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Election backlash?



P11

-As top police officials suffer attacks



P11

Ruling party witch hunts

-Following by-elections

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Continental News

Rwanda reopens DR Congo border amid Ebola crisis

Rwanda has reopened its border with DR Congo, where an Ebola outbreak has killed more than 1,800 people in the past year.

The border was closed for several hours after the confirmation of a third death from Ebola in the Congolese city of Goma.

At least 2,700 people have been infected in the worst Ebola outbreak in the country's history.

Tackling the disease has been complicated by conflict in the region.

About 12 new cases are being reported every day in Democratic Republic of Congo, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports. Last week, the WHO designated the outbreak of Ebola a global health emergency, its highest level of alarm, but warned against trying to contain the virus by closing borders or restricting travel or trade. Goma, home to two million people, is the capital of North Kivu, one of the two provinces in DR Congo which have borne the brunt of the epidemic.

The city lies just across the border from the Rwandan city of Gisenyi, which has a population of around 85,000.

Many residents cross the frontier for work and other activities - although illegal routes are also used.

The border had been closed "to avoid unnecessary crossings" to Goma, Gilbert Habayarimana, mayor of Rubavu district in western Rwanda which borders Goma, said earlier.

The Congolese presidency had criticised the decision to close the border, and people on

the Rwandan side rejoiced after it was reopened.

Rwanda's government has intensified cross-border monitoring, advising citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to Goma, according to Health Minister Diane Gashumba. Life goes on pretty much as normal in both Goma and Gisenyi, although some got worried when the two official border crossings were closed earlier on Thursday. And soldiers and police were

also deployed to the many unofficial crossing points which people often use. Thursday is a public holiday in DR Congo, Parents' Day. People clean up the graves and pay respects to their deceased relatives in the morning before taking gifts to their parents. Most people were still shaking hands and embracing when meeting. Only a few have stopped since Ebola was confirmed in the city. The only major change is that water taps have been set up in public buildings, where people have to wash their hands before entering, and at the two official border crossings.

There are still quite a few in Goma who still do not believe that Ebola exists but this might change now that another person has died. A third case of Ebola has been confirmed in Goma, raising fears the virus could spread in the densely populated city.

The patient is the daughter of an artisanal miner who died on Wednesday. He had come from Ituri, the other province where

many cases have been confirmed. The other victim in Goma was a priest who died last month. Efforts to control the outbreak have been hampered by violence against healthcare workers or Ebola treatment facilities. Seven people have been killed and 58 injured in 198 attacks this year. Another major problem has been distrust of healthcare workers. As a result, about a third of deaths have not been at specialist treatment centres, but in the community, where there is a greater risk of the disease spreading to neighbours and relatives. The designation has only been used four times previously, including during the Ebola epidemic that killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa between 2014 and 2016.

The WHO has also said it has insufficient money to tackle the problem. It had estimated that it needed \$98m (£81m) to tackle the outbreak between February and July, but it faced a shortfall of \$54m. BBC



Somalia's president renounces his US citizenship

Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo" Mohamed has officially renounced his US citizenship, a statement from his office says.

Although Somalia's constitution allows for dual citizenship, he decided to surrender his US passport after becoming president in February 2017, it said. Mr

Mohamed was studying in the US when the civil war started in 1991 and so he stayed and claimed asylum.

He was working for the transportation department in Buffalo when he was asked to return to Somalia as prime minister.

He served in that position for eight months in 2010-2011 and then went back to the US.

He returned to Somalia in 2016, leaving his family in the US, to announce his candidacy for president.

Many politicians, including the current prime minister, have dual nationality as a consequence of the civil war.

It is unclear if Mr Mohamed decided to give up his US citizenship in view of the fact that as a US citizen, he was unable to attend the UN General Assembly as a diplomat - a status which brings with it various privileges. He has not attended the gathering in New York since he became president. BBC



Zimbabwe repeals indigenisation law

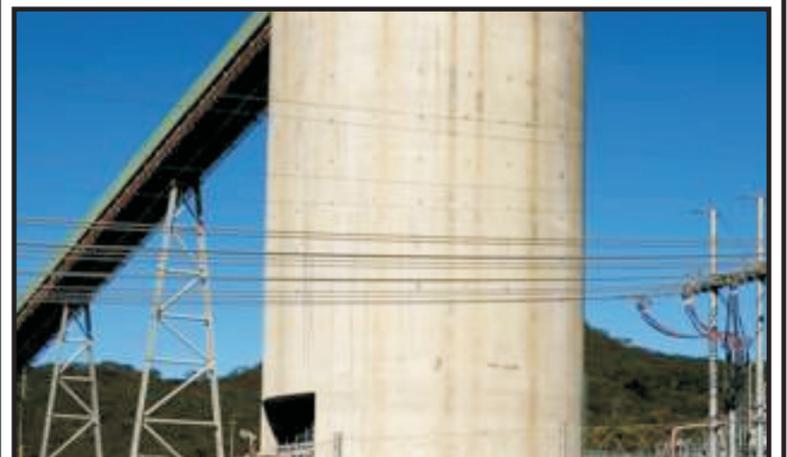
Zimbabwe's government has repealed legislation which give Zimbabweans the right to take over and control foreign-owned companies.

The indigenisation law requires all companies to be at least 51% controlled by black Zimbabweans.

Last year, in an effort to attract foreign investment, the

has gone up with immediate effect, from \$0.01 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.03 for domestic and agriculture. And up to \$0.06 for mining. The cost of power is still below regional averages and will still be subsidised.

Zimbabwe was overbudget by 532m Zimbabwean dollars in the first half of the year due to drought, Cyclone Idai, a



Mines, like the platinum mine pictured, can now be majority-owned by foreigners

requirement was removed from the mining industry in all but the diamond and platinum sectors. The requirement has now been removed for those two remaining sectors.

Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube made the announcement as part of his budget.

Here are some other changes: The price of electricity

cushioning allowance for civil servants and cost of living adjustment for government workers.

Zimbabwe's economy is now likely to shrink because of drought and power cuts. No new figures were given but the projections for the year had been 3.1% growth. BBC

EDITORIAL

Violence should never be an alternative

LIBERIA SEEMS TO be gradually degenerating into madness again, as bloody clashes returned to the streets of the nation's capital, Monrovia with several persons reportedly victimized.

AMID INJURIES AND several arrests, protesters from the group, Council of Patriots or CoP engaged riot police in a running battle here Wednesday, in defiance of warring from government to keep off the streets without official permit to protest.

THEN JUBILATING CROWDS from the opposition Liberty Party and their rivals in the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) reportedly threw stones at one another in an apparent political violence.

WE LIBERIANS SHOULD never again embrace violence as a solution to our current political and economic problems. Instead, we should choose dialogue as the way forward in addressing whatever problem that confronts the Motherland.

WE CATEGORICALLY DENOUNCE the separate violence on Wednesday, July 31, that has heightened the already hopeless situation facing the nation.

THIS PAPER GATHERED that a senior police officer and several innocent citizens along with some rioters sustained injuries during the unfortunate situation.

NO LIBERIAN DESERVES such ugly acts. Violence has never solved any problem in this country, as we all have learnt, for if this were so, Liberia should be far better by now. No one needs to tell us about the devastating consequences of choosing such route in seeking redress to our grievances.

PROTESTERS MAY HAVE genuine concerns but violently engaging the authorities could well boomerang or become counter-productive to their prime objective of seeking improved standard of life for the citizenry.

WE WANT SOLUTIONS to the current dismal state of the economy, coupled with issues of corruption, mismanagement and bad governance. But choosing violence is not the right option.

RATHER, WE URGE the CoP to constructively engage the government for answers to its counts or demands. Member of the Council should test President George Weah's sincerity about dialogue, as he recently announced.

WE STRONGLY BELIEVE this is the surest way to finding solutions to the multiple problems engulfing our dear country, not thru violence.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Central Banks Are the Fall Guys

For decades, the freedom of monetary policymakers to make difficult decisions without having to worry about political blowback has proven indispensable to macroeconomic stability. But now, central bankers must ease monetary policies in response to populist mistakes for which they themselves will be blamed.

CHICAGO - Central-bank independence is back in the news. In the United States, President Donald Trump has been berating the Federal Reserve for keeping interest rates too high, and has reportedly explored the possibility of forcing out Fed Chair Jerome Powell. In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has fired the central-bank governor. The new governor is now pursuing sharp rate cuts. And these are hardly the only examples of populist governments setting their sights on central banks in recent months.

In theory, central-bank independence means that monetary policymakers have the freedom to make unpopular but necessary decisions, particularly when it comes to combating inflation and financial excesses, because they do not have to stand for election. When faced with such decisions, elected officials will always be tempted to adopt a softer response, regardless of the longer-term costs. To avoid this, they have handed over the task of intervening directly in monetary and financial matters to central bankers, who have the discretion to meet goals set by the political establishment however they choose.

This arrangement gives investors more confidence in a country's monetary and financial stability, and they will reward it (and its political establishment) by accepting lower interest rates for its debt. In theory, the country thus will live happily ever after, with low inflation and financial-sector stability.

Having proved effective in many countries starting in the 1980s, central-bank independence became a mantra for policymakers in the 1990s. Central bankers were held in high esteem, and their utterances, though often elliptical or even incomprehensible, were treated with deep reverence. Fearing a recurrence of the high inflation of the early 1980s, politicians gave monetary policymakers wide leeway, and scarcely ever talked about their actions publicly.

But now, three developments seem to have shattered this entente in developed countries. The first development was the 2008 global financial crisis, which suggested that central banks had been asleep at the wheel. Although central bankers managed to create an even more powerful aura around themselves by marshaling a forceful response to the crisis, politicians have since come to resent sharing the stage with these unelected saviors.

Second, since the crisis, central banks have repeatedly fallen short of their inflation targets. While this may suggest that they could have done more to boost growth, in reality they don't have the means to pursue much additional monetary easing, even using unconventional tools. Any hint of further easing seems to encourage financial risk-taking more than real investment. Central bankers have thus become hostages of the aura they helped to conjure. When the public believes that monetary policymakers have superpowers, politicians will ask why those powers aren't being used to fulfill their mandates.

Third, in recent years many central banks changed their communication approach, shifting from Delphic utterances to a policy of full transparency. But since the crisis, many of their public forecasts of growth and inflation have missed the mark. That these might have been the best estimates at the time convinces no one. That they were wrong is all

that matters. This has left them triply damned in the eyes of politicians: they failed to prevent the financial crisis and paid no price; they are failing now to meet their mandate; and they seem to know no more than the rest of us about the economy.

It is no surprise that populist leaders would be among the most incensed at central banks. Populists believe they have a mandate from "the people" to wrest control of institutions from the "elites," and there is nothing more elite than pointy-headed PhD economists speaking in jargon and meeting periodically behind closed doors in places like Basel, Switzerland. For a populist leader who fears that a recession might derail his agenda and tarnish his own image of infallibility, the central bank is the perfect scapegoat.

Markets seem curiously benign in the face of these attacks. In the past, they would have reacted by pushing up interest rates. But investors seem to have concluded that the deflationary consequences of the policy uncertainty created by the unorthodox and unpredictable actions of populist administrations far outweigh any damage done to central bank independence. So they want central banks to respond as the populist leader desires, not to support their "awesome" policies, but to offset their adverse consequences.

A central bank's mandate requires it to ease monetary policy when growth is flagging, even when the government's own policies are the problem. Though the central bank is still autonomous, it effectively becomes a dependent follower. In such cases, it may even encourage the government to undertake riskier policies on the assumption that the central bank will bail out the economy as needed. Worse, populist leaders may mistakenly believe the central bank can do more to rescue the economy from their policy mistakes than it actually can deliver. Such misunderstandings could be deeply problematic for the economy.

Furthermore, central bankers are not immune to public attack. They know that an adverse image hurts central bank credibility as well as its ability to recruit and act in the future. Knowing that they are being set up to take the fall in case the economy falters, it would be only human for central bankers to buy extra insurance against that eventuality. In the past, the cost would have been higher inflation over the medium term; today, it is more likely that the cost will be more future financial instability. This possibility, of course, will tend to depress market interest rates further rather than elevating them.

What can central bankers do? Above all, they need to explain their role to the public and why it is about more than simply moving interest rates up or down on a whim. Powell has been transparent in his press conferences and speeches, as well as honest about central bankers' own uncertainties regarding the economy. Shattering the mystique surrounding central banking could open it to attack in the short run, but will pay off in the long run. The sooner the public understands that central bankers are ordinary people doing a difficult job with limited tools under trying circumstances, the less it will expect monetary policy magically to correct elected politicians' errors. Under current conditions, that may be the best form of independence central bankers can hope for.



Lord, what else can you expect?

Dear Father:

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

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

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

Yes, my son.

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

You joking my son!

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

Wait now, he thinks that political ground there?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOS Children Village Liberia launches medical outreach

SOS Children Village Liberia launches Community Based Health Outreach program, the first ever since the institution came to Liberia.

Speaking in Old Matadi Estate Community at the start of the program Thursday, 01 August Doctor James Lewis, Medical Director of the SOS Medical Center said the organization embarks on the initiative to help community dwellers, who cannot afford medical bills at the Center.

other sicknesses backed by preventive health education.

The SOS Medical Director continues that the outreach is targeting over 11,000 patients in each community throughout Montserrado, calling on residents to take advantage of the opportunity.

Old Matadi Estate Community Chairman, Kemoh Sherrif, lauds the Medical Center of the SOS Children Village for the free medical services in the community, which he says is the



He explained they were also doing this to improve access to quality health care for homeless people thru direct continuous medical care in the streets, with the goal of linking them with a primary medical home.

According to Doctor Lewis, the process will continue until all communities within Montserrado County benefit from the program that has a lifespan of six (6) months.

He detailed that cases being addressed include Malaria, Diabetes, pregnant women and Typhoid, among

first since he took over leadership there.

Communication Specialist of the SOS Children Village Joseph Joboe, lauds the Government of Liberia its support to the Village, adding that the Medical Center Community Based Health Outreach program helps people who do not have money to pay for medical bills.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation For Bid for STATIONERY

DATE: July 3, 2019
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of Stationery. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Stationery. 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 goods described below. The items will be divided into lot. Bid submission begins on July 3, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 12:00 pm for Stationery supplies.

Packages: Stationary

IFB NO.	LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/001/2019/2020	Lot-1a	Stationery	Assorted	US \$2,934.08

- 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 Stationery supplies may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
 - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$75.00 for a set of bid documents for Stationery. Bidders are required to submit a separate bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.
- 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 two (2) years 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.
 - Include Business Activity Code.
- 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 # 501-505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 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 requested information
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Stationery, to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020.

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 6, 2019 @ 12:00 P.M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on Friday August 2, 2019 @ 12:00 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 @ 12:00 Pm. 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

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & Services

DATE: July 5, 2019
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/002/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Cleaning Materials & Services**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers in the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service which appeared in two dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one. Bid submission begins on July 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 1:30 Noon.

Package: **Cleaning Materials & Services.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Cleaning Materials & Services.	Assorted	US \$266.00

- 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 Cleaning Materials & Services may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.

- Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
- Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Cleaning Materials & Services.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

- Qualification requirements include the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
- Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
- Availability of products at all times; and,
- Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
- PPCC Vendor registry
- Business Activity Code

- 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. daily.

All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other requested information.

- IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/002/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services; 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 6, 2019 @ 12:00 NOON. However, No Electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on August 2, 2019 @ 1:00 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 to.

- Sealed bids for Cleaning Materials & Services will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 @ 1:30pm. 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

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation to Bid for CARTRIDGES

DATE: July 5, 2019
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of **Cartridges**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Cartridges, 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 goods described below. Bid submission begins on July 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily; and the final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 2:00.

Packages: **Assorted Cartridges**

IFB NO.	LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/005/2019/2020	Lot-1a	Cartridges Assorted	Assorted	US \$308.00

- 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 cartridges supplies may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:

- Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
- Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 for a set of bid documents for Cartridges. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.

- 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 two (2) years 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.
- Include Business Activity Code.

- 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 from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 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 requested information

- IFB NO. JUD/NCB/005/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cartridges, to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020;

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 6, 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on Friday August 2, 2019 @ 1:00 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.

- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 as follows: @ 2: 00 Pm. 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

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Printing Materials

DATE: July 5, 2019
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **printing Materials**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Printing Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service. As stated in this document.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Liberian bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one (1) package. Bid submission begins on July 5, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 6, 2019 @ 1:00 pm.

Package: **Printing Materials.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Printing Materials.	Assorted	US \$360.00

- 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 Printing Materials may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.

- Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
- Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Printing Materials.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

- Qualification requirements include the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
- Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
- Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
- Availability of products at all times; and,
- Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
- PPCC Vendor registry certificate.
- Business Activity Code

- 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 & 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 requested information.

- IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2019/2020 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Printing Materials; 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 6, 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on August 2, 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 to.

- Sealed bids for printing materials will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 6, 2019 @ 1:00 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

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation for Bids for Generators Repairs

DATE: July 4, 2019
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/003/2019/2020

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Generators Maintenance & Repairs**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Generators Maintenance & Repairs. 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. Bid submission begins on July 4, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 2, 2019 @ 2: 00 pm.

Packages: **Generator Repairs.**

IFB NO.	LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/003/2019/2020	Lot-1a	Generators Maintenance & Repairs	Assorted	US \$1,170.00

- 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 Generators Repairs may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice: (a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; and, (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$60.00, for a set of bid documents for the servicing of Generators Repairs. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

- 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 two (2) years 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.

- 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 # 501-505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 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 (1) IFB NO. JUD/NCB/003/2019/2020 - (Lot 1-a) CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Generator Repairs Services 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 August 2, 2019 @ 2:00 PM. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on July 25, 2019 in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows: **Generator Repairs @ 12:00P.M** seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.

- Sealed bids for Generator maintenance & repairs will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on Friday, August 2, 2019 @ 2:00 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

89% of budget to be mobilized domestically

-MFDP

By Ethel A. Tweh

Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Augustus Flomo has told a legislative hearing that an equivalent of US\$472.1 million or 89 percent of the US\$532,906,966.09 budget submitted for Fiscal Year 2019/20 will be mobilized domestically.

Appearing before the Joint Legislative Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget Thursday, 1 August on Capitol Hill, Mr. Flomo says government has instituted a number of strategic revenue policy measures to be implemented to yield additional domestic resources.

The government recently submitted the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget in the tune of US\$532,906,966.09 which is equivalent to LD\$113,248,059,364.28 at a projected rate of US\$1.00 to LD\$212.51.

According to Minister Flomo, the current revenue output base is US\$442.8 million with regards to domestic resource mobilization, but the implementation of strategic revenue policy measures is expected to yield additional US\$22.2 million in domestic resource mobilization.



Minister Flomo explains that the Finance Ministry has projected to generate resources from key extractive sectors which include forestry, agriculture and mining, totaling US\$60.7 million.

According to him, government is expected to generate resources from the service industry which includes banking and non - banking financial services, telecommunications, hotel and restaurant services, airline ticketing and reservation services, among others.

Additionally, Minister Flomo discloses that government is expected to generate revenues from the general business

sector.

He explains that this sector is mainly driven by trade activities, especially imports of consumables by large importers, retailers and wholesalers of petroleum products, fisheries, supermarkets and stores, pharmacies and drugstores, building materials and motor vehicles sales and repairs in the tune of US\$116.2.

He details that public corporations and state - owned enterprises (SOEs) are expected to contribute US\$36.9 million in all taxes and fees, citing the National Port Authority (NPA) and the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company

(LPRC) as key contributors.

According to him, the Civil Service contribution is expected to reach US\$39 million on account of withholdings on salary wages, while ministries and agencies which render services for fees under administrative fees are expected to contribute US\$16.2 million in revenues.

Minister Flomo explains further that the Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector is expected to contribute US\$121.8 million in revenues.

He says this sector is comprised of the small taxpayers or small businesses, individuals who import goods from overseas, real property owners and motor vehicle

owners, among others.

The Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget is submitted with a revenue forecast of US\$52.4 million.

Mr. Flomo says the actual revenue to be mobilized domestically is an equivalent of US\$ 472.1 million or 89% of the total resource envelope of which US\$465.1 million is core revenue and US\$70 million is the contingent revenue.

He notes that US\$60.8 million or 11% constitutes external resources of which multilateral grants is US\$20.8 Million. He concludes that concessional loan which is also a contingent element of the envelope is US\$40 million.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

American educator speaks on corruption

By Emmanuel Mondaye

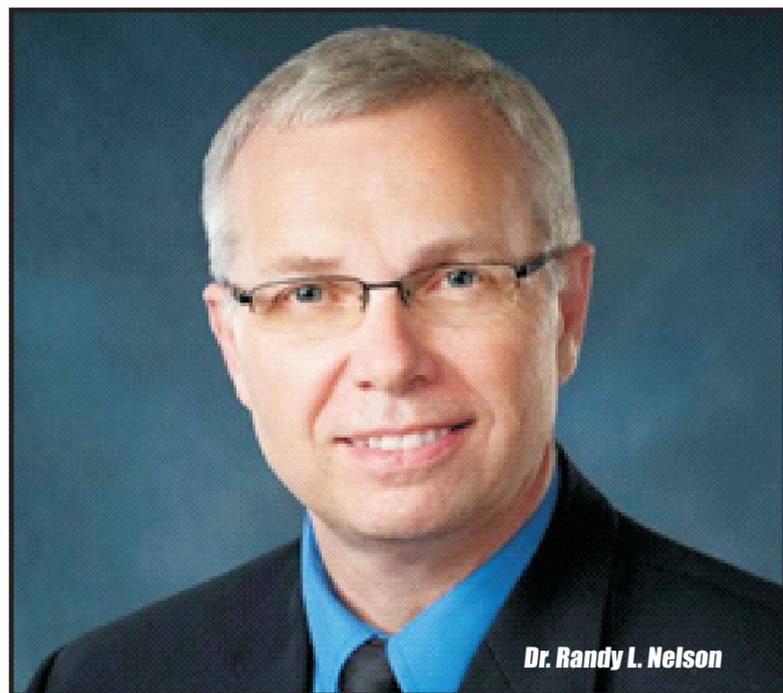
American educator Dr. Randy L. Nelson has called on Church leaders to remind those under their care about the corruption that comes from wealth.

Dr. Nelson made the assertion recently on the Old Road when he served as keynote speaker during the 10th graduation convocation of the Jake Memorial Baptist College when 11 students

He emphasizes that there is much greatness within the Liberian people and culture, indicating that if that greatness becomes thoroughly interwoven with critical Christian principles, God will see and respond.

Dr. Nelson encourages graduates of the college to do good in absolute secrecy based on Jesus' instruction to man.

The guest speaker



Dr. Randy L. Nelson

obtained Associate of Arts (AA) Degrees in Theology and Christian Education.

Dr. Nelson is the Director of International Education and an Associate Professor at the Sioux Falls University based in the United States of America (USA).

He discloses that Church leaders should serve others before self, noting that Jesus Christ instructs "us" to wash others' feet.

emphasizes that suffering teaches Christians important lessons, saying they learn humility and compassion that bring human closer to God.

According to the US professor, it is critically important to love the unlovable as Jesus instructs humans to love all without exception.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

CDC loses popularity in Montserrado?

By Lewis S. Teh

President George Manneh Weah's rally call to partisans in Montserrado County last weekend's (Saturday, July 27) to elect the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC's candidates in the just-ended by-elections flatly fell on deaf ears, evidenced by

the ruling party's poor performance in both polls.

The once mighty CDC is desperately struggling with a narrow lead to secure a grip on Montserrado County District#15 seat, as it convincingly trails 36.95 to 53.59 percent behind the opposition Liberty Party, according to preliminary

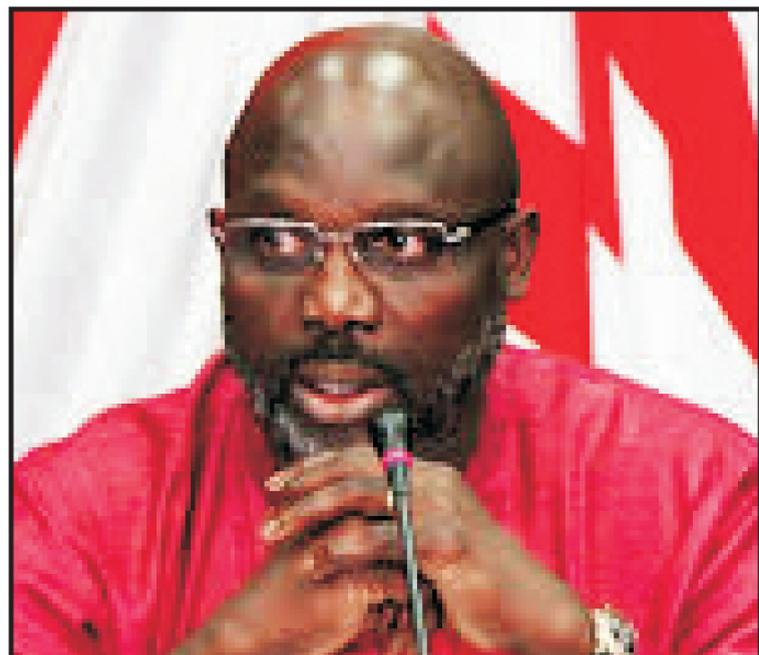
results released by the National Elections Commission in the senatorial by-election.

The CDC's candidate in District#15 Abu Bana Kamara narrowly leads by 45.95 to 37.89 percent against Telia Urey of the opposition All Liberian Party, according to NEC.

The President recently visited Logan town in District#15, personally to close campaign rally of his party's candidate, Abu Kamara, rallying partisans and residents to elect candidates on the CDC tickets and reminded them that Montserrado County belongs to the CDC only, no other party.

President Weah then declared Montserrado a "no-go zone" for the opposition, maintaining that those with the thought that they can beat the ruling party in the county might be joking.

"Today, you are closing your campaign; I want you to whip them. In Montserrado County, they



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah submits bills to control narcotic drugs

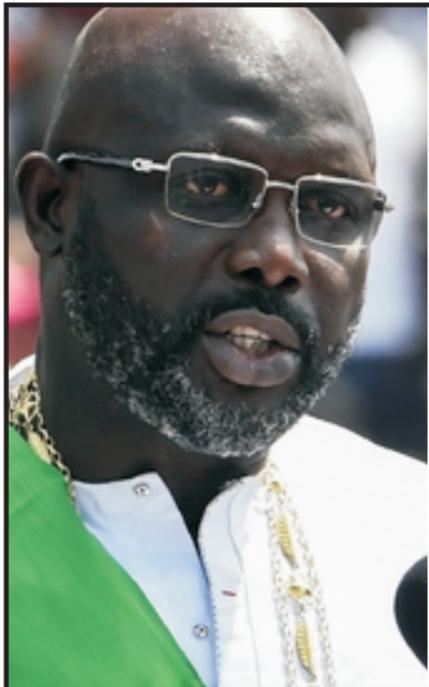
By Bridgett Milton

President George Manneh Weah has submitted to the House of Representatives bills to limit the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to legitimate medical and scientific progress.

The instruments submitted by President Weah for ratification include the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988.

Other instruments submitted include Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (as amended by the 1972 protocol, amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961), and Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.

According to President Weah, the primary objectives of these instruments are to limit the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to legitimate medical and scientific progress and to ensure that narcotic drugs



and psychotropic substances are available for medical and scientific purposes.

He observes that Liberia as a member state has not yet ratified these instruments, thereby posing hindrances in the execution of government's task with the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB).

He adds that Liberia will be

unable to quantify the need for control substances and will experience an increase in mental health cases that require psychotropic substance.

He warns that this will lead to increased requirement in the country if Liberia does not ratify these conventions.

Further, President Weah

indicates that Liberia cannot decide its quota, thus making it difficult to provide the requisite medication to patients. He explains that the

decision makers at the INCB are not cognizant of the exact substances that are consumed in Liberia.

President Weah informs the lawmakers that the prolonged civil war has resulted into the breakdown of every fabric of the society with law and order not being an exception.

He says some of the aftermaths of the civil war are substance abuse, which according to him is prominent among the youthful population here and the lack of stringent drug mechanism to ensure that mental health patients and other related conditions are grounded on evidence based therapy.

Meanwhile the House of Representatives has forwarded the communication to the Committees on Health, Judiciary, Foreign Affairs and National Security to report within two weeks.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Liberians want sex education in National Curriculum

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Cross section of Liberians, including religious leaders, medical doctors, marketers, bankers and farmers, among others are calling on the Government to include sex education in the National Curriculum.

Speaking in separate interviews here, they note that if included in the curriculum, the subject should be referred to as Family Life, to adequately prepare students about the grave consequences of teenage pregnancy and

sexually transmitted disease.

They say the proposed Family Life course should educate students about the risk associated with early pregnancy, which in most instances leads the deadly HIV/AIDS Virus and unwanted pregnancy. They call on the Ministry of Education (MOE) not to see sex education as a taboo, which young people should not be taught.

According to them, teaching health education in various high schools across the country will also prevent students from having babies when they are not prepared,

which could hamper their education.

The concerned Liberians also want parents to actively get involved in educating their children about teenage pregnancy and the consequences of aborting unwanted pregnancy.

They blame government for failure to provide sex education to students, which encourage students to learn it through peer pressure or social media (facebook) something that is destroying the fabric of the country's education system. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

CDC loses popularity

Cont'd from page 6

keep testing us, and I keep telling them Montserrado is not their zone; do not come here, but because of their friskiness, we have to teach them lesson", said the CDC Standard Bearer.

He wondered how could the opposition come into the CDC strong hold against its candidate Abu Kamara with the thought of winning, something he described as complete defiance, calling on partisans to teach the opposition bloc a lesson at the ballot box.

But his per talk proved the contrary, as results from the county seem not too favorable for the ruling establishment.

Speaking to this paper, a resident of New Kru Town in District#16, Emmanuel Togbah describes the President's boast as mere statement, noting that

the poll results contradict his (President Weah's) assertion.

"If you claim to have absolute dominance over a particular [area] that must be shown; I think this result is a warning that he needs to go back to the drawing board to put measures in place that would save him from more embarrassment come 2023", Emmanuel warns.

He further observes that CDCians are noted for claiming victory, saying we all saw how they were massively beaten in District# 13 by-election, even after the President supported Candidate John J. Weah, who was again beaten by an independent candidate that the ruling party subsequently claimed as one of its partisans.



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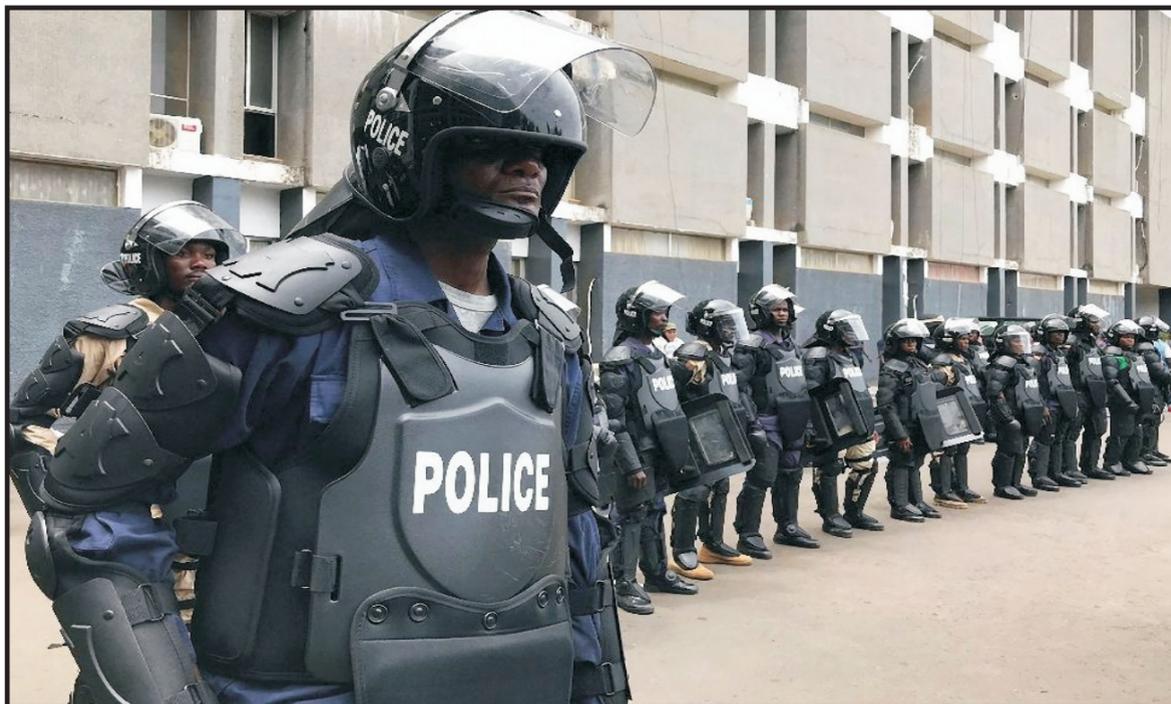
Français

La tension monte d'un cran à Monrovia

Des heurts ont éclaté mercredi matin entre des centaines de manifestants et les forces de l'ordre et de sécurité qui ont dû faire usage du gaz lacrymogène. Les manifestants dénoncent « la corruption, la mauvaise gestion économique et l'arrogance des responsables gouvernementaux dirigés par le président George Weah qui a pris les rênes du pouvoir il y a 19 mois.

Les manifestants ont lancé des projectiles aux forces de l'ordre qui les empêchaient d'avoir accès au palais de l'Assemblée législative libérienne. La police, qui a aussitôt riposté à l'aide du gaz lacrymogène, estime que la manifestation est illégale car elle n'a pas été autorisée par les autorités.

La protestation est survenue au lendemain des élections législative et



sénatoriale partielles sur fond de vives tensions nées de la réclamation de la victoire de part et d'autre, alors que la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) n'avait pas encore annoncé les résultats provisoires.

La manifestation était

prévue pour le 24 juillet, mais elle a été reportée au 31 juillet, après que l'ambassade des États-Unis ait publié un communiqué dans lequel elle a condamné la manifestation car elle devrait avoir lieu à la veille de la fête de l'indépendance du pays. Elle

avait été planifiée par les organisateurs de la manifestation du 7 juin, à savoir notamment le Conseil des patriotes (COP).

Il s'agit de la deuxième manifestation majeure depuis que le président Weah, une ancienne gloire du football africain reconvertie à la politique, est arrivé au pouvoir. Au moins plus de cinq manifestants ont été interpellés par les forces de l'ordre.

Les manifestants dénoncent une dégradation de leurs conditions de vie depuis que Mr George est arrivé aux affaires il y a à peine 19 mois. La situation économique continue de s'aggraver, l'inflation dépassant les 40%. Le prix des produits de base continue de monter de jour en jour et c'est comme si le gouvernement était à court d'options pour atténuer les difficultés.

Certaines sociétés étrangères ont fermé, tandis que d'autres ont considérablement réduit leurs effectifs, les

fonctionnaires se plaignent de ne pas recevoir de salaire pendant plus de deux mois dans certains organismes et ministères. Les banques ont tiré le rideau sur l'octroi de prêts aux entreprises en raison des problèmes de liquidités dans le pays.

Au milieu de cette situation économique difficile, on rapporte la disparition de «16 milliards» de dollars libériens, à cela s'ajoute la gestion controversée de 25 millions de dollars américains prétendument mis en circulation pour diminuer l'excès de liquidité de la devise nationale et stimuler l'économie.

Les manifestants réclament des comptes et demandent au président Weah de limoger le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, et le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, Nathaniel Patray, pour leur rôle dans la gestion calamiteuse des 25 millions de dollars US.

La manifestation a aussi lieu deux jours après l'acquittement de sept personnes par la cour pénale. Elles étaient soupçonnées d'avoir accepté des pots-de-vin pour changer la loi sur les concessions en faveur d'une entreprise minière Britannique, Sable Mining. Il s'agit des sénateurs Varney Sherman, Morris Saytuma et de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Alex Tyler, pour ne citer que ceux-là.

L'affaire était un exemple atypique de conflits d'intérêts après la nomination des anciens avocats de la défense des accusés comme responsables du système judiciaire du pays. En d'autres mots, les accusés ont fini par être jugés par leurs propres avocats. Il ne faut pas aussi oublier la visite impromptue du juge adjoint de la cour suprême Joseph Nagbe au tribunal en plein procès.

Les manifestants interpellés seront jugés pour troubles à l'ordre public

Plus d'une quinzaine de manifestants interpellés mercredi dans les rues de Monrovia seront traduits en justice, a annoncé le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter.

Le Conseil des patriotes (COP), qui avait organisé la manifestation du 7 juin 2019, a invité les libériens à descendre dans la rue mercredi en dépit de l'interdiction de la marche

par le gouvernement.

Le COP avait précédemment écrit au ministère, demandant l'autorisation de manifester après les élections partielles du 29 juillet dans le comté de Montserrado afin d'exiger que le gouvernement réponde à sa récente pétition.

Le groupe souhaite, entre autres, que le gouvernement trouve des solutions à la piètre performance de l'économie caractérisée par une inflation

de plus de 20%, un taux de change incontrôlable et une hausse des prix des produits alimentaires et d'autres produits de base.

Le COP dénonce également la corruption généralisée et demande la démission de plusieurs responsables, notamment le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement et le ministre d'État chargé des affaires présidentielles.

Des manifestants se sont affrontés mercredi avec la police anti-émeute alors qu'ils tentaient de pénétrer dans l'enceinte du palais de l'Assemblée législative libérienne. Des informations font état de plusieurs blessés. Ces informations n'ont été confirmées ni infirmées de manière indépendante.

Cependant, s'adressant aux journalistes, M. Carter a déclaré que la police nationale du Libéria n'ordonnerait pas à ses agents de tirer sur des citoyens.

Contrairement à la marche intitulée « Save the State » du 7 juin qui a rassemblé des milliers de

citoyens dans les rues, les manifestants de mercredi étaient environ un millier. La foule était dirigée par le représentant du district 10 du

comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, et Abraham Darius Dillon, candidat à la dernière sénatoriale partielle du comté de Montserrado.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhena

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

CEDEAO : Vulgarisation de la lutte traditionnelle et quête de reconnaissance internationale

La lutte traditionnelle africaine, un héritage transmis depuis des générations s'organise dans la sous-région autour de ses différentes formes à travers des compétitions. Les acteurs du secteur portent en bandoulière les différents projets et contribuent à faire rayonner cette discipline sportive dans nos pays. Dans le but de plus professionnaliser le secteur et d'harmoniser les règles qui régissent la lutte traditionnelle en dans la CEDEAO, les experts, promoteurs et sportifs du secteur se rencontrent à Dakar au Sénégal du 1er au 3 août 2019 pour un séminaire qui sera animé parallèlement par des ateliers et de formation d'arbitres ouest africains de la lutte traditionnelle.

A noter qu'à côté des tournois nationaux, les états depuis 18 ans se rencontrent autour d'une compétition régionale pour partager leur passion et pérenniser cette culture sportive traditionnelle. Connue sous le nom de TOLAC le Tournoi de lutte traditionnelle africaine de la CEDEAO est le premier événement sportif régional adopté par l'Institut pour le lancement de son programme de développement de la pratique des sports. C'est le 29 novembre 1986 qu'il fut créé par le Conseil des ministres de la CEDEAO même si, ce n'est qu'en 2001, que la première édition du tournoi a eu lieu à Niamey, au Niger. Le Sénégal où il existe déjà un tournoi de lutte traditionnelle de haut niveau a accueilli son premier TOLAC en 2008. Depuis lors, le tournoi s'alterne entre les deux pays.

L'évolution du TOLAC dans la CEDEAO depuis 2001

En 2001, le TOLAC a débuté avec seulement trois pays (le Niger, le Nigeria et le Burkina Faso). Presque 20 ans après, le Tournoi de lutte traditionnelle s'est agrandi et accueille aujourd'hui la plupart des pays de la CEDEAO. La lutte traditionnelle dans son ensemble a évolué de façon vertigineuse. Des innovations introduites pour davantage le hisser au rang des sports rois, la codification et la normalisation du TOLAC sans oublier l'apport indéfectible des fédérations de lutte de la région contribuent au quotidien au développement de la lutte traditionnelle dans notre région. Forts de ce parcours, les acteurs de lutte traditionnelle se disent prêts à donner une impulsion à ce sport, afin de le renforcer davantage et de l'adapter aux nouvelles réalités en accord avec le programme communautaire de développement de la CEDEAO et les objectifs mondiaux de développement durable. Cela, afin de faire en sorte que le TOLAC, en tant qu'événement sportif intrinsèque, contribue davantage au développement de la région.

L'atelier de Dakar...

La CEDEAO collabore à

l'organisation de l'atelier de Dakar du 1er au 2 août 2019. Cet atelier qui a ouvert ses portes ce jeudi se présente comme un tournant dans le changement d'image de la lutte comme discipline sportive traditionnelle de la CEDEAO.

L'objectif général de cet atelier est de dresser le bilan des actions mises en œuvre pour la promotion de la lutte traditionnelle africaine. L'évaluation des résultats obtenus va permettre de formuler des recommandations pour la durabilité de la discipline, de renforcer la capacité des acteurs du secteur afin d'assurer leur reconnaissance internationale.

Les résultats attendus lors de cette rencontre sont entre autres l'évaluation des éditions passées du Tournoi traditionnel de lutte de la CEDEAO (TOLAC), l'adoption des modalités d'exécution du TOLAC dans la région, l'adoption des résolutions et recommandations sur la durabilité du TOLA, la formation et certification de trente (30) arbitres de lutte africaine de niveau 1.

Lutte traditionnelle africaine : Un peu d'histoire avec la CEDEAO Le Conseil des Ministres de la CEDEAO a adopté par décision n° C/DEC 3/11/86 du 29 Novembre 1986, la lutte traditionnelle comme sport de la Communauté. Suite à cette décision, le Centre de Développement de la Jeunesse et des Sports de la CEDEAO a initié un programme cohérent de travail afin de promouvoir la pratique de la Lutte dans l'espace CEDEAO et lui conférer, à terme, une reconnaissance universelle par son inscription aux Jeux Olympiques. En effet sur les 80 styles de lutte traditionnelle répertoriés dans le monde, seuls deux (la lutte gréco romaine et la lutte libre) étaient inscrits au programme des récents Jeux Olympiques.

Le Centre de Développement de la Jeunesse et des Sports a initié à cet effet des programmes ambitieux qui se déclinent suivant les piliers de développement de tout sport à savoir : l'organisation des compétitions, la formation des arbitres, des entraîneurs et les supports didactiques, le renforcement des capacités des fédérations nationales.

La création, à partir de 2008, d'un tournoi de lutte Africaine, à Dakar, est venue par la suite éteindre le calendrier annuel de la lutte africaine au niveau régional. Après onze éditions à Niamey et huit éditions à Dakar, il est paru important que les acteurs qui ont œuvré à l'émergence de cette activité chère à notre Communauté, puissent évaluer la portée de leurs réalisations et envisager les étapes futures dans la quête de la reconnaissance internationale et de la vulgarisation de la Lutte africaine.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

Les banques centrales portent le chapeau

CHICAGO - La question de l'indépendance des banques centrales fait à nouveau les gros titres. Aux États-Unis, le président Donald Trump reproche à la Réserve fédérale de maintenir les taux d'intérêt à un niveau trop élevé, et aurait-il exploré la possibilité d'évincer le président de la Fed, Jerome Powell. En Turquie, le président Recep Tayyip Erdogan a récemment limogé le gouverneur de la banque centrale. Le nouveau responsable applique désormais d'importantes réductions de taux. D'autres exemples abondent, qui voient les gouvernements populistes prendre pour cible les banques centrales depuis quelques mois.

En théorie, l'indépendance des banques centrales signifie que les décideurs de la politique monétaire sont libres de prendre des décisions impopulaires mais nécessaires, notamment dans la lutte contre l'inflation et les excès de la finance, puisqu'ils n'ont pas à satisfaire un électeurat. Par opposition, lorsqu'ils sont confrontés à des choix difficiles, les dirigeants élus sont toujours tentés d'adopter une réponse plus souple, quelques qu'en soient les coûts à plus long terme. C'est pour éviter cela qu'ils ont confié à des banquiers centraux la tâche consistant à intervenir directement sur les questions monétaires et financières, ces banquiers centraux décidant discrétionnairement de la manière d'atteindre les objectifs fixés par les dirigeants politiques.

Ce fonctionnement confère aux investisseurs une plus grande confiance dans la stabilité monétaire et financière de tel ou tel État, les investisseurs récompensant un pays donné (et son gouvernement) en acceptant des taux d'intérêt moins élevés sur sa dette. En théorie, l'État concerné coule ainsi des jours heureux, bénéficiant d'une faible inflation et d'une stabilité de son secteur financier.

Ayant démontré son efficacité dans de nombreux pays à partir des années 1980, l'indépendance des banques centrales est devenue le mantra des dirigeants politiques dans les années 1990. Les banquiers centraux étaient alors tenus en haute estime, et leurs recommandations, pourtant souvent elliptiques voire incompréhensibles, étaient accueillies avec une profonde révérence. Redoutant un retour de l'inflation forte observée au début des années 1980, les dirigeants politiques concédaient une importante marge de manœuvre aux décideurs monétaires, et n'évoquaient que très rarement leur action publiquement.

Aujourd'hui, trois évolutions semblent toutefois bouleverser ce fonctionnement dans les pays développés. La première réside dans la crise financière mondiale de 2008, qui a semblé suggérer que les banques centrales s'étaient endormies au volant. En effet, bien que les banquiers centraux soient parvenus à créer autour d'eux une aura encore plus puissante en élaborant une réponse forte face à la crise, les dirigeants politiques n'acceptent plus autant qu'hier de devoir partager la scène avec ces sauveurs non élus.

Deuxièmement, toujours depuis la crise, les banques centrales ont souvent échoué à atteindre leurs objectifs d'inflation. Bien que cela puisse suggérer qu'ils auraient pu œuvrer davantage pour renforcer la croissance, ils n'ont en réalité pas les moyens de procéder à nouveau à un assouplissement quantitatif, même en usant d'outils non conventionnels. Tout indice de nouvel assouplissement semble encourager davantage la prise de risques financiers que l'investissement réel. Les banquiers centraux sont ainsi devenus les otages de l'aura qu'ils s'étaient constituée. Tandis que l'opinion publique pense que les décideurs monétaires détiennent des pouvoirs magiques, les dirigeants politiques se demandent pourquoi ces pouvoirs ne sont pas employés pour leur permettre d'honorer leur mandat.

Troisièmement, de nombreuses banques centrales ont modifié ces dernières années leur approche de communication, passant de déclarations delphiques à une politique de transparence totale. Or, depuis la crise, nombre de leurs prévisions publiques de

croissance et d'inflation se sont révélées inexactes. Aux yeux du plus grand nombre, peu importe que ces estimations aient été les meilleures à un instant donné. Seul reste le fait qu'elles étaient erronées. Les banques centrales se retrouvent ainsi condamnées à trois égards par les politiciens : elles n'ont pas su prévenir la crise financière et n'en ont pas payé le prix, elles échouent aujourd'hui à remplir leur mission, et elles ne semblent pas en savoir beaucoup plus que le commun des mortels sur l'économie.

Pas étonnant que les dirigeants populistes comptent parmi les plus critiques à l'égard des banques centrales. Les populistes se disent investis d'un mandat confié par « le peuple », consistant à reprendre aux « élites » le contrôle des institutions, élites qu'incarment au plus haut point les intellectuels docteurs en économie qui s'expriment dans un langage obscur et se réunissent périodiquement derrière des portes fermées en des lieux comme Bâle, en Suisse. Pour un leader populiste craignant qu'une récession fasse dérailler son programme et ternisse sa propre image d'inaffabilité, la banque centrale constitue le parfait bouc-émissaire.

Les marchés semblent curieusement peu perturbés par ces attaques. Autrefois, ils auraient réagi en poussant pour la hausse des taux d'intérêt. Mais les investisseurs semblent en être arrivés à la conclusion que les conséquences déflationnistes de l'incertitude politique engendrée par l'action peu orthodoxe et imprévisible des administrations publiques importent beaucoup plus que les atteintes à l'indépendance des banques centrales. Ils souhaitent par conséquent voir les banques centrales répondre comme l'entendent les dirigeants populistes, non pas pour soutenir leurs « formidables » politiques, mais pour en éviter les conséquences défavorables.

Le mandat d'une banque centrale lui impose d'assouplir la politique monétaire quand la croissance faiblit, même lorsque les propres politiques du gouvernement sont à l'origine du problème. Bien que la banque centrale demeure autonome, elle devient de fait un suiveur dépendant. Dans ce cas, elle peut même inciter le gouvernement à entreprendre des mesures plus risquées, puisqu'intervient l'hypothèse selon laquelle la banque centrale renflouera l'économie selon les besoins. Pire encore, les dirigeants populistes peuvent croire à tort que la banque centrale pourra œuvrer pour sauver l'économie de leurs erreurs politiques au-delà de ce qu'elle peut en réalité accomplir. Ces malentendus pourraient se révéler extrêmement problématiques pour l'économie.

Les banquiers centraux ne sont pas non plus à l'abri d'attaques publiques. Ils savent qu'une mauvaise image peut impacter la crédibilité de la banque centrale, de même que sa capacité à recruter ainsi qu'à agir dans le futur. Conscients d'être voués à porter le chapeau en cas d'échec économique, il serait compréhensible que les banquiers centraux se protègent davantage contre cette éventualité. Hier, le prix à payer aurait résidé dans une plus forte inflation à moyen terme ; aujourd'hui, il faut davantage s'attendre à ce qu'il prenne la forme d'une future instabilité financière. Cette possibilité tendra bien entendu à réduire les taux d'intérêt du marché plutôt qu'à les élever.

Que peuvent faire les banquiers centraux ? Il leur faut par-dessus tout expliquer leur rôle au public, et pourquoi ce rôle ne se limite pas à augmenter ou réduire les taux d'intérêt à leur guise. Powell fait preuve de transparence dans ses discours, ses conférences de presse, et d'honnêteté quant aux propres incertitudes des banquiers centraux concernant l'économie. La démythification du rôle des banques centrales les exposera peut-être à des attaques à court terme, mais ce choix se révélera payant sur le long terme. Plus tôt le public comprendra que les banquiers centraux sont des gens comme tout le monde, qui exercent un métier difficile, avec les outils limités dont ils disposent dans des circonstances complexes, moins le public attendra de la politique monétaire qu'elle rectifie comme par magie les erreurs des dirigeants politiques élus. Dans le contexte actuel, telle est sans doute la meilleure forme d'indépendance que peuvent espérer les banquiers centraux.

FROM OUR FILES

FROM OUR FILES

The Problems with Patriotism in the Liberian Society

By Ambrues M. Nebo

neboambrues@gmail.com/nebo1975@yahoo.com
+231 777531129/888093805

From scrupulous observations, it is no argument to counter the urge for patriotism in the Liberian society. Both the electronic and print media continue to flex intellectual muscles on discourse or talk shows about the inclination of many Liberians of badmouthing and castigating the country. In the belief windows or minds of the radio talk show host and guests, this attitude has always been described as unpatriotic. Certainly, this concern suggests or speaks clearly about the problems with patriotism in Liberia.

Recently, I listened to the Patrick Honnah regular bumper show on the ELBC radio 99.9. Featuring Rev. Foley Emmet Karpeh and another Liberian writer, the show not only frowned on the pessimistic or unpatriotic attitude of many Liberians, but endeavored to proffer practical approaches or remedies to the problems of patriotism in Liberia. Citing the Ghanaian society as a model of patriotism, the studio discussants referenced the lack of one common dialect or vernacular as a unifier and perhaps a catalyst for what sociologists would called the "We Feeling" or the "We consciousness". Interestingly, Rev. Karpeh recounted one of his experiences in Ghana that exemplified patriotic attitude or consciousness. According to him, about two Ghanaians went for him to the airport. While on

problems with patriotism in Liberia, this write-up or article seeks to expose another problem that worth consideration or debate.

Arguably, one of the ways in which the spirit of patriotism can be instilled in members of the society is through the teaching of history. The history of every society not only focuses on the past and present. It influences the sense of pride, belonging as well as direction. Moreover, it utilizes the pasts that have important lessons for the present and the future. More importantly, it records legacy that has an important bearing on the lives of society member. The patriotic assertion that also illustrates a sense of pride by Ghanaians "Ghana is the best" that Liberians often referenced doubtlessly derived from the history of Ghana taught in schools.

In our Liberian society, it worth saying that there is something fundamentally wrong about how is history taught in grade schools (Elementary and Senior High schools). This problem is historic. Take for instance; in our schools curricula the syllables for history emphasize Ghana Empire, Songhay (Mali) Empire, Oyo Empire, European history etc. Less emphasis has been placed on Liberian history. In support of this claim, before the civil war, foreign teachers were teaching history in high schools. I have a vivid memory of one Mr. Youku Luke from Kenya or Somalia that taught me history in D. Twe Memorial High school probably around 1994/96. There was nothing about the history of



This is not any way to imply elimination from our history curriculum if they exist. What is important is to devote more time on the history of Liberia in the class home. On the other hand, it justifies elimination from our history syllables if Liberia history is not taught in Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, European grade schools. In other words, what should we promote their history when ours has nothing to do with instilling or transmitting patriotic consciousness in their societies?

The third question is; in Ghana, Nigeria, Mali and Europe, do foreigners teach history? In absence of empirical evidence, it worth saying big "No" by virtue of the fact that it is through the teaching of history patriotism can be transmitted from generation to generation in society. In the case of Liberia, our system in past allowed foreigners to teach history in our schools. How possible for foreigners that have no allegiance, sense of pride or belonging of a society to inculcate patriotic values or consciousness through the teaching of history into our grade school going population? Tell us, we would desire the answer.

On the authority of valid research, we learned that history relates the story of cooperative actions of a large number of men and women in their quest for a better life that to a large extent influence or bring a sense of pride. Inarguably, a sense of pride can be equated to patriotism derived from history. It is part of the cultural embodiment of any society. I am sure that in the history of Liberia, the culture of cooperative actions of our ancestors prior to the arrival of the settlers for better life exists. In the history of Ghana often referenced, the quest for better life mainly during the Asante Empire reflects cooperative action by ancestor that children learned in schools as legacy. Can we in Liberia revisit our history so that our lesson contents or syllables can reflect the culture of cooperative action as a legacy that will influence our children sense of pride? Ponder about it.

It is never late to think about experimenting the crux of the argument brought forth in this article. We have a promising generation who are grade school going age. The history of Liberia has so much to offer when it comes to instilling patriotic consciousness in our promising generation or children. Let us as educators, policy makers, technocrat in education, government and more importantly the Liberian society think about crux of this article. It our quest for instilling the spirit of patriotism in Liberians, this article may be of help in term of solution.



the vehicle enroute to his accommodation, they were speaking the popular local Twi language. He voiced out his uncomforted feeling. One of the Ghanaians who happen to be the driver apologized and told him that they were talking about their problem of electricity in Ghana. He further explained that it would have been an embarrassment or perhaps shameful to discuss their problem in the presence of a stranger. In other words, one could argue or infer that the Ghanaians were very conscious about the image of their society had they discuss the problem in English.

Though being taught in Liberian schools, the discussants re-emphasized the need to re-enforce the syllables for the subject civic as one of the practical remedies. By this assertion, you can possibly infer that this suggested approach may not work well for this present generation above grade school (Elementary -senior High) ages.

Admittedly, the discussants as evidenced by all of the callers' supportive comments and views did well to dissect the issues.

Premised on the assumption that we as mortal are limited that could justify the reasons why the discussants never thought or cover all of the

Liberia. All of the lesson contents were European history such as Industrial Revolution, World War I & II etc. Maybe you could argue that it was what the syllable says by then. About this claim, there are few fundamental questions to be asked.

The first is; in Ghana, Mali or Nigeria, etc. do they teach the history of Liberia just as we do here? It is part of their history syllables? To answer this question, you will want to be empirical. In absence of empirical evidence, it is inconvincible that Ghana considered by Ghanaians as the best teach Liberia history in their grade schools. Even if it is taught, to what extend is another question. As for Nigeria, it is also questionable seriously. Mali that is Francophone, it is also questionable as well.

The second question is; though the history of Ghana, Nigeria, Mali empires and European history are good or relevant just as the history of Liberia. But to what extent the histories of these counties taught in our schools influence our children sense of pride, belonging for Liberia as their common patrimony? To what extent teaching Ghana, Mali, Oyo, World War I & II, Industrial Revolution, etc. are able to transmit patriotic consciousness from generation to generation?

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Election backlash?

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's immediate past Police Inspector General Col. Gregory Coleman and the current Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations or 102 Col. Marvin Sackor have faced separate attacks reportedly from partisans of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and staff at the National Bureau of Concession (NBC) which Col. Coleman heads.

These attacks came Wednesday when opposition supporters were celebrating preliminary poll result that favored their candidate in the Montserrado County Senatorial By - election, while in the District #15 representative by - election, the ruling party CDC's candidate battles with an opposition candidate.

The police here told the NewDawn via mobile Thursday, 1 August that 13 suspects including two of Col. Coleman's deputies at NBC have been arrested for questioning, but in the case of Col. Sackor, they are yet to make arrest or name a particular suspect who may have attacked the deputy police chief.

The police authorities however indicate to this paper that Col. Sackor suffer wound in his chest while his bodyguard also got injured as



a result of the attack on Wednesday in the CDC party headquarters in Congo Town.

The attack against Col. Sackor on Wednesday is said to have occurred when he entered CDC party premises following police's response to a situation between opposition Liberty Party (LP) and ruling CDC supporters in Congo Town.

Concerning Col. Coleman, this paper is informed that some of his staff, including a deputy for operations and another deputy, allegedly staged a riot at the NBC on the basis of some internal issues.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter says there is an ongoing investigation into the riot

incident at the NBC following the arrest for the 13 persons.

This paper contacted Col. Coleman, but he says he could not speak immediately on the matter, suggesting that he be reached on Friday.

"What I do know is that they were involved into actions that were not healthy for the institution," Mr. Carter says, adding that there were some physical contacts during the incident.

He says police intervened and made that things were brought under control at the NBC.

Col. Sackor could not be reached for comment. However, Mr. Carter indicates

that the Ministry of Justice has ordered an immediate investigation into the matter with Col. Sackor.

Carter says the incident happened as a result of the stone throwing between "supporters believed to be of the CDC and that of the opposition."

He says police cannot say who are those that did the act, even though he indicates that

Col. Sackor "complained that he was assaulted by supporters believed to be of the CDC."

"He had gone to the headquarters of the CDC to dialogue with some officials of the party and then he came under attack," Carter explains on the situation with Col. Sackor.

However, Carter argues that those who attacked Col. Sackor were not dressed in CDC party paraphernalia, as he avoids identifying the suspects as supporters of CDC.

"For now there was no arrest made. How we are doing the investigation is to work with, you know some persons of interest that we can have to share information with us," Carter claims.

Sadly Carter says police are yet to identify persons of interest in the case with Col. Sackor, even though he admits that the Deputy Police Chief complained of being attacked in the ruling party compound.

Carter claims that the Deputy Police Chief was not definite in naming the suspects that attacked him in the CDC party compound in Congo Town.

Ruling party witch hunts

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President George Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC calls for mass dismissal of non-partisans or people working against the government's interest in what is clearly seen here as an apparent response to its disgraceful defeat in the Montserrado County Senatorial By-election.

The ruling party is instead, asking its Standard Bearer, President Weah to prioritize employment for partisans and those it considers are working to upholding the Pro Poor Agenda of the government.

A statement from the national executive committee of the ruling establishment under the signature of party Chairman Mulbah Morlu on Thursday, August 01, stresses empowerment of "those who

stood with the party during its period of struggle, adding, that officials working outside the 'Pro Poor' Agenda should vacate government.

"We the members of the National Executive Committee of this great party are committed to all of you. Now is the time that we have to swallow the bitter pills by taking some hard decisions both in government and our party. We commit to continuously seeking the interest of Liberians. Most importantly, our supporters who stood with us during our difficult days in the struggle must continue to be empowered. We can no longer sugarcoat this reality. The moral demands to empower our people are a fierce urgency that remains our first line of defense as we serve our country", Chairman Morlu asserts.

He specifically notes that the verdict from the people in the just-ended polls in Montserrado is not only a wakeup call to action, but an insistence the party will not ignore to change course.

He says officials in both the Liberian Legislature and the

executive branch will have to live in accordance with the Pro-Poor Agenda or else, vacate the government and the party, adding, CDC has reached the point where the party will separate party actions from the actions of officials of government, where necessary; the period for honeymoon is over.

Morlu underscores the mandate is to support the President succeeds, not to undermine his hard-earned gains, further calling on officials of government to validate the confidence reposed in them.

"Our President is a popular person with a good heart for all Liberians. We all have to help our leader deliver for the people of Liberia. This election does not mean that our government is unpopular with the people of Liberia. What it means is that our partisans and the people of Liberia in general need us most at this critical juncture in our national political journey."

At the same time, the ruling

Coalition concedes defeat, congratulating opposition candidate Abraham Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party and the collaborating political parties for his victory in the Montserrado by-elections, including CDC's Candidate Abu Kamara in District#15.

"We fought a good fight and have reached a final conclusion, in the aftermath of the National Elections Commission official announcement of preliminary results, which projects Mr. Abu B. Kamara as winner of District #15. Whilst congratulating Mr. Kamara, the CDC as Liberia's biggest democratic institution, likewise congratulates Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party", the ruling party concedes.

The CDC's defeat in Montserrado, its stronghold in the last three presidential elections, sends shockwaves in the ruling establishment that it is not business as usual, coupled with frustrations coming from within. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



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Arsenal sign Pepe for record \$87M



Arsenal have signed Ivory Coast winger Nicolas Pepe from Lille for a club record fee of £72m.

The 24-year-old has signed a five-year contract at Emirates Stadium after having a medical on Tuesday.

Pepe scored 35 goals in 74 Ligue 1 appearances for Lille, who he joined from Angers in

2017.

"Being here is very emotional," said Pepe. "I have come a long way and struggled a lot and so signing for this great club is a big reward."

He becomes the fourth most expensive signing in Premier League history after Manchester United duo Paul Pogba (£89m) and Romelu Lukaku (£75m), and Liverpool

defender Virgil van Dijk (£75m).

Pepe added: "It was important to make the right decision and I am convinced that Arsenal is the right choice."

During the 2018-19 Ligue 1 season, only Paris St-Germain's Kylian Mbappe had more combined goals and assists than Pepe, who will wear the number 19 shirt for Arsenal.

"Nicolas is a highly rated and talented winger who was wanted by many of the top teams in Europe," said Gunners boss Unai Emery.

"Signing a top-class winger has been one of our key objectives in this transfer window and I'm delighted he's joining.

"He will add pace, power and creativity, with the aim of bringing more goals to our team."

Pepe was the second player to be confirmed as leaving Lille on Thursday, with Portugal Under-21 forward Rafael Leao joining AC Milan earlier in the day for £27m.



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Maradona in good spirits as he continues hospital recovery

Football icon Diego Maradona is in high spirits after posting an update on his recovery from a knee operation.

The Argentina and Napoli legend underwent surgery on his right knee last week but is now able to walk with support - something that has delighted the 58-year-old.

Maradona posted a video on Thursday showing his Instagram followers how his rehabilitation is going before beaming a big smile towards



the camera.

"Today I cheered up, and I could walk only with the bandage," Maradona wrote on Instagram. "Thank God, and my surgeon @Dr.Eyharchet, I feel very good!"

"I want to thank all of you, my friends, former colleagues, colleagues and followers, for the messages and the good vibes. A big hug to everyone and we go for much more!"

The World Cup winner, who had suffered from arthritis in both knees, took his first steps

after the operation at the Olivos private clinic in Buenos Aires on Tuesday while his knee was heavily bandaged and in a leg brace.

It was the first of two procedures recommended by his doctors.

The surgery comes a month after Maradona resigned as coach of Mexico's second-division team Dorados de Sinaloa in the middle of June.

Doctors told him he needed knee and shoulder surgeries to continue working.

Maradona, who has a long

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