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-dice is cast



Dillon



Paulita

P11



Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee Liberia

P11

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Continental News

South Africa's Gordhan wins reprieve from public protector's orders

South African minister Pravin Gordhan won a bid to avoid imminent disciplinary action on Monday after a court suspended orders from the public protector, in a relief for ally President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The ruling is the second time in around a week that Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane has lost a high-profile case in court, potentially undermining the credibility of her investigations, which include one into Ramaphosa himself.

Mkhwebane, who investigates alleged wrongdoing by state officials, instructed Ramaphosa to take "appropriate disciplinary action" against Gordhan this month after finding that Gordhan had violated the constitution and an executive ethics code. He has denied any wrongdoing.

She had also instructed the country's chief prosecutor and speaker of parliament to investigate Gordhan's actions before Monday's ruling.

Public Enterprises Minister Gordhan, who oversees efforts to fix struggling companies such as state power utility Eskom, applied for an urgent ruling to prevent all of these actions being taken against him while he sought a separate

ruling setting aside the public protector's findings.

"Gordhan will, if the suspension is not granted and the review is subsequently upheld, be seriously prejudiced," High Court Judge Sule Potterill said.

"It defies all logic to proceed with the execution of the remedial action when the report that is the basis for the remedial action is the subject of judicial review."

The public protector's spokesman, Oupa Segalwe, said Monday's judgment was disappointing and that Mkhwebane would study it before "mapping the way forward".

The radical opposition

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party, which joined the public protector in trying to have Gordhan's application for the urgent ruling dismissed, said it would appeal the decision in the constitutional court.

"We believe that the interdict essentially shuts down what is a constitutionally created institution," the party said in a statement.



FILE PHOTO: Pravin Gordhan is sworn in as Minister of Public Enterprises in Cape Town

Ethiopia 'breaks' tree-planting record to tackle climate change

Ethiopia has planted more than 350 million trees in a day, officials say, in what they believe is a world record.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is leading the project, which aims to counter the effects of deforestation and climate change in the drought-prone country.

Some public offices have been shut down to allow civil servants to take part.

The UN says Ethiopia's forest coverage declined from 35% of total land in the early 20th Century to a little above 4% in the 2000s.

Mr Abiy launched the tree-

planting exercise as part of his Green Legacy Initiative, which is taking place in 1,000 sites across the country.

Officials were assigned to count the seedlings being planted by volunteers, reports BBC's Kalkidan Yibeltal in the capital, Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia's Minister of Innovation and Technology Getahun Mekuria tweeted that more than 350 million trees were planted in 12 hours:

The aim is to plant a total of four billion indigenous trees.

Promotional videos have run on state media urging the public to plant and care for trees, our reporter says.

Staff from the United Nations, African Union and foreign embassies in Ethiopia have also been taking part in the exercise.

The current World Record for planting trees in a single day is held by India, which used 800,000 volunteers to plant more than 50 million trees in 2016.

Critics of Mr Abiy say he is using the campaign to distract the public from the challenges his government is facing, including ethnic conflicts which have forced some 2.5 million people from their homes. -BBC

Nigeria bans Shia group after protests

The Nigerian government says it has banned a Shia religious movement whose elderly leader is due to appear in court today.

Regular protests by members of the pro-Iran Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), who are demanding the release of their leader Ibraheem Zakzaky, turned violent last week.

A senior policeman and a journalist were shot dead in the

government court order made on Friday which no representative for IMN has seen.

The ban has been labelled "a huge joke" by IMN, which added in a statement that it was consulting with lawyers.

Sheikh Zakzaky's lawyers are requesting his release so he can receive medical treatment abroad. They say he's suffered two minor strokes since being in detention, and that his vision



Copy Right AFP: Several people died and a fire station was set on fire in Abuja

chaos. The group says 20 of its supporters also died.

In a series of tweets on Sunday evening, the Nigerian presidency confirmed the ban on IMN, saying it wasn't stopping the country's Shia minority from practicing their faith, but rather wanted to discourage violence and the destruction of public property. It followed the approval of a

is deteriorating.

Human rights groups have condemned the police's violent response to the protests. A federal High Court in Abuja ordered the release of Sheikh Zakzaky in 2016, but a state court has ignored the ruling. -BBC



Image caption: Some government offices have been shut down to allow civil servants to take part in the campaign

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EDITORIAL

Our students can do better

THE LIBERIA NATIONAL Office of the West African Examinations Council has released provisional results of the 2019 West African Senior School Certificate Examination or WASSCE for school candidates with this year's performance of candidates rated high above the previous year.

THIS IS WELCOME news, which indicates that Liberian students can ably write the regional examinations just as their colleagues in member countries, only if the requisite topics are taught by school authorities.

THE LIBERIA NATIONAL Office transitioned from the Liberia Senior High School Certificate Examination (LSHSCE) to WASSCE a year ago, making us the last country to get on par with the rest of the five Anglophone countries that make up the West African Examination Council or WAEC.

ACCORDING TO THE Head of the Liberia National Office Dale Gboto, "the 2019 candidates performed better than their counterparts in 2018 in all nine subjects taken for WASSCE for the period 2018-2019."

THE RESULTS SHOULD instill confidence in both students and teachers across the country to remain restless until total excellence is achieved in our educational system.

WE EXTEND A very big thanks to the Minister of Education Ansu Sonii, for initiating a vigorously compulsory tutorial classes for all 12th graders across the country prior to the examination, which no doubt, helped in improvement of students' performance.

NOTWITHSTANDING, WE CALL on school authorities to established standard science laboratories in their various institutions to adequately prepare students (12th graders) for the annual examination. This would also require employing qualified teachers and paying them well.

AS A NATION, it is not just enough to denigrate our students and make them feel inferior to basic academic works, especially the sciences. We must provide them learning materials and ensure they absolve their lessons by offering them tutorials.

THUMP UP TO Head of Office Dale Gboto and his entire staff at WAEC for the progress thus far. Mr. Gboto braved the storms and advocated for Liberia to get on par with member countries by introducing the WASSCE, at a time many educational authorities in the country thought the was not right.

WE BELIEVE SINCERELY if our students could do better in this year's examination than last year, they can attain best and excellent in coming years to make the nation proud.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

The Crisis of Anglo-American Democracy

There is an obvious answer to the question of how the world's two oldest and most venerable democracies installed disordered minds in power and enabled them to pursue unpopular policies. But there is also a deeper explanation.

NEW YORK - How did the world's two most venerable and influential democracies - the United Kingdom and the United States - end up with Donald Trump and Boris Johnson at the helm? Trump is not wrong to call Johnson the "Britain Trump" (sic). Nor is this merely a matter of similar personalities or styles: it is also a reflection of glaring flaws in the political institutions that enabled such men to win power.

Both Trump and Johnson have what the Irish physicist and psychologist Ian Hughes calls "disordered minds." Trump is a chronic liar, purveyor of racism, and large-scale tax cheat. US Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report on his 22-month investigation of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign described repeated cases of Trump's obstruction of justice. Trump stands accused by more than 20 women of sexual predation, a behavior he bragged about on tape, and directed his attorney to make illegal payments of hush money that constituted campaign finance violations.

Johnson's personal behavior is similarly incontinent. He is widely regarded as a chronic liar and as unkempt in personal life, including two failed marriages and an apparent domestic altercation on the eve of becoming prime minister. He has been repeatedly fired from jobs for lying and other disreputable behavior. He led the Brexit campaign in 2016 on claims that have been proven false. As British Foreign Secretary, he twice leaked secret intelligence - in one case, French intelligence about Libya, and in another case British intelligence about Iran. Like Trump, he has a high disapproval rating among all age groups, and his approval ratings rise with voter age.

Trump's record in office presents a further political puzzle. His policies are generally unpopular, and rarely reflect a majority of public opinion. His most important legislative victory - the 2017 tax cut - was unpopular at the time and remains so today. The same is true of his positions on climate change, immigration, building a wall along the Mexican border, cutting social spending, ending key provisions of Obamacare, withdrawing from the Iran nuclear agreement, and much else. Trump's approval rating is consistently below 50% and currently stands at around 43%, with 53% disapproval.

Trump uses emergency decrees and executive orders to implement his unpopular agenda. While the courts have overturned many decrees, the judicial process is slow, meandering, and unpredictable. In practice, the US is as close to one-person rule as imaginable within its Constitution's precarious constraints.

The situation with Johnson may be similar. Public opinion turned against Brexit, Johnson's hallmark issue, after the withdrawal negotiations with the European Union exposed the Leave campaign's lies and exaggerations ahead of the 2016 referendum. Though the public and a majority in Parliament strongly oppose a no-deal Brexit, Johnson has pledged just that if he fails to negotiate an alternative.

There is an obvious answer to the question of how two venerable democracies installed disordered minds in power and enabled them to pursue unpopular policies. But there is also a deeper one.

The obvious answer is that both Trump and Johnson won support among older voters who have felt left behind in recent decades. Trump appeals especially to older white male conservatives displaced by trade

and technology, and, in the view of some, by America's movements for civil rights, women's rights, and sexual rights. Johnson appeals to older voters hit hard by deindustrialization and to those who pine for Britain's glory days of global power.

Yet this is not a sufficient explanation. The rise of Trump and Johnson also reflects a deeper political failure. The parties that opposed them, the Democrats and Labour respectively, failed to address the needs of workers displaced by globalization, who then migrated to the right. Yet Trump and Johnson pursue policies - tax cuts for the rich in the US, a no-deal Brexit in the UK - that run counter to the interests of their base.²

The common political flaw lies in the mechanics of political representation, notably both countries' first-past-the-post voting systems. Electing representatives by a simple plurality in single-member districts has fostered the emergence of two dominant parties in both countries, rather than the multiplicity of parties elected in the proportional representation systems of Western Europe. The two-party system, which then leads to a winner-take-all politics, fails to represent voter interests as well as coalition governments, which must negotiate and formulate policies that are acceptable to two or more parties.

Consider the US situation. Trump dominates the Republican Party, but only 29% of Americans identify themselves as Republicans, with 27% identifying as Democrats and 38% as independents, not comfortable with either party but unrepresented by an alternative. By winning power within the Republican Party, Trump scraped into office with fewer votes than rival Hillary Clinton but with more Electoral College delegates. Given that only 56% of eligible Americans voted in 2016 (partly owing to deliberate Republican efforts to make voting difficult), Trump received the support of just 27% of eligible voters.

Trump controls a party that represents less than one-third of the electorate, and governs mostly by decree. In the case of Johnson, fewer than 100,000 Conservative Party members elected him as their leader, thus making him prime minister, despite his approval rating of just 31% (compared to 47% who disapprove).

Political scientists predict that a two-party system will represent the "median voter," because each party moves to the political center in order to capture half the votes plus one. In practice, campaign financing has dominated US party calculations in recent decades, so the parties and candidates have gravitated to the right to curry favor with rich donors. (Senator Bernie Sanders is trying to break the chokehold of big money by raising large sums from small donors).

In the UK, neither major party represents the majority who oppose Brexit. Yet the UK political system may nonetheless enable one faction of one party to make historic and lasting choices for the country that most voters oppose. Most ominously, winner-take-all politics has enabled two dangerous personalities to win national power despite widespread public opposition to them.

No political system can perfectly translate the public will into policy, and the public will is often confused, misinformed, or swayed by dangerous passions. The design of political institutions is an ever-evolving challenge. Yet today, owing to their antiquated winner-take-all-rules, the world's two oldest and most venerated democracies are performing poorly - dangerously so.

Section I. Invitation for Bids

Republic Of Liberia
 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
 P.O.BOX 9013
 Broad & Mechlin Streets
 1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
 West Africa

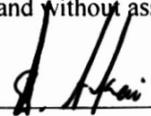
Title of bid: **Supply of Cleaning Materials**

Contract Identification No.: **IFB#: MFDP/SBA/NCB/004/2019-2020**

- The government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) intends to apportion funds towards the cost of procuring **cleaning materials** for the operation of the Ministry through a framework agreement during the Fiscal Year 2019/2020.
- The MFDP now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of cleaning materials during the Fiscal Year 2019/2020. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding process in accordance with procedures specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPC Act) published and approved: September 18, 2010.
- The supply of cleaning materials as per the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning requirements is summarized in the below table:

Description	Number	Quantity	Delivery Schedule
Cleaning Materials	IFB#: MFDP/SBA/NCB/004/2019-2020	See attached the quantity used during last fiscal year	To be delivered upon request

- All Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US \$25.00** beginning July 3, 2019, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM daily, Mondays to Fridays.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of US \$640.00 in the form of a Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee or an Insurance Bond.
- All bids must be submitted at the address below on or before **Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at or before 2:00 PM**. Bid opening will be done promptly thereafter at 2:15 PM, in the Conference room on the 10th Floor of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, in the presence of bidders, their representatives or those who choose to attend. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Bid submission. Late bids will be received as such but rejected and returned unopened. Electronic bidding will not be permitted.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Articles of Incorporation (Where applicable)
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry)
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority)
 - Statements of past performance satisfaction from at at three (3) previous and current clients - including the names and contact numbers of the clients
 - Capacity to pre-finance supplies for at least four (4) weeks
 - Ability to respond to the MFDP schedule of supply
 - Compliance with PPCC Vendor Registration procedures
 - Bid Security of 640.00 USD in the form of a Bank Guarantee, Manager's Check, or an Insurance Bond.
- Submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked, **SUPPLY OF CLEANING MATERIALS -IFB#:MFDP/NCB/004/2019-2020** and addressed to:
 Director of Procurement
 Room 045- 3rd Floor
 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
 Broad & Mechlin Streets
 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia
 Mobile number: + 231-886-579-455/ 231777600521
 Web address: ericbarkoi@yahoo.com/ mvmassall@mfdp.gov.lr
- The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the entire process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: 
 Director of Procurement

Approved: 
 Deputy Minister for Administration

MCA-L Boosts LEC's capacity with US\$576,000 in Spare Parts and Utility Poles

The Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA-L) equipped the Liberia Electricity Corporation with US\$576,000 in spare parts and utility poles to improve the Corporation's network reliability and accelerate customer connections.

The spare parts, which are valued at \$353,000, will be used for repair and maintenance of LEC's 18 megawatt (MW) heavy fuel oil (HFO) power plant on Bushrod Island, which comprises two Wartsilaunits each with 9MW. The spare parts will ensure that HFO generators remain functional year round, and especially during the dry season when water levels are too low for the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant to generate sufficient electricity to supply all of LEC's customers. During the peak of the last dry season, the limited number of generators available could not handle the load of the network. As a result, there were frequent outages and load shedding. The recently donated spare parts will allow LEC to continue to meet the growing energy demands of its customers.

In addition to the spare parts, one thousand one hundred fifty-two utility poles, which are valued at \$223,000 will be used to extend LEC's network to new

customers and to replace some of the damaged or defective poles.

The donations are part of MCA-L's support to LEC intended to help create a more sustainable and viable public utility. Funding was provided by the United States Government through the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact with the Government of Liberia.

MCA-L will be providing additional assistance to LEC that will include the reconstruction and modernizing of its Customer Service Center at Waterside,



and provision of connection materials including meters, transformers, conductors, specialized vehicles, and tools. In addition to funding 40 percent of the cost of rehabilitating the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant, the Compact is also funding a three-year management service contract for the operation and management of LEC and the training of local staff to later take over the company.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA**

**OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**



Invitation for Bids for Assorted Food Items
 DATE: July 4, 2019
 IFB NO. JUD/NCB/004/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government Received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Assorted Food Items**, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to the Sale of Assorted Food Items. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The Bid submission begins on **July 4, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**. The final date of submission **August 2, 2019 @ 11:30 AM**.

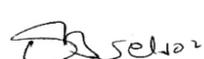
Package: Assorted Food Items

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1 Assorted Food Items	Assorted	US \$530.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Assorted Food Items may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00. Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of **Bank Guarantee** along with their Bid.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past one (1) year with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Should be Capable of transporting goods to the designated areas authorized by the Judiciary
 - Due diligent exercise will be done after the opening of bid documents
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the **Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.**
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other information.
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/004/2019/2020 - **CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the provision of Assorted Food Items; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020; and shall be addressed to:

 DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
 TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
 FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
 MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before **August 2, 2019 @ 11:30 A. M.** However, **No Electronic bids** will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **July 24 2019 @ 12:00 P. M.** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.
- Sealed bids for **Assorted Food Items** will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **August 2, 2019 @ 1:30 P. M.** All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: 
 Director of Procurement

Approved: 
 Court Administrator

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Over 45 schools flunk WASSCE

-8714 candidates' results withheld

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Exams statistics released by the Monrovia Office of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) indicates that over 45 schools have failed the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), while results for 8714 candidates are being withheld for examination malpractices.

WAEC released the statistics on 24 July in Oldest Congo Town after administering WASSCE to 237 centers across the country from Wednesday, April 24 to Friday, May 20, 2019.

According to WAEC, the 2019 exams were administered at 237 centers without any form of leakage, but it notes that 8,714 candidates' results are being withheld for examination malpractices.

Schools named in the bad results category include G. W. Gibson High in Bong County, Lebanese Cedar, Elder John Massey High School, Frank M. Reid Christian School, Brighton school of Adult Literacy, Congo Town Elementary, Junior and Senior High School, C. H. Dewey High

School, (P. M.), Jenneh Public High School and David Fajue Public High School.

Others include D. Elane Harris Baptist High, W. R. Tolbert High, Gbesseh Public, Bo Community School, Tiene-

Faith International Christian School System, Wochirrc Senior High School, P. G. Wollor High, Garraway Central High, Sasstown High, Children Hope Senior High, Harbel Extension High, Pentecostal Conquerors Academy, E. J. Yancy High,

Academy, Lowell A. G. Christian Academy, Paynesville Central Academy Annex 3, United Christian Academy, King Faho's Memorial School System, Zekeh Memorial High and Buutuo High are also listed among the failing schools.

The rest of the schools that

while 18,931 candidates, consisting 47.46% were females.

According to WAEC, the entry for the examination also included four Visually Impaired persons, comprising three males and one female.

The document maintains that 28, 408 candidates, representing 71.22% of the 39,887 candidates who entered for the examination were from 522 private schools across the country, while 11, 479 candidates, representing 28.78% were from 129 public schools across the country.

Of the 39,887 candidates who entered for the examination, 39,580 representing 99.23% of the candidates sat the examination.

According to the statistics, 20, 778 candidates were male, and 18,802 candidates were female.

WAEC says candidates caught with cell phones in examination halls were 90; while 120 were caught with foreign materials at the testing centers.

200 of the candidates whose results were withheld were said to be involved in other irregular activities, ranging from insulting examination officers to assaulting. Five of them were allegedly colluded.

WAEC discloses that once its investigation establishes that the 8,299 candidates mentioned above were involved in the acts alleged during the conduct of the examination, their results in those subjects will be automatically cancelled by the appropriate committee of the Council. —*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Wonde Public, Alexander Ketter Academy, Toe Memorial Institute, Tubman-Wilson Institute, Jonny G. Garley Memorial, Suah Memorial Institute and Konobo Central High.

Jireh Community School, Pleebo Extension High and Karloken Community School are other schools that also failed the exams.

St. Stephen's Episcopal High, My Brother's Keeper

have failed the exams include Saywah Doe Memorial Public School, Sanniquellie Central Extension (P. M.), Bahn Catawba High, Duoplah Public High, Harrison W. Grigsby United Methodist School and Paynesville Community High School, respectively.

The document also discloses that the examination has 117 subjects available for candidates in the Anglophone West African Countries.

Candidates in Liberia sat WASSCE in nine subjects: Language, General Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Furthermore, a total of 39,887 candidates from 651 senior high schools submitted entries online for the examination.

20,956 candidates consisting 52.34% were males

Police arrest 40 suspects

-after ghetto raid in Kakata

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr in Margibi

The Liberia National Police (LNP) arrests 40 suspected criminals, including females in Kakata, Margibi County during a nighttime raid of several ghettos, street corners and hideouts.

The suspects were in possession of Marijuana and dangerous weapons such as knives, scissors, screw drivers, steel rods as well as cigarettes and mobile

phones, amongst others.

Police executed the raid at 10:00 pm on Friday, July 26, 2019 during official celebrations of the 172nd Independence Day of Liberia.

The suspects, two females and 38 males, are being remanded at the Carter High Prison Center in Kakata, pending further actions by the Police.

Prior to the raid, Kakata and its environs have been engulfed by waves of armed robberies and harassments of

peaceful residents, creating panic among the population.

According to some victims, robbers carrying cutlasses, guns and other harmful objects made away with money, phones and other valuables.

Due to the current situation, residents in the outskirts of the city go to bed early for fear of being attacked.

Some residents explain to this paper they normally go to bed in great fear, praying not to be attacked at night while asleep. —*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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OPENING OF THE NEW RIA TERMINAL ON JULY 25, 2019 IN PICTURES



President Weah cutting ribbon to the newly dedicated terminal at RIA



Bishop Isaac Winker giving the invocation



President Weah in discussion with former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at the program



President Weah Shakes hand with former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf At the program



Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in a chat with Chinese Special Envoy at the program



US Ambassador to Liberia, Christine Elder with Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel Mcgill



African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina with Finance Minister Samuel Tweah at the program



African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina in a joyous mood with Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf at the program



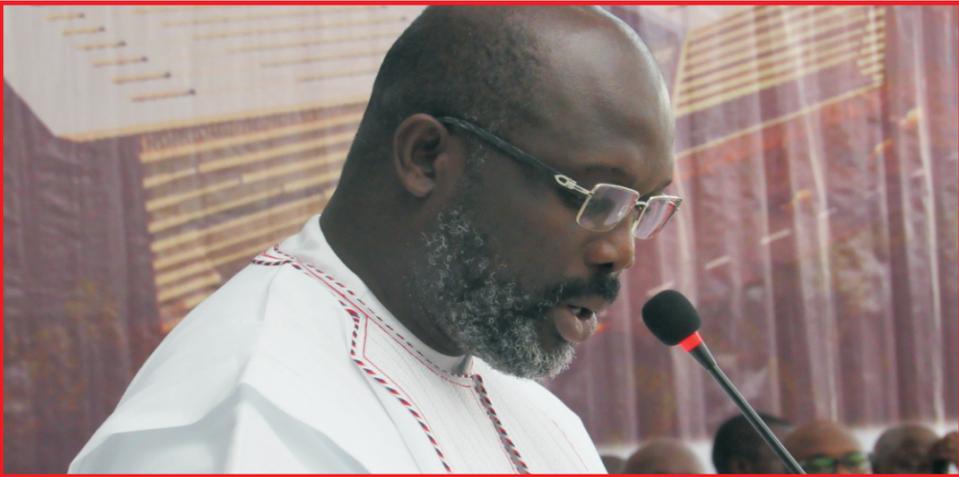
A cross section of dignitaries at the program



Citizens of Margibi County displaying banners in appreciation for the appointment of the first Margibian as LAA Managing Director



OPENING OF THE NEW RIA TERMINAL ON JULY 25, 2019 IN PICTURES



President George M. Weah Makes special statement at the dedicatory ceremony of the new RIA terminal



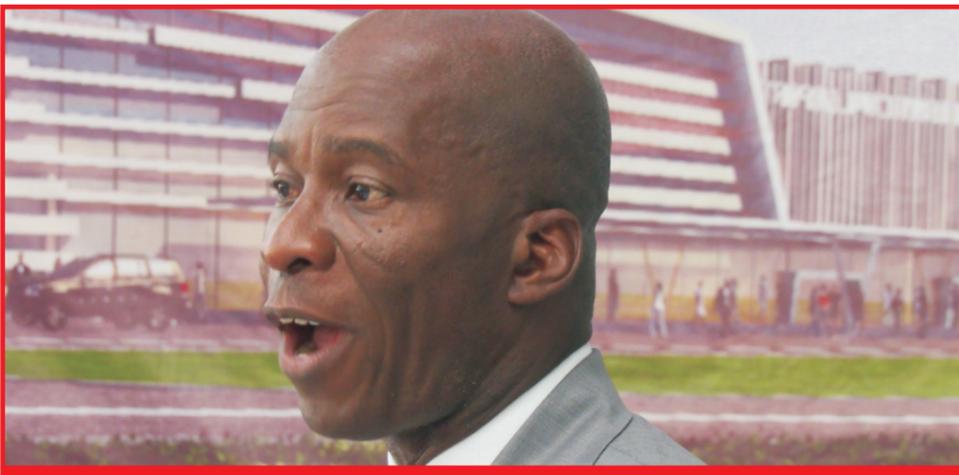
LAA Managing Director, Bishop John Allan Klayee giving an overview and introduction of the program



Chinese Special Envoy make remarks at the program



Deputy Managing Director/Operations-LAA, Mrs. Sandra Williams-Daye giving the welcome remark at the program



Minister of Transport, Samuel Wlue speaking at the program



Board Chairman LAA, Musa Shannon makes remark at the program



Partial view of the newly dedicated terminal

Français

Le président libérien envisage une nouvelle banque agricole pour une révolution économique

Le Président libérien George Weah s'est fait l'écho des appels en faveur d'un rôle accru de l'agriculture dans l'économie de son pays.

S'exprimant le 25 juillet 2019, lors d'une réunion de donateurs avec le président de la Banque africaine de développement, Akinwumi Adesina, M. Weah a déclaré que son gouvernement envisageait la création d'une banque agricole.

M. Akinwumi Adesina a rapidement conseillé de la baptiser « banque agroalimentaire » afin de traduire les effets positifs de la transition d'une économie de type primaire à une commercialisation de type industriel.

M. George Weah a reconnu l'immense contribution de la Banque africaine de développement au développement du Libéria. Il a souligné la détermination de son gouvernement à transformer la vie des



Libériens, grâce à la mise en œuvre décisive du cadre de développement national et du Programme pour la prospérité et le développement en faveur des pauvres.

Le Président Akinwumi Adesina a déclaré que la Banque et le gouvernement libérien travailleraient en partenariat

pour créer de nouvelles possibilités de relance de l'économie libérienne. Il a également félicité le gouvernement libérien pour avoir restructuré avec succès ses dépenses de personnel et pour la qualité des pourparlers engagés avec le Fonds monétaire international.

« Un système basé sur les

loyers et les redevances est impuissant à lutter contre la corruption.

Il ne permet pas la création de valeur ajoutée et de processus au service du développement économique », a affirmé M. Akinwumi Adesina.

Il a également souligné que le Libéria était doté de terres fertiles et d'un potentiel agricole considérable et qu'il ne devrait pas avoir à dépenser 20 millions de dollars américains par an pour importer du riz, son aliment de base. « Même si les

infrastructures du Libéria sont satisfaisantes, investir massivement dans l'agriculture permettra de transformer rapidement l'économie libérienne et de créer des emplois pour sa population dont 46 % est âgée de moins de 50 ans », a-t-il précisé.

Il a promis que la Banque africaine de développement apporterait son aide au Libéria par le biais du Projet d'amélioration de la productivité agricole des petits exploitants et du cadre de commercialisation ; celui-ci permettra de créer des zones de transformation agroalimentaire spéciales situées à proximité des agriculteurs et disposant d'électricité et d'eau, de routes et d'installations pour produire et transformer des cultures de base, ce qui générera plus d'emplois.

M. Akinwumi Adesina s'est également joint au Président Weah et à Mme Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, son prédécesseur à la tête de l'État, pour l'inauguration d'un nouveau terminal de l'aéroport international Roberts, principal aéroport du pays, à l'occasion des célébrations du Jour de l'indépendance du Libéria. alwihdainfo.com

Indépendance du Liberia : le message de Mohammed VI aux habitants du pays des anciens esclaves

Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, souverain du Royaume du Maroc, a adressé un message de félicitations au président de la République du Liberia, M. George Weah à l'occasion de l'anniversaire des 172 ans d'indépendance du pays. L'occasion de revenir sur l'histoire singulière de ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le Liberia est né au début des années 1820, de l'idée d'une société

philanthropique nord-américaine qui proposait aux esclaves noirs affranchis de retourner sur le continent de leurs ancêtres.

L'histoire de ce petit Etat, au Sud de la Sierra Leone, commence aux débuts des années 1820, lorsque plusieurs contingents d'anciens esclaves noirs américains débarquent à l'embouchure du fleuve Saint-Paul. L'idée est celle d'une société philanthropique américaine, l'American

colonization society, constituée de notables blancs, qui souhaite inciter les esclaves à revenir sur le sol africain.

En 1824, la capitale de ce nouvel Etat est baptisé « Monrovia », en l'honneur de James Monroe, cinquième président des Etats-Unis. La colonie prend quant à elle le nom de « Liberia », véritable terre de liberté pour ces ex-esclaves. En 1847, elle devient une république indépendante, la plus ancienne d'Afrique noire. Joseph Jenkins Roberts, qui avait été le premier gouverneur noir de la colonie, est élu président à la tête du pays.

Anciens esclaves et autochtones : une société à deux vitesses

Dès le départ, les relations avec les populations locales sont compliquées. Pendant la colonisation, des affrontements avec les autochtones ont lieu, des terres leur sont extorquées et une démocratie à deux vitesses est instaurée. Le vote, censitaire dans un premier temps, permet aux Américano-Libériens de conserver le pouvoir. Ceux-ci reproduisent le système de domination dont

Articles traduits

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ils ont été victimes aux Etats-Unis. Au début des années 1930, la SDN (Société des Nations Unies) accuse même les Américano-Libériens, grands propriétaires fonciers, de pratiques proches de l'esclavage envers les indigènes. Les populations locales n'auront le droit de vote qu'en 1945, soit près d'un siècle après l'indépendance du pays.

Autre particularité du Liberia, son lien encore assez fort avec les Américains. Dès le départ, le pays est imprégné de la culture des Etats-Unis. Le modèle de république qui est mis en place découle du modèle constitutionnel américain et d'importantes concessions de terres vont être laissées aux entreprises américaines, comme Firestone, pour le

caoutchouc. Les Libériens adoptent également un drapeau, rayé et aux mêmes couleurs que celui des Etats-Unis (avec, toutefois, une seule étoile). La langue officielle est l'anglais et la monnaie, le dollar libérien. Les Etats-Unis sont de plus le premier partenaire économique de ce petit pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Aujourd'hui, le pays est surtout connu pour ses derniers présidents, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, qui fut la première femme à être élue en Afrique à ce poste. Arrivée au pouvoir en 2006, après 14 années de guerre civile dans son pays, elle reçut également le prix Nobel de la paix en 2011. Puis aujourd'hui George Weah, l'ancienne star du football, premier ballon d'or africain en 1995.

Français

Le président indien en visite inédite en Afrique de l'Ouest

Le président indien a commencé ce dimanche 28 juillet une visite d'une semaine en Afrique de l'Ouest, dans trois pays jamais visités jusqu'à présent par de hauts dignitaires indiens : le Bénin, la Gambie et la Guinée. Un geste politique important, qui montre que New Delhi cherche à se rapprocher d'une Afrique occidentale et francophone avec laquelle les Indiens ont des relations très limitées jusqu'à présent.

Le président Ram Nath Kovind avance en terrain quasiment vierge pour les politiciens indiens. Aucun chef d'État ou de gouvernement n'a jamais rendu de visite officielle à ces trois pays. Le président a peu de

alors l'ouverture de 18 nouvelles ambassades, dont 7 en Afrique de l'Ouest. L'une de celles récemment ouvertes se trouve justement en Guinée, le dernier pays où se rendra le président indien.

Le Bénin première étape du président indien

Environ 1 250 Indiens vivent au Bénin et plus de 230 sociétés indiennes opèrent dans le textile, les noix de cajou, le riz et le bois. Signe de cet appétit économique, le dirigeant indien est arrivé avec plusieurs chefs d'entreprise. Des accords de coopération sont annoncés dont un sur la garantie des crédits à l'export et un autre sur l'exemption de visa

Ce lundi matin, le Bénin va dérouler le tapis rouge à



pouvoirs politiques en Inde, cette visite se présente donc surtout comme un symbole de rapprochement.

Depuis quatre ans, New Delhi a multiplié les initiatives dans ce sens, avec entre autres le méga sommet Inde-Afrique, qui a rassemblé en 2015 un très grand nombre de chefs d'État africains dans la capitale indienne.

Les Indiens avaient alors promis une plus grande coopération universitaire, l'attribution de 50 000 bourses pour l'accueil d'étudiants africains en Inde et l'accroissement du réseau de cours à distance établi depuis 2009.

New Delhi a également prévu de renforcer sa présence politique sur le continent, et annoncé

son visiteur. Honneurs militaires, tête à tête, communiqué conjoint et déclaration à la presse au palais de la Marina.

Dans l'après-midi, discours à l'assemblée nationale. Dans un courrier publié dans la presse, l'ancien président Nicéphore Soglo demande à l'orateur de rappeler aux 83 députés du camp Talon « les valeurs démocratiques qu'incarne le pays de Gandhi et de Nehru », allusion au vote du 28 avril, toujours contestée

Quant au chef de la diplomatie béninoise, il estime que ce sont les choix du président Talon qui ont rendu cette visite possible

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

La Crise de la démocratie anglo-américaine

NEW YORK - Comment les deux plus vénérables et puissantes démocraties de la planète, le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis, se sont-elles retrouvées gouvernées par un Donald Trump et, aujourd'hui, un Boris Johnson ? Trump n'a pas tort d'appeler Johnson le « Trump [de] Grande-Bretagne » (sic). La ressemblance n'est pas seulement une question de personnalité ou de style : elle traduit aussi les faiblesses patentes d'institutions politiques qui ont permis que de tels hommes prennent le pouvoir.

Trump comme Johnson sont ce qu'un physicien et psychologue irlandais, Ian Huges, nomme des « esprits désordonnés ». Trump, menteur compulsif, distille le racisme et pratique la fraude fiscale à grande échelle. Le rapport du procureur spécial Robert Mueller, qui clôt vingt-deux mois d'enquête sur la campagne électorale de Trump en 2016, fait état, maintes fois, d'entraves à la justice. Accusé de harcèlement sexuel par plus de vingt femmes, Trump s'est vanté de son comportement dans un enregistrement vidéo et il a demandé à son avocat d'effectuer des versements illégaux d'argent pour acheter le silence d'anciennes liaisons, en violation des règles concernant les dépenses des campagnes électorales.

Le comportement de Johnson révèle la même incontinence. Il fait figure de menteur invétéré, et ses deux échecs matrimoniaux, auxquels s'ajoute une altercation avec son actuelle compagne, à la veille d'accéder au portefeuille de Premier ministre, témoignent d'une vie privée chaotique. Ses licenciements pour mensonges ou comportement inapproprié sont de notoriété publique. Il a mené la campagne de 2016 en faveur du Brexit à coups d'affirmations tonitruantes qui se sont avérées fausses. Lors de son passage au ministère des Affaires étrangères, il a ébruité par deux fois des renseignements des services français sur la Libye, d'abord, puis des services britanniques sur l'Iran. Si, comme Trump, son niveau d'impopularité est élevé dans toutes les classes d'âge, sa cote de popularité grimpe avec l'âge des électeurs.

Le bilan de Trump depuis qu'il a pris ses fonctions est un mystère politique plus épais encore. Ses choix sont pour l'essentiel impopulaires et ne traduisent que rarement l'opinion de la majorité. Sa plus importante victoire législative - les réductions d'impôt de 2017 - n'avait que peu de soutien à l'époque et n'en a pas plus aujourd'hui. Il en va de même de ses positions concernant le changement climatique, l'immigration, la construction d'un mur le long de la frontière avec le Mexique, la réduction des dépenses sociales ou l'abrogation de dispositions clés de l'Obamacare (la loi sur la protection des patients et les soins abordables), le retrait de l'accord sur le nucléaire iranien et nombre d'autres sujets. La cote de popularité de Trump se maintient sous la barre des 50 % d'opinions favorables, actuellement autour de 43 %, avec 53 % d'opinions défavorables.

Trump gouverne en déclarant l'état d'urgence nationale et en fourbissant des décrets afin de mettre en œuvre son programme impopulaire. Mais si les tribunaux ont pu casser nombre de décrets, la marche de la justice est lente, sinueuse et imprévisible. En pratique, les États-Unis sont aussi proches du pouvoir d'un seul que peuvent l'autoriser les fragiles barrières de leur Constitution.

Les similitudes avec Johnson ne manquent pas. Après que les négociations avec l'Union européenne ont démasqué les mensonges et les exagérations des promoteurs du Leave lors de la campagne référendaire de 2016, l'opinion publique s'est retournée contre le Brexit, cheval de bataille du nouveau locataire du 10, Downing Street. Malgré l'impopularité d'une sortie sans accord et des Communes majoritairement opposées au no-deal, Johnson s'y est engagé s'il ne parvient pas à négocier un nouveau compromis.

À la question de savoir comment deux vénérables démocraties ont porté au pouvoir des esprits désordonnés et leur permettent de mener des politiques impopulaires, il existe une première réponse, évidente. La seconde est plus profonde.

La réponse évidente est celle du soutien que se sont assuré Trump comme Johnson auprès des électeurs relativement âgés, laissés depuis quelques dizaines d'années sur le bord de la route. Trump séduit particulièrement les hommes blancs conservateurs d'âge mûr, déclassés, ou craignant de l'être, par l'accélération des échanges et les avancées technologiques, mais aussi, pensent certains, par les mouvements qui se sont développés aux États-Unis en faveur des droits civiques, des droits des femmes et de ceux des minorités sexuelles. Johnson séduit quant à lui les électeurs d'un certain âge durement frappés par la désindustrialisation ainsi que les nostalgiques des temps glorieux où la Grande-Bretagne était une puissance globale.

Pourtant, cette explication n'est pas suffisante. La montée d'un Trump ou d'un Johnson traduit aussi un échec politique plus profond. Les partis qui se sont opposés à eux, les Démocrates pour l'un, les Travailleurs pour l'autre, ont échoué à répondre aux besoins des travailleurs marginalisés par la mondialisation, qui se sont déportés à droite. Alors même que Trump et Johnson mènent des politiques - baisses d'impôts pour les riches aux États-Unis et Brexit sans accord au Royaume-Uni - qui vont contre les intérêts de leur base.

La faiblesse de l'un et de l'autre pays tient aux mécanismes qui régissent leur représentation politique et notamment au scrutin uninominal à un tour. L'élection à la majorité simple d'un seul représentant par circonscription a favorisé, sur les rives du Potomac comme sur celles de la Tamise, l'émergence de deux partis dominants, plutôt que la création d'une multiplicité de partis comme c'est le cas dans les pays d'Europe occidentale qui disposent d'un système de représentation proportionnel. Le bipartisme, qui organise la vie politique sur le principe d'un seul et unique vainqueur, quel que soit le nombre de voix séparant les deux candidats, ne peut ni représenter les intérêts des électeurs ni permettre que se construisent des gouvernements de coalition, tenus de négocier et de mettre en œuvre des politiques qui soient acceptables par deux partis ou plus.

Examinons la situation aux États-Unis. Trump domine le parti républicain, mais 29 % des Américains seulement se déclarent républicains, tandis que 27 % s'affirment démocrates et 38 % indépendants, ne se sentant pas plus à l'aise avec un parti qu'avec l'autre mais n'étant pas non plus représentés par un tiers parti. En gagnant le pouvoir au sein du parti républicain, Trump a été élu de justesse à la présidence, avec moins de suffrages populaires que son adversaire Hillary Clinton, mais avec plus de grands électeurs au collège électoral. Si l'on considère que 56 % des Américains inscrits se

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

New RIA Terminal, Ministerial Complex dedicated

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah and his Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor have dedicated the new Roberts International Airport (RIA) terminal in Margibi County and the China - aid Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Montserrado County, a day to Liberia's 172nd Independence Day celebration.

The two projects commenced during the term of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf who also graced the dedication ceremonies on the eve of the Independence Day on 25 July, both in Margibi and Montserrado Counties.

Earlier at the dedication of the new airport terminal at RIA, President Weah extended warmest thanks and appreciation to the People's Republic of China for making a dream come true.

President Weah assured that the bilateral friendship which is based on the One - China principles remains strong and a win - win cooperation for both



countries.

Mr. Weah also extended thanks and appreciation to former President Sirleaf under whose leadership the projects started.

He said he was proud to be standing in the new terminal, as he shared a joke about a Nigerian friend who continuously questions him (President Weah) about the country's airport each time

they traveled together to Liberia.

"John will be coming here to celebrate with us, [I'm] sure when he arrives, when I say welcome to Liberia, welcome to our new airport, I hope he will not say this small airport," President Weah said jokingly amid laughter.

President Weah noted that his government's plan is to make the RIA regain its rightful

place as passenger and cargo aviation hub in West Africa by expanding the facility and the capacity including the construction of the new "Terminal B".

He cautions the management of RIA that the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities are paramount, vowing to watch and inspect them.

He calls the new terminal a facelift for Liberia, adding that the country is proud.

Transport Minister Samuel Wlu terms air transport as critical in the socio - economic development of nations across the globe.

He stressed that affordable, efficient, adequate and safe environmentally - friendly airport transport services provide effective support to inter - country trade, regional integration, tourism and a host of other livelihoods enhancements.

Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) Managing Director Bishop John Klaye expressed thanks for the continuous support and engagement towards the progress of the LAA.

Bishop Klaye reports that the three landmark projects which began in 2017 including

the runway, the passenger terminal and the office complex have all been completed.

During subsequent programs for the dedication of the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor notes the longstanding relationship between Liberia and China, expressing confidence that successive governments will uphold the One - China Policy.

She expressed appreciation for the Chinese government and people for the project, while also commending the Chinese government for its involvement here in other programs including health care and agriculture.

Madam Taylor noted that "as we" look at the sidelines of the city here, it is agreed that it's changing gradually as new buildings are coming up.

She urged citizens to maintain these structures, and also pleads with Liberians to maintain the peace and allow the country to move forward under the umbrella of unity and cordiality.

Madam Taylor expressed commendations for former President Sirleaf for initiating the Ministerial Complex project.

Earlier, Public Works Minister Mobutu Nyenpan revealed that the Ministerial Complex has the capacity to accommodate 1300 persons.

He says five ministries and agencies including the Ministries of Education; Commerce and Industry; Labor; Gender, Children and Social Protection; and the Civil Service Agency (CSA) will be hosted at the Ministerial Complex.

Mr. Nyenpan thanked President Weah for his unwavering commitment to infrastructural development and also thanked former President Sirleaf under whose administration the project was conceived and commenced.

Lonestar Cell MTN, Mercy Corps provide access to affordable electricity

Lonestar Cell MTN customers struggling to electrify their homes in seven counties (Montserrado, Bong, Gbarpolu, Lofa, Sinoe, Margibi and Nimba) can now enjoy reliable and affordable solar electricity thanks to the efforts of the European Union-funded Light Up Liberia Program being implemented by Mercy Corps.

Under the initiative, Mercy Corps Liberia, through its private sector solar distributors, has made

available pay-as-you-go solar home systems which can provide energy for six to eight hours of emission-free lighting and enough power to charge mobile phones, play MP3 and radio. Customers who are unable to pay the upfront costs for solar energy systems (ranging from \$60 USD to \$125 USD) now have a chance to pay for the device using a dedicated Mobile Money repayment plan. The pay-as-you-go service will allow customers to easily and conveniently make monthly repayment amounts on a 30-

day circle.

Currently thousands of homes are outside of the national electricity grid with no access to any form of electricity. With the availability of power through the pay-as-you-go solar home systems, families can now feel more secure at home, children can study their lessons at night and families can enjoy a better and healthier family life. Lonestar Cell MTN is making this even more accessible with a convenient and flexible repayment plan via Mobile Money. Customers who are not registered for Mobile can visit any Lonestar Cell MTN service center or branded Mobile Money agent with valid ID cards to sign up.

Commenting on the campaign, Lonestar Cell MTN's Acting Head of Mobile Money, Prince Chesson said, "Lonestar Cell MTN understands that digital innovations have the power to transform lives. Our partnership with Mercy Corps will ensure that customers who need it the most can access electricity affordably. Everyone deserves the benefit of a modern, connected life. That's why we connect people with technology to empower and transform their lives."

Emmanuel Aziebor, the Light Up Liberia Program

Manager said, "Mercy Corps is grateful to the European Union for funding this novel initiative which has proven consumer interest and the commercial viability of the pay as you go model in Liberia. This has really opened the market for solar

system manufacturers to start looking at Liberia as a viable market; and falls within the mission of Mercy Corps to promote sustainable access to clean, affordable modern energy services for the rural poor in Liberia."

The image shows three logos arranged horizontally. On the left is the Lonestar Cell logo, featuring a red star and the text 'Lonestar Cell'. In the middle is the MTN logo, a blue oval with 'MTN' in white. On the right is the Mercy Corps logo, a red square with a white leaf-like symbol and the text 'MERCY CORPS' in white.

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Dillon or Paulita?

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Voters subdued by fatigue and torrential downpour trickle slowly at various polling centers Monday, July 29, and cast their ballots in the long-awaited Montserrado County Senatorial and Representative By-elections.

The polls had been postponed twice by the National Elections Commission or NEC for delays in arrival of voting materials and budgetary support. Up to polling day Monday, the NEC had officially received US\$1.5 million of the 2.5M budgeted for the two by-elections in Montserrado.

The polls were generally peaceful except reports of some skirmishes in District#15, on Bushrod Island.

Voters could not get to polling places during early hours due to the heavy downpour but by the noon, Liberians showed up and cast

their ballots for candidates of their choice, respectively.

A total of seven candidates vied for the Montserrado senatorial seat but the race is between Abraham Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party, representing the collaborating opposition parties and Paulita

Wie of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, while in District#15, Coalition's candidate Abu Kamara and Tali Urey of the opposition All Liberia Party (ALP) are in a two-horse race.

A new procedure announced by the Chairman of the

National Elections Commission Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya that would have been voters' roll call prior to the poll and party's observers allowed to verify was not followed, as names were not called aloud, and party's observers were not permitted to come close to the Voters' Identification Officer.

Polling officials provide no public explanations for the abrupt change when questioned; many of them referred reporters to the NEC, disclosing that they acted upon mandate from the electoral house.

Up to press time, there was no major complaint from candidates and observers, but some voters claim poll workers prevented them from carrying smart phones into the polling box while marking their ballots.

Officers of the Liberia

National Police deployed at polling places across the county, providing security and observing the processing, including both local and international observers. The NEC has said it will announce the poll results this week as preliminary (exit polls) put the collaborating parties candidate Darius Dillon ahead.

According to Chairman Korkoya, the Commission recruited over 10,000 temporary staff, for 488 precincts and over 1,000 polling stations across Montserrado.

The by-elections are as the result of the death of Senator Geraldine Doe Sheriff following a protracted battle with womb cancer and the tragic death of District #15 Representative Adolph Lawrence in a car crash early this year. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Orator speaks truth to power

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's 172nd Independence Day Orator, Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee spoke truth to power on Friday when she delivered the country's Independence's Day message, requesting government officials to walk their talks.

"Mr. President, members of the 54th Legislature, members of the Judiciary, members of the cabinet - the fight against corruption is not in words, it is in action," the Orator says.

"You all must walk your talk. You cannot preach against corruption and fail to declare your assets or keep it locked up when declared. Show us what you came with so that in a few years if you

have acquired two houses, we will know that you already had those resources," she suggests.

At the invitation of President George Manneh Weah, six visiting African Presidents in persons of Burkina Faso's Roch Mar Christian Kabore; Nigeria's Mahammadu Buhari; Ivory Coast's Alassane Dramane Ouattara; Senegal's Macky Sall; Sierra Leone's Julius Maada Bio and Guinea's Alpha Conde graced the ceremony.

Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf and members of the diplomatic corps attended the event.

Further, Madam Gbowee stresses the need to address Liberia's harsh economic conditions as families barely find food, pay their children's

school fees or buy basic necessities.

She laments that the young people here are feeling hopeless while the ruling establishment and the opposition continue to argue about who is right.

Madam Gbowee cautioned that the country cannot continue to conduct business as it did since 1847 while the children's futures are being mortgaged and natural resources are being sold to people who have no development agenda for the County.

She notes that drug addiction has taken over the country, and education is perceived as a mess by both sides of the divide.

"While Ruling Position and Opposition go at each other's throats, our children's futures are being mortgaged, natural resources are sold to those who have no development plan for the Republic of Liberia," she says.

Madam Gbowee observes that truth has evaded Liberians, noting that they lie to gain prominence, position of authority, lie about lifestyle and what one owns and do not have.

From generation to generation, Madam Gbowee notes that Liberian leaders have been fooled by religious and traditional leaders.

According to the 172nd National Orator, Bishops have become partisans, turning the scriptures and prophecies to suit the political parties of their kind.



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Pastors and Imams have become praise - singers, traditional leaders repeatedly twist the cultural practices to please the powerful few, Madam Gbowee laments.

According to her, they give unmerited traditional title to individuals who do not deserve it.

She warns that Liberia is not a political party, but a nation for all Liberians, suggesting the need to recognize that all citizens are part of this society.

In special remarks, President Weah expressed appreciation to Madam Gbowee for her inspiring and thoughtful address which he says has given new insights into the importance of peace in the nation and renewed hopes for a better Liberia.

President Weah recommitments that Liberians' togetherness will encompass the peace and prosperity of all citizens.

He assures that the

presence of justice will be evident as his government advances the nation with the involvement of all.

"We will face the challenges, but let us not be overwhelmed," he says.

He urges that all must be done within the powers of Liberians to continue to plant the seeds of unity, maintain peace and reconcile the nation and its people.

In consideration of their enormous contributions to the cause of humanity, especially to Liberia, President Weah decorated with high distinctions visiting Presidents Roch Mar Christian Kabore of Burkina Faso; Mahammadu Buhari of Nigeria; Macky Sall of Senegal; Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone and Prof. Alpha Conde of Guinea.

Ivory Coast's Ouattara had earlier been honored during the term of former President Sirleaf.

Patrice Evra announces retirement



Former Manchester United and Juventus defender Patrice Evra has announced his retirement from football.

The 38-year-old - who made 81 appearances for France - also played for Monaco, Nice and Marseille during a glittering career, which ended with West Ham in 2018.

Evra has revealed that he has started preparations to become a coach and says he has the backing of legendary United manager Alex Ferguson.

"My playing career is officially over," he told Gazzetta dello Sport. "I started training for the UEFA B Coaching License in 2013, now I want to finish it and then go on to get the UEFA A license."

"In a year and a half, if everything goes well, I'll be ready to lead a team. Sir Alex Ferguson had predicted at the time that two of his players would become coaches of a high level: Ryan Giggs and Patrice Evra."

Evra started his career with

Italian sides Marsala and Monza before six seasons in France with Nice and Monaco. His form at the latter attracted the interest of Ferguson, who brought him to Old Trafford in 2006.

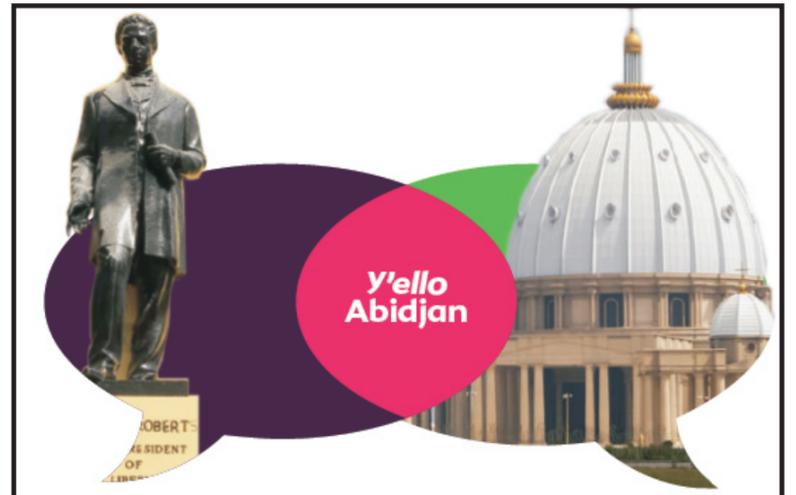
He then developed into one of Europe's best left-backs and enjoyed seven and a half fruitful years with the club, winning five Premier League titles and the 2007-08 Champions League.

Evra left the Red Devils for Juventus in 2014 and won two Serie A titles before returning to France with Marseille.

But Evra's time there ended in controversy after he kicked one of his side's supporters during the warm-up of a Europa League tie against Vitoria de Guimaraes.

He was subsequently banned by UEFA for seven months, returning to the Premier League to make five appearances for West Ham during the closing months of the 2017-18 season.

Evra has also become famous for his exploits on social media, which included putting the leg of a raw chicken in his mouth during an Instagram video meant as a Thanksgiving message.



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Everton Submit £55m Bid for Wilfried Zaha

Everton have made an offer of £55m for Crystal Palace winger Wilfried Zaha, with talk of a potential move to Arsenal seemingly dying down.

With the Gunners yet to increase their £40m offer for Zaha, Everton have emerged as potential suitors for the Ivorian, with Marco Silva stepping up his pursuit of Zaha in recent days.



The latest update comes from ?Sky Sports News, noting that the offer is simply £55m, without any players involved in the negotiations.

There was talk of ?Everton potentially offering Cenk Tosun to ?Palace as part of the deal, to help them reach the Eagles' £80m asking price. Midfielder James McCarthy has also been suggested as part of the deal, but Everton are seemingly eager to avoid losing any players.

The Toffees are believed to be prepared to go ?as high as £70m in negotiations for ?Zaha, although they may prefer to involve either Tosun or McCarthy to avoid spending more than £55m in cash.

Zaha is thought to be interested in a move to Everton, despite earlier beliefs that he was keen to join a club in the ?Champions League.

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