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# Weah questions UN



**P11**

Pres. Weah



**P11**

Cllr. Aloysius Toe

# Economic criminals!

**-Opposition ANC charges Lawmakers**

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# Continental News

## Brother of deposed Algerian president jailed

The brother of Algeria's deposed former president has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for conspiring against the state and undermining the military.

Said Bouteflika was widely seen as the real power behind the presidency after his older brother, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, suffered a stroke in 2013. Two former secret service chiefs and a political party head were also sentenced after the two-day trial.

President Bouteflika was ousted in April following pro-democracy protests. The defendants were detained in May during a wave of arrests targeting the former president's inner circle. The ailing ex-leader is in a residence west of Algiers, and is not expected to face trial. The current authorities in Algeria have promised to bring what they call President Bouteflika's "gang" to justice, the BBC's Ahmed Rouaba says.

This trial is designed to show that the government is serious about fighting corruption at the highest



Said Bouteflika was a key figure among Algeria's leadership until President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was ousted

level, our reporter adds. The charges related to an alleged meeting between Said Bouteflika and his co-defendants in March. He was accused of conspiring with two secret service leaders, Gen Mohamed Mediene and Gen Athmane Tartag, and the head of The Workers' Party, Louisa Hanoune.

They were said to be considering declaring a state

of emergency and firing the army chief, Gen Ahmed Gaid Salah, as protests against the president were mounting. Said Bouteflika, who is in his early 60s, rose to fame after his brother suffered a stroke in 2013.

He became a key link between the ailing president, the military and the government.

Although he did not have a

formal position, he was known as a senior adviser and the opposition media labelled him the "Vice-King".

But Said Bouteflika was very discreet and never gave a media interview. Nevertheless he was known for being a Trotskyite, and Workers' Party leader Louisa Hanoune, who was jailed with him, is a close friend. Gen Salah remains the head of the armed forces and is considered to be the most powerful man in the country, but the speaker of parliament's upper house, Abdelkader Bensalah, is the interim president. Both men held senior posts in the former government. Nevertheless,

they say they are committed to dealing with alleged corruption under President Bouteflika. Several former cabinet ministers, political leaders and businessmen linked to the ousted leader have also been detained. But the authorities have not yet held a presidential election that would pave the way to the return of constitutional rule. They have called one for 12 December.

Protesters, who are still taking to the streets every Friday, have rejected elections under the current government, and are calling for the removal of all officials associated with the Bouteflika regime. BBC

## Italy migrant cleared of fine for sweeping local street

A local council in northern Italy has cancelled a fine imposed on a Nigerian migrant for sweeping streets without permission.

The unemployed 29-year-old, named Monday, had decided to clean streets in the Venice suburb of Mestre instead of begging passersby for money.

He initially received a €350 (\$383; £309) penalty. But protests led officials to withdraw it.

migrant had swept up "leaves that block the drains every time it rains, cigarette butts and all the rubbish that we civilised citizens throw on the ground." "Woe betide a poor chap who tries to integrate himself," he added.

Monday's actions reportedly drew police attention after complaints from residents. But the fine was withdrawn after police received four phone calls from other local residents who



Police withdrew the fine after it drew complaints from residents and prompted an online appeal

The fine also prompted an online appeal to raise money to pay it.

"I would like to integrate myself honestly in your society without asking for alms," he wrote on a cardboard sign, displayed nearby while he swept. "I will keep your street clean and ask only a contribution for my work." In a Facebook post, Matteo D'Angelo - who started the online appeal - said the

defended him.

Authorities said the fine had been given by officers who were new and inexperienced. Immigration continues to be a controversial issue in Italy, where thousands of migrants have arrived in recent years.

Last week, Italy and France called for a new system to automatically redistribute migrants across the European Union. BBC

## Ethiopia says 1,200-plus killed in unrest over past year

The office of Ethiopia's attorney general says more than 1,200 people have been killed and more than 1.2 million displaced in clashes in the country over the past year. The clashes, mostly along ethnic lines, have continued to strain the

reforms announced by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed after he took office in April 2018. Fikadu Tsega with the attorney general's office told The Associated Press on Wednesday that they believe the actual numbers could be higher as "these are the ones that we only were able to document."

He says the office has pressed charges against more than 1,300 people, with some 645 now in police custody. Several parts of Ethiopia have experienced deadly unrest fueled by ethnic tensions and disputes over resources. The country faces elections next year. AFP



The protests follow the death of a young man of Ethiopian origin who was killed by an off-duty police officer in Kiryat Haim near the Israeli city



# EDITORIAL

## War Crimes Court is better for Liberia

**PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH'S** preference for dialogue thru "Palava Hut" mechanism, rather than establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia as he reiterated in his speech before the 74th General Assembly of the United Nations Wednesday, 25 September demonstrates his unwillingness to stamp out culture of impunity and promote justice in the country.

**WHY LIBERIANS FROM** all walks of life, including chiefs and traditional leaders, religious leaders and key stakeholders are expressing support for such court as was contained in recommendations from the recent National Economic Dialogue in Monrovia, the President seems to be playing game with an issue that hinges on the forward march of Liberia.

**THE PRESIDENT HAS** the audacity to ask the General Assembly why the clamor for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia has become so loud under his administration as if he were blind to the heinous atrocities that were committed during the Liberian Civil War.

**NO WONDER WHY** one of the key actors of the atrocities and a prime suspect for war crimes Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, is now jubilating and expressing support for President Weah's so-called consultative dialogue with lawmakers at the Capitol on the question of war crimes court, because he knows full well the exercise is a mere publicity stunt that is meant to defeat any honest effort to have such court in place.

**ONE MAY EVEN** ask whether the President's preferred "Palava Hut" mechanism is different from public hearings already conducted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Liberia at which warlords testified and defended their actions from the civil war with some expressing no remorse.

**PRESIDENT WEAH STRESSES** the need to agree on a mechanism that would guarantee sustenance of peace, stability, justice, and reconciliation, while enhancing prospects for economic recovery, but what other surest mechanism is there to guarantee such atmosphere if not justice in a competent court where alleged perpetrators would have an opportunity to prove their innocence and walk away with pride.

**THE PRESIDENT AND** all those against the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia should look next door Sierra Leone to see the benefit of going thru such exercise. It attracts not just confidence from international partners, but promotes foreign investments, stability and serves as deterrence to others who might think of taking up arms and returning to the bushes for so-called liberation.

**DESPITE RECENT WAVE** of calls coming from both within government and outside for such, we are beginning to deduce that both the Legislature and the Judiciary presided over by ruling party loyalists would thwart any sincere effort for such court.

**BUT THE RULING** Coalition for Democratic Change-led government should realize that it has a lot to gain by endorsing the establishment of a war crimes court under its watch. It should therefore, do the honorable thing by taking the path of justice against impunity.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

By Nouriel Roubini

## Four Collision Courses for the Global Economy

*Between US President Donald Trump's zero-sum disputes with China and Iran, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's brinkmanship with Parliament and the European Union, and Argentina's likely return to Peronist populism, the fate of the global economy is balancing on a knife edge. Any of these scenarios could lead to a crisis with rapid spillover effects.*

**N**EW YORK - In the classic game of "chicken," two drivers race directly toward each other, and the first to swerve is the "loser." If neither swerves, both will probably die. In the past, such scenarios have been studied to assess the risks posed by great-power rivalries. In the case of the Cuban missile crisis, for example, Soviet and American leaders were confronted with the choice of losing face or risking a catastrophic collision. The question, always, is whether a compromise can be found that spares both parties their lives and their credibility.

There are now several geo-economic games of chicken playing out. In each case, failure to compromise would lead to a collision, most likely followed by a global recession and financial crisis. The first and most important contest is between the United States and China over trade and technology. The second is the brewing dispute between the US and Iran. In Europe, there is the escalating brinkmanship between British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the European Union over Brexit. Finally, there is Argentina, which could end up on a collision course with the International Monetary Fund after the likely victory of the Peronist Alberto Fernández in next month's presidential election.

In the first case, a full-scale trade, currency, tech, and cold war between the US and China would push the current downturn in manufacturing, trade, and capital spending into services and private consumption, tipping the US and global economies into a severe recession. Similarly, a military conflict between the US and Iran would drive oil prices above \$100 per barrel, triggering stagflation (a recession with rising inflation). That, after all, is what happened in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War, in 1979 following the Iranian Revolution, and in 1990 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

A blowup over Brexit might not by itself cause a global recession, but it would certainly trigger a European one, which would then spill over to other economies. The conventional wisdom is that a "hard" Brexit would lead to a severe recession in the United Kingdom but not in Europe, because the UK is more reliant on trade with the EU than vice versa. This is naive. The eurozone is already suffering a sharp slowdown and is in the grip of a manufacturing recession; and the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, and Germany - which is nearing a recession - do in fact rely heavily on the UK export market.

With eurozone business confidence already depressed as a result of Sino-American trade tensions, a chaotic Brexit would be the last straw. Just imagine thousands of trucks and cars lining up to fill out new customs paperwork in Dover and Calais. Moreover, a European recession would have knock-on effects, undercutting growth globally and possibly triggering a risk-off episode. It could even lead to new currency wars, if the value of the euro and pound were to fall too sharply against other currencies (not least the US dollar).

A crisis in Argentina could also have global consequences. If Fernández defeats President Mauricio Macri and then scuttles the country's \$57 billion IMF program, Argentina could suffer a repeat of its 2001 currency crisis and default. That could lead to capital flight from emerging markets

more generally, possibly triggering crises in highly indebted Turkey, Venezuela, Pakistan, and Lebanon, and further complicating matters for India, South Africa, China, Brazil, Mexico, and Ecuador.

In all four scenarios, both sides want to save face. US President Donald Trump wants a deal with China, in order to stabilize the economy and markets before his re-election bid in 2020; Chinese President Xi Jinping also wants a deal to halt China's slowdown. But neither wants to be the "chicken," because that would undermine their domestic political standing and empower the other side. Still, without a deal by year's end, a collision will become likely. As the clock ticks down, a bad outcome becomes more likely.

Similarly, Trump thought he could bully Iran by abandoning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and imposing severe sanctions. But the Iranians have responded by escalating their regional provocations, knowing full well that Trump cannot afford a full-scale war and the oil-price spike that would result from it. Moreover, Iran does not want to enter negotiations that would give Trump a photo opportunity until some sanctions are lifted. With both sides reluctant to blink first - and with both Saudi Arabia and Israel egging on the Trump administration - the risk of an accident is rising.

Having perhaps been inspired by Trump, Johnson naively thought that he could use the threat of a hard Brexit to bully the EU into offering a better exit deal than what his predecessor had secured. But now that Parliament has passed legislation to prevent a hard Brexit, Johnson is playing two games of chicken at once. A compromise with the EU on the Irish "backstop" is still possible before the October 31 deadline, but the probability of de facto hard-Brexit scenario is also increasing.

In Argentina, both sides are posturing. Fernández wants a clear electoral mandate, and is campaigning on the message that Macri and the IMF are to blame for all the country's problems. The IMF's leverage is obvious: if it withholds permanently the next \$5.4 billion tranche of funding and ends the bailout, Argentina will suffer another financial collapse. But Fernández has leverage, too, because a \$57 billion debt is a problem for any creditor; the IMF's ability to help other distressed economies would be constrained by an Argentinean collapse. As in the other cases, a face-saving compromise is better for all, but a collision and financial meltdown cannot be ruled out.

The problem is that while compromise requires both parties to de-escalate, the tactical logic of chicken rewards crazy behavior. If I can make it look like I have removed my steering wheel, the other side will have no choice but to swerve. But if both sides throw out their steering wheels, a collision becomes unavoidable.

The good news is that in the four scenarios above, each side is still talking to the other, or may be open to dialogue under some face-saving conditions. The bad news is that all sides are still very far from any kind of agreement. Worse, there are big egos in the mix, some of whom might prefer to crash than be perceived as a chicken. The future of the global economy thus hinges on four games of daring that could go either way.



STATEMENT  
BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE  
SEVENTY-FOURTH (74th) REGULAR SESSION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK, USA  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Mr. President;

Mr. Secretary General;

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Heads of Delegations;

Ambassadors;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored to address this 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on behalf of the Government and People of Liberia.

Before I begin my address, I would like to ask you to kindly join me to observe a moment of silence for the deaths of 28 young scholars who died last week in a tragic fire in Liberia.

**[MOMENT OF SILENCE]**

Thank you. May Their Souls Rest in Perfect Peace.

I would also like to thank the large number of you who shared our grief and loss by sending us condolences through personal telephone calls and social media. God bless you for your compassion.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate His Excellency Professor Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, on his election as President of the Seventy-fourth (74TH) Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. President, your election is not only an honor to you and the Government and People of Nigeria; it is also an honor for West Africa and the African continent at large. We are convinced that you will lead this august body successfully, and fulfill the expectations and the confidence reposed in you.

I wish to assure you of Liberia's fullest support in the discharge of your duty. Permit me also to congratulate your predecessor, Her Excellency Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, for the astute manner in which she administered the affairs of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly.

Let me also pay special tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, for his enthusiasm and personal dedication to the work of the United Nations, and for ably steering its affairs. Your far-sighted leadership qualities continue to keep the United Nations focused on its objectives in the face of daunting challenges.

**MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

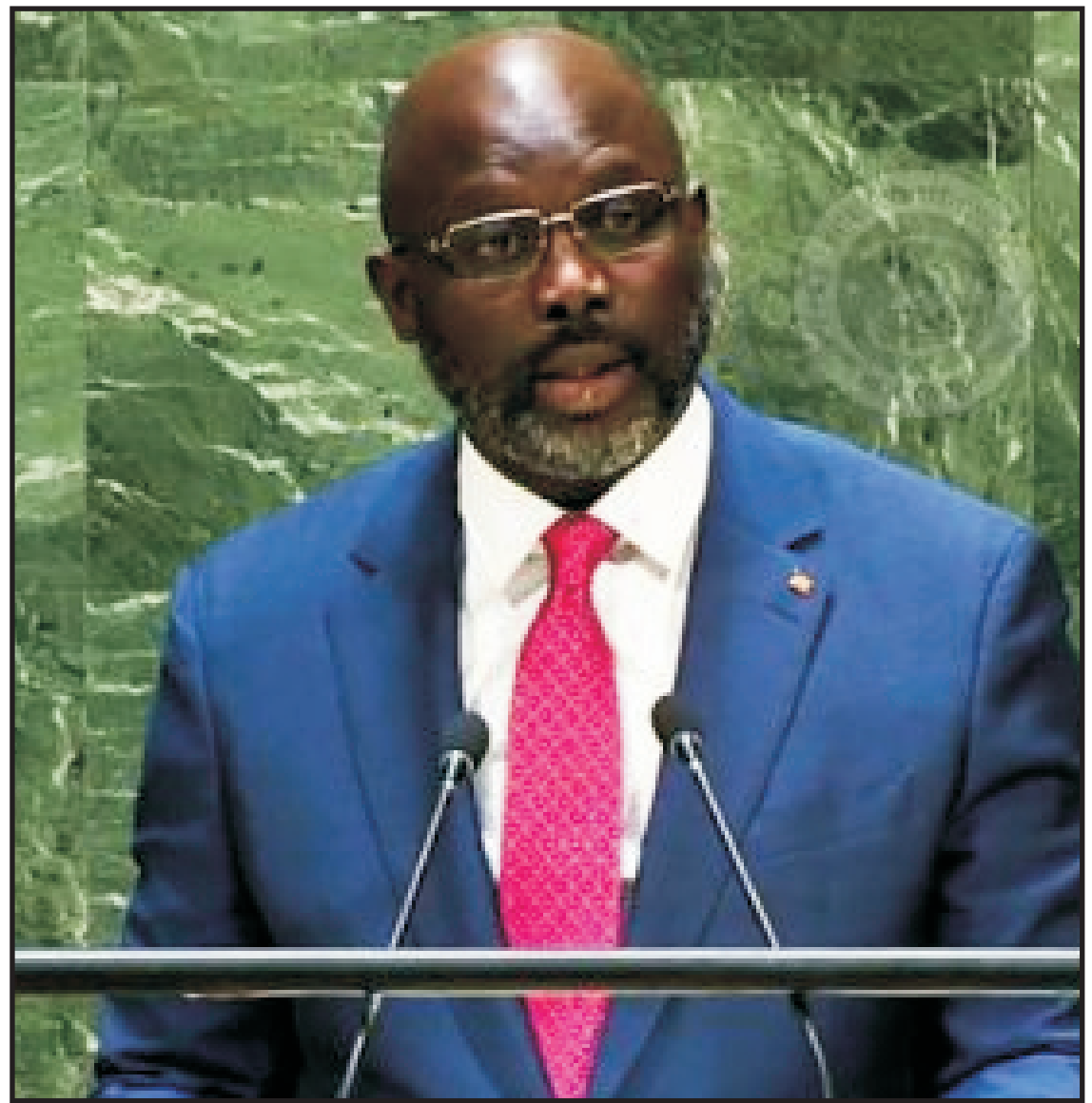
As I have acknowledged on many occasions, Liberia is a UN success story. After being devastated by a brutal civil conflict that lasted for 14 years, peace was restored and maintained by what was then the largest peace-keeping force in the history of this organization. Under the auspices of the UNMIL peace-keepers, Liberians enjoyed sixteen (16) years of unbroken peace.

Mr. President, we are pleased and grateful for the efforts and sacrifices made by them to secure our peace. When the peace-keeping force was withdrawn two years ago, the responsibility for maintaining peace in Liberia was passed on to the Liberian Government.

This is a responsibility to which I attach the greatest importance, because without peace, our world will be difficult. We are all aware of the terrible destruction of lives and properties caused by civil war.

However, long after the guns have been silenced, the survivors have to live with the collateral damage of the war-wounded, the shattered families, the displaced populations, the resettlement of refugees, and all the other negative consequences of a national socio-economic fabric that has been torn apart.

Since I assumed the leadership of my country almost two years now, I have remained focused on my charge to ensure that peace prevails in Liberia. At that



time, we committed ourselves to upholding our constitutional mandate, which is to ensure that all the democratic rights of our citizens would be guaranteed and protected.

I am proud to say that I have kept this promise; and our country is today a beacon of democracy in Africa, where freedom of the press, freedom of expression, freedom of association and other political and democratic rights are respected, under the rule of law.

The political environment remains vibrant, with political actors and parties freely exercising their franchise and participating in various elections. Mr. President, I am delighted to report that there are no political prisoners in Liberia, and existing laws that hindered or threatened press freedom have been de-criminalized.

Several protests have taken place from time to time, all of which have ended peacefully, and have been welcomed by my Government, as a positive manifestation of our democratic maturity.

This is the democracy for which our country has yearned; this is the freedom for which our people have struggled and suffered; and this is the emancipation for which many of our citizens have paid the ultimate price.

However, we are beginning to witness the emergence of a creeping threat to our democratic space, and to our hard-won peace and stability. Some individuals, within and out of our country, particularly those who have lost democratically-held elections, have resorted to incitement, threats of violence, misuse of social media, and hate speech, with the aim and objective of achieving power through undemocratic means.

This is unacceptable, and must not be encouraged by those who would wish Liberia well. For democracy to thrive, all Liberians, including both the ruling parties and the opposition parties, must respect the rule of law, and abide by the procedures and regulations prescribed therein.

As the leading opposition party in Liberia during the past 12 years, our Party, the Congress for Democratic Change, accepted the disputed results of the two previous Presidential Elections, in 2005 and 2011, in the interest of peace.

Nevertheless, throughout those two terms, we continued to engage the government of the day in a constructive manner, even accepting to serve as Peace Ambassador when called upon to assist them to maintain the peace under their regime.

We must all learn to respect the mandates of the electorates, even when that mandate is not in our favor, and not be selective in our support for democracy only when we win.

**MR. PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

The Liberian civil conflict came to an end when all parties and warring factions signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Accra, Ghana, in August, 2003.

The Accord called for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), to provide a forum that would address issues of impunity, as well as an opportunity for both the victims and perpetrators of human rights violations to share their experiences, in order to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation.

The TRC was duly established, concluded its hearings, and produced a final report in 2009. Among other things, the report called for the establishment of an extraordinary criminal

**Cont'd from page 10**



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia, Qatar dialogue on key sectors

By Winston W. Parley

A high level Qatari Delegation in Liberia has met with Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor and heads of some key institutions including Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs Ministry of Finance and National Aids Commission to ascertain what are the priority areas where the State of Qatar can make intervention.

The Delegation which was also due to meet with authorities at Education and Youth and Sports on Wednesday, 25 September, is headed to Monrovia by the Head of Qatar Fund for Development Samer R. Frangieh.

Receiving the Delegation at her office, Madam Taylor hailed the Qatari's visit, saying it's always good for a delegation to come out and see firsthand what the issues are, what the cooperation could be and how a mutually inclusive relationship can be developed and provide opportunities at both levels.

She says the Qatari Delegation's meeting with the Ministry of Education, Health Care and Public Works are very critical aspect of



what "we hope" the final arrangements will be.

"We have a lot of other natural resources, but again if we don't bring our people up to a level where they need to be in terms capacity building, then all the other things somehow slip away," she remarks.

She thanks the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the work done that has brought the discussion to this level, and hopes that there will be a

report on the Delegation's impression and what the interactions have been so that they can be taken to the President's office.

Acting Liberian Foreign Minister Henry Fahnbulleh informs Vice President Taylor that the Ministry has been engaged with some of its partners, noting that the State of Qatar has had fruitful discussion with Liberia.

According to him, there is a political consultation pending

and three agreements are supposed to be signed once President George Manneh Weah gives his approval.

He announces plans by the two governments to move from strategic plans to real practical action, and further details that at the close of the visit, a plan of action will be conceptualized and presented to the President and the Vice President.

For his part, the Head of Qatar Fund for Development Samer R. Frangieh says the purpose of the Delegation's visit here is to open a dialogue with relevant stakeholders and understand from them firsthand what the needs that can be supported are.

He reveals that the Qatari have in their strategies certain layers that range from education to health and economic empowerment, among others.

Speaking through an interpreter earlier, Qatar's Ambassador to Liberia spoke of the friendly ties between his country and Liberia which have resulted to signing of lot of agreements and cooperation.

Qatari Foreign Minister and Head of the Delegation to Liberia Hamad Mohamed Al-Rumaihi acknowledged the fruitful engagements between the two governments, and expressed hope that the engagement with their Liberian counterparts will be translated into reality.

Earlier, the Delegation met with the National Aids Commission (NAC) at the Ministry of Gender, where the Commission's Chairperson Madam Theodosia Kolee made a powerpoint presentation which highlighted progress and challenges in the sector.

Madam Kolee disclosed to the Qatari Delegation that there are 39,000 people living with HIV in Liberia.

Out of that number, she says there are 36,000 adults, with women dominating. She notes that there are 14,000 men and 3,000 children living with the virus.

On a yearly basis, Madam Kolee reveals that there are 1,900 new HIV infections for the past ten years, naming Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Margibi Counties as the high burden areas.

Besides the three counties cited as high burden areas, Madam Kolee says Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland are the next in line in terms of HIV prevalence.

Meanwhile, the NAC chair says the Commission wants to reduce HIV by 75 percent, revealing that the Commission seeks to ensure that people tested positive of HIV get on treatment.

Given the need for resources to boost the NAC's efforts, Madam Kolee says the sustainability plan is to construct a multi-purpose building which could be used to generate funds from conferences and programs.

"So the next slide you will see is just how we're looking at the multiple purpose building, if [Qatar] can come and help us construct this building that will be a plus," she says.

In response, the Head of Qatar Fund for Development Samer R. Frangieh told Madam Kolee that the Delegation will report to the central government of Qatar on how the people of Liberia can get help in priority areas.

Once Qatar approves, he says the very agencies that the Delegation has met with here will be contacted.

## DKT Liberia observes contraception week

DKT (DrakumahKamahTyia) Anglophone West Africa in collaboration with the Family Health Division of the Ministry of Health and the Swedish Embassy near Monrovia is observing weeklong contraception awareness in the country beginning with two days training on post-abortion care for over 20 skilled healthcare providers.

The training, which ended Tuesday, 24 September was conducted by a South African,

VeziMakalima, Regional Sales Consultant for Southern Africa.

Country Manager Antonio Turcott says DKT Anglophone West Africa with office in Accra, Ghana is introducing new family planning products for the Liberian market, including Kiss Condoms and Fiesta Lubes at affordable prices.

Mr. Turcott explains that the program was officially launched on 5 September 2019 in Mamba Point, Monrovia, graced by UNFPA,

the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, and the Liberia Midwives Association, among other partners.

He says the target is to train about 870 health care providers in Liberia and engage in vigorous public education, working with the Ministry of Education, Street Child, and school authorities to provide family planning education, particularly to the youth.

"This training will educate them on contraceptive methods and offer quality family planning services that will have impact on the youth, because 60 percent of the Liberian population is youth who are future of the country", notes Country Manager Turcott.

Liberia faces challenges of teenage and unwanted pregnancies characterized by prevalence of school dropouts and maternal mortality, including single parenthood. The situation is rapidly worsened by rape and other forms of sexual and gender based violence.

"We are creating family planning awareness in representative communities for behavioral change", he adds.

Available statistic shows

that one in every three (1in 3) Liberian teenagers have experienced a pregnancy whether wanted or not.

DKT Anglophone West Africa is currently active in six of Liberia's 15 counties, including Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong, Nimba and Lofa, respectively.

It has scheduled three-day post-abortion care training, beginning Wednesday to Friday, this week at Redemption Hospital in the Borough of New Kru Town, Bushrod Island.

Mr. Turcott also says there will be sex education talks at TM-Mall, among other public education activities on family Planning methods and contraceptive products DKT has brought for the Liberian market.

The company has a Call Center in Monrovia that the public may contact for advice and education thru Lone Star Cell MTN #5585.

DKT Anglophone West Africa expanded its reach to serve Sierra Leone and Liberia in 2018 and DKT Ghana generated 642, 761 couple years of promotion in Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Contraceptive prevalence in the three countries ranks from 23 percent (Ghana), 20 percent (Liberia) and 16.5 percent (Sierra Leone), respectively.

In Liberia, it is the most comprehensive supplier of Family Planning commodities, including condoms, EC, OCP, Implants, IUD, MVA Kit, Misoprostol tablets and Combipacks. **-Story by Jonathan Browne**





# 60,000 housing units' construction insight

## -NHA discloses

By Emmanuel Mondaye

National Housing Authority (NHA) Managing Director Madam Celia Coffey Brown has disclosed here that the construction of housing units for low income earners has kicked off in the country.

She made the disclosure in an interview with reporters on 25 September at the Monrovia City Hall during the 7th Program Steering Committee of Cities Alliance.

According to Madam Coffey Brown, the company that is supposed to build the 60,000 housing units has already constructed 300 units in the Towel Hill Community and 500 in Schefflin.

According to the NHA boss, her office is expected to convene a special housing forum that is meant to bring together investors, stakeholders and bankers.

Madam Coffey Brown explains that the forum is aimed at educating people that are expected to take these houses on the means by which investors can get their money that has been invested in the project.

Madam Brown did not disclose when

the construction of the housing units is expected to be completed, but she says the construction is taking place within three months of her ascendancy as NHA's Managing Director.

Madam Coffey Brown asserts that as the economy here gets better, the NHA hopes to construct more housing units to ensure that all Liberians can acquire one for their comfort.

Meanwhile, there were several presentations made at the 7th Program Steering Committee of Cities Alliance held at the Monrovia City Hall by the government and partners.

The presentations included the midterm evaluation of preliminary findings by Mr. Miyonga Jonathan; YMCA Liberia; Cities Alliance CUF project by Fred Abankwa and Federation of Petty Traders and Informal Workers Union of Liberia.

Other presentations were made by Habitat for Humanity International Affordable Housing by Mr. Ndoté Mathew as well as Cities Alliance -Capacity Building by Ms. Yonkeh Moore; Cities Alliance-Solid Waste Management services and waste to energy by Mr. Christian Yeakula, among others.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Qatar pledges

Starts from backpage

Section of Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Al-Rumaihi said the mission is meeting with Ministries and Agencies which are critical to the socio-economic development of the country. He said the team is assessing key sectors including health, education, infrastructure, disaster management, budget support, youth and women empowerment and human development projects. He said the Government of Qatar is determined to assist Liberia, but they want know the areas of possible intervention.

During the visit, Minister Sirleaf briefed the delegation on the critical needs of the Ministry, including support to Liberia Decentralization Support program (LDSP), the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and the Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO) among others. There were PowerPoint presentations highlighting the specific priority needs. He also emphasized the need for investments in agriculture.

The Internal Affairs Minister commended President George Manneh Weah upon whose invitation the delegation is in Liberia, saying, the visit signifies the good bilateral relationship existing between Liberia and Qatar which is solidified by the high-level friendship between President Weah and his Qatari counterpart.

Honorable Sirleaf believes that the visit and actual realization of the findings of the assessment will further strengthen growth of the already cordial relationship.

He thanked His Excellency Ali Sylla, Head of Mission of Liberia in the State of Qatar for being instrumental in arranging the trip which represents a strong support to the achieving the national vision, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). Honorable Sylla is accompanying the delegation here.

Also speaking, Ali Sylla, Head of

Mission of Liberia in the State of Qatar promised to do all in his power to encourage interventions in Liberia. Honorable Sylla commended the Liberian team for the reception and openness during the meetings.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Liaqat Amin Satti, Strategic Advisor and Deputy Chief Executive Officer and the Honorable Fahad Rashed Al-Mereikhi, Acting Charge D'Affairs of the State of Qatar in Liberia.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's activities ended with a dinner at a local hotel in Monrovia called by the Qatari Embassy. The dinner was attended by Dr. Bhofal Chambers, Speaker of the House of the Representatives. In remarks Speaker Chambers said the Qatar mission signifies what Qatar stands for. He said the partnership being nurtured between the two nations and peoples will go a long way.

At the same time, Acting Foreign Minister Honorable Henry B. Fahnbulleh called on both Liberian and Qatari teams to continue the engagements and said it was now time to transition from talking to action.

Tuesday, September 24 marked the second day of the delegation's interactions with government entities since they arrived over the weekend.

Entities visited already include the Ministries of foreign Affairs, State for Presidential Affairs, Finance and Development planning, Commerce, Gender, Education and Health. Others are the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Disaster Relief Agency, Youth and Sports, and National Fisheries among others.

The delegation is expected to meet with Vice President Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, National Aids Control Program, Maritime, Transport Ministry, National Port Authority, Transit Authority, Liberia Airport Authority as well as UNICEF and UNDP. The release concluded.



## FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS OVER THE REMAINS OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER, SISTER, DAUGHTER, WIFE, COUSIN, GRANDMOTHER, MRS. CYNTHIA NENYI DAVIES - GONGAR WHO WENT TO BE WITH THE LORD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 AFTER A PROTRACTED ILLNESS ARE AS FOLLOWS: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 THE BODY SHALL ARRIVE ONBOARD THE KENYA AIRWAYS FLIGHT AT ABOUT 3:00 P.M. AND SHALL BE TAKEN TO THE ST. MOSES FUNERAL PARLOUR ON THE SOMALIA DRIVE, BUSHROD ISLAND.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019 THE BODY SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE ST. MOSES FUNERAL PARLOUR AT THE HOUR OF 8:00 A.M. AND SHALL BE TAKEN TO THE A. P. CAMPHOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CLARATOWN, BUSHROD ISLAND.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE SHALL COMMENCE THESAME DAY AT 9:00 A.M AT THE A. P. CAMPHOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CLARATOWN, BUSHROD ISLAND.

INTERMENT SHALL FOLLOW THEREAFTER AT THE KAISER MEMORIAL CEMETERY IN BREWERVILLE.

THE DECEASED LEAVES TO MOURN HER LOSS HER CHILDREN, WARD AND SEVERAL GRANDCHILDREN:

MS. TRACY MONEH APPLETON  
MRS. BRENDA APPLETON-SENDOLO  
MR. ERASMUS DADDY APPLETON  
MS. JULIAN LITTLEGIRL APPLETON  
MR. LEO KAITHY APPLETON

MR. BADIO GOE

MS. ESTHER GONGAR  
MRS. MAI WILLIAMS COLE  
MR. RODNEY N. KOFFA

HER BROTHER AND SISTER:

MR. HENRY KOFFA AND MRS. SARAH DAVIES-KENNEDY AND A HOST OF OTHER RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WITHIN LIBERIA AND THE USA.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS BROUGHT IN BY THE APPLETON, DAVIES, GONGAR, SETTRO, WHETIE PORTEA FAMILIES ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY.



# Français

## Enfin, les salaires des sénateurs révélés

Le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon du comté de Montserrado a rendu public le salaire et les avantages des sénateurs libériens, brisant ainsi la tradition du secret du Capitol Hill, qui protège les informations officielles sur les énormes revenus du législateur.

M. Dillon a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse tenue le mardi 24 septembre à Capitol Hill que chaque sénateur touche un salaire brut de 15 325 dollars américains et 29 700 dollars libériens comme salaire de base, dont 3 175 dollars US pour le remboursement des frais de transport, et 2 150 USD en espèces pour l'essence.

M. Dillon a déclaré qu'il n'accepterait, quant à lui, que 5 000 dollars US comme salaire mensuel et que le reste de l'argent serait restitué aux populations du

comté de Montserrado et ferait en même temps pression sur ses collègues pour qu'ils fassent de même.

Le pays est aux prises avec de graves contraintes financières, mais au cours des années, les législateurs ont

caché leurs salaires et ignoré les pressions du public.

Le pire, c'est que les fonctionnaires reçoivent un salaire minable tandis que les élus reçoivent plus que ce dont ils ont besoin dans une économie aussi difficile, où le

gouvernement recherche des dons étrangers et des subventions en continu pour des projets.

Les choses se sont passées ainsi avant le régime du président George MannehWeah, mais cette nouvelle administration n'a pas trouvé le moyen pour convaincre les législateurs afin de réduire leurs revenus.

Selon M. Dillon, le lundi 23 septembre, il a reçu du président du Sénat libérien, le sénateur Morris Saytumah, du comté de Bomi, une copie manuscrite des informations relatives à sa rémunération et à ses avantages.

Le sénateur du comté de Montserrado a déclaré qu'il était nécessaire que tous les sénateurs réduisent leurs salaires et redonnent à la population libérienne afin de les aider à améliorer leurs conditions de vie et tous les secteurs.

Dillon estime que le salaire de chaque législateur est très élevé au regard des difficultés économiques auxquelles sont confrontées les populations.

« Si chacun des 103 législateurs ici présents peut rendre 10 000 dollars, nous générerons et économiserons 1,3 million de dollars chaque mois et plus de 20 millions de dollars par an », a déclaré M. Dillon.

« Nous pourrions investir cet argent dans le secteur de la santé pour le moderniser et le rendre gratuit ou très abordable pour notre population. Nous pourrions faire de même dans le secteur de l'éducation, améliorer les

écoles publiques et les rendre gratuites », a-t-il ajouté.

« Mais ils prennent tous les 15 000 USD et les mettent dans leurs poches, pendant que le peuple qui leur a donné le pouvoir continue à mendier ».

Répondant aux préoccupations concernant la voiture de 40 000 USD que lui a fournie le gouvernement, M. Dillon a expliqué que le véhicule avait été acheté lorsque la regrettée sénatrice à laquelle il a succédé, Mme Geraldine Doe - Sheriff, était encore en vie.

Au sénateur Dillon de révéler que la voiture avait été achetée au nom de la sénatrice Doe, mais lors de son entrée en fonction, elle lui a été remise. Il indique que la voiture est une propriété du gouvernement et que c'est pour le bureau du sénateur.

Dillon a fait valoir que si quelqu'un remporte les élections sénatoriales à mi-mandat l'année prochaine, il utilisera la voiture, concluant qu'il ne la rendra pas comme l'exigent certaines personnes dans certains milieux.

Selon Dillon, la voiture sera utilisée pendant trois ans et s'il remporte les élections sénatoriales en 2020, il l'utilisera jusqu'à la fin des trois années.

« Si je rends la voiture, je serai contre la politique du gouvernement et je ne pourrai pas vendre la voiture car ce n'est pas ma propriété personnelle. Si je le fais, j'aurai volé », a indiqué le sénateur Dillon. Il a aussi déclaré qu'il n'apas encore reçu d'argent dans le cadre de la séance supplémentaire et que se cela arrive, il tiendrait le peuple informé.



## Océans et changement climatique : la « triple peine » de l'Afrique

Les conclusions du dernier rapport du Groupe international des experts sur le climat (Giec) sur les océans et sur les zones gelées terrestres sont inquiétantes. La pollution abîme les mers et les océans

les pêcheurs.

Selon le dernier rapport du Groupe international des experts sur le climat (Giec), en raison de l'acidification des océans, l'Afrique va subir une importante baisse de la

posera problème aux pêcheurs et à tous ceux qui se nourrissent de poissons.

Selon Ludovic Frère-Escoffier, responsable du programme « Vie des océans » pour WWF France, cette baisse importante des stocks



plus gravement et plus rapidement que prévu. Que ce soit les cyclones, l'élévation du niveau de la mer ou encore l'acidification des océans : tous les indicateurs sont au rouge. Sur le continent africain, les conséquences sont très concrètes, notamment pour

nourriture des poissons, le phytoplancton, dans les eaux tropicales. Cela aura un impact sur les stocks de poissons qui pourraient diminuer de près de 40%, selon les spécialistes. Les poissons chercheront des conditions plus favorables en migrant vers le nord, ce qui

de poissons va déstabiliser l'économie des pays côtiers d'Afrique, d'autant plus, comme il le rappelle, que certaines régions souffrent déjà de la surpêche, que ce soit en raison de l'exploitation illégale des océans par des pays riches, mais aussi parce qu'il y a finalement trop de

petits pêcheurs.

Hausse du niveau de la mer  
Il s'agit donc de la triple peine pour ces pays côtiers d'Afrique, surtout si l'on ajoute les autres problèmes liés au changement climatique comme l'élévation du niveau de la mer qui pourrait être proche d'un mètre si le réchauffement climatique dépasse les 3°C.

La hausse de la mer a de multiples conséquences. Les nappes phréatiques deviennent inutilisables pour

l'irrigation, parce que l'eau devient salée. Des zones entières vont devenir inhabitables. Et comme une grande partie des côtes de l'Afrique est faite de sable, ces côtes sont très vulnérables.

Le changement climatique entraîne aussi une augmentation des vagues de chaleur en mer qui pourrait être multipliée par cinquante et qui entraînent des catastrophes comme les cyclones et les ouragans.

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# Français

## Éditorial

### Harmonisation salariale : Les fonctionnaires libériens saignent à profusion

Tout porte à croire que l'harmonisation des salaires fait plus de mal que de bien aux employés de la fonction publique. Certains fonctionnaires n'ont pas encore touché leur salaire depuis trois ou quatre mois, tandis que d'autres subissent une réduction considérable de leur salaire, affectant sérieusement leur pouvoir d'achat. La question est si sérieuse que les travailleurs de la santé ont entamé un mouvement de grève sur toute l'étendue du territoire national.

Bon nombre de personnes pleurent silencieusement vu les inconvénients et les difficultés auxquels ils sont obligés de faire face dans le cadre cette malheureuse harmonisation.

Même le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, n'a pas pu expliquer en termes claires ce que c'est cette harmonisation quand il est comparu devant le Sénat récemment. A noter que cet exercice a commencé depuis juillet sans que personne s'y attendait.

Le Sénat avait ainsi demandé au ministre Tweah de suspendre immédiatement l'harmonisation et de rétablir le salaire intégral de chacun des employés concernés, en attendant l'adoption du projet de budget national qui fait actuellement l'objet d'examen au parlement.

Mais il semble que le ministre a refusé d'obéir d'autant plus qu'un nombre considérable des membres du personnel des ressources humaines de divers ministères et agences se pressent chaque jour au ministère des Finances avec la liste de leurs employés qui ont été affectés par ce processus peu scrupuleux initié par Samuel Tweah.

Et ce qui est atroce et frustrant, c'est que ni le ministre Tweah ni le ministère des Finances n'a publié de déclaration visant à rassurer les employés concernés que le pourcentage de leur salaire mensuel réduit leur sera restitué, conformément aux instructions du Sénat.

De plus, certains employés, principalement des agents de santé et des enseignants, n'ont pas reçu de salaire depuis deux ou trois mois. Qu'est-ce qui est responsable du retard de paiement, car ce sont des employés qui ont été sur la liste de paie officielle bien des années avant l'harmonisation problématique des salaires ?

Pourquoi le ministère des Finances ne peut-il pas attendre que le projet de budget national soit adopté conformément aux recommandations du Sénat ? Pourquoi est-il si difficile pour le gouvernement de payer ses employés à partir de la masse salariale normale ?

Nous ne reprochons pas aux agents de santé du pays d'avoir fait la grève, car ils ont non seulement faim, mais ils sont aussi frustrés. Leur revenu disponible ne peut pas mettre du pain sur la table pour leurs familles respectives.

Le gouvernement doit agir de toute urgence dans cette situation pour apaiser les tensions parmi la population active du fait de cette action du ministre des Finances. L'économie est très mauvaise, le dollar libérien s'est fortement déprécié et les prix ont monté en flèche. Le citoyen ordinaire dans la rue a besoin de secours.

Si la prétendue harmonisation des salaires visait en premier lieu à rapprocher ces employés de la tranche inférieure, pourquoi entamer un processus pareil sans procéder à une sensibilisation ? Le ministre Tweah devrait retrouver son ancienne masse salariale et verser aux fonctionnaires la totalité de leur salaire, en attendant l'adoption du budget national avant la mise en œuvre de l'harmonisation.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Nouriel Roubini

### Quatre trajectoires de collision pour l'économie mondiale

NEW YORK - Dans le défi classique du face à face entre automobiles, deux conducteurs foncent directement l'un vers l'autre. Le premier à faire un écart finit perdant. Si aucun des deux ne donne un coup de volant, les protagonistes risquent la mort. Plusieurs scénarios de ce type ont été étudiés par le passé afin d'évaluer les risques soulevés par les rivalités entre grandes puissances. Lors de la crise des missiles de Cuba, les dirigeants soviétiques et américains ont ainsi été confrontés à un choix entre perdre la face et risquer une collision désastreuse. La question est toujours de savoir si un compromis peut être trouvé, qui permettrait aux deux camps de préserver leur vie et leur crédibilité.

Plusieurs confrontations géoéconomiques de ce type se jouent actuellement. Dans chacun des cas, l'impossibilité de trouver un compromis conduirait à une collision, probablement suivie d'une récession et d'une crise financière au niveau mondial. La première et la plus importante de ces confrontations oppose les États-Unis et la Chine en matière commerciale et technologique. La deuxième réside dans une tension croissante entre les États-Unis et l'Iran. En Europe s'observe une escalade de la stratégie du bord de l'abîme entre le Premier ministre Boris Johnson et l'Union européenne autour du Brexit. Enfin, l'Argentine pourrait bien entrer en collision avec le Fonds monétaire international après la probable victoire du péroniste Alberto Fernández lors de l'élection présidentielle du mois prochain.

Dans le premier cas, une guerre froide totale entre les États-Unis et la Chine sur les fronts commercial, monétaire et technologique propagerait l'actuel ralentissement du secteur manufacturier, des échanges commerciaux et des dépenses en capital vers les services et la consommation privée, plongeant alors les économies américaine et mondiale dans une grave récession. De même, un conflit militaire entre les États-Unis et l'Iran élèverait les cours du pétrole au-dessus de 100 \$ le baril, ce qui déclencherait une stagflation (récession avec inflation croissante). C'est en effet ce qu'il s'est produit en 1973 lors de la guerre du Yom Kippour, en 1979 après la Révolution iranienne, puis en 1990 à l'issue de l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak.

Une explosion autour du Brexit n'engendrerait sans doute pas à elle seule une récession mondiale, mais certainement une récession européenne, qui aurait ensuite des retombées sur les autres économies. La conviction habituelle consiste à considérer qu'un « Brexit dur » conduira à une récession sévère au Royaume-Uni, mais pas en Europe, dans la mesure où le Royaume-Uni a davantage besoin de ses échanges commerciaux avec l'UE que l'inverse. Cette idée est naïve. La zone euro souffre d'ores et déjà d'un net ralentissement, et elle est en proie à une récession manufacturière, de même que les Pays-Bas, la Belgique, l'Irlande et l'Allemagne - qui est proche de la récession - dépendent massivement de leur marché d'exportation au Royaume-Uni.

La confiance des affaires au sein de la zone euro étant d'ores et déjà affectée par les tensions commerciales sino-américaines, un Brexit chaotique lui porterait le coup de grâce. Imaginez que plusieurs milliers de poids lourds et d'automobiles se retrouvent à faire la queue pour remplir de nouveaux formulaires douaniers à Douvres et Calais. Une récession européenne engendrerait par ailleurs des conséquences indirectes, impactant la croissance au niveau mondiale, et déclenchant potentiellement un épisode d'aversion au risque. Elle pourrait même conduire à de nouvelles guerres monétaires, si la valeur de l'euro et de la livre sterling venait à chuter trop fortement par rapport à d'autres monnaies (notamment le dollar américain).

Une crise en Argentine pourrait également avoir des retombées mondiales. Si Fernández venait à l'emporter contre le président Mauricio Macri, et sabordait ensuite le programme de 57 milliards \$ du FMI pour le pays, l'Argentine pourrait revivre sa crise monétaire et son défaut de 2001. Ceci pourrait entraîner plus largement une fuite des capitaux des marchés émergents, et

potentiellement entraîner des crises dans des pays lourdement endettés comme la Turquie, le Venezuela, le Pakistan ou encore le Liban, tout en compliquant la situation pour l'Inde, l'Afrique du Sud, la Chine, le Brésil, le Mexique et l'Équateur.

Dans ces quatre scénarios, aucun des deux camps n'entend pas perdre la face. Le président américain Donald Trump espère un accord avec la Chine, pour stabiliser l'économie et les marchés avant sa tentative de réélection en 2020, de même que le président chinois Xi Jinping souhaite un accord pour mettre un terme au ralentissement de la Chine. Aucun des deux ne veut cependant être celui qui se sera « dégonflé », car cela impacterait sa stature politique au plan national, tout en renforçant l'autre camp. Or, sans accord d'ici la fin de l'année, une collision deviendra probable. L'heure tourne, et la perspective d'une issue regrettable s'accroît.

De même, Trump pensait pouvoir intimider l'Iran en abandonnant le Plan d'action global conjoint, et en imposant des sanctions sévères. Or, les Iraniens ont répondu par une escalade de leurs provocations dans la région, bien conscients que Trump ne peut se permettre une guerre ouverte, avec la montée en flèche des cours du pétrole qui en résulterait. L'Iran n'entend pas non plus entamer des négociations, qui permettraient à Trump de vanter la photographie, tant que certaines sanctions ne seront pas levées. Chacun des camps se refusant à flancher le premier - pendant que l'Arabie saoudite et Israël soutiennent l'administration Trump - le risque d'incident augmente.

Peut-être inspiré par Trump, Johnson pensait naïvement pouvoir user de la menace d'un Brexit dur pour conduire l'UE à lui proposer un meilleur accord de sortie que celui obtenu par sa prédécesseur. Or, le Parlement ayant désormais adopté une législation destinée à empêcher un Brexit dur, Johnson joue la défiance sur deux tableaux à la fois. Un compromis avec l'UE sur la question du filet de sécurité irlandais est encore possible d'ici l'échéance du 31 octobre, mais la probabilité d'un Brexit dur de facto augmente également.

En Argentine, les deux camps en sont au stade de la posture. Fernández aspire à un mandat électoral clair, et fait campagne sur la base du message selon lequel Macri et le FMI seraient responsables de toutes les difficultés du pays. La marge de manœuvre du FMI est sans équivoque : si le Fonds retire définitivement la prochaine tranche de 5,4 milliards \$ de financements, et met fin au sauvetage, l'Argentine connaîtra un nouvel effondrement financier. Mais Fernández dispose lui aussi d'un certain levier, dans la mesure où une dette de 57 milliards \$ constitue un problème pour n'importe quel créancier ; la capacité du FMI à aider d'autres économies en difficulté se trouverait impactée par un effondrement argentin. Comme dans les autres cas de figure, un compromis permettant de préserver les apparences constituerait la meilleure solution, mais une collision et un effondrement financier ne peuvent être exclus.

Le problème, c'est que tandis que le compromis nécessite une désescalade des deux côtés, la logique tactique de ce jeu du tout pour le tout récompense les comportements irresponsables. Si je parviens à faire croire à mon adversaire que j'ai retiré le volant de ma voiture, il n'aura d'autre choix que de s'écarter. Mais si nous jetons tous les deux notre volant par la fenêtre, une collision devient inévitable.

La bonne nouvelle, c'est que dans les quatre scénarios mentionnés, les deux camps se parlent encore, ou sont disposés à accepter le dialogue à certaines conditions permettant de garder la face. La mauvaise, c'est que les protagonistes de toutes ces confrontations sont encore très loin d'une quelconque forme d'accord. Pire encore, des égos démesurés interviennent, dont certains sont susceptibles de préférer la collision à la défaite. C'est ainsi que l'avenir de l'économie mondiale repose sur quatre défis du tout pour le tout, dont tous les dénouements sont possibles.





tribunal to prosecute those identified as having committed gross violations of human rights and economic crimes between 1979 and 2003.

It is important to note that the TRC report also recommended the use of a conflict-resolution mechanism that has been traditionally used in Liberia, called the “Palava Hut” mechanism, whereby, in various district meetings conducted by community elders, perpetrators could publicly request forgiveness from their victims, and where the aims of restorative justice could be served.

When I spoke before you last September, after my first nine (9) months in office, I indicated a preference for dialogue as a conflict-resolution mechanism, so that as a Government and People, we could together focus our efforts on poverty-reduction, growth, and economic development, rather than on retribution.

However, since that time, there has been a rising chorus of voices from many quarters, calling for the establishment of an Economic and War Crimes Court. These voices include not only thousands of war victims, but also some of the alleged perpetrators, who seem to wish to either clear their names or their conscience.

Support for the establishment of the Court has also been voiced by many international organizations, as well as some of our international partners.

Mr. President, we are at a loss to understand why the clamor for the establishment of the Court is now being made, almost a full decade after it was first called for, and during which time no such pressure was brought to bear on the government that grew out of the Accra Peace Accord.

Nevertheless, our Government is a listening Administration, and we have been paying keen attention to the voices of our people. What I have discerned from their cries is that it is important to bring closure to the wounds from the 14 years of Liberia's brutal civil war, and that we need to agree on a mechanism that would guarantee the sustenance of peace, stability, justice, and reconciliation, as well as enhance our prospects for economic recovery.

Considering the importance of this matter, I have already begun consultations with our National Legislature – the representatives of our people - and we intend to have a broader engagement with the Liberia Judicial System, and with our strategic International Partners and Organizations, in order to determine pertinent issues such as legal framework, timing, venue, and funding, among others.

It is my hope that at the end of this consultative process, a National Consensus will evolve, that will determine the pathway to resolving this issue. I therefore ask for your unflinching support, as we embark upon this important national endeavor.

#### **EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

We are gathered here today at a time of uncertainty and heightened tension in global politics, security, and trade. The global economy is also under undue stress, security tension is on the rise in many parts of the world, trade protectionism and climate change both are having unintended consequences especially on developing countries.

Yet, we strongly believe in the ability of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, foster friendly relations among nations, and promote social progress, better living standards, and human rights. We continue to have faith and confidence in the United Nations as the best universal institution to guide the nations of the world in peaceful and harmonious interactions.

The theme of this 74<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, “Galvanizing Multilateral Efforts for Poverty Eradication, Quality Education, Climate Action and Inclusion” certainly reminds us about our responsibility to focus on achieving the purpose of the United Nations in principle and practice. My Government has developed and is implementing a national development plan which supports this theme.

Our “Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) is intended to serve as our compass for reconstruction, development, and modernization. While it gives priority to poverty reduction, it is also intended to support the efforts of middle and upper income Liberians to grow and prosper.

It is equally centered on infrastructure development, road construction, road connectivity, and agriculture. Indeed, the PAPD also emphasizes women and youth empowerment, as well as qualitative education and good healthcare delivery.

However, at this juncture we are beginning to face significant implementation challenges, due to the continued decline in prices of our major exports, revenue shortfalls, and structural imbalances. Increasing inflation and currency depreciation tend to reduce the purchasing power of our citizens, thus placing further burdens on their standard of living.

We have exercised our best efforts as a Government to address these challenges, and will continue to do so. Yet, many of them persist, and are claiming our fullest attention in finding practical solutions to resolve them.

Mr. President, we therefore want to appeal to you for your continuous assistance and expertise. My administration has recently developed a new investment framework of incentives and tax reliefs that will directly benefit the private sector, and we hereby invite the investment community to take advantage of this new opportunity.

We have also taken several other initiatives to address these challenges. For example, we are presently engaged in talks with the IMF with the aim of entering into a program with that Institution.

We are also involved in re-organizing the leadership and the management of our Central Bank to make it more efficient, independent, and responsive to the issues of monetary policy formulation and supervision.

As part of our efforts to ensure an inclusive and participatory dialogue on the problems confronting our economy, including the urgent need to proffer appropriate solutions, we recently initiated a National Economic Dialogue, comprising of all local and international stakeholders. We have taken due note of their recommendations, and have already begun to implement those that are most urgent and pertinent.

#### **MR. PRESIDENT, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

Let me assure you, that Liberia will remain engaged as a responsible member of the international community, on all bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels.

We will continue to work with the United Nations and its organizations to foster peace, security, and harmony among the Nations and Peoples of the world.

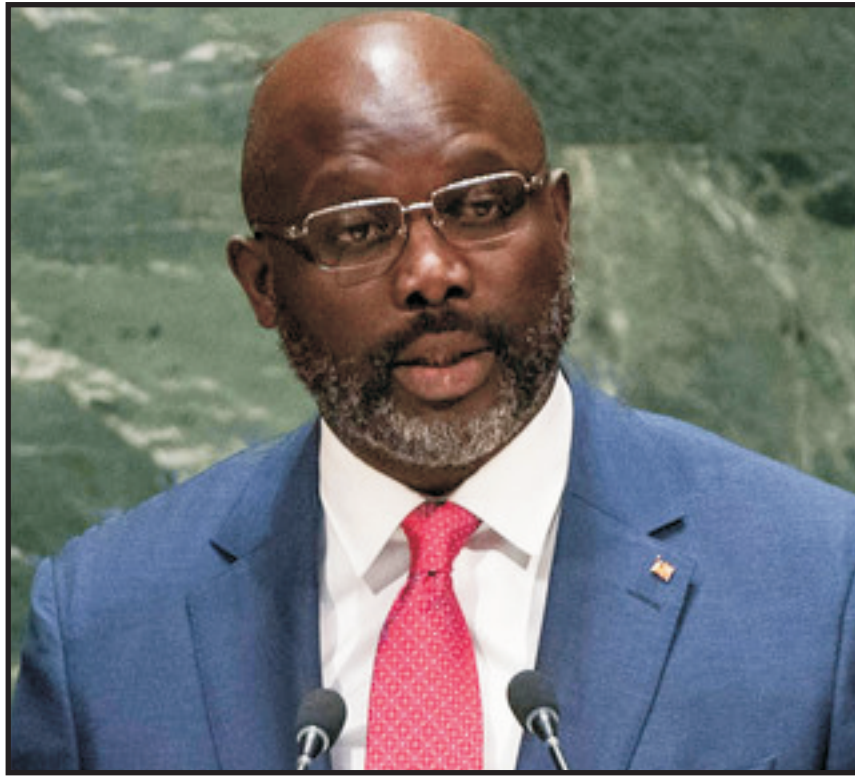
To my fellow Liberians, both at home and abroad, let me say that without peace, there can be no progress or development. All Liberians, therefore, have a responsibility to maintain the peace that we now enjoy, especially those of you who desire to be future leader of Liberia; remember, it was the love of liberty that established us as a country. It was our unity that made us the First Independent African Republic, and it will take our joint efforts to sustain the peace, develop and reconcile our nation and gain economic stability.

**I THANK YOU.**



# Weah questions UN

President George Manneh Weah addressing the 74th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York Wednesday, 25 September questioned the U.N. why the clamor for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia has become so loud under his reign, nearly a decade after it was first called for during which no such pressure was brought to bear on the government that grew out of the Accra Peace Accord.



The 74th General Assembly is being convened on the theme, "Galvanizing Multilateral Efforts for Poverty Eradication, Quality Education, Climate Action and Inclusion."

The comment of President Weah, who recently wrote the Legislature, seeking its advice on the Court, clearly indicates his seeming lack of interest for such institution that seeks to end impunity in

Liberia. Rather, he says he prefers dialogue as a conflict-resolution mechanism over prosecution.

"Mr. President, we are at a loss to understand why the clamor for the establishment of the Court is now being

made, almost a full decade after it was first called for, and during which time no such pressure was brought to bear on the government that grew out of the Accra Peace Accord", asks the World body in his address

However, President Weah describes his government as a listening administration, which has been paying keen attention to the voices of Liberians, saying, "What I have discerned from their cries is that it is important to bring closure to the wounds from the 14 years of Liberia's brutal civil war, and that we need to agree on a mechanism that would guarantee the sustenance of peace, stability, justice, and reconciliation, as well as enhance our prospects for economic recovery."

He hopes that at the end of current consultative process, a National Consensus will evolve that will determine the pathway to addressing the issue, while asking the U.N. for its unflinching support.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has set 3 October for the government to report on implementation of recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and human rights. Among others, the TRC recommends establishment of a war crimes tribunal to prosecute those who bear greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

At the same time, President Weah complains of the emergence of a creeping threat to Liberia's democratic space, peace and stability, detailing, "Some individuals, within and out of our country, particularly those who have lost democratically-held elections, have resorted to incitement, threats of violence, misuse of social media, and hate speech, with the aim and objective of

achieving power through undemocratic means."

He says for democracy to thrive in Liberia, all Liberians, including both the ruling parties and the opposition parties, must respect the rule of law, and abide by the procedures and regulations prescribed therein.

The administration has witnessed a spate of protests with the latest coming from health workers across the country over salary delay and poor working condition. On June 7, an advocacy group, Council of Patriots or COP, staged a peaceful assembly before the three branches of government on Capitol Hill, calling for reforms. The group says it is organizing another protest, this time around, to ask President to step down.

The President rather paradoxically describes the political environment under his administration as vibrant, with political actors and parties freely exercising their franchise and participating in various elections. He boasts of having no political prisoners and de-criminalizing existing laws that had hindered or threatened press freedom in the country.

"Several protests have taken place from time to time, all of which have ended peacefully, and have been welcomed by my Government, as a positive manifestation of our democratic maturity", he adds and notes, "This is the democracy for which our country has yearned; this is the freedom for which our people have struggled and suffered; and this is the emancipation for which many of our citizens have paid the ultimate price."

-Story by Jonathan Browne

# Economic criminals!

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The opposition Alternative National Congress, one of four collaborating parties in the country brands members of the 54th Legislature as "economic criminals" for allocating to themselves fabulous salaries, allowances and benefits, while the economy bleeds and the citizenry wallow in abject poverty.

Speaking to the NewDawn Wednesday, September 25 at the ANC headquarters in Monrovia, national secretary general, Cllr. Aloysius Toe said lawmakers are using the laws to amass wealth at the expense of the people, who elected them to power.

He said, they are using their economic might to perpetuate themselves in

power, and are nothing but economic criminals.

Toe's outburst comes barely a day after opposition Senator Darius Dillon, the newest in the Liberian Senate, disclosed his monthly salary as US\$15,000 besides allowances, gasoline and transportation benefits, among other amenities.

In the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 National Budget, the Legislature appropriated for itself US\$49.2 million against US\$49.3 million for FY-2017/2018 with breakdown as follows: Office of the Senate Pro-Tempore, US\$1.38 million; Office of the Speaker, US\$1.22 million; Office of the Deputy Speaker, US\$0.766 million; Senate Members (including Central Administration and Secretariats) - US\$14.67

million and members of the House (including personal staffers and Central Administration and Secretariats) US\$31.18 million, respectively.

The Speaker receives an allotment of US\$29,700 as special allowance monthly, but is inclusive of his discretionary budget of US\$1.22 million.

"Here [is] the situation where the President of the United States of America, Mr. Donald Trump gets US\$400,000 per annual, divided by 12 months; he gets US\$33,000 per month, with the high cost of living, the president of the world's biggest economy earns such amount; our President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, who got elected by 5,000 people earns US\$29,000 per month, he gets US\$4,000 for gasoline for his home, US\$3,000 for gasoline for his cars, US\$900 for internet, US\$6,000 for domestic allowance, among others," he noted.

Cllr. Toe, who appeared very appalled during the interview, continued, "Our Speaker, Bhofal Chambers who presides over the House is making over US\$300,000 per year, which means Chambers earns US\$30,000 per month, more than US Speaker Nancy Pelosi who earns US\$223,500 per year."

According to him, a medical doctor in Liberia earns US\$2,000 who spent nine months in learning his profession, while Liberian lawmakers, some of them, who he claims cannot even compose, take home



Cllr. Aloysius Toe

US\$15,000, which is unacceptable.

"What kind of country are we running? For about Pro tempore Albert Chie, Speaker Bhofal Chambers and President George Manneh Weah, let's come [down to] ordinary lawmakers, who earn beyond the thinking of Liberians; the government spends 86 percent of revenue generation on salaries and wages, indicating only 14 percent is spent on education, health, road construction and other services," he laments.

Toe argues that in neighboring Sierra Leone, lawmakers earn US\$2,000 monthly, while their Liberian counterparts take home US\$15,000. Sierra Leone national budget is about US\$600 million, while Liberia's budget is little over US\$500 million, but the Sierra Leone government spends more on the population than Liberia.

He adds that Liberian legislators are the third highest earners in Africa, next to Nigeria and South Africa. - Editing by Jonathan Browne



# Qatar pledges support

## -As delegation explores country



The visiting high-powered Qatari delegation currently in Liberia says the team is in the Country to explore and understand the general situations on the ground in order to design basic means of intervention.

"It would have been a good thing to sit in our offices in Qatar's capital Doha and decide what our interventions for Liberia

would be just by reading through the internet and other reports, but we chose to come and have full detail accounts for ourselves". Says Mr. Samer R. Frangieh, Senior Strategic Planning Advisor of the Qatar Fund for Development.

An Internal Affairs Ministry press release said Mr. Frangieh made the disclosure Tuesday when he gave an overview of the purpose of their visit to

Liberia at a meeting with Internal Affairs Minister Honorable Varney A. Sirleaf and team at the capitol offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

The delegation to MIA was headed by Mr. Hamad Mohamed Al-Rumaihi, Minister Plani and head of the Central and West African Countries



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# Messi: Ronaldo rivalry only on the pitch

Lionel Messi says his rivalry with Cristiano Ronaldo is only on the pitch.

Messi and Ronaldo were seen chatting at August's UEFA awards ceremony as Virgil van Dijk claimed the Men's Player of the Year award.

The same trio were nominated for the Best FIFA Men's Player award with Messi pipping Van Dijk into second and Ronaldo in third



at Monday's Milan prizegiving. Messi and Ronaldo have each won five Ballons d'Or

having spent their careers vying for individual honours, as well as for team trophies with

Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively.

Released results for the Best FIFA Men's Player award showed Messi put Ronaldo second in his vote while the Portugal superstar did not include the Barcelona captain in his selection.

Asked why people are surprised to see him getting along with Ronaldo, Messi told FIFA's official website: "Because of the big sporting rivalry that's developed

between us over the last few years. Because one of us played for Barcelona and the other for Madrid, and because we won individual awards.

"People perhaps think the rivalry goes beyond football, but it doesn't. We both want what's best for our teams and neither of us like losing. It's something we don't accept.

"That's why there's that competitiveness between us. The important thing is that it stays there, out on the pitch."

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