after that, we bumped into each other periodically, particularly in the context of the war in Afghanistan, which has lingered on nearly a decade after Holbrooke's passing.

Holbrooke's life in public service began in the rice fields of Vietnam's Mekong Delta in the early 1960s, when the United States got itself into a war it obviously didn't understand. As a young, extremely ambitious foreign-service officer working in rural development, Holbrooke could see that the realities on the ground were far messier than decision-makers in Washington, DC, were willing to acknowledge.

Needless to say, Holbrooke's instincts were correct. The seasoned hands in Washington pursued further escalation, believing that indiscriminate bombing and a rising enemy death toll would do the trick. Little effort was made to establish a credible state that could sustain itself after the war had ended. And, soon enough, younger generations of Americans had taken to the streets to protest what looked like a pointless war. US President Richard Nixon and his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, would go on to abandon the disastrous affair after a "decent interval," allowing them to focus on the great game of managing China and the Soviet Union.

The lesson of the Vietnam War stuck, at least for a time. Though US President Ronald Reagan ordered the invasion of Grenada in 1983, there was no need for an extended occupation of that country. And following the bombing of US Marine barracks in Beirut, Reagan was quick to retreat from Lebanon. The consensus was that there should be no more quagmires. America should keep its feet dry and focus on great-power issues.

But after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world seemed to become more complicated. The international community could not ignore the chaos in Somalia and the genocide in Rwanda. And then there was Bosnia, with its "ancient quarrels." Everyone hoped that the problem would just go away; but, of course, it didn't.

In the event, the US had to abandon its policy of detached neglect and willful ignorance. The conflict in Bosnia demanded real diplomacy. It wasn't resolved with bombs, but by diplomats who had ascended from the muck of the Mekong Delta to "the treetops" in Washington, DC. Holbrooke, along with US President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake, saw that difficult and painful compromises would be necessary. Diplomacy eventually led to peace; and Clinton, who was sometimes otherwise engaged, presumably welcomed the positive contribution to his presidential legacy.

To Packer, Holbrooke's story is also a story about "the end of the American century." As a historical matter, this feature of the book's narrative is vastly exaggerated. But Holbrooke's life and career undoubtedly did coincide with a period in which America's ambitions occasionally exceeded its abilities. Still, even in areas where the US fell short of its goals, matters might have been much worse had it made no effort at all.

One can debate endlessly whether the US is any good at the things Holbrooke wanted it to be good at, such as counterinsurgency wars. Packer, for his part, concludes that it is not, "because we don't have the knowledge and patience." Too few Americans, he argues, are willing to "spend the years out there necessary to understand the nature of the conflict." The US prefers that its wars be "quick and decisive," because "we like firepower more than we want to admit."

Until he collapsed at his post in 2010, Holbrooke tried to apply everything he had learned during his career to the conflict in Afghanistan. But, again, he ran into the same Washington roadblocks that had been there since Vietnam. "We Americans," Packer writes, "have never been good at managing the internal business of other countries. We're lousy imperialists. We are too chaotic and distracted - too democratic. We don't have the knowledge, the staying power, the public support, the class of elites with the desire and ability to run an empire."

And so, as Our Man illustrates, America just stumbles on. The war in Afghanistan continues, though the Trump administration seems to be waiting for a "decent interval" before abandoning the conflict.

And Bosnia is still a troubled place. The politicians representing its three nationalities are constantly quarreling and trying to undercut one another. Many of its young people want to leave, to seek a better future in Germany or elsewhere. Still, while Bosnia has not become another Switzerland, it has peace. Over the past quarter-century, fewer people have been killed by inter-ethnic violence there than in the suburbs of Paris.

For that, we owe a great deal to American diplomacy, and particularly to Richard

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

Some Liberians react to statement by United States Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Christine Elder, against plan by the Council of Patriots to stage another protest before the July 26 Independence Day Celebrations.



Sekou A. Bility

“In order to have a well functioning democracy, the rights of people must be respected at all times by those that govern. It’s the constitutional rights of Liberians to petition their government to act on their request. But in so doing, we shouldn’t allow politics to stop us from celebrating our existence as a country. The press release of the U.S. Embassy isn’t

against protest; rather, the embassy is simply asking us to look for alternative date that will be outside of the independence celebration. We know that the COP wants the world to hear about the suffering that has engulfed our people. Nevertheless, they can still inform the world after the independence celebration.”



Sunday Doe

“It sounds comical when I hear people say there is nothing to celebrate hence, the 26 celebration should be cancelled. My questions to them especially folks from the UP or those who benefited from the UP government are: were things alright when they were spending extravagantly on July 26 celebrations? Were there not

hospitals, schools and other sectors that were challenged and needed help? Were the streets of Liberia paved with gold and diamonds? This so-called Council of Patriots is very dishonest. With all of Liberia’s problems since its Independence, when was the last time the Independence Day celebration was canceled? If you said hospitals are shutting down, wouldn’t it be the most patriotic thing to do for the so-called Council of Patriots to raise funds or open a GoFundMe to save those hospitals from shutting down? I remember when Costa lied that his radio station was broken into, you guys hurriedly raised over ten thousand dollars in less than two days. If you guys can do that for an individual, who gets on his radio and insults the President daily, you should also have that same energy to do the same for those kids who won’t have a hospital to access as you’re claiming. If you can raise thousands of dollars to rent an apartment for Prophet keys who insults the president and his dead mother daily, you should also be able to raise similar funds to save those hospitals you claim are shutting down. You guys are so quick and eager to put your energy and funds into negativity around here. Where is your patriotism? Or may I say, where is the patriotism of the so-

Tinal Gaye

“My observation about this press release is in a different direction, because we the people of Liberia have cried on the Liberian government to take some strong actions on some of their incompetent ministers and officials that misused our US\$25 million for mop-up but they have not listened to us, the citizens. We wrote several letters to the U.S. Embassy near



Monrovia with no response. I lived in America; people are allowed to exercise their democratic rights. Why are you Madam Ambassador against Liberian standing up for their rights in a peaceable way? Do you think it is right for most of our people to be hungry? No hospital supplies, civil servants have not taken pay, with a very dirty city and our government is spending a million dollars for celebration?”

Amos Kolubah

“Let me appreciate the U.S. Embassy for their response to COP’s communication sent to them. However, we don’t have so much money to waste 1/2m or more on celebration. We will stand up in our numbers to tell the world that we are unhappy with the untold hardship that has engulfed our people. School fees are beyond the horizon and prices of goods and



services are immeasurable. This is very timely and welcoming. Let us put our differences aside and celebrate our independence day with love and unity.”



Joseph Beyan

“How would the American people and their government react if the Liberian Ambassador in Washington, D.C. tells the Tea Party protesters or the Antifa movement that the day they chose to protest is misplaced?

The Council of Patriots, organizers of the famous June 7 protest are planning to protest on July 22; in an effort to demand government’s accountability. The U.S. Ambassador in Liberia is telling the protesters that July 22 is

misplaced; which is ridiculous and full of insinuations. Political dissent is guaranteed under the constitution of the Republic of Liberia; it did not restrict the people from exercising their rights to protest. So, I don’t understand why the U.S Ambassador in Liberia is disturbed by peaceful Liberian calling for protest.”

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Liberia Maritime Authority
20th Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB
Invitation for Air Ticketing
Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/005/19/20



The Liberia Maritime Authority has allocated a portion of its 2019-2020 fiscal year corporate budget towards Air Ticketing Service. The Liberia Authority Maritime (LiMA) now wishes to invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for air travel tickets service.

Interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform this service are required to obtain Bid 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, June 20, to Monday, July 29, 2019.

All qualified bidders should have a Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance, Business Profile and a list of previous clients and their contacts, a clearance from Social Security (NASSCORP), a permit from the Ministry of Transport R. L. And The Liberia Aviation Authority. Must have evidence of PPCC Vendor Registry. Discount and pre-finance will be an added advantage.

Final submission date is 1:30p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 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 Monrovia.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
20th Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB
Invitation for Vehicle Rental Service
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/001/19/20



The Liberia Maritime Authority has allocated funding from its 2019-2020 Fiscal Corporate budget towards Vehicles Rental Services. The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) now wishes to invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision Vehicle Rental Service.

Interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform this services are required to obtain Standard Bidding Document at no cost from the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20th Street, Sinkor on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. through 4:00p.m. Tuesday, July 23, 2019

All qualified vendors should have a Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance, Business Profile and a list of previous clients, and a permit to operate from the Ministry of Transport R.L. Must have evidence of PPCC Vendor's registry and Social Security (NASSCORP) clearance, Discount will be an added advantage.

Final submission date is on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 1:30p.m., 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, Monrovia in the conference room.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Liberia Maritime Authority
20th Street, Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – RB
Invitation for bids Stationery Supplies
Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/19/20



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

#	IFB NO.	Items	Quantity	Description
Lot 1	IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/19/20	Stationery Supply		A4 Sheets, Pens, Pencils, Staple Pins, Glue, Note Pals, Etc.
Lot 2		Printer Cartridges		HP, Dell, Canon

Interested Bidders that are fully qualified and capacitated to deliver these stationery supplies are required to obtain a Bid Document (NO CHARGED) at the Procurement section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) head office, 20th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, You can obtain the Standard Bidding Document between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. from Monday, June 20, to Thursday, July 29, 2019.

All would be interested supplier should submit sealed bid labeled to.

Stationery Supplies
IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/19/20
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 client 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. Electronic bid will not be accepted. Final submission date for bid (Stationery Supply) is 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, 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 of LiMA's Head Office Compound.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Liberia Maritime Authority
21st Street, Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – NCB
Invitation for bids Rice
Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
IFB NO.: LiMA/NCB/003/19/20



The Liberia Maritime Authority anticipates funding from its 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Corporate budget for the procurement of the following budgetary line items (herein referred to as goods).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/NCB/003/19/20	Rice	2,976 bags	25 kg Bag of Rice

Interested Bidders that are fully qualified and capacitated to deliver these goods are required to obtain a Bidding documents at no cost from the Procurement section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) head office, 20th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia. Bid document may be picking up between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. from Thursday, June 20, 2019 to Wednesday, July 17, 2019. All would be interested supplier should submit sealed bid labeled to:

Rice
IFB NO. LiMA/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 client 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. Electronic bid will not be accepted. Final submission date for bid (Rice) is 1:30 p.m. on Fri day, July 19, 2019, 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 of LiMA's Head Office Compound.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah encourages school dropouts to return to the classrooms

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah says education delay should not be an education denial, challenging young people here to return to the classroom no matter what they may have done that may not have afforded them the time to go to school.

“So I know that education is important, and I will encourage everyone, every Liberian, [an] education delay should not be an education denied,” he said Monday, 22 July before cutting ribbon to Smart Liberia’s Change Makers Village facilities on 2nd Street, Sinkor.

Smart Liberia is a Liberian - owned technology group providing education in the Information Technology (IT) sector for young students here.

The group’s Executive Director Mr. Marvin Trawally is also a young Liberian who says he was born in 1993 and had a challenging background in acquiring education that enabled him to venture into this sector.

Addressing the young people at the launch of its Smart Village facilities, President Weah says it doesn’t matter what you do, maybe you may not have the time, but as time goes by, you need to go back to the classroom.

According to the president, he spend some 27 years of his life being an entertainer.

However, he says after he got through with

entertainment, he thought the best place to go was to go back to the classroom.

In an effort to motivate the young people further, President Weah explains that he is a living example of what education is, expressing his government’s readiness to help Smart Liberia to help other young people to reach their goal.

He says he thinks the

initiative will help young Liberians to be innovative.

“I want to encourage you to continue to do what you’re doing. May God bless you, and I will be on your team to make sure that you reach to that height,” he says.

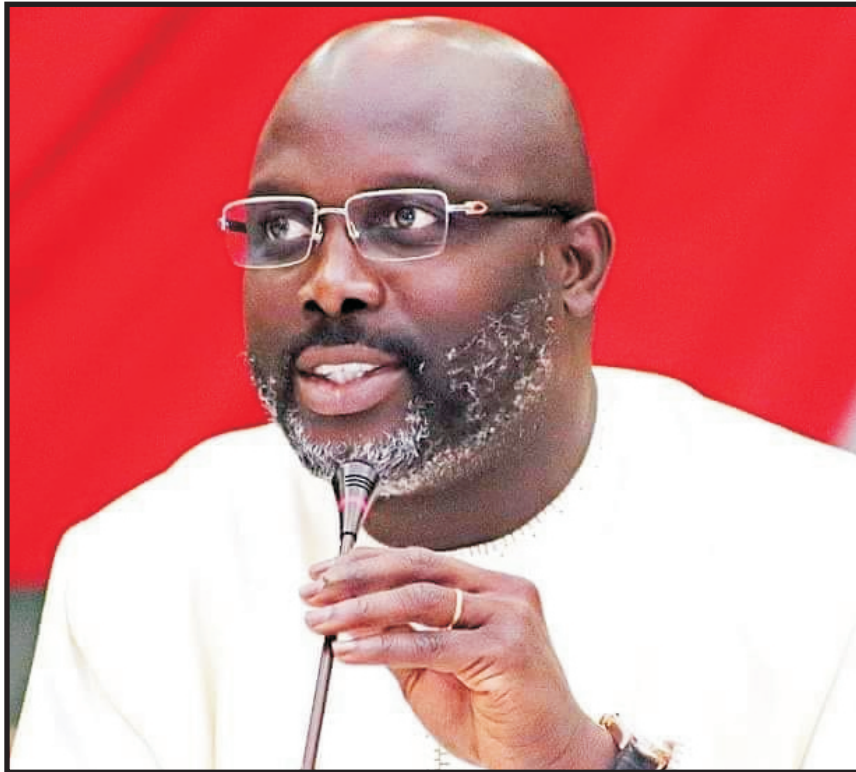
President Weah applauds Smart Liberia for giving Information Technology to young Liberians, citing it as one of the best that the great United States put [its] weight on.

He notes that it is encouraging to see young man like Marvin Trawally embarking upon the initiative to encourage other young people to go to school and follow their career path.

Having listened to the story of a young lady at the program about her tough beginning, President Weah encourages parents here not to limit their children [in terms of preparation], saying you can be in the market and still go to school.

“So when you put a kid in the market, it’s also a form of education, but they got the [theoretical] education that that person needs to follow,” he says.

His caution to parents here follows a narrative given by a student of Smart Liberia Martu J. Kollie on how she came from a background that does not support girls’ education.



“I am well-Schooled”

--Dismissed Agriculture Minister Alarms

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Dismissed Agriculture Minister Dr. Mogana Flomo Jr. has debunked statement made by Bong County electoral District#3, Representative Josiah Marvin Cole that he was dismissed based on his incompetence, inexperience and lack of the necessary qualifications to serve the position as Agriculture Minister.

Recently, Representative Cole criticized the dismissed Agriculture Minister of being

incompetent which according to him, led to his dismissal by President George Manneh Weah from his post.

Representative Cole stated that Dr. Flomo lacks the academic credentials to merit the post and as such, it was important for President Weah to immediately dismiss him.

But speaking during an official welcoming program organized by some gospel Artists in Bong County and parts adjacent, Dr. Flomo said he successfully completed a Doctorate of Engineering degree in Chemical

Engineering with emphasis in Environmental Analysis at the Atlantic International University, accredited by the Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges and Universities-ASIC.

According to Dr. Flomo, the ASIC accreditation is an internationally renowned quality standard for Colleges and Universities, adding ASIC is a member of CHEA international quality group in the USA.

He also stated that due to eagerness for education, he successfully completed a Doctorate of Philosophy PHD in higher education technology at the Silenus University of Science and Literature, Roseau Walley, Commonwealth Dominica, Italian Branch.

At present, Dr. Flomo said he has completed Dissertation for the award of a third doctorate, a PHD in Public Health, from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana to help train people in Liberia and other parts of the World.

“For me, I am not here to make noise, as far as I am concerned, I am well-schooled. I have the necessary qualifications to serve”

The President appoints and dismisses at his will and pleasure. So being dismissed, I do not see it as an issue” he adds.

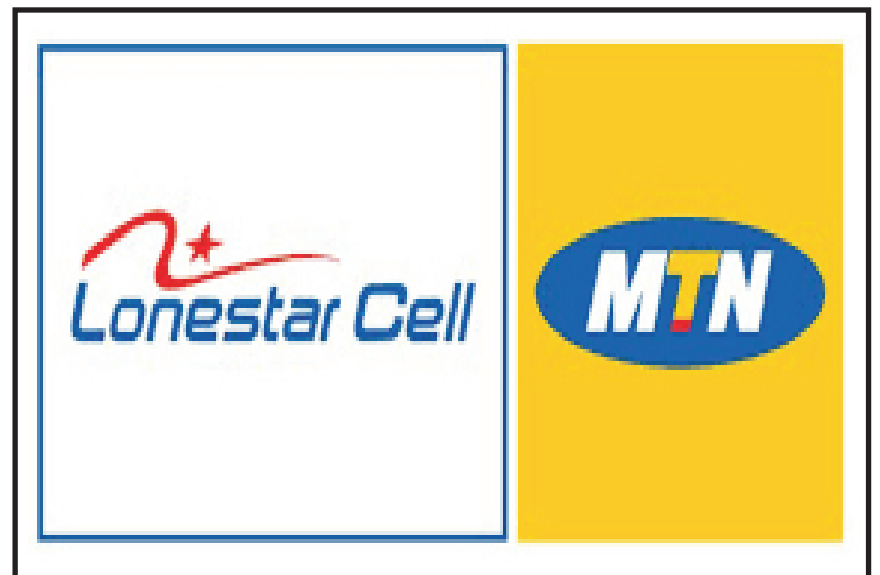


Lonestar Cell MTN hosts free movie night for young subscribers

On Friday, July 19th, Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia’s leading telecommunications company, is hosting a first-of-its-kind, fun-filled movie night at Silverbird TM Mall called Plug N Chill for customers on its MTN Plug youth platform.

Customers who attend Plug N Chill will enjoy free screenings of two brand new blockbuster movies, The Lion King and Spiderman: Far from Home. In addition to the

Yaw Ankoma Agyapong, CMO of Lonestar Cell MTN said, “MTN Plug was designed with the help of the youth of Liberia to be a platform that constantly engages, delights and rewards our young subscribers. With Plug N Chill, we are inviting some of our loyal customers to come hang out, party and watch two great movies for free. We launched MTN Plug two months ago with a promise to provide our customers with



movies, attendees will also be treated to free popcorn, soft drinks and a jam session with Shesh D’DJ.

To reserve a seat, customers who fall between 18 and 30 years of age need to subscribe to MTN Plug on the Lonestar Cell MTN network by dialing *231# and activating any bundle today. All new customers who join Plug will receive 100MB of free data as a welcome offer.

Speaking about Plug N Chill,

amazing benefits from time to time and we are making sure to live up to that promise.”

MTN Plug, available on *231#, promises a life of no restrictions and provides subscribers with free social media benefits as well as amazing discounts for internet usage and voice calls. Plug goes even further beyond that to provide subscribers with discounts at cinemas, restaurants and other popular hangout spots.

Advertise with us!

Français

« Le Libéria mérite mieux », l'opposant Alexander B. Cummings de l'ANC

Le Libéria, en sa qualité de premier pays indépendant de l'Afrique, mérite de disposer de bonnes écoles, de l'électricité, des infrastructures routières, des hôpitaux et d'un bon leadership, a indiqué l'opposant Alexander B. Cummings.

Les libériens se préparent pour célébrer la 172e année d'indépendance de leur pays le 26 juillet prochain.

M. Cummings fut le candidat de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC, opposition) à la présidentielle de 2017 qui a été remportée par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique du président Weah.

« En tant que pays le plus ancien du continent africain, nous devrions avoir des leaders qui sachent quoi faire pour relancer l'économie. Nous devrions avoir des gens qui puissent expliquer ce qu'il est advenu

des 25 millions de dollars américains et des 16 milliards de dollars libériens », a-t-il affirmé à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, à l'occasion d'une rencontre marquant le premier anniversaire du groupe de défense des droits

économiques (Economic Fighters of Liberia), EFFL en abrégé.

M. Cummings a exhorté les Libériens à travailler ensemble et à faire des choix différents pour avoir un pays meilleur.



ANC Alexander B. Cummings

Il a exprimé son optimisme quant à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des Libériens à l'avenir, pourvu que ceux-ci fassent de bons choix politiques, avertissant toutefois que le pays ne peut en aucun cas s'améliorer si les leaders et les responsables gouvernementaux continuent de détourner les deniers publics.

Au chef de l'ANC de faire observer qu'au fil des ans, les Libériens ont eu un accès limité aux opportunités et ont échoué à travailler ensemble. Ce sont-là des facteurs qui, selon lui, ont empêché le pays d'aller de l'avant.

« Chaque Libérien a droit à des opportunités économiques dans son pays. Ces opportunités ne devraient pas être limitées aux partis politiques et c'est une des raisons pour lesquelles nous méritons un meilleur Libéria. » Il a encouragé les Libériens à ne pas baisser les mains, « malgré les nombreuses déceptions de leur gouvernement », car de meilleurs jours vont se présenter. Ils ont intérêt à ne pas se laisser, mais à rester résilients,

Le premier anniversaire de l'organisation EFFL a été célébré sous le thème : « L'état de droit, fondement d'une société résiliente pour tous ».

M. Cummings a exhorté les membres de l'EFFL à montrer l'exemple en respectant l'Etat de droit dans leur vie quotidienne, tout en soulignant que le respect de la loi est une obligation pour tous les Libériens.

Le président de l'EFFL, M. Emmanuel Gonquoi, a fait savoir que l'objectif de l'organisation est de faire en sorte que des opposants honnêtes prennent le pouvoir. C'est bien ça le but de la rencontre à Kakata. « Nous ne nous réunissons pas ici aujourd'hui pour que ces personnalités politiques conservatrices arrivent au

pouvoir en 2023. Nous sommes dans cette salle parce que nous avons beaucoup souffert et que notre pays mérite un meilleur dirigeant », a expliqué Gonquoi.

Selon lui, les problèmes du Libéria au fil des ans n'ont jamais été liés à des conflits ethniques et religieux, mais au fait que le pouvoir a toujours été remis à des groupes de personnes malhonnêtes. Il a appelé à un changement total de mentalité afin de faire avancer le Libéria. « Nous sommes ici aujourd'hui pour lancer une révolution qui servira de boussole aux futurs politiciens. L'EFFL sera la boussole en 2023! »

Il a indiqué que beaucoup de politiciens n'ont pas pris part à la célébration de l'anniversaire du groupe parce qu'ils connaissent le bilan de l'EFFL, ajoutant que le groupe ne donnera pas libre champ « aux politiciens cupides et égoïstes qui se déguisent lors des élections ».

Selon lui, si le groupe est traité des gens vendus, c'est parce qu'il refuse de céder aux caprices des politiciens, et agit selon les préceptes de la révolution.

Gonquoi s'en est également pris au président Weah, affirmant que le gouvernement a rendu les Libériens étrangers à leur propre économie et les étrangers en sont devenus des détenteurs exclusifs. Le président, a-t-il noté, « a pris ses fonctions avec la promesse que les Libériens ne seraient pas spectateurs de leur propre économie, mais aujourd'hui, nous assistons au contraire ».

« La majeure partie du gâteau est divisée par les étrangers. Les Libanais dans ce pays nous maltraitent, ils utilisent nos propres ressources pour nous maltraiter. Les étrangers abusent de nous et remportent tous les contrats », a-t-il dénoncé.

Nigeria : 37 morts dans les attaques de trois villages dans l'État de Sokoto

Des hommes armés ont attaqué trois villages dans l'État de Sokoto, dans le nord-ouest du Nigeria, faisant au moins 37 morts, ont rapporté dimanche 21 juillet des sources locales et officielles. L'attaque a eu lieu mercredi. Des « bandits » - ainsi qu'ils sont désignés

dans cette région - sont arrivés en moto. Ils ont mené des raids dans trois villages du district de Goronyo. L'État de Sokoto était jusque-là rarement la cible d'attaques d'envergure. Et la situation préoccupe Abuja.

Selon le chef de district des 3 villages, les assaillants ont pu mener leur attaque deux

heures durant. En face d'eux, une riposte dérisoire constituée par des milices d'auto-défense de villageois démunis. Les forces de sécurité nigérienne sont d'ailleurs très peu présentes proportionnellement aux risques potentiels de violence.

Dans cet extrême nord-ouest du Nigeria, de nombreux villages sont isolés du monde surtout pendant la saison des pluies. Certains experts en sécurité évoquent la possible infiltration des bandes d'hommes armés par certains mouvements se réclamant de l'islamisme.

Mais pour l'instant aucune revendication officielle des raids n'a été faite.

Mis à part en 2012, l'État de Sokoto est peu touché par Boko Haram, le groupe armé ayant ses bases arrières à l'extrême opposé, dans le nord-est du Nigeria et sur le pourtour du lac Tchad.

Pourtant les autorités à Abuja s'inquiètent. Deux postes de police à Sokoto ont subi des tentatives d'attaque suicide début juillet. Et s'ajoutent ces derniers raids



Articles traduits
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mortels contre des villages. Malgré la présence sur son sol du sultan, première figure de l'islam au

Nigeria, l'État de Sokoto n'est plus considéré comme un

Français

Éditorial

La traite des êtres humains est un esclavage moderne

L'Ambassadrice des États-Unis au Libéria, Christine Elder, a souligné la nécessité de faire de la question de la traite des êtres humains un sujet du discours public, soulignant que c'est un problème qui touche les enfants du Libéria aujourd'hui.

La diplomate américaine s'est prononcée sur la question dans son discours qu'elle a livré la semaine dernière au cours de la cérémonie de remise de diplôme de l'Université de l'Union des Méthodistes Africains à Monrovia.

Selon elle, la forme de traite la plus répandue au Libéria ne concerne ni les trafiquants étrangers ni les mouvements vers d'autres pays, mais les enfants qui sont forcés de travailler.

« Nous savons tous à quoi ressemble cette forme de trafic parce que nous la voyons tous les jours au Libéria. Nous savons tous qu'il y a des adultes qui font venir des enfants dans la capitale dans l'intention de les faire travailler dans la rue, sans les envoyer à l'école et sans même leur fournir les soins les plus élémentaires. Récemment, un diplomate américain a rejoint deux travailleurs sociaux pour une évaluation de routine du travail des enfants près du carrefour ELWA. Ils ont simplement marché dans la rue et parlé avec des enfants vendant de la

nourriture, des t-shirts et de l'eau. En deux heures, ils ont parlé avec 15 enfants. Parmi ceux-ci, 13 ont été transportés à Monrovia par une "tante" ou un "oncle" qui n'avait aucun lien de sang avec l'enfant et qui lui avait promis une éducation. Aucun d'entre eux n'allait à l'école », a-t-il indiqué.

Pour Mme Elder, même s'il est courant et acceptable au Libéria que des membres d'une famille étendue ou des amis s'occupent des enfants qui proviennent des zones rurales, il est inacceptable que des adultes exploitent ces enfants à leur avantage, sans s'occuper de leur bien-être ou se soucier de leur avenir.

Nous sommes tout à faire d'accord avec Mme l'ambassadrice des États-Unis au Libéria. C'est vrai, cette pratique est bien répandue au Libéria. Les gens vont à l'intérieur du pays et en reviennent avec des enfants âgés de 10 ou 12 ans. Ils font croire aux parents de ces derniers qu'ils vont scolariser leurs enfants.

Mais une fois arrivés ici, ces enfants ne voient jamais la route de l'école. Ils sont soit confinés dans des maisons et soumis à des tâches interminables, ou ils sont envoyés dans la rue pour vendre de l'eau glacée, du pain, des sacs en plastique, entre autres, pour nourrir leur foyer. En d'autres termes, ils deviennent le gagne-pain de leurs soi-disant gardiens.

L'Ambassadrice Elder l'a si bien dit. La lutte contre la traite doit commencer par la résolution d'un nombre de problèmes qui en sont les causes profondes. Elle a dit ceci : « Il faut aider les personnes à trouver un moyen de garantir la sécurité en matière d'alimentation et de logement ».

Elle a fait aussi une distinction claire entre travailler volontairement pour subvenir à ses besoins et à ceux de sa famille et travailler parce que quelqu'un a fait de fausses promesses. Certaines personnes abusent des enfants ou même des adultes parce que ces derniers n'ont aucun moyen de se défendre.

Bien qu'il existe des lois en République du Libéria qui interdisent la traite des humains, la mise en œuvre de ces lois et la sensibilisation restent un défi majeur pour le pays.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Ben-Ami

Les Palestiniens n'entendent pas se contenter d'une paix économique

TEL AVIV - Le mois dernier, le gendre et conseiller principal du président américain Donald Trump, Jared Kushner, a dévoilé un ambitieux plan de renforcement de l'économie palestinienne, avec pour espoir que les milliards de dollars d'investissement ouvrent la voie à un accord de paix entre Israéliens et Palestiniens. Loin de constituer « le deal du siècle », comme l'a qualifié Trump, ce plan baptisé Peace to Prosperity est absolument déconnecté de la réalité, et voué à l'échec.

L'idée selon laquelle des incitatifs économiques pourraient convaincre les Palestiniens d'accepter la suprématie israélienne ne date pas d'hier. Le Premier ministre britannique Winston Churchill, un certain nombre de sionistes des premières heures, et même certains acteurs arabes locaux faisaient déjà valoir plusieurs décennies avant 1948 que l'entreprise sioniste s'inscrivait dans l'intérêt économique du peuple autochtone.

Plus récemment, le Premier ministre israélien de droite Benjamin Netanyahu a repris le flambeau de la « paix économique ». En 1988, il affirmait qu'une croissance économique rapide conduirait les Palestiniens à voir dans la paix un « enjeu », cette paix étant vouée à « soutenir et favoriser la conclusion d'accords politiques par la suite ». Il n'y a bien entendu aucun mal à miser sur la promesse d'une prospérité économique. Seulement voilà, venant de Netanyahu, qui n'a jamais proposé d'accord politique convaincant, un tel plan ne pouvait pas apparaître crédible aux yeux des Palestiniens.

Voici désormais que l'administration Trump s'essaye à cette démarche. S'apparentant pour l'essentiel à un plan Marshall pour le Moyen-Orient, l'initiative Peace to Prosperity vise 50 milliards de nouveaux investissements régionaux et internationaux dans l'économie palestinienne sur les dix prochaines années. L'administration Trump prétend que le plan permettrait également de dynamiser l'économie de l'Égypte, du Liban et de la Jordanie, tous trois directement impactés par le conflit israélo-palestinien.

Le plan de Kushner oublie toutefois de mentionner, et encore davantage de surmonter, certaines des plus grandes barrières au développement économique, telles que l'exploitation arbitraire par Israël des ressources naturelles de la Palestine ou encore les checkpoints de sécurité, qui entravent la libre circulation tout en élevant le coût des transports. Pour que le plan Peace to Prosperity produise les résultats promis par l'administration Trump, il faudrait en premier lieu que ces barrières soient levées.

Cela ne suffirait toutefois pas à convaincre les Palestiniens d'accepter le plan, pour une raison simple : le mouvement national palestinien demeure dans sa phase révolutionnaire, une phase dans laquelle les considérations économiques passent toujours après les aspirations politiques. C'est systématiquement le cas, même dans une Catalogne riche où la désertion de plus de 3 000 entreprises n'a jamais affaibli la ferveur de l'opinion publique autour de la cause séparatiste. Le bureau du président de l'Autorité palestinienne Mahmoud Abbas, comme celui de son prédécesseur Yasser Arafat, affichait lorsque je l'ai visité les photographies de la mosquée Al-Aqsa de Jérusalem (troisième lieu le

plus saint de l'islam) et les cartes de la Palestine occupée, pas les portraits de John Maynard Keynes ou de Jean Monnet.

Ces priorités s'observent dans les mesures politiques. En février, Abbas a par exemple choisi de risquer l'effondrement économique plutôt que d'accepter les recettes fiscales qu'aurait pu lui verser Israël, et qui représentent 63 % du budget du gouvernement palestinien. Abbas protestait contre la décision unilatérale d'Israël consistant à retrancher environ 5 % du total, part correspondant au montant que l'AP verse en allocations à la famille des Palestiniens condamnés pour terrorisme et incarcérés en Israël.

En 52 ans d'occupation militaire, après deux intifadas dévastatrices pour la société, et l'effondrement dramatique de deux processus de paix qui semblaient permettre la rédemption, les exigences fondamentales des Palestiniens n'ont jamais changé. Ils veulent une solution à deux États calquée sur les frontières de 1967, ce qui implique un droit de retour pour un nombre important de réfugiés palestiniens. D'ailleurs, une Palestine indépendante et libre de commercer avec le monde arabe et l'Europe s'assurerait un revenu et une croissance du PIB bien au-delà de ce à quoi pourrait aboutir le plan Kushner.

Pour les Palestiniens, accepter un accord économique autrement qu'en simple annexe d'une solution politique convaincante reviendrait à trahir les réfugiés palestiniens - et à tout simplement abandonner le rêve du statut d'État - pour une poignée de dollars. Cela ne signifie pas pour autant que les Palestiniens devraient le refuser catégoriquement.

Les Palestiniens ont rejeté de nombreux plans de paix, pour la plupart beaucoup plus raisonnables que celui de Kushner. Ce qu'ils n'ont pas fait, c'est formuler une contre-proposition globale auprès de la communauté internationale. Leur offre - dont il s'agirait qu'elle aille beaucoup plus loin que l'initiative arabe de paix de 2002 ou qu'un large ensemble de résolutions des Nations-Unis sur la question - pourrait incorporer pourquoi pas le plan Kushner dans le cadre de la transition vers un accord définitif.

Au cours du passé, les accords de transition se sont limités à ce que George Orwell a appelé le « gradualisme catastrophique ». En y intégrant toutefois une stratégie économique solide, cette démarche pourrait se changer en « gradualisme de bon augure ». En effet, le développement économique contribuerait considérablement à la stabilisation de la société palestinienne dans sa préparation au statut d'État, renforçant ainsi grandement les chances de réussite à long terme d'un accord de paix.

En 1923, le fondateur de la droite sioniste, Ze'ev Jabotinsky lui-même, qualifiait d'« illusion infantile » la conviction selon laquelle les Palestiniens pourraient « céder leur terre contre un réseau de chemins de fer ». Cela n'a pas changé aujourd'hui. Pour autant, plutôt que de rejeter d'emblée de telles opportunités, les Palestiniens auraient tout intérêt à formuler l'offre de leur choix, pour ainsi regagner en initiative diplomatique dans un monde qui se désintéresse largement de leur cause.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL announces the adoption of new monetary policy

The Central Bank of Liberia has announced that it is making a transition from an exchange rate targeting framework to interest rate-based framework. Up to now CBL's exchange rate targeting policy has involved keeping the exchange rate generally and broadly stable in the short-term, because of the significant impact of Liberian dollar depreciation on domestic prices. But, this requires huge foreign exchange holdings of the CBL, called International Foreign Exchange Reserves. Given the current low inflows of foreign exchange into the economy, the CBL has decided to change its monetary policy framework to a new regime. By adopting the new monetary policy framework, CBL will start using interest rate as its key monetary policy instrument, to control inflation and bring



down the high prices of goods and services in the Liberian economy. The current high prices of commodities, especially food, is significantly affecting the poor people, which is something that the

CBL is not happy with.

The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Hon. Nathaniel Patray, III, made the announcement on recently when he launched the CBL Economic Forum. He said,

by adopting the new monetary policy framework, in the medium term interest rates will serve as an effective channel of monetary transmission.

Executive Governor Patray said the success of the new monetary policy framework will require the development of financial markets (money and capital markets, which are currently at a low level of development in the country. He said the new policy framework will prepare CBL to adopt inflation targeting in the long term, something that is consistent with the global trend and the convergence criteria for the ECOWAS Monetary Union.

The new CBL monetary policy re-affirms its independence, consistent with the recent pledge made by President George M. Weah when he told a World Bank team that recently made a courtesy call on him that he will continue to uphold the independence of the Central Bank of Liberia as it endeavors to resuscitate Liberia's economy. At that meeting, the President said that the Government has taken the

decision to stop all future borrowings from the CBL in an effort to stabilize the economy and bring down inflation.

The CBL Executive Governor said although inflation, to a large extent is a monetary phenomenon, it requires the collective efforts of all key stakeholders to fight it. "As enshrined in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and development (PAPD), the key role of the CBL is to promote price stability, in concert with all stakeholders, which is critical in ensuring a conducive macroeconomic environment", the CBL Executive Governor said.

The recently launched CBL Economic Forum is aimed at creating public awareness and understanding about CBL monetary policies and regulatory functions and promote public feedback on such policy, thereby creating transparency and renewing confidence in the CBL. The forum is also intended to engender public debates about topical and trending economic issues in Liberia and exploring the public views on such economic issues for better policy formulation.

Youth activist stresses primary education

By Ben P. Wese

The founder and executive director of Sustainable Educational Initiative of Liberia (SEIL) urges Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) and students of the Harvest Christian Academy to focus more in molding the minds of primary students to give them a brighter future.

"In this light, one may ask why school is even important.

concepts and skills, noting that if all properly learnt, are potential tools in the hands of the possessor.

"On the other hand, education is much more powerful than school for it can happen anywhere and at anytime in fact, it is broader and deeper than schooling because it is changed based and about problem solving," he adds.

City.

He says less attention given to children in pre-school is the cause of the messy educational system in Liberia.

"Because of the low salaries school administrators paid their employees, they just go out there and collect any individual that is less busy or out of high school and put them into the classroom to handle the good future of these young



School as we all may know, is an organized process of teaching and learning which takes place in a four wall and such process if properly done, delivers into education," Nathan Gbelee explains.

He continues that a school ensures that students are equipped with knowledge of theories, facts, models,

Mr. Gbelee says it's impossible for a building to last long when its foundation lacks solid concrete to support the structure, stressing that it is good and solid foundation that makes any building guaranteed.

The SEIF boss made the call while serving as guest speaker at the closing ceremony of the Harvest Christian Academy at ELWA Junction in Painesville

generation, which is causing serious embarrassment not just for these kids and their future but also our beloved Motherland, Liberia."

He calls on the school administration to do more in recruiting qualified staff with passion to educate the younger generation, if Liberia should remedy its messy education system to get on par with other

African countries.

He frown on parents who are in the inhabit of only preparing their children early morning for school without checking their notebooks to see lessons from the previous school day, leaving the rest of the children's future to teachers whether qualified or not.

"To the parent of these young kids, sometime you are the cause of your children's poor future, all you do in the morning is to prepared your child or children for school but you don't have time to go over the child's notes after he or she has returned from school. Whether the school your child or children attending have qualified teachers or not, it's not your business, forgetting to know that tomorrow you the parents will take the insults if your child or children don't

present themselves well in the outside world," Mr. Gbelee cautions. He then promises to form a debate club for the school and train the top three students with the highest grade averages to work with his NGO, Sustainable Educational Initiative Incorporated and provide basic school materials for them.

During the weekend, Mr. Gbelee also served as guest speaker at the Destiny Christian High school, reiterating the same message to parents to prioritize their children's education.

Earlier, the principle of the Harvest Christian Academy Mr. Ee Seokin Nyannankpe thanked the student body and parents for their level of cooperation in achieving a successful academic year. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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NEC to do roll call

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Ahead of the July 29, 2019 Montserrado County Electoral District#15 and Senatorial by-elections, the National Elections Commission releases guidelines for the polls.

As was revealed by this paper about a new elections' date for July 29, the National Elections Commission confirms the new date for the combined Montserrado County Senatorial and District #15 Representative By-elections is Monday, July 29, 2019.

Addressing a news conference here Monday, July 22, at NEC headquarters in Monrovia, NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya says the names of all voters appearing at a polling place will be called aloud; if any party/candidate agent is not convinced that the name called is on the voter register, that agent shall have the opportunity to verify the



name on the voter roll in the hand of the voters identification officer (VIO).

Chairman Korkoya further explains party/candidate agents shall have the opportunity, in the interest of time, to select at most two of their colleagues to sit with the

VIO to verify the names of voters as they arrive at the polling place;

He says let it be known that this procedure will be time-consuming and it might, in some cases, lead to disagreement, but is however necessary for the sake of

transparency.

However, the NEC categorically states that only people who have valid registration cards from the 2017 General Elections and whose names are on the Final Registration Roll used for the 2017 elections will be allowed to vote.

"As such, all candidates will be given copies of the voters' roll on a flash drive. Additionally, for transparency purposes, the Commission will also provide copies of the voters' roll to stakeholders including the Press Union, Election Coordinating Committee, Liberia Elections Observation Network, The Carter Center, the European Union; the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations Development Program, the Inter Religious Council and other partners. This is necessary in order to advert any attempt by anyone or a group of persons to change the list with the aim of undermining the credibility of the electoral process," he notes.

Cllr. Korkoya adds that political actors also have the right under the laws to observe various aspects of the electoral process.

"I encourage political parties and candidates to thoroughly check the voters' roll and compare with what was

given to them in 2017. Besides, we encourage parties/candidates to be fully represented at each polling place on the day of election."

The NEC boss intimates that as an election management body, they are mindful that the process they manage belongs to the Liberian people, as represented by their political institutions.

He says NEC owes it as a duty to listen to the concerns of the people through their various political parties and take corrective actions where necessary to ensure that all who participate in the electoral process do so with the highest level of confidence in the ability of the Commission to deliver free, fair and credible elections.

"You may recall that in the last weeks, there have been some unfounded speculations from some quarters in the Liberian public about the issuance of new voter ID cards and the possibility of people who are not duly registered to vote in place of registered voters. Even though these kinds of speculations are not possible in the face of the safeguard and control measures we have in place," he maintains.

Meanwhile, political campaign, which is still in progress, will end at midnight on Saturday, July 27, 2019. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MCC prepares for closure

With 18 months left to the end of Liberia's compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), technical experts from the U.S. government agency and their Liberian government counterparts at the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA-L) have met and defined the tasks to be completed.

Joined by representatives of implementing entities, MCA-L and MCC experts ended two weeks of planning this week, focusing on ways to sustain the compact investments in the energy and road sectors. Together, the experts produced an outline of the compact closure plan, listing out tasks and key milestones to be accomplished before January 20, 2021, the compact end

date. They also agreed on the framework for financial, legal, and procurement procedures, in addition to plans for disposing of assets.

Together with Liberian government implementing entities, MCC and MCA-L project directors determined a range of measures to sustain the Millennium Challenge Compact investments in Mt. Coffee Hydro Power Plant, the Liberia Electricity Corporation, the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission, the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation's Raw Water Pipeline, and road maintenance after the compact closes in January 2021.

MCC contributed 40 percent of the US\$344 million spent to reconstruct the Mt. Coffee Hydro Power Plant, upgrading

the country's main source of electricity from the pre-war capacity of 66 megawatts to 88 megawatts. MCC continues to support the Liberia Electricity Corporation to connect more households and businesses to the grid.

Despite losing 62 percent of its monthly revenue to mainly power theft, LEC has now increased connections to the grid to more than 54,000 households, compared to a little over 30,000 households in 2015, before the hydro plant came online.

The compact supported a reform of the sector, including the passing of the Electricity Law of 2015 that created the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC). LERC will register and license private electricity producers, opening the market up to competition in an effort to improve effective service delivery.

The MCC compact is also funding the design and construction of a US\$18 million 5km raw water pipeline from the Mt. Coffee hydro dam to the White Plains Water Treatment Plant to provide access to quality water to about 1 million people in Monrovia.

Additional compact investments have supported building capacity for staff at the Ministry of Public Works and the National Road Fund, drafting Liberia's five-year road maintenance plan, and collecting data of the conditions of all roads connecting county capitals, which will be used to annually update the road maintenance

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JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

16TH DAY JURY SITTING
JUNE TERM A.D. 2019
JULY 8, 2019

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

THE PETITION OF LUZAH VICTORIA LOMAX, 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 "LUZAH LOMAX COLE."

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 LUZAH VICTORIA LOMAX to LUZAH LOMAX COLE.

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 July 26, 1980, in the Republic of Liberia, and that she was born into the union of Mr. Joseph Borbor Lomax and Madam Mfama K. Lomax, 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 LUZAH VICTORIA LOMAX be changed to LUZAH LOMAX COLE beginning this 8th 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 Registrations 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 8TH 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 12, 2019 PAGE(S) 000022

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER, MONROVIA, LIBERIA

plan. The compact helped establish gender units within the Liberia Electricity Corporation, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Mines and Energy to support

the compact's goal to ensure that vulnerable populations, including poor women, war-affected youths, and other minority groups benefit from compact projects.

Mbappe to become highest paid PSG player



Paris Saint-Germain are prepared to offer Kylian Mbappe a new contract using the money freed up by Neymar's departure, with the Brazilian believed to be nearing a return to Barcelona.

Neymar is said to be keen on a move back to Camp Nou, although there are conflicting reports about Barcelona's interest in such a deal.

However, El Pais (via Sport) state that Neymar's

departure from PSG is almost a certainty, and the Ligue 1 side are eager to part ways with the Brazilian in order to offer Mbappe a bumper new deal.

Once Neymar's €30m-a-year wages are off the books, PSG are ready to make Mbappe the highest paid player in the club's history by bumping his salary up to around €50m per season.

Club officials fear that Manchester City may soon look to make a bid for Mbappe, so they are eager to tie his future down as soon as possible

to make an exit from the Parc des Princes incredibly unlikely.

City boss Pep Guardiola is thought to be a huge fan of Mbappe, who netted a stunning 39 goals in 43 appearances for PSG last season, and the Ligue 1 side fear that losing Mbappe would be more painful than losing Neymar.

Barcelona are said to have offered PSG ?£90m plus two first-team stars in exchange for Neymar, with the Ligue 1 side allowed to pick from Philippe Coutinho, ?Ousmane Dembele, ?Ivan Rakitic, ?Nelson Semedo, Samuel Umtiti and Malcom.

However, PSG sporting director Leonardo recently insisted that they were yet to receive any 'concrete offers' for the wantaway Brazilian.

What's certain is that PSG are not prepared to part with Neymar for cheap, and it would take an offer somewhere close to the €222m they spent to sign him in 2017 for them to even consider his departure.



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Renard steps down as Morocco coach

Herve Renard has resigned as coach of Morocco after three and a half years in charge.

The Royal Moroccan Football Federation earlier this week denied reports the Frenchman had stepped down, but Renard used social media on Sunday to confirm he has left his post.

Morocco endured a disappointing Africa Cup of Nations campaign, exiting



the competition in shock circumstances in the round of 16 with a 4-1 penalty shootout defeat to Benin following a 1-1 draw.

The 50-year-old took over the Atlas Lions in February 2016 and guided them to the 2018 World Cup in Russia, their first qualification in 20 years.

"Morocco will always remain for me a country with which I lived incredible emotions," he wrote in a statement posted on Twitter.

"I am proud of what we have achieved and how far we have managed to come.

"It is time for me to close this long and beautiful chapter of my life, not without emotion and sadness, but it is an inevitable decision taken well before AFCON 2019."

Renard has led both Zambia and Ivory Coast to AFCON glory during his coaching career.

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