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CDC, opposition supporters clash

NPP to withdraw from CDC

-Sen. Johnson

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Bomi County Senator, Sando Johnson

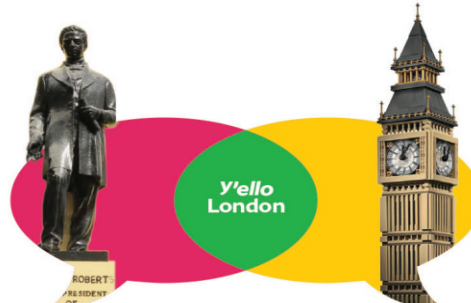
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Continental News

Chamisa Speaks to defence forces

MDC leader Nelson Chamisa has implored soldiers to uphold, defend and respect the core values that helped their forebears to prosecute the liberation struggle together with, and not against the people. In his Defence Forces commemorations message, Chamisa said a few soldiers, who stray beyond the lines of professionalism, should never be allowed to taint the entire institution.

Chamisa said the military plays a huge role in the country's body politic by safeguarding the country's territorial integrity under difficult circumstances, as provided for by sections 211 and 212 of the Constitution.

"While our Constitution recognises the key role of the Defence Forces, it also lays down the foundation for a smooth relationship with other branches of our body politic, setting the boundaries of what they can or cannot do," Chamisa said. "This is why we continue to encourage our defence forces to uphold the values of

professionalism, respect, forbearance and non-partisanship. We know that the majority of our defence forces are bound and are faithful to their oaths as defenders of the nation. The few who stray beyond the lines of professionalism should never be allowed to taint the entire institution." In the past, soldiers have been accused of

gross human rights abuses after being implicated in the shooting and killing of civilians during the August 1, 2018 post-election protests and fuel price hike demonstrations in January this year.

The MDC will on Friday protest against the deteriorating economic situation in the country despite Defence deputy

minister Victor Matemadanda having threatened to deploy soldiers to quash the protests.

"This taint can be cleansed by holding to account those who have strayed away from their constitutional prescriptions," Chamisa said.

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"Regrettably, we have lost innocent lives in the past year at the hands of such elements. We echo public and international sentiment of accountability for these losses to prevent a culture of impunity and immunity."

He added: "To this end, I am quite encouraged by the comments made by the National Army Commander, Lieutenant General Edzai Absolom Chanyuka Chimonyo, and Zimbabwe Army Commander, General Philip Valerio Sibanda.

"Both generals have recently and passionately spoken about the need for a

professional, disciplined and non-partisan defence force, which protects Zimbabwe, its citizens, its national security, its interests, its territorial integrity and more importantly, to uphold the Constitution of the land." Chamisa said soldiers, who play a critical role in society, were also affected by the economic meltdown and when Zimbabweans protest, they will also do so on their behalf. "When we express ourselves, we are also doing it on their behalf; on behalf of them and with their families, friends and neighbours, singing songs of freedom and prosperity that they cannot sing on account of their job," Chamisa said.

He said under his new leadership, he envisages a defence forces built on a foundation of meritocracy, patriotism and professionalism, where service, merit and excellence take precedence with the military forces well-equipped, well-fed and well-remunerated. AFP



Kenya Police stop fuel siphoning

Police officers in Nakuru town on Monday, August 12 had a difficult time to save locals from imminent danger as the jerrican-wielding residents rushed to siphon fuel from an overturned tanker.

The officers had to swiftly close the Nakuru-Nairobi Highway following the incident that happened near Stem Hotel where the fuel had spilled on the road. Decision to close the road was due to the spillage and to avoid loss of lives in

the event a fire broke out. Nakuru East OCPD Rose Kabukuru directed motorists to use alternative routes along the busy highway.

Motorists were advised to use the old Nairobi road or pass through Free Area to join the highway at the Elementaita/Pipeline Junction. Kabukuru warned residents against any attempt of siphoning the fuel.

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This came barely two days after over 60 people died following a huge fire in Morogoro, Tanzania as they struggled to siphon fuel from a tanker before it blew into flames.

Memories are also still fresh from another similar incident at Sachangwan along the Nakuru-Eldoret Highway where many people died as they siphoned fuel from a tanker. AFP



Rear quarter view of a semi tanker truck on a highway hauling a flammable/combustible liquid

Israeli billionaire Beny Steinmetz to be tried over 'Guinea bribes'

Israeli billionaire Beny Steinmetz and two associates are to stand trial for allegedly bribing Guinean officials to win mining licences, Swiss prosecutors say. The trio allegedly paid \$10m (£8.2m) to one of the wives of former Guinean President Lansana Conte.

Mr Steinmetz and his mining company Beny Steinmetz Group Resources (BSGR) have previously denied any

partiality through Swiss bank accounts. In February this year, Guinean authorities dropped corruption charges against Mr Steinmetz and BSGR in exchange for relinquishing rights to the Simandou mine.

The Guinean government has said it was not involved in the Swiss investigation and will not seek any "hostile action" against BSGR.

In 2016 Mr Steinmetz was detained and questioned by



wrongdoing.

The prosecution is seeking prison terms of two to 10 years. The prosecutors, who opened an investigation into the alleged bribery six years ago, allege that Mr Steinmetz obtained the mining rights in the Simandou region of south-eastern Guinea just before Conte died in 2008.

They charge that the money was paid to a wife of the country's former president

the Israeli police over the mining deals. He denied any wrongdoing. Simandou is one of the world's biggest iron deposits, containing billions of tonnes of high-grade ore. Guinea's mineral wealth makes it potentially one of Africa's richest countries, however, most of its citizens live on less than \$1 (£0.80) a day.

EDITORIAL

Stop the war drum

THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE in Liberia is saturated with violent comments, threats and counter-threats, bordering on results or delay of final results of the recent by-elections in Montserrado County, particularly in District#15 due to dispute by rival candidates over the July 29 poll.

MEMBERS OF THE four collaborating opposition political parties are overly confident they have won the district though six precincts containing 15 polling places have been in dispute and therefore, quarantined by the National Elections Commission.

BUT THE OPPOSITION Alternative National Congress (ANC) vice chairman for interparty affairs Ulysses Barchue said NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya and co-conspirators will be held responsible for any retrogression of gains this country achieved over the years, threatening to institute radical approaches in line with the Constitution of Liberia.

MEMBERS OF THE opposition are beating war drum here, threatening to bemoan and fiercely resist a "clear deliberate attempt" by the National Elections Commission and the Government of Liberia to circumvent the will of voters in District #15.

THE VIOLENT COMMENTS manifested thru actions Tuesday, August 13, near the headquarters of the National Elections Commission in Monrovia where leaders and supporters of rival parties had gathered to receive findings from NEC hearing officers, when stone battle ensued between rival sides, leading to postponement of the exercise by the NEC.

LIBERIA CANNOT AFFORD another cycle of violence, particularly at a time the country is beset by serious socio-economic challenges characterized by three digits inflation, high prices and exchange rate.

ALREADY, THE COUNTRY is like a time bomb waiting to explode due to the prevailing economic hardship. This is why we caution all sides to be very circumspect in the current election rigmarole to keep the peace.

THE PARTIES SHOULD exercise restraints by waiting on the NEC to release findings into the District#15 investigation. If either side is unsatisfied, there are recourses under the law, including the NEC Board of Commissioners and the Supreme Court that can be explored.

VIOLENCE SHOULD NOT be an option as it could lead to worsening repercussions that this country just might not stomach. We should endeavor to maintain the current peace for the sake of ourselves and our children.

THESE MOMENTS NEED real patriots who will place Country above selfish political interest. The mark of a good leader is to maintain balance in the midst of distraction and provocation. Lest we should forget, voters are intelligent people. They know who they voted at the ballot box.

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COMMENTARY

By Barry Eichengreen

Trump's Cross of Gold

US President Donald Trump wants to compress the United States trade deficit and enhance the competitiveness of domestic manufacturers by using tariffs to raise the price of imported goods. And the fixed exchange rates he needs to achieve that goal are the real reason behind his nomination of Judy Shelton to the Federal Reserve Board.

SINGAPORE - There are now scores of efforts to psychoanalyze US President Donald Trump's nomination of Judy Shelton to the Federal Reserve Board. Some emphasize Shelton's fidelity as an early adviser to the Trump campaign. Others point to her conversion into "a low-interest-rate person." Still others highlight her advocacy of the gold standard as insulating US monetary policy from an unreliable Fed.

These interpretations all miss the point, which is that Shelton is a proponent of fixed exchange rates. Her belief in fixed rates is catnip to an administration that sees currency manipulation as a threat to winning its trade war.

Team Trump wants to compress the United States trade deficit and enhance the competitiveness of domestic manufactures by using tariffs to raise the price of imported goods. But a 10% tariff that is offset by a 10% depreciation of foreign currencies against the dollar leaves the relative prices of US imports unchanged.

Countries seeking to maintain the competitiveness of their exports have an obvious interest in encouraging such currency adjustments, or at least in not resisting them. In fact, they don't actually have to do anything in order for their currencies to fall when the US applies tariffs. The US current-account deficit is just the difference between US investment and US saving, which tariffs do nothing to change. If the current account doesn't change, then neither can the relative price of domestic and foreign goods. So the exchange rate must move, of its own accord, to offset the tariff.

Thus, the challenge for Team Trump is to get other countries to change their policies to prevent their currencies from moving. That's what the demand for stable exchange rates and an end to "currency manipulation" is all about.

Consider Shelton's call last year for a new Bretton Woods system. The goal, as she described it, would be to establish a "coherent mechanism for maintaining exchange-rate stability among national currencies," the same goal as the one that was set at the original 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.

But in the absence of a global conference - something that would be anathema to Trump - the way to get there is the same as under the nineteenth-century gold standard. Then, the leading power, Great Britain, unilaterally fixed the domestic currency price of gold. Other countries, seeing the advantages accruing to Britain, followed its

example. Once multiple countries had pegged the domestic price of gold, the exchange rates between their currencies were effectively fixed. Today, the idea evidently is that if the US moves first, "preemptively" as Shelton puts it, other countries will follow.

Behind this presumption, however, lie a number of logical non-sequiturs. First, other countries show little desire to stabilize their exchange rates, restored gold standard or not. They understand that different economic conditions justify the adoption of different monetary policies, which in turn requires exchange rates to move.

Second, gold is no longer a stable anchor. The dollar price of gold has fluctuated from \$900 in 2009 to \$1,900 in 2011 and back to \$1,500 today. Having the Fed peg the price of gold in dollars would do nothing to peg its relative price - that is, the price of gold relative to the prices of other goods and services. For the relative price of gold to double, as it did between 2009 and 2011, consumer prices would have to fall by half, in a catastrophic deflation.

The price of gold relative to CPI inflation was less volatile in the nineteenth century, but this reflected the importance of gold mining. When the price of gold rose relative to the prices of other commodities, more resources were allocated to mining. Additional gold was extracted as a result, causing its relative price to fall. More precisely, other prices rose, as that additional gold backed an inflationary increase in money supplies.

Today, after a century-long increase in the production of other goods and services, gold mining accounts for a much smaller share of global GDP. The stabilizing capacity of the mining industry is weaker, rendering the price of gold more volatile.

It might be argued that the volatility of the gold price reflects financial instability, which induces investors to rush into gold as a safe haven, and that the gold standard will produce a more stable financial environment. But there is no historical basis for this notion. Financial crises were a recurrent phenomenon under the gold standard. That is no mystery: having to stabilize the price of gold severely limited the ability of central banks to act as lenders of last resort to distressed financial systems. Instability regularly followed.

In short, arguments for a gold standard and pegged exchange rates are deeply flawed. But there is a silver lining, as it were: nothing along these lines is going to happen, Governor Shelton or not.

O-PED

By Jim O'neill

Trump's One-Way Economy

LONDON - Nowadays, when people ask me how I am, I answer, jokingly, that I'm doing great, so long as I ignore Donald Trump's presidency in the United States, Brexit, the crisis of the United Kingdom's major political parties, and the performance of Manchester United.

But recently, the litany of unfortunate circumstances has gotten so long that the joke is hard to pull off. One now must also list the political crisis in Hong Kong, a burgeoning diplomatic and economic dispute between Japan and South Korea, the Indian government's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy - and India-Pakistan tensions more generally - and growing turmoil within South Africa's ruling African National Congress.

Making matters worse, this has been a particularly rough summer in terms of the weather: heat waves across Europe and the US have served as a forceful reminder of the growing effects of climate change on our everyday lives. Add to all this other persistent sources of global uncertainty - from the Middle East and Russia under President Vladimir Putin to social-media disruptions and antimicrobial resistance - and you have a recipe for despair.

If these were normal times, recent global developments would be showing up as sharply rising risk premia, especially given that global growth has slowed substantially over the course of 2019. But these are not normal times, owing primarily to the current state of monetary policymaking. Here, one must wonder if Trump has been escalating his threats of additional tariffs against China as a way to pressure the US Federal Reserve to reduce interest rates. After all, his recent Twitter tantrum on this issue came shortly after the Fed's decision to cut its policy rate by 25 basis points. In Trump's view - and in the view of the markets - that cut apparently wasn't large enough.

I sometimes wonder if Trump isn't like a James Bond villain, pursuing a secret, unnecessarily convoluted master plan for world domination. There certainly isn't any evident logic behind most of what he does. To be sure, when it comes to foreign policy, his populist posturing may be intended to goad other leaders around the world into similar behavior. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's moves in Kashmir, as well as the Japanese and South Korean governments' tactics toward each other, seem to come straight from the Trump playbook. Politicians around the world are no doubt telling themselves that if such behavior is acceptable for the US leader, it is appropriate for them, too.

The political logic of Trump's domestic strategy, however, is harder to explain. Much of it is about shoring up his voter base for the 2020 presidential election. But to win a second term, he will need to peel off more voters at the margins, and it is not clear that his current approach to domestic policy will win over those who do not already support him.

As always with an incumbent, much will depend on the economy. Though the US unemployment rate remains very low, the growth cycle has slowed and is now increasingly vulnerable. Worse, the US economy seems to have developed a one-way relationship with broader financial conditions, by which I mean short-term interest rates, bond yields, stock prices, the value of the dollar, and home prices. The US economy would suffer if these financial conditions grew tighter, but it would barely benefit if they were to loosen.

It is not clear that Trump and his advisers follow these financial conditions particularly closely. They seem desperate for a dramatic easing, yet Trump's threat of additional tariffs on Chinese imports has rattled global markets - including the shares of many US multinationals - and led to tighter financial conditions in the US, owing to the rising value of the dollar. To offset that effect, both short- and long-term US interest rates would need to fall significantly. And, to be sure, there are some days when financial conditions do loosen, because the prospect of new tariffs, and thus higher consumer prices, leads investors to pour into bonds, thereby offsetting the tightening effects of a rising dollar and weak equities.

Looking beyond the daily movement of the markets, it is possible that Trump is counting on the Fed to become a hostage of financial conditions, especially if bond yields drop and the yield curve inverts. That could prompt it to pursue larger rate cuts than previously indicated. But further monetary easing would do very little to mitigate the risks to the economy, because these risks are not emanating from monetary-sensitive sources.

Moreover, Trump's unpredictability has heightened risks for exporters and anyone else responsible for making long-term investment decisions. The only way for monetary-policy loosening to work, then, is if consumers take on a larger role in driving growth. And yet consumption already accounts for 70% of US GDP, and the trade war is driving up consumer prices, potentially setting the stage for rising unemployment.

This brings me to a point I have made many times before: global economic growth in this decade and the next is going to depend on Chinese, not American, consumers. At some point, the US, whether under Trump or someone else, must accept this fact and recognize it as an opportunity. The rise of the Chinese consumer could help to address many of America's own economic problems, if only America would stop standing in the way.

OPINION

By Savio Carvalho

How Ebola Wins

LONDON - A year has passed since the Democratic Republic of the Congo's health ministry declared a new outbreak of Ebola in the northeast of the country. Yet, far from being contained, the outbreak has now become the DRC's second in five years to be classified by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the most severe designation - used just four times previously - that the WHO can make. It is the second-largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded.

A highly effective experimental vaccine against Ebola is available, and teams on the ground are working hard to bring the virus under control. But, with the outbreak occurring within a volatile conflict zone, the odds are stacked against them. In the first seven months of this year, 198 attacks were carried out against health-care workers or Ebola treatment facilities, leaving seven dead and 58 injured.

Yet the failure to contain the current crisis reflects shortcomings that extend far beyond the DRC. Even as large-scale epidemics proliferate, the international community continues to get even the most basic aspects of prevention and preparedness wrong. When it comes to a disease like Ebola - which is highly communicable and has a mortality rate of around 50% - such lapses have devastating consequences.

Consider hygiene and water supply - the first line of defense against infection. East Africa has some of the world's poorest clean-water coverage for health-care facilities. According to data from the WHO and UNICEF, 30% of Uganda's hospitals have only limited water service, meaning that water has to be brought onto the premises; for health-care facilities other than hospitals, that figure rises to 54%. The situation in the DRC is even more dire: 15% of hospitals and 51% of non-hospital health-care facilities have no water service at all.

Without readily available clean water for washing beds and protective equipment, or adequate facilities for workers to use to keep their hands sufficiently clean, health centers do not only fail to treat and cure people effectively; they become sources of disease. In the case of Ebola, such conditions can cause thousands to become infected and die, with a knock-on effect on the economy, peace, and stability.

But those directly affected by Ebola are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. During outbreaks, health-care provision for other diseases and routine services are often severely compromised, especially in places where the health-care system is already poorly equipped and significantly underfunded. This year alone, thousands in the DRC have died of measles, as vaccination programs have been scaled back to free up resources for the fight against Ebola.

Such large-scale health catastrophes leave lasting scars on a country and its people. They have the potential to reverse hard-won progress on social and economic development, leaving communities behind. And they are set to become even more common, owing to factors such as violent conflict, weak governance, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and mass migration.

As long as governments and the international community fail to invest in strengthening health systems, outbreaks will continue to impose huge costs on communities before being brought under control. Operating health-care facilities without sources of safe water, toilets, and hand-washing facilities are stark examples of just such a failure.

Fortunately, there is reason to hope that, at long last, a change for the better is imminent. This past May, more than 160 years after the link between hygiene and disease prevention was established, country leaders at the WHO's World Health Assembly adopted a resolution focused on addressing the lack of water, sanitation, and hygiene in health-care facilities in lower- and middle-income countries. The growing threat of epidemics and related crises, including the spread of drug-resistant superbugs, seems to have finally shaken world leaders out of their torpor on developing-country health care.

Now this new commitment is about to be put to the test. The WHO's recent declaration on the DRC's Ebola outbreak was critical, because it should mobilize the international community to ramp up their contributions. But if the world is to prevent further health crises in East Africa, it cannot pursue yet more short-sighted solutions. Instead, it needs a comprehensive, forward-looking strategy that recognizes that a health center is not a health center without clean water.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah, lawmakers to hold retreat

By Winston W. Parley

President George Weah and members of the Liberian Legislature are expected to meet over the weekend at a retreat to discuss issues of national concerns in particular the ailing economy which is not getting anywhere near better.

Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby says as part of preparation ahead of the retreat, the president was due to meet with 50 technical heads of revenue generating agencies on Tuesday.

“The country is challenged with revenue collection, so the president is looking for all means and ways as to how to get Liberia’s revenue generating capacity working very well. Later on today he will be meeting with 50 heads of technical assistants from revenue generating entities in our country,” he says.



According to Toby, the technical meeting is all geared toward strategizing to see how Liberia can improve on its revenue generating efforts.

Mr. Toby reveals that from Friday, 16 August to Saturday,

17 August, the president will be hosting both members of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate at a retreat at Farmington Hotel in Margibi County.

“National issues will be

highlighted. There will be a lot on the table. There’s a lot of controversy whether it is coming from the Legislature or the Executive,” he explains.

Mr. Toby indicates that when the government decides to meet and put on the table all of the issues confronting their districts, counties and the country in general, government expects that the retreat will be fruitful.

The Executive Mansion is hopeful that all members of the Legislature will be at the two-day retreat in Margibi because it is about the governance of the country and to brainstorm on all of the challenges that the government is faced with.

The discussions are expected to be open on matters whether they are about lawmaking, budget or issues about development in the districts, among others.

The planned retreat, according to the Deputy Press Secretary, follows discussions at the Capitol surrounding the need for both members of the House and the Senate to meet with the president.

In another development,

the Executive Mansion has reacted to Nobel Laureate LaymahGbowee’s Oration, saying her points on the need for President Weah to publish his declared assets, and the number of female cabinet members were probably not properly researched.

Mr. Toby argues that there are 51 positions for females in the government, ranging from Ministers to Deputy Ministers and directors, among others.

He further notes that the law requiring asset declaration does not mandate the president to publish his assets, urging Liberians to go back to their lawmakers for amendment of the law if they so desire seeing their president publish his assets.

“And the reason the president raised that issue, for a national orator to go to a function ... and say publish your asset and don’t keep it secret or don’t hide it, in my own interpretation of what I understood, it means that the orator may have gotten something wrong,” Toby argues. *-Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

Dillon to be officially inducted Thursday -vows to publish his assets

By Ethel A. Tweh

Newly certified Montserrado County Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon says when inducted into office this Thursday, 15 August, he will declare his assets and his chief of office staff will work with the Secretary of the Senate to publish them.

Mr. Dillon, the winning candidate for the collaborating opposition political parties in the just-ended Montserrado County Senatorial and Representative - by elections made the vow Tuesday, 13 August during a welcome ceremony organized by staff on Capitol Hill in honor of Grand Bassa County Sen.

Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence.

Sen. Dillon assures that he will let everyone know the exact money that Senators are receiving here so that they can work together to have it cut for the benefit of the Liberian people.

Meanwhile, Sen. Dillon says it is by God’s Grace that Sen. Karnga -Lawrence is back on her feet.

Sen. Lawrence is the widow of fallen Montserrado County District #15Rep. Adolph Lawrence who died in a car crash this year.

Following the death of her husband, Sen. Karnga - Lawrence has for some time been away to mourn the loss of her husband.

The late Rep. Lawrence’s

death prompted another by - election in District #15 that is also led by another opposition candidate Telia Urey against ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) candidate Abu Kamara while the National Elections Commission (NEC) looks into a

complaint filed by the leading candidate.

The Senatorial by - election was equally prompted by the death of Sen. Geraldine Doe - Sheriff following illness.

“When the fight of social justice dies, there should be other fighters to keep the fight and we are with you today to fight for justice,” Sen. Dillon asserts.

He notes that even if he will be senator for one day, something will change. According to Sen. Dillon, if inside is not correct, outside will not be correct, vowing to help in the fight to put the light on.

Also speaking, Grand Bassa County Sen. Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence says the election of opposition candidate Abraham Darius Dillon to the Senate against ruling CDC candidate Paulita Wie shows that the people have taken back their power.

Sen. Lawrence expresses optimism that Liberians will continue to take back their power until the right leaders are elected.

“We depend on the people to help push our voices of small numbers of dependable leaders that we have now to elect more dependable leaders



for the betterment of the country,” She says.

Speaking of the death of her husband, Sen. Lawrence indicates that people always say time heals, but for her it got harder when she lost her husband.

She thanks Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor for serving as a big sister during the time of her (Nyonblee’s) bereavement.

She also thanks the Capitol Building staffers who were always there for her. The Grand Bassa County Senator narrates that the surprise welcome organized by the Capitol Building staff has softened the ground for her to work.

Additionally, Sen. Lawrence blasts that the decision taken during the impeachment trial against former Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja’neh shows that Liberia’s Judiciary is not independent.

She recalls that during the impeachment process, she told the Liberian Senate that it was a time for Senators to redeem

the country, but her colleagues acted on the contrary.

For her part, Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor says the death of Rep. Lawrence should be a light to the widow, adding that she has a lot of work to do for the people of Grand Bassa and the Liberian people at large.

River Gee County Sen. Commany B. Wesseh says it’s the first time for staffers to welcome a legislator who has lost their loved ones, saying that others have lost their loved ones but have not received this warm welcome.

He says [among] the “Senators for Justice and Peace,” Sen. Lawrence is the youngest, but she is the head of the group because she is a leader.

The River Gee County Senator concludes that it was during the time of the unconstitutional attack on the judiciary when Rep. Adolph Lawrence passed. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Sen. George Tengbeh

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lofa lawmakers clash

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Two members of the Lofa County Legislative caucus are engaged words of war on the grounds of the Capitol, as Representative Franklin Nyumalin refers to Senator George Tengbeh as a dying horse looking for anything to hang on for survival.

But Tengbeh describes his colleague as someone who is out of balance and has lost track of the county.

The fight is as a result of reported misapplication of funds intended for the construction of the proposed Foyah Polytechnic.

Representative Nyumalin brands Senator Tengbeh as someone who lacks the elementary understanding of the role of a lawmaker, so the latter (Tengbeh's) attempt to made false allegation is a calculated move to assassinate his (Nyumalin's) high earned characters.

According to Nyumalin, said strategies of Tengbeh to mislead the people of Lofa and the entire world that he (Nyumalin) corrupted money intended for the polytechnic shows that the senator is losing battle ahead of the 2020 Special Senatorial election in which he seeks reelection.

In a press conference in Monrovia, Monday, August 12, Senator Nyumalin branded Tengbeh as 'regime collaborator' and that he (Nyumalin) has been a strong



Sen. George Tengbeh



Rep. Franklin Nyumalin

voice against the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

But Senator Tengbeh in response, asks Nyumalin to put back the money reportedly taken from the county's coffers, pointing out that the special committee charged with the responsibility of constructing the polytechnic works under the influence of Nyumalin who allegedly recommended all appointees of the interim team, appointed by the Commission on Higher Education at the Ministry of Education.

He discloses the committee has withdrawn over US\$20,000 and LRD3 million with no tangible work on the project site.

However, commenting on

the alleged withdrawal of funds, Rep. Nyumalin explains the interim committee lobbied for US\$150,000 in the national budget but the government committed to only US\$50,000, from which the interim committee withdrew US\$10,000 for survey, testing of soil with experts from the Ministry of Public Works and feasibility studies, quoting head of the interim committee.

According to him, upon the completion of the funds and securing of 100 acres of land from traditional leaders in Foyah District, his role as a lawmaker ended, so anything beyond that, the committee should be interrogated or quizzed rather than him. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Margibi leadership

Starts from back page

leaders made mistakes, so they want them return to the county to make a decision on the one million dollars in question.

The Supreme Court of Liberia cited the Margibi authorities following a lawsuit by Senator Oscar A. Cooper after he took an exception to a decision recently taken by the leaders in question regarding a China Union's one million United States Dollars to the county.

According to the court, the authorities are scheduled to have a conference with Associate Justice Joseph N. Nagbe today, Wednesday, August 14, at 4:00 PM regarding Sen. Cooper's complaint.

The court further orders them to put a halt to further action surrounding the money, pending today's conference.

The authorities, including Representative Ben A. Fofana, District#5 Representative Clarence G. Gahr; District#3 Representative Ellen Attoh Wreh; District#2 Representative Ivar K. Jones, District#1 Representative Tilberusa Tarponweh and Senator Jim W. Tornola along with Superintendent Jerry Varnie recently apportioned US\$1000,000 in Monrovia on what they term development

priorities in the county.

But Sen. Cooper ran to the Supreme Court to halt the process.

He argues his colleagues did not only violate the budget law of Liberia, but acted against the best interest of Margibians, so they must reconsider their decision. However, the lawmakers involved say they did no wrong.

Sen. Cooper also argues his colleagues' decision to waive huge sum of money to China Union is not in the interest of Margibians.

Representative Ben A. Fofana, who is heavily blamed for the decision, bluntly defends that those who are criticizing their decision lack knowledge of the budget law.

He says their decision is based on count four of the resolution derived at the recent Margibi County Council Sitting in apportioning US\$1 million from China Union.

Speaking further on Sunday after a mass meeting in Kakata, Ambassador Joseph Orlando Beyan says they stand with Sen. Cooper to ensure the right thing is done. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Red Cross seeks full compliance

By Lewis S. Teh

The President of the Liberian National Red Cross Society (LMRCS) Mr. Jerome N.J. Clarke rallies Liberian support for full compliance

with International Humanitarian Law, particularly soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia on peacekeeping mission in Mali.

He gave the call on Monday, 12 August at commemoration

of the 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions organized by the LNRCS, the Liberian International Humanitarian Law Committee (LIHLC) and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) with support of the International Committee of the Red Cross Liberia Office.

He says while Liberia sincerely acknowledge and appreciate efforts and support from the ICRC to increase IHL training and awareness in the AFL, the country must ensure that international treaties are integrated into domestic laws and legislations.

Mr. Jerome narrates that the Conventions were agreed in the aftermath of the Second World War, in a world that had lived through enormous horrors and never again wanted to see such harms repeated.

"Today, Seventy years on, the Geneva Conventions are much more than a legacy, or simply something to be proud of and commemorate. A lot has

been achieved since 1949. But much more needs to be done", he urges.

He stresses it is now time the Government through the Liberia International Humanitarian Law Committee to act, noting that significant progress has been reported toward the domestication of the Geneva Conventions and is ready for submission before the Liberian legislature for enactment into law.

He adds the effort of the committee is incredible and it proves Liberia as a true party to the Geneva Conventions, but it now requires collective support, more powerful advocates and a spirit of innovation to ensure submission to the Legislature for enactment.

Deputy Head of Delegation of the ICRC Ms. Valerie Aubert, says the institution as the promoter and guardian of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for over 150 years worldwide -has also been in Liberia for more than 30 years.

She recalls that the 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions was commemorated in Monrovia in 1999 with the erection of a monument on Broad Street, Monrovia.

Ms. Aubert explains the Geneva Conventions monument which depicts soldiers and armed carriers

stretching hands to receive the Geneva Conventions symbolizes respect, implementation and promotion of the global document and Additional Protocols.

According to her, obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL is already recognized in the Geneva Conventions, noting that it doesn't only requires the domestication of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in national law, but also promotion of IHL and its incorporation into military doctrine, education, and training.

"The four 1949 Geneva Conventions protect the core of humanity in the worst of times, they were designed to protect people in war", says the Deputy Head of Delegation, adding, that they are the legal framework for ICRC's action and one of the sources for the principles that guide it: humanity, impartiality and neutrality.

The 70th Anniversary which brought together key officials of government, members of the legislature, officials of the ICRC, and the LNRCS took place with the re-inauguration of the monument on Broad Street by Deputy Defense Minister for Administration cutting the ribbon along with array of officials from the ICRC, and the National Red Cross Society.



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Senate to domesticate Geneva Conventions

By Lewis S. Teh

River Gee County Senator Commany B. Wesseh, and Lofa County Senator Steve Zargo vow to work with their colleagues at the Liberian Senate to enact the Geneva Conventions or GC 70 Domestication Convention into law before or upon their return from break.

Speaking on behalf of the legislature Monday, August 13, at Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions organized by the Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS), the Liberian IHL Committee (LIHLC) and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) with support of the International Committee of the Red Cross Liberia Office, Senator Wesseh said he and Senator Zargo will spend more time to ensuring smooth passage of the domestication convention bill that is expected to be submitted to the legislature.

“We are about to take our



break, but I can assure you all that, before we go, or immediately upon our return, we will put some time in making sure that the domestication convention bill is passed, that I want to assure this gathering”, he promised.

August 13, 2019, marks the 70th Anniversary of the four

Geneva Conventions of 1949 (GC70). Liberia joins the GC70 commemoration with two main activities, including re-inauguration of the Monument of the Geneva Conventions and one- day symposium to discuss the Conventions.

The Monument of the Geneva Conventions was

erected in 1999 on Board Street, Monrovia by the ICRC following consent from the Government and people of Liberia. The GCs memorial was first inaugurated during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions by former Liberia Defense Minister Daniel Chea, 20 years ago.

The monument depicts soldiers and armed carriers/bearers stretching their hands to receive the Geneva Conventions, which signifies respect, implementation and promotion of the Geneva Conventions and additional protocols that call for humane treatment for victims and those caring for them.

Liberia is pushing strongly for the domestication of the conventions. The Liberia IHL Committee has already finalized a bill on the domestication of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, pending submission to plenary of the National Legislature shortly.

The Geneva Conventions are fundamental rules universally agreed upon by States to preserve the core of common humanity in the worst of time. The four Conventions were agreed in 1949 in the aftermath of the Second World War, in a world that had lived through enormous horrors and never again wanted to see such harms repeated.

The GC70 aims are also to call States and other actors to action: urging recommitment to International Humanitarian

Law (IHL) and enhanced and practical efforts towards its respect. It also provides the chance to engage in discussions about how to ensure IHL remains relevant in a changing world. The objective is to secure firm recommitments from States and their societies to the basic rules of the GCs and increase universal acceptance and implementation of IHL.

The celebration will climax with a round table symposium at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia, where participants are expected to discuss and reflect deeply on the uniqueness of the Geneva Conventions.

Four IHL trainers from the Armed Forces of Liberia will present on each of the conventions. The AFL will share experiences on success and challenges to respecting IHL and promoting respect for the Geneva conventions while on Peacekeeping Mission in Mali.

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Defense, Deputy Chief of Staff of the AFL, Brigadier General Ms. Geraldine Janet George thanked the Liberian National Red Cross, and the ICRC for observing the 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Convention.

Gen. Janet George pledged the AFL’s commitment to working with humanitarian institutions to foster cooperation that will boost the performance of the army to adequately carry out its duties.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne

CSDF bill to be passed soon -says Rep. Younquoi

Nimba County District # 8 Representative Larry P. Younquoi has assured the public and supporters of the County Social Development Fund (CSDF) or Stand Alone Law that the draft bill will soon be enacted into law by the legislature.

Members of the House’s Joint Committee on Ways, Means and Finance and Judiciary are currently scrutinizing the Act to establish the National County Social Development Fund (CSDF) or ‘Stand Alone Law.’ The bill was introduced

recently by lawmaker Younquoi.

According to a press release, Representative Younquoi, also Chairman of the House of Representatives’ Committee on Good Governance, told the press that the draft Stand Alone bill is expected to be passed into law along with the 2019/2020 draft fiscal budget.

According to him, proper review and consultations have been done on the bill. He stressed that stakeholders have been made to understand the aim and objective of the bill.

During the March 8, 2019 public hearing on Capitol Hill, Representative Thomas P. Fallah, who chaired the joint committee informed representatives from three Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as well as those representing the USAID-sponsored Liberia Accountability Voice Initiative (LAVI) that the draft law will lessen the political involvement of the lawmakers, who have the constitutional mandate to make laws, including the appropriation of funds in the budget. Their involvement has made the fiscal budget a political instrument, including lined items, such as the County Development Fund (CDF).

“As chairman of the Joint Committee, I am not convinced, for instance, the law is minimizing political involvement. We need more time for consultations, because the law needs broader participation,” Rep. Fallah said during the hearing.

The stipulation of the CDF for each county is US\$200,000 in the fiscal budget, and the Social Development Fund (SDF) involves payments emanating from concession agreements.

The CSDF Law is designed to avoid political influence, and encourage citizens’ participation in economic and fiscal decision-making.

Since the allotment of the County Social Development

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Fund is rooted in the national budget, Representative Younquoi averred that it has been discussed with some amendment that the bill should be enacted along with the national budget.

He informed the media in an interview last week that the

allotment will first hit national account and later be transferred to the County’s account for its usage.

The bill has over fifteen representatives and several civil society organizations as co-sponsors. **-Press Release**

Français

Weaha-t-il créé des ennuis à sa Coalition au pouvoir

Le président George M. Weah semble avoir fait plus de mal à sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir en déclarant « qu'aucun Urey ne gagnera jamais des élections au Libéria ». Le parti au pouvoir est maintenant soupçonné de s'être rendu coupable d'irrégularités et de fraudes électorales lors des récentes élections pour confirmer les propos du président, en dépit de l'incapacité de l'accusation de prouver ses allégations.

À l'audience en cours dans l'enceinte de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) sur l'élection partielle contestée du district 15 dans le comté de Montserrado, l'opposition ne semble pas avoir apporté la preuve de ses allégations.

La NEC a mis en quarantaine les résultats de la récente élection législative partielle d'au moins six centres de vote contenant 15 bureaux de vote, après que Mme Telia Urey, la candidate de l'alliance des quatre

principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, ait porté plainte à la commission électorale pour irrégularités électorales. A noter que pour ce qui concerne l'élection sénatoriale partielle, la plateforme d'opposition a été déclarée vainqueur.

Mme Urey a fait état des fraudes et des irrégularités

électorales qui se seraient produites dans six centres de vote qui comptent 15 bureaux de vote. Les bureaux de vote qui font l'objet de contentieux sont tous situés à Logan Town, un lieu considéré comme étant un bastion de la coalition au pouvoir et d'Abu Kamara.

Et comme si la plainte de Mme Urey devant le corps

électoral n'était pas suffisante, l'opinion publique à l'audience a tendance à pencher en faveur de Mme Urey, fille de l'homme d'affaires reconverti à la politique, Benoni Urey, à cause des propos que le président Weaha tenus lors du lancement de la campagne de sa candidate. Au mois de juin dernier, le président déclarait que : « aucun Urey ne gagnera jamais d'élections au Libéria ». La plupart des personnes qui étaient présentes à l'audience estiment que c'est parce que le président avait l'intention de tricher qu'il a fait cette déclaration. Donc, quoique l'opposition n'ait pas suffisamment prouvé au-delà du doute qu'il y a eu fraude, tout le monde croit qu'il y a eu fraude.

Ce qui semble ressortir de ses explications au cours de l'audience donne une autre image en dépit des préjugés. Tous les procès-verbaux des 15 bureaux de vote qui font l'objet de contentieux ont été signés par les observateurs de toutes les parties, y compris les observateurs de l'opposition. Aucun représentant de Mme Urey n'a refusé de signer quelque PV que ce soit. C'est-à-dire qu'il n'y a pas de procès-verbal qui n'a pas été signé par les parties ou qu'une partie a refusé de signer.

En plus de l'allégation de fraude électorale, Mme Urey a également affirmé que la copie de la liste électorale qui a été mise à la disposition des partis politiques était très différente de celle utilisée par les responsables de la commission

électorale dans les bureaux de vote. Mais certains partis politiques se sont inscrits en faux.

Pour les avocats du candidat de la coalition au pouvoir, il est inconcevable que l'opposition accepte les résultats qui donnent gagnant leur candidat Abraham Darius Dillon à l'élection sénatoriale dans un district et en même temps refuse de reconnaître les résultats dans ce même district qui est maintenant l'objet de contentieux post-électoral, parce que les résultats ne leur sont pas favorables.

"Comment un résultat dans la même élection peut-il être accepté et un autre rejeté en citant la fraude électorale et des irrégularités ?", S'interroge un observateur.

Une autre question controversée à l'audience concerne l'allégation d'interdiction d'inscription supplémentaire. La liste supplémentaire est destinée aux agents électoraux et à ceux qui ont une mission spéciale et qui n'auront pas la possibilité de voter où ils se sont fait inscrire en raison de leur mission.

Lors de l'audition du contentieux post-électoral de 2017, suite à une plainte déposée par Charles Brumskine du Parti de la liberté, la Cour suprême a clairement expliqué que seuls les détenteurs de mandats spéciaux pouvaient voter dans des endroits situés en dehors de leur circonscription, mais ces derniers devaient présenter une carte d'identité valide.



La plus grande réserve naturelle d'Afrique menacée par l'exploitation pétrolière

Une partie de la réserve naturelle de Termit et Tin-Toumma, située à l'est du Niger, va être déclassifiée pour permettre le développement d'un projet pétrolier chinois.

La pétition lancée par l'ONG nigérienne Jeunes volontaires pour l'environnement (JVE) mercredi 7 août a déjà recueilli 40 000 signatures. Sa

demande est simple : préserver la réserve naturelle de Termit et Tin-Toumma, située dans le nord-est du Niger, dans le Sahara. Fin juin, le gouvernement nigérien a pris la décision de déplacer la frontière de la réserve pour respecter le contrat passé il y a dix ans avec la société chinoise, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). Le texte estime que le

projet d'exploitation pétrolière est une menace pour l'environnement.

Le ministre nigérien de l'Environnement et du Développement durable, Almoustapha Garba, l'assure : la décision du conseil des ministres ne signifie en aucun cas l'abandon de la zone qui a perdu son statut protégé. « Nous avons des lois sur la préservation de nos espèces fauniques et les Chinois sont tenus de les respecter, rappelle-t-il. En particulier, il y a la loi sur l'environnement et le développement durable qui impose à tout partenaire de réaliser des études d'impact que nous examinons et s'il y a un quelconque risque d'atteinte à l'environnement, aux ressources naturelles, il y a un cahier des charges qui est imposé au partenaire en question. Les Chinois sont tenus de se conformer à cela et ils sont d'accord. »

Almoustapha Garba insiste : « La réserve n'a pas été abandonnée, les limites ont juste été revues de manière à respecter cet engagement antérieur de ne pas prendre

des mesures particulières sur l'espace qui a été concédé en termes d'exploration. »

Concertation à venir

Une concertation sera mise en place avec les acteurs liés à la réserve naturelle de Termit et Tin-Toumma (RNNTTT). Parmi eux, l'ONG française Noé, gestionnaire officiel depuis neuf mois de la plus grande réserve du continent. Pour elle, il est tout à fait possible de faire cohabiter une zone protégée de faune et de flore avec une exploitation pétrolière. Mais il faut que celle-ci soit sérieusement encadrée.

Le gouvernement espère amener à la table des négociations la société chinoise CNPC. Le ministre de l'Environnement estime que le géant pétrolier devra se

mettre en conformité avec les lois nigériennes sur la préservation de la faune et de la flore. Ces lois imposent le respect d'un cahier des charges pour éviter tout risque environnemental.

Pour Noé, l'enjeu est d'assurer entre autres la protection de l'antilope addax. Cet animal est classé parmi les espèces en voie d'extinction imminente. En plus des risques liés à l'exploitation pétrolière qui pèsent sur lui, le déplacement des limites de la réserve pourrait aussi favoriser un retour des braconniers.

Abdoulaye Harouna, chef de projet de la réserve pour Noé considère que la solution se trouve dans la concertation et dans la cohabitation entre l'exploitation pétrolière et la réserve naturelle.



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Français

L'opposition réclame la victoire

Les dirigeants de l'alliance des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition menacent de rejeter et de protester contre ce qu'ils appellent une "tentative délibérée" de la Commission électorale nationale et du gouvernement du Libéria de contourner la volonté du peuple et de choisir un représentant dans le district électoral 15 du comté de Montserrado.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse tenue à Monrovia le lundi 12 août au siège du parti d'opposition Liberty Party, M. Ulysses Barchue, vice-président national pour les affaires inter-parti du Congrès alternatif national, a énuméré des critères qui assurent la crédibilité des élections.

« Parmi ces facteurs, le plus important est la crédibilité de la liste électorale. D'après les faits et les circonstances énoncés, il est irréfutable que l'élection dans le district 15 n'atteint pas le minimum requis pour être jugée crédible. Cela est mis en évidence par le fait que la commission électorale ait mis en quarantaine quelques centres de vote alors que notre candidate était en tête », a-t-il affirmé.

Le vice-président Barchue a tenu à avertir la commission électorale et le gouvernement que les partis alliés de l'opposition (le Parti de l'Unité -ancien parti au pouvoir-, le parti de la Liberté, le Congrès national de l'alternance et le parti de Tous les Libériens), feratout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour permettre que la volonté de la population du district # 15 soit respectée.

« Nous n'excluons pas la possibilité d'utiliser des approches radicales garanties par l'article 1 de notre constitution. Disons à ceux qui cherchent à contourner le résultat de l'élection du District 15 que nous ne prenons pas ces processus à la légère. Nous espérons que la NEC agira comme il se doit en laissant la volonté du peuple l'emporter et en donnant à notre candidate Mme Telia Urey sa victoire méritée », a-t-il averti.

La NEC a mis en quarantaine les résultats d'un certain nombre de bureaux de vote du district, dans l'attente des résultats de l'enquête en cours sur les plaintes déposées par l'équipe de la

candidate Telia Urey et d'un autre candidat.

Le Président de la NEC, Me Jerome George Korkoyaa insisté disant que la Commission n'annoncerait les résultats définitifs du scrutin qu'après les conclusions de l'enquête menée par son équipe de juristes.

Le vice-président Barchue a dit avoir pris bonne note de l'enquête en cours au niveau de l'organe électoral et qu'il suivrait les conclusions logiques et judiciaires, tout en soulignant que « l'issue de ce processus, qui devrait aller dans le sens de l'équité, déterminera dans une large mesure la ligne de conduite ».

« Mentionnons clairement que la Commission électorale nationale, en particulier Jerome Korkoya, et leurs co-conspirateurs seront responsables de toute régression des progrès réalisés par notre pays au fil des ans. Nous exhortons la NEC à accélérer le processus comme prévu et à donner à Mme Telia Urey sa victoire », a exhorté Barchue.

Selon lui, les partis politiques alliés appellent à la destitution immédiate du responsable du centre de traitement des données de la NEC et que l'on ouvre une enquête, l'accusant d'être « un agent d'instabilité » dans le pays.

A Barchue d'ajouter : « parmi les dispositions constitutionnelles susmentionnées, il est clair que la stabilité de toute démocratie repose sur la tenue d'élections régulières, libres, équitables et transparentes, mais là où la volonté du peuple d'exercer son droit constitutionnel fondamental cesse d'exister, l'anarchie règne et la démocratie devient insignifiante ».

Selon la Commission électorale nationale, Abraham Darius Dillon, candidat du Parti de la Liberté (LP), a remporté l'élection sénatoriale du 29 juillet dans le comté de Montserrado. Tandis que Mme Telia Urey, candidate du Parti de tous les libériens (ALP), est en tête avec 42, 68% des voix, selon les résultats provisoires de l'élection législative partielle dans la circonscription électoral 15. Elle est talonnée par le candidat de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, Abu Bana Kamara, qui a recueilli pour le moment 41,48% des voix.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Barry Eichengreen

La Croix d'or de Trump

SINGAPOUR - Il y a maintenant des dizaines de tentatives de psychanalyse de la nomination de Judy Shelton à la Réserve fédérale par le président américain Donald Trump. Certains insistent sur la fidélité de Shelton en tant que conseillère au début de la campagne de Trump. D'autres soulignent sa conversion en une « adepte des faibles taux d'intérêt ». D'autres encore mettent en évidence son plaidoyer en faveur de l'étalon-or pour protéger la politique monétaire américaine d'une Fed peu fiable.

Ces interprétations passent toutes à côté d'un élément important : Shelton est une promotrice des taux de change fixes. Sa croyance envers la vertu des taux fixe est de l'herbe aux chats pour une administration qui considère que la manipulation des devises est une menace pour mener à bien sa guerre commerciale.

L'équipe Trump veut comprimer le déficit commercial des États-Unis et améliorer la compétitivité des produits manufacturés nationaux en utilisant les tarifs pour augmenter le prix des marchandises importées. Mais un tarif de 10% compensé par une dépréciation de 10% des devises étrangères par rapport au dollar laisse les prix relatifs des importations américaines inchangés.

Les pays qui cherchent à maintenir la compétitivité de leurs exportations ont un intérêt évident à encourager ces ajustements monétaires, ou au moins à ne pas s'y opposer. En fait, ils n'ont pas vraiment à faire quoi que ce soit pour que leurs monnaies chutent lorsque les États-Unis appliquent des droits de douane. Le déficit du compte courant des États-Unis n'est que la différence entre l'investissement et l'épargne des États-Unis, que les tarifs ne modifient en rien. Si le compte courant ne change pas, le prix relatif des biens nationaux et étrangers ne le peut pas non plus. Ainsi, le taux de change doit évoluer, de lui-même, pour compenser le tarif.

Ainsi, le défi pour l'équipe Trump est d'obtenir que les autres pays changent leurs politiques pour empêcher les variations de valeur de leurs monnaies. C'est tout le sujet des demandes répétées de stabilité des taux de change et la fin des « manipulations monétaires ».

Considérez l'appel de Shelton l'an dernier pour un nouveau système de Bretton Woods. L'objectif, comme elle l'a décrit, serait d'établir un « mécanisme cohérent pour maintenir la stabilité du taux de change entre les monnaies nationales », le même but que celui qui avait été fixé à l'origine lors de la Conférence de Bretton Woods en 1944.

Or, en l'absence d'une conférence mondiale - un anathème pour Trump - la façon d'y arriver est la même que sous le régime de l'étalon-or du 19ème siècle. A l'époque, la première puissance, la Grande-Bretagne, avait fixé unilatéralement le prix en or de la monnaie nationale. D'autres pays, se rendant compte

des avantages que ce système accordait à la Grande-Bretagne, avaient suivi son exemple. Lorsque plusieurs pays avaient fixé le prix intérieur de l'or, les taux de change entre leurs monnaies ont effectivement été fixés. Aujourd'hui, l'idée est évidemment que si les États-Unis se déplacent d'abord, « préventivement » comme le dit Shelton, d'autres pays suivront.

Derrière cette présomption, cependant, se trouvent un certain nombre de failles logiques. Tout d'abord, les autres pays sont peu enclins à stabiliser leurs taux de change, que l'étalon-or soit restauré ou non. Ils comprennent que les différentes conditions économiques justifient l'adoption de différentes politiques monétaires, ce qui exige que les taux de change puissent évoluer.

En second lieu, l'or n'est plus un point d'ancrage stable. Le prix en dollars de l'or a fluctué de 900 dollars en 2009 à 1 900 dollars en 2011 et est de retour à 1 500 dollars aujourd'hui. Si la Fed fixe le prix de l'or en dollars, cela ne permettra pas de fixer son prix relatif - c'est à dire, le prix de l'or par rapport aux prix des autres biens et services. Pour que le prix relatif de l'or double, comme il l'a fait entre 2009 et 2011, les prix à la consommation devraient chuter de moitié, correspondant à une déflation catastrophique.

Le prix de l'or par rapport à l'inflation IPC a été moins volatile au 19ème siècle, mais cela reflète l'importance des mines d'or. Lorsque le prix de l'or a augmenté par rapport aux prix des autres produits de base, plus de ressources ont été allouées à l'exploitation minière. Davantage d'or a été extrait en conséquence, provoquant la diminution de son prix relatif. Plus précisément, les autres prix ont augmenté, puisque l'or supplémentaire a soutenu une augmentation inflationniste de la masse monétaire.

Aujourd'hui, après un siècle d'augmentation de la production des autres biens et services, l'exploitation de l'or représente une part beaucoup plus limitée du PIB mondial. La capacité de stabilisation de l'industrie minière est plus faible, ce qui rend le prix de l'or plus volatile.

On pourrait arguer que la volatilité du prix de l'or reflète l'instabilité financière, ce qui induit les investisseurs à se précipiter vers l'or en tant que valeur refuge, et que l'étalon-or produira un environnement financier plus stable. Mais il n'y a aucun fondement historique à cette notion. Les crises financières ont été un phénomène récurrent sous le régime de l'étalon-or. Ce n'est pas un mystère: devoir stabiliser le prix de l'or limite sévèrement la capacité des banques centrales à agir en tant que prêteur de dernier recours aux systèmes financiers en difficulté. L'instabilité en a été la conséquence fréquente.

En bref, les arguments en faveur d'un étalon-or et des taux de change fixes comportent de graves lacunes. Mais il y a un bon côté à cette histoire, pour ainsi dire: rien de la sorte ne va se passer, gouverneur Shelton ou non.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Towards the First All-African Conference in Sochi

By Kester Kenn Klomegah

As Russia prepares to strengthen its overall corporate economic profile during the African leaders' summit, policy experts are questioning bilateral agreements that were signed, many of them largely remained unimplemented, at least, for the past decade with various African countries.

Experts, such as Professors Vladimir Shubin and Alexandra Arkhangelskaya, Institute for African Studies in Moscow, have argued that Russia needs to be more strategic in aligning its interests, and be more proactive with instruments and mechanisms in promoting economic cooperation in order to reap the benefits of a fully-fledged partnership.

"The most significant positive sign is that Russia has moved away from its low-key strategy to vigorous relations, and authorities are seriously showing readiness to compete with other foreign players. But, Russia needs to find a strategy that really reflects the practical interests of Russian business and African development needs," said Arkhangelskaya, who is also a Senior Lecturer at the Moscow High School of Economics.

Currently, the signs for Russian-African relations are impressive - declarations of intentions have been made, important bilateral agreements signed - now it remains to be seen how these intentions and agreements entered into previously will be implemented in practice, she pointed out in the interview.

The revival of Russia-African relations have to be enhanced in all fields. Obstacles to the broadening of Russian-Africa relations have to be addressed more vigorously. These include, in particular, the lack of knowledge or information in Russia about the situation in Africa, and vice versa, suggested Arkhangelskaya.

In his opinion, Professor Shubin, Deputy Director of the Institute for African Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences, reiterated: "Russia is not doing enough to communicate to the broad public, particularly in Africa, true information about its domestic and foreign policies as well as the accomplishments of Russian culture, the economy, science and technology in order to form a positive perception of Russia abroad and a friendly attitude towards it as stated by the new Concept of the Foreign Policy.

Fyodor Lukyanov, Chairman of the Presidium of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, Research Director at the Valdai International Discussion Club and Editor-in-Chief of the Russia in Global Affairs journal - the most authoritative source of expertise on Russian foreign policy and global developments - has acknowledged that Chinese strategy in Africa is about to get access to resources, vitally important for Chinese development. To achieve this, Beijing use all leverage, including soft power, technical and economic assistance, political support to leaders of African countries (be it Zimbabwe's Mugabe or Sudan's Bashir).

"Russia has not similar need to gain African resources, so there is no motivation to develop such a comprehensive approach. We can identify many aspects of Chinese experience which would be useful to learn, but looking realistically I don't think Russia will ever do it," Lukyanov wrote in an emailed interview.

The media and NGOs should make big efforts to increase the level of mutual knowledge, which can stimulate interest for each other and lead to increased economic interaction as well, he



Bogdanov in B. Faso

suggested and added that "soft power has never been a strong side of Russian policy in the post-Soviet era."

London based Business Consultant and Director, Irina Awote, explained in an emailed interview that increasingly, the African continent is witnessing a surge in the number of infrastructure and investment deals requiring a combination of both internal and external financing, increased capital for expansion. And indeed, she says Russia has to demonstrate its preparedness for all these.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia primarily focused on building and strengthening its internal economy, she explained. Awote, however, added "today, the Russian economy and Russian industries have come a long way since the Soviet collapse - the Russian economy is a lot stronger than in the first two decades following the Soviet collapse, at the same time many Russian enterprises have since evolved and developed, many through partnerships with international organizations."

As such, there has been, for a long time, interest from Russia to revive its old economic ties with Africa. Russia and Russian enterprises are in a much stronger position to capitalize on this opportunity than a few decades ago. At the same time, not ignoring the fact that the continued economic sanctions imposed by the West, has made Russia reinforce its strategic partnerships with other regions, and especially Africa where they have had good historical ties from the Soviet era, according Irina Awote.

Late July, Bogdanov held talks with the President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and further discussed about military-technical cooperation while meeting with the Minister of National Defense and Veteran Affairs, Moumina Sheriff Sy, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burkina Faso, Alpha Barry, and Vice-President of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, K. Traore.

Reports indicated that Moscow and Ouagadougou had agreed to further develop the entire range of relations

including deepening the political dialogue, expanding trade and economic cooperation, promoting promising mutually beneficial projects, strengthening partnerships in the areas of developing mineral resources, energy, transport and agriculture.

Working with Sierra Leone has been on the table for years. Quite recently, Bogdanov and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone Solomon Jamiru also held diplomatic talks, rounded up the discussion on fishing ventures, military-technical cooperation and the forthcoming Russia-Africa Summit.

On Aug 1, while attending the official inauguration of the new leader in Mauritania, Bogdanov used the opportunity to discuss about current relations with President Mohamed OuldGhazouani. The President of Mauritania elected on June 22, 2019. Both agreed on ways for strengthening aspects the existing relations. An official report says the common interest of Moscow and Nouakchott is giving additional dynamics to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, primarily in the field of marine fishing and the development of natural resources, as well as the personnel training in Russia.

Over the past two to three months, Bogdanov has met with nearly all African ambassadors accredited in the Russian Federation. The key issue here is to explore opportunities for expected stronger collaboration and dialogue them on African leaders' and business people's participation in the upcoming Sochi Summit.

According to the official information posted to the ministry's website, Minister Bogdanov during these high-level meetings described 2019 as a momentous year for Russian-African relations, and the culmination of all activities would see the first full-format Summit and Economic Forum, on the sidelines of which a number of new bilateral and multilateral agreements are expected to be signed.

About 35 leaders of African countries have officially confirmed their participation in the Russia-Africa Summit, according to Bogdanov. "Almost all of them want to come. About 35 leaders have officially confirmed their participation. I believe at least 40 leaders will come. We do feel our partners' commitment and their keen interest."

Since his appointment in 2004, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has distinctively done a lot for Africa. Speaking in an exclusive interview as far back on October 21, 2011, (simultaneously with the Voice of Russia, the Echo of Moscow and the Radio of Russia) Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov informed listeners that "the main thing is to develop mutual economic ties, something that is yet to be implemented as far as our relations with African nations are concerned."

Now, the situation is gradually changing. The Russia-Africa summit will be the first in a series of activities under the aegis and direction of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Ministry of Energy, the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, as well as legislative bodies and public organizations. During the past decades, a number of foreign countries notably China, the United States, European Union, India, France, Turkey, Japan, and South Korea have held such gatherings in that format.

This first Russia-Africa summit is expected to enhance mutual multifaceted ties, reshape diplomatic relationships and significantly rollout ways to increase effectiveness of cooperation between Russia and Africa. The idea to hold a Russia-Africa forum first initiated by President Vladimir Putin at the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit in Johannesburg in July 2018.

CDC, opposition supporters clash

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor & Emmanuel Mondaye

Premises surrounding the National Elections Commission turned battle ground at about 11:20 am Tuesday, August 13, characterized by fistfight, throwing of rocks and other missiles between supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and four collaborating opposition political parties.

Both sides had converged at the NEC to hear final argument into complaint of alleged electoral irregularities filed opposition Candidate Ms. Telia Urey, but commissioners, political parties' actors, employees and dwellers of the 9th Street Community could not move about easily as usual as the stone battle began among rival supporters.

The rock war lasted for 10 minutes before officers of the Police Support Unit and the Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police restored calm.

Spokesperson of the former ruling Unity Party,



Mohammed Ali, whose party's vehicle was damaged during the violence, narrates that he had just arrived on the scene and parked his vehicle when individuals believed to be supporters of governing Coalition of Democratic Change smashed his car and attempted harming him, but police intervened.

It all started when

supporters of the CDC arrived at the NEC where the final hearing was scheduled, and met dozens of Urey's supporters standing in front of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) head offices on 9th Street and immediately began throwing stones, forcing the Urey side to flee in all directions.

But the purported CDCians pursued them, resulting to damage of three vehicles owned by the bank, including the UP spokesman's vehicle.

Mr. Ali claims three of his partisans were brutally injured, one of them losing two teeth in the fight, disclosing that police made some arrest, including two alleged "ringleaders" of the violence.

The situation forced pedestrians and vehicles to detour the main route to central Monrovia, taking the Jallah Town road instead.

Similar situation occurred between supporters of the CDC and the opposition Liberty Party (LP) supporters in July after the senatorial by-election, resulting to injuries.

As a result of Tuesday's fight, local and international observers who had gone to

monitor the final argument, could not access the NEC conference hall where the hearing was ongoing.

NEC hearing officer, Atty. Munah Ville has been presiding over the electoral fraud complaint filed by MsTelia Urey of the four collaborating opposition political parties against the ruling CDC's Abu Kamara.

Prior to yesterday's clash, the four opposition collaborating political parties issued a clarion call to the NEC and the government to ensure the will of voters in Montserrado County District #15 prevails.

"Let the word go forth to those seeking to circumvent the District #15 by-election results that we are not taking this process lightly. We hope that the NEC does the right thing by allowing the will of the people to prevail and give our candidate Miss Urey her deserved victory", cautioned the vice chair of the opposition Alternative National Congress in a news conference here Monday.

NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome Korkoya maintains that final results of the Representative By-election in District #15 will not be announced until complaints by Ms. Urey and other individuals are properly investigated and findings released to the public.

Governing CDC chairman MulbahMorlu did not respond to phone calls despite several attempts by this paper to reach him via mobile. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

NPP to withdraw from CDC

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A stalwart of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), Bomi County Sen. Sando Johnson says he is seriously lobbying with his colleagues in the Legislature for NPP's possible withdrawal from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

The CDC is a conglomeration of three political parties including imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's NPP, President George MannehWeah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) and former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler's Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP) which won the 2017

presidential election.

Ex-president Taylor's estranged wife, now President Weah's Vice President Madam Jewel Howard - Taylor has been heading the NPP up to the time it formed alliances with the CDC for the 2017 polls.

But addressing reporters on 13 August at his Capitol Building office, Sen. Johnson complained that from the day President Weah was elected, the coalition between the CDC and the NPP has allegedly ceased to exist.

Johnson thinks the way forward is for the NPP to start thinking about forming a coalition with another political party to avoid the CDC destroying the former ruling NPP which he says has a vision

and mission to implement.

Sen. Johnson asserts that the NPP can no longer continue to be with the CDC as it (CDC) allegedly continues to violate the rights of the opposition.

He notes that the country under President Weah is returning to the ugly past.

Sen. Johnson's comments come in the wake of a fresh attack against supporters of opposition representative candidate Ms. Telia Urey by people believed to be supporters of the ruling CDC outside the National Elections Commission (NEC) headquarters in Sinkor.

Ms. Urey who leads CDC's candidate in the Montserrado County District #15 by-election is before the NEC to hear its findings into her complaint of alleged irregularities in the elections at numerous polling places that favor Mr. Kamara.

According to Sen. Johnson, he expected that upon his election, President Weah could sit around the table with the two other political parties that made up the coalition government to discuss the formation of the government, saying it was not the case.

He accuses President Weah of supporting the violent action of CDC supporters due to his recent campaign statement made against the Ureys during the senatorial and representative by-election.

President Weah had vowed that the Ureys and now Montserrado County Sen.



Bomi County Senator, Sando Johnson

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Abraham Darius Dillon could not win elections here.

But Johnson admonishes the president to exercise his political will as head of the executive branch of government to avoid leading the country to slip into the dark days where the peace and security of the nation were left in ruins.

The Bomi County lawmaker furthers that he is worried about the survival of the NPP which the CDC allegedly wants to destroy.

He laments that the CDC has

already marginalized the NPP by its actions and decisions.

Asked if he was equally worried about seats given to the NPP in the Weah led -government, Sen. Johnson explains that the situation with the CDC is not about seats, but rather the survival of the party that has thousands of followers across Liberia.

He concludes that if the NPP withdraws from the CDC, partisans of the NPP who wish to stay with the CDC can do so without any constraints.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Liberia, India sign US\$2m grant



By Bridgett Milton

The Government of the Republic of Liberia and its Indian counterpart have signed a US\$2 million grant agreement for the completion of the 14 Military Hospital off the Roberts International Airport (RIA) highway.

Signing on behalf of the

government of Liberia Tuesday, 13 August, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Milton Gbehzohngar Findley thanked the people of India for the grant to Liberia and the level of work they have been doing for this country.

He assures the people of India that the grant will be used to complete some

facilities at the Military Hospital.

Also speaking, Indian Ambassador to Liberia Saailas Thangal says his government is very happy to be working together with Liberia to enhance the good working relationship in all areas for the growth of their relationship.

According to Ambassador Thangal, he was very happy that Liberia and India could come together to complete the dream of President George Manneh Weah.

He reveals that the 50 cars earlier promised by the Indian government will soon be made available.

Ambassador Thangal thanks the Government of Liberia for the level of cooperation and relationship, expressing hope that the relationship will continue.

For his part, the Minister of National Defense Daniel Ziankahn also assures the people of India that the money will be used for its intended purpose.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Margibi leadership in court over US\$1m

As the Supreme Court of Liberia cites Margibi County authorities, excluding Senator Oscar A. Cooper, hundreds of Margibians have planned a peaceful assembly in Monrovia.

Over two hundred Margibians from various places in the county will assemble to inform the highest court they want their leaders to reverse a recent decision on a US\$1 million social development fund



L-R: Rep. Fofana

Supt. Varnie

Sen. Cooper

Amb. Beyan

from China Union, which they claim is against the law, according to an official of the group, Amb. Joseph Orlando Beyan.

The group is under the auspices of the Margibi Citizens Alliance for Accountability and Transparency.

Mr. Beyan discloses they will quietly and peacefully carry placards to indicate to the high court their



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