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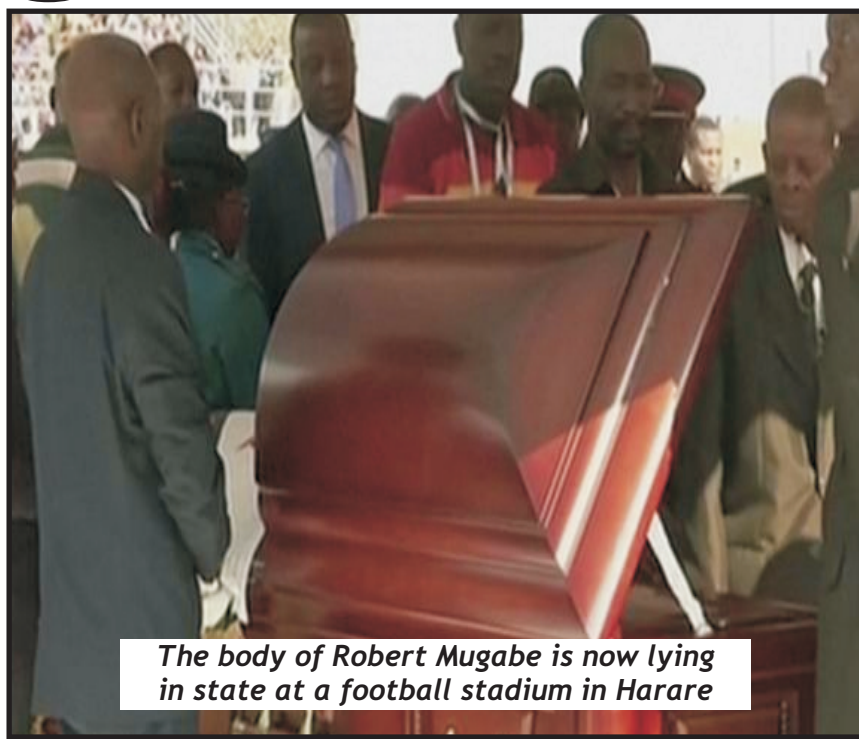


# Continental News

## Mugabe family rejects government funeral plans

Robert Mugabe's family say they are shocked at not having been consulted by the government about arrangements for the funeral of the former Zimbabwean president. Mr Mugabe, who was 95, died last week while undergoing medical treatment in a Singapore hospital.

His body is now lying in state at a football stadium in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. His family and the government disagree over Mr Mugabe's final resting place. Mr Mugabe's family says his body will be displayed in his home village of Kutama on Sunday night, and will be buried at a private ceremony. "His body will lie in state at Kutama on Sunday night... followed by a private burial - either Monday or Tuesday - no National Heroes' Acre [the national monument for liberation heroes]. That's the decision of the whole family," his nephew Leo Mugabe told the AFP news agency. President Emmerson Mnangagwa had declared Mr Mugabe a national hero after



The body of Robert Mugabe is now lying in state at a football stadium in Harare

his death, indicating he should be buried at the national monument. The family has prevailed and Zimbabwe's former president, Robert Mugabe, will be buried in his rural home. This is a final snub to his former comrades. It is not unprecedented: other national heroes have declined to be buried at the Heroes Acre national shrine in Harare, but not one of Robert Mugabe's

stature. Speaking at her mother's funeral last year, Grace Mugabe expressed her desire to reconcile with President Emmerson Mnangagwa, the man who ultimately prevailed in the pair's battle to succeed Mr Mugabe as president, with the help of the army. But this decision could strain relations and widen the rift.

In Harare's Rufaro stadium

hundreds of mourners in the regalia of the governing Zanu-PF party have arrived. There is a jubilant mood.

But most of the people I spoke to are Mugabe supporters. One woman supported the family's decision for a private burial. "The way they got rid of him was not right, it was cruel," she said. Another mourner said she believed the former president needed to be buried with his family rather than with his comrades. Education Minister Paul Mavhima says there is no doubt Mr Mugabe should be buried as a national hero.

"Such an icon, one whose funeral service is going to be attended by almost 50 current and former heads of state. Such a founding father of this country, there should never be a discussion about that. There should never be any conflict whatsoever. The decision should be clear, he should go to the national shrine," he told the BBC. In a statement, the Mugabe family said it was extremely concerned over the way the authorities had made funeral plans "without consulting his immediate family who were tasked with communicating his last wishes in regard to his funeral and burial." "We have

also observed with shock that the government of Zimbabwe is attempting to coerce us to accept a programme for the funeral and burial of the late Robert Gabriel Mugabe which is contrary to his wishes on how he wished to have his mortal remains interred." The statement adds that one of the late leader's final wishes was for his wife, Grace Mugabe, to never leave Mr Mugabe's casket during the funeral up until the point when he is buried. Mr Mugabe's family is said to be bitter over him being ousted by his former ally Mr Mnangagwa two years ago. Mr Mugabe fired Mr Mnangagwa in 2017, in what many believed was a way to prepare for Mrs Mugabe to succeed him.

His body was flown back to Zimbabwe from Singapore on Wednesday. It was later taken to Mr Mugabe's Harare villa, known as the Blue Roof, where family and supporters gathered to mourn. It will lie in state at Rufaro football stadium for two days, ahead of the state funeral on Saturday.

Mr Mugabe was Zimbabwe's first leader after the country became independent in 1980. He held on to power for almost four decades before being ousted in the 2017 coup. BBC

## Sharp rise in South Africa murder and sex offences

Sexual offences and murder rates have risen significantly in South Africa over the past year, according to new official crime figures.

Murders recorded by the police are now at their highest level for a decade, and sexual offences including rape have risen by 4.6% since last year. The release of the

figures comes amid growing concern about violence against women after a number of high-profile rape cases and murders in recent weeks.

Thousands of people took to the streets earlier this month to protest against the attacks. Amongst sexual offences, the figures show sexual assault increased by 9.6% and rape by 3.9%

For crimes detected by the police as a result of their own activities (rather than reported by the public) there was a 19% increase in recorded sexual offences.

There were also increases in arson (5.5%), attempted murder (4.1%), and common assault (3.7%).

However, recorded robberies and thefts from property or vehicles have shown decreases over the past year. Murder rates in South Africa have been steadily rising since 2011-12 according to official figures.

In that year, there were 15,554 recorded murders. By 2018-19, this figure had increased to 21,022. In a statement on the release of the latest figures, the Minister of Police Bheki Cele, said reversing the rising murder trend of the last six years was a "mammoth task, but is doable". Last year, there were a total of 52,420 recorded sexual offences.

This is lower than for the period 2009-15, but over the past three years the rate has been increasing. BBC

## Deadly stampede at Mozambique election rally



President Filipe Nyusi is running for a second term in next month's elections

In Mozambique, a stampede at an election rally for President Filipe Nyusi on Wednesday has left at least 10 people dead, AFP reports quoting a statement from the governing Frelimo party. Eighty-five people were injured, the statement added.

The Portuguese news agency, Lusa, said it had received reports from the local hospital that 16 people had died. The crush at a stadium in the northern city of Nampula happened as people were trying to leave the venue once the

president had departed, AFP says - quoting an eyewitness. "What happened is that the gates were closed and they were only opened after the departure of Frelimo candidate, President Nyusi," Benjamin Nhumaio said. "Hence everyone inside the 25 de Junho Stadium wanted to leave at the same time and there were people who were pushed and they fell and were trampled." Mr Nyusi is running for a second term in office in general elections scheduled for 15 October. BBC



A protest against sexual violence

# EDITORIAL

## Gabriel Nyenkan should vacate LEITI

THE EMBATTLED HEAD of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries, Transparency Initiative or LEITI, Mr. Gabriel Nyenkan should do the honorable thing now by stepping down to save Liberia from being delisted from the global body.

MR. NYENKAN, ACCOMPANIED by armed police, forcibly took office at LEITI in 2018, following his appointment by President Weah in flagrant violation of Chapter 6.3d of the LEITI Act of 2009.

SINCE ITS ASCENDENCY, the Nyenkan-led administration has been beclouded by missteps and continuous negative developments at the LEITI that have undermined the entity's independence and lowered stakeholders' confidence in its activities and processes.

A LIBERIAN INTEGRITY group, Center for Transparency and Accountability this week called on President George Manneh Weah to reverse the illegal appointment of Mr. Gabriel Nyenkan as Head of Secretariat of LEITI.

IN A PRESS statement issued Tuesday, 10 September CENTAL said this would allow the Multi-stakeholders Steering Group (MSG) to independently recruit a new Head of Secretariat for LEITI and other key staff to help restore the institution's sanctity and declining image.

WE JOIN CENTAL in calling on both President Weah and Mr. Nyenkan himself, to let go for the sake of integrity and international best practices. He may serve the government in other capacities.

AS CENTAL NOTED in its press statement, LEITI has been and remains a key pillar of Liberia's integrity system and must be allowed to independently play such critical role, moving forward.

“SINCE THE APPOINTMENT of the current leadership, against Chapter 6.3e of the LEITI Act of 2009, LEITI has been engulfed by controversies and gross underperformance. The illegal change in leadership and institutional brain drain, caused by undue significant changes in personnel, resulted to the institution's failure to publish its report for the fiscal period ending June 2016 within the 1 July 2018 deadline”, the statement reads.

RECENTLY, A VISITING Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) delegation warned that Liberia risks being delisted from the group's process if 'significant corrective measures' are not implemented in a timely manner to revive the institution and improve governance of the Extractive sector.

WHAT IS NOT legally done is not right at all. It is about time the Government of Liberia accepts the reality and allows the standardized procedure in appointing the Head of Secretariat at LEITI to conform with the rest of the global body.

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# COMMENTARY

By Barry Eichengreen

## Did Dudley Do Right?

*The New York Federal Reserve's immediate past president recently caused controversy by calling on the Fed to make it “abundantly clear” that President Donald Trump will bear “the consequences” of his fiscal and trade policies. But what does “abundantly clear” entail?*

HANALEI, HAWAII - William Dudley, the immediate past president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, recently stirred up a hornet's nest when he called for the Fed to consider the impact of its policies on the 2020 presidential election. In fact, Dudley performed a valuable public service by observing that Fed policy can influence politics, sometimes with profound implications for the course of the United States. But that doesn't mean his recommendations were on target.

Dudley's logic was straightforward. If the Fed cuts interest rates in response to Donald Trump's disruptive trade-policy actions, the president may be encouraged to resort to more of the same. Trump believes that the US and China are locked in a trade war to the death. But he also has acknowledged that the stock market reacts negatively to his tariff threats, that trade-related uncertainty weakens growth, and that this damages his reelection prospects.

The worry is that if the Fed loosens policy, thereby minimizing an uncertainty-induced slowdown in investment and growth, Trump will feel free to escalate his China-focused trade attacks. As Dudley put it, the Fed should make “abundantly clear that Trump will own the consequences of his actions.”

The question is what exactly making it “abundantly clear” entails. Federal Reserve officials can explain that the president's actions are forcing them to lower interest rates in order to fulfill their dual mandate of stable inflation and maximum employment. They can warn of the collateral damage of low interest rates, which harm Americans living on fixed incomes and raise financial stability risks by encouraging investors to stretch for yield. The Fed should flag these undesirable consequences without hesitation.

Fed officials should also emphasize that monetary loosening cannot fully neutralize the effects of trade-policy uncertainty. Many investments, once undertaken, are reversible only with difficulty, to the extent that they're reversible at all. Investments predicated on the existence of global supply chains will be rendered worthless by a full-blown trade war. Equally, investments in local production, predicated on ongoing trade conflict, can turn out to be costly mistakes if commercial peace unexpectedly breaks out.

When trade policy is uncertain, miscalculations like these are unavoidable. Companies therefore have an incentive to delay investing until that uncertainty is resolved - whatever the level of interest rates. The central bank needs to remind Trump that it can't entirely offset the macroeconomic impact of his trade war, no matter how much he wishes this to be so.

Dudley's most provocative remark was that

“there's even an argument that the election itself falls within the Fed's purview.” Seeming to suggest that the Fed should seek to influence electoral outcomes, this comment ignited ferocious criticism, and Dudley subsequently walked it back. Fed officials “should never be motivated by political considerations or deliberately set monetary policy with the goal of influencing an election,” he clarified.

But Fed policies do influence elections, and this indisputable fact has consequences for the central bank. Policy-rate reductions that head off an impending recession make Trump's reelection more likely. In turn, his reelection implies slower growth in the medium term, insofar as it means continued erratic policies, commercial conflict, and uncertainty. How should a Federal Reserve, whose mandate extends to ensuring “maximum employment,” trade off short-term employment gains against longer-term employment losses?

This is a difficult question, not least because the Humphrey-Hawkins Act, which gives the Fed its mandate, specifies no timeframe for achieving it or a discount rate at which current gains can be weighed against future losses. But that conversation is unavoidable. Or at least it should be.

Much of this discussion can take place in private. But imagine now that the Democrats nominate a 2020 candidate with very different trade-policy predilections. Fed staff and governors will then have to formulate economic forecasts that describe two different paths for the economy depending on the outcome of the election. The Fed, as an agency accountable to the Congress, will face pressure to make these forecasts public. One can well imagine the resulting tweetstorm of opprobrium accusing the central bank of partisanship and worse.

Should the Fed suppress or fudge its forecasts in order to appear apolitical? Doing so would be a dereliction of duty, which is to forecast economic scenarios and formulate policy accordingly.

The Bank of England faced an analogous dilemma when opining on the implications of Brexit for the British economy, and it was subjected to withering political attacks. Political flak and discomfort are part of the job description - and unavoidable when making public forecasts under such circumstances. Politicians will impugn central bankers' impartiality. Unavoidably, controversy and reputational damage will follow.

In speaking out, Dudley conveyed another important message: the brickbats are worth bearing. Were the Fed to pull its punches about the obvious risks US fiscal and trade policies now pose to the US economy, the reputational damage it would suffer would be infinitely worse.



## Lord, they should stay inside oo

Dear Father:

*Hmm, you know, I can't really understand human being. No, it's true. It's very hard to understand human being, especially those from our hardly forested village.*

*What have the people done again my son?*

*Father just few months ago, everybody was jumping around here beating their chests and boasting how they were proud to be part of the Footballer's Camp.*

*I remembered while standing in one of the money houses in our village just days before the run off of the election in 2017, one old teacher, could be heard screaming on top of her voice telling everybody how she was voting for the "big, big eyebolt".*

*Whoever she was referring to as the "big, big eyebolt" certainly was not sleeping Joe-and of course, since there were two people in the race, if it were not sleeping Joe then it was obvious that the "big, big eyebolt" was in reference to the Footballer- unless of course there was an unknown third person.*

*But Father, the old teacher was not alone. Just months into the Footballer's reign most of the known figures in ships that we knew were jumping from every angle. For a second there, I thought there was a tsunami, it wasn't. It was the movement of people who felt that in order to perpetuate their reign in power, since most of them were just come they needed to join the Footballer's camp.*

*Yes Father, it was like a move that shook everyone. Can you imagine while some of their leaders were still nursing strokes and heart attacks from the 2017 defeats, they were lining up at the Footballer's camp with their files looking the internally displaced people (IPDs) queuing for ration.*

*Now, we have not even gone anywhere far and the stories am hearing are unbelievable! Am told most of them are now regretting their move because things are becoming very wonderful in our village. They are moving under the cover of darkness explaining their regrets and how shame some of them claim to be fearing that this savior who could just appear to a place with you and everybody in that Fiefdom will be chasing after you no longer enjoys that prestige. They want to leave including some of the old camp members but to where.*

*Hmm, my son.*

*Yes oo Father, they want to move. Just the other day I was sitting at the village Hill of Learning doing some work and these two older women were seriously engage in conversation. Their entire lecture was around the tough times people are experiencing in the village: people working and not getting pay, the cries of people being unable to pay their pekin them school fees.*

*Father, the conversation became so interesting that I had to ask the elderly one saying but is this not the person the teachers wanted?*

*Father the question was as if I had insulted the woman. I had to immediately apologize to ensure that I was in a saver environment.*

*But come to think of it Father, why people only love good things and not willing to suffer to enjoy it? Why do most people like to ride on other's success? Trust me Father, for a second there I almost thought our village was turning into a one party state because the speed at which people were jumping ships was scarring.*

*My son what do you think they were all doing it for?*

*Father, they were doing it out of greed and thought that by aligning themselves with the Footballer's camp would certainly put them in prime positions to feed on our village resources. Now that things are not working the way they had all anticipated they are the ones leading the exodus and running around with their tails between their legs. But we will ensure that they stay inside.*

## OPINION

By Jasmine M. El-Gamal

# Is Arab Unity Dead?

**B**EIRUT - Historically, the task of promoting multilateralism in the Middle East has rested with two institutions: the League of Arab States, a broad alliance for collaboration on political, economic, and cultural issues, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which deals mainly with economic matters. Despite the differences in their history, focus, and membership, both bodies were intended to serve as vehicles for ensuring Arab unity on crucial issues - such as opposing Israel - and avoiding conflict among member states.

For decades, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict rallied Arab countries around the common cause of supporting Palestinian statehood. But since the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, three far more divisive issues have come to the fore: the perceived threat posed by Iran, the spread of regional terrorism, and the rise of political Islam (or Islamism).

These developments have ruptured traditional alliances and created much more fluid patterns of multilateral cooperation in the region. And current Western policy toward the Middle East - in particular that of the United States - is likely to reinforce this trend.

First, Sunni Arab governments regard Iran's regional influence and activities as a fundamental threat to their interests. The increasingly hostile rivalry between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on the one hand, and Iran on the other, has thus eclipsed these countries' traditional shared opposition toward Israel. Indeed, a number of Arab governments are working on an unprecedentedly close basis with Israel to address the Iranian threat. This cooperation, which had largely taken place behind the scenes, burst into the open in February 2019 at the US-led "anti-Iran" conference in Warsaw, which Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu hailed as a breakthrough in Arab-Israeli relations. These ties will likely grow stronger as Saudi Arabia and Iran continue their strategic competition and proxy confrontation in the region.

Second, the threat of jihadist terrorism throughout the Middle East has aggravated by the violent conflicts in Syria and Libya and has since manifested itself in multiple attacks in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, and other countries, has strained the Arab League and turned its member states against one another. After Libya's then-ruler Muammar el-Qaddafi violently quelled a popular uprising in his country in early 2011, for example, the League suspended Libya from the organization and actively supported Qaddafi's ouster by NATO and Libyan rebel forces later that year.

Soon after, Arab League members denounced Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for enabling terrorism in the region, and expelled Syria from the body. Today, the League is divided over Syria's membership. Several Sunni Arab states are strongly opposed, arguing that Assad has allowed Iran to expand its influence in the region and empower Shia militias, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, that pose a direct threat to their regimes. The Iraqi and Tunisian governments, however, have publicly called for Syria to be re-admitted.

Finally, the rise of political Islam in the wake of the Arab Spring - including the popular election of Islamists in countries such as Egypt and Tunisia - has reinforced regional divisions. Fearful of the Islamist surge, the authorities in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE launched an unrelenting and coordinated effort to stem the rising influence of groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood in the region. The most dramatic example of this was the Egyptian military's forcible overthrow in 2013 of Mohamed Morsi, a Brotherhood member who was the country's first democratically elected president. Arab countries were divided over Morsi's ouster, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE supporting the move and Qatar staunchly opposing it.

These three issues have not only fractured the Arab League, but also have split the economically focused GCC. Most notably, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, and non-GCC member Egypt have imposed a political and economic blockade on Qatar since 2017, claiming that the latter supports terrorism in the region and allows its capital, Doha, to serve as a safe haven for exiled Islamists. Qatar's close ties with Turkey and Iran are also a source of regional tension.

The collapse of traditional multilateralism in the Middle East has coincided with a marked shift in America's approach to the region under President Donald Trump. His predecessor, Barack Obama, strongly favored multilateralism and coalition-building, which enabled the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and the earlier NATO-led military intervention in Libya. Trump, by contrast, proudly proclaims his disdain for multilateral institutions and prefers to deal with like-minded partners (as well as adversaries) on a bilateral basis. Furthermore, his staunch opposition to Iran has led him to align the US fully with the anti-Iran bloc in the region.

The Trump administration's approach makes it all the more likely that Arab governments will continue cooperating with specific regional allies on key issues rather than trying to reach a broader consensus within the Arab League and the GCC. And the prospects for Arab unity, already slim, will fade even further.

# GUEST ARTICLE GUEST ARTICLE

## Catholic Africa and its Discontents

By Leo Igwe

The pope started a three-nation visit to Africa this week. The visit takes him to Mozambique, Madagascar, and Mauritius. A BBC report has analyzed the significance of the visit and why Africa is the future of the Catholic Church. The report paints an exciting picture of the future of Catholicism in Africa.

The envisioned bright prospects for a Catholic Africa are based on the region's growing population, which contrasts the decreasing Catholic demographics in western countries and in other regions of the world.

Africa is a source of hope for the Catholic Church especially in the face of its depleting membership and eroding influence in the world. According to the article, the rapid growth of the Catholic Church in Africa is predicated on the provision of social services. Simply put, the church is growing because it is a key social service provider. And I totally agree.

The Catholic Church has built schools and hospitals which they use to deliver humanitarian services and programs in critical, war-torn, poverty-stricken areas across the region. As Prof Manglos-Weber rightly noted, "The Church provides hospitals, schools, [and] other social services. [These are] things that post-colonial governments in... Africa has had a difficult time providing on a widespread scale." This is true, very true. The church functions as a quasi-state and plays supplementary roles in the development of communities. But there are other sides to the issue.

The report failed to explain the discontent of a Catholic Africa, and how a Catholic monopoly of affairs would negatively impact the region. The article failed to highlight the price that Africa would pay as the global epicentre of Catholicism.

I was born into a Catholic family in southeast Nigeria, which can be described as the country's Bible belt. While in primary school, I served as an altar boy at a local catholic church. Later I attended seminaries and trained to be a priest. In 1994, I left the seminary and started a humanist movement in 1996.

My priestly training took me to four different seminaries both as a student and as a teacher. I lived and worked in rural communities for the Catholic



Church preaching and converting traditional religionists. Indeed, the Catholic Church owes its growth and spread to the provision of education and health care services. In fact, the church has many schools, colleges, and universities across the country and the continent.

While these institutions are providing educational programs for many who otherwise might not have been educated, they are also religious indoctrination centres. These institutions are used to further sectarian beliefs. They serve as mechanisms for evangelism and proselytisation. For instance, in these schools, the church decides what should be taught; and tailors the curricula to suit its needs and agenda. Most often the church discourages the teaching of topics that it deems incompatible with its doctrines. It waters down topics that could 'corrupt' the students or weaken their Catholic faith.

In these schools, the church provides Catholic education, learning that accords with the Catholic view of the world. Thus many people graduate from these schools ignorant, opinionated and fanatical. Young people finish from these institutions with limited knowledge, unable to think outside the Catholic religious box, lacking in requisite skills and competencies that are needed to meaningfully navigate in a complex and increasingly globalised world.

world.

Schools are not only structures for the provision of Catholic knowledge but also places that the church uses to nurture bureaucrats who would promote the Catholic policy positions on issues such as abortion and family planning.

This same thing applies to the health sector. The Catholic Church has many hospitals and clinics in the region. The church uses these medical centres to deliver critical health programs in both rural and urban areas including saving lives and restoring the health of people across the religious divide. However, as in the case of the schools, these health institutions are evangelising tools. They are used to further the interests of the Catholic Church. Patients are covertly and overtly coerced to convert and embrace the catholic faith. Religious prayers and worships constitute part of the hospital programs.

Sometimes, hospital authorities compel mothers to baptise their babies. They induce the death-bed conversion for non-Catholics and do not provide women access to abortion, family planning and other reproductive health programs. These hospitals are governed by Catholic health and medical policies on issues. They provide Catholic medical care that is in agreement with the norms of the church. This talked about Catholic Africa is another form of colonialism and imperialism. In this case, it is the popes and bishops that will determine the destiny and direction of the continent.

Meanwhile, there are other effective educational and health care programs outside the evangelical parameters of the Catholic Church that would benefit Africa. In fact, a Catholic Africa is only a form of Christian and religious Africa. A Catholic Africa will contend with other Christian and religious Africas.

Meanwhile, it is possible that in the coming decades, the continent would experience a revival of state institutions. That means states would begin to play those roles that the church has been fulfilling. Thus, the projected growth and influence of catholic Christianity in Africa will not materialise.

Even if Catholic Christianity grows as envisaged, there is nothing to be excited about an Africa whose future is tied to the apron of a religious dogmatic establishment whose positions are not amenable to the democratic choices of the people. There is nothing to look forward to in the future of an Africa that is religiously held hostage and is unable to nudge itself towards emergence and emancipation.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## War crimes court bill under review

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) says it is completing its revision of the first draft of a bill for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court in Liberia, following several suggestions made by Liberian and foreign experts on the instrument.

"The recent statements coming from eminent Liberians in support of the establishment of a war and economic crimes court in Liberia support the positions of the Liberian National Bar Association and a broad coalition of civil society organizations in Liberia on the issue of the establishment of a war and economic crimes court in Liberia," the Bar says.

Through a press release issued in Monrovia Thursday, 12 September, the LNBA has hailed the National Traditional Council and the participants in the National Economic Dialogue (NED) for the calls on government to establish a war and economic crimes court in Liberia.

Pressure has been building here on the administration of President George Manneh Weah for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court to hold accountable, those who committed war and economic crimes during the Liberian civil conflict.

An estimated over 250,000 victims were killed during the



crisis, others displaced and properties worth millions of dollars destroyed.

But over the years one of the challenges here has been that electorate have repeatedly been awarding warlords with political powers, which to a greater extent is seen to be undermining efforts to establish the court.

"These statements are clear manifestations of the support of the broad masses of the Liberian people for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court in Liberia," the LNBA notes.

Additionally, the Liberian National Bar Association condemns the current wave of

violence in various parts of the country, and commends the Government of Liberia for speedily and successfully prosecuting the young men who recently committed murder and gang rape in Sione County.

"Such swift action by government will strengthen respect for the rule of law and human rights throughout Liberia, consistent with the general desire of the Liberian people to build a better Liberia in which peace, progress and prosperity will be perpetual," the LNBA continues.

It calls on government to swiftly bring to justice those who allegedly adopted and committed gang rape and other grave offenses against

Ms. Jestina Taylor, nearly a month ago.

"The president and vice president of the LNBA recently visited Ms. Taylor at the Catholic Hospital and listened to her account of what happened to her, although she was experiencing great pain as a result of the alleged criminal acts committed against her," the LNBA indicates.

The LNBA calls on women groups throughout the country to show deep concern for Ms. Taylor by visiting her and pressuring government to identify and prosecute those who perpetrated such grave offenses against her.

The Bar warns here that "It should always be remembered that the violation of the rights of all begins with the violation of the right of one person."

It urges government to take serious actions against individuals and groups who are still engaged in trial by ordeal, otherwise known here as sassywood.

The Bar reminds that such practice was declared unconstitutional in all its forms

in the case: Boyah et al v. Horace, decided by the Supreme Court of Liberia in 1916, as reported in Volume 2 of the Liberian Law Reports.

The LNBA indicates that it has observed that over the years, sassywood has been used to justify the killings of many innocent Liberians in rural Liberia.

It cites the case of the River Gee massacre that occurred over a decade ago in which 14 young men murdered six elderly Liberians in Fleuroken, River Gee County as one example of the product of sassywood.

"The LNBA therefore calls on Government to expeditiously bring to justice those who just a week ago, committed mass murder in Rock Town, Barrobo, Maryland County, in the name of punishing the victims, based on the outcome of a trial by ordeal which declared said victims guilty of being involved in witchcraft," the release says.--

**Press release**

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## Embattled SUP chairman fights back

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The embattled chairman of the vanguard Students Unification Party (SUP) at the State-owned University of Liberia (UL) Carlos T. Eddison says, he is still in charge of the SUP contrary to reports that he is removed from his post by some disgruntled members of the campus-based party.

Carlos told a local radio talk-show Thursday, 12 September in Monrovia that he remains the constitutional head of SUP in line with the party's by-laws and constitution.

According to him, those who say he is expelled from the party are making a great mistake, because contrary to their action, student politics has been banned by the UL administration.

He said it is not possible to have election at the university because of the ban placed on student politics, as is being demanded by his opponents in the party.

Carlos maintained that what is important is for students of the University of Liberia (UL) to have access to education, noting that education at the UL is not a privilege, but a right provided by the Constitution of Liberia.

He adds that his expulsion cannot hold water or be sustained because the SUP constitution says except in the case where the party's chairman resigns, which is not the case, then election may go ahead but not where few disgruntled members of are claiming to have unseated his leadership through unconstitutional means.

He said the ban placed on student politics at the UL does not in any way prevent students from acquiring education, adding that students going on campus are not discussing politics but rather in pursuit of their education.

He maintains that as head of SUP, he will take the party to election at the appropriate time when the ban placed on

student politics at the UL is lifted by the administration.

He rejects assertions by his opponents that election within SUP is held every first semester, something, he terms as a blatant lie, clarifying that all elections within the party are conducted every second

semester.

Carlos claimed some disgruntled SUP members allegedly attacked his residence and looted several personal effects, including laptop, among others after their plan to kill him failed.

He said some

humanitarians, who saw the level of destruction carried out at his residence, decided to intervene by providing some assistance to enable him recover from the nightmare.

He disclosed that those who attacked, vandalized, and looted his properties were arrested and detained by the Liberia National Police (LNP) but were later released based on his request to the police.

He explained that before any campus-based political party hold election at the University of Liberia, the Dean of Students should be communicated with, who will ensure that every security measure is instituted for the safety of all students on the UL campus.

Some disgruntled members of the Student Unification Party are accusing the SUP chairman of refusing to take the party to convention, among others, but Carlos Eddison rubbished their claims as complete fallacy. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Liberia has deficit of 5,000 teachers

### -MoE says

By Ethel A Tweh

The Minister of Education Professor Ansu Sonii says the country has a deficit of 5,000 teachers in the public sector.

Prof. Sonii told the Senate's full plenary on Thursday, 12 September that many of the schools here do not have enough teachers, while most of the teachers at the schools are volunteers.

He appeared before the Senate Thursday to explain why at this time of economic hardship here, schools here are imposing so much financial constraints upon parents, ranging from increased tuition and other fees to the sale of uniforms at high cost by various schools which they compel parents and guardians to purchase for their children.

Addressing these concerns, Minister Sonii explains that he heard about

the hike in tuition and other related fees at both private and public schools.

But he says he is not able to travel to all the schools around the country, claiming that no school should compel parents to buy uniform sold by

the schools.

Minister Sonii claims that it is optional for parents to buy uniforms sold by the schools, contrary to the complaints coming from both parents and students.

Montserrado County Sen.



Abraham Darius Dillon, crafter of the communication that requested Minister Sonii's appearance, insists that schools are demanding parents to buy certain school materials sold on campuses.

According to Sen. Dillon, the same materials that parents are demanded to buy on campuses could be bought outside the schools at less prices.

He notes that the school fees high, constraining parents and self-supported students.

Mr. Dillon asserts that the Education Ministry has an oversight on both the public and private schools, arguing that as the Ministry sets the curriculum for all the schools here, there should also be an oversight on the fees they are charging.

But Minister Sonii says the Ministry of Education will investigate the public schools that are taking more than the required amount from students.

He encourages to report any school that is found liable.

Meanwhile, Minister Sonii says he wants about 100 million dollars grant to be solicited through government and international partners, noting that the money that should have been a loan was

converted to grant.

Minister Sonii explains that there are 23 districts in the country that do not have high schools, urging the Legislature to do due diligence to the Education Ministry's budget to enable it to meet the needs of the schools in the various districts in the counties.

For his part, Sen. Oscar Cooper of Margibi County says the Minister should instruct the various Districts Education Officers (DEOs) and the Counties Education Officers (CEOs) to check with the various schools, especially on the hike in tuition.

Sinoe County Sen. J. Milton Teahjay also avers that it is troubling for the country to have a deficit of 5,000 teachers.

Sen. Teahjay suggests that the Ministry of Education needs to reach out to nearby countries and bring in more qualified teachers to help in the Liberian education system.

According to Sen. Teahjay, this issue has been a long lasting issue from government to government, saying private schools should seek the consent of the Education Ministry before hiking tuition.

Teahjay believes that the Ministry needs to have oversight over everything in both public and private schools.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## Liberia seeks 30% women in ECOWAS Parliament

By Bridgett Milton

Liberia's Vice President Madam Jewel Howard Taylor calls for 30 percent women representation at the ECOWAS Parliament, which is convening an extraordinary session in Monrovia, Liberia.

She said if the regional body subscribed to a minimum of 30 percent women representation, it means governments in the ECOWAS region must support said agenda.

VP Taylor made the call here Thursday, 12 September while addressing the opening of the 4th Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliamentary Seminar on Transhumance and Inter-community

Conflicts in member countries.

Liberia is hosting the regional parliamentary seminar for the very first time in history, bringing together Anglophone and Francophone member states.

She stresses the need for ECOWAS to invest more time, resources and energy in efforts to break down imagined barriers, perceived irreconcilable differences, as well as encourage leaders to build transparent governance systems which will remove suspicion of ills and blaming one another, the combination of which generates intolerance, hate and engenders violence.

She notes that it is

imperative to underscore that farmers and herders have coexisted for centuries with mutually beneficial relationships, and that to this end, they have both generated enormous wealth and economic interdependence needed to promote socio-economic development.

Madam Taylor, herself, a former senator in Liberia, says conflicts between nomadic herders, farmers and encroaching population on the continent seem to increasingly take more and more lives. She adds that since 2018 thousands of people have been reported dead and thousands more displaced in the middle belt region of Nigeria, central region of Mali, on the border between Mali and Niger, in the Tillabery region of Niger and some parts of the Horn.

Also speaking, the Special Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Liberia, Amb. Tunde Ajisomo notes that as violent conflicts appear to be declining in some of Member-States, the wave of insurgencies, banditry and kidnapping in the Sahel Region that is currently afflicting some West African countries sends alarming signals of the possible re-surfacing of internal and regional violent conflicts.

Amb. Ajisomo specifically points the issue involving Transhumance and Inter-Communal Conflicts in West

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Africa as one serious challenge that the Sub-Region has been dealing with for some time now.

"Given its pervasive nature, one is tempted to ask what are the causes and drivers of the problem of Transhumance and Inter-Communal Conflicts", he asserts.

According to him, experts have proffered the problems of growing demographic and population pressures; competition between herders and farmers over access to water and grazing areas, as well as expansion of agricultural activities; problem of climate change and acute variability and unpredictability of rainfall; increase proliferation of firearms have also intensified the misunderstanding between farmers and herders and resulted to the killing of one another; competition for scarce natural resources; local and national politics especially failure on the part of local authorities and Governments to find lasting solution for farmers and herders to co-exist, including weak enforcement of the rule of law; and more importantly, weak and sometimes non-implementation of ECOWAS

Protocols and Regulations on Transhumance of 1998 and 2003 that delineate the roles and responsibilities of ECOWAS Member-States and the Commission in the implementation of the Protocol.

Liberia's Speaker Bholaf Chambers adds that efforts by the regional body to bring about socio-economic synergy between and amongst the people of ECOWAS must take cognizance of the values of its people.

Speaker Chambers however cautions the body to consider the sociology of the sub-region, ranging from traditions, respective economies to prescriptions that suite their wellbeing.

VP Taylor is also expected to chair the ECOWAS Parliamentary Women Forum here, while President George Manneh Weah will officially address the ECOWAS Parliament's second extraordinary session on Monday as guest of honor

The regional deliberations continue today at the US\$50 Million Chinese-constructed Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outskirts of Monrovia. -  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# Français

## Rien ne va plus au sein de l'alliance des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition

Le Congrès national pour l'alternance, l'un des partis de l'alliance de quatre partis politiques de l'opposition se dit mécontent du processus de sélection des candidats aux élections, accusant le Parti de l'unité, l'ancien au pouvoir, de chercher à dominer.

L'alliance comprend le Parti de l'Unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir), le parti de la liberté (LP), le Congrès national de l'alternance (ANC) et le parti de tous les Libériens (ALP).

Mais l'ANC, dirigé par Alexander Cummings, ancien directeur Afrique de Coca-cola, n'a pas caché son mécontentement à l'égard de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, disant que « trop, c'est trop, je n'accepterai plus ce type de processus de sélection ou de désignation des candidats aux élections législatives ».

Le secrétaire général de

l'ANC, Aloysius Toe, a déclaré dans une interview accordée à NewDawn, mercredi 11 septembre, au siège du parti à Monrovia, que le Parti de l'unité tentait de s'emparer de tous les sièges législatifs en présentant de manière unilatérale des candidats au mépris des autres partis de

l'alliance.

Selon lui, l'UP a actuellement un candidat à l'élection partielle du Sénat dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount, tandis que l'ANC a officiellement retiré son candidat pour éviter toute confusion et tout manque de cohésion.

« Ce qui se passe au sein de l'alliance est une contradiction qui est née de la volonté de chaque parti politique de défendre ses propres intérêts. Mais ces contradictions sont vouées à disparaître. Avec le temps, les gens vont prendre des décisions impopulaires, mais au bout du compte, l'intérêt primordial de l'ensemble collectif, c'est ce qui compte », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, le principal objectif de l'alliance est de faire en sorte que la coalition au pouvoir, la coalition pour le changement démocratique, ne conserve pas le pouvoir à l'horizon 2023 et que ses sièges législatifs soient réduits.

Racontant ce qui s'est passé dans le cadre de cette collaboration, M. Toe a déclaré qu'à la suite du décès du sénateur Edward Dagoseh, le Parti de l'unité et l'ANC ont présenté chacun un candidat après que le processus de sélection ait échoué. Mais, face à la pression, l'ANC avait fini par adresser un courrier à la commission électorale pour retirer son candidat, Boima Taylor, qui se serait énergiquement opposé à la décision. Toutefois, la Commission électorale, après avoir accusé réception de la communication, aurait informé le bureau exécutif national de l'ANC de l'impossibilité du retrait de la candidature de Boima Taylor conformément au code électoral. Le secrétaire général de l'ANC a fait savoir que sur les cinq élections partielles qui ont eu lieu depuis la création de

l'alliance, le Parti de l'unité avait présenté trois candidats, pendant que l'ANC n'a présenté aucun candidat.

« Nous avons soutenu les candidats du Parti de l'unité à Sinoe, à l'élection partielle sénatoriale du comté de Montserrado remportée par le sénateur Saah Joseph. L'UP avait présenté Mme Josephine George Francis dans la circonscription électorale n° 13 du comté de Montserrado, le parti de l'unité a disposé de plus de marge de manœuvre pour se faire élire. Nous n'avons pas encore eu de candidat depuis la formation de l'alliance », s'est plaint Toe.

Il a juré que c'est la dernière fois que son parti accepterait un candidat du Parti de l'unité, en ajoutant que « s'il faut que l'alliance survive, il faut que l'ANC soit respecté, cela n'est pas négociable. En tout cas, c'est la dernière élection partielle à laquelle le parti de l'unité montrera une telle arrogance. "Pour Toe, le succès et la survie de l'alliance résident dans la manière dont chacune des parties sera traitée. « Il faut que chacun soit traité avec équité et respect, et qu'aucune des parties ne domine quoi que ce soit désormais ».

La Commission électorale nationale a maintenu Boima Taylor comme candidat à l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Grand Cape Mount, en dépit de la demande de retrait de l'ANC.

Mardi dernier, la NEC a déclaré avoir qualifié sept (7) candidats, dont deux femmes et un candidat indépendant.



UP's Boakai



ANC's Cummings

## Obsèques de Mugabe au Zimbabwe: bras de fer entre la famille et les autorités

Au Zimbabwe, le pays prépare des funérailles nationales pour son ancien président Robert Mugabe. Après plusieurs jours de tractations, la décision semble prise : son corps reposera dans son village familial de Kutama et non pas à Harare au cimetière des héros de l'indépendance.

C'est un véritable bras de fer qui s'est engagé entre la famille de Robert Mugabe et le gouvernement zimbabwéen. La famille souhaite en effet que l'ex-président repose dans son

village natal de Kutama, à une trentaine de kilomètres de la capitale. Et ce, contre le souhait du gouvernement qui, lui, veut que l'ex-président soit inhumé à Harare dans un cimetière réservé aux héros de la lutte pour l'indépendance. La famille a également dénoncé via un communiqué l'attitude du gouvernement, l'accusant de ne pas l'avoir consulté dans l'organisation de ces funérailles.

Une rencontre a eu lieu ce midi, entre le président Emmerson Mnangagwa et la

famille Mugabe au domicile de ces derniers. On ne sait pas ce qu'il en est ressorti. En tout cas, l'enterrement initialement prévu dimanche ne sera pas avant la semaine prochaine.

Une décision prise par toute la famille

Ce jeudi matin, Léo Mugabe, le neveu du président défunt, a annoncé qu'il serait enterré en début de semaine prochaine, lundi ou mardi, en privé, dans son village, et qu'il s'agit d'une décision prise par toute la famille.

Pourquoi le lieu où reposera Robert Mugabe est important ? Parce que la famille Mugabe n'a jamais pardonné à l'actuel chef d'État, Emmerson Mnangagwa, d'avoir déposé Robert Mugabe. Et un enterrement à Kutama serait perçu comme une défaite pour le chef de l'État, un affront de la part de la famille Mugabe.

Le débat clos ?

Il y a également le risque que le chef de l'État ne soit pas invité à l'enterrement alors que celui-ci comptait justement sur cet événement national pour redorer son image. On y attend plus d'une vingtaine de chefs d'État ou ex-chefs d'État du continent.

Il est difficile d'imaginer



### Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhénéa

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que Robert Mugabe ne soit pas enterré au « Champ national des héros », comme on l'appelle au Zimbabwe. C'est lui qui est à l'origine de ce monument. Sa première femme, Sally Mugabe, est enterrée là-bas, et un emplacement a été prévu pour lui à ses côtés. Enfin, le gouvernement a les moyens de faire pression sur la famille Mugabe. Puisque c'est l'État qui paie pour la résidence

familiale, la sécurité, les voyages.

Ce jeudi après-midi, la dépouille du chef de l'État doit être transportée en direction du stade de Rufaro, dans la banlieue de Harare, pour permettre à la population de lui rendre hommage. Un stade symbolique puisque c'est là que le 18 avril 1980, Robert Mugabe avait pris les rênes de l'ancienne Rhodésie.



# Français

## Éditorial

### Le forum économique appelle à la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre

**A** l'issue du forum économique national qui vient de s'achever, les parties prenantes et les Libériens en général ont notamment appelé à la création d'un tribunal de crimes de guerre et crimes économiques pour le Libéria, y compris la mise en œuvre intégrale des recommandations de la Commission Vérité et réconciliation.

Les discussions de trois jours ont également mis en évidence quatre domaines critiques : la mobilisation et la gestion des finances publiques ; promouvoir les investissements et la croissance des entreprises du secteur privé ; surveiller le taux de chômage élevé des jeunes associé à la pénurie de compétences appropriées ; maintenir la paix et promouvoir une réconciliation véritable.

Les Libériens se rallient progressivement pour réclamer à l'unanimité la création d'un tribunal afin de mettre un terme à la culture de l'impunité et poursuivre les auteurs des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité. Des partenaires internationaux aussi mettent la pression, c'est le cas notamment des membres du Congrès américain et des Libériens basés dans la diaspora.

Récemment, les évêques catholiques du Libéria ont publié une déclaration, réitérant le même appel, celui de procéder à la création d'un tribunal pénal pour les crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité, afin dit-on, de mettre fin à l'impunité. Ce tribunal permettra aux criminels de guerre de rendre compte de leurs actes odieux et servira également d'un moyen de dissuasion.

L'ancien président de la CVR, Me Jerome Verdier, qui réside actuellement aux États-Unis, a décrit le Libéria sous l'autorité du président George Manneh Weah comme un « paradis pour les gangsters, où les hors-la-loi sont parrainés par l'Etat et règnent en maîtres sous le regard satisfait du président ».

Le président Weah lui-même refuse visiblement la création d'un tel tribunal sous son administration. Son gouvernement a au contraire décidé de remobiliser les anciens généraux rebelles et les anciens combattants pour qu'ils agissent en tant qu'acteurs non étatiques avec pour seule mission de renforcer son emprise sur le pouvoir.

D'ailleurs, certains de ses principaux alliés et loyalistes politiques, dont le chef erratique des anciens rebelles, Prince Yormie Johnson, du Front patriotique Indépendant du Libéria (INPFL), s'opposent avec véhémence à ce tribunal, de peur qu'ils n'y soient entraînés.

Mais le président a-t-il vraiment le choix ? Il ne le veut pas, peu importe son aversion. Maintenant que l'appel ne vient pas seulement des citoyens ordinaires, mais aussi des parties prenantes, le gouvernement devrait écouter, car la justice est le fondement de la relance et du développement économique de tous les pays du monde.

Si ce régime veut vraiment résoudre les difficultés économiques auxquelles le Libéria est confronté actuellement, il faut qu'il définisse correctement ses priorités en cherchant à gagner et maintenir la confiance de nos partenaires étrangers. Le monde est maintenant un village planétaire et notre façon de vivre en tant que peuple affecte nos voisins.

En conséquence, l'appel du forum économique national à un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques réaffirme la trajectoire que devrait prendre le gouvernement pour renverser cet isolement rampant mais silencieux et sauver ainsi notre économie et empêcher qu'elle s'effondre totalement.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Barry Eichengreen

### La Fed et l'élection présidentielle

**H**ANALEI, HAWAII - William Dudley, le précédent président de la Réserve fédérale de New-York, a récemment ouvert la boîte de Pandore en appelant la Fed à prendre en considération les conséquences de sa politique sur l'élection présidentielle de 2020. Il a rendu un précieux service d'intérêt général en soulignant l'impact parfois très important de la Fed sur la vie politique américaine. Pour autant, son conseil est-il approprié ?

Sa logique est claire. Si la Fed diminue les taux d'intérêt en réaction à la politique commerciale désordonnée de Trump, cela pourrait encourager ce dernier à poursuivre sur la même voie. Le président américain estime que les USA et la Chine sont voués à se livrer une guerre commerciale à mort. Pourtant, il reconnaît que la Bourse réagit mal à ses menaces de hausse des taxes douanières, que le climat d'incertitudes commerciales affecte la croissance et que cette situation ne favorise pas sa réélection.

Néanmoins, si la Fed relâche sa politique pour freiner une baisse des investissements et de la croissance liée aux incertitudes, Trump pourrait intensifier ses attaques commerciales contre la Chine. Dudley le dit, la Fed doit indiquer "sans ambiguïté que Trump sera le seul responsable des conséquences de ses décisions".

Toute la question est de savoir ce que veut dire "sans ambiguïté". La Fed peut expliquer que les décisions du président la contraignent à baisser les taux d'intérêt de manière à remplir son double mandat de contrôle de l'inflation et d'un chômage le plus faible possible. Elle peut souligner les dommages collatéraux des taux d'intérêt faibles : cela nuit aux Américains qui disposent des revenus fixes et menace la stabilité financière en incitant les investisseurs à prendre des risques. La Fed ne doit pas hésiter à signaler ces conséquences indésirables.

Elle devrait aussi souligner que le relâchement monétaire ne peut compenser entièrement les conséquences des incertitudes commerciales. Une fois réalisé, il peut être très difficile, voir impossible de revenir sur un investissement. Un investissement basé sur une chaîne d'approvisionnement mondial peut perdre toute sa valeur en cas de guerre commerciale de grande ampleur. De même, un investissement local fondé sur la crainte d'une guerre commerciale durable peut devenir une erreur très coûteuse en cas de résolution imprévue du conflit.

Quand la politique commerciale est incertaine, des erreurs de prévision comme celles-là sont inévitables. Les entreprises sont incitées à suspendre leurs investissements en attendant que la situation se clarifie - et ce quels que soient les taux d'intérêt. La banque centrale doit rappeler à Trump que même s'il le souhaite, elle ne peut neutraliser totalement les conséquences macroéconomiques de sa guerre commerciale.

"On peut défendre l'idée que l'élection elle-même est du ressort de la Fed". Telle a été la remarque la plus provocante de Dudley. Suggérant que la Fed devrait influencer sur l'élection, sa petite phrase a déclenché une salve de critiques féroces, au point qu'il a fait machine arrière : les responsables de la Fed "ne doivent jamais être motivés par des considérations politiques ou décider d'une politique monétaire pour peser sur une élection".

Mais la politique de la Fed a une influence sur les élections, et cette réalité incontestable a des conséquences pour la banque centrale. La baisse des taux d'intérêt pour éviter une récession favorise la réélection de Trump. Or sa réélection conduira à une baisse de la croissance à moyen terme, dans la mesure où il poursuivra sa politique erratique, entretiendra les conflits commerciaux et l'incertitude. Le mandat de la Fed lui impose de veiller à maintenir le chômage au plus bas. Alors quel compromis doit-elle faire entre baisse du chômage à court terme et perte d'emplois à long terme ?

C'est une question difficile, notamment parce que la loi Humphrey-Hawkins qui fixe le mandat de la Fed ne spécifie aucun calendrier pour y parvenir et aucun point d'équilibre entre gains à court terme et pertes à long terme. Mais ce débat est inévitable, ou tout au moins, il devrait l'être. Et il ne doit pas être nécessairement public.

Mais imaginons que le candidat démocrate à l'élection de 2020 propose une politique commerciale très différente. La Fed devrait alors faire des prévisions économiques dans les deux cas de figure : victoire de Trump ou du candidat démocrate. Or, responsable devant le Congrès, la Fed sera soumise à des pressions pour qu'elle publie ses prévisions. On peut imaginer l'avalanche de tweets et d'accusations de partialité et pire encore qui s'abattraient alors sur elle.

La Fed doit-elle s'abstenir de faire des prévisions pour apparaître apolitique ? Dans ce cas, elle n'assumerait pas sa responsabilité d'anticiper l'avenir économique et de prendre des mesures en conséquence.

La Banque d'Angleterre a été confrontée à un dilemme analogue lorsqu'elle a émis un avis sur les conséquences du Brexit pour l'économie britannique. Elle a alors été la cible de critiques acerbes. Mais une banque centrale ne peut y échapper quand elle fait des prévisions et qu'elle les rend public dans un tel contexte. Les dirigeants politiques contestent alors son impartialité, ce qui suscite inévitablement des controverses et peut nuire à son image.

En s'exprimant, Dudley a fait passer un autre message important : la Fed ne doit pas craindre les critiques. Si elle ne s'exprime pas sur le risque évident que la politique budgétaire et commerciale américaine fait courir à l'économie du pays, sa réputation en souffrira infiniment plus.

# CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

With Ben Polee Wese



## Kanvee Adams looks to secular music?

Things appear to be falling apart in the Gospel music arena here, as Liberian Gospel music awards winner and Ambassador-turned politician Kanvee G. Adams now looks to secular music than the gospel trails that have path her way to the international scene over the years.

"If I even decided to go secular, I will be happier; you know why, secular people have more love than you so-called gospel folks; nonsense," Minister of the Gospel Kanvee Adams wrote on her social media page, but later deleted the post.

Gospel lovers and Christians in and out Liberia were very shocked to see Kanvee, who lives her entire life and benefits hugely from the fruits of gospel music, even rising to the throne of becoming gospel music ambassador, to have posted such harsh comments on the social media, regardless the



bad image her comments have sent out to the outside world.

"O, so the new propaganda you're starting on Kanvee is that I'm signing secular; right? Wait; I will address you.

Bloody hypocrites," Kanvee Adams' post continues.

Mrs. Adams, who has been very controversy for some time now, just signed a new record label that has got her currently

based in Nigeria, has been nominated in the category for Best Female Artist in Africa alone side Nigeria superstars Tiwa Savage and Yemi Alae, amongst other top African superstars.

This is not the first time the Liberian gospel artist has taken to her social media page in order to get back at colleagues in the gospel sector. Sometime last year, when she was in the process of lunching her album titled "Liberia on Rising", she took the social media, terming other gospel artists as "haters and jealous group of people" for criticizing her low hair cut and look she introduced for the album video.

But the big question that remains unanswered up till date is, who is fighting Ambassador Kanvee Adams in the gospel sector that is causing the gospel artist that has lots of fans and followers all around the world to belittle the genre that also serves as Gospel Music Ambassador on social media.

Though in the music industry globally, it is a common practice for musicians to switch from secular to gospel or the other way around like in our Liberian music industry, we saw David Mell, who started as a Gospel artist later went secular, while Waste Dem is leaving secular music for gospel.

## Christoph kicked out for rental

Top Liberian HipCo award-winning artist, Christopher Nyekan, stage-name Christoph The Change (CTC) who recently went live on social media, boasting of being one of Liberia's richest artists, has been thrown out of his apartment for US\$1000.00 and LRD2000, with his belongings seized by

US\$50,000.

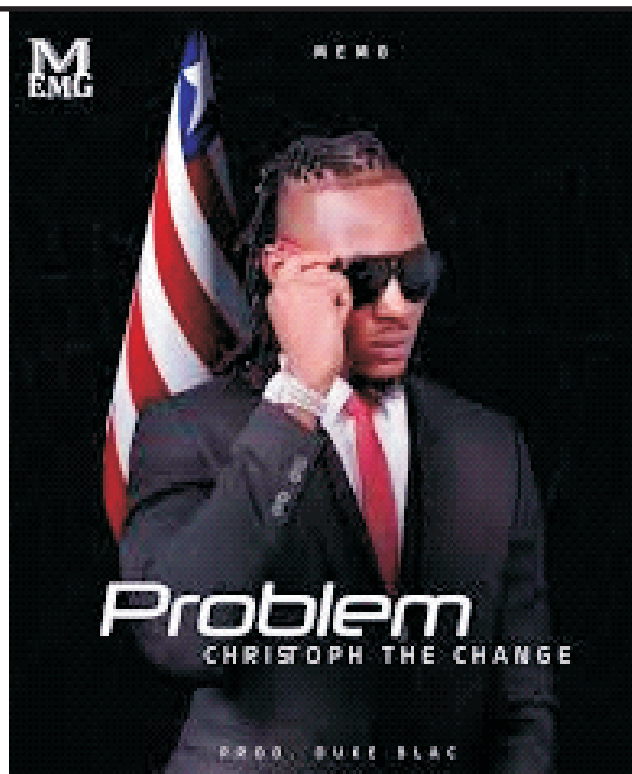
He recently boasted of repairing for the vehicle at a cost of US\$15,000 after it was involved in a road accident, killing one person.

Of late, the Liberian artist has been in the headline in the entertainment media with reports that the celebrity was going off his mind, while others thought

Monrovia, Christoph the Changes is indebted to his landlord and has since refused to pay his rental.

It was on that reason he was first taken to court, where he allegedly admitted owing his landlord, and the judge asked him to vacate the apartment, but he allegedly refused.

The information continues that the artist 's alleged



a court in Monrovia.

The news comes as a shock to the public and his many fans all around the world, as the artist travels around the world in first class and rides a HYUNDIA jeep that costs over

that was Christoph's usual behavior for promotion purpose since in fact, it the practice is common in the entertainment industry.

According to information from the City Court at the Temple of Justice in

refusal to leave, prompted the landlord to run back to the court and the judge this time around, ordered court security alone with the landlord to seize the belongings of the celebrity's and take them to the court,

until the well-known artist can pay the money he owes his landlord.

From research conducted by this column, it is first of its kind for top celebrity in the Liberian music industry to be kicked out from his or her apartment by the court with all belongings seized due to indebtedness.

Many are asking whether Christoph The Change has gone broke that he can't

afford to pay his rental. He was spotted recently in Logan Town, Bushrod Island during the disputed by-election, sharing money among fans that were supporting Candidate Abu Kamara, now District#15 Representative. Or is Christoph refusing to pay his landlord because he feels he's a top celebrity?

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# Used, tortured and deported

By Othello B. Garblah

At the time Liberia is being listed as a hot spot for human trafficking in the West African sub-region, the stories of what appears to be modern slavery is painstakingly being told by victims of alleged torture and abuses.

YogeshKhemnani and GirishKhanwanni, were brought into this country nearly two years ago by their former employer, Mr. LalBhagwani, owner of K. Lal Shopping Center in Clara Town, a suburb of Monrovia as store keepers-but it was all never a greener pasture for them.

On the 23 of January 2019, at about 1: PM, according to Yogesh, their employer Mr. Bhagwani handed them (he and Girish) over to an officer of the Liberian National Police at the St.Paul's Bridge for interrogation over the allegation of theft.

In a complaint filed against the acting head of the Association of Indians in Liberia, Yogeshsaid they were kept at the local police depot for at least 3 hours. Around about 4:00PM, the same day,



the men were escorted back to the company's residence by an officer name Musa. They were never charge, neither were they process for court.

Later that evening at about 6:00PM, Yogesh explained, they were taken to the Peekay Enterprises in Clara Town at the offices of the Association of the Indian Community in Liberia byMr. LalBhagwani, this time with an allegation

that the men had stolen from the community.

Yogesh alleged that in the presence of some members of the Association of Indian Community in Liberia including, Mr. Umesh, and the acting President of the AICL, Mr. PradeepBabani, along with a third Indian who they claimed was from the Indian embassy, the trio invited a very huge unidentified Liberian

fellow who claimed to be a CID police personnel.

Yogesh alleged that the Liberian who pretended to be a CID officer, acting on the orders of the three Indians, LalBhagwani, Mr. Pradeepand Mr. Umesh, naked and assaulted them severely, leaving them with bruises on their skins.

"My colleague GirishKhanwani even urinated on himself during the assault. We both got sick the next day," he lamented.

"The so-called CID personnel, whom we suspect was not a CID because he never produced any identification, compelled us to make self-incriminating statement under duress with the threat of exerting more bodily harm if we did not", Yogesh lamented.

"The three top Indian businessmen and official of the AICL in Liberia encouraged the so-called CID officer to assault us even further and boasted that neither the Indian consulate, any other Indian bigshot or Liberian officials can do anything to them" Yogesh alleged.

He quoted the three Indian Businessmen to have boasted saying "We know everyone of substance in this town and you guys are at our mercy"

It appears that their boast has some substance, Yogesh said. "We reported the matter to the Indian Consulate on February 18, 2019 that should be seeking the interest of all Indians in Liberia, but so far, they are yet to make any attempt at addressing our plight. We have not even gotten a single invitation for a hearing in this matter. It appears they are all in cohort and careless about the abuse of Indians by Indians in Liberia."

He detailed in his complaint that after they had partially recovered from their nightmare, Mr. LalBhagwani forcibly put them on a plane and sent them back to India

against their will. "When we petitioned him for our balance payment since he had been underpaying us \$20,000 instead of the minimum \$25,000 rupees or its US Dollars equivalent, he got infuriated and said we can take the matter anywhere we choose, and nothing will be done about it. To date, for the 12 months we worked for K. Lal shopping center, and were underpaid, he owes each of us \$60,000 rupees or its US dollars equivalent. We want justice for the physical abuse and mental torture meted out to us, our arrears and severance pay as agreed. We are simply asking for justice and a just pay for a just work and then, we can care less about his job," Yogesh said.

"He can go on brining Indians and exploiting them like a human trafficker, we reported this matter through separate letters written on February 18, 2019 to both the Indian Consulate in Liberia and the Indian Embassy in Abidjan. To date, we are yet to get any response for from either of the two entities. That is why we are constrained to bring this matter to the public in order to shed a light on the abuse of Indians by some so-called big Indian businessmen in Liberia and to seek redress from our plight from Indian and Liberian authorities and the public at large.

This kind of abuse and exploitation must stop before some Indians get killed in Liberia at the hands of some wicked Indians especially the AICL which witnessed the assault and has been dangerously silent on it. This is not to cast a blanket aspersion on all Indian businessmen in the country because we are aware that there are some decent and fair ones. I hope that The Liberian Press and Police will not act like others but get us justice" Yogesh said in his complaint.

## Gov't rejects 'gangster paradise' claim

By Lewis S. Teh

The Liberian government has rejected former Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Chairman Cllr. Jerome Verdier's description of President George MannehWeah's rule as a "gangster's paradise," accusing Verdier of criticizing the regime because his suggestion was opposed during the formation of Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC).

"Cllr. Verdier is an unpatriotic citizen with a selfish motive, and he has no moral ground to stand on and refer to Weah's rule as a gangster's paradise," the Minister of Information, Mr. Eugene Nagbe told a regular press briefing Thursday, 12 September in Monrovia.

President Weah's CDC is one of the three political parties that make up the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

The other two parties in the coalition include Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP) and former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler's Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP).

Minister Nagbe's reaction comes after International Justice Group (IJG) Executive Director Cllr. Verdier issued a statement here saying the culture of impunity has

emboldened criminals in government and in the corridors of power to new heights of violence and crime, fully aware that they will not face justice anytime soon under the Weah regime.

In the statement, Cllr. Verdier accuses "the perverse President of Liberia" of championing impunity, supporting injustice and will not bring his henchmen to justice.

But Information Minister Nagbe believes that Cllr. Verdier's attack on the government is due to a grudge that the latter has kept since 2005 during the formulation of the Congress for Democratic Change.

Minister Nagbe narrates that in 2005, Cllr. Verdier registered the CDC as the party's lawyer.

He claims that Cllr. Verdier proposed that Atty. Samuel Kofi Woods should head the party ticket as standard bearer while Mr. George Weah served as his vice standard bearer.

But Minister Nagbe recalls that such proposal by Cllr. Verdier was denied by Madam Williamettea Peso Saydee - Tarr, who is now President Weah's Gender Minister.

He says other hierarchies of the CDC agreed with Madam Saydee - Tarr on the decision rejecting the Cllr. Verdier's proposal, including party chairman MulbahMorlu and

Rep. Moses Accrous Gray.

Minister Nagbe argues this is something that has prompted the former TRC Boss Cllr. Verdier to brand the government as a gangster's paradise.

"If you want to criticize, and be a neutral person and you must declare your history, I challenge anyone to go to the National Elections Commission or NEC and ask for the registration document of the CDC, Cllr. Verdier's name is on it as the incorporator of the CDC," Nagbe explains.

Commenting further, Minister Nagbe says people have the right to say whatever they want, but cautions that if you refer to your own country as gangster's paradise and think it is the president, it is unfortunate because it affects the country's image.

Mr. Nagbe furthers that there is a need for Cllr. Verdier to be sued, encouraging Madam Tarr to sue the former TRC boss.

Additionally, Mr. Nagbe attacks the opposition here of joining the bandwagon of allegedly spreading lies about President Weah's government.

Meanwhile, Minister Nagbe has denied reports that President Weah took 67 people along with him to Japan, saying it was an eleven - man delegation, instead.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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### Court's Degree of Change of Name

Whereas, Petitioner herein named in the above entitled cause of action, having file a petition with affidavit attached thereto, requesting an order from this Honorable Court to have the name of Petitioner's name to formally and legally change from "Bernard T. Fumbah" to" Arthur T. Fumbah,

Jr". Whereas, after the court having thoroughly examined petitioner's petition and this court have been satisfied of the truthfulness of the allegation set forth.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED, ORDERED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS TO WIT:

That petitioner's petition is hereby ordered granted beginning this 3rd day of September A.D. 2019 and the petitioner's name is now formally and legally changed from "Bernard T. Fumbah" to "Arthur T. Fumbah, Jr".

YAMBUKUTU DISTRICT COURT  
ASSIGNED JUDGE PRESIDING  
ASSISTED JUDGE OF THE CIVIL LAW COURT  
REGISTERED ACCORDING TO THE  
REGISTRATION ACT OF THE LIBERIAN  
REPUBLIC, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONROVIA, L.  
DATE: 09/13/2019

## I would have loved Neymar return - Messi



Lionel Messi says he would have "loved" for Neymar to return to Barcelona as his arrival would have "increased our chances of achieving our objectives."

Neymar, 27, joined Paris St-Germain from Barcelona in 2017 for a world record fee of 222m euros (£200m).

"He was desperate to come back," Messi told Spanish newspaper Sport. "I don't know if the club really tried or not."

Neymar scored 105 goals in 186 games for the Catalan

club between 2013-2017, and has 51 goals in 58 games for PSG.

The Brazil international was repeatedly linked with a return to Barcelona during the transfer window, although it has been suggested that neither club was convinced that the other was committed to making a deal.

"I would have loved to have Neymar back," said Barcelona captain Messi, 32. "I understand those people who are against his return and it's understandable for what happened with 'Ney' and the

way that he left.

"But thinking about it on a sporting level, I personally think Neymar is one of the best players in the world and having him in our squad would increase our chances of achieving our objectives."

Neymar to Barcelona: Inside story of PSG striker's summer transfer saga

Messi denied the Barcelona players asked the club to sign Neymar, adding: "We gave our opinions of whether it'd be good if he came or not but we never said they had to sign him."

Despite missing out on playing alongside the Brazilian again, Messi said he was "not disappointed", adding Barcelona have a "spectacular squad and can achieve everything without him."

The Argentine forward joined Barcelona in 2001 and his current contract expires in June 2021.

"My idea is to stay here for as long as I'm capable of playing at the required level and my body allows it," he added.

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## Valencia sack successful coach Marcelino

Valencia announced the shock sacking of coach Marcelino on Wednesday, less than a week before their Champions League opener against Chelsea.

The Spanish outfit have named former Real Madrid assistant coach Albert Celades as his successor.

The 54-year-old joined the club in 2017 with Valencia then struggling after back-to-back 12th-placed finishes

in La Liga.

But in both of his two full seasons at the helm he led Los Ches to fourth spot and

Champions League qualification, capping his stint with the Copa del Rey title last term -- Valencia's first major



trophy in 11 years.

"Valencia CF on Wednesday told Marcelino Garcia Toral he was dismissed as coach of the first team," the Mestalla outfit said in a statement.

"The club wants to thank you for your work and dedication during your time with the club and wish you the greatest success for the future."

Marcelino had also previously coached Sevilla and Villarreal, and is the first boss to be sacked in the Spanish top flight

this season. Valencia started their La Liga campaign slowly with a home draw against Real Sociedad and a defeat at Celta Vigo, but bounced back by winning 2-0 against Real Mallorca before the international break.

The 43-year-old Celades, a former Barcelona and Real Madrid midfielder, has signed a deal until the end of June 2021 and Valencia said he will take his first training session later on Wednesday.

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