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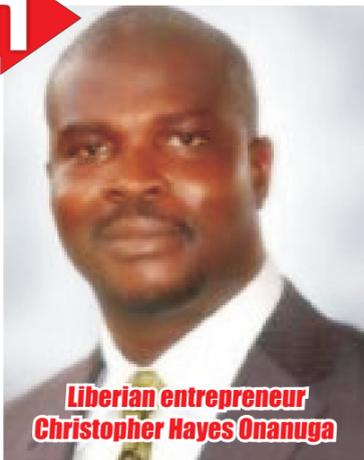
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Minister of State, Mr. Nathaniel McGill



Solicitor General
Seymah Cyrenius Cephus



Liberian entrepreneur
Christopher Hayes Onanuga

P11

Who chops what?

-Gov't Vs. Chris over US\$4m

Weah prioritizes war crimes court



P11

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Continental News

Tunisia holds second free presidential election

Tunisia is holding its second free presidential poll since the 2011 uprising that toppled ex-president Ben Ali and sparked the Arab Spring.

It was brought forward from November after the death in July of Beji Caid Essebsi, the first democratically elected president, who took office in 2014. Twenty-six candidates, including two women, are running in the election.

It is widely viewed as a test of one of the world's youngest democracies. Mr Essebsi won Tunisia's first free presidential elections in 2014 and was credited with largely maintaining stability in the country during his almost five-year rule.

At 92, he was the oldest sitting president in the world at the time of his death. Mr Essebsi had previously confirmed that he was not planning to run for re-election. His wife, Chadlia Saida Farhat, died on Sunday morning, aged 83, their son announced on Facebook as voting was getting under



Seven million voters are expected to head to the ballot box

way. Parliament speaker Mohamed Ennaceur is currently acting as interim president. A candidate needs a majority of votes to win the election. If no-one gets a majority in the first round, the two candidates with most votes will face a second, decisive round. The winning candidate will be appointed to office for a five-year term. The

constitution states that Tunisia's president has control over defence, foreign policy and national security. The prime minister, chosen by parliament, is responsible for other portfolios. Parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place in October. The country has won praise as the only democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring uprisings that began in Tunisia, before

spreading across the Middle East and North Africa.

In what was hailed as a sign of its successful democratic transition, Tunisia this month held its first-ever televised debate of presidential candidates. However, it has not all been smooth sailing. In recent years, the country has suffered attacks by Islamists and economic problems, with unemployment a persistent issue.

In 2018, protesters across the country took to the streets to oppose the government's austerity measures. Prime Minister Youssef Chahed told Reuters news agency that economic opportunities must improve "if Tunisia is to join the club of strong democracy". Tunisia is the birthplace of what has become known as the Arab Spring

uprisings. Widespread discontent at economic hardship, decades of autocratic rule and corruption erupted into mass demonstrations in December 2010 after a street vendor set himself on fire when officials confiscated his cart.

The unrest led to the ousting in 2011 of President Ben Ali, who had been in power for 23 years. Three years later, Tunisia's parliament approved a new constitution, which detailed how the new democracy would be run. The text was hailed by the United Nations as a "historic milestone". Significant aspects included the recognition of equality between men and women, guaranteeing personal freedoms and splitting power between the president and prime minister. BBC

Mugabe's body kept in hometown after state funeral

The body of Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe is being kept in his birthplace, after a sparsely-attended state funeral in the capital Harare. African leaders hailed Mr Mugabe as a liberation hero, while current Zimbabwean president Emmerson Mnangagwa said "our motherland is in

tears". But most seats in the 60,000-capacity stadium were empty. Many Zimbabweans said they would shun the ceremony because of the repression that marked Mr Mugabe's later rule. The country's economy is in crisis, with soaring inflation and unemployment, and some blame this on the former leader. "We are happier now that he is gone. Why should I go

to his funeral? I don't have fuel," a Harare resident told AFP. "We don't want to hear anything about him anymore. He is the cause of our problems."

Mr Mugabe's body will be viewed by the public in his rural hometown, Kutama, on Sunday, local media report. Bright sunshine, enthusiastic crowds, and a fond, emotional farewell to Robert Mugabe at the National Sports Stadium here in Harare. True. But only up to a point.

As the coffin carrying Zimbabwe's founding father was wheeled into the stadium, it was immediately and uncomfortably clear that only a few thousand members of the public had bothered to show up for this funeral service.

African leaders, past and present, filed into the stadium to applause, alongside veterans of the continent's liberation struggles. Mr Mnangagwa - the man who overthrew Mr Mugabe two years ago - sat just two seats away from Mr Mugabe's widow, Grace.



The BBC's Shingai Nyoka said the national stadium in Harare was not full, as some African leaders paid tribute to Mugabe

DR Congo ex-health minister arrested over Ebola funds

Oly Ilunga denies the accusation that he mismanaged funds meant to be used to fight the Ebola epidemic

Police in the Democratic Republic of Congo have arrested a former health minister for allegedly mismanaging funds allocated for the Ebola epidemic. Oly Ilunga resigned as health minister in July after being stripped of responsibility for the fight against Ebola.

Police said they detained him because they had information that he intended to evade legal proceedings and leave the country.

He denies any wrongdoing. In his July resignation letter, Dr Ilunga criticised the World Health Organization's plan to use an unlicensed vaccine against Ebola. There was a shortage in supply of the previous vaccine and health experts argued another vaccine, which had



not been widely tested, should be used. Dr Ilunga said the previous vaccine was the only one with clinically proven effectiveness.

He also criticised the decision to remove him as head of the Ebola response team, and replace him by a committee which he said had interfered with his work. Foreign donors have provided more than \$150m (£120m) to combat Ebola in DR Congo where more than 2,000 people have died since the start of the current outbreak. BBC

The public tributes to Mugabe's role as a liberation hero - paid by a succession of speakers including Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta - came in sharp contrast to the final words of the Mugabe family's own representative, Walter Chidhakwa, whose voice cracked as he spoke of his uncle's final years after he'd been removed from office.

"He was a sad man. A sad, sad, sad man. It was a hard and excruciating journey." It was a

powerful reference to the clear tensions that still exist between the current government and the Mugabe family. More than a dozen current and former African leaders attended the funeral, hailing Mr Mugabe as a pan-Africanist who had dedicated his life to the people of Zimbabwe. Mr Kenyatta said he was unwavering in his insistence that Africa's problems demanded African solutions. BBC

EDITORIAL

The Church must speak

THE ONCE POWERFUL voice of the Church in Liberia has frozen. The Liberia Council of Churches that spoke truth to power in the 80s has gone silent, leaving the state without guidance.

IT IS NOT only regrettable but very sadden that traditional leaders and zoes are the ones now giving direction to the government, while the Church is asleep.

WE RECALL THE days of the late Catholic Archbishop Michael Kpakala Francis, Episcopal Bishop George D. Browne and retired Methodist Bishop Arthur F. Kula when the LCC served as voice of the people, pointing out and condemning ills of society.

BUT THIS IS no more. The current Council of Churches appears to have turned blind eyes on unfolding developments in the country, leaving citizens with no one to turn to for hope.

THE VICES PLAGUING our beloved country are enormous and need remedies. They range from ex-rebel generals becoming state actors, US\$25 million of our national reserves misappropriated, excess printing of Liberian banknotes and flooding the market to widespread rape and killings, electoral violence and a stagnant economy that has strangulated the people, among others.

THESE EXCESSES ARE traceable from the past administration and exacerbated by the highly inept Weah administration that wallops in arrogance and exceptional greed.

AMID THE ILLS, the Church is conspicuously silent. The nation yearns for prayers, healing and spiritual guidance. The zoes and chiefs are filling the gaps created by the silence of the voice of conscious.

THE NATION IS in search of direction. But the messengers of God are sitting and watching, while the people burn with thirst and hopelessness. The LCC has become so diplomatic that it now minds its own business, for fear of not rocking the boat.

WHO WILL SPEAK for the suffering masses? Greedy and dishonest politicians are having a feed day, giving false hopes to drowning Liberians. God is watching! The Church should get ready to account for its inactions.

WE URGE THE LCC to muster the courage enough to tell President Weah that it's time to set up a war and economic crimes for Liberia to implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This would not only end impunity, but serve as deterrence to would-be war mongers.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Jasmine M. El-Gamal

Is Arab Unity Dead?

S President Donald Trump's disdain for multilateralism makes it even more likely that Arab governments will continue cooperating with regional allies on key issues rather than trying to reach a broader consensus within the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council. And the already slim prospects for Arab unity will fade even further.

BEIRUT - 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.

O-PED

By Shashi Tharoor

India's Democratic Dictatorship

NEW DELHI - Amid much fanfare, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has completed a hundred days of its second term. Despite his government's poor record, Modi remains immensely popular personally. This does not bode well for Indian democracy.

The Modi government's supporters tout a slew of new repressive legislation - including the criminalization of talaq-e-biddat, the Muslim practice of "instant divorce" - as a display of resoluteness. Likewise, Modi's recent abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, guaranteed under Article 370 of India's constitution, was undertaken amid a statewide lockdown. Political leaders were arrested, and telephone and Internet services were suspended. There is no telling what will happen when the lid is taken off the pressure cooker. Yet most Indians are offering unstinting support.

Modi's supporters have less to say about the economy, which is in free fall, and relations among religious communities, which have never been tenuous. (The unmanned Moon landing of which they had hoped to boast failed when the robotic rover crashed on the lunar surface on the eve of the hundred-day anniversary.)

Modi's enduring popularity may mystify his critics. Most of the out-of-the-box solutions he has attempted have done more harm than good. For example, his government's disastrous demonetization of 86% of India's currency in 2016 was probably the single biggest blow to the Indian economy since independence, costing millions of jobs and undermining growth. But that does not seem to bother most voters, for whom he comes across as a decisive, no-nonsense leader, willing to break with tradition and attempt bold solutions to India's intractable problems.

This response has left many in India scratching their heads. Here is a prime minister who has upended practically every civilized convention in Indian politics. He has sent law-enforcement authorities to pursue flimsy charges against opposition leaders, promoted ministers whose divisive rhetoric has left Muslims and other minorities living in fear, and intimidated the media to the point that press coverage of his administration is an embarrassment to India's democratic culture.

Moreover, Modi's government has discarded, for the first time in the history of India's parliamentary standing committees, a bipartisan tradition that accords a member of the leading opposition party the chair of the External Affairs Committee (a position I previously held). Instead, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided that it will hold its own government accountable.

For many of Modi's admirers, such flagrant authoritarian displays simply don't matter. In their view, after decades of too much "soft-hearted democracy" and pandering governing coalitions, a "tough" Indian leader was long overdue. Those of us whose faith in India's democratic system was absolute now face the sobering realization that its roots may be shallower than we had allowed ourselves to believe.

India is now in the throes of a fervent nationalism that extols every Indian achievement, real or imagined, and labels even the mildest political disagreement or protest "anti-national" or even "seditious." Almost every independent institution has been hollowed out and turned into an instrument of the government's overweening dominance.

In the case of the tax authorities, this is less surprising. But now agencies responsible for financial investigations, law enforcement, and the government's intelligence-gathering machinery, and even famously autonomous bodies like the Election Commission and the judiciary, are not exempt from such concerns.

Under Modi, political freedom is no longer regarded as a virtue. The new standard of social order is control (by the authorities) and conformity (by everyone else). As the scholar and commentator Pratap Bhanu Mehta recently noted, "it is difficult to remember a time" when the "premium on public and professional discourse marching to the state's tune was as high."

Predictably, communal relations have worsened dramatically under BJP rule. The alienation of India's Muslim community is so severe that even some of the government's staunchest defenders have acknowledged it. For 3,000 years, India was a haven for the persecuted of all nations and faiths. Today, it rejects Muslim Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and publishes a National Register of Citizens that excludes millions of largely Muslim people who were driven to India as refugees after 1971, and their Indian-born children. There are also murmurs of a new push to eliminate the personal laws that minority communities are allowed to retain to govern their family practices, and to adopt "anti-conversion" laws aimed at restricting missionary activity.

Before our eyes, India's very character is being transformed by a government with no regard for institutions, understandings, and practices maintained since independence. "Boldness," it seems, is all that matters.

For liberal democrats like me, the increasingly salient concern is that this could be what the Indian public - modestly educated and misguided by the BJP's skillful propaganda - really wants. As Mehta asks, "Is, somehow, this exaltation of power, control and nationalism a completion of our own deepest desires?"

In any case, if these first hundred days of Modi's second five-year term are any indication, India may well soon cease to be the country Mahatma Gandhi struggled to free.

OPINION

By Richard N. Haass

The Amazon and You

NEW YORK - Nearly everyone has seen the dramatic images of the Amazon ablaze. Tens of thousands of fires - intentionally started or caused by logging, farming, mining, and other human activities - have broken out over the past year alone.

This matters a great deal, because forests absorb gases that increase global warming if released into the atmosphere. Reduction of the Amazon rainforest by fire adds to the problem of climate change in two ways: the fires themselves release gases and particles that accelerate the earth's warming, and the elimination of the trees by definition means they cannot absorb carbon dioxide.

The issue gripped last month's G7 meeting in France. The leaders of many of the world's wealthiest countries pledged just over \$22 billion to help Brazil, home to the bulk of the Amazon rainforest and nearly half of the world's tropical forests, combat the fires. Brazil angrily rejected the offer.

Brazil's populist president, Jair Bolsonaro, stated that his country would not allow the G7 countries to treat it as if it were a colony. "Our sovereignty is nonnegotiable," the government spokesman declared. In the end, Brazil did accept some \$12 billion in assistance from the United Kingdom, but it did not reach a compromise with the G7 or with France, which hosted the meeting.

What is going on in Brazil highlights a fundamental tension in the world. Brazil's government holds to the view that what happens inside the country's borders falls within its purview alone. This is the traditional notion of sovereignty, one largely shared by most of the world's governments, including the United States, China, Russia, India, and others.

But it is an increasingly inadequate, if not obsolete, notion in today's globalized world, where just about anyone and anything can reach almost anywhere. As a result, what happens within a country can no longer automatically and unconditionally be considered its concern alone.

Consider terrorism. In the late 1990s, the Taliban government then controlling Afghanistan allowed al-Qaeda to operate freely from Afghan territory. Al-Qaeda did just that, mounting an operation that led to the deaths of nearly 3,000 innocent men, women, and children in the US on September 11, 2001.

The US, then led by President George W. Bush and backed by much of the world, delivered an ultimatum to the Taliban government: hand over al-Qaeda's leaders and deny it future use of Afghanistan to promote terrorism or face removal from power. Put differently, the government was told that the benefits and protections of sovereignty obliged it not to provide sanctuary and support to terrorists. The Taliban refused to accept this demand; within weeks, a US-led international coalition forcibly removed the group from power.

The lesson for Brazil is clear: what its government chooses to do and not to do vis-à-vis the rainforest has consequences for the entire world. If the issue were "merely" one of local environmental degradation and pollution, it would be solely a Brazilian matter, as bad as that might be. But as soon as the effects of deforestation spill across borders, what happens in Brazil becomes a legitimate concern of others. Pollution is mostly about local results of local activities; climate change is about the global results of local activities.

And we know that the results of climate change are costly: more frequent and severe storms, floods, droughts, and other extreme weather. More people are being internally displaced and turned into refugees as a consequence. Significant swaths of the globe may soon be uninhabitable. Climate change, like terrorism, has become everyone's business. Brazil should be viewed as the Amazon's custodian, not its owner.

So what is to be done? One approach is to create incentives for countries like Brazil to act more responsibly. This was behind the G7's offer to help Brazil, and it underpins long-standing EU aid programs designed to curb forest destruction and promote planting new ones.

But it is clear that Brazil's government is not responding the way it should. Removal of legal barriers to deforestation has added to the problem, as has a dearth of government resources to enforce the law and stop those who are illegally clearing trees and starting fires.

Again, sovereignty entails obligations as well as rights. And where compliance cannot be induced, pressure must be applied. The time has come to consider penalties against a government such as Brazil's if it refuses to meet its obligations to the world. Penalties could include tourism boycotts, sanctions, and tariffs. Obviously, positive incentives to encourage and enable desired actions would be preferable. But there must be sticks where carrots are not enough.

Many governments take this approach to deterring or responding to genocide, terrorism, and weapons proliferation. Brazil's behavior has raised the question of whether those who fan climate change ought to be treated similarly.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
 P.O. BOX 10-9016
 1000 MONROVIA, 10 LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

GOL/ME/DP/2-1/SDT/nj/11/55/19

March 21, 2019

Mr. Bai PENG
 Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 China Union Investment (Liberia)
 Bong Mines Company Ltd.
 Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Mr. PENG:

I am pleased to present my compliments and hereby acknowledge receipt of your commu of December 6, 2018, with respect to your company's contributions to the Social Devel Funds of Bong County, Margibi County and Montserrado County; and your companies' make a special contribution of US\$4,000,000.00, in lieu of the unpaid contributions for the 2016 to 2018 during which the Company did not operate and did not earn income.

However, the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) was obliged to consu the executive and legislative leadership of the three beneficiary counties, in order to obtai acceptance of these consultations, which included several separate and joint meetings taken some time.

As a result of these consultative meetings I have been informed by leadership of the said co that your company's offer has been accepted by the beneficiaries. In its communications t copy of which is attached for your records, the leadership of the beneficiary counties urg to engage China Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Co., Ltd., be in order " to ensur it will restart productive operations within the shortest feasible timeframe, and resume payin normal, and, if possible, increased contributions to the social development funds of the counties, considering the losses incurred by [their] communities during the years when C Union did not work in Liberia". The leadership of the beneficiary counties also noted that company is committed to develop hydro capacity and to building a steel plant which are important to the development of their counties and their people.

The Government of Liberia (GoL) is aware that since 2015, as a result of the Ebola epidemic the concurrent decrease of the price of iron ore globally, China Union Investment (Liberia) ll Mines Co., Ltd. operations at the Bong Mines iron ore mining project has not been economic feasible.

National Vision: One People, One Nation united for Peace & Sustainable Development
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RESOLUTION OF MONTSERRADO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Whereas, WISCO CAD (Hong Kong) Mining Limited (The "Concessionaire") and China Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Company, Ltd (The "Operating Company") have offered to make a contribution of US\$4,000,000.00 (Four Million United States Dollars) towards Social Development Purposes for Bong, Margibi and Montserrado Counties in lieu of the unpaid contributions for the period 2016 to 2018 during which the Company did not operate and did not earn income;

Whereas, China Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines Company, Ltd is now endeavoring to resume operations within the shortest feasible time frame; and the remobilization of mining processing and shipping facilities in Liberia which have been idle for over three years will require considerable additional investment;

Whereas, we the Montserrado County Legislative Caucus along with the caucuses of Margibi, and Bong Counties have resolved to accept the payment to the three (3) counties and pursuant to the several and joint consultative meetings with all members of the Legislative Caucus.

NOW THEREFORE: It is hereby resolved that:
 The amount be paid to the three Counties as follows:

Description	Amount (USD)
Bong County	\$2,000,000.00
Margibi County	\$1,000,000.00
Montserrado County	\$1,000,000.00
Total Funds	\$4,000,000.00

Done on the 7th day of March AD 2019.

Signed:

1. _____ District # 1 Signature _____

2. Hon. JIMMY W. SMITH District # 2 Signature _____

3. _____ District # 3 Signature _____

4. _____ District # 4 Signature _____

5. Hon. Thomas P. Fallah District # 5 Signature _____

6. Samuel Endue District # 6 Signature _____

7. Hon. Solomon C. George District # 7 Signature _____

8. _____ District # 8 Signature _____

9. _____ District # 9 Signature _____

10. Mohamed I. Kolleh District # 10 Signature _____

11. Richard N. Koon District # 11 Signature _____

12. George Boye Samal District # 12 Signature _____

13. Edward P. Plawh District # 13 Signature _____ 4-10-19

14. A. Vamuyah Couch District # 14 Signature _____

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 1000 MONROVIA, 10 LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

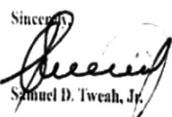
Accordingly, I am pleased to inform you that the GoL and the beneficiary communities do accept your company's offer to make a special contribution of US\$4,000,000.00, in lieu of the unpaid contributions for the period 2016 to 2018 during which the Company did not operate and did not earn income.

You may proceed, consistent with the ratios stipulated in the Act ratifying the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), to make the payments to the respective County Social Development Fund accounts, which will shortly be provided to you by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

The expected allocations are as follow:

Bong County	50%	US\$2,000,000.00
Margibi County	25%	US\$1,000,000.00
Montserrado County	25%	US\$1,000,000.00
Total		US\$4,000,000.00

Please be assured that your company's contribution to the social development funds of these three counties will be managed in keeping with the provisions of the recently passed 2018/2019 Budget Act on the management of the County and Social Development Funds. Your Company is expected to monitor the application of these funds in collaboration with the pertinent Ministries and Agencies of Government in order to ensure sustainable benefits to the beneficiary communities; and to avoid community agitations experienced in the past.

Sincerely,

 Samuel D. Tweah, Jr.
 MINISTER

Please take note of the GOL Revenue Account
 160-200-3440

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THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 Capitol Building
 P.O. Box 9005
 Monrovia, Liberia
 Website: www.legislature.gov.lr

BONG COUNTY LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

RESOLUTION

We, the Bong County Legislative Caucus along with caucuses of Margibi and Montserrado Counties have RESOLVED:

- That WISCO CAD (Hong Kong) Mining Limited and the China Union Investment (Liberia) Bong Mines made payment of Four Million United States Dollars (US\$4,000,000.00) covering the periods, 2016 to 2018; same being social development funds to these counties, Bong, Margibi and Montserrado. Said amount payable to the counties are as follows:
- Two Million United States Dollars (US\$2,000,000.00), One Million United States Dollars (US\$1,000,000.00) and One Million United States Dollars (US\$1,000,000.00) respectively
- That pursuant to several separate and joint consultative meetings with the nine (9) Legislative Caucus along with the Legislative Caucuses of Margibi and Montserrado Counties, we agreed to accept, in principle, this offer from China Union;

DONE on this 6th day of March, A.D. 2019

NAMES	COUNTY	DISTRICTS	SIGNATURES
Sen. Henry W. Yallah	Bong		
Sen. Henrique F. Takpah	Bong		
Hon. Albert B. Hills, Jr.	Bong	1	
Hon. Prince K. Moyo	Bong	2	
Hon. Josiah Marvin Cole	Bong	3	
Hon. Robert Womba	Bong	4	
Hon. Edward W. Karliah	Bong	5	
Hon. Moims Briggs-Mensah	Bong	6	
Hon. Joseph Papa Kolleh	Bong	7	

15. _____ District # 15 Signature _____

16. Hon. Dixon W. Segbo District # 16 Signature _____ 4-10-19

17. Hon. Hanson S. Kpaula District # 17 Signature _____ 4-11-19

18. SAAH H. Joseph Senator # 1 Signature _____

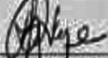
19. _____ Senator # 2 Signature _____

Approved:

 Hon. Thomas P. Fallah
 Representative, District # 5 &
 Chairman - County Legislative Caucus

Attested by:

 Hon. Florence F. Brandy
 Superintendent Montserrado County


 Hon. Eric Vaye
 Assistant Supt. For Fiscal Affairs
 Montserrado County

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah seeks concessions ratification

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President George Manneh Weah has submitted two separate concession agreements to the House of Representatives for possible ratification.

They include the concession agreement between the Government of Liberia and Prista Port Buchanan LLC, in the tune of US\$277 million with the duration of 25 years and the Investment Incentive agreement with Capital Link Corporation.

According to separate communications accompanying the two investment bills from the Executive to the House last Friday, September 13, in special sitting at the Capitol, the Capital Link Corporation agreement is for the construction and development of a cement plant in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County that would have a capacity to produce five hundred (500) tons per day and expandable to one thousand (1000) tons per day.

President Weah said in the communication that the investment incentive agreement is worth over US\$35million and spans for 15 years.

The Capital Link Corporation bill also states the investor is expected to produce and market

comment products on the Liberian market, create five hundred jobs during its construction stage, and over one hundred direct jobs during operations.

“The investor will provide a company administered grant of US\$10,000, for scholarship purposes to the country. This

thousand (1,000) jobs, giving priority to qualified Liberians.

Under the agreement, the concessionaire will help to improve access to education and health care, and give preference to Liberian suppliers in terms of procurement, provisions and other services.



agreement is in support of the government’s Pro-poor Agenda leading to rebuilding our nation and creating jobs for our people,” the President’s communication partly reads.

On the other hand, the Prista Buchanan port LLC is expected to create over one

“The Concessionaire is expected to modernize the Port of Buchanan and enormously increase its capacity from 3.5 million tons to 9 million tons per year by 2041. This includes the construction and operation of several manufacturing facilities; for example, in

motor oil production, as well as providing utilities such as electricity to the surrounding area. In effect, this may create a secondary industrial and business hub in Liberia and improve the business environment,” the Prista LLC agreement indicates.

It also seeks to improve capacity and efficiency of the Port of Buchanan, as essential in supporting the government’s long-term aim to export iron ore, from both Nimba and Guinea, as well as improving infrastructure for importing

and exporting other goods. The main business focus of the concession is in the export of iron, supporting the strategic aims of the Government. Liberia will receive healthy revenues in the form of performance fees, whereby the concession shares 50 percent of berth fees, and \$0.25 per metric ton of cargo shipped, with the Government, alongside substantial corporate income tax of about US\$145 million.

Ellen off to the UN

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf travelled on Thursday, September 12, 2019 to participate in meetings in the margins of the United Nations relating to her role as a WHO Goodwill Ambassador and member of Bill Gates and Malaria Council.

She will also go to Washington DC to perform assignments with Georgetown

president to brief her on the status on the project that was consummated during her Chairmanship at ECOWAS for the four country in the MRU.

The CLSG is completing the construction of a 1303-kilometer power line project (225 kV) linking Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The Project includes one (1) Control Center (SCADA)



University.

According to a release issued by the office of the former President over the weekend said before former President Sirleaf’s departure on Thursday, September 12, 2019, a team led by the Country Director of Cote d’Ivoire-Liberia- Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) Interconnection Project visited the former

and twelve (12) substations, four (4) of which are in Liberia, five (5) in Sierra Leone and two (2) in Guinea and one (1) in Cote d’Ivoire.

The Team informed her that by December of this year, Liberia four (4) substations will be switched on to increase the capacity of Liberia national electricity grid.

VP Howard-Taylor visits accident victims

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has been visiting with victims of the Saturday’s August 31, 2019 tragic motor accident, currently undergoing medical treatment at the JFK Hospital in Monrovia.

The Vice president has also

dispatched some senior members of her office including the Policy Specialist Mr. Anthony Kesselly and the Security Specialist Madam Ciatta Clarke to meet with family members of the deceased and victims of the accident.

According to a Press

Release from the Office of the Vice President, the team has been holding discussions with family members, some of whom are in Bong, Margibi and Montserrado Counties, while reiterating the Vice President’s regret over the situation.

On Saturday, August 31, 2019, while returning from Bong Mines, Bong County where she served as keynote speaker of the Botoe Barclay High School, a pilot vehicle in the Vice President’s convoy was involved in a fatal collision with a taxi at the 15th gate intersection on the Kakata Monrovia, Highway.

Three people have been confirmed dead in the tragic accident while the others in both vehicles are being treated at the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia.

The Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia expresses its deep regrets over the incident and extends condolences to the families of the deceased; prayers are being offered for the speedy recovery of those injured.



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MCA-L on crawfish preservation in St. Paul River

The Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia has announced it is undertaking an environmental project that will help avert the decline in the population of prawns, locally known as crawfish, in the St. Paul River on which the Mt. Coffee Hydro Dam is built.

MCA-L Director of Environment and Social Performance, Paul Kennedy, made the disclosure at a recent retreat of the country's Environmental Sector Working Group in Kakata, Margibi County, where he chronicled the efforts MCA-L has undertaken to ensure that the lives of project affected people are improved after projects are implemented by the agency.

Mr. Kennedy said MCA-L wanted to ensure that the dam's impact on the wildlife was minimized, so the agency ordered a study of the various species of fish and other animals in the St. Paul River. The study suggested that the dam would cause a decline in the river's prawn population.

The prawns migrate between fresh water and saltwater to lay eggs during



the rainy season and if nothing is done, the dam could block the river prawn migration. This can result in increased rates of schistosomiasis infection, which is spread by freshwater snails that the prawns eat.

The World Health Organization estimates in 2016 that 206 million people required treatment for this disease.

To avoid an outbreak and a

need for drug treatment, Kennedy said MCA-L is building a prawn passage to allow the prawns to successfully migrate and lay their eggs.

Additionally, to mitigate the impact of the construction of the hydro dam on the surrounding community, Mr. Kennedy said contractors not only took steps to manage erosion and waste management, but they also built improved community

roads, a health clinic, hand pumps, and provided electricity to communities that were previously not connected to the grid.

Mr. Kennedy also told the retreat attendees of MCA-L's construction of a US\$16 million raw water intake pipeline for the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC). The new pipeline will improve water quality to those people served by the LWSC municipal water system. The current location of the intake pipe allows salt water from the ocean to enter the water system during the dry season when the St. Paul River level is low.

Besides the improvement to water quality, the project will also reduce the associated cost of electricity to pump water to the water treatment plant. LWSC will save approximately US\$780,000 annually in the cost of electricity to pump water because the new pipe will allow water to flow using gravity.

"For environmental due diligence, it is incumbent upon any company or organization that is conducting a project to make sure that they do livelihood restoration, so that people are better off than

when you met them," Kennedy noted. "So we're implementing projects and monitoring and providing oversight to our contractors and our consultants to ensure that they are keeping in line with what we're told to do by the compact."

MCA-L's work with the water pipeline is just one of the many ways Kennedy says the agency works to ensure strict adherence to the Environmental Protection Agency Act.

Mr. Kennedy asked the country's Environmental Sector Working Group to ensure they place premium on improving the lives of residents of communities that are impacted by development projects.

He said many construction projects in communities are likely to affect the communities through air pollution, noise, traffic or affect their livelihood and therefore project implementers had a duty to protect community members against adverse effects.

The Environmental Protection Agency's retreat took place from September 5-6 and allowed the various organizations and government agencies working within the environmental sector to share progress reports of work within the sector and promote knowledge sharing.

Organizations as varied as the Forestry Development Authority, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Liberia Maritime Authority, the United Nations Development Programme, and Conservation International were present.

Mr. Kennedy provided an overview of the compact's activities, noting MCA-L's contribution of 40 percent of the US\$347 million spent to reconstruct the Mt. Coffee Hydro Power Plant and build supporting infrastructure.

Weah describes Heads of State Summit a success

President George Manneh Weah has described as successful and rewarding, the just-ended one-day Extraordinary Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on terrorism.

According to an Executive Mansion release, the one-day session, presided over by the Chairperson of the Authority, Niger President Issoufou Mahamadou, was held on

Saturday, 14 September in the Ouaga 2000 International Conference Center, Burkina Faso.

President Weah and 14 other West African leaders were in attendance.

Leaders of the G5 Sahel including Cameroon, Chad, Algeria, France, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania also graced the summit.

Following the summit, President Weah told journalists that the meeting was fruitful as it adopted appropriate policies and a

framework with a communiqué aimed at addressing terrorism in the region and other parts of Africa.

"With commitment from leaders at the summit including our United Nations, African and European Unions partners, we say confidently the fight against terrorism is well on track," President Weah said in answer to a reporter's question.

According to him, the Communiqué among other things calls on the United Nations Security Council, in conjunction with the African Union to urgently resolve the crisis in Libya, which has become hotbed of terrorism.

The ECOWAS authority through the communiqué reaffirms its commitment to the promotion of peace, security and stability in the region, the preconditions for the region's integration and economic development.

During the Summit, the Authority also adopted a priority action plan for the 2020 - 2022 period, focusing on pooling and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts, effective and direct information and intelligence sharing among member states.

The plan also includes training and equipping officers



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involved in counter-terrorism, strengthening management and security at land, air, sea and river borders and strengthening the control of arms and dual-use goods.

The 2010-2022 Plan also provides for countering the financing of terrorism, promoting communication, inter-community dialogue and preventing violent extremism and resource mobilization to fund counter-terrorism within ECOWAS.

Meanwhile, President Weah and entourage safely returned

home on Sunday, September 15, 2019.

Upon arrival, President Weah joined worshipers at the Georgia Panten United Methodist Church.

He briefed the congregation on the ECOWAS Summit held in Burkina Faso.

He says terrorism is a global phenomenon that requires collective actions to fight and defeat. He informs worshipers that a single individual can inspire group of people into acts of terrorism. **-Press release**

Français

Le Libéria veut 30% de femmes au Parlement de la CEDEAO

La Vice-présidente du Libéria, Mme Jewel Howard Taylor, demande au parlement de la CEDEAO d'imposer un quota d'au moins 30% de femmes au sein de l'hémicycle régional. Mme Taylor s'exprimait lors de la session extraordinaire du parlement tenue à Monrovia, au Libéria.

L'ancienne première dame se dit convaincue que si l'organe régional souscrit à la politique d'un minimum de 30% de femmes, tous les gouvernements de la région de la CEDEAO n'auront d'autre choix que de faire autant.

La vice-présidente libérienne a lancé cet appel le jeudi 12 septembre lors de l'ouverture de la session extraordinaire du parlement de la CEDEAO sur la transhumance et les conflits intercommunautaires dans les pays membres.

C'est la première fois que

le Libéria accueille le séminaire parlementaire régional réunissant des États membres anglophones et francophones.

Mme Taylor a indiqué qu'«il est nécessaire que la CEDEAO investisse plus de temps, de ressources et d'énergie dans ses efforts pour éliminer les

barrières imaginaires, les différences perçues comme irréconciliables, ainsi que pour encourager les dirigeants à mettre en place des systèmes de gouvernance transparents qui dissiperont les suspensions et les accusations mutuelles qui génèrent l'intolérance, la haine et engendrent la

violence».

Elle a rappelé que les agriculteurs et les éleveurs ont coexisté pendant des siècles et ont entretenu des relations mutuellement bénéfiques et que, pour ce faire, ils ont tous deux généré une richesse énorme et l'interdépendance économique nécessaire pour promouvoir le développement socio-économique.

Madame Taylor, qui fut elle-même sénatrice au Libéria, a déclaré que les conflits entre éleveurs nomades, agriculteurs et populations riveraines sur le continent semblaient faire de plus en plus de victimes. Elle a ajouté que depuis 2018, des milliers de personnes seraient mortes et des milliers d'autres seraient déplacées dans la région centrale du Nigéria, dans la région centrale du Mali, à la frontière entre le Mali et le Niger, dans la région de Tillabery au Niger et dans certaines parties de la Corne.

Le Représentant spécial du Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO au Libéria, l'Ambassadeur Tunde Ajisomo, a pour sa part fait observer que bien que les conflits violents semblent diminuer dans certains États membres, la vague d'insurrections, de banditisme, d'enlèvements et de terrorisme constatée dans la région du Sahel et dans d'autres pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest envoie des signaux alarmants quant à la réapparition des problèmes internes et des conflits violents régionaux.

L'Ambassadeur Ajisomo a également rappelé que la question de la transhumance et des conflits intercommunautaires en Afrique de l'Ouest est l'un des défis majeurs auxquels la sous-région est confrontée depuis un certain temps.

«Compte tenu de son caractère omniprésent, on est tenté de se demander quelles sont les causes et les moteurs du problème de la transhumance et des conflits intercommunautaires», a-t-il affirmé.

Selon lui, des experts ont évoqué les problèmes de pressions démographiques et démographiques croissantes; la concurrence entre éleveurs et agriculteurs pour l'accès à l'eau et aux pâturages, ainsi que l'expansion des activités agricoles; problème du changement climatique et de la variabilité aiguë et de l'imprévisibilité des précipitations; l'augmentation de la prolifération des armes à feu a également intensifié le malentendu entre agriculteurs et éleveurs et entraîné la mort l'un de l'autre; la concurrence pour des ressources naturelles rares; les politiques locales et nationales, en particulier les gouvernements locaux et les gouvernements n'ont pas réussi à trouver une solution durable pour la coexistence des agriculteurs et des éleveurs, notamment en ce qui concerne le faible respect de l'état de droit; et plus important encore, la faiblesse et parfois la non-application des Protocoles et règlements de la CEDEAO sur la transhumance de 1998 et 2003, qui définissent les rôles et les responsabilités des États membres de la CEDEAO et de la Commission dans la mise en œuvre du Protocole.

Le Président de la chambre des Représentants du Libéria, Bholaf Chambers, a ajouté que les efforts de l'organe régional visant à créer une synergie socioéconomique entre les citoyens de la CEDEAO devaient prendre en compte les valeurs de ceux-ci.

Il a également attiré l'attention de la commission sur la nécessité de tenir compte de la sociologie de la sous-région, qui va des traditions aux économies respectives en passant par les prescriptions qui accompagnent leur bien-être.

La vice-présidente Taylor devrait également présider le Forum des femmes parlementaires de la CEDEAO, tandis que le président George Manneh Weah s'exprimera officiellement lundi devant la deuxième session extraordinaire du Parlement de la CEDEAO en tant qu'invité d'honneur.



Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor

Xénophobie en Afrique du Sud : hué au Zimbabwe, le président Ramaphosa s'excuse

Le président sud-africain Cyril Ramaphosa a été hué samedi au Zimbabwe lors des obsèques de Robert Mugabe après les récentes émeutes dirigées contre des étrangers qui ont secoué son pays et a présenté ses "excuses" en assurant que ses compatriotes n'étaient "pas xénophobes".

Alors qu'il s'apprêtait à rendre hommage à l'ancien maître du Zimbabwe dans un stade de la capitale Harare, M. Ramaphosa a été longuement sifflé et conspué par la foule qui assistait aux obsèques.

"Je me tiens ici devant

vous comme un frère africain, qui exprime ses regrets et présente ses excuses pour ce qui s'est passé dans mon pays", a lancé M. Ramaphosa après avoir pu reprendre son discours.

Au début du mois, l'Afrique du Sud a été secouée pendant plusieurs jours par une vague d'émeutes et de pillages dirigées en priorité contre les habitants et les commerces des étrangers, principalement dans sa plus grande ville Johannesburg.

Ces violences ont fait au moins 12 morts, dont une majorité de Sud-Africains, et

causé d'importants dégâts.

"Les Sud-Africains ne sont pas xénophobes" Plusieurs millions de Zimbabwéens (les statistiques officielles n'existent pas) ont fui la répression et la crise économique qui sévissent dans leur pays pour se réfugier en Afrique du Sud.

"Ce qui s'est passé en Afrique du Sud va à l'encontre du principe d'unité du peuple africain pour qui le président Mugabe, Nelson Mandela (...) se sont battus", a indiqué M. Ramaphosa.

"Je me tiens ici devant vous (...) pour vous dire que nous travaillons très dur pour encourager notre peuple à accueillir toute la population des pays africains", a-t-il poursuivi, "les Sud-Africains ne sont pas xénophobes, ils n'ont rien contre les citoyens des autres pays".

Première puissance industrielle du continent, l'Afrique du Sud accueille des millions de migrants en quête de paix ou d'emplois.

Dans les townships pauvres, ces étrangers, souvent en situation irrégulière, tiennent de nombreux petits commerces et occupent des emplois sans qualification pour des salaires très bas que refusent la plupart des Sud-



Africains.

Nourries par le fort taux de chômage et la pauvreté, les

tensions entre communautés y sont vives et virent

Articles traduits

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Français

Éditorial

Gabriel Nyenkan devrait se retirer honorablement de la LEITI

S'il y a une chose très honorable que M. Gabriel Nyenkan, chef du secrétariat de l'Initiative de Transparence des industries extractives du Libéria (LEITI), doit faire pour empêcher que le Libéria soit radié de la liste des organismes mondiaux, c'est de se retirer.

M. Nyenkan, accompagné de policiers armés, a pris ses fonctions à la tête de la LEITI de force en 2018, à la suite de sa nomination par le président Weah, en violation flagrante du chapitre 6.3d de l'organisation de 2009.

Depuis son ascension, l'administration dirigée par Nyenkan a été marquée par des erreurs et des événements négatifs continus qui ont miné l'indépendance de l'entité et miné la confiance des parties prenantes dans ses activités et ses opérations.

Un groupe libérien d'intégrité, à savoir le Centre pour la transparence et la responsabilité, a appelé cette semaine le président George Manneh Weah à annuler la nomination illégale de M. Gabriel Nyenkan à la tête du secrétariat de la LEITI et à permettre au groupe de pilotage multipartite (MSG) de recruter de manière indépendante un nouveau chef du secrétariat de la LEITI et d'autres membres clés du personnel « afin de contribuer à restaurer le caractère sacré et l'image déclinante de cette institution », a dit CENTAL dans un communiqué de presse publié mardi 10 septembre.

Nous nous associons à CENTAL pour appeler le président Weah et M. Nyenkan lui-même à renoncer pour des raisons d'intégrité et de meilleures pratiques internationales. Il peut servir le gouvernement à d'autres postes.

Comme le soulignait CENTAL dans son communiqué de presse, la LEITI a été et reste un pilier essentiel du système d'intégrité du Libéria et doit être autorisée à jouer de manière indépendante ce rôle essentiel pour aller de l'avant.

« Depuis la nomination de la direction actuelle, en violation du Chapitre 6.3e de la Loi LEITI de 2009, la LEITI a été submergée par des controverses et une sous-performance flagrante. Le changement illégal de direction et la fuite des cerveaux au sein de l'établissement,

provoquée par des changements importants et injustifiés du personnel, ont empêché l'institution de publier son rapport pour l'exercice clos le juin 2016 dans le délai imparti le 1er juillet 2018 », indique le communiqué.

Récemment, une délégation de l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives (ITIE) a averti que le Libéria risquait d'être rayé du processus du groupe si « des mesures correctives importantes » n'étaient pas mises en œuvre à temps pour relancer l'institution et améliorer la gouvernance du secteur extractif.

Ce qui n'est pas fait légalement n'est pas correct du tout. Il est temps que le gouvernement du Libéria accepte la réalité et permette à la procédure normale de nomination du chef du secrétariat de la LEITI afin de se conformer au reste de l'organe mondial.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jasmine M. El-Gamal

L'unité arabe existe-t-elle encore ?

BEYROUTH - Historiquement, la tâche consistant à promouvoir le multilatéralisme au Moyen-Orient a longtemps incombé à deux institutions : d'une part la Ligue des États arabes, large alliance de collaboration autour des questions politiques, économiques et culturelles, et d'autre part le Conseil de coopération du Golfe (CCG), principalement chargé des problématiques économiques. En dépit de plusieurs différences dans leur histoire, leurs axes de travail et leurs membres, ces deux organes sont censés faire office de garants de l'unité arabe autour de questions majeures - telles que l'opposition à Israël - tout en prévenant les conflits entre États membres.

Pendant plusieurs décennies, le conflit israélo-palestinien a rallié les pays arabes derrière la cause commune de la défense de statut d'État de la Palestine. Mais depuis les soulèvements du Printemps arabe de 2011, trois considérations beaucoup plus clivantes occupent le devant de la scène : menace perçue en provenance de l'Iran, propagation du terrorisme régionale, et montée en puissance de l'islam politique (ou islamisme).

Ces évolutions ont rompu un certain nombre d'alliances traditionnelles, et créé des modèles de coopération multilatérale beaucoup plus flexibles dans la région. La politique occidentale au Moyen-Orient - en particulier celle des États-Unis - est par ailleurs de nature à renforcer cette tendance.

Premièrement, les gouvernements arabes sunnites considèrent l'influence et les activités régionales de l'Iran comme une menace fondamentale pour leurs intérêts. L'hostilité croissante entre d'un côté l'Arabie saoudite, les Émirats arabes unis, et de l'autre l'Iran, vient ainsi éclipser l'opposition traditionnellement partagée par ces pays à l'encontre d'Israël. Constat sans précédent, un certain nombre de gouvernements arabes travaillent désormais étroitement avec Israël pour contrer la menace iranienne. Cette coopération, qui s'opère principalement en coulisses, a éclaté au grand jour en février 2019 lors de la conférence américaine « anti-Iran » organisée à Varsovie, que le Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu a salué comme une avancée majeure dans les relations arabo-israéliennes. Ces liens sont voués à se renforcer à mesure que l'Arabie saoudite et l'Iran poursuivront leur compétition stratégique et leur confrontation par procuration dans la région.

Deuxièmement, la menace du terrorisme djihadiste au Moyen-Orient a été aggravée par les violents conflits de Syrie et de Libye, et s'est depuis manifesté sous forme de nombreux attentats en Égypte, en Tunisie, en Jordanie et dans d'autres pays, éprouvant ainsi la Ligue arabe, et dressant ses États membres les uns contre les autres. Lorsque le dirigeant libyen Mouammar Kadhafi, par exemple, a violemment réprimé la révolte populaire dans son pays en 2011, la Ligue a réagi en suspendant la Libye de l'organisation, ainsi qu'en soutenant activement le renversement de Kadhafi par l'OTAN et les forces rebelles libyennes plus tard cette année-là.

Peu après, les membres de la Ligue arabe ont

condamné le président syrien Bachar el-Assad pour son appui au terrorisme dans la région, et exclu la Syrie de l'organisation. Aujourd'hui, la Ligue se montre divisée sur la question du statut de membre de la Syrie. Plusieurs États arabes sunnites s'y opposent vivement, faisant valoir qu'Assad aurait permis à l'Iran d'étendre son influence dans la région, et renforcé les milices chiites telles que le Hezbollah au Liban, ce qui représenterait une menace directe pour leurs régimes. Par opposition, les gouvernements d'Irak et de Tunisie appellent publiquement au rétablissement du statut de membre de la Syrie.

Enfin, la montée de l'islam politique au lendemain du Printemps arabe - y compris les victoires électorales remportées par les islamistes dans des pays tels que l'Égypte et la Tunisie - vient accentuer les divisions régionales. Redoutant une poussée islamiste, les autorités d'Égypte, d'Arabie saoudite et des Émirats arabes unis ont mené un effort soutenu et coordonné pour endiguer l'influence croissante de groupes tels que les Frères musulmans dans la région. L'illustration la plus frappante réside dans le coup d'État menée par l'armée égyptienne en 2013 pour renverser Mohamed Morsi, membre des Frères musulmans et premier président démocratiquement élu à la tête du pays. Les États arabes se sont montrés divisés sur la question du renversement de Morsi, l'Arabie saoudite et les Émirats arabes unis soutenant la démarche, contre la vive opposition du Qatar.

Ces trois problématiques ont non seulement fracturé la Ligue arabe, mais également divisé un CCG axé sur les considérations économiques. Décision majeure, l'Arabie saoudite, le Bahreïn, les Émirats arabes unis, ainsi que l'Égypte pourtant extérieure au CCG, imposent un blocus politique et économique au Qatar depuis 2017, faisant valoir que le pays soutiendrait le terrorisme dans la région, et laisserait sa capitale, Doha, servir de refuge aux islamistes en exil. Les liens étroits qu'entretient le Qatar avec la Turquie et l'Iran constituent également une source de tensions dans la région.

L'effondrement du multilatéralisme traditionnel au Moyen-Orient a coïncidé avec un changement marqué dans l'approche américaine au sein de la région, sous la conduite du président Donald Trump. Son prédécesseur, Barack Obama, soutenait vivement le multilatéralisme et la formation de coalitions, ce qui a permis la conclusion de l'accord de 2015 sur le nucléaire iranien, ainsi que l'intervention militaire menée plus tôt par l'OTAN en Libye. Par opposition, Trump exprime fièrement son mépris pour les institutions multilatérales, et préfère négocier avec des partenaires (ou adversaires) proches de sa vision, dans un cadre purement bilatérale. L'opposition ferme de Trump à l'égard de l'Iran conduit par ailleurs le président américain à aligner pleinement les États-Unis avec le bloc anti-Iran de la région.

L'approche de l'administration Trump accentue la probabilité de voir les gouvernements arabes continuer de coopérer avec des alliés régionaux spécifiques autour de problématiques clés, plutôt que de tenter de forger un plus large consensus au sein de la Ligue arabe et du CCG. D'ores et déjà limitées, les perspectives d'une unité arabe sont ainsi vouées à diminuer encore davantage.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Russia and Ethiopia Need to Catch Up



By Kester Kenn Klomegah

“There is a need to catch up. We agreed to hold meetings regularly,” Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a media conference after diplomatic talks with his counterpart, Gedu Andargachew in Moscow. According to official reports, Lavrov and Andargachew held wide-ranging talks that were constructive and substantive, and focused on broadening cooperation between Russia and Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is one of Russia’s main partners in Africa for over 120 years. The traditions of friendship, mutual respect, trust and support that have developed over this period of time and make up the basis of relations today. Both countries are tied by years of solidarity with the African countries in their fight for independence and decolonization. The creation of the African Union headquartered in the capital of Ethiopia,

Addis Ababa, was the culmination of the decolonization processes in Africa.

Throughout their partnership, they have gained extensive experience in mutually beneficial cooperation that meets the interests of both countries in various areas. As a result, Lavrov said they both agreed to stimulate the work of the joint economic commission and to encourage it to implement joint investment projects across a variety of fields, including energy, such as hydrocarbon energy, hydroelectric energy and nuclear energy.

They further noted the importance and interest of companies such as Rosatom, Inter RAO, GPB Global Resources, Russian Railways, KAMAZ and UAZ in working in Ethiopia.

There is a potential for cooperation between

Russia and Ethiopia in science and education. Russia pledged to support biological research under the Joint Russian-Ethiopian Biological Expedition, which has been operating there for more 30 years.

Many Ethiopian students study at Russian universities, including civilian universities and those operated by the Defence Ministry and the Interior Ministry. Russia will expand this practice. And at the request from the Ethiopian government, Moscow will conduct two specialized courses for Ethiopian diplomats at the Foreign Ministry’s Diplomatic Academy next year.

With regard to other promising areas of interaction, which has a rich history, include military-technical and military cooperation. Ethiopian Minister of National Defence, Aisha Mussa, took part in the talks as part of the delegation. Discussion was about agreeing on additional regulatory documents that will allow more to promote effectively cooperation in supplying military equipment and in other areas.

Lavrov and Andargachew exchanged views on regional and global questions. “We are on the same page on most issues, consistently advocate for strengthening fair and democratic principles of international relations, and searching for collective answers to large-scale challenges and threats, and respecting the right of each nation to independently determine its future,” top Russian diplomat said.

With regard to the African countries and the African continent, Lavrov and Andargachew strongly support the idea that Africans should have the decisive role in deciding on the paths to resolve African problems. There is no alternative to resolving these crises, or crises in any other part of the world, through peaceful political means, while relying on an inclusive national dialogue. The situation in Africa and the goals that need to be vigorously addressed in order to overcome several crises and conflicts, primarily, on the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and Somalia.

More documentary details cont'd from page 5

J2 INVESTMENT CORPORATION
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Implementing Section: **ADMINISTRATION**
Voucher No: **8**
Date: **4-Jan-19**

INTERNAL DISBURSEMENT VOUCHER

Office of Origin: **FINANCE**

Pay to the Order of: **CT.COM LIBERIA LIMITED**
ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND UNITED STATES DOLLARS ONLY.

Amount in Words: **ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND UNITED STATES DOLLARS ONLY.**

Purpose: **Share of fees on consulting services provided through a consortium to china Union (Liberia) being mines on social development fund**

Description	Check No./Cash	Amount \$USD	LD\$
Share of fees on consulting services provided through a consortium to china Union (Liberia) being mines on social development fund			
CT.COM LIBERIA LIMITED	Cash	1,155,000.00	
005219711036			155,000
70102			1,000,000
02844069			
Total		1,155,000.00	0.00

Prepared by: *[Signature]*
Signed: *[Signature]*
Date Posted: **Thursday, June 5, 2019**

Received from J2 the sum in check 1.155 m USD

J2 INVESTMENT CORPORATION
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Implementing Section: **ADMINISTRATION**
Voucher No: **11**
Date: **9-Jun-19**

INTERNAL DISBURSEMENT VOUCHER

Office of Origin: **FINANCE**

Pay to the Order of: **CT.COM LIBERIA LIMITED**
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND UNITED STATES DOLLARS.

Amount in Words: **ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND UNITED STATES DOLLARS.**

Purpose: **Being Payment for fees sharing for a consultancy provided through a consortium for China Union (Liberia) being Mines Limited since November 2018**

Description	Check No./Cash	Amount \$USD	LD\$
Being Payment for fees sharing for a consultancy provided through a consortium for China Union (Liberia) being Mines Limited since November 2018			
CT.COM LIBERIA LIMITED		179,000.00	
Total		179,000.00	0.00

Prepared by: *[Signature]*
Signed: *[Signature]*
Date Posted: **Wednesday, June 5, 2019**

AND RESPONDENT

His Honor J. Kennedy Peabody, Stipendiary Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court, also of the City of Monrovia, Liberia, ... 2ND RESPONDENT

AND

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF PROHIBITION

Guaranty Trust Bank (GT Bank) Liberia Limited, by and thru its General Manager and all Coporate Officers, all of the City of Monrovia, Liberia ... 3RD RESPONDENT

AND

All Commercial Banks by and thru their General Managers and all of their Coporate Officers of the City of Monrovia, Liberia, having accounts in the name of Petitioners, also of the City of Monrovia, Liberia ... 4TH RESPONDENTS

By directive of His Honor Joseph N. Nagbe, Associate Justice presiding in Ct are hereby cited to a conference with His Honor on Friday, August 9, 2019, at the 10 p.m., in connection with the above captioned case.

Meanwhile, the order of Co-respondent Magistrate J. Kennedy Peabody dependent GT Bank is hereby ordered lifted.

Kind regards,

Very truly yours,
[Signature]
Atty. Sam Mamalu
CLERK, SUPREME COURT, R.L.

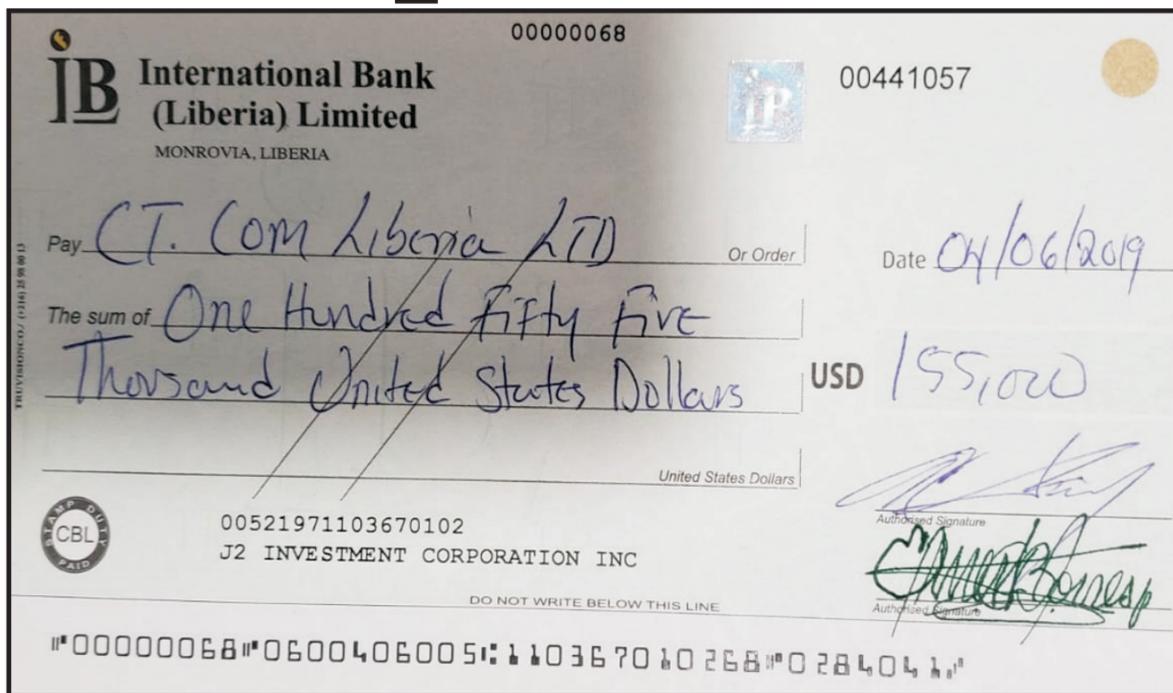
Who chops what?

Liberian entrepreneur Christopher Hayes Onanuga, owner of CT Com Liberia has been talking. He says the Minister of State, Mr. Nathaniel McGill and National Security Chief Sam Sayon are among key government officials who have hatched up plans to rob him of his dully earned money which was a commission his consultancy firm received from China Union, just to divide it among themselves.

The amount in question is being put at US\$1.9m out of US\$4m, which the government now claims was fraudulently earned by Mr. Onanuga and therefore, has ordered that his account at GT Bank in Monrovia be frozen for alleged money laundering.

But this paper independently learned that the amount in question is actually US\$700, 000 and the government wants to close out Mr. Onanuga.

The matter has since been before the Supreme Court of Liberia, after Mr. Onanuga took the matter before the superior court for redress and has even threatened to go before the ECOWAS court.



But as if the threats issued by Mr. Onanuga, who is also a tourism expert were not enough, Liberia's Solicitor General Seymah Cyrenius Cephus, held a press conference last week in Monrovia and announced that an indictment was out against the former, who is presently in the U.S., seeking medical attention. In fact, The Solicitor-General claims there is an indictment and an arrest

warrant out for him.

However, in an interview with this paper Sunday, September 15, Mr. Onanuga described as untrue allegations levied against him by Cllr. Cephus and claims that the Ministry of Justice has launched an investigation into the matter.

"Not a word was true in the Solicitor General's press conference and I am going to mess them up," Mr. Onanuga

said.

"I am responding tomorrow. He says I continued to move account right and center and that there is a writ of arrest for me. Yet he says until I am arrested, the indictment

cannot be opened, which should be true. But he went ahead to state how my account was frozen with \$1.9m. I never ever got that," he fumed.

Mr. Onanuga said allegations that he even has an account at UBA or United Bank of Africa Liberia Limited is also untrue. "He said I moved monies from my account in UBA to my account in GT Bank; I never own any kind of account in UBA."

"I do not have more than one and it is not personal, but company. He says I have several fraudulent accounts in GT Bank - since checks were deposited in GT Bank [by] CT Com Liberia, it has been right there." He said.

He denied that there is an arrest warrant out for him, saying how can there be a writ of arrest when there is no investigation.

Meanwhile, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is still tight-lip on the issue as both government and Mr. Onanuga spilled their beans in the open. **See documentary details on page 5.**

Weah prioritizes war crimes court

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President George Manneh Weah has submitted the final recommendations from the just-ended National Economic Dialogue (NED) to the House of Representatives, seeking legislative advice for the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia.

"As President of the Republic of Liberia, I am committed to a holistic implementation of the national consensus and do hereby call on the Liberian Legislature to advise and provide guidance on all legislative and other

necessary measures towards the implementation of the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] report, including the establishment of the Economic and War Crimes Courts," Weah says in a communication to the House.

The letter under the signature of President Weah was read in the plenary of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill Friday, 13 September in Monrovia.

Among its recommendations, the National Economic Dialogue chaired by Liberia's former Foreign Minister and Economist Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh recently urged the establishment of a War and

Economic Crimes Court here.

Ahead of the dialogue called by President Weah, demand for the establishment of the court has been one of key subjects for series of protests here.

But the regime of President Weah has been reluctant to agree on the subject because one of its key political allies, Nimba County Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson, a former rebel general is vehemently opposed to the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court.

Under his watch, Samuel Kanyon Doe was brutally murdered during the civil crisis here.

However Sen. Johnson is not alone in the Legislature, because Liberians continue to award hardened war criminals with lucrative political powers.

According to President Weah's letter, the accountability for past human rights violations are essential ingredients for sustaining and achieving inclusive development.

The letter notes that the national consensus under the peace building and reconciliation thematic strategy, recommended the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, including the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Courts.

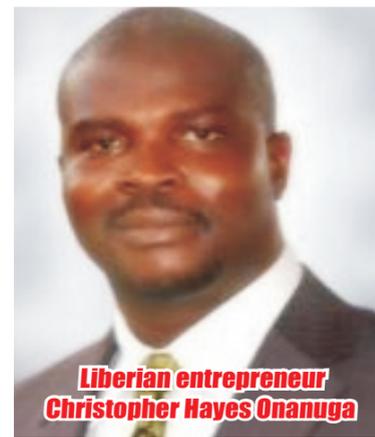
Further, Mr. Weah informs



Minister of State, Mr. Nathaniel McGill



Solicitor General Seymah Cyrenius Cephus



Liberian entrepreneur Christopher Hayes Onanuga



the House that the United Nations has drawn the Liberian government's attention to two sets of amendments to the Rome Status of the International Criminal Court including the War Crimes Amendment and Crimes of Aggression Amendment.

He points out that the NED presented to the Government of Liberia an unprecedented 'national consensus on the revival and growth of the Liberian economy', aimed at forestalling the declining economic trends and rejuvenating a gradual and steady economic growth pattern in Liberia.

According to President Weah, the economic dialogue identified four key thematic strategies that require immediate and medium term action to revive and grow the

Liberian economy.

He says they include the public finance mobilization and management; investment and private sector growth; unemployment and skills development, and peace building and reconciliation.

The National Economic Dialogue was held in Monrovia from September 4 to 6 2019, with over 350 concerned participants from the three branches of government, political parties, institutions of higher learning, youth, women, development partners, civil society organizations and international experts.

The participants deliberated on the present economic and monetary challenges of the country.—**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Gabriel Nyenkan sacked



President George Manneh Weah has finally sacked controversially seated head of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), former Rep. Gabriel Nyenkan who took office using armed police to dethrone the then sitting LEITI head of secretariat Mr. Konah Karmo.

“Meanwhile, the Liberian Leader has directed the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) to replace Mr. Gabriel Nyenkan,” the Executive Mansion says in a statement.

On being appointed to the position by President Weah, Mr. Nyenkan with the backing of armed police officers, eagerly ousted his predecessor Mr. Karmo who

was still serving his term, ignoring public outcry against the president’s decision.

However, President Weah has urged the Committee to follow all procedures, including a competitive vetting process, to find the new LEITI’s Head of Secretariat.

LEITI was created by an act to support government’s effort in promoting transparency and accountability over the management of revenues from Liberia’s extractive resources, ensuring that all citizens benefit from such resources.

Meanwhile, President Weah has appointed Mr. Gabriel Nyenkan as Advisor on Communications to the Presidency.

The Executive Mansion says Mr. Nyenkan’s appointment takes effect as of Monday, 16 September.

Nyenkan joins a team of communicators working with the Presidency that include a Director of Communications, a Press Secretary and Deputy Press Secretary, among many other staff.

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BI-WEEKLY	\$ 10	3.5GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 12	4.5GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 20	7.5GB	14 DAYS
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BI-WEEKLY	\$ 35	12GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 50	18GB	14 DAYS
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Neymar jeered but scores stunning late winner on PSG return

Neymar shrugged off a hostile reception from unhappy fans as he marked his return to action with Paris Saint-Germain for the first time in four months with a stunning injury-time winner from an overhead kick to hand his side a 1-0 victory against Strasbourg on Saturday.

The Brazilian’s first appearance since the transfer window closed without him getting his

desired move back to Barcelona looked set to be best remembered for the hostile reception handed to

him by PSG supporters.

But with the game in the second minute of added time and the French champions



unable to break the deadlock, Abdou Diallo crossed from the left and Neymar, with his back to goal, sent the ball arcing over his own head and into the net off the post.

It was a remarkable goal and a reminder of why PSG paid a world record 222 million euros (\$264 million at the time) to sign Neymar two years ago. It also moved them three points clear at the top of the Ligue 1 table.

He had not played for his club

since May and had been left on the sidelines in their first four league games of the campaign because of the uncertainty surrounding his future.

However, having been resigned to a third season in the French capital, he was handed a start by coach Thomas Tuchel here, and loud jeers greeted his name as the teams were read out before kick-off.

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