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# The New Dawn

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# Continental News

## Kenyan MP with baby ordered to leave parliament

Female MPs have walked out of Kenya's parliament in solidarity with a colleague who was ordered to leave because she had taken her baby.

Zuleika Hassan said she had brought her five-month-old baby with her to work because of a domestic emergency and that parliament didn't have a creche. According to the house rules, "strangers" are not allowed into the chamber, children included.

Some of her male colleagues described her actions as shameful. Speaker Christopher Omulele ordered Ms Hassan out of the chamber and said that she could return without the baby.

Some MPs shouted and others started shoving each other. Ms Hassan called on parliament to create a more "family-friendly atmosphere" if it wanted more women to become

MPs. "I have tried really hard not to come with the baby, but today I had an emergency; what was I supposed to do? If parliament had a nursery or a creche, I would be able to put my baby there," she said.

Deputy speaker Moses Cheboi said in a statement that there is a facility in parliament for mothers to nurse their babies.

However mothers have to "bring along their nannies to watch over the babies at the facility while they undertake

their official duties".

In 2017, Kenyan lawmakers passed a bill compelling employers to construct special rooms where mothers could breastfeed and change their babies.

Ms Hassan's supporters have condemned her treatment which comes during World Breastfeeding week.

Several female politicians around the world been pictured taking their babies to work.

In 2018 New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden was the first female world leader to take her baby, three-month-old Neve Te Aroha, to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. BBC



Watch the speaker of parliament order Zuleika Hassan to leave

## Millions in Zimbabwe 'facing food crisis'

More than five million people in Zimbabwe - about a third of the population - need food aid, with many coming close to starving, the UN says.

It has launched a \$331m (£270m) appeal for aid as the country battles the effects of drought, a cyclone and an economic crisis.

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said many were "in crisis emergency mode... marching towards starvation".

Once a regional bread basket, Zimbabwe has suffered years of turmoil.

Recent harvests have been badly affected by drought and the price of food has risen sharply. Low water levels have also hit the main hydro-

electric plant at Kariba, triggering rolling power cuts across the country.

The country is also facing a financial crisis and has reintroduced the Zimbabwe dollar a decade after it was abandoned amidst rampant inflation. Launching the appeal on Tuesday, WFP head David Beasley said about 2.5 million people were on the cusp of starvation.

"We are talking about people who truly are marching towards starvation if we are not here to help them," he said.

"We are facing a drought unlike any that we have seen in a long time." Zimbabwe's problems were exacerbated when Cyclone Idai swept through the region earlier this year.

The huge storm, which also hit parts of Malawi and Mozambique, affected 570,000 Zimbabweans and left tens of thousands of them homeless. Last week, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said the government had been providing grain to 757,000 homes since January, in both

## Ethiopian village mourns death of 15 young migrants

A village in northern Ethiopia is in mourning after learning about the death of 15 young migrants from their community.

They lost their lives while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya in a bid to reach

died.

Of the 19 who set out, only four were alive, the official said. The Irob community heard on Monday from survivors that nine of the young women and six of the young men had died attempting the dangerous sea crossing.



The community has gathered together to mourn the young students

Europe. The migrants were high school students from Endalgeda when they were "lured by smugglers for a better life", a local official told BBC.

It is not clear when the students left the village of Endalgeda, which borders Eritrea, or when exactly they

"They were held captive two and three times in Libya forcing their relatives to pay as much 300,000 birr (about \$10,000, £8,000) for their freedom," the official said. BBC



Poor harvests have left many in need of humanitarian aid

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rural and urban areas.

And on Tuesday, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who took over from long-time ruler Robert Mugabe in November 2017, declared the drought a national

disaster. The UN was already appealing for \$294m for Zimbabwe but says it now needs more funding as the impact of the drought has spread. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## GoL's action at Jackson Fiah Doe Hospital is wrong

**ATTEMPT BY THE** Government of Liberia to remove the only neurosurgical machine at the Jackson Fiah Doe Referral Hospital in Tappita, Nimba County is not only wicked, but irresponsibly insensitive.

**LAST WEEK, AUTHORITIES** from the JFK Medical Center in Monrovia flew on a helicopter to Tappita to take away the only neurosurgical equipment not just at Jackson Fiah Doe Referral Hospital, but the only such facility in the entire country.

**THE OBJECTIVE IS** to bring the machine to Monrovia for month-long neurosurgeries at the JFK Hospital by a team of surgeons from Canada.

**BUT ANGRY CITIZENS** in Tappita gave the JFK authorities a run for their money by resisting removal of the equipment from the hospital. The protesting crowd barricaded the premises and attempted burning down the helicopter. They also placed the neurosurgeon at the Jackson Fiah Doe Hospital, Doctor Alvin Nah Doe, under house arrest to prevent him from conniving with the authorities from Monrovia to smuggle the equipment out of there.

**WE TOTALLY DETEST** what is glaringly a beginning of attempt by the government to scrap the Jackson Fiah Doe Referral Hospital. That hospital does not only cater to the people of Nimba County, but counties in southeast Liberia and nationals from neighboring countries.

**IF THIS WERE** allowed, we would not be surprised if the JFK were to go back for equipment at Jackson Fiah Doe, and then another and another that could lead to the eventual closure of that essential facility.

**RATHER THAN EXTRACTING** parts or tools from other hospitals and health centers across the country, the government should focus on fully equipping the JFK hospital, as the nation's premier health institution. Lives of people in Monrovia with neurological sicknesses shouldn't be taken more important than those in Nimba and other parts of Liberia.

**THE PEOPLE OF Tappita** are right for resisting the removal of the neurosurgical equipment from the hospital because they too need it themselves. Besides, there is no guarantee that if brought to Monrovia, the JFK authorities would return it anytime soon, if ever they would.

**LEST IT IS MISCONSTRUED**, we do not in any way object to the coming of expert doctors from abroad to help our people, who have medical complications. But the authorities should do the right thing and stop embarrassing peaceful citizens.

**ACQUIRING A BRAND** new neurosurgical machine for the JFK is not, and shouldn't appear impossible for a government that claims it is truly committed to prioritizing the health of its citizens. The authorities should re-arrange their priorities for the country.

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# COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

## The Race Card in America

*Donald Trump has racialized American politics more than any US president in living memory, and many are blaming him for acts of racist violence, like the recent mass shooting in El Paso. But, given that what makes politics in the United States so complicated is the conflation of race, class, and culture, his opponents should not follow his example.*

**L**ONDON - The recent mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, carried out by a young white man who had posted a hate-filled anti-immigrant screed shortly beforehand, has called attention to US President Donald Trump's own rhetorical affinity for white supremacy. Trump has consistently insulted Mexicans, African Americans, and other people of color. He referred to Haitian and African immigrants as coming from "shithole countries." Last month, he told four new members of Congress, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, and Ilhan Omar, to "go back" to where they came from. All four Congresswomen are, of course, American citizens. All but one (Omar) were born in the United States.

Trump's Republican supporters deny that he is a racist. Who knows? But he is clearly appealing to his followers' darkest instincts, which are angry, vengeful, bigoted, and prejudiced in ways that can only be described as racist. By stirring up hatred, Trump hopes to mobilize enough voters to be reelected next year.<sup>3</sup>

The president is careful not to incite people openly to commit violence. But many violent people feel licensed by his words to do so. This makes Trump's behavior dangerous and contemptible, and he must be held to account for it. He deserves to be called a racist. Some of his critics go further than that. They argue that race should be the central issue of the 2020 elections. Because Trump relies on angry white voters, diversity, anti-racism, and the elevation of people of color should be the counterstrategy.

This course would be morally justified. The question is whether it would be the most effective way to vote the scoundrel out, which should be the main aim of anyone who sees Trump as a danger to the republic, let alone to people who are targeted by angry racists. There is room for doubt.

Some people don't actually mind being called racists. At a rally of the French National Front in 2018, Trump's former advisor Steve Bannon told the crowd to wear the word "racist" as a badge of honor. But many Trump supporters don't think of themselves as racists and resent the allegation. Quite a number of these people, often from the white working class, voted twice for Barack Obama. The Democrats need to get some of these voters back into their fold, especially in pivotal Midwestern states.

But fear of offending Trump supporters who don't regard themselves as bigots is not the only reason to be careful about racializing politics even more than it already is. The fact that Trump plays that game is no reason for his opponents to follow his example. What makes politics in the US so complicated is the conflation of race, class, and culture.

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina criticized Trump for getting too personal in his hostile comments about the four congresswomen. But it was all too typical of a particular way of thinking to call them "a bunch of communists," as Graham did. The women are left-wing by most American standards, but certainly not communists. Communism, or even

socialism, is regarded in certain right-wing circles as "un-American" by definition. That was the thinking in the early 1950s, when Senator Joe McCarthy was on the prowl for un-American "communists" - often ruining the lives of people who were merely on the left.

By the same token, writers, professors, or lawyers who favor reproductive freedom, or who don't believe in God, or argue in favor of equal rights for people of all genders and sexual orientations, or support universal health care for all, are often accused of being more like namby-pamby godless Europeans.

Leftist or secular views cannot be associated with any particular race. If anything, highly educated white people are likely to espouse them. And those who believe that a coalition of non-white minorities is best placed to oppose Trump's white chauvinism should be wary. A significant number of African Americans and Latinos are religious and socially conservative.

Of course, race plays an important part in the American culture wars. And the concept of "white privilege" is not invalid. But to see the country's political, social, and cultural fissures in terms of a racial divide is, well, too black and white. To make opposition to white privilege the main platform in the fight against Trump not only risks alienating people the Democrats need on their side, but could also set Democrats against one another.

Former Vice President Joe Biden is far from an ideal candidate for the Democrats. He is too old and not quick enough on his feet. But to attack him, and even demand an apology from him, because he said he was once able to work with colleagues whose racial prejudices he clearly didn't share, is a mistake. Working with people with whom you disagree, or actually abhor, is the stuff of politics.

Trump has managed to push the Democratic Party further to the left than it was under Obama. This suits him well. He would like to make the four congresswomen into the face of his political enemies.

Biden, who is proud to associate himself with the Obama years, is criticized by his younger rivals for being out of step with our more racially sensitive times. The second night of last week's Democratic debates was marked by a spirit of antagonism toward the Obama administration. Biden found this "bizarre."

He had a point. Obama managed to be successful precisely because he minimized race in his politics. He didn't ignore it. Some of his best speeches were about it. But he carefully avoided making race into the main issue. He didn't have to. His election made the point for him. And he is still more popular than any other politician alive.

Biden, alas, is no Obama. But the fact that he has more support among black voters than any of his competitors, even those who are black, should tell us something. If the Democrats want to beat Trump, they attack his flawed but infinitely better predecessor at their peril.



By Peter Singer

# Can Ethics Be Taught?

**M**ELBOURNE - Can taking a philosophy class - more specifically, a class in practical ethics - lead students to act more ethically?

Teachers of practical ethics have an obvious interest in the answer to that question. The answer should also matter to students thinking of taking a course in practical ethics. But the question also has broader philosophical significance, because the answer could shed light on the ancient and fundamental question of the role that reason plays in forming our ethical judgments and determining what we do.

Plato, in the Phaedrus, uses the metaphor of a chariot pulled by two horses; one represents rational and moral impulses, the other irrational passions or desires. The role of the charioteer is to make the horses work together as a team. Plato thinks that the soul should be a composite of our passions and our reason, but he also makes it clear that harmony is to be found under the supremacy of reason.

In the eighteenth century, David Hume argued that this picture of a struggle between reason and the passions is misleading. Reason on its own, he thought, cannot influence the will. Reason is, he famously wrote, "the slave of the passions."

Hume spoke of "passions" in a wider sense than we understand that term today. Among what he called passions are our fellow-feeling or sympathy for others, and our concern for our own long-term interests. On Hume's view, what other philosophers take to be a conflict between reason and emotion is really a conflict between these "calm passions" and our more violent and often imprudent passions.

Something like Hume's view of reason is now influential in contemporary psychology. Jonathan Haidt, author of The Happiness Hypothesis and The Righteous Mind, uses a metaphor reminiscent of Plato, but in support of a view closer to Hume, to illustrate what he calls the social intuitionist perspective on ethics: "The mind is divided, like a rider on an elephant," he writes on the first page of The Righteous Mind, "and the rider's job is to serve the elephant." The rider, in Haidt's metaphor, is the mental process we control, mainly conscious reasoning, and the elephant is the other 99% of our mental processes, mostly our emotions and intuitions.

Haidt's research has led him to see moral reasoning largely as post hoc rationalization of our automatic, intuitive responses. As a result, he writes, "I therefore became skeptical of direct approaches to fostering ethical behavior - particularly direct teaching in the classroom. We can't just put moral knowledge into our students' heads, and expect them to implement that knowledge after they leave the classroom."

In The Righteous Mind, Haidt draws support for his views from research by the philosopher Eric Schwitzgebel of the University of California, Riverside, and Joshua Rust of Stetson University. On a range of ethical issues, Schwitzgebel and Rust show, philosophy professors specializing in ethics behave no better than professors working in other areas of philosophy; nor are they more ethical than professors who don't work in philosophy at all. If even professors working in ethics are no more ethical than their peers in other disciplines, doesn't that support the belief that ethical reasoning is powerless to make people behave more ethically?

Perhaps. Yet, despite the evidence, I am not entirely convinced. I have had a lot of anecdotal evidence that my classes in practical ethics changed the lives of at least some students, and in quite fundamental ways. Some became vegetarian or vegan. Others began donating to help people in extreme poverty in low-income countries, and a few changed their career plans so that they could do more to make the world a better place.

Two years ago, Schwitzgebel offered me an opportunity to test, more rigorously than had ever been done before, whether a class on the ethics of eating meat could change what students eat. Together with Brad Cokelet, a philosophy professor at the University of Kansas, we ran a study involving 1,143 students at the University of California, Riverside. Half the students were required to read a philosophical article defending vegetarianism, followed by a small group discussion with the option of watching a video advocating avoiding meat. The other half were a control group. They received similar materials and discussion on donating to help people in poverty.

We used information from campus dining cards to find out what food purchases the students in the two groups made before and after these classes. We had data on nearly 6,000 food purchases from 476 students. The purchases were identified with students who had, or had not, read and discussed the ethics of eating meat, but the data we received were made anonymous so that we could not identify any named student's purchases.

The result was a decline, from 52% to 45%, in meat purchases among students in the meat ethics group, and the lower rate of meat purchases was maintained for a few weeks after the class. There was no change in the level of meat purchases in the charitable giving group (and we had no way of discovering whether these students gave more to charity).

Our results are, at this stage, preliminary and have not yet undergone peer review. We are seeking further data on the significance of watching the video - which may have appealed to students' emotions more than their reason. Nevertheless, to our knowledge, this is the first properly controlled study, in the real world and not in a laboratory setting, of the impact of university-level philosophy classes on student behavior. The decline in meat-eating is not dramatic, but it is statistically significant, and suggests that in some contexts, ethical reasoning in the classroom can change behavior.



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| 2   | Last date for questions/clarifications            | August 7, 2019                            |
| 3   | MCA Response to Questions/Clarifications          | August 12, 2019                           |
| 4   | Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest | August 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm (Liberia Time) |

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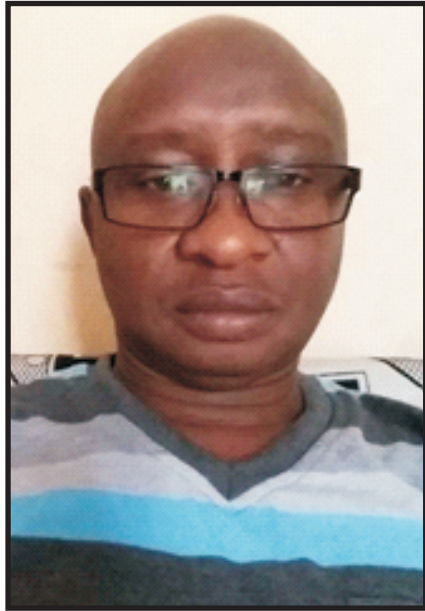
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# LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

**M**ayor Jefferson Kojee's recent press conference in Monrovia in which he threatened to counter protest with "flesh and blood" has barrage of actions from the public. Mayor Kojee is also Chairman of the National Youth Wing of the Congress for Democratic Change. In the conference held at the premises of the CDC, he said the Youth Wing will not sit by idly anymore and watch the opposition peddle fear with the threat of protest/demonstration and disturbance of peace and stability under the CDC led government. To paraphrase his statement, he said, any date announced by the opposition for demonstration, the youth wing too will be there to save the state.

The New Dawn asks some Monrovia residents what they make of the threat from the ruling party, as compiled below.



**Marck Brown**

"Your political motives have always been genuine, and it's senseless for anyone to question it. I'd like to remind you, however, that protests are a legitimate form of political speech. CDC perfected it during its days in opposition. Why do you now wish to curtail it? After all, protests aren't born in a vacuum; they stem from deep unmet grievances. I also see you engaging the party rhetoric of labeling criticism as 'hate'. That is

dangerous! I urge you to abandon that kind of language. It only stirs up strong emotions and fanaticism."



**Moses Gebor**

"CDC embraces political opposition with all its forms of criticisms, propaganda, and cynicisms. As a matter of fact, the party has been an opposition before and no doubt did some of the very things being acted on her today. Therefore, the party welcomes it and looks forward to more because the party understands the game well and cannot be beaten to it easily, not when it has the masses as its gallant men and women. But,

what is of concern and appalling to the CDC and its government, and which she must combat is the deep-seated hatred with which our colleagues on the other side are going about their rivalry for power.

I hope President Weah will realize that you guys are the problem why his government is failing."

**Arana Kamara**

"I respect him very much but he has brought himself very low. So the CDC Youth League now is the law enforcement arm of our country? Then I understand why they even beat the deputy police director (102) on the day your boss commanded the violence against the opposition. I know you need a job to take care of your responsibilities but defending/making statement (s) for



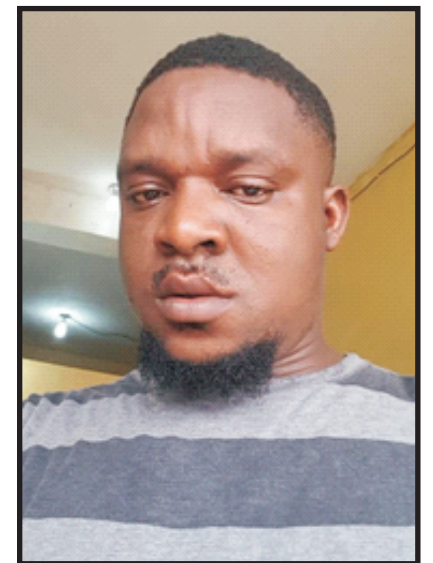
wrong actions do not represent you. Keeping quiet would have been the best thing for you and do my brother. See the comments from your close friends. You are not a Cdcian that I know, so why do you want to reduce yourself to their religion (every wrong is right). I know you will not take this my little advice to you lightly but comments coming after will tell. Stay there with him but don't put yourself in the front of him. Small advice for you."

**Edwin Ben**

"CDC as the biggest and mass-based political party understands these political gymnastics and therefore, welcomes them but not to the extent of allowing those schemes to tame or render the party timid. CDC IS TOO BIG A PARTY TO BE THREATENED, TAMED, AND CORNERED WITH THREATS OF PROTESTS AND DISTURBANCE OF PUBLIC PEACE.

Here is why I believe the

Chairman made the statement; it is all too glaring that some of our colleagues on the other side are no more about politics as usual but a strong hate for the party, its partisans, and its government, including its Standard Bearer, now the President of the Country. They are doing everything possible to divide the country, put the society against the party and government and above all, abort the party's constitutional and masses-given tenure."



**Benito Weser**

"This along shows that George Weah had no vision concerning Liberia, or a vision in improving the uneducated standing of many of his followers like Jefferson Kojee and others, who President Weah should have sent on a scholarship program, to improve themselves to serve as guaranteed future leaders of Liberia. Instead, Liberians are witnessing a dynasty of friendships under the Coalition leadership."



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# LMHRA faces leadership struggle

## -employees want Managing Director out

By Lewis S. Teh

What seems a complete power struggle and an imminent disintegration is unfolding at the Liberia Medicine Health Regulatory Authority or (LMHRA) with several employees of the entity calling for the removal of Acting Managing Director, Doctor David Sumo, terming his presence there illegal.

The disenchanted employees argue that Dr. David Sumo's position as head of the LMHRA is illegal on grounds that he was not formally appointed by President George M. Weah.

Dr. David Sumo, a professional pharmacist, trained by the Government of Liberia, was retained by the Weah administration as Acting Managing Director because of his experience and knowledge in the health sector.

But appearing on Fabric

Radio Tuesday, August 7, the embattled LMHRA boss explained he was called to a meeting recently by the House of Representatives' Committee on Health formerly headed by Hon. Saa Joseph now Senator of Montserrado County, along with other members of the committee to

discuss the status of the entity.

He claims during the meeting, the former Representative Joseph asked him to remain in the post as Managing Director of the LMHRA, being the only qualified person at the moment, while search continues for a suitable replacement, adding, "I accepted to remain, but

requested for such to be in writing that's how the committee headed by Saa Joseph did a communication to the acting human resources manager, demanding him to turn over to me that's how I remain acting managing director."

Doctor Sumo narrates that after that meeting, he continually follow up to ascertain whether a new appointment was in the making, but later this year the problem at the entity started with new staff who joined the entity, and "I told them that they were not going to be fully employed because they need capacity building, and specialized skills training for

some time to know the kind of job that we do before we can incorporate them, as drug issues cannot be taken for joke."

He notes that his stance on new employment sparks the current confusion among the staff, with some expressing dissatisfaction.

However, he says the issue was discussed, but some staff took a different position, calling him names. "Some said I was an opposition and I don't need to head the entity; they want me removed."

Doctor Sumo continues that prior to leaving for a meeting to Nigeria week



# Koijee warned to stop inciting violence

By Lewis S. Teh

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) executive member Chief Cyril Allen has warned Monrovia City Mayor and CDC Youth League Chair Jefferson T. Koijee to refrain from making statements that have the propensity to create violence in the country.

"I know Jefferson Koijee, he's a young man and a youth leader of the CDC that worked hard throughout the 15 counties, bringing young people together that ensured the party's victory. But he's no longer a youth leader. He's now a mayor and he needs to act accordingly," Chief Allen

warns.

The chairman emeritus of ex-ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP), one of the ruling collaborating parties gave the warning Monday 5 August on state radio ELBC in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

Chief Allen cautions people that are opportune to work in government to refrain from making remarks that will spark up violence here or create chaos in the country.

Chief Cyril Allen's comments came after recent violent attacks waged against Deputy Police Chief for Operation Col. Marvin Sackor by partisans of the CDC while the police were trying to

dialogue with the CDC following a clash with opposition Liberty Party.

Radio talk show callers blamed Koijee for issuing statement that has the ability to spark up violence and create confusion between the government and the opposition bloc.

But responding to some of the callers, Chief Allen says there are lot more officials that are in the constant habit of making reckless statements that could cause violence.

He says Mayor Koijee is not the only person in government that can make such statements, expressing hope that Koijee will now act as a mayor.

Addressing general concerns, Chief Allen expresses frustration in government for not hiring competent Liberians who are been ostracized due to their political affiliation.

He cautions that it is not right for government to spend huge money to send people broad for training to be specialized in different areas but cannot get jobs.

He notes that one of the contributing factors to Liberia's problems has been the issue of party affiliation, saying once you did not support any party that wins an election here, absolutely you don't deserve to have a job in government, regardless of the level of qualification you got.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



# Weah worries

Starts from back page

Weah's key political ally from vote rich Nimba County Sen. Prince Johnson has threatened to withdraw his support to the president if he continues on the path he is running the government.

But Mr. Toby says Sen. Johnson has given his message to the president through his sermon on a Sunday, saying he made some points and recommendations.

"...I'm sure those things, even though not everything he said are the truth or facts, but he's made some points, he's made some recommendations," Toby says.

Toby notes that if the situation about Liberia is spiritual and in Sen. Johnson's mind, it's something that needs intervention, he's speaking in his capacity as a Senator [and leader] of a party that supported the ruling Coalition.

But Toby also believes that no one who gave support to an individual or an institution would want to turn his or her back in the midst of crisis.

He notes that Johnson is one man who has open access to the president and sees the president every time and any time.

"The President and Senator Johnson are very good friends. They've come a long way in their political sojourn.

"They collaborated at all levels, not only in this election. Sen. Johnson has remained a very supportive arm of this administration."

He believes that those are things that Sen. Johnson can discuss with the president just as they have done before and will continue to do.

Toby argues that Johnson's points are not a threat to the president or his administration, noting that it is in good faith that the Senator

was able to speak his mind.

He believes that Sen. Johnson wants to see the government succeeds, "so the president will listen, he's listened like he's always done."

According to Toby, the president takes Sen. Johnson's comments in good faith.

Addressing a concern if the president is considering reshuffle, Toby says the issue of when, how and what happens to President Weah's government, the Cabinet and the country is at the president's will and pleasure.

"If the president is thinking about reshuffle, it is in the president's thought as to when he will do that. If the president is confident with his team, it is at the disposal of the president," Toby says.

According to Toby, since the result of the Montserrado County by-election, everyone out there would sit in their closet, anticipating that the president will change people or dismiss people.

"But for people to assume that because there's a result from the Senatorial by-election ... and the people never voted for the CDC and so the message is that people are angry, even the president is aware of the message. He is aware that the way the people voted speaks volume," Toby reveals.

However, he notes that the president is discussing and holding meetings as it relates to whether or not he will act immediately or give it some sober reflections to reshuffle people.

"But I know that there are discussions ongoing and uh, those discussions could lead to many different actions," he says.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MCSS' uniforms noise grows**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Authorities of the Monrovia Consolidate School System (MCSS) on 12th Street Monrovia violate Liberia's Public Procurement Act which requires public institutions to go through

school uniforms through a non-bidder to be sold in schools operated by the System at US\$25.00 each.

Speaking to this paper on Tuesday, 6 August at her office, MCSS Assistant Superintendent Madam Willimina Sherman confirmed that uniforms were

that the uniforms in question were brought to Liberia by Madam Sherman and imposed on parents of the institution.

Madam Sherman, who fails to identify the purported vendors, explains that the MCSS was provided 'Sample Uniforms' for students attending MCSS schools.

Displaying the uniforms to this paper in her office, she clarifies that contrary to claim by some parents that the school is charging US\$25.00 for a set of uniforms, the actual price is US\$12.50 for both sets, which include regular school uniform and Physical Education attires.

Thereafter, the Assistant MCSS Superintendent referred this writer to meet with the institution's Director of Public Affairs and Media Services, Samuel M. Nyenuh for further information, but the man in question was indisposed.

Dozens of aggrieved parents who received the 2019/2020 academy semester information sheet from the Mary N. Brownell Junior/High School complain that the school had asked them to also pay the sum of LRD2, 000.00 as a requirement to the school's Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) plus LRD300.00 for school socks besides other fees. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



competitive bidding process in procuring needed items.

Confirmed information in the possession of this paper coupled with revelations by a senior official of the MCSS reveal that the entity has brought into the country

brought to Liberia by two unidentified vendors based in the United States of America (USA).

She denies claims by parents of students attending the government-run Mary N. Brownell Junior /High School

**Sen. Tengbeh wants police summoned**

By Ethel A. Tweh

Lofa County Sen. George Tengbeh has asked the Senate to invite Liberia National Police (LNP) authorities to explain the recent killings in Redlight, Paynesville in which suspected criminals who had killed a man on his way to Church on Sunday suddenly suffered casualties at the hands of angry residents.

Sen. Tengbeh wants the police to explain the mechanism that they are

The situation is said to have provoked residents, who then moved on the criminals, burning down their hideouts and reportedly killing some of the suspects in return.

An eye witness told this paper that the inhabitants of the community chased the zogoes out, burned one of their ghettos.

However, the angry crowd is said to have killed three of the zogoes in the Redlight



putting in place to stop the too many killings in the country.

In a communication written to plenary on 6 August, Sen. Tengbeh said police need to probe the killing in Redlight and need to help put an end to those things in the country.

It was reported that a man who was heading to Church got attacked for his mobile phone and killed by criminals referred to here as Zogoes.

Community, but it was reported those three zogos were not the ones that did the killing of the man in whose revenge the violence erupted.

Senator Tengbeh explains that the police here need to tell the Senate Plenary what they are doing to calm the situation in the Redlight Community. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*

**Madella Cooper to address RVSTP graduates**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia's female politician and recent senatorial candidate in Montserrado County Madelle Mackie Cooper is to address the First Cycle of the Roseline Vocational Skills Training Program (RVSTP) in Zobah Town, Paynesville City.

Addressing a news conference at the school premises, the Proprietress of the RVSTP, Mother Roseline W. Vaye says the decision to select Madam Cooper stems from her numerous support to the school and to less-fortunate and unskilled females in the country to enable them acquire productive skills.

Mother Vaye notes that besides her support, Madam Cooper has provided 10 scholarships to 10 females of Zobah Town Community as her way of empowering them.

She reveals that the institution, which began with barely two students (pastors' wives), is graduating 15 candidates, who successfully completed the First Cycle training program.

Proprietress Vaye says the



pending commencement will be characterized by official launch and dedication of the RVSTP School followed by showcasing products produced by the entity to the general public to raise funds for operations, in the absence of a sponsor.

According to her, she acquired the skills being passed onto fellow Liberians while in the Republic of Ghana and has returned to impart fellow compatriots who are in dire need of skills that they can apply to sustain themselves and their families.

She encourages females in communities and Liberia at large not to hide their talents, but rather, take advantage of the training exercises by enrolling at the school to learn something they can do with their hands, instead of depending on others for handout.

Moreover, she discloses her dream is to have a soap production factory that would produce locally-made products for the market, appealing to goodwill individuals and organizations for assistance to achieve this objective.

**LMHRA faces**

Cont'd from page 6

before last to tackle the issue of Tramadox in the region that is affecting many youth, he went to inform the current Chair of the House Committee on Health, Joseph Somwarbi about his trip.

"But to my surprise, I received an email from the Human Resource Manager, informing me that Representative Joseph Somwarbi, and Senator Saa Joseph had mandated him (Resource Manager) to take charge of the entity, and I should turn over to him, but I responded to him to send me the official copy of the communication from Senator Joseph and Representative Somwarbi because such decision has to be official."

He further narrates upon his return from Nigeria, a letter was served from the Office of the Senator, informing him that Representative Somwarbi, as Chair of the Committee on Health had mandated him

(David Sumo) to return the entity back to Status Code Anti, where the Human Resource Manager would take over until an official appointment is announced.

"I really don't have a problem with that letter, because only the President has the power to appoint, but I wanted our people to be advised about certain action, as our current Human Resource Manager is a man of God, and he's not equipped [trained] sufficiently on drugs matter, taken into consideration our region is fragile due to the Tramadol and other substances.

If we don't involve scientists as part of the team, after my departure, we could lead to crisis; if there is a drugs-related disease outbreak in this country, lot of people would be affected; that is my concern", the embattled Acting LMHRA boss cautions.

# Français

## Justice : Le président Weah éclaboussé par la Cour Suprême

La Cour suprême a jugé que la décision du président George Manneh Weah de démettre de ses fonctions le directeur général de la National Lottery Authority (NLA), Martin Sallie Kollie, "n'était pas en conformité avec la loi."

"... Il n'a pas été démontré que le président du Libéria peut révoquer le directeur général de l'autorité nationale de la loterie avant l'expiration de son mandat, son renvoi ne faisait pas partie de la loi », a statué la Cour suprême le lundi 5 août.

En avril de cette année, la présidence (The Executive Mansion) avait annoncé que le Président Weah avait suspendu M. Kollie pour une durée indéterminée, dans l'attente des résultats d'une enquête approfondie sur des prétendus actes répréhensibles.

Mais M. Kollie a contesté sa révocation par le président et saisi la Cour suprême.

Selon l'arrêt de la Cour, le même article 89 de la Constitution du Libéria qui porte création spécifiquement de trois commissions publiques autonomes, autorise

également le pouvoir législatif à créer d'autres organismes nécessaires au bon fonctionnement de l'Etat et à promulguer des lois les régissant.

La Cour affirme que, même si la nomenclature ne le décrit pas de manière aussi explicite, la NLA jouit de tous

les attributs d'une commission publique autonome.

En tant que telle, la Cour suprême déclare que le pouvoir législatif a agi dans le cadre de ses pouvoirs en adoptant des lois régissant sa gouvernance, y compris en assurant la permanence du mandat de son directeur général. La Cour indique qu'une loi adoptée par le pouvoir législatif est présumée constitutionnelle à moins que le contraire ne soit clairement démontré.

La Cour suprême ajoute que le pouvoir législatif est présumé avoir agi constitutionnellement en adoptant une loi et que les tribunaux doivent partir de la présomption que la loi est constitutionnelle et valide et que toute intention est en faveur de la validité de la loi.

"Il n'a pas été démontré que la loi adoptée par le pouvoir législatif et accordant un mandat au directeur général de la Loterie nationale constitue une violation du pouvoir conféré au Président de la République du Libéria par l'article 56 a) de la Constitution, celui de nommer et de révoquer à son gré les responsables du gouvernement nommés par lui », déclare la Cour suprême. La Cour déclare qu'elle ne voit aucune raison de déclarer ladite loi

inconstitutionnelle comme le demande le ministre de la Justice et Procureur général.

La Cour poursuit en indiquant que l'article 8.1 b) de la loi portant création de l'autorité de la loterie nationale prévoit que le directeur général de l'institution exerce ses fonctions pour une période initiale de quatre ans, mais peut être reconduit dans ses fonctions pour une période supplémentaire de quatre ans.

Néanmoins, cette disposition prévoit que le Directeur général peut démissionner de son poste en adressant un avis écrit au Président du Libéria par l'intermédiaire du Conseil d'administration.

En outre, cette disposition précise que le Président du Libéria peut révoquer le Directeur général par l'intermédiaire du Conseil d'administration ou le faire suite à une incapacité, pour des raisons prouvées ou pour des raisons avérées d'incapacité de remplir ses fonctions ou d'inconduite.

Mais dans la décision de la Cour, il n'est pas démontré que l'une des conditions dans lesquelles le directeur général de l'ALN puisse être révoqué avant l'expiration de son mandat avait été remplie, d'où l'invalidité de son limogeage.

La Cour suprême ordonne au greffier d'informer les parties en cause pour donner effet au jugement.



Pres. George Weah

Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr.

## PYJ menace d'abandonner Weah

Le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson menace de se séparer du Président George Weah si celui-ci ne redéfinit pas bien ses priorités. A noter que le Sénateur Prince Johnson est l'allié le plus influent du président Weah.

Prêchant dimanche dernier dans sa propre église à Paynesville, dans la banlieue de Monrovia, le sénateur PYJ a annoncé publiquement qu'il n'aura d'autres choix que de se rendre au Nigeria afin de recevoir des conseils

spirituels de la part du prophète Temitope Balogun (TB) Joshua de l'Eglise The Synagogue.

Il avait accompagné George Weah chez le prophète TB Joshua lors de la campagne pour l'élection présidentielle de 2017 et le prélat nigérian avait prophétisé que l'ancienne star internationale du football serait devenue le prochain président du Libéria, et effectivement, cela s'est réalisé.

Le chef de l'INPFL (ex-faction rebelle du Libéria) et

fondateur du Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction (MDR) a décrit le prophète TB Joshua comme son père spirituel, auquel il adore demander des conseils spirituels et sages.

Lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle de 2017, il avait remis le MDR à la Coalition pour le changement démocratique de M. Weah. Le mariage politique de raison avait conduit les deux dans le comté de Nimba, ville natale du sénateur Johnson, la deuxième subdivision politique la plus peuplée du Libéria. PYJ avait fait campagne pour que M. Weah retrouvât le chemin de la présidence.

Mais dans son sermon, il a demandé au président Weah de se rendre compte qu'il est désormais président du Libéria et qu'il ne peut plus continuer à être avec le même groupe de personnes avec lequel il était avant de prendre le pouvoir, en disant : « Montre-moi ton ami et je te dirai qui tu es ».

Et pour exprimer ses frustrations de manière plutôt rhétorique, il a dit : « si les gens buvaient des boissons alcoolisées auparavant, il est temps de laisser tomber et de sanctifier leur corps et vivre une vie sainte », tout en mettant en garde que « Ce ne

sont pas toutes les femmes qui ne sont pas possédées par le démon. Il y en a certaines qui sont possédées ».

Il a, pour une fois, exhorté le Président de la République à se concentrer sur les questions importantes de l'Etat et à cesser de perdre du temps précieux à regarder les matches de football des clubs anglais et espagnols, Chelsea et Barcelone.

Le sénateur PYJ, connu pour avoir tenu des propos controversés, rappelle que les critiques du leader de l'opposition, Benoni Urey, de l'animateur de talk-show Henry Costa et du

représentant du district 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, ne devraient pas être balayées du revers de la main, car elles sont la preuve de ce que les choses ne vont plus bien au Libéria.

Ces propos interviennent au moment où la côte de popularité du président George M. Weah et de sa famille politique, la Coalition pour un changement démocratique, a sérieusement chuté, à en juger par la récente défaite de son candidat à l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Montserrado, qui est pourtant le principal fief de son parti.



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# Français

## Éditorial

### L'action du gouvernement à l'hôpital Jackson Fiah Doe est erronée

La tentative du gouvernement du Libéria de retirer la seule machine neurochirurgicale de l'hôpital Jackson Fiah Doe à Tappita, dans le comté de Nimba, est non seulement mauvaise, mais très irresponsable.

La semaine dernière, les autorités du centre médical JFK de Monrovia se sont rendues à Tappita en hélicoptère pour prendre le seul équipement neurochirurgical non seulement de l'hôpital Jackson Fiah Doe, mais le seul dans le pays.

L'objectif était de ramener la machine à Monrovia pour des opérations neurochirurgicales qui seront faites par une équipe de chirurgiens canadiens pendant une période d'un mois à l'hôpital JFK.

Mais les citoyens en colère de Tappita ont donné du fer à retordre aux autorités de JFK. Ils se sont farouchement opposés au transfert du matériel médical. Les manifestants ont barricadé les lieux et tenté d'incendier l'hélicoptère. Ils ont également placé le neurochirurgien de l'hôpital Jackson Fiah Doe, le docteur Alvin Nah Doe, en résidence surveillée pour l'empêcher de communiquer avec les autorités de Monrovia pour faire sortir clandestinement le matériel.

Nous détestons totalement ce qui est manifestement un début de tentative de la part du gouvernement de supprimer l'hôpital de référence Jackson Fiah Doe. Cet hôpital ne dessert pas seulement les habitants du comté de Nimba, mais également des comtés de l'ensemble du sud-est du Libéria et les ressortissants des pays voisins.

Si les autorités avaient réussi à prendre possession du matériel médical, nous ne serions pas surpris qu'elles y retournent chercher d'autres équipements, au point d'entraîner la fermeture éventuelle de cette infrastructure vitale.

Au lieu d'arracher le peu de matériels dont disposent d'autres hôpitaux et centres de santé du pays, le gouvernement devrait chercher à équiper au maximum l'hôpital JFK, premier établissement de santé du pays. La vie des personnes atteintes de maladies neurologiques à Monrovia ne devrait pas être considérée comme plus importante que celle de Nimba et d'autres régions du Libéria.

Les habitants de Tappita ont raison de résister au transfert de l'équipement neurochirurgical de l'hôpital parce qu'ils en ont eux aussi besoin. En outre, rien ne garantit que, si cette machine avait été transférée à Monrovia, les autorités de JFK la renverraient dans les meilleurs délais, si jamais elles en avaient eu l'envie.

Que cela ne soit mal interprété. Nous ne nous opposons en aucune manière à la venue d'experts étrangers ou des médecins spécialistes pour aider notre peuple qui souffre de complications médicales. Nous demandons tout simplement aux autorités de faire ce qui est juste et de cesser d'embarrasser des citoyens pacifiques.

L'acquisition d'un tout nouvel appareil neurochirurgical pour l'hôpital JFK n'est pas et ne devrait pas sembler impossible à un gouvernement qui affirme s'être vraiment engagé à donner la priorité à la santé de ses citoyens. Les autorités devraient réorganiser leurs priorités pour le pays.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

### Élections américaines, le risque de la carte identitaire

ONDRES - La récente tuerie de masse survenue à El Paso, perpétrée par un jeune homme blanc qui avait publié quelques minutes plus tôt un texte empreint de haine à l'encontre des immigrés, attire l'attention sur les propres affinités rhétoriques du président américain Donald Trump avec le mouvement suprématiste blanc. Trump insulte en permanence les Mexicains, les Afro-américains, et de manière générale les personnes de couleur. Le président américain a qualifié de « pays de merde » la terre natale des immigrés haïtiens et africains. Le mois dernier, il invitait à « retourner d'où elle viennent » quatre nouvelles membres du Congrès, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley et Ilhan Omar. Toutes les quatre sont bien entendu citoyennes américaines. Et une seule d'entre elles (Omar) est née hors des États-Unis.

Les partisans républicains de Trump contestent l'idée que le président puisse être raciste. Qui peut réellement le savoir ? Ce qui est sûr, c'est que le président attise clairement les instincts les plus sombres de ses sympathisants, dont la colère, la rancœur, la xénophobie et les préjugés ne peuvent être assimilés qu'à du racisme. En alimentant la haine, Trump espère mobiliser suffisamment d'électeurs pour être réélu l'an prochain.

Le président prend soin de ne pas inciter ouvertement ses concitoyens à commettre des violences. Or, nombre d'Américains violents se sentent autorisés à le faire par le discours de Trump. C'est ce qui rend le comportement de Trump si dangereux et méprisable. Trump doit rendre des comptes. Il mérite d'être qualifié de raciste. Certains de ses détracteurs vont d'ailleurs encore plus loin, affirmant que la question raciale devra constituer la problématique centrale des élections de 2020. Dans la mesure où Trump compte sur les électeurs blancs partisans de la haine, la contre-attaque devrait résider dans la diversité, la lutte contre le racisme, et l'élévation des personnes de couleur.

Cette démarche serait moralement justifiée. La question est de savoir si cette stratégie serait la plus efficace pour chasser l'actuel président crapule, ce qui devrait être le principal objectif de tous ceux qui considèrent Trump comme un danger pour la république, sans parler des Américains qui subissent la haine raciale. Or, la réponse à cette question n'est pas évidente.

Certains Américains n'ont aucun problème avec le qualificatif de raciste. Lors d'un rassemblement du Front national français en 2018, l'ancien conseiller de Trump, Steve Bannon, a déclaré devant la foule accueillir le terme « raciste » comme une marque d'honneur. De nombreux partisans de Trump ne se considèrent toutefois pas comme racistes, et réfutent cette appellation. Beaucoup d'entre eux, souvent issus de la classe ouvrière blanche, ont voté à deux reprises pour Barack Obama. Il incombe aux Démocrates de remobiliser ces électeurs, notamment dans les États décisifs du Midwest.

Mais la nécessité de ne pas offenser ceux des électeurs de Trump qui ne se considèrent pas comme xénophobes ne constitue pas la seule raison pour laquelle il est important de ne pas racialisier la politique encore plus qu'elle ne l'est aujourd'hui. Le fait que Trump joue à ce jeu ne doit pas conduire ses opposants à en faire de même. Si la politique est si compliquée aux États-Unis, c'est précisément en raison d'amalgames liés aux origines, aux classes et aux cultures.

Le sénateur de Caroline du Sud Lindsey Graham a reproché à Trump de s'être montré trop personnel dans ses commentaires hostiles à l'encontre des quatre membres femmes du Congrès. Graham a préféré parler d'une « bande de communistes », ce qui révèle un état d'esprit typique. Ces femmes sont

de gauche selon bien des standards américains, mais certainement pas communistes. Le communisme, et même le socialisme, sont considérés dans certains cercles de droite comme de l'« anti-américanisme » par définition. Cette pensée remonte aux années 1950, époque à laquelle le sénateur Joe McCarthy mène une chasse aux « communistes » traîtres à l'Amérique, détruisant souvent la vie de personnes qui étaient simplement de gauche.

De la même manière, les écrivains, professeurs ou avocats favorables à la liberté de contraception, ou encore qui ne croient pas en Dieu, qui défendent les mêmes droits pour les individus de tous les genres et orientations sexuelles, ou qui soutiennent une santé gratuite universelle, sont souvent considérés comme des Américains européanisés, bohème et sans aucune croyance.

Les convictions de gauche ou laïques ne sauraient être associées à quelque appartenance raciale. Les Blancs les plus instruits sont précisément plus susceptibles de les adopter. Et ceux qui estiment qu'une coalition de minorités non blanches constitue la meilleure opposition au chauvinisme blanc de Trump feraient bien de réfléchir. Un grand nombre d'Afro-américains et de Latinos sont religieux et conservateurs sur le plan social.

Évidemment, les considérations raciales jouent un rôle important dans les guerres culturelles d'Amérique. Et le concept de « privilèges blancs » n'est pas infondé. Pour autant, le fait de considérer les fractures politiques, sociales et culturelles du pays en termes seulement raciaux correspond à une vision précisément trop en noir et blanc. Faire de l'opposition aux privilèges blancs l'élément majeur de la lutte contre Trump risquerait non seulement de repousser beaucoup d'électeurs dont les Démocrates ont besoin, mais également de monter les Démocrates les uns contre les autres.

L'ancien vice-président Joe Biden n'est certainement pas le candidat idéal pour les Démocrates. Trop âgé, pas suffisamment dynamique. Mais s'en prendre à lui, jusqu'à exiger de lui des excuses, pour avoir expliqué travailler autrefois avec des collègues dont il ne partageait pas les conceptions raciales, est une erreur. Travailler avec des dirigeants politiques dont vous ne partagez les convictions, bien au contraire en l'occurrence, tel est le quotidien de la politique.

Trump est parvenu à pousser le Parti démocrate encore plus à gauche que sous l'ère Obama. Ce n'est pas étonnant de sa part, lui qui aimerait tant faire des quatre femmes du Congrès ses ennemies politiques.

Fier de s'associer aux années Obama, Biden est critiqué par ses concurrents plus jeunes pour son manque de contact avec la réalité de notre époque racialement plus sensible. La deuxième soirée des derniers débats démocrates de la semaine dernière a été marquée par un esprit d'antagonisme vis-à-vis de l'administration Obama. Biden a dit trouver cela « étrange ».

L'ancien vice-président n'a pas tout à fait tort. Obama a triomphé précisément parce qu'il a su minimiser la question raciale dans sa politique. Il ne l'a jamais ignorée. Certains de ses meilleurs discours traitent de cette question. Pour autant, Obama a pris soin de ne pas en faire une question centrale. Il n'a pas eu à le faire. L'élection s'en est chargée pour lui. Et il reste plus populaire que n'importe quel autre politicien en vie.

Hélas, Biden n'est pas Obama. Mais le fait que l'ancien vice-président recueille plus de soutiens chez les électeurs noirs que n'importe lequel de ses concurrents, pour certains eux-mêmes de couleur, doit nous enseigner quelque chose. Si les Démocrates entendent battre Trump, qu'ils sachent que les attaques contre son prédécesseur, président certes imparfait mais infiniment meilleur, se feront à leurs risques et périls.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Analysis of the Impacts and Intricacies of Liberian Foreign Policy and International Relations over the last 75 Years

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Other areas on the domestic front include the ongoing construction of the famous 14 Military Hospital, the Construction of feeder community roads and construction of housing units in Grand Kru County, the continuation of the former regime major projects such a major roads, ministerial complex, the new terminal at RIA, tuition weaver at all public universities and colleges, pavement of WAEC's fees. Other areas of gains including keeping the country stable, peace and security, rule of law and justice and human rights protection.

One political area the president can count on is Liberia's international relations which if effectively carried out, undeniably, will lead to socio-economic growth and an era of a common development across the country since international relations is a strategy of self-interest adopted by a state to protect national interest and respect to its sovereignty including independence, regulation, power, authority, government with the much-needed goal in the international system.

## Sirleaf's impact on Liberian foreign relation

Former President Sirleaf's presidency has brought the country international respectability, slow but steady economic growth, and the longest period of peace since a military coup in 1980 that put in place dictator Samuel Doe's corrupt government and eventually devolved into the fratricidal civil wars of 1989-1996 and 1999-2003. Her pitch to voters is simple – her "area" is development: "The construction of roads throughout Monrovia, clinics, schools, and hospitals in this country, that my area (Foreign Ministry, 2012).

The situation context of post-conflict Liberia has played a major role in terms of the strategies and tactics the government has employed to advance the country's domestic and foreign policy objectives. But what is unclear is whether Liberia's foreign policy is informed by a clear understanding of the complexities or intricacies involved in the international environment of the 21st Century. Of particular importance is that there is no grand strategy. The process of formulating, implementing and evaluating the policy of a grand strategy is beyond the scope of this article.

According to Bhatia (2010), as a practical matter, it is an effective grand strategy, coupled with a bold, long-term vision, reason and principle that will determine the destiny of peace, security and prosperity in Liberia. Moreover, the vital role of foreign policy leadership will also be crucial in the balancing act or balance of power relations between America and China, which will be paramount for the promotion of global stability in this century. This would also require the consistency and continuity of foreign policy for the foreseeable future. (Bhatia, 2010)

In the field of international relations, each country is freed to advance its national interests. Of great significance is the fact that the current Liberian government is pursuing her own interests through an economic and development diplomacy aimed at securing much-needed strategic partnerships in support of Liberia's post-war reconstruction and development initiatives Foreign Ministry (2009) Annual Report further revealed that while it is too early to predict precisely whether Chinese long-term engagement in Liberia will produce a positive influence, the recent impact of China is highly visible in infrastructure investments and development projects such as building roads, hospitals, schools, agriculture, and timber industry among others.

China has agreed to rebuild the University of Liberia Fandell Campus, which was destroyed during the civil war. Chinese peacekeepers served in the 15,000-strong United Nations Mission in Liberia. All of these projects create opportunities for the Liberian government to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of a better life for the people. Therefore, the government and people hold positive perceptions and attitudes toward China. However, this belief is based on a false

sense of so-called Chinese humanitarian aid and philanthropy Foreign Ministry (2009) Annual Report further revealed that

## President Weah's Foreign Policy and Its Impact

In his thrilling inauguration address as 24th President of Liberia, Mr. Weah said: "I am a humble today to be at this stadium that made me, I have spent many years of my life in stadium, but today is a feeling like no other, I strive to be excellent, and I can be successful." The expectations of Weah's leadership are sky-high among Liberians who believe are positives that the president will deliver on his promises of equality, rule of law, unity and better living standard for the poverty-stricken population. Interestingly, the excitement and enthusiasm that engulfed thousands of Liberians at the Sports Complex in Paynesville and others whose queued for miles to get to the venue signified new dawn in the pages of Liberia. President Weah has risen from the slums of Clara town, outside Monrovia to the nation's highest office after two unsuccessful attempts in 2005 and 2011 for the presidency.

The exciting speech was greeted with thousands of Liberians waving flags and dancing through the various streets and communities across the country while others from the homes and entertainment centers followed the historic occasion via radio and televisions transmission. In an astute speech of optimism, President Weah used the remarkable inauguration to set forth his administration foreign policy and domestic agenda constructively as he reached out to friendly countries and Liberia's international partners especially to Washington, Beijing, European Union, ECOWAS, African Union, United Nations, World Bank International Monetary Fund and Arab League countries, among others.



From an analysis of the speech, President Weah's foreign policy to some degree is contrary to that of former president Johnson-Sirleaf regime's foreign policy. Ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf's doctrine was focused on poverty reduction strategy, while President Weah's major doctrine is the people-centered oriented pro-poor. The deviation of the two leaders' foreign policies is mainly in the areas of implementation, projection and strategic areas of focus. However, both leaders foreign policies centered on the cultivation cordial friendly relations with governments, United Nations, Multilateral institutions, regional and continent bodies and members of the global system.

An analysis of the inaugural address shows that the CDC led-government foreign policy is formulated solely for national interests and its primary and obvious objectives entailed the maintenance of national security and the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the promotion of peace and harmony based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and respect for international orders. It also centered on securing the much-needed strategic partnerships with international players.

It can be recalled that during the occasion, the president reiterated that his administration will build on the gains made by the former regime of Johnson-Sirleaf especially in the areas of free speech and press freedom, stability, and peaceful co-existence but vowed to root out corruption. President Weah used the profound address to praise his predecessor Johnson-Sirleaf for laying the foundations on which he said Liberians can now stand in peace, stressing that "United, Liberians are certain to succeed as a nation, warning that divided we are certain to fall.



THE AUTHOR

The president used the occasion stress the maintenance of closer and stronger ties friendship and economic partnership with traditional allies and friends in the Middle East and revealed that Liberia is going to open of new avenues of engagements and mutual solidarity with other states. Interestingly, the speech touched the relations between Liberia and the United States of America and seeks the United States to continue to support in various aspects based on both interests that tied to Liberia and America. The speech recounted Washington support to Liberia, describing the United States as Liberia's oldest and reliable partner. According to the President, Washington led the international efforts to end the armed conflict in the country.

President Weah's foreign policy also reflects Liberia's relations with the European Union and reiterates his administration desire to continue ties with the EU, attributing his achievements to Europe. He also detailed some assistance the EU has rendered Liberia and continues to render the state; he has committed his administration cardinal ties with the EU. Still, on foreign policy, the address documented Liberia-China productive and mutually rewarding relations, reflecting on the numerous supports Beijing has rendered Liberia in the areas of general economic cooperation, infrastructure development, agriculture, energy, education, culture and health, and security development.

With wild applause from millions of Liberians and foreign dignitaries at the stadium, came the much awaited presidential policy on the fight against corruption; saying that his first priorities would be to root out corruption and pay civil servants "a living wage," and encourage the private sector. He admonished the public to show solidarity for the tasks that lay ahead, saying with the collective determination of all Liberians and God above, his administration succeeded

Queued for miles to get at the Sports Complex in Paynesville, the crowds singing, dancing and waved the national flag as they enthusiastically waited for the "country giant" president Weah to be sworn in office. Liberia's international stature and standing among the comity of nations improved immensely from the failed and pariah state situations of the 1990s and early 2000 to a responsible and well-respected member of the International Community. This new status of Liberia ensured particularly during the former era of Johnson-Sirleaf administration.

The contemporary era in the nation's history presents a challenge to President George Weah's administration to put its diplomats to work, as the government seeks international partners as the country emerges from the current economic. That is why those tasked with economic and political activities at the various embassies and diplomatic missions of Liberia must be sharp, cognizant of global prevailing dynamics political and diplomatic issues to drive the desire results back home, and not just sit and wait to be tele-guided. While the current administration primarily focused on development diplomacy in the formulation of foreign policy and the practice of international relations, indisputably, economic, trade and commercial diplomacy should be paramount in this era.

This requires a strong background of the diplomats from a multidisciplinary perspective since professional diplomacy

# Senators miss Ellen

By Othello B. Garblah

Senators at the Liberian Legislature on Tuesday expressed their frustrations over the prevailing economic situation and the way President George M. Weah is conducting the affairs of the country in a closed section.

The senators were vociferous blaming President Weah for running the country in isolation, while praising former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for her constant consultation either by regular visits or telephone calls on issues affecting the country. "They actually praised former President Sirleaf," one source said.

Sources within the corridors of the Senate Wing at the Capitol Building told this paper Tuesday night that not one senator defended the Weah's administration style of governance, accusing the President of surrounding himself with a tiny clique or cabal who dictates to him on how to run the country even



though, they did not say who are those that make up the cabal or tiny clique.

One source said a surprise outspoken senator at the closed section was Senator Varney Sherman who voiced his displeasure over the Weah's administration and allegedly said that he will not sit and allow himself to be blamed by the Liberian people for the failing state of the nation's economic.

"The senators want the public to know where they stand," another source said in a serious tone.

The source said the senators' discussion was around a recent aide-memoir signed between the Senators and President Weah during a meeting in May this year to address critical issues confronting the nation to which the president is yet to act thereby creating hardship

and unnecessary tension in the country.

The aide-memoir outlined several issues affecting the country which include the June 7 protest organized by the Council of Patriots or COP, Justice and Security, Economic Situation, the status of the investigative report on the alleged loss of LD16 billion, and the investigation of the expenditure /used of US25 million to mop up excess Liberian Dollar from the market as well as the UN's Letter regarding management of funds for development.

Other issues raised in the aide memoir were the political and social issues-proposal for a national conference, information from the government to the people, withdrawal of the tenure bill, assets performance of government officials and a

request to include in government qualified professional of other political persuasion.

Members of the COP made several demands on during the June 7 peaceful protest requesting that President Weah sack both his Finance, Development and Planning Minister Samuel Tweah and Central Bank of Liberia or CBL Executive Governor Nathaniel Patray for their alleged role in the US25 million mop up exercise among others although no report has directly implicated the two men.

The COP also frown on the current governance style of the President and request that the President takes actions that will remedy the country's current economic woes. Inflation in the country now stands at 28%, as banks here face liquidity problems unable to pay depositors who have gone to withdraw certain amounts.

## VP Office suggests

Starts from back page

you cannot listen to the ordinary man, you're bound to fall as a leader," Kusee says, expressing fear that the "Liberian people might not" carry the CDC in 2023 election if the president and the government do not perform.

"And let's say this, even myself if the Coalition does not perform, I will not vote for the Coalition. I'm saying it with clear heart," Armstrong continues.

"We are not living up to the expectation of our people, and governance is expensive. Globally, to become a leading political party, or a leading government you must have all of the characteristics or the charisma to run governance. And running governance comes with responsibilities," he notes.

Kusee explains that governance is about oversight and providing solutions to the people's problems.

According to him, the patience Liberians had with former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's regime will not be the

patience that they will have with the CDC regime.

He observes that since they took over as the ruling establishment, "we" have not lived up to the Coalition establishment.

He notes that there are still disgruntled members of various political parties that are part of the coalition, noting that "LPDP (Liberian People Democratic Party) is not satisfied," as well as some CDCians and some members of the National Patriotic Party (NPP).

The Vice President's County Office Coordinator warns that the fragmentation of the various Coalition members puts a serious challenge to the survival of the coalition.

He says the CDC should not be losing election in Montserrado in just two years, noting that it's a signal that the masses are angry and need immediate response to their problems.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## Experts prepare Liberian troops for Mali

By Winston W. Parley

British and French military experts have completed weeks of training Liberian military personnel at Camp Ware in Careysburg, Montserrado County in preparation for the sixth deployment of Liberian troops to Mali this September on a UN peacekeeping operation.

Mali has been battling terrorist attacks for years, and Liberia has been one of many countries helping to restore peace there under a UN operation.

This batch of Liberian soldiers from the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) will replace returning Liberian peacekeepers that are expected to end their one year mission in Mali this September.

Liberia's Chief of Staff Gen. Prince C. Johnson, II, Deputy Defense Minister for

Administration Mr. Olandrus Dickson, British Ambassador to Liberia Mr. David Belgrove and French Embassy Charge d'Affairs Mr. Hugh Nagy witnessed military tactics acquired by Liberian soldiers from their British and French trainers on Wednesday, 7 August at Camp Ware.

Ahead of the exercise, the foreign trainers, the Liberian military authorities and dignitaries were led to the exhibition hall at Camp Ware where weapons including mines and other explosive devices that the soldiers have been trained to defuse were on display.

These devices are commonly used by militants to cause havoc in areas infested with terrorists.

As part of the training for what to expect in the risk zone of Mali, the Liberian soldiers have been given skills to detect and defuse Explosive Ordinate Disposal (EOD) and Improvised

Explosive Device (IED) when they are on patrol missions in their peacekeeping operation.

In a mock exercise, the soldiers were seen searching suspected agents connected to unfriendly forces at military checkpoints to avoid the military zones being hit by enemies.

At some points they fired at and neutralized the operator of an enemy vehicle that attempted to force its way through the military checkpoint before the soldiers further exchanged fire with other enemies that targeted the military base.

For the purpose of the mock exercise, the gunfire did not include live bullets, but it still didn't seem so easy for some civilian observers including some journalists not to find comfort zones when the heavy gunfire commenced.

Liberian Army Chief of Staff Gen. Prince C. Johnson, II told an interview at Camp Ware that it's important that the British and French counterparts have brought in their own expertise "to enhance our guys who will be deployed to Mali in September."

"With this training we're getting, it builds the morale of the troop," Gen. Johnson says, adding that it gives them that experience that whatever they will encounter during their mission in Mali they will know the kind of response to give.

He adds that the AFL has a company in Mali, and the deployment of this troop in



September will be Liberia's sixth rotation of peacekeepers there since it embarked upon the mission in 2013.

Gen. Johnson expresses thanks to the British and French governments for the support and expertise provided the Liberian army.

British Ambassador David Belgroves says he is pleased that his country's army and the French armed forces are here training Liberian armed forces for their deployment to Mali.

He notes that other countries are working in Mali to preserve the peace there, adding that it is very important to work together as a very good example of military cooperation before they go

into the mission.

French Embassy Charge d'Affairs Mr. Hugh Nagy says he is impressed that the level of experience that the AFL has is pretty much high.

He says from the opinion of the trainers, the newly trained AFL soldiers are one of the best units ever trained here, saying "we have high expectations for them when they will reach Mali."

The foreign trainers including British Detachment Officer in Charge Capt. Charles Gale and the leader of the French Detachment Major CoovremVianney say their impressing of the troop is very high, saying they are ready to go for the mission.

# Weah worries

## -As Mansion concedes on PYJ's points



By Winston W. Parley

Amid a massive defeat of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) at the Montserrado County senatorial by-election and its political ally Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson's threat to breakaway, the Executive Mansion here says President

George Manneh Weah is worried about everything that will make Liberia to progress.

"Liberia is the biggest worry of the president. He's worried about education, he's worried about health, he's worried about the economy, he's worried about peace, he's worried about everything that will make this country to

progress," Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby told journalists in Monrovia Tuesday, 6 August.

President Weah personally campaigned vigorously for ruling CDC senatorial candidate PaulittaWie who was massively beaten at the polls by collaborating opposition parties candidate Darius Dillon, while the CDC's representative candidate Abu Kamara trails behind Telia Urey, another candidate of the opposition collaborating parties.

Mr. Toby indicates that he is not sure President Weah is celebrating the defeat in a county that is considered his strong hold that "has slipped into the hands of another party."

"It speaks volume, but it's good that the message came early, than 2020," he says.

In the wake of the ruling party's defeat, President

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# VP Office suggests Cabinet reshuffle

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Bong County Office Coordinator of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor Mr. Kusee Armstrong is cautioning President George Manneh Weah to restructure the cabinet, saying those that are not performing in certain areas should be transferred to different places.

"You got to restructure our cabinet, if the guys are not performing at certain areas, you sent them to certain



areas that they can be able to perform," Mr. Armstrong told journalists in Bong County recently.

He suggests the need to patronize good governance as

an integral part of peace building here and to "stop friendship politics" and bring qualified and abled manpower.

Kusee claims that there are some instances where

friendship will be prioritized over national interest.

He cautions that there is a need that officials leave Facebook and focus on professional things that bring development to the people, reduce the way officials dress and the cars the ride so that they can begin to live like masses.

He believes that the masses will gain hope in their officials if they start to change the way they do things.

He laments that he

campaigned for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in 2017, so seeing the party losing a popular seat in Montserrado County tells that the party needs to re-energize itself and go back to the drawing board.

Armstrong urges President Weah to listen and get himself un-clustered with too much surroundings, so that he can become a leader with good dreams.

"But if

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