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Minister Mobutu Vlah Nyenpan

US\$27m missing at Public Works?

Charles Sirleaf, others' motion denied



Mr. Sirleaf enters the court, accompanied by his wife

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Continental News

Sudan's sovereign council declares state of emergency in Port Sudan

Sudan's newly-created sovereign council formally declared a state of emergency in the city of Port Sudan on Sunday, following tribal clashes that police say have killed at least 16 people.

The acting governor and the head of the national security service for the eastern Red Sea state, of which Port Sudan is the capital, were both dismissed, said Brigadier Altahir Abuhaja, spokesman for the sovereign council.

This comes at a delicate time for Sudan, following the signing of a power-sharing agreement earlier this month. The joint military-civilian sovereign council was sworn in last week, as was Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who is set to form a government later this week.

Clashes between members of the Beni Amer and Nuba tribes, which have flared up in the past, were re-ignited on Wednesday and continued

into Saturday morning, a police statement said. Eyewitnesses told Reuters they heard and saw gunfire in the Port Sudan neighbourhoods where both tribes live. Port Sudan is Sudan's main sea gateway, and is used by South Sudan to export oil. "The relevant authorities have

observed the use of firearms in the conflict for the first time, which reveals the existence of external and internal interference to fuel the conflict and spread it to other areas," Abuhaja said.

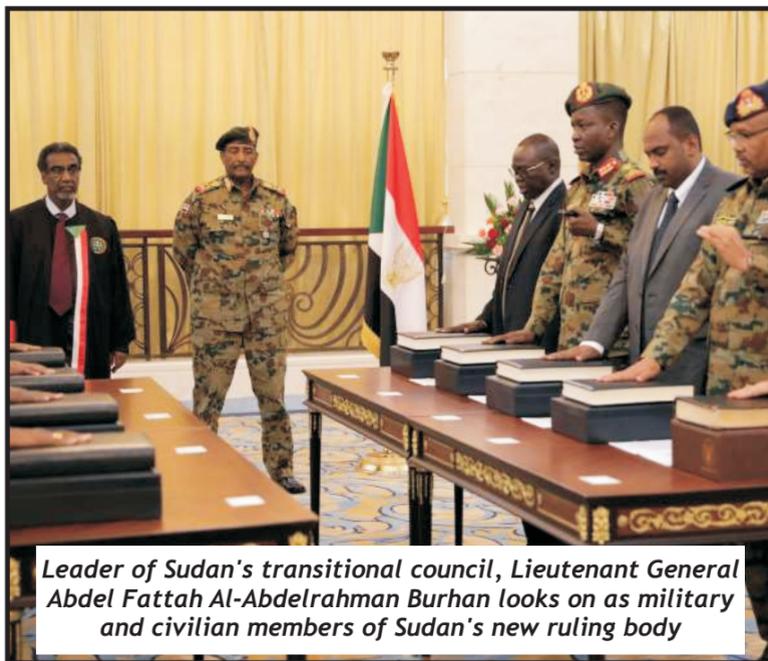
Security services were placed on high readiness in order to quell any escalation,

and an investigative committee has been formed, he added.

The police statement said reinforcements had been sent to the area.

"The transitional sovereign council emphasizes the neutrality of the military and security services ... Anyone who is shown to be biased to either side because of affiliation or support will be dealt with decisively," Abuhaja said. Two members of the sovereign council had visited

Port Sudan on Thursday and met with tribal leaders in an attempt to bring an end to the fighting. According to the power-sharing agreement, the sovereign council declares a state of emergency following a request from the cabinet, which is not yet in existence. The state of emergency must then be approved by the legislature within 15 days, according to the agreement, although the legislature is yet to be formed. Reuter



Leader of Sudan's transitional council, Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah Al-Abdelrahman Burhan looks on as military and civilian members of Sudan's new ruling body

Police confiscate drugs worth Sh18m in raid

Drugs worth Sh18 million have been seized at the Coast as the war on the illicit trade continues to gain momentum.

Seven suspects linked to the drugs, which include cocaine and heroin, have also been arrested during the operation in the last four days.

Three high-end vehicles worth millions of shillings have been impounded, with a

number of suspected drug dealers fleeing to Tanzania.

Among those arrested are Mr Said Mohamed Abdallah, popularly known as Shuwaz, his his girlfriend Hamdi Yusuf, and an Administration Police officer in Diani, Kwale County. Abdallah was arrested on Saturday at Ms Yusuf's house with an unknown amount of drugs by officers from the anti-narcotics unit in Nairobi, a police report seen by the

Nation indicates. They are being held at Port Police Station in Mombasa. Ms Yusuf is attached to the AP Post at Shelly Beach in Likoni.

Addressing journalists at the Coast Police Headquarters in Mombasa, Coast Regional Commissioner John Elungata said Mr Abdallah had been operating with impunity.

"He has been influencing police officers to protect him and his business. The police officer who was arrested had already started expanding the business to Garissa," said Mr Elungata, who also chairs the regional security committee

Others arrested are Halima Abdalla, the wife of suspected drug dealer Bakari Masuo, who is believed to be an associate of drug baron Swaleh Ahmed alias "Candy Rain". Mr Masuo is out on bond and has been arrested three times over trafficking in drugs.

There is also Ms Zainab Abdi Farah, Mombasa businessman Omar Shariff Hussein and Mr Alfan Rama Ali, who was caught with 19 sachets of heroin at his house in Shika Adabu. Likoni Police Commander Benjamin Rotich said the suspects will be taken to court Monday. AFP



Growing drug problem was also denting the image of a region better known as a tourist destination

Five killed in Marsabit attack

Residents of Marsabit County have Sunday woken up to the sad news of a deadly attack by suspected Ethiopian militiamen even as the national population and housing census kicked off last night.

Five people have reportedly been killed and another four seriously injured in the gun attack in Forole Location, North Horr Sub-County.

The suspected Ethiopian attackers have since crossed the border back to their country. While confirming the incident, Forole Chief Mamo Gonicha told the Nation by

Steve Oloo.

Mr Oloo told the Nation that the militiamen, believed to be cattle rustlers, stormed the area at around and started shooting at the residents before fleeing with an unknown number of livestock.

He added that police are yet to establish the exact number of the attackers, believed to have come from Alibare in Ethiopia. Among the injured were also teenagers whom he said sustained serious gunshot wounds and were taken to Forole Dispensary for treatment.

Chief Gonicha also confirmed that the attackers stole an unknown number of



phone that the attack took place at 4am Sunday morning at Forole watering point where the herders were sleeping after coming from the grazing zones Saturday. "It is true that there was an attack which left five dead and another four persons seriously injured at around 4am this morning. The attack was executed by the Ethiopians who ambushed the herders while sleeping around the Forole borehole," Chief Gonicha said. Chief Gonicha said that among the dead were four teenage girls while fifth one was an elderly man.

Also confirming the attack was County Police Commander

goats. Commenting on the same, North Horr MP Chachu Ganya called on the security agencies to fully take charge and end the incessant attacks perpetrated by the Ethiopians in the area.

Mr Ganya blamed the Ministry of Interior for the lapse in security in the area which he said makes it possible for the foreigners to sneak into the country and cause mayhem. He wants Interior CS Fred Matiang'i to act, saying that attacks have increasingly become worrying to the residents who now live in fear. AFP

EDITORIAL

Stop politicizing national security

PRESIDENT GEORGE WEAH'S ruling Coalition government is threading a very dangerous path by politicizing security of the people. Complacency by the Liberian National Police in recent electoral violence in Montsrrao County District#15 and other areas in Monrovia, resulting to injuries and vandalism drew widespread condemnations here.

THE VIOLENCE BETWEEN supporters of the President's governing Coalition for Democratic Change and opposition supporters intensified following the July 29, 2019 by-elections in Montserrado in which the ruling party performed dismally to the four collaborating opposition political parties.

BUT EVEN MORE disgusting was last week's disgraceful hearing in the Liberian Senate during which the presiding, ruling party Senator Saah Joseph, protected heads of the Joint Security from facing senators for questioning.

THE SENATE PLENARY had cited the Joint Security, which comprised the Police, Immigration, Armed Forces of Liberia and Drug Enforcement Agency, among others to give the state of security in the country, particularly the wave of electoral violence that has left many citizens hospitalized and properties destroyed.

BUT CDC SENATOR Joseph, who presided over Thursday's (August 23, 2019) hearing, only accepted written statement from the Joint Security, much to the disappointment of fellow senators desirous of asking specific questions about glaring security lapses during the bloody violence in District#15 that nearly led to the death of opposition candidate Miss Telia Urey of the All Liberian Party (ALP).

REPORTS FROM THE district, including video recordings of the violence show the police standing by, as supporters of ruling CDC Candidate Abu Kamara unleashed hail of stones against Miss Urey and her supporters, completely smashing her bullet-proof jeep, which she survived by the teeth of her skin.

THESE WERE THE concerns, including others that Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence of Grand Bassa County and her colleagues had thought to query heads of the Joint Security about. But not under the watch of CDC Senator Saah Joseph, who also chairs the Senate Committee on Executive.

THE GRAND BASSA County Senator was also denied an opportunity to produce video evidence of the bloody violence in District #15, on grounds that the video evidence wasn't mentioned in her communication to Plenary.

IT IS HIGHLY saddened and regrettable that issue as grave as national security would be compromised by politics. Senator Joseph, who presided in behalf of Senate Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, should know that insecurity for either the opposition or the ruling party means insecurity for the entire Liberia.

IT SERVES NO side best interest to allow state security apparatus that operates on taxpayers' money to turn blind eyes on violence against one segment of society, believing that what affects a group of citizens now would not spread to rest of the country if left unchecked, as was demonstrated in District#15.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Nouriel Roubini

The Anatomy of the Coming Recession

Unlike the 2008 global financial crisis, which was mostly a large negative aggregate demand shock, the next recession is likely to be caused by permanent negative supply shocks from the Sino-American trade and technology war. And trying to undo the damage through never-ending monetary and fiscal stimulus will not be an option.

NEW YORK - There are three negative supply shocks that could trigger a global recession by 2020. All of them reflect political factors affecting international relations, two involve China, and the United States is at the center of each. Moreover, none of them is amenable to the traditional tools of countercyclical macroeconomic policy.

The first potential shock stems from the Sino-American trade and currency war, which escalated earlier this month when US President Donald Trump's administration threatened additional tariffs on Chinese exports, and formally labeled China a currency manipulator. The second concerns the slow-brewing cold war between the US and China over technology. In a rivalry that has all the hallmarks of a "Thucydides Trap," China and America are vying for dominance over the industries of the future: artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, 5G, and so forth. The US has placed the Chinese telecom giant Huawei on an "entity list" reserved for foreign companies deemed to pose a national-security threat. And although Huawei has received temporary exemptions allowing it to continue using US components, the Trump administration this week announced that it was adding an additional 46 Huawei affiliates to the list.

The third major risk concerns oil supplies. Although oil prices have fallen in recent weeks, and a recession triggered by a trade, currency, and tech war would depress energy demand and drive prices lower, America's confrontation with Iran could have the opposite effect. Should that conflict escalate into a military conflict, global oil prices could spike and bring on a recession, as happened during previous Middle East conflagrations in 1973, 1979, and 1990.

All three of these potential shocks would have a stagflationary effect, increasing the price of imported consumer goods, intermediate inputs, technological components, and energy, while reducing output by disrupting global supply chains. Worse, the Sino-American conflict is already fueling a broader process of deglobalization, because countries and firms can no longer count on the long-term stability of these integrated value chains. As trade in goods, services, capital, labor, information, data, and technology becomes increasingly balkanized, global production costs will rise across all industries.

Moreover, the trade and currency war and the competition over technology will amplify one another. Consider the case of Huawei, which is currently a global leader in 5G equipment. This technology will soon be the standard form of connectivity for most critical civilian and military infrastructure, not to mention basic consumer goods that are connected through the emerging Internet of Things. The presence of a 5G chip implies that anything from a toaster to a coffee maker could become a listening device. This means that if Huawei is widely perceived as a national-security threat, so would thousands of Chinese consumer-goods exports.

It is easy to imagine how today's situation could lead to a full-scale implosion of the open global trading system. The question, then, is whether monetary and fiscal policymakers are prepared for a sustained - or even permanent - negative supply shock.

monetary policymakers responded by tightening monetary policy. Today, however, major central banks such as the US Federal Reserve are already pursuing monetary-policy easing, because inflation and inflation expectations remain low. Any inflationary pressure from an oil shock will be perceived by central banks as merely a price-level effect, rather than as a persistent increase in inflation.

Over time, negative supply shocks tend also to become temporary negative demand shocks that reduce both growth and inflation, by depressing consumption and capital expenditures. Indeed, under current conditions, US and global corporate capital spending is severely depressed, owing to uncertainties about the likelihood, severity, and persistence of the three potential shocks.

In fact, with firms in the US, Europe, China, and other parts of Asia having reined in capital expenditures, the global tech, manufacturing, and industrial sector is already in a recession. The only reason why that hasn't yet translated into a global slump is that private consumption has remained strong. Should the price of imported goods rise further as a result of any of these negative supply shocks, real (inflation-adjusted) disposable household income growth would take a hit, as would consumer confidence, likely tipping the global economy into a recession.

Given the potential for a negative aggregate demand shock in the short run, central banks are right to ease policy rates. But fiscal policymakers should also be preparing a similar short-term response. A sharp decline in growth and aggregate demand would call for countercyclical fiscal easing to prevent the recession from becoming too severe.

In the medium term, though, the optimal response would not be to accommodate the negative supply shocks, but rather to adjust to them without further easing. After all, the negative supply shocks from a trade and technology war would be more or less permanent, as would the reduction in potential growth. The same applies to Brexit: leaving the European Union will saddle the United Kingdom with a permanent negative supply shock, and thus permanently lower potential growth.

Such shocks cannot be reversed through monetary or fiscal policymaking. Although they can be managed in the short term, attempts to accommodate them permanently would eventually lead to both inflation and inflation expectations rising well above central banks' targets. In the 1970s, central banks accommodated two major oil shocks. The result was persistently rising inflation and inflation expectations, unsustainable fiscal deficits, and public-debt accumulation.

Finally, there is an important difference between the 2008 global financial crisis and the negative supply shocks that could hit the global economy today. Because the former was mostly a large negative aggregate demand shock that depressed growth and inflation, it was appropriately met with monetary and fiscal stimulus. But this time, the world would be confronting sustained negative supply shocks that would require a very different kind of policy response over the medium term. Trying to undo the damage through never-ending monetary and fiscal stimulus will not be a sensible option.

Following the stagflationary shocks of the 1970s,

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O-PED

By Amin Saikal

Is Peace with the Taliban Possible?

CANBERRA - Despite ongoing peace negotiations between the United States and the Taliban, the bloody conflict in Afghanistan continues to take a heavy toll on the country's people. The recent suicide bombing by the Khorasan branch of the Islamic State (IS-K) at a wedding in Kabul, which killed more than 60 and injured close to 200, is a stark reminder of Afghanistan's poor security situation. It also shows that the Taliban are not the only armed opposition fueling the conflict. A US-Taliban peace pact is therefore unlikely to bring any respite.

The US-Taliban negotiations in Doha - in which the Afghan government is not a participant - are comparable to two previous peace processes: the Paris talks that resulted in the January 1973 peace treaty between the US and North Vietnam; and the negotiations that led to the 1988 Geneva Accords, signed by the Afghan and Pakistani governments with the Soviet Union and the US acting as guarantors.

These two agreements were designed to enable the US and the Soviet Union to exit with "honor" from wars they could not win, by bringing about, respectively, the "Vietnamization" and "Afghanization" of those conflicts. Both agreements failed to achieve their objectives.

By 1975, Soviet-backed North Vietnamese forces had overrun South Vietnam, humiliating the US. And in 1992, the US-supported Afghan Islamic resistance forces, the mujahideen, brought about the collapse of the Soviet-installed communist regime in Kabul.

Whereas the North Vietnamese soon succeeded in uniting their country and restoring peace, however, Afghanistan has fared much worse. The socially and politically divided mujahideen soon turned their guns on one another. And Pakistan took the opportunity to advance its regional interests by nurturing the extremist Taliban, who in 1996-98 conquered most of Afghanistan and subjected it to strict theocratic rule.

The Taliban in turn harbored al-Qaeda, which carried out the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the US. That prompted America, backed by its NATO and non-NATO allies, to intervene in Afghanistan the following month with the aim of destroying al-Qaeda and dislodging the Taliban regime. The US-led forces quickly dispersed al-Qaeda's leadership and ended Taliban rule, but failed to defeat either group decisively. The Taliban and elements of al-Qaeda staged a comeback within two years of the US intervention, and have tied down American and allied forces in a low-grade but staggeringly costly insurgency ever since.

Now, after nearly two decades of fighting, US President Donald Trump desperately wants to disentangle America from a seemingly unwinnable war - preferably through a political settlement with the Taliban. Trump's Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, the Afghan-American Zalmay Khalilzad, has been engaged since September 2018 in shuttle diplomacy, in an eerie parallel with the unsuccessful efforts of then-US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to bring about peace in the Middle East following the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

Khalilzad has just begun his ninth round of negotiations with Taliban representatives in Doha. Separately, he has had numerous meetings with the Afghan government and non-governmental leaders, as well as with regional and international actors - but not Iran, with which the US is locked in a cycle of deepening hostility.

He has focused on four interrelated objectives: a timetable for the exit of all foreign troops currently in Afghanistan; a commitment from the Taliban to prevent hostile acts being launched against the US from Afghan soil; direct negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government, which the Taliban regard as "illegitimate" and a "puppet"; and a ceasefire across Afghanistan.

But although Khalilzad may finally manage to reach agreement with the Taliban regarding the first two aims, there is no guarantee that America's partner in the peace talks will help to realize the remaining two. The Afghan government's weakness and internal divisions would give the Taliban the upper hand in any power-sharing arrangement, particularly after US and allied forces have left. And it is very doubtful that the Taliban, whether in power or as a partner in power, would be able to control other armed opposition groups, most importantly IS-K, or enlist the support of a cross-section of Afghanistan's diverse population.

The Taliban are ethnic Pashtuns, hailing specifically from the Ghilzai tribe to which Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and many around him belong. Neither the Ghilzais nor the rival Durrani tribe of former President Hamid Karzai are much trusted by non-Pashtun ethnic groups, who (though themselves divided) collectively form the largest share of Afghanistan's population. To complicate matters further, all Afghan ethnic groups have extensive cross-border ties with the country's neighbors.

Meanwhile, IS-K has loyalty to no one inside Afghanistan. The group became operational in 2015 and is said to have about 2,000 fighters (including some Taliban defectors), who are dedicated to creating disruption and chaos. They have been responsible for horrific attacks across Afghanistan, especially in Kabul and mostly on civilian targets.

Any withdrawal of US and allied forces during Trump's current term, whether phased or otherwise, must be based on conditions on the ground. Otherwise, the consequences will be disastrous. Because of the way the peace process and the situation in Afghanistan have evolved, a hasty foreign-troop withdrawal would lead to a fiasco similar to those generated by the earlier Soviet retreat from the country and by the US withdrawal from Vietnam.

To avoid such a catastrophe, the US and its allies need to remain in Afghanistan for at least another decade. But Trump is in a hurry, and thinks that a strong CIA presence in the country will manage to do what Western forces have been unable to achieve. More likely than not, that will prove to be wishful thinking.

OPINION

By David Beasley

The Power of Cash for Refugees

ROME - The world is experiencing the highest levels of forced migration on record. Conflict, natural disasters, and other emergencies have driven more than 70 million people from their homes, about 26 million of whom have become refugees. They often endure long and treacherous journeys, after which they have to figure out how to rebuild their lives. Fortunately, there are ways to help these refugees and the local economy where they now live.

In these times of political division and disagreement, some will no doubt question whether humanitarian assistance can truly be effective. But there is strong evidence that innovative and flexible approaches to humanitarian assistance can make a major difference in an efficient, cost-effective way.

The delivery of cash assistance is one such approach, and it has already proved invaluable to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. In particular, Turkey's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) has enabled some 1.6 million refugees not only to meet their own essential needs, but also to participate in the local economy.

Unique in terms of scale, approach, and impact, the ESSN was launched in late 2016 by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Turkey, and has been implemented by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) together with the Turkish Red Crescent. It provides eligible refugee families with a debit card, which is loaded each month with 120 Turkish liras (\$21) per family member, in addition to a quarterly top-up depending on family size. According to WFP research, refugees typically spend the money on rent, electricity, food, and health.

Since the program was launched, the number of beneficiaries withdrawing their children from school has dropped by more than 50%, and the number of beneficiary parents who report having to forego food to ensure their children have enough has dropped by 45%. More fundamentally, as the WFP's #IncredibleOrdinary campaign has shown, empowering refugees to make everyday decisions - from what to eat to how to get to work - for themselves, rather than imposing those decisions on them, restores a sense of freedom, dignity, and identity to people who have lost everything.

The good news is that support for helping refugees - and for using these types of programs - is strong. At a recent donors' conference co-chaired by the UN and the European Union, more than 50 countries pledged to provide a record \$6.97 billion to support millions of Syrians in need, both inside and outside the country.

The ESSN, funded entirely by the EU, is a testament to Europe's commitment not just to helping refugees, but also to supporting the Turkish government and society, which have shown exceptional hospitality to the 3.6 million Syrians currently living in their country. In total, Turkey hosts around 4 million refugees - far more than any other country in the world. This has placed severe strain on public services and other local resources.

By enabling refugees to secure housing, eat a more diverse diet, and keep their children in school, the ESSN has helped to ease that strain. Moreover, by making refugees active consumers, it has provided a major boost to Turkey's economy, amounting to more than \$1 billion over two and a half years.

The ESSN is hardly the first cash-assistance program to have such a significant impact. Over the last decade, the success of these programs has encouraged their continued adaptation and expansion. In 2009, WFP cash-assistance programs delivered some \$10 million in ten countries. By 2018, \$1.76 billion was being delivered in 62 countries.

To be sure, cash assistance is not a panacea. Other initiatives - including food-distribution and nutrition-assistance programs - are also needed to protect people trapped in conflict-affected areas or in the aftermath of natural disasters. But in places where markets are developed enough to offer the required goods and services - such as the cities where refugees increasingly find themselves - cash assistance can be truly life changing.

Refugees deserve the chance to rebuild their lives with dignity and autonomy. Cash-assistance programs give them that chance.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

The Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence has apologized for wasting a cup of tea on Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph of Montserrado County, who presided over a Joint Security hearing in Plenary last Thursday, 22 August at the Capitol.

Senator-Karnga Lawrence, the only female in the 30-member senate acted in apparent frustration after the presiding denied her opportunity to present video evidence of the recent electoral violence in Montserrado District#15 or to ask heads of the Joint Security about the wave of election-related violence in the country following the July 29, 2019 by-elections.

Some Liberians give their views on the incident at the Liberian Senate and what it says about legislative politics in Liberia.



D Foeday Zinnah

“I hope the female advocates will condemn the act of their comrade in the senate! All forms of violence against men should stop too. We all should condemn the act of violence in all sectors. There are ways we react to issues and never react or pass judgment when we are angry. The Grand Bassa Senator we all know shouldn't have reacted the way she did. I know Liberians are in pain especially, those who were involved but we should respect our leaders and the presiding right

there, was the leader. I support women protection and women rights but as stated, we should condemn this and call our mother, the Senator of Bassa to apologize.”



Anderson Keah

“Senator Karngar-Lawrence, act of violence should be condemned by all loving Women in our society. Senator Joseph is somebody's husband. As a woman, you have just committed the crime of violence against Men. The Hon. Senator S. Joseph should take you to court. Let her paid for the damages. The senator's action was out of order. Though I believe that Saah Joseph didn't do justice to his colleagues as a presiding officer, but the extent to which Senator Lawrence went needs to be condemned. Had it

been the opposite, we could've said it's another attack on women. Where are the women of Liberia? I don't see any women group condemning this act of Senator Lawrence, but if it were the other way around by now the women are in the street.”

Thelma Johnson

“Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence has displayed the ultimate weakness of violence; a descending spiral, begetting the very thing she seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing it, she does multiply it but thanks to the non-violent resistor, Senator Joseph, for not only avoiding physical violence, but also internal violence. He stands with understanding, goodwill at all times. Senator Lawrence, you are a role model. The organic law is disrespected by our political sexes;



no single individual in Liberia is above the law. Violence and lawlessness have become the braking news in Liberia, sad time for our dispensation.”

Soon Prestige Noring

“This is what happened when someone is marginalized. The reason why Honorable Lawrence flashed water on her colleague is because she was marginalized. Hon. Yonblee Kangar Lawrence is the only female at the upper house (Senate). She needs to be given the opportunity to express her views. When people few marginalized by a ruling party, and when governance becomes autocratic



with a high level of white-collar dictatorship, the issue of violence becomes the order of the day. I think the Senate Plenary should run in confirmative of its standing rules but not to protect certain government officials. That is a form of disenchantment by Senator Nyonblee. Sen. Saah Joseph, to attempt shortcutting a conversation bordering on our national security was grossly cheap, unnecessary, and insensitive to its core. But however it was, the reproach by Sen. Lawrence was equally an expressed height of disrespect for her colleague. I hope they will conduct themselves in a better manner next time.”



Jestina Gaye

“Violence is necessary when diplomacy fails, and looking up to CDCians' arrogance, it's important to use it. The issue on the floor is important and no sound senator will ignore it in the line of party politics. They should put the country's interest first before their party. The issue is more important than Senator Saah Joseph; it got to do with the record we are setting for our children to follow after us. This and all other acts of violence are not good. Let us come together and say no to violence in Liberia.”

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Office of the Director General

Invitation for Bids

1. The General Services Agency (GSA) has received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2019/2020 budgetary allotment and intends to apply part of this funding for the Procurement of goods under the contract packages listed in the table below.

| Code | Contract Package | Quantity/Lot | Bid Closing Date | Bid Opening Date |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| IFB# GSA/NCB/001/19/20 | Building Materials | Lot-1, General Materials Lot-2, Electrical | Sept.26,2019 10:00AM | Sept. 26,2019 10:45AM |
| IFB# GSA/NCB/002/19/20 | Vehicles Spare Parts | Assorted | Sept.26,2019 10:00AM | Sept.26,2019 11:15AM |
| IFB# GSA/NCB/003/19/20 | Cleaning Materials Services | Assorted | Sept.26,2019 10:30AM | Sept. 26,2019 11:45AM |
| IFB# GSA/NCB/004/19/20 | Generator Spare Parts | Assorted | Sept.26,2019 10:30AM | Sept. 26,2019 12:15PM |
| IFB# GSA/SBA/NCB/001/19/20 | Security Service | 1 Firm (45 Securities) | Sept.26,2019 11:00Am | Sept. 26,2019 12:45PM |

2. The GSA now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of goods stated above.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and is open to all eligible bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the General Services Agency and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of \$50.00 US for each set from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

6. All submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked with the code and name of contract package that is being bid for and must be delivered to the address below at date and time stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of bid submission. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount as required in the Bid Data Sheet, in the form of a Bank Guarantee, Manager's Check, or an Insurance Bond. Late bids will be Rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders or their representatives and those who choose to attend at the address below.

**THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY
OLD USTC COMPOUND, UN DRIVE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
MOBILE NUMBER: 0886554465/0770554465
EMAIL ADDRESS:sloanjohnsonp@gmail.com**

7. The General Services Agency (GSA) reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason therefore; Invitation for Bids and Award of Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with procurement procedures applicable under the Republic of Liberia Amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act published and approved September 18, 2010.

Signed: Director of Procurement
Approved: Director General

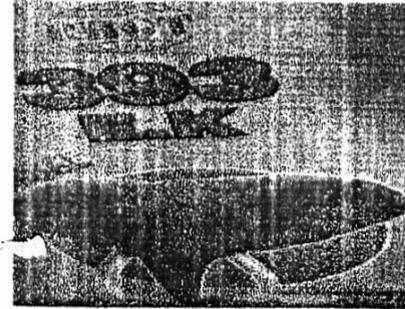
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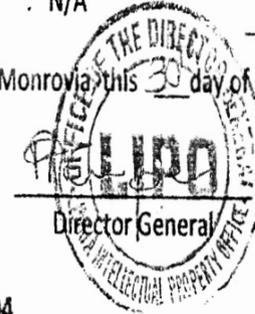
**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION
OF TRADEMARK**



Pursuant to section 10.9 (a) of the 2016 Intellectual Property Act, the mark shown above is herewith registered for the period of (10) years.

Name of Applicant (s) : National Hardware Center
Address : Vai Town, Bushrod Island
International Classification : 04
Application number : AP/M/2019/00002
Registration Number : LR/M/2019/00002
Filing Date : January 8, 2019
Priority Date : N/A

Signed and Seal in Monrovia this 30 day of Jan A.D. 2019



List of Goods International class 04

Class 4 Industrial oils and greases; lubricants; dust absorbing, wetting and binding compositions; fuels (including motor spirit) and illuminants; candles and wicks for lighting

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CDC must transform

-Cyril Allen

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The chairman emeritus of the former ruling National Patriotic Party, which is a member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change urges the ruling establishment to transform itself from an opposition posture to a ruling party.

Chief Cyril Allen, also member of the governing council of the CDC, recalls that during its time in opposition, the now ruling party campaigned in such manner, but it is currently in the driver's seat, which is a great difference.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend in Monrovia, he called the CDC to design new strategies, new approach in building a style of governance around itself that would reflection a team of national leaders.

According to him, the recent result of the Montserrado County Senatorial by-election squarely shows that the CDC is still campaigning as an opposition political party, and the real opposition took advantage of the situation and used it at their advantage.

Allen further explains that if the ruling party and opposition political parties

are campaigning in such manner, it creates corridors for clash among supporters and partisans.

Some young people are reportedly incited by political party leaders thru statements and inaction and their opponent may react through provocation.

Chief Allen, who is member

He stresses that many of the young people feel that violence is the way forward and many of the old folks working with them are finding it challenging to instill peace and discipline.

He says currently, the largest population of the country is between ages 16 and 55, but the youth have failed to



of the board of directors of the National Social Security Corporation (NASSCORP) notes that violence has taken over the minds of the youth of the land.

He observes that many of the young people are overzealous at times in protecting old folks who have less time on earth.

work together.

Chief Allen reminds that violence was actively introduced during the 14 years of civil wars, and during the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the West, but now, things have changed and young should accept that now is contemporary time where violence has no space.

Commenting on the by-elections and reason for the violence, he says while the National Elections Commission was in the process tallying votes from polling places, two major contenders encouraged their respective supporters in the streets to jubilate victory, which created room for contrivance and confrontation.

He then accuses the National Elections Commission for the violence, noting that the Commission has the necessary funding and support to have announced the result in time but the delay in doing so

hugely contributes to the violence.

"The National Elections Commission must act accordingly; they are receiving some good sum of money and support. They are cause for the electoral violence, why delay the result when the elections were held in reachable areas. We are expecting from them because of the level of support and experience," Chief Allen concludes. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

LNP, GIZ end road safety awareness

By Lewis S. Teh

The traffic section of the Liberia National Police or LNP in partnership with the German development organization GIZ, climax a major road safety campaign here with both football and kickball tournaments at Slipway field in Monrovia.

The tournaments, organized in six communities, were held under the theme: "RAISING ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY."

Officials of the LNP say the exercise is aimed at getting communities involved in road safety awareness and to serve as road safety ambassadors.

Participating communities include Bassa Community, Perry Street, Jallah Town, Camp Johnson Road, Buzzy Quarters and Soniwein Community, respectively, all located in Monrovia.

According to the Police, the exercise was conducted in two phases and officially launched on August 16, 2019, at the Bassa Community Town Hall, beginning with a street parade from the LNP Headquarters through Camp Johnson Road and back.

The LNP says phase one of the exercise focused on quizzing and debate, while phase two include football and kickball tournaments held on August 23, 24 and 25, respectively at the Slipway Sports Pitch in Slipway Community with winners awarded trophies.

Police note that the objective of the project is to create awareness among community dwellers about road safety that would help to reduce road fatalities.

During the exercise, the

Traffic Section of the LNP designed a road safety questionnaire consisting of 80 questions and answers that were distributed among the communities to encourage community members learn from the questions and improve their knowledge about traffic rules and safe road usage.

The LNP however, note that each of the selected communities was encouraged to conduct an internal community competition to select six representatives that participated in the Road Safety Community Quizzing on August 16 in Bassa Community Town Hall.

The Liberia National Police has been involved with Road Safety campaign since July 2018 up to present and successfully initiated three Road Safety programs both in Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties, respectively.

The campaign comes from the backdrop of the release of the LNP 12-year's accident statistics that says, on the average, one person died a day, six people get injured daily and about 100 accident cases are reported daily nationwide.

On July 21, 2018, GIZ launched LNP Road Safety Week, dubbed, "SAFE ROAD, SAFE LIBERIA," at the Monrovia City Hall.

Outside Monrovia, GIZ launched a Road Safety campaign in Buchanan City Hall, Buchanan, GrandBassa County on September 20, 2018, under the theme: "BE ACCIDENT-FREE" in fulfillment of the launch a "Safe Street Awareness" on November 21, 2018, at the intersections of Broad and Mechlin Streets in Monrovia.

Angry residents give 31-day ultimatum

By Bridgett Milton

Residents of Wrinkles Town Community in Paynesville City, Montserrado County are calling on the National

Legislature to close a waste disposal site in their community within 31 days or fence the site to prevent health hazard there.

According to the residents,

since the establishment of the Wein Town waste disposal site in 2006, there has been continuous dumping of municipal waste, human remains and medical waste, including waste generated during the Ebola outbreak thereby, causing unprecedented air pollution and contamination of ground water.

As a result, inhabitants from and around Wein Town community including babies have been breathing polluted air and drinking contaminated water.

The residents also lament there have also been unrestricted mosquitoes throughout the night and intolerable flies in the day due to air pollution, leading to prevalence of malaria, cholera, and dysentery with associate risk of contracting cancer, damaged brain, kidney disease, nerve damage and liver disease. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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Français

La CDC renonce à son recours à la cour suprême

La Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir a renoncé à son appel de la décision de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) relative à l'élection partielle contestée du district n° 15 du comté de Montserrado devant la Cour suprême.

La décision de la coalition au pouvoir intervient à peine 48 heures après que le conseil des commissaires de l'organe électoral ait confirmé une décision antérieure prise par ses enquêteurs pour une reprise partielle de l'élection législative partielle du district de Montserrado dans environ 20 bureaux de vote dont les résultats ont fait l'objet de contentieux.

La Coalition au pouvoir et son candidat, M. Abu Bana Kamara, s'étaient engagés à saisir la Cour suprême afin de renverser la décision de la NEC, se disant privés de votes légitimes par la décision de l'organe électoral par la reprise du scrutin dans la zone contestée.

Le pouvoir, par l'intermédiaire de ses

avocats, a annoncé samedi 24 août, dans une lettre adressée au président de la NEC, Jerome Kokoyah, qu'il retirait son avis d'appel. Le vœu de faire recours à la cour suprême avait été formulé au Comité des commissaires à la suite de la décision de celui-ci.

« Nous sommes heureux de

vous informer que notre client a choisi de ne pas demander la révision de la décision du 22 août 2019 du conseil de commissaires dans l'affaire ci-dessus. Par conséquent, avec la permission de notre client, nous soumettons par la présente les instructions écrites ci-jointes pour qu'elles

fassent partie du dossier », ont déclaré les avocats représentant l'intérêt juridique du candidat de la CDC.

La lettre est datée du 23 août 2019 et adressée à Me Jonathan T. Massaquoi, directeur des litiges du groupe de droit international. Dans la lettre, M. Kamara a dit avoir « confiance en la reprise de l'élection ».

L'affaire est née d'une plainte déposée par Mme Telia Urey contre le parti au pouvoir et la commission électorale, dénonçant des irrégularités et des fraudes dans certains bureaux de vote situés dans le fief de son adversaire. Mme Telia Urey est la candidate de l'alliance des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition à l'élection législative partielle du 29 juillet.

Les résultats provisoires publiés par la commission électorale accrédiétaient 42,68% à Mme Urey qui est talonnée par Abou Kamara avec 41,68%.

Dans sa décision du mercredi 14 août au siège de la NEC à Monrovia, le magistrat Munah a déclaré que Mme Urey ne pouvait pas fournir suffisamment de preuves imagées pour prouver hors de tout doute raisonnable qu'il y avait des irrégularités. Cependant, il a décidé qu'il devrait y avoir une reprise des élections dans les centres litigieux du district.

La décision du magistrat a été traduite devant le Conseil des commissaires de la NEC qui, le 22 août 2019, a confirmé et réaffirmé la décision antérieure de procéder à une nouvelle élection.

« Sur la base des raisons factuelles, juridiques et de politique publique contenues dans ladite décision, celles-ci sont confirmées et soutenues », a déclaré le Conseil des commissaires de la NEC dans sa décision du jeudi 22 août 2019.

Le conseil des commissaires de la NEC a indiqué qu'il annoncerait la date de la reprise de l'élection dans deux jours ouvrables s'il n'y avait pas d'appel.



CDC Chairman Morlu



Police Chief Sudue

G5 Sahel : la France et l'Allemagne tendent la main aux autres pays de la région

Face à ce qu'Emmanuel Macron appelle « l'extension de la menace terroriste au Sahel », Paris et Berlin ont annoncé un soutien plus important au G5 Sahel. Mais ils ont également appelé à un nouveau partenariat « élargi » aux pays voisins de la région.

S'exprimant au sommet du G7, Emmanuel Macron et Angela Merkel ont évoqué l'importance de mieux armer et mieux former les militaires

et policiers de la région. Mais ils ont également expliqué qu'il fallait épauler les pays de toute la région. Ils reconnaissent que beaucoup de pays de la Cédéao sont touchés de près ou de loin par l'instabilité au Sahel.

Le président Macron a expliqué qu'il fallait redéfinir le « périmètre de sécurité ». En clair, la France et l'Allemagne souhaitent associer les pays du Golfe de

Guinée, notamment le Sénégal, la Côte d'Ivoire et le Ghana, aux efforts du G5 Sahel.

Cette main tendue aux pays côtiers de l'Afrique de l'Ouest est une nouveauté. Mais pour faire quoi exactement ? Cela n'est pas encore clair. En principe, cela sera décidé lors d'une rencontre franco-allemande avant la fin de l'année. Un sommet de la Cédéao qui doit avoir lieu à la mi-septembre à Ouagadougou doit lui se pencher sur la création d'une large coalition militaire englobant les Etats du G5 et quelques-uns de leurs voisins.

Le président ivoirien, Alassane Ouattara, a déjà plaidé pour « une synergie » entre G5 Sahel, Cédéao et Afrique centrale, évoquant même la participation du Cameroun. De son côté, le président Kaboré du Burkina Faso, invité au G7, a rappelé l'importance de trouver une solution politique à la crise libyenne, indissociable de l'insécurité au Sahel.

Pour Angela Merkel, pas question toutefois d'envoyer plus de soldats dans la région.

Environ 200 militaires allemands soutiennent déjà la mission des Nations unies au Mali. Vu de Berlin, c'est suffisant. Pour l'instant, la France et l'Allemagne cherchent encore à convaincre d'autres bailleurs de fonds et pas seulement au sein du G7 à s'engager en faveur de ce nouveau partenariat pour le Sahel.

Un partenariat qui reste trop vague aux yeux des ONG. Au lieu de mettre l'accent sur des considérations stratégiques, Paris et Berlin auraient dû, à leurs yeux, annoncer une initiative pour lutter contre les inégalités. Thème officiel de ce sommet de Biarritz.

Pour le chercheur Mahamadou Sawadogo, spécialiste des questions de sécurité au Burkina, le G5 est arrivé à un tournant de son fonctionnement. Et ces changements sont « inévitables ».

« C'est nécessaire qu'on prenne en compte les pays

côtiers qui sont déjà infectés. C'est une obligation pour les membres du G5, sinon la lutte ne peut pas être totale. Je suis convaincu que le G5 Sahel, dans sa formule actuelle, va devoir muter sous une autre forme ou bien disparaître. Dès la conception du G5, nous, les chercheurs, nous avons critiqué le fait que ce soit fermé alors que la menace est mutante et mouvante. La complexité est là. »

Une question sur laquelle « joue un peu Emmanuel Macron pour essayer de voir quelle est la solution la plus plausible pour ne pas perdre la face en supprimant le G5 et en même temps se servir du G5 pour aider les pays qui sont en train d'être envahis par les groupes terroristes, c'est-à-dire les pays côtiers », analyse Mahamadou Sawadogo, « Je pense que c'est une formule qu'ils sont en train de chercher, poursuit le chercheur. Mais en réalité, ce sont des pays qui vont être englobés par le G5. »



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Français

Qui de la police et du pouvoir dit la vérité ?

Qui de la police nationale du Libéria (LNP) et de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir dit la vérité en ce qui concerne la bastonnade d'un officier de police au siège du parti au pouvoir ?

La police dit avoir invité des responsables de la coalition au pouvoir à lui livrer leurs partisans qui auraient bastonné le directeur adjoint de la police chargé des opérations, le colonel Marvin Sackor, au début de ce mois.

En présence du représentant Moses Acarus Grey et du président de la CDC, Mulbah Morlu, des partisans du parti au pouvoir auraient bastonné le colonel Sackor au siège de leur parti, alors que la victime tentait de dialoguer avec le parti suite à des affrontements qui avaient éclaté entre eux et des partisans de l'opposition qui célébraient la victoire de leur candidat à l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Montserrado. C'est en tout cas ce qui ressort du témoignage de la victime.

Interrogée par certains sénateurs sur la vague de violence, la Police nationale du Libéria a affirmé avoir écrit au représentant Grey et au président Morlu comme des personnes d'intérêt pour les aider à fournir des informations sur les auteurs de l'acte.

"Nous leur avons demandé de nous aider avec des informations sur les auteurs de l'acte", a déclaré le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le vendredi 23 août.

Selon Carter, l'agression contre le colonel Sackor a eu lieu en présence de MM. Gray et Morlu, notant que c'est ce qui ressort de la déclaration du colonel Sackor.

En outre, Carter a affirmé que lorsque la communication a été déposée au bureau de M. Morlu, celui-ci aurait contesté, comme quoi son nom n'avait pas été bien orthographié.

« La communication a donc été ramenée et corrigée. Lorsque notre porteur a ramené la communication, le président Morlu n'était pas à son bureau. Par ailleurs, notre inspecteur général adjoint chargé du service de la criminalité a rendu visite au président Morlu et a appelé l'honorable Gray, les invitant à comparaître au siège de la police nationale du Libéria », a révélé Carter.

Quelques minutes après la conférence de presse de

Carter, M. Morlu a réagi en interrogeant la police sur le crime qu'il aurait commis et qui justifierait sa convocation en tant que personne d'intérêt.

« Quel crime ai-je commis? Mon meilleur témoin est l'homme qu'ils prétendent avoir été agressé, Marvin Sackor », a affirmé Morlu.

« Vous dites que vous avez invité Acarus Grey, Honorable Acarus Grey, et j'ai appris de lui que c'était aussi un mensonge. Il ne faut pas traiter les gens comme ça. », a-t-il ajouté.

Il dénonce le fait qu'il soit traité de personne d'intérêt, « car si vous considérez une personne comme une personne d'intérêt, cela signifie que cette personne est soupçonnée d'avoir commis un crime ».

« Je défie Sackor, un homme que je respecte, de venir soutenir le commentaire téméraire de Patrick Sudue », a déclaré Morlu au siège de son parti.

« Pas un jour, je n'ai levé la main contre un policier, même lorsque j'ai été provoqué. Alors, pourquoi le devrais-je maintenant? M'attaquer à ma propre police qui travaille pour le gouvernement pour lequel nous nous sommes battus pour qu'il soit élu? ». Il a dit avoir toujours répondu présent chaque fois qu'il a été convoqué par la police.

Par ailleurs, la police demande sa comparution avec le représentant Grey au siège de la Police nationale du Libéria au plus tard le lundi 26 août à midi.

Carter a en outre révélé que trois suspects, Romeo Nayonkon, Prince Kollie et Joseph Bropleh, ont été arrêtés dans le cadre de la violence électorale qui a eu lieu dans le district n° 15 du comté de Montserrado.

Le district n° 15 reste un environnement politiquement tendu, alors que le candidat représentant du parti au pouvoir, Abu Kamara, et la candidate de l'alliance des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, Teliya Urey, se disputent un siège à l'Assemblée législative.

Mme Urey et ses partisans ont été la cible des attaques de la part des partisans de M. Kamara. Selon M. Carter, la police aurait retrouvé le portable de Mme Urey qui avait été volé dans son véhicule lors des violences qui ont eu lieu le samedi 17 août dans le district 15.

Mme Urey est la fille du président de l'alliance des quatre principaux partis de l'opposition.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Nouriel Roubini

L'anatomie de la récession à venir

NEW YORK - Trois chocs d'offre négatifs risquent d'engendrer une récession mondiale d'ici 2020. Tous sont le reflet de facteurs politiques associés aux relations internationales, tous ont en leur cœur les États-Unis, et deux impliquent la Chine. Aucun de ces chocs n'est par ailleurs susceptible de faire l'objet des outils traditionnels de la politique macroéconomique contracyclique.

Le premier choc potentiel découle de la guerre commerciale et monétaire sino-américaine, qui s'est intensifiée ce mois-ci lorsque l'administration du président américain Donald Trump a menacé d'appliquer de nouvelles taxes douanières sur les exportations chinoises, accusant par ailleurs ouvertement la Chine de manipulation monétaire. Le deuxième motif d'inquiétude réside dans une guerre froide montante entre les États-Unis et la Chine autour des technologies. Dans cette rivalité qui a toutes les caractéristiques d'un piège de Thucydide, Chine et Amérique s'affrontent pour la domination des industries du futur : intelligence artificielle (IA), robotique, 5G, et la liste se poursuit. Les États-Unis ont placé le géant chinois des télécommunications Huawei sur une « liste d'entités » qui rassemble des entreprises étrangères considérées comme représentant une menace pour la sécurité nationale. Et si Huawei bénéficie d'une exemption provisoire lui permettant de continuer d'utiliser des composants américains, l'administration Trump a annoncé cette semaine l'inscription de 46 filiales supplémentaires de Huawei sur la liste.

Le troisième risque majeur concerne les approvisionnements pétroliers. Bien que le cours du pétrole ait diminué ces dernières semaines, et qu'une récession engendrée par une guerre commerciale, monétaire et technologique soit de nature à exercer un effet de dépression sur la demande en énergie ainsi qu'une baisse des prix, la confrontation entre les États-Unis et l'Iran pourrait entraîner l'effet inverse. Si les tensions venaient à dégénérer en conflit militaire, les cours mondiaux du pétrole pourraient grimper en flèche et engendrer une récession, comme ce fut le cas lors des conflits précédents au Moyen-Orient en 1973, 1979 et 1990.

Ces trois chocs potentiels entraîneraient tous un effet stagflationniste, en augmentant le prix des biens de consommation importés, des intrants intermédiaires, des composants technologiques ainsi que des énergies, tout en réduisant la production en raison de perturbation dans les chaînes logistiques mondiales. Pire encore, le conflit sino-américain alimente d'ores et déjà un processus plus large de démondialisation, les États et les entreprises ne pouvant plus compter sur la stabilité à long terme de ces chaînes de valeur intégrées. Les échanges en matière de biens, services, capitaux, travail, informations, données et technologies devenant de plus en plus balkanisés, les coûts de production mondiaux augmenteront dans tous les secteurs.

Par ailleurs, guerre commerciale et monétaire d'une part, et compétition technologique de l'autre, sont vouées à s'amplifier mutuellement. Songez au cas de Huawei, actuellement leader mondial en équipement 5G. Cette technologie constituera bientôt la forme standard de connectivité pour les infrastructures civiles et militaires les plus importantes, sans parler des biens de consommation de base qui se trouvent connectés via l'Internet des objets. La présence d'une puce 5G signifie que n'importe quel appareil, du grille-pain à la machine à café, pourra devenir un dispositif d'écoute. Si Huawei devenait alors largement considérée comme une menace pour la sécurité nationale, ce serait également le cas de plusieurs milliers d'exportations chinoises de produits de consommation.

On imagine sans mal combien la situation actuelle pourrait conduire à l'implosion totale d'un système commercial planétaire ouvert. La question est de savoir si les décideurs monétaires et budgétaires sont prêts à faire face à un choc d'offre négatif durable - voire

permanent.

Aux chocs stagflationnistes des années 1970, les décideurs monétaires ont répondu par une politique monétaire resserrée. Aujourd'hui, en revanche, les principales banques centrales telles que la Réserve fédérale américaine appliquent un assouplissement de la politique monétaire, dans la mesure où l'inflation et les projections d'inflation demeurent faibles. Toute pression inflationniste découlant d'un choc pétrolier sera perçue par les banques centrales comme un simple effet de niveau de prix, et non comme une augmentation persistante de l'inflation.

Au cours du temps, les chocs d'offre négatifs ont également tendance à devenir des chocs de demande négatifs temporaires qui réduisent à la fois la croissance et l'inflation, via un effet de dépression sur la consommation et les dépenses en capital. En effet, dans les conditions actuelles, les dépenses en capital des entreprises américaines et mondiales sont en forte dépression, en raison des incertitudes quant à la probabilité, la sévérité et la persistance des trois chocs potentiels.

De fait, les entreprises d'Amérique, d'Europe, de Chine et d'autres régions d'Asie ayant limité leurs dépenses en capital, les secteurs mondiaux technologique, manufacturier et industriel sont d'ores et déjà en récession. Seule raison pour laquelle ceci n'a pas encore tourné en effondrement mondial, la consommation privée demeure solide. Si le prix des biens importés venait à grimper en conséquence de l'un ou l'autre de ces chocs d'offre négatifs, le revenu réel disponible des ménages (ajusté de l'inflation) en prendrait un coup, tout comme la confiance des consommateurs, ce qui pousserait probablement l'économie mondiale vers une récession.

Compte tenu du risque de choc de demande globale négatif à court terme, les banques centrales ont raison d'assouplir les taux directeurs. Mais les décideurs budgétaires devraient eux aussi préparer une réponse similaire à court terme. Une chute brutale de croissance et de demande globale nécessiterait un assouplissement budgétaire contracyclique, pour éviter que la récession ne devienne trop sévère.

À moyen terme, en revanche, la réponse optimale ne consisterait pas à répondre à ces chocs d'offre négatifs, mais plutôt à s'y adapter sans nouvel assouplissement. En effet, les chocs d'offre négatifs engendrés par une guerre commerciale et technologique seraient plus ou moins permanents, tout comme la baisse de croissance potentielle. Ceci s'applique également au Brexit : la sortie hors de l'Union européenne entraînera pour le Royaume-Uni un choc d'offre négatif permanent, et par conséquent une moindre croissance potentielle tout aussi permanente.

Ces chocs ne peuvent être inversés au moyen de politiques monétaires ou budgétaires. Bien qu'ils puissent être gérés à court terme, les tentatives de réponse permanente conduiraient en fin de compte à l'augmentation de l'inflation et des projections d'inflation, bien au-dessus des objectifs des banques centrales. Dans les années 1970, les banques centrales ont répondu à deux chocs pétroliers majeurs. En ont résulté une inflation et des prévisions d'inflation en hausse persistante, des déficits budgétaires insoutenables, et une accumulation de dette publique.

Intervient enfin une différence importante entre la crise financière mondiale de 2008 et les chocs d'offre négatifs susceptibles de frapper bientôt l'économie mondiale. La première ayant résidé pour l'essentiel dans un important choc de demande globale négatif, qui a exercé un effet de dépression sur la croissance et l'inflation, il a été possible d'y répondre par une relance monétaire et budgétaire. Or, cette fois, le monde serait confronté à des chocs d'offre négatifs durables, qui exigeraient une forme de réponse politique très différente à moyen terme. Tenter de réparer les dégâts via une relance monétaire et budgétaire sans fin ne constitue pas une option judicieuse.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

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

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Cont'd from last edition

According to Dunn, throughout the seventies, the world price of rubber was depressed, putting pressure on the Liberian economy. Tolbert brought a new approach to the Liberian government's relations with foreign companies. Companies such as Firestone, which had operated for years without being audited by the government, were audited and forced to pay millions of dollars in back taxes. Old concession agreements were renegotiated, and new concession agreements were negotiated with an emphasis on accountability of the private sector to the Liberian government.

In May 1975, Liberia became a signatory to the treaty that established the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in order to create a common market in West Africa and promote regional economic integration and stability in 15 West African countries, with the intention that it would mirror the success of the European Common Market (now the EU). By the late 1970s, Tolbert became increasingly open to overtures of economic assistance from Libya and Cuba. The Libyans were on the verge of starting work on a low-cost housing project in Monrovia when the project was halted by the 1980 coup d'état.

President Samuel K. Doe's Regime

Former President Samuel K. Doe opened Liberian ports to Canadian, Chinese and European ships. This brought in considerable foreign investment from foreign shipping firms and earned Liberia a reputable as a Tax haven. During the first year in office, Doe openly supported US Cold war foreign policy in Africa during the spread of Soviet influence in Africa. as part of the expanding relationship. President Doe agreed to a modification of the mutual defense Pact, granting staging right on 24 hour notice at Liberia's sea and Air ports for the US Deployment force, which were established to respond swiftly to security threats around the world (Foreign Ministry, 2006)).

The U.S. government also is pushing the 34-year-old president. Washington has had a special relationship with Liberia since the west African country was founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. According to Harden (1986), in Doe's first five years in power, U.S. assistance to Liberia increased six-fold, reaching \$86 million for last year. Over the period, this nation of about 2 million people received more aid per capita than any other in sub-Saharan Africa.

A large reason for the American generosity was Washington's stated desire to smooth Liberia's transition from military to elective government. American diplomats here were surprised and angered when Doe, after leading them to believe he would return to his barracks, decided to run for Liberia's civilian presidency (Harden, 1986). The speech acknowledged that Doe's government routinely had spent money without accounting for where it went, and that his ministries had subsidized their profligacy by dipping into the earnings of public corporations. He asked the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Community to send money managers to Liberia to supervise tax collection and government spending.

Widespread election irregularities last October -- including the discovery of thousands of burned ballots and arbitrary changes in vote-counting procedures that Doe himself had approved before the election -- further sullied Doe's image in Washington. Congress demanded, in a nonbinding resolution, suspension of military aid to Liberia. Chester A. Crocker, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, acknowledged that "serious questions" remained about the election count.

Harden (1986) in his Washington Post article revealed that the Reagan administration, while reducing military and economic aid requests for Liberia this year, has refused to give up on Doe. Instead, according to informed sources here, it has pressed for fiscal responsibility. His transformation followed two high-level visits by U.S. officials, one of whom was Crocker (Harden, 1986).

Analysts close to the government say Doe was told to get his economic house in order, replace corrupt subordinates, sell off unprofitable state enterprises, call in outside economic advice, release political prisoners and tolerate political opposition or face loss of U.S. economic aid. Without the U.S. money, analysts say that Doe's government faces the loss of what little foreign investment remains. Liberia in the past two years has become one of the "basket case" economies of Africa. Interest on its \$1.2 billion foreign debt exceeds annual government revenues.

Liberian foreign policy under President Taylor

Cahilla (2008) narrates that during Charles Taylor's presidency, Taylor maintained diplomatic ties with the Western world; but also the People's Republic of China (Taiwan), which was against the One China Policy. He also forged diplomatic ties with Libya and Cuba. However, during the Taylor era, Liberia was faced with internal war, which impacted on the neighboring countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and cote d'Ivoire, in terms of war and displacement of a large number of Liberian citizens.

During the Liberian Civil War, the United States cut direct financial and military aid to the Liberian government, withdrew Peace Corps operations, imposed a travel ban on senior Liberian Government officials, and frequently criticized Charles Taylor's government. The People's Republic of China (PRC): the PRC broke off relations with Liberia on October 10, 1989 in response to Liberia's recognition of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (Foreign Ministry, 2006). Taiwan had offered \$200 million in aid to Liberia for education and infrastructure in exchange for this recognition. The PRC reestablished relations with Liberia on August 10, 1993 and opened an embassy in Monrovia, making Liberia one of the few nations with established diplomatic ties to both the PRC and ROC. [In 1997, Charles Taylor's government proclaimed to recognize "two Chinas" and the PRC subsequently severed diplomatic relations.

Down to 'diplomacy' which is the core focus of this article, diplomacy is an essentially political activity and, well resourced and skillful, a major ingredient of power. In order world, Diplomacy is not merely what professional diplomatic agents do. It is carried out by other officials and by private persons under the direction of officials. As we shall see, it is also carried out through many different channels besides the traditional resident mission. Together with the balance of power, which it both reflects and reinforces, diplomacy is the most important institution of our society of states (Foreign Ministry, 2012).

As already noted, diplomacy is an important means by which states pursue their foreign policies, and these policies are still framed in significant degree in many states in a ministry of foreign affairs. Such ministries also have the major responsibility for a state's diplomats serving abroad and for dealing with foreign diplomats at home. It is for this reason that this extensive research begins with a detailed examination of the origins and the current position of the ministry of foreign affairs and a critical outlook of diplomacy and its role in the new world order. Liberia-USA Friendship

Liberia has taken the first steps toward stability. Largely through our efforts, the killing of innocent civilians has been substantially reduced, and assistance is starting to reach those in need. In my testimony today I will highlight the next steps to expand these gains. But first I would like to discuss briefly the history of Liberia and its unique relationship with the United States. Liberia and the United States have deep and



The Author

longstanding ties. This land on the coast of West Africa was founded at the initiative of Presidents James Monroe and Andrew Jackson, as well as Daniel Webster, Francis Scott Key, Henry Clay, and George Washington's nephew Bushrod. In 1819, Congress provided \$100,000 for the effort.

In 1847, Liberia became the first independent African republic. Liberians patterned their constitution, flag, attire, place names and architecture on U.S. models. Liberia was a key ally during World War Two, when we used Liberian territory as a re-supply center for the campaign in North Africa. During the Cold War, Liberia served as a relay station for Voice of America broadcasts, for tracking shipping, and for communications surveillance. We also helped create Liberia's shipping registry. Today five percent of Liberia's population is descended from freed slaves. The remainder of the population of three million people comes from 16 ethnic groups. Descendants of the original American settlers, or "Americo-Liberians," ruled over the indigenous population until 1980, when Samuel Doe and a group of non commissioned officers overthrew the government. A decade of predatory rule contributed to the conditions for the 1989-1996 civil war, and Doe's brutal death.

The new government, led from 1997 until August of this year by Charles Taylor, also terrorized the Liberian people. Rather than work to improve the lives of Liberians, Taylor supported the bloody Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone, fomenting unrest and brutal excesses in the region. Liberia's new rebel groups, "Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy" and "Movement for Democracy in Liberia", draw from factions that fought against Taylor in the early 1990s, and on support from neighboring countries that Taylor's forces attacked using arms purchased through the trade in Sierra Leone's conflict diamonds.

During the summer's fight for Monrovia, the capital, Ambassador Blaney and our Embassy staff kept our flag flying and refused to abandon their post, courageously enduring shelling and automatic weapons fire. They offered a ray of hope for war-weary Liberians by not abandoning them to the combatants. Meanwhile, in support of the International Contact Group on Liberia, we facilitated negotiation of a comprehensive peace agreement.

Former President Bush insisted that Charles Taylor step down and leave Liberia. The presence of U.S. troops and our financial commitments were critical to the success of our diplomacy, and the United States will continue to participate in efforts to bring peace to Liberia. Now that Monrovia is calmer, addressing the humanitarian crisis is the first order of business. Of particular concern is the protection of 500,000 Internally Displaced Persons, 280,000 Liberian refugees in neighboring countries and 50,000 Sierra Leonean and Ivoirian refugees within Liberia, many of whom have fled their homes more than once.

TO BE CONT'D

US\$27m missing at Public Works?

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

Information disclosed to the joint committee of the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives on Ways, Means and Finance and Budget at the ongoing hearing of the draft national budget for FY 2019/2020 indicates that the Ministry of Public Works terribly failed to account for US\$27 million allotted for road construction and rehabilitation in the country.

Appearing before the committee in the conference room of the House of Representatives at the Capitol on Monday, August 26, Montserrado County Electoral District #5 Representative and committee chairman, Thomas Fallah notes that it is disappointing and embarrassing that the Public Works Ministry, which heads the main pillar of the Pro Poor Agenda not to account for such amount, terming it as unacceptable.



It all started when the Deputy Public Works Minister for Administration appeared before the committee to justify US\$40 million allotted to the ministry in previous fiscal year and to give reason

while there should be increment in the fiscal year 2019/2020.

But Deputy Minister Joseph Todd could only account for US\$13 million of the US\$40 million allotted to his Ministry

for the period under review.

Minister Todd totally went mute when asked to provide details, including documentary evidence of the remaining US\$27 million. He stood mute, sweating profusely in the midst of air condition at the hearing.

Minister Todd had gone to defend allocation made in the draft budget for the Public Works Ministry and give performance report for the just-ended fiscal period. His appeal for increment of US\$29 million to be added on the already US\$40 million allotment fell on deaf ears.

The joint committee during the period of quizzing established that the Ministry headed by former Sinoe County Senator Mobutu VlahNyenpan had allegedly misapplied and could not account for US\$27 million of tax payers money entrusted to him for national development.

Todd also could not give technical detail of the US\$13 million spent by the Public Works authorities, but only told the committee and the public that the amount was used for road construction without stating clearly which roads or how many kilometers and exact location of the newly paved roads.

With his appalling failure to

give account for the public funds, the Ways, Means, and Finance and Budget Committee set up an ad-hoc committee to investigate the Public Works Ministry on the lost US\$27 million and submit findings in days.

The committee may forward findings to the plenary of both the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives for tougher measures.

The Ministry of Public Works is the first ministry since the ascendancy of President George Manneh Weah to have failed to justify funding allotted for road construction across the country.

On July 22, the Joint Budget, Public Accounts, Expenditure and Audit Committee of the 54th Legislature announced the beginning of scrutiny of the 2019/2020 Budget in the tune of US\$532 million, as part of its oversight and statutory functions.

The Legislature's Budget Committee comprises members from the Committees on Ways, Means, Finance and Development Planning and Public Accounts & Expenditure, from the House of Representatives and the Senate. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Charles Sirleaf, others' motion denied

By Winston W. Parley

Former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks and others have been ordered to file LD\$1,058,000,000 bond each for money laundering, after their request to be bailed out on account of previous bonds filed in an ongoing economic sabotage trial was dismissed.

The new criminal appearance bonds of LD\$1,058,000,000 demanded from each of the five defendants which when combined total LD\$5,290,000,000 come as a result of a new indictment for money laundering filed against them last week, prompting their arrests and detentions.

On grounds of medical issues, former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son and Deputy CBL Governor Charles

E. Sirleaf and co-defendant Joseph Dennis are in their lawyers' custody, with instruction for them to file LD\$1,058,000,000 bonds each within one week for the charge of money laundering.

Presiding Criminal Court "C" Judge A. Blamo Dixon on Monday, 26 August consolidated the two indictments and ordered the clerk to read them to the accused to ascertain their pleas.

Defendants Sirleaf, Weeks, Dennis, DorborHagba and Richard Walker were indicted on 4 March this year for economic sabotage, criminal facilitation and criminal solicitation.

They were made to file their respective bonds in the first case, but while the trial was ongoing, prosecution again indicted the defendants on 14 June, this time for

alleged money laundering.

These top CBL officials are being held to give account for their alleged roles in Liberia's alleged LD\$16bn scandal that rocked the country throughout 2018 and sparked local and international investigation following protests here.

During the time of the alleged crimes, Mr. DorborHagba worked as CBL's Director of Finance Department; Richard Walker as Director for Operations; and Joseph Dennis as Deputy Director for Internal Audit.

The five defendants were rearrested Tuesday, 20 August for money laundering at the Temple of Justice where they had gone for a hearing of the economic sabotage case.

As a result of the second indictment, the accused filed a motion asking the Court to extend existing criminal appearance bonds to the additional charge of money laundering.

Additionally, co-defendant Joseph Dennis' lawyers filed a different motion to bail him out on medical grounds, which the Court has granted and gave him one week to file LD\$1,058,000,000.

Judge Dixon notes also that earlier on 20 August, Charles E. Sirleaf had been released from further detention on medical grounds.

Ruling on the defense team's "motion to extend existing criminal appearance bond to additional charge of money laundering" and prosecution's resistance to it, Judge Dixon indicates that the motion is unprecedented and contrary to the practice here.



He observes that the defense team did not act in one accord, stating how one team of defense lawyers filed a motion to extend the bond to the additional charge of money laundering while another team of defense lawyers filed a motion to bail on medical grounds.

Having granted defendant Dennis motion on medical grounds, Judge Dixon however dismisses the defendants' motion to extend the existing bond because the motion is without the pale of the Criminal Procedure Law and the Constitution.

The defense team has taken exception to the judge's decision. Arguing for the defense, Cllr. Abraham Sillah says requesting new bonds from the defendants amounts to putting an undue burden on the accused.

He laments that the indictees have surrendered their passports and travel documents to the court, adding that there is no report that they have violated the stringent measures imposed on

them, including being barred from leaving the country and an order to report regularly to the sheriff, among others.

He additionally indicates that there is one indictment before the court with multiple offenses charged because the two indictments have been consolidated.

But in response, Solicitor General Cllr. SyreniusCephus argues that there is no amendment to the indictment, saying the State simply brought a new indictment and it was agreed that the two indictments be consolidated.

Further, Cllr. Cephus asserts that the defense did not cite precedence of what case in which an existing bond has been extended to another indictment.

He insists that the State is injured, and therefore the issue of defendants surrendering their passports to court is not enough.

The case is now moved to regular trial, and the defendants have pleaded not guilty to the charges after being arraigned.



Pogba vows to fight racism for sake of next generation



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba said the racist abuse he has suffered will only make him stronger and the Frenchman vowed to fight the problem for the sake of the next generation.

Pogba was the target of online abuse after missing a penalty in their 1-1 Premier League draw at Wolverhampton Wanderers last week, prompting Manchester to issue a strong statement condemning the views.

"Racist insults are

ignorance and can only make me stronger and motivate me to fight for the next generation," Pogba wrote in a tweet accompanied by a picture of him holding his baby alongside a portrait of Martin Luther King.

"My ancestors and my parents suffered for my generation to be free today, to work, to take the bus, to play football."

British media reported Pogba's team mate Marcus Rashford had also been targeted after missing a penalty in Saturday's 2-1

Premier League defeat by Crystal Palace.

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who said before the match that players needed more protection from social media companies, was "lost for words" after the latest incident.

"It's unheard of and we need it to stop," Solskjaer said. "I'm just lost for words if it keeps going."

"We keep having all these campaigns 'No to Racism' and it keeps hiding behind fake identities. It's crazy that we talk about this in 2019."

United and British anti-discriminatory body Kick It Out are set to meet representatives of Twitter and British media said the Old Trafford club would also approach Facebook.

Earlier this month, Chelsea manager Frank Lampard told social media companies to take action after 21-year-old striker Tammy Abraham was subject to abuse after the team's UEFA Super Cup loss to Liverpool.

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Griezmann: I tried to copy Messi and LeBron

Antoine Griezmann copied Lionel Messi for the goal and LeBron James for the celebration but it was his night for Barcelona on Sunday after he scored twice in a 5-2 win over Real Betis.

Griezmann imitated the basketball superstar by tossing confetti into the air to celebrate his second at Camp Nou, a curling effort into the corner that he said

was inspired by watching Messi.

"I saw Leo do this in training, so I tried to copy him," said Griezmann. "And for the celebration, I like the ritual that LeBron did so we tried to do it as well."

Yet Griezmann was the star, if only for the night with Messi in the stands, the Argentinian still short of fitness following a calf injury.

A brilliant Barcelona performance also delivered a



resounding response to the doubts arising from their defeat by Athletic Bilbao last weekend, among them a reliance on Messi, the need for Neymar and the future of Ernesto Valverde as coach.

But as Carles Perez, Jordi Alba and Arturo Vidal made it three, four and five, the gloom was forgotten, along with Nabil Fekir's opener in the 15th minute, that had Betis level at half-time.

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