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# The New Dawn

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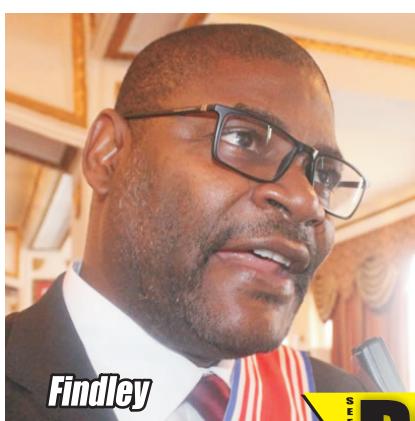
P11  
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Pres. Weah

## Verdier descends on Weah

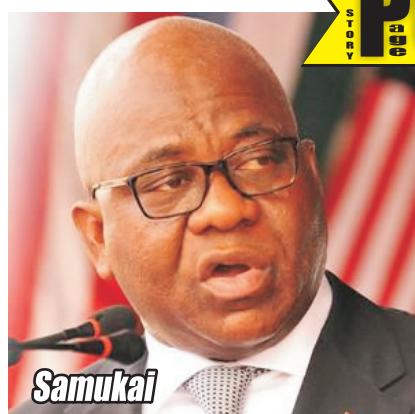
# Faces for 2020 senatorial race



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# Continental News

## Congo medics arrested over Ebola doctor's killing

**T**hree Congolese doctors have been arrested in the Democratic Republic of Congo over the killing of a World Health Organization (WHO) medic, a military prosecutor has said.

Cameroonian doctor Richard Mouzoko was shot dead in April at a hospital in Butembo, where he was treating Ebola patients.

The "passionate" medic was "always ready to go where people would need his help most," the WHO said in a tribute.

The motive for the attack is unclear. More than 1,800 people have died from the Ebola virus in the past year. Efforts to contain the spread have been hindered by militia group violence and by suspicion towards foreign medical assistance.

Senior military prosecutor Lt Col Jean-Baptiste Kumbu told AFP that militiamen involved in attacking treatment centres, including Butembo hospital, had under

interrogation implicated four doctors in planning the raids.

He said the three Congolese doctors will be prosecuted for "terrorism" and "criminal conspiracy", according to AFP, while the fourth doctor was still at large. The current outbreak in eastern DR Congo

began in August last year and is the biggest of the 10 to hit the country since 1976, when the virus was first discovered.

It is dwarfed by the West African epidemic of 2014-16, which affected 28,616 people mainly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. About 11,310

people died in what was the largest outbreak of the virus ever recorded. Dr Mouzoko was one of a number of medics deployed by the WHO to help fight the spread of the virus in DR Congo. Former colleagues in Madagascar, Cameroon and DR Congo have described Dr Mouzoko as a committed professional, who over the course of his career, helped train hundreds of young doctors and health workers.

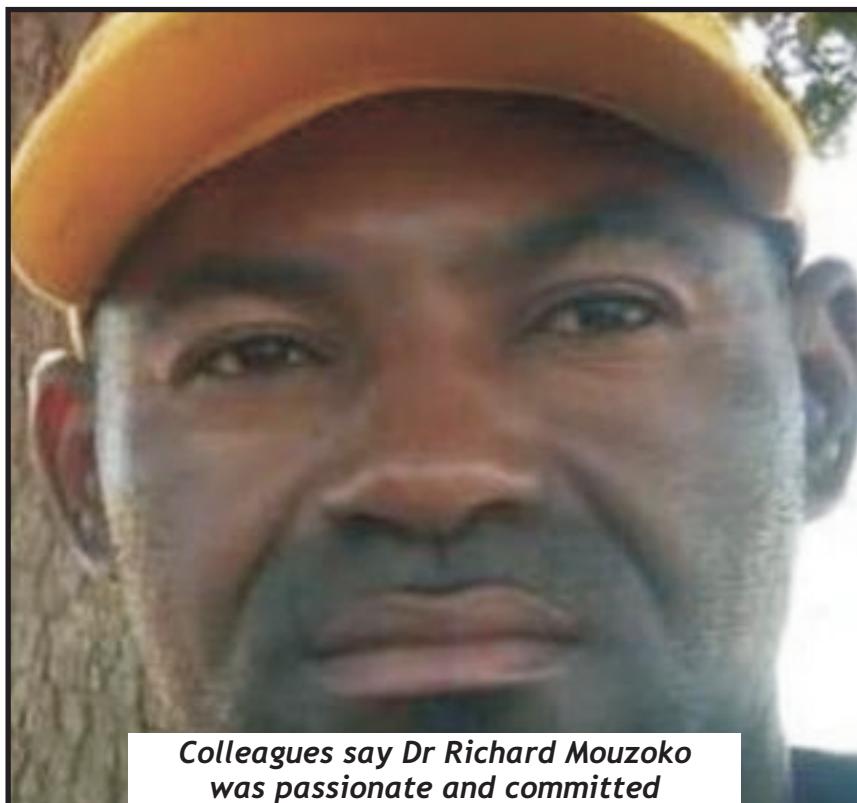
"He would regularly spend 15 to 20 days a month working among isolated communities in his home country, Cameroon, far from his wife and 4 children," the WHO said in a statement after Dr Mouzoko's

death.

His funeral in April was attended by the global health body's top official and its Africa director. In a letter to the mayor of Butembo, a group representing local doctors said it was "indignant" over the arrests, adding that their absence would cripple vital medical services in the area such as blood transfusions and disease prevention.

The group has threatened to strike within 48 hours unless the three detained doctors are released.

But the military prosecutor dismissed their demands as "out of the question", AFP reports.



Colleagues say Dr Richard Mouzoko was passionate and committed

## Army-police shoot-out sees kidnap 'kingpin' escape

**S**oldiers in Nigeria have shot dead a civilian and three police officers who were transporting a suspected criminal.

The police say the officers were taking a man believed to be behind several kidnappings to a police station in the north-eastern Taraba state.

The troops fired at the undercover police because they mistook them for kidnappers, according to the military.

The police say the soldiers released the handcuffed suspect, who is on the run. Four other people were injured. Soldiers were not aware of a covert police operation in the area so they

took notice when a member of the public made a distress call about suspected kidnappers, the military said in a statement. The undercover police then refused to stop at three military checkpoints which prompted a "hot pursuit", according to the statement. One of the wounded then told the soldiers they were undercover policemen.

The military described it as a case of mistaken identity.

The police, however, said the officers were shot at several times by the soldiers "despite sufficient proof that they [were] police personnel on legitimate duty".

After the shooting, the soldiers released the handcuffed suspect, according to the police, who named him as Alhaji Hamisu, allegedly a "notorious kidnap kingpin" involved in high-profile kidnaps.

The police have opened an investigation into what they call a "bizarre and unfortunate" incident. BBC



Police say the soldiers released a suspected kidnap kingpin's handcuffs

## Togo introduces new protest Laws

**L**egislators in the West African nation of Togo, ruled by one family for decades, have tightened a protest law to further restrict demonstrations after a wave of opposition rallies.

Togo saw regular marches in 2017 and 2018 against President Faure Gnassingbe's grip on power.

In April a demonstrator died and dozens were wounded in mass protests as

any one town per week could be restricted by the authorities. Territorial administration minister Payadou Boukessi said the authorities had been forced to tighten the law to allow better supervision of protests given the "terrorist threats in the sub-region and at the gates of our country".

"These changes were made taking into account the consequences of the



Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe has ruled the country since 2005

officials pushed to change the constitution to allow Gnassingbe to run for two more terms in office. The legislative changes passed by the National Assembly on Wednesday banned protests on key roads, including in urban centres and near government buildings, "for strategic, economic and security reasons".

It also limited any demonstrations to between 11am and 6pm and said the number of marches allowed in

public demonstrations that our country has experienced since August 19, 2017," he said. President Gnassingbe has held office since 2005, when he succeeded his father, General Eyadema Gnassingbe, who ruled for 38 years. Togo's parliament in May approved the constitutional change allowing Gnassingbe to run two more times and potentially remain in power until 2030. AFP

# 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.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

By Amin Saikal

## Trump's Failed Iran Policy

*US President Donald Trump's approach to bringing Iran's Islamic regime to heel clearly is not working. If anything, it has created another Middle East flashpoint, undermined transatlantic relations, benefited Russia and China, and struck a serious blow to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.*

CANBERRA - In response to US President Donald Trump's policy of maximum pressure, Iran has just seized a second foreign oil tanker. Trump's approach to bringing Iran's Islamic regime to heel clearly is not working. If anything, it has created another Middle East flashpoint, undermined transatlantic relations, benefited Russia and China, and struck a serious blow to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Where to from here?

Trump's biggest problem is that the other signatories to the 2015 nuclear agreement - officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - from which he has withdrawn the United States, have remained committed to the deal. Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China have also opposed Trump's imposition of crippling economic sanctions on Iran. They are committed to preserving the agreement and to doing everything possible to persuade Iran's leaders to continue to adhere to it. The European signatories have established a special mechanism to facilitate trade and business with Iran at the risk of US retaliation, while Russia and China have expanded their economic and strategic ties with the Islamic Republic, marking the first time in the history of the Western alliance that America's European allies have joined forces with its rivals.

These powers' support for Iran is not adequate to compensate for American secondary sanctions, which punish all governments and companies that do business there. But it can soften the sanctions' effects and strengthen the Iranian regime's resilience. Iran has already shown its capacity to resist by downing an US spy drone, allegedly targeting six oil tankers, and seizing two more in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz. It has thus signaled its ability to choke the Strait, through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes, despite the US show of force in the Gulf to ensure maritime safety.

Trump's usual confusing policy pronouncements have not helped him either. He has moved from one end of the spectrum, defined by his hawkish Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Adviser John Bolton, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to act militarily against Iran, to the other end, where his own "no war" impulses have prevailed. He seeks to use America's economic power, combined with threats, rather than military might, to achieve his objectives. But when it comes to Iran, he has picked the wrong target. He and his advisers have shown a very poor understanding of the nature of the Iranian regime and have underestimated its reactive capability in a highly complex region.

Trump's team has missed the point that the regime is well entrenched and benefits from a robust regional security structure, stretching from Afghanistan to Lebanon and Yemen. It is ideological in character, but pragmatic when it comes to its survival. The fortunes of the ruling clerics and their supporters are intertwined with the regime's survival. The highest echelons of the regime still comprise those who are very distrustful of the US, owing to America's long years of support for the monarchy of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who led the 1979 revolution that toppled the Shah, sought to build an Islamic polity with the capacity to withstand its internal and external adversaries.

Khomeini died in mid-1989, but his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has essentially followed in his footsteps, acting both ideologically and pragmatically in order to ensure the continuity of the Islamic regime. While resentful of the US and its allies, he has been flexible enough, for example, to bless the JCPOA, forge close relations with Russia and China, and maintain reasonable ties with European powers to cope with American pressure.

Meanwhile, the Islamic regime has worked intensively to build its soft and hard power, involving a network of sectarian and strategic partners across the region. It has nurtured an asymmetrical warfare strategy in order not only to survive a foreign attack, but to turn it into a devastating regional confrontation. It has lived with US sanctions for most of its 40 years and mastered a variety of methods to circumvent American pressure.

This does not mean that the regime is unwilling to renegotiate the JCPOA. It has already signaled a willingness to do so, but only if this does not threaten its domestic and regional security and only if given sufficient economic and strategic incentives to do so. The regime remains factionalized between hardliners and moderates, with the former in control of more levers of power than the latter. But it would be erroneous to assume that in the face of a serious external threat all the factions would not unite, and be supported by a majority of the public, who have historically been known for their fierce nationalist sentiment.

The US policy of confronting and containing the regime has not borne fruit. President Barack Obama's policy of engagement proved to be more productive, as the conclusion of the JCPOA showed. Trump, however, has painted himself into a corner, and now faces the prospect of an unwinable military confrontation with far-reaching regional and wider implications, including economically devastating effects on oil supplies and prices.



# The Original Letter to God

with Odette B. Garblah

## Lord, you will never miss the well till the water runs dry

**Dear Father:**

Hmmm, did I hear the chiefs at the Upper End of the Traditional Council saying that they are missing the Old Lady? Whoa! Wonders shall never end. No wonder our old people get their parable they say "you will never missed the well till the water runs dry."

But da whatin make them to be missing the Old Lady so soon now? Ehn, they used to call her wicked Old Lady?

Ah, Father, that it you seeing and hearing there so oo. They say it was not easy in their little room the other day. They say the Chiefs said they wanted the villagers to know that all the womanizing the Footballer is doing and the way he is running our village they are not part of it.

They say the chiefs were really vex oo not fun. They say the former Rooster-man was very angry he said "the boy" is not able to run this village.

Tell me something my son!

Oh Father, they say not one chief came to the Footballer's defense. In fact, I heard they want to even jail his man who is responsible for the way we use our money in the village.

Da lie my son.

Oh, Father, the liar can say his witness is behind the river oo. But for this one, my witness is right here. The people say the man is a member of the tiny cabal that the Footballer can listen to-my name oo.

Um, the thing full everybody mouth oo-because of the way things are going, it not easy. The chiefs at the Traditional Council are all feeling the heat.

Can you imagine Father, they say not one person from the Footballer's camp was willing and ready to defend him? The people say the Footballer can't even call like the way the Old Lady used to call and listen to then to hear what they have to say about the issues concerning our highly forested village.

Hmmm, let leave stories ya, all that noise they are making by the time the Footballer call them and drop small, small thing here and there they will start to sing praises again.

By the way my son they say what happened at the Footballer's camp the other day?

Hmmm, they say it was not easy there oo. They say the small boys units there turned on their own big people blaming them for lying to the Footballer and causing them to lose during the recent voting that took place in the Fiefdom to consider as their home and stronghold.

You joking my son!

Father, this one da na joke oo, they say my friend Jarto hide himself in a small room from when he was able to call the Blue Uniform people for help, but it was no better. They say da na small beating the children gave those guys as if they were the ones they were setting for.

I heard that one small boy who responsible for cleaning the town's dirt gave that order oo.

Umm, Father for that one my mouth too heavy to talk it oo, because that they say myself hearing around here oo. My name oo. The way I living way behind God's back before someone come set ambush for me oo.

This time before you talk plenty in this village you must know where you standing and what you depending on oo, because when the children unleashed their small boys units, you can never tell what will be left of you and your family.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING  
Invitation for Bids for Vehicle Repairs.

DATE: July 11, 2019

- IFB NO.JUD/NCB/002/2019/20
- 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 **Vehicle Repairs**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Vehicle Repairs Maintenance & services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
  - The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The items will be divided into lots. Bidders are allowed to bid for more than one lot. Bid submission begins on July 11, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 13, 2019.
- Packages: Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services

Bid Security

JUD/NCB/002/2019/20	Lot-1	Mercedes	1unit	US \$150.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/20	Lot-2	Repairs of Ford	9 units	US\$ 400.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/20	Lot-3	Repairs of Nissan	18 units	US\$ 600.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/20	Lot-4	Repairs of Hyundai	6 units	US\$210.00
JUD/NCB/002/2019/20	Lot-5	Repairs of Toyota	40 units	US \$1,100.00

- 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, 2011. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, 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\$ 50 for each set of bid documents for the aforementioned services for Vehicle 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);
  - 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 spare parts at all times; and,
  - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- All Supplier should have high standard spare parts to meet the demand of the Judiciary.
- Suppliers should have the capacity of repairing vehicles within the Judiciary fleet.
- Availability of spare parts.
- Should be capable of having specific tow truck.
- Contact duration will be taking into consideration as per our Bidding process.
- All Suppliers should have professional mechanic that are license within their employed.
- 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 # 501or 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 copies all in one envelope and sealed:
  - IFB NO.JUD/NCB/002/2019/20 – (Lot 1 to lot 5) - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of **Vehicle Repairs** maintenance 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 13, 2019 @ 11:00 A. 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 9, 2019 @ 12: 00 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process for Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, 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 Tuesday, August 13, 2017 as follows: (a) Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services for Lot 1 @ 11:00 am Lot 2 @ 11:30 am, Lot 3 @ 12:00 am, Lot 4 @ 12:30 am Lot 5 @1:30 Pm.; All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) 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  
SUPREM COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Air Ticket

DATE: July 9, 2019  
IFB NO.JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2019/20

- 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 **Air Ticket**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Air Ticket. 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 9, 2019 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM daily. The final date of submission is August 13, @ 1:00 pm.
- Package: Air Ticket.

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Air Ticket	Assorted	US \$660.00

- 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 Air Ticket 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 Air Ticket.
- 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 Space and Accommodation at all time;
  - 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
  - Due diligent exercise will be done after the opening of bid documents.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 & 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 duplicate copies all in one envelope and sealed:
  - IFB NO.JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2019/20 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Air Ticket; 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 13, 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 Wednesday August 7, 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 Air Ticket will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on August 13, 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

# INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE GROUP

## LIBERIA: TIT FOR TAT – Corruption, Impunity and Perversion of Justice – Sable Mining Bribery Case

Liberia, A kleptocracy "That Liberia is a kleptocracy, this we know, but overwhelming tendencies of criminality, impunity, autocracy, banal disregard for human rights, and the elementary principles of good governance are worrying signs that, if corrective measures are not taken to reverse this trend, Liberia may slide back to the pariah state status it once was..." Cllr Jerome J. Verdier, Sr  
Perversion of Justice

Speaking with journalists today, From Washington DC, Capital of the United States of America, a press statement of the IJG quoted the learned Counselor at Law as condemning the acts of criminal elements within government to pervert the ends of justice which got Cllr Varney Sherman off the hook in the sable mining bribery scandal case.

### Criminal Conspiracy

The IJG statement said the Justice advocacy group has reliably unearthed that the presiding Judge in the Sable Mining case, His Honor Judge Peter Gbeneweele, the prosecution team headed by the Honorable Justice Minister, Cllr F. Musah Dean, Solicitor General, Cllr CyreniusCephas, County Attorney, Cllr Edward Martin and the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Honorable Nathaniel McGill constituted themselves into a criminal syndicate to pervert justice in order that Cllr Varney Sherman be let of the hook and set free by minimizing evidence, executive coercion, diminution of records and other artifices to guarantee the acquittal of Cllr Varney Sherman on all charges. To ensure this, without let, His Honor Justice Nagbe posited himself in court at the acquittal verdict to demonstrate solidarity with the scheme in pledge of loyalty to the Chief Executive.

### Tit for Tap

The Justice advocacy group statement noted that the Varney Sherman/Sable Mining conspiracy to subvert the justice process was cooked up by the Executive Branch of Government led by Honorable Nathaniel McGill, who criminally solicited and enlisted the help of Cllr Varney Sherman, Senator Grand Cape Mount County, to overtly violate Article 73 of the Constitution of Liberia in order to facilitate the unsavory impeachment of Justice Kabineh Ja'neh through a kangaroo trial, in return for a promise by Honorable Nathaniel McGill, guaranteed by his boss, to get him acquitted of all charges in the Sable Mining Bribery Case, thus making way for Justice Joseph Nagbe's enrollment. Justice Kabineh Ja'neh was impeached for judgment he rendered in his judicial and official capacity as "Justice in Chambers Presiding" contrary to the expressed provisions of Article 73 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution, providing:

"Article 73 No judicial official shall be summoned, arrested, detained, prosecuted or tried civilly or criminally by or at the instance of any person or authority on account of judicial opinions rendered or expressed, judicial statements made and judicial acts done in the course of a trial in open court or in chambers, except for treason or other felonies, misdemeanor or breach of the peace. Statements made and acts done by such officials in the course of a judicial proceeding shall be privileged, and, subject to the above qualification, no such statements made, or acts done shall be admissible into evidence against them at any trial or proceeding."

Justice Ja'neh, having been impeached, however illegal and unconstitutional it was, Cllr Varney Sherman has performed his part of the deal and was accordingly acquitted, as promised, following the visit of Justice Joseph Nagbe, at court under the gavel of His Honor Judge Peter Gbeneweele, said to be the stepson of Cllr Varney Sherman. The Honorable Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia, Cllr Frank Musah Dean, was one of Cllr Sherman's Defense Counsels initially when the case was docketed in court.

Important also, is that the Honorable Minister of Justice, Cllr. Dean began, in earnest, his legal career at the Sherman & Sherman Law Office, and for many years was a member of Cllr Varney Sherman's Law Office corps of lawyers and were for a long time publicly known to be buddies and inseparable craft masters.

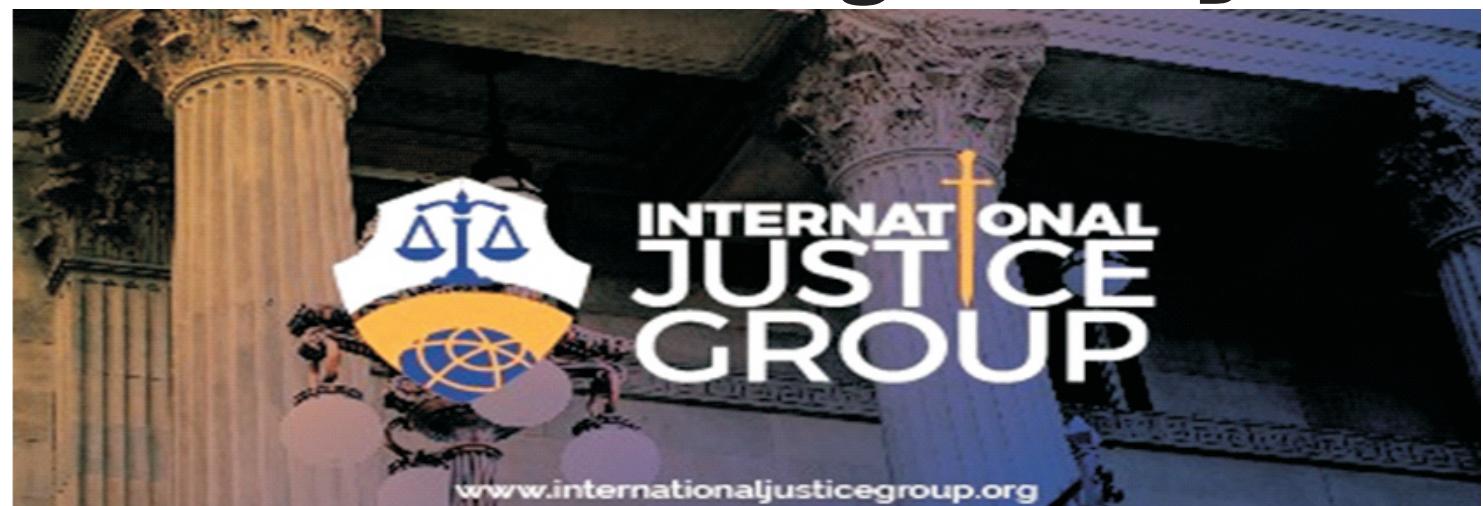
### Spiraling Violence

The introduction of violence and thuggery into the political space is abhorring and ridiculously reminiscence of the ruthless era of the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) Youth Wing Task Force of the late President Samuel K. Doe.

As ruthless as the NDPL era was, what is obtaining in George Weah's Liberia is the euphoric escalation of violence, thuggery and lawlessness, threatening the democratic space and thereby constituting a major threat to our democratic aspirations for a free, open and competitive society without fear or intimidation but with security, protection and equal opportunity for all.

What started as an isolated event with Honorable YongbleeKarngar Lawrence and the opposition Liberty Party (LP), spilled over to Honorable YekeKolubah who complained on diverse occasions of attempts by government operatives to kill him and some children within his electoral district.

Now, violence and gangster-style killings have taken on a national fervor, law and order is rapidly breaking down and a state of anarchy and lawlessness is brewing in Liberia and the



**Washington DC**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**AUGUST 6, 2019**

Weah Government as yet remains silent spurring widespread suspicions that the President, is without doubt, behind the violence by his CDC's goons to intimidate and coerce the opposition into submission and clamp down dissent as part of his political ambition to become a dictator in power for 27 years or more, surpassing President William V.S. Tubman.

#### Weah to be blamed?

1. While it is true that all the problems of Liberia are not attributable to Mr. Weah, his nonchalant disposition on corruption and human rights and his seeming condonement of the violence is a flaw of his presidency, pointing to a leadership deficit demanding attention.

2. The President is indecisive, demonstrating a lack of authority and capacity over his men and cannot rein them in to follow the law or operate within the confines of the law. Asset declaration is a case in point.

3. The social life of the president is more of a priority to him than the welfare of the poor people who voted him to office.

4. The President, wanting in knowledge and sophistication has surrounded himself with low life figures who have no vision or love for the country.

5. The President and his team have failed to adopt any appreciable policy approach to address the issues confronting the country. They have no plan for redressing the economy, stimulating national development or national reconciliation.

6. To date, the President and his team have failed to embrace or appreciate the mammoth demands for the establishment of the War Crimes Court in full implementation of the TRC Report and in furtherance of US House Resolution HR 1055.

7. The President is giving lip service to accountability and corruption issues. Neither Mr. President nor his officials have been audited or complied with the assets declaration requirements of law. Just as the both the National Legislature and the Honorable Supreme Court have never been audited, Continuing the policies of Former President Sirleaf, rendering these venerable branches of government as now national institutions of corruption and disgrace.

8. The President granted a construction contract to his friend he claimed offered him a plane as gift without making full disclosure to the national legislature or the people of Liberia directly as to the nature of the gift as is customarily the case. Bribery is an impeachable offense against the integrity of the state.

9. The President presided over the criminal misapplication of US\$25m intended for a mapping exercise to remove excess liquidity from the Liberian market. With the explicit consent of the President the money was diverted for private, instead of public use, and a parallel market in foreign exchange was created to exchange missing Liberian banknotes with the US banknotes, bordering on exchange rate manipulation, insider dealing, money laundering, embezzlement, misappropriation of entrusted property, theft of property and fraud.

10. The President and the Chief Justice presided over a bribery scheme to illegally and unconstitutionally remove a sitting Justice of The Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, in express violation of the Constitution of Liberia, which OATH all elected and commission officers swore to defend and protect, the expressed violation of which renders the House of Representatives, The Chief Justice and President of Liberia unfit to hold office, hence, an impeachable offense.

11. The President has directly supervised the stealing of public money for personal causes but without accountability. The President withdrew US\$80m out of the Liberian International Reserves in New York. Out of this amount only US\$55 could be accounted for at the Central Bank. The difference of US\$25m was

commandeered from the airport to the Rehab Residence of the President. This deliberate, blatant act of thievery by the President is a felonious transgression that renders him unfit for the public trust and office he occupies.

12. The President, for repressive and dictatorial purposes, embarked upon rearming ex-rebel chiefs of staff that the International Community spent millions of US Dollars to disarm in furtherance of the Comprehensive Accra Peace Accord. This singular act by the President undermines the peace and security of the nation and is against the spirit of Security Sector Reform, and the Demobilization and Demobilization Rehabilitation (DDR) and also against the drive of the nation to move beyond the war experience in pursuit of National Reconciliation:

1. General OfariDiah - Asst. NSA Director for leeward Counties, former Chief of Staff, LURD;
2. General Augustine Nagbe, INPFL
3. General Daniel K. Bracewell, NPFL
4. General Ciapha Norman, NPFL
5. General Charles Bright, NPFL
6. General OforiDiah
7. Other Generals and fighters, remobilize by the President includes Prince Toe, Sam Saryon, Sampson Nieger, Benjamin Taylor, etc

#### Risking Sanctions and International Isolation

The justice advocacy group is advising the Government of President Weah to be mindful of the precarious situation the country is in now and urgently adopt realistic proactive policies on human rights and justice; corruption and impunity; and good governance to project Liberia as a burgeoning democracy and a success story post UN intervention.

The statement further said that the posturing of an autocratic state does not portend well for the country. Manipulating the ouster of a Justice of the Supreme Court because of opinions or judgement rendered during active duty on the bench is unconstitutional and therefore illegal, unpatriotic and immoral, the IJG statement warned.

The IJG statement further lamented that corruption in government is at an all-time high while essential social services, including hospitals, education, schools, healthcare, sanitation, hygiene and other public services are left wanting as the living standards of the Liberian people continue in rapid decline.

The IJG Statement further decried the government for turning a blind eye to massive human rights abuses, especially against women and the girl children. The alarming rate of murders from rape and other forms of sexual assaults and abuses throughout the country is a cause for condemnation underpinned by the callous indifference of the government, especially the President to condemn these brazen acts of criminal cowardice or demand swift and prompt investigations that will redress the wrongs against our precious women and help to restore their dignity.

The statement called for strong governmental actions from all branches of government against these wanton acts of human rights abuses including the recent deaths of two prison inmates in Nimba County, which sad incidences occurred unnoticed by government or its functionaries and the society at large.

We condemn this state of affairs in the country and calls on all civil society actors and the international community to deplore government's lack of action and indecisiveness over human rights, corruption and important national issues including the issue of justice, war crimes court and the full implementation of the TRC Report.

The absence of a well-articulated, conspicuously pro-people policies on changing or strengthening rape laws, like castration of perpetrators, public interest, transparency in government and proper stewardship of scarce resource and justice is a pro-impunity, pro-corruption and anti-people policy, a stance this Weah Government must consider moving away from. Otherwise, our government risk international sanctions and the isolation of the state to the detriment of our people and regression of gains already realized.

**ISSUED BY AUTHORITY**

Jerome J Verdier, Sr (Cllr)  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

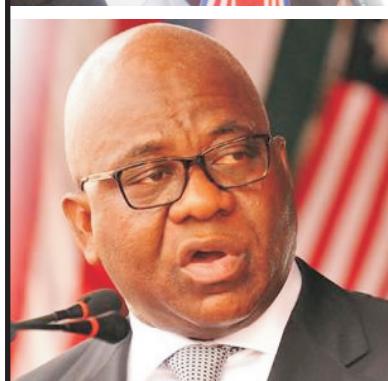
# Faces for 2020 senatorial race

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

**A**head of the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, several current and former officials are bracing themselves to step in the race. Next October, Liberians will go to the poll to elect 15 senators for nine years tenure employment.

Among the emerging names are former Speaker J. Alex Tyler (Bomi County) and Ex-Senate Pro-Tempore now Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gbehzohngar Milton Findley (Grand Bassa County). Both Tyler and Findley presided over the Liberian Legislature where 66 of the 68 concession agreements passed into law are bogus and not in the interest of the country, according to report.

Atty. Tyler, who is political leader of the Liberian People Democratic Party, which is a member of President George Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, was indicted by former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf administration for reportedly accepting US\$75,000 bribe to change the Public Procurement Concession Commission act in favor of the British firm Sable Mining. But he was recently acquitted by Criminal Court C at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia along with several others incited by the State.



Also gearing up for the senate are former Minister of Finance and Development Planning Amara Konneh and ex-Minister of National defense Brownie Samukai, respectively,

Mr. Konneh is currently in battle with Weah administration for reportedly misapplication of 13 million Euros from the European Union for child materiality.

During his stay at the Finance and Development Planning Ministry, Liberia faced budget shortfall every fiscal year.

Former Defense Minister Samukai (Lofa County) is

entangled in a retirement benefit scheme for soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia, amounting to about US\$10 million.

Families of servicemen have been demanding their benefits but to avail.

Former Speaker Emmanuel James Nuquay is at the verge of joining the race to unseat Senator Oscar Cooper of Margibi County. It was during the tenure of Nuquay that the House of Representatives approved the printing of 16 billion Liberian banknotes that reportedly went missing.

Though Nuquay, who contested alongside former

Vice President Joseph Boakai in the 2017 Presidential elections on the ticket of the then ruling Unity Party, argued in one of his appearances before the House of Representatives' Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance that the House only authorized the printing of LRD5 billion, he failed to explain how the amount swelled to LRD16 billion.

Deputy House Speaker Prince Moye (Bong County) is another official of government that wants to make a try in the 2020 race. He was the Chairman on Ways, Means, and Finance and Budget Committee

of the House of Representatives when the printing of new Liberian banknotes was ordered through the Central Bank of Liberia with approval from the Liberian Legislature.

The head of the defunct rebel group MODEL, Thomas NimelyYaya wants to enter the race for the third time for his native Grand Gedeh County. The former Foreign Minister during the Transitional Government of late Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant, led one of the deadliest rebel group that carried out killing of thousands of Liberians and destruction of properties worth millions United States dollars.

Grand Kru County's current Lawmaker Cllr. Jonathan FonatiKoffa wants to enter the senate. He chairs the House's committee on judiciary.

Prior to his ascendency to the house, Cllr. Koffa served as head of the presidential taskforce that indicted several officials of government for alleged involvement in the Sable Mining case.

One of the longest serving legislators from the regime of former President Charles Taylor up to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, James Biney, gears up for his native Maryland County in southeast Liberia, against incumbent Senator, H. Dan Morais. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## VP Taylor stresses women empowerment

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong

**V**ice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has underscored the need for women empowerment to be at the center of actualizing the positive legacies of Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Addressing the Heritage and Cultural Society of Africa (HACSA) recently, Vice President Taylor cautions that

as Africans, "our common purpose is not one dedicated to racial superiority."

Instead, she says African's common purpose is that racial harmony and respect for the rights of all God's children are essential elements by which "we can collectively rise in shared responsibilities and contributions to a better world for ourselves, and for posterity."

The HACSA Summit 2019,

being held in Accra, Ghana, runs from August 7- 10 under the theme: "Linking, Reconciling and Reuniting Communities 400 years after the start of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade".

The Vice President shared the platform with Amb. Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Barbara Oteng-Gyapi, Minister of Tourism and Arts of Ghana, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, Country Director of UNESCO, Ghana, and Samia Nkrumah, former Member of the Parliament of Ghana and daughter of legendary ex-president Kwame Nkrumah.

Speaking further, Madam Howard-Taylor intimated that the HACSA Summit proves that Africans are still possessed of the dreams, hopes and aspirations of their forebears.

She adds that even slavery could not take away African's innate desires to build and to grow into the eminence that was once theirs.

Madam Taylor argues that if as slaves Africans could improve the economies of others, teach themselves to read and write, and sing a song of unfading hope, then as freed



## House invites

Starts from back page

of Justice and the county authorities made several strides to put the situation under control, as citizens, and family members' anger was amplifying day by day.

Willie explains that an investigation was conducted by the Ministry of Justice to establish the cause of death, with a promise to report to the family through the county leadership as soon as possible.

But he laments that it is over four months now and no information has been released both to the family and the general public on the results of the investigation.

The lawmaker continues

that in the wake of the Fayiah Kettor situation in Wee Statutory District, another death occurred in the compound of Arcelor Mittal in Buchanan City and the cause of death is similarly yet to be established.

He says since the incident, it has come to his understanding that no autopsy has been conducted to establish the cause of death of deceased Robert Toe, and police have attributed lack of logistics as factor for the delay in conducting an autopsy, therefore, asking Plenary to invite the Justice Minister. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Indian Community

Starts from back page

Second (172nd) Independence Day celebrations.

IGP Sudue assured the Indian community that the items will be used for the intended purpose and urged other foreign nationals to follow suit.

He further promised the LNP's fullest protection of all residents and the business community at large.

Members of the Indian community delegation that

formed part of the presentation included: Acting President, Pradeep K. Babani, UmeshKousani (Treasure), LaxmanBhojwani (Pioneer Member and Former Vice President of AICL), Mr Shankar Jhamnani (Pioneer Member and Former Vice President of AICL), Pradeep K. Sachdev (Executive Member) and Amal Ramachandran (Member). -Press Release

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## UL Alumni want increased active members -Set election for 31 August

By Winston W. Parley

The election commission of the Alumni Association of the University of Liberia (AAUL) has lamented the very minimum participation of members in activities of the association, pleading with more UL graduates to take interest and become active members of the association ahead of a planned election due 31 August.

The AAUL Election Commission Chair Mr. Francis L.M. Horton told journalists Thursday, 8 August on Capitol Hill that in a lot of way, the UL Alumni is not achieving its objectives because it has not been able to attract the membership as large as it wants.

He says he wants to grab the attention of the estimated over 80,000 UL Alumni that he says are most of the time have not been active members.

The planned elections for positions of president, vice president, secretary and others, are coming at a time the university observes its centennial commencement this year.

The Election Commission Chair announces that they have a target of a thousand voters, but the Commission will make sure that as more

registrants come in, it will prepare fully for whatever number that will be registered to vote.

Mr. Horton observes that alumni associations of universities all over the world are very strong, helping their



Mr. Francis L.M. Horton

institutions to the fullest.

While Mr. Horton thinks that the UL Alumni Association probably has not done much publicity to attract its members, he however argues that UL graduates are equally aware that they get inducted

become active members.

"If I [were] to be very blunt I will say it's an apathetic behavior of our people ... because you are inducted into office at your commencement when you all excited, and then you know there's an office ...,"

into partisanship," said Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby on Tuesday, 6 August.

Col. Sackor and his bodyguard were attacked and wounded inside CDC compound where he had gone to dialogue with the party authorities in the wake of post-election violent clashes between CDC partisans and opposition Liberty Party (LP) supporters who were celebrating poll results last week.

Deputy Press Secretary Toby says President Weah has frowned on the attack against the Deputy Police Chief, and hopes that the message will go forth that the police are a state police, not a party's police.

He says the president condemns the incident and will not appreciate or tolerate people attacking the police whose sole purpose is to save lives and properties.

He indicates that the president is waiting for the recommendation that will come out of the investigation into the incident.

why you don't reach out to it?" he says in response to a question.

The Election Commission says it wants to broaden the scope and enlarge the number of active members in the Alumni Association.

It announces that the UL Alumni Association election is scheduled for August 31, 2019, and polls will be open from 9:00 AM upto 5:00 PM.

According to the Commission, voters will register at FQ-9 where the Alumni Office is located.

The Commission requires a minimum fee of LRD\$300.00, while those contesting various positions including president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, have separate fees charged.

The election commission chair says candidates have come out for all the positions that are to be contested.

Also speaking, UL Alumni

Association Vice President for Administration Fatu Ruth Tipoteh says the Association called the media to the conference to seek a help of spreading the Association's message through broadcast and publication to get inactive alumni members to be part of the Association's activities.

She narrates that the Association has been having difficulties for its members to attend meetings and programs, saying there's often very minimum turn out for the UL Alumni Association's activities.

According to Madam Tipoteh, the Association has had flyers at various ministries and agencies, appeared on talk shows, yet it has been very difficult for it to attract members in the Association.

She concludes that it is the responsibility of the Alumni Association to undertake programs to assist the University of Liberia. Other officials at the conference included John B. Gbozee, and Precious T. George.

## No partisan police here -Mansion tells CDCians

By Winston W. Parley

After partisans of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) flogged Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations Col. Marvin Sackor, the Executive Mansion has warned that President George Manneh Weah is not

building a partisan police and will not tolerate attacks against police officers.

"... No one should take advantage of the police. There's no partisan police here. The president is not building a partisan police, so people should not attack the police and draw the police ..."

into partisanship," said Deputy Presidential Press Secretary

Smith Toby on Tuesday, 6 August.

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## VP Taylor stresses

Cont'd from page 6

men and women, they can manage their economies, embrace good governance, end corruption and provide quality education for the youth across Africa.

In her address, Madam Taylor indicates that the center of the matter is that the African woman is empowered, must be capacitated in order to be able to proudly stand, and to assume her rightful place, side by side with her male counterparts.

Madam Taylor has been shortlisted among 100 most influential women in Africa.

The list was published by a

reputable Public Relations firm, Avance Media, which operates in seven countries across Africa.

The HACSA Summit is a convergence of political leaders, professionals and civil society actors to discuss the legacies of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and its attending impacts on Africa and its people.

HACSA was founded in 2016 by Amb. Johanna O. Svanikier, and has since witnessed the participation of more than 2000 individuals from more than 35 countries across the world.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Français -

## Les Sénateurs ne semblent pas assez contents du président Weah

**D**es sénateurs réunis à l'Assemblée législative du Libéria ont exprimé mardi leur frustration devant la situation économique actuelle et la manière dont le président George M. Weah dirige les affaires du pays.

Les sénateurs reprochent au président Weah de diriger le pays de manière isolée, tout en félicitant l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf pour sa consultation constante soit par des visites régulières, soit par des appels téléphoniques sur des questions concernant le pays. "Ils ont en fait l'éloge de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf", a déclaré une source.

Des sources dans les couloirs de l'aile du Sénat au Capitole ont confié à ce journal mardi soir que pas un seul sénateur n'avait défendu le style de gouvernement de

l'administration Weah, accusant le président de s'être entouré d'une minuscule clique ou cabale qui lui dicte comment diriger le pays. Ils n'ont toutefois pas précisé qui sont ceux qui composent la cabale ou la

petite clique.

L'une des sources a déclaré que le sénateur Varney Sherman avait exprimé son mécontentement à l'égard du gouvernement Weah et dit qu'il ne permettrait pas que



### « Avec Ouattara, la Constitution est devenue un périodique comme Fraternité matin », affirme Koulibaly

**L**e fondateur du parti Liberté pour la démocratie (LIDER, opposition) Mamadou Koulibaly, a affirmé mercredi qu' » avec (le président ivoirien) Alassane Ouattara, la Constitution est devenue un périodique comme Frat Mat », dans une publication sur sa page Facebook.

« Avec Ouattara, la Constitution est devenue périodique comme Frat mat (journal de l'Etat), avec chaque jour sa nouveauté pour assurer sa propagande personnelle », a dit M.

Koulibaly, après une interview du chef de l'Etat diffusée mardi au JT de 20H de la télévision nationale (RTI), à la veille du 59e anniversaire de l'indépendance du pays.

Selon lui, « (la Constitution) au lieu d'être une institution écrite par le peuple pour la durée avec l'objectif de construire une nation ».

M. Ouattara avait affirmé qu' » il est clair qu'il y a des choses à modifier dans la Constitution, mais ce n'est pas pour recaler des candidats ».

L'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale a aussi

indiqué que « la Constitution a été rédigée et adoptée (par Alassane Ouattara) tout seul dans son coin il y a moins de trois ans ». La nouvelle Constitution dont les innovations majeures sont l'institution d'un sénat et d'un poste de vice-président avait été approuvée par référendum en octobre 2017 avec un taux de 93,42 %.

Ouattara impose son diktatLe fondateur du parti Liberté pour la démocratie (LIDER, opposition) Mamadou Koulibaly, a estimé mercredi que la réforme de la Commission électorale indépendante (CEI, chargée des élections), le président ivoirien Alassane Ouattara « impose son diktat », dans une publication sur sa page Facebook

« Ouattara qui se prétend libéral impose comme d'habitude son diktat à des populations semblant avoir oublié que ce sont leurs impôts qui financent la dite commission », a écrit M. Koulibaly.Mardi, lors d'une interview diffusée sur de la télévision nationale (RTI), à la veille du 59e anniversaire de l'indépendance du pays, Alassane Ouattara avait affirmé qu'il promulguera la loi sur la recomposition de la Commission électorale indépendante (CEI, chargée des

le peuple libérien accuse le Sénat à tort d'être responsable du mauvais état de la situation économique du pays.

"Les sénateurs veulent que le public sache où ils en sont", a déclaré une autre source dans un air grave.

La source a déclaré que la discussion des sénateurs portait sur un récent aide-mémoire signé entre les sénateurs et le président Weah lors d'une réunion en mai dernier pour traiter des problèmes critiques auxquels le pays doit faire face et auxquels le président n'a pas encore réagi, créant ainsi des difficultés et des tensions inutiles dans le pays.

L'aide-mémoire a exposé plusieurs problèmes touchant le pays, notamment la manifestation du 7 juin organisée par le Conseil des patriotes (COP), la Justice et la sécurité, la situation économique, l'état du rapport d'enquête sur la perte présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens et l'enquête sur l'utilisation des 25 millions de dollars américains décaissés pour épouser l'excès de liquidité du dollar libérien sur le marché de change ainsi que la lettre des Nations unies concernant la gestion des fonds pour le développement.

Les autres questions

**Articles traduits**  
Par Valéry G. Guhéna  
E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com  
Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

soulevées dans l'aide-mémoire concernaient les questions politiques et sociales - proposition d'une conférence nationale, information du gouvernement à la population, retrait du projet de loi sur le mandat, performance des agents de l'État et demande d'inclure dans le gouvernement des professionnels qualifiés.

Au cours de la manifestation pacifique du 7 juin, les membres du COP ont demandé à plusieurs reprises que le Président Weah limoge deux de ses proches, à savoir Samuel Tweah, ministre des Finances et de la planification du Développement, et Nathaniel Patray, gouverneur de la CBL, pour leur rôle présumé dans la gestion des 25 millions de dollars américains, parmi d'autres, bien qu'aucun rapport n'ait impliqué directement les deux hommes.

Le COP a également exprimé des réserves sur le style de gouvernance du Président et a demandé à celui-ci de prendre des mesures qui remédieraient aux problèmes économiques actuels du pays. L'inflation dans le pays s'établit actuellement à 28%, les banques étant confrontées à des problèmes de liquidité, incapables de satisfaire les clients qui vont retirer certaines sommes.

magistrature, un représentant du président de la République et enfin un représentant du ministère de l'Intérieur.

Pour l'opposition, qui dénonce une surreprésentation du pouvoir, les deux dernières cités et une personnalité proposée par le Conseil nationale des Droits de l'homme (au titre de la société civile) au sein de la Commission sont en réalité des représentants du gouvernement.

Dans un arrêt en date de novembre 2016, la Cour africaine des droits de l'Homme et des peuples (CADHP), avait « ordonné » au gouvernement ivoirien de rendre conforme sa loi électorale aux instruments internationaux.



# Français

## « Weah ne cesse au penser au bien des Libériens », La présidence

**L**e Président de la République George Manneh Weah n'a d'autres soucis que d'améliorer les conditions de vie de tous les libériens, a fait savoir la présidence, à la suite de la défaite massive de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir lors de l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Montserrado.

« Le Libéria est la plus grande préoccupation du président. Il a des soucis pour l'éducation, la santé, l'économie, la paix, la quiétude et pour tout ce qui permettra à ce pays de progresser », a déclaré le secrétaire général adjoint à la Presse présidentielle, Smith Toby, à un groupe de journalistes à Monrovia, le mardi 6 août.

Star mondiale de football, George est devenu président du Libéria suite aux élections présidentielles de fin 2017. Mais depuis un certain temps, il est de plus en plus contesté. Son allié politique, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, menace de claquer la porte s'il n'essaie de pas de changer la donne.

Le président Weah a personnellement fait campagne vigoureusement pour Paulitta Wie, la candidate de son parti à l'élection sénatoriale partielle, mais elle a été battue aux urnes par le candidat de l'alliance des principaux partis de l'opposition, Darius Dillon. Et à l'élection législative partielle de la circonscription électorale 15 du comté de Montserrado, Abu Kamara, candidat du parti au pouvoir, traîne derrière Telia Urey, une autre candidate des partis de l'opposition.

M. Toby a indiqué que le président Weah n'est pas content de la défaite de son parti dans son propre fief. « Cela en dit long, mais c'est bien que le message soit arrivé plus tôt que 2020 », a-t-il ajouté.

À la suite de la défaite du parti au pouvoir, le principal allié politique du président Weah, le sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Johnson, a menacé de retirer son soutien s'il ne prend pas des mesures pour changer les choses.

Selon M. Toby, le sénateur Johnson avait transmis son message au président lors de

son sermon de dimanche, affirmant qu'il avait fait quelques remarques et des recommandations.

«... Je suis sûr que ces choses qu'il dites, même si certaines ne sont pas tout à fait vraies ou factuelles, il a fait valoir certains points, il a formulé des recommandations», a déclaré Toby.

A Toby de dire que : « si la situation concernant le Libéria est spirituelle et que, dans l'esprit du sénateur Johnson il faut intervenir, je prends la parole en sa qualité de sénateur [et de chef] d'un parti qui a soutenu la coalition au pouvoir. Mais je crois également qu'une personne qui soutiendrait une autre personne ou une institution ne peut pas se retourner contre celle-ci en pleine crise ». Selon lui, le Sénateur Johnson est un homme qui a totalement accès au président et le voit à tout moment.

« Le président et le sénateur Johnson sont de très bons amis. Ils ont parcouru un long chemin dans leur séjour politique.

« Ils ont collaboré à tous les niveaux, pas seulement lors de cette élection. Le sénateur Johnson est resté un bras très favorable de cette administration. »

Il croit que ce sont des sujets dont le sénateur Johnson peut discuter avec le président, comme ils l'ont déjà fait et continueront de le faire.

Toby soutient que les arguments de Johnson ne constituent pas une menace pour le président ou son administration, notant que c'est de bonne foi que le sénateur a été en mesure de faire entendre son point de vue.

Il pense que le sénateur Johnson veut voir le gouvernement réussir, « alors le président écouterait, il a écouté comme il l'a toujours fait. »

Selon Toby, le président retient les commentaires du sénateur Johnson de bonne foi.

Toby a ajouté qu'il appartient au président de décider de faire un remaniement et c'est à lui de décider de la politique de son gouvernement. « Si le président songe à un remaniement, je pense quand il le fera. Mais si le président a confiance en son équipe, je suis à sa disposition », a déclaré Toby.

Selon M. Toby, le sénateur Johnson avait transmis son message au président lors de

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Amin Saikal

## L'échec de la politique iranienne de Trump

CANBERRA - En réponse à la politique de pression maximale du président des États-Unis Donald Trump, l'Iran vient de saisir un second pétrolier étranger. La méthode de Trump pour amener le régime iranien à résipiscence ne fonctionne manifestement pas. Ce que l'on peut porter à son crédit, c'est d'avoir créé un nouveau point chaud au Moyen-Orient, fragilisé les relations transatlantiques, profité à la Chine et à la Russie et porté un sérieux coup au Traité sur la non-prolifération nucléaire. Comment sortir de là ?

Le principal problème de Trump, c'est que les autres pays signataires de l'accord de 2015 sur le nucléaire iranien - officiellement dénommé Plan d'action global conjoint -, duquel il a retiré les États-Unis, continuent de le soutenir. La Grande-Bretagne, la France, l'Allemagne, la Russie et la Chine se sont également opposées aux sanctions économiques destinées à paralyser l'Iran exigées par Trump. Elles se sont engagées à préserver l'accord et à faire tout ce qu'il est possible pour convaincre Téhéran de ne pas le dénoncer. Les signataires européens ont établi un mécanisme spécial pour faciliter les échanges et les activités avec l'Iran, au risque de représailles américaines, tandis que la Russie et la Chine ont multiplié leurs liens économiques et stratégiques avec la République islamique, ce qui signifie que pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'alliance occidentale les alliés européens de l'Amérique ont joint leurs forces à celles de ses rivaux.

Le soutien de ces puissances ne suffit pas à compenser les sanctions secondaires américaines, qui exposent à des représailles tout État ou toute entreprise se livrant à des activités en Iran. Mais il peut amoindrir l'effet des sanctions primaires et renforcer la résilience du régime iranien, qui a déjà montré ses capacités à résister, abattant un drone espion américain, attaquant, rapportent ses accusateurs, six pétroliers et s'emparant de deux autres dans les parages du détroit d'Ormuz. Il a ce faisant prouvé qu'il était en capacité de couper le détroit, par où transite un cinquième du pétrole mondial, malgré les démonstrations de force des États-Unis dans le golfe Persique pour y garantir la sécurité maritime.

La confusion habituelle des déclarations de Trump en matière de politique étrangère ne lui a pas non plus été d'un grand secours. Il a parcouru à cet égard toute l'étendue du spectre, de la position des « faucons » incarnée par son belliqueux secrétaire d'État Mike Pompeo, son conseiller à la sécurité nationale John Bolton et le Premier ministre israélien Benyamin Nétanyahou, partisans d'une action militaire contre l'Iran, à l'attitude contraire, faisant alors prévaloir ses propres penchants et savoir qu'il ne voulait « pas de guerre ». Il cherche à utiliser le pouvoir économique de l'Amérique, assorti de menaces plutôt qu'appuyé sur la force militaire, pour atteindre ses objectifs. Mais il méconnaît sa cible. Lui-même et ses conseillers ne font preuve que d'une très médiocre compréhension de la nature du régime iranien et ont sous-estimé ses capacités de réaction dans une région extrêmement complexe.

L'équipe de Trump ne comprend pas que le régime est solidement assis et jouit d'une structure de sécurité régionale tout aussi solide, qui s'étend de l'Afghanistan au Liban en passant par le Yémen. Si ce régime a un fort caractère idéologique, il devient pragmatique dès qu'il s'agit de sa sécurité. Le clergé au pouvoir et ses partisans

survivront ou périront avec lui. À ses plus hauts échelons, on trouve encore des hommes qui se défient profondément des États-Unis et se souviennent des longues années pendant lesquelles l'Amérique a soutenu la monarchie de Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, le dernier shah d'Iran. L'ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeiny, qui conduisit en 1979 la révolution iranienne et renversa le shah, cherchait à construire des institutions capables de résister à ses adversaires intérieurs et extérieurs.

Khomeiny est mort en 1989, mais son successeur, l'ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a pour l'essentiel suivi les traces du premier « guide », menant une politique également idéologique et pragmatique afin d'assurer la continuité du régime islamique. Malgré son ressentiment envers les États-Unis et leurs alliés, Khamenei s'est montré assez souple, par exemple, pour accorder sa bénédiction au Plan d'action, établir d'étroites relations avec la Russie et la Chine et maintenir avec les puissances européennes les liens raisonnables qui lui permettent de résister aux pressions américaines.

Pendant ce temps, la République islamique n'a pas ménagé ses efforts pour établir sa puissance et son influence - son hard power et son soft power -, en tissant un réseau de partenaires religieux et stratégiques dans toute la région. Elle a jalousement bâti une stratégie de conflit asymétrique, non seulement pour survivre à une attaque étrangère, mais pour transformer cette dernière en une périlleuse et dévastatrice confrontation régionale. Elle a vécu l'essentiel de ses quarante années d'existence avec les sanctions américaines et maîtrise une large palette de méthodes pour contourner les pressions des États-Unis.

Cela ne signifie nullement que le régime n'est pas disposé à renégocier le Plan d'action. Il a d'ores et déjà signalé qu'il y était prêt, mais à la condition expresse que cela ne menace pas sa sécurité, intérieure ou régionale, et que le jeu économique et stratégique en vaille la chandelle. Le régime demeure divisé entre partisans d'une ligne dure et modérés, les premiers contrôlant en plus grand nombre les leviers du pouvoir que les seconds. Mais ce serait une erreur d'imaginer que face à une menace extérieure suffisamment dangereuse, toutes les factions ne s'uniraient pas ni ne seraient soutenues par une majorité de l'opinion, dont l'histoire a montré la fibre nationaliste.

La politique américaine de confrontation et d'endiguement n'a pas porté ses fruits. Celle du dialogue, autrefois menée par le président Barack Obama, s'était avérée plus efficace, comme l'avait prouvé la conclusion du Plan d'action. Trump, en revanche, s'est mis de lui-même dans une impasse et doit désormais envisager une confrontation militaire qu'il ne peut gagner, avec toutes ses conséquences régionales et globales, dont les effets économiquement destructeurs d'une restriction des approvisionnements pétroliers et d'une hausse des prix de l'or noir.

Traduit de l'anglais par François Boisivon

Amin Saikal est professeur de sciences politiques à l'Australian National University ; il est notamment l'auteur de *Iran Rising: The Survival and Future of the Islamic Republic* (non traduit) and co-auteur (avec James Piscatori) de *Islam Beyond Borders: The Umma in World Politics* (non traduit).

# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

With Ben Polee Wese



## What's happening to Christop?

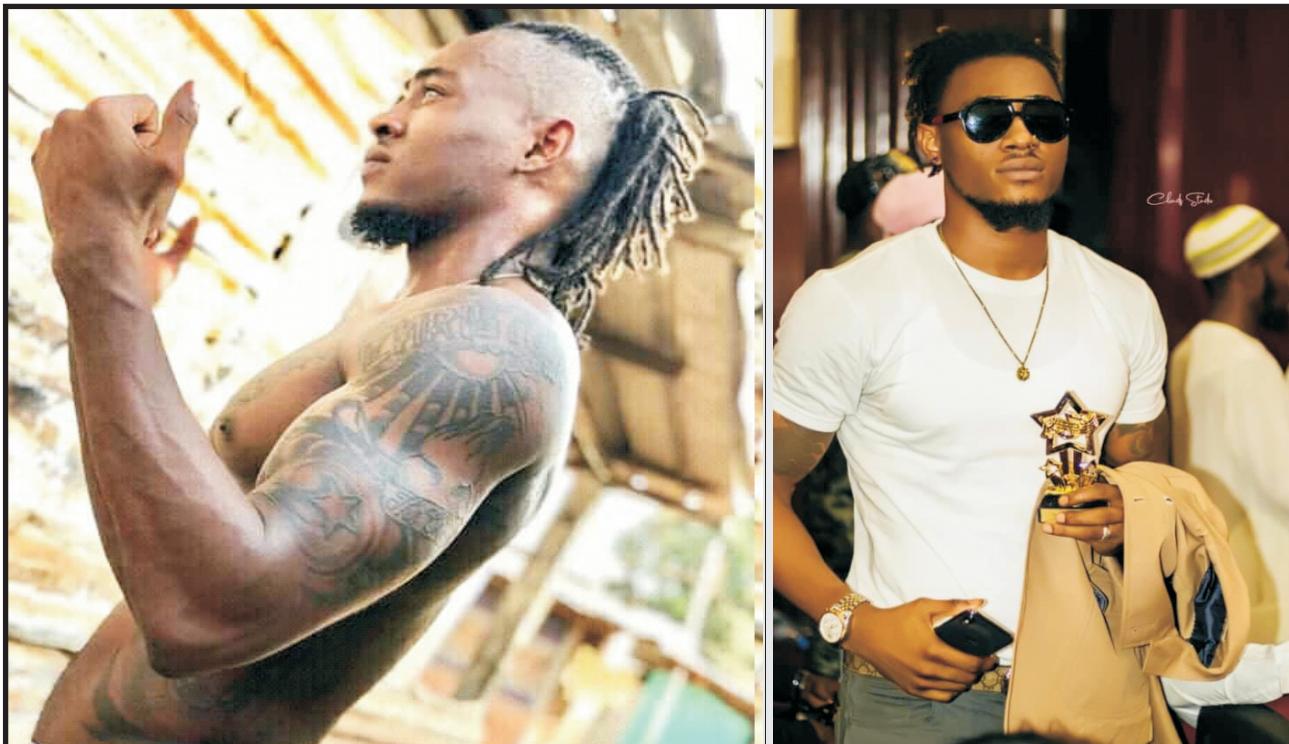
Faking death, robbery attack, or wellbeing is one common trick among celebrities around the world basically used to attracting fans' attention or for the sake of promotion, if their arts are not promoting or selling them in the market.

Just to name a few, recently Singer Keyshia Cole confessed that she faked a pregnancy news in response to being body-shamed, but some fans say she's insensitive. The "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett may have choreographed his alleged assault pile up; some celebrities are having a hard time aligning the headlines with their initial support, and two have even pointed fingers at police.

These two international celebrities are amongst others around the world who recently faked themselves just to get the headlines or get global attention.

For the past weeks, one of Liberia's lead HipCo artists Christopher Nyenga, who goes by the stage-name Christop the Change, has been posting of not being well, claiming that people are after his life in order to get him killed.

Now the big question: Is



Christop really going through nightmare or mental health problem or carrying on the common trick of other celebrities around the world in order to get the headlines since he has been out of hitz song these days?

Christop has been very controversial; the artist before rising to the throne of Hipco music, started as Hippop rapper but didn't get the attention of music lovers and the media until he started a beef with Co-zee who was also fighting to hit the scene.

The unusual behavior of the artist got notice in his so many videos and photos that surface on the social media and started going vibz, becoming the order of the day on social media.

Lot of celebrities in and out of Liberia, including Politician Tiela Urey, who contested in the just-ended Montserrado County district #15 by-election, took to their social media pages to wish the Hipco artist well and advice his fan and music lovers to keep him in theirprays, as he goes through his difficult time.

Telia Urey wrote after Christop's insult and apology, "He who is without sin cast the first stone. Christop, as I said to you on the phone just now, your apology is accepted from the depth of my heart. You are a little brother to me. I never commented on your video because I knew something wasn't right. Politics should never divide us to that extent. Liberians and women especially, let's all forgive Chris and pray for him. Stop the bullying. Chris has brought a lot of pride to us through his music and I trust he will do

much more in the future".

Other celebrities including Rickslyn Myers from Prime FM have deleted posts from their timeline, making it looks more suspicious.

In a video post, the Hipco artist further alleged to be in the know of the person behind the death of Liberia's falling legend Quincy Burrow or Quincy 'B', who died two years ago in car cash at Pan Africa Plaza, the building that hosts the United Nations headquarters in Monrovia.

Photos of the award-winning artist are also circulating on the social media, doing unusual things. One of the many photos depicts Christop in an unidentified flood community, taking shower on the back porch of a house.

Another photo shows the celebrity dressed in his usual attire with Jamaican flag (badana) tied around his neck with the Holy Bible in his hand. That photo was widely speculated as the Hipco artist going from ghetto to ghetto, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to drug abusers.

In a photo posted by an online blogger, the artist is with one of Liberia's powerful man of God in the church with the caption that Christop has finally gone to seek God's intervention.

## Why Liberian musical legends are not respected

Every industry around the world has legends or icons, who young people look to for motivation, inspiration or reason they pursue that path. But in Liberia, it's the other way around, which gets lot of people and music lovers confused.

One might wonder why

every time when these young artists are being interview on who is their inspiration, they always referred to other African countries mostly, Nigerian and Ghanaian legends.

The fun is these two countries mentioned above, are among leading countries in Africa when it comes to music, but from research made by this

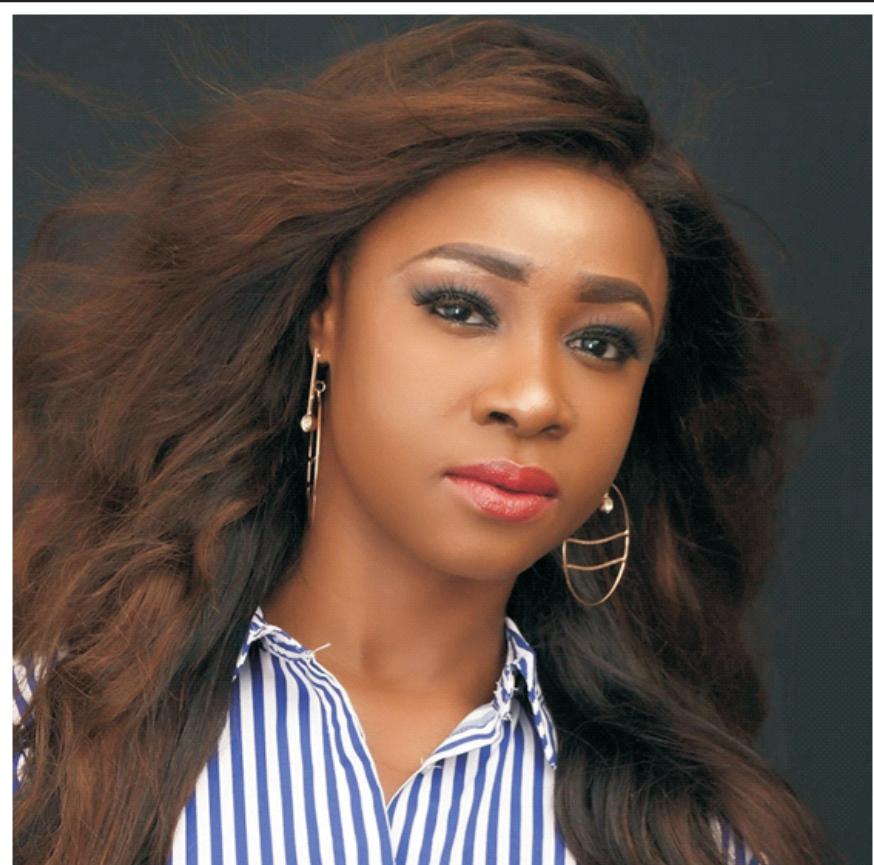
column, artists or young artists will not name a legend from Ivory Coast that was leading Africa before.

Than the big question here is why Liberian artists or young artists always refer to Nigerian or Ghanaian legends as their inspiration when in fact, these countries don't have our main genre called "HipCo"?

*Read the next edition for detail.*



## Personality of the Week



Korto Davis is a Liberian actress. She was born and raised in Monrovia, Liberia. Korto attended Eagle Drama College of Theatre Arts in Accra, Ghana. She began her career here in Monrovia and subsequently travelled to Ghana to pursue her acting career.

# Verdier descends on Weah

The United States-based International Justice Group (IJG) condemns the current state of affairs in Liberia and calls on all civil society actors and the international community to deplore the George Weah-led government's lack of action and indecisiveness over human rights, corruption and important national issues such as justice, war crimes court and full implementation of the TRC Report.

IJG Executive Director, Cllr. Jerome J. Verdier, Sr., addressing Liberian journalists in America, further condemns acts of criminal elements within the government to pervert the ends of justice which got Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr Varney Sherman and others recently off the hook in the sable mining bribery scandal case.

A dispatch from Washington, DC quotes Cllr. Verdier as saying the IJG reliably unearthed that the presiding Judge in the Sable Mining case, Judge Peter Gbeneweleh, the prosecution team headed by Justice Minister, Cllr F. Musah Dean, Solicitor General, Cllr CyreniusCephas, County Attorney, Cllr Edward Martin and the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill, allegedly constituted themselves into a criminal syndicate to pervert justice by minimizing evidence and subsequently letting Cllr Varney Sherman off the hook characterized by executive coercion, diminution of records and other artifices to guarantee the acquittal of Cllr Sherman on all charges.

"To ensure this, without let, His Honor Justice Nagbe posited himself in court at the acquittal verdict to demonstrate solidarity with the scheme in pledge of loyalty to the Chief Executive", he notes.

He says the Varney Sherman/Sable Mining conspiracy to subvert the justice process was cooked up by the Executive Branch of Government allegedly led by Minister Nathaniel McGill, who criminally solicited and enlisted the help of Cllr Varney Sherman, Senator Grand Cape Mount County, to overtly violate Article 73 of the Constitution of Liberia in order to facilitate the unsavory impeachment of Justice Kabineh Ja'neh through a kangaroo trial, in return for a promise by Mr. McGill, guaranteed by his boss (President Weah) to get him (Cllr. Verney) acquitted of all charges in the Sable Mining Bribery Case, thus



Pres. Weah

Cllr. James N. Verdier, Jr.

making way for Justice Joseph Nagbe's enrollment.

Cllr. Verdier reminds that Justice Kabineh Ja'neh was impeached for judgment he rendered in his judicial and official capacity as "Justice in Chambers Presiding" contrary to the expressed provisions of Article 73 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution.

Article 73 of the Constitution state, "No judicial official shall be summoned, arrested, detained, prosecuted or tried civilly or criminally by or at the instance of any person or authority on account of judicial opinions rendered or expressed, judicial statements made and judicial acts done in the course of a trial in open court or in chambers, except for treason or other felonies, misdemeanor or breach of the peace. Statements made and acts done by such officials in the course of a judicial proceeding shall be privileged, and, subject to the above qualification, no such statements made, or acts done shall be admissible into evidence against them at any trial or proceeding."

Meanwhile, Cllr. Verdier laments the introduction of violence and thuggery into the political space here is abhorring and ridiculously reminiscence of the ruthless era of the ex-ruling National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) Youth Wing Task Force of the slain President Samuel K. Doe.

He explains that as ruthless as the NDPL era was, what is obtaining in President George Weah's Liberia is the euphoric escalation of violence, thuggery and lawlessness, threatening the democratic space and thereby constituting a major threat to the country's democratic aspirations for a free, open and competitive society without fear or intimidation but with security, protection and equal opportunity for all.

According to him, what started as an isolated event with Grand Bassa County

Senator YongbleeKarngar Lawrence and the opposition Liberty Party (LP), spilled over to Montserrado County District#10 Representative YekeKolubah, who complained on diverse occasions of attempts by government operatives to kill him and some children within his electoral district.

"Now, violence and gangster-style killings have taken on a national fervor, law and order is rapidly breaking down and a state of anarchy and lawlessness is brewing in Liberia and the Weah Government as yet remains silent, spurring widespread suspicions that the President, is without doubt, behind the violence by his CDC's goons to intimidate and coerce the opposition into submission and clamp down dissent as part of his political ambition to become a dictator in power for 27 years or more, surpassing President William V.S. Tubman."

"That Liberia is a kleptocracy, this we know, but overwhelming tendencies of criminality, impunity, autocracy, banal disregard for human rights, and the elementary principles of good governance are worrying signs that, if corrective measures are not taken to reverse this trend, Liberia may slide back to the pariah state status it once was..." warns the former chair of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

However, he says while it is true that all of Liberia's problems are not attributable to President Weah, his nonchalant disposition on corruption and human rights and his seeming condoning of the violence is a flaw of his presidency, pointing to a leadership deficit that demands attention.

He notes the President is indecisive, demonstrating a lack of authority and capacity over his men and cannot rein them in to follow the law or operate within the confines of the law, citing lack of Asset Declaration by public officials

as a case in point.

The former TRC boss continues that President Weah prioritizes his social life more than the welfare of the poor people who voted him to office, saying, "The President, wanting in knowledge and sophistication has surrounded himself with low life figures, who have no vision or love for the country."

He says the President and his team have failed to adopt any appreciable policy approach to address the issues confronting the country, as they have no plan for redressing the economy, stimulating national development or national reconciliation.

Cllr. Verdier headed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia, which final report recommends prosecution for perpetrators of heinous crimes and crimes against humanity here during the brutal civil war.

"To date, the President and his team have failed to embrace or appreciate the mammoth demands for the establishment of the War Crimes Court in full implementation of the TRC Report and in furtherance of US House Resolution HR 1055.

The President is giving lip-service to accountability and corruption issues. Neither Mr. President nor his officials have been audited or complied with the assets declaration requirements of law. Just as the both the National

Legislature and the Honorable Supreme Court have never been audited, Continuing the policies of Former President Sirleaf, rendering these venerable branches of government as now national institutions of corruption and disgrace."

He specifically points that President Weah granted a construction contract to his friend he claimed offered him a plane as gift without making full disclosure to the National Legislature or the people of Liberia directly, as to the nature of the gift as is customarily the case, and reminds, "Bribery is an impeachable offense against the integrity of the state."

Cllr. Verdier alleges the President presided over the criminal misapplication of US\$25m intended for a mopping up exercise to remove excess liquidity from the Liberian market. However, he says with the explicit consent of the President the money was diverted for private, instead of public use, and a parallel market in foreign exchange was created to exchange missing Liberian banknotes with the US banknotes, bordering on exchange rate manipulation, insider dealing, money laundering, embezzlement, misappropriation of entrusted property, theft of property and fraud.

"The President has directly supervised the stealing of public money for personal causes but without accountability. The President withdrew US\$80m out of the Liberian International Reserves in New York. Out of this amount only US\$55 could be accounted for at the Central Bank. The difference of US\$25m was commandeered from the airport to the Rehab Residence of the President. This deliberate, blatant act of thievery by the President is a felonious transgression that renders him unfit for the public trust and office he occupies", concludes the critically outspoken Liberian lawyer, who currently resides in the United States.

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## House invites Attorney General



Minister of Justice, Frank Musa Dean

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives invites the Minister of Justice, Frank Musa Dean, to appear before its Committee on National Security to explain reasons for delay in releasing findings of investigation into the mysterious death of a Liberia,

Mr. Fayiah Kettor in the plantation of the Liberia Agricultural Company or LAC in Grand Bassa County, and failure by the Ministry to conduct an autopsy on the corpse of Mr. Robert Toe, who was discovered dead in the compound of Arcelor Mittal in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County, respectively.

According to a communication to plenary from Grand Bassa County district #4 Representative Vicent S. T. Willie, the late Fayiah Kettor, who was an employee of LAC, went missing from the company's medical facility in Wee Statutory District, Grand Bassa, while undergoing treatment.

What led to his disappearance from the hospital is yet to be established.

Representative Willie notes in his community that within couple of days after the deceased's disappearance and subsequent efforts made to find him yielded nothing, the corpse was discovered in the plantation.

The Grand Bassa County lawmaker adds that there was serious tension in the plantation as a result of the incident, which nearly caused burning down of the hospital and other facilities.

However, he notes the Ministry



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## Indian Community donates to LNP

The Indian Community in Liberia headed by its Vice President, Mr. Pradeep Babani donates five TVs motorbikes and several pieces of assorted medical supplies to the Liberia National Police for use by its clinic.

A LNP press release says during the hand-over ceremony Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at the headquarters of the Liberia National Police, Mr. Pradeep Babani thanked



the Inspector General of Police and his gallant officers for keeping the peace and the maintenance of law and order. He also lauded the police for providing security, not only for Liberians but for other nationals residing in Liberia.

"In recognition of your steadfastness in the fight against criminality, the Indian community in Liberia presents these assorted medical supplies and five motor bikes worth thousands of United States Dollars to enhance your

operations," the Indian community boss said.

Receiving the items on behalf of the Liberia National Police, Inspector General of Police Patrick Sudue thanked the Indian community in Liberia for the donation and recounted the organization's contribution of One Thousand gallons (1,000gal) of fuel to the LNP during Liberia's One Hundred Seventy



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