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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019

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UL pleads with faculty



-begins September salary disbursement



Gov't teachers reject mutilated banknotes

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Continental News

The plight of pensioners in Zimbabwe

As hundreds of pensioners line up outside a bank in central Harare in the hope of collecting their pensions, military veteran Elias Nyabunzi has a sense that he has seen this all before.

If there is cash available, he will collect the equivalent of just \$26, down from the \$400 he was getting a few months back. A decade ago when he went to collect the lump sum he was also entitled to after 25 years in the army he was given just \$1. The rest had been eaten away by hyperinflation, he was told.

"It buys nothing," the 62 year-old says of the pension as he stands under a purple blossomed jacaranda tree wearing a faded England track suit. Pensioners in Zimbabwe, who are estimated to number about 500,000, are among the hardest hit in an economy that's stagnated for almost 20 years, a result of a botched land reform program and a

profligate central bank printing press. Abrupt changes in the currency system have wiped out savings twice in a decade and, according to the government, the economy has halved in size. While pensioners have little choice, in total about a quarter of the

population of 16 million has left.

This June the authorities suddenly banned the use of foreign currencies and reintroduced the Zimbabwe dollar, which has since plunged 59% against the

U.S. dollar. That's a problem in a country where almost everything is imported.

In 2009 the opposite happened when the Zimbabwe dollar was abolished after a bout of hyperinflation. Now, many pensioners have had to sell their assets, take in lodgers or depend on remittances from their children, who've emigrated to find work. Those with no other financial lifeline live from hand to mouth. "I live like a destitute," says Patrick Nyanhewe, 78, a former waiter who spent 36 years at the country's leading hotels.

He has asked a lobby group, the Zimbabwe Pension and Insurance Rights Trust, to fight for what he believes he is due. The group estimates that the national pension industry is worth \$22 billion. The Insurance and Pensions Commission, the industry regulator, says its worth about a third of that. The commission

didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

It is "to justify the low benefits that they are paying through understating the size of the industry," Martin Tarusenga, ZIMPIRT's general manager, said in an interview from his office in Harare's city center.

Currency changes and an inflation rate that was estimated at 300% by the International Monetary Fund in August, aren't the only threats to pension value, says Tarusenga. The pension industry is riddled with poor management, use of improper accounting methods and a lack of proper record keeping, he added. The pension trust has sued the government over its decision to halt the publication of annual inflation figures and has objected to the value of the pensions being switched to Zimbabwe dollars from the U.S. currency. AFP



Pensioners queue to withdraw their pensions outside a branch of the Central African Building Society in Harare

Morocco pardons reporter jailed on abortion charge

A Moroccan journalist sentenced to a year in jail for premarital sex and having an abortion has been pardoned by King Mohammed VI, officials say.

The justice ministry said the king's intervention in the high-profile case was "an act of compassion and mercy". Journalist Hajar Raissouni, 28, made a victory

sign as she left a prison on Wednesday together with her fiancé, who was also pardoned.

Activists say her case is part of a crackdown on independent reporters. Premarital sex and abortions are illegal in Morocco.

Ms Raissouni works for the Akhbar Al-Yaoum daily, a newspaper critical of the

authorities.

She was with her Sudanese fiancé as they left a gynaecologist's clinic in the capital Rabat in August. She denied all the charges, saying she had sought treatment for internal bleeding.

Ms Raissouni, who later denounced the case against her as a "political trial", was sentenced in September. The prosecutor in the case said the circumstances of the journalist's arrest had nothing to do with her work as a journalist, and that the clinic she had visited was under police surveillance on suspicion of carrying out illegal abortions.

The court sentenced her fiancé to a year in prison and her doctor to two years. The doctor's assistant and a nurse at the clinic were also found guilty but were given suspended sentences.

Ms Raissouni told AFP news agency she believed her case had raised a "healthy and useful" debate, and called for gay sex and other jailable offences, such as eating in public during Ramadan, to be to be decriminalised. BBC



Hajar Raissouni made a victory sign after leaving prison on Wednesday

Meet the woman with 44 kids

Mariam Nabatanzi suffers from a rare genetic condition and had given birth to 44 children by the age of 36. Tragically, Mariam has been left to raise her massive family alone after her husband walked out on her almost four years ago.

Now 40, doctors have taken action to stop Mariam having more children after it emerged her father had 45 children with several different women.

Mariam has three sets of

corrugated iron roof.

Mariam, from Uganda, and her brood live surrounded by coffee fields. A doctor warned the mother that birth control, like the Pill, could cause her problems because she had unusually large ovaries. So after her first set of twins, the babies just kept coming.

Ugandan families are often large with women having 5.6 children on average.

This is one of the highest birth rates in Africa but even by



quadruplets, four sets of triplets and six sets of twins and incredibly manages to care for and feed them all on her own.

The fertile mum was just 12 when she was married to her husband, who at 40 was 28 years her senior. Just a year later she gave birth to her first set of twins.

Now, she and all of her kids have no choice to live in appallingly cramped conditions in just four tiny homes made from cement bricks and a

these standards, Mariam's family is enormous. At just 23, Mariam had 25 children and desperately begged her doctor for help to stop her having any more. But once again the medical advice was that she should keep getting pregnant because her ovary count was so high. Mariam's final pregnancy three years ago ended in tragedy when she gave birth to her sixth set of twins. AFP

EDITORIAL

Police teargas on protesting students was unnecessary

THE DISCHARGE OF teargas canisters against protesting public school students by riot officers of the Liberia National Police in Monrovia on Tuesday, 15 October was excessive and unnecessary. The public school students were protesting in demand of their teachers who had laid down chalk in quest of salary arrears owed them by the government.

THE PROTESTING STUDENTS had gathered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is also being used as temporary office of President George Manneh Weah in anticipation that they would have attracted the President's attention to their plight. But the Presidential convoy carrying the President drove past the aggrieved students with less attention, something that led the students to converge on the grounds of the Capitol where lawmakers work.

INSTEAD OF SOME officials coming to talk to the aggrieved students, riot police unleashed teargas canisters into the crowd, leaving scores of students fallen unconscious, with many of them subsequently rushed to hospital, while others engaged their counterparts from a nearby Seventh Day Adventists-operated high school in fistfight, forcibly asking them to vacate their campus.

THE POLICE REACTION exacerbated tension in the streets, with many passers-by affected by burning sensation from the teargas canisters.

THE PROTESTING STUDENTS were left alone with no authority from the Ministry of Education, the police or the legislature to calm the aggrieved students and ask them to leave the streets, as government was already exerting effort to pay teachers and other members of the Civil Service.

PRESIDENT WEAH HIMSELF missed a glorious opportunity to have stopped and spoken with the students on his way to office, which would have no doubt, calmed the situation. But the President drove by, as if the students' reaction didn't concern him, as leader of the State.

AFRICAN LEADERS ARE noted for running away or avoiding their own responsibility, as if someone from another planet should act, instead. Our leaders should learn to muster courage to face issues that confront their leadership. Only non-innovative and insensitive leaders run away from problems.

THE PROBLEM THAT led public school teachers abandoning classes and their students taking the streets in protest didn't happen abruptly, as salary arrears had passed two months or more with no explanations by appropriate authorities from either the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD put its house in order not just on salary payment, but other issues that affect welfare of the people to avert unpleasant scenarios like strikes by public health workers, public school teachers and subsequent protest by angry students from public schools.

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Elizabeth Drew

Will Trump Be Removed from Office?

Assuming the US House of Representatives votes to impeach President Donald Trump, the fact remains that there are far fewer votes in the Senate than will be needed to convict him and remove him from office. But the willingness of Congress - including the Senate - to continue tolerating his dangerous conduct is now truly in question.

WASHINGTON, DC - For the first time, reasonable people in the United States have begun to speculate that President Donald Trump could be convicted by the Senate and thus removed from office. The likelihood may still seem low, but Trump's position is weakening, and opinion polls are steadily moving against him. It is widely assumed that the House of Representatives will vote to impeach him, sending the question of his presidency to the Senate, where a two-thirds vote is needed and Republicans hold a majority.

Trump has been behaving nearly hysterically in public, his language increasingly reckless and vulgar. And he's made major foreign-policy errors that have enraged members of his own party. Trump's agreement, in a late-night call with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to remove US troops in northeastern Syria incited a calamity there (not for the first time, America betrayed its Kurdish allies). Turkish troops have now entered northeastern Syria and Syrian forces are advancing there as well. ISIS prisoners have escaped from some prisons once guarded by Kurds.

Russia, no surprise, is once more at the heart of Trump's foreign policy and is benefiting both from Trump agreeing to Erdogan's request and his allies' pressure on Ukraine. Trump tends to believe any fantasy he is told, in particular conspiracy theories about the 2016 election - in this case that the real culprit wasn't Russia, which has been proven to have helped Trump, but Ukraine. Trump wanted Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelensky, to investigate a myth put in Trump's head by his personal attorney, Rudolph Giuliani: that Ukraine helped his 2016 rival, Hillary Clinton.

Giuliani's role in the Ukraine scandal has been coming to light in the US, and an army of reporters is now trying to track down what else he's been up to that affects US foreign policy and domestic politics, as well as who his other clients are - and who is paying him in his supposed role as Trump's private attorney. Giuliani, once the much-admired mayor of New York City, has become a macabre figure of national mirth, seemingly out of control in his numerous television appearances. It's known that he had business interests of his own in Ukraine - including in the highly corrupt natural gas industry, in which Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, sat on the board of a company at a time that his father was vice president and charged with cleaning up Ukraine's widespread corruption. (No misdeeds by either Biden have been found.)

And then two Russian-born clients of Giuliani's, who had been living in the US and were also involved in Ukraine's energy industry, were arrested at Dulles airport outside Washington, charged with having made illegal campaign contributions of \$630,000, beginning in 2016, to Republican candidates and political action committees, including \$325,000 to a pro-Trump PAC. Trump denied that he knew the two men, despite photos of the three of them at a White House dinner. "I have a picture with everybody," Trump said. This money is believed to have been provided by a Russian oligarch.

These donations included a large one to a

Republican congressman whom they successfully pressed to demand the dismissal of the US ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, who had been pursuing an anti-corruption agenda. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo fired Yovanovitch in May, though a State Department official told her she had done nothing wrong. Despite White House objections, Yovanovitch testified behind closed doors before a House subcommittee. But she did release to the public her opening statement, which emphasized the "hollowing out" of the State Department during the Trump presidency.

State Department personnel have reportedly become all the more demoralized by Pompeo's role in carrying out Trump's political agenda, in particular his perceived failure to protect Yovanovitch, a respected career Foreign Service officer. Pompeo is known to have presidential ambitions and has been careful not to alienate Trump or his followers. Several department officials were also troubled by Giuliani's foreign-policy freelancing, and Giuliani is now under criminal investigation for violating lobbying laws.

Trump's colossal blunder in agreeing to Erdogan's request to pull US troops out of the way so that Turkey could invade Kurdish-controlled territory in northeastern Syria worsened his political situation considerably. The Kurds enjoy bipartisan support for their loyalty to the US in Iraq and Syria, and now the US was selling them out. Trump came under searing attack even from Senator Lindsey Graham, one of the few Republican politicians to defend Trump's approach to Zelensky. Also, most unusually, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell was critical. "A precipitous withdrawal of US forces from Syria would only benefit Russia, Iran, and the Assad regime," McConnell said. "And it would increase the risk that ISIS and other terrorist groups regroup." Trump's defense of the decision was truly bizarre: the Kurds hadn't helped the US during the World War II Normandy invasion. A bipartisan congressional group prepared tough sanctions to be imposed on Turkey. Trump imposed some that were weaker.

Trump recently lost a string of court cases, including one on whether he must turn over his tax returns to the House Ways and Means Committee chairman, and another on his declaration of a national security emergency in order to divert military construction funds to pay for his infamous wall. Now, he has threatened to sue Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff for trying to impeach him. Trump has a longtime habit of making such threats and not following through. But Trump did have his White House counsel send Pelosi a letter asserting that the impeachment inquiry is unconstitutional and vowing that the administration will not cooperate with it at all. Trump's defiance of Congress virtually guarantees that he will be impeached for obstruction, among other possible charges. Further testimony damaging to Trump is expected this week.

Assuming the House ultimately votes to impeach Trump, the fact remains that there are far fewer votes in the Senate than will be needed to convict him and remove him from office. But the willingness of Congress - including the Senate - to continue tolerating his dangerous conduct in office, including threats to US national security, is now truly in question.



Dear Father;

Hmmm, they will stay long inside. Ehn that what we wanted, we inside good, good-in fact it just starting. The good news is nobody going anywhere, we will all be inside it till we see the end ahyaka.

Ay my son, which one people na get inside again that you want them to stay?

Father, who else will I be putting my lousy mouth on again if da na the people in my village. They are here winding let one old machine because I can't say complaining. Yor say da the man yor wanted so why are you people all over the place crying?

Wait oo, they are crying for something they were running up and down here for?

Can you imagine this Father, some of them fought tooth and nails to ensure that the man became King. Now that the man na become King, we can't hear our ears here. They just disturbing people peace we can't hear our ears.

Our old people can say the dog can trust his butt before it swallow the bone. But didn't they trust the man before? Da now they know the man na able the thing?

But Father, if you hear some of the things they saying around here na sef, you will wonder whether the people knew the man they were running around here for.

Um, so what are some of the things they are saying my son?

Father the thing sef too big for my lousy mouth. Can you imagine they say our man woman busnay na easy. They say goat pepe scent sef tell lie.

Tell me something!

Oh, da na small thing oo. They say the man went and impregnated his own brother woman he has brought down from Uncle Sam's village and all. They say our man na stop there oh. They say every night he use to sneak into Charlie Land until the Old Man of the village had to call him and gave him some warning da the way he has been secretly coming in his village is not good, and that he na want trouble because when something happen to him, that his village name will be all over.

But our Brabee sef ya, you behind your friend daughter you can't tell him, you have to be going to the man house secretly at night? You mean all the plenty thing then you gat around here, you still na satisfy-chey, yeah mehn the way the Brabee can do his owner woman busnay sef, like to say somebody swear him.

So, how the people in the village will na cry na? When the man will fini satisfying all the small, small girl them-from all over our neighboring villages and the ones that are here before he pay attention to our village na?

No, wonder the small, small children were on the streets the other day for their teacher them. The thing is what time the Brabee get for himself before he will think about some children who he will never see in the next hundred years. Instead, the Brabee gat to use the time to enjoy himself-after all, life too short for sorrow.

And come to think of it Father, I don't blame the man for taking is men them joule because what time, the man get to look for them? They gat to go out and bring it. It was just by mistake da other one got pregnant-oops, it's too late.

Wait ya my son, you know how many children da Brabee get around here?

Anyway, we did not learn from the children of Israel. The Pappy warned them over and over but they did not listen.

The Pappy told them, it is better for me to be leading yor and yor just depend on me for everything ay. They said no, we want our king.. He said if yor get king, he will take all yor young girl them oo. They said no problem-we want king, we want king.

The Pappy say, yor lay farm them he will come and take yor young men them to join security and be putting pepper spray in yor children them eyebolt oo, they said yeah no problem.

So, it's the same thing-da little boy asked us: kojolobo and poison which one yor want, we say we want poison-so poison it is. We inside and we rolling before this year end we will all balance.

OPINION

By Venkatesh Mannar

Improving Nutrition Can Save Lives – and the Planet

TORONTO - When world leaders, activists, campaigners, and chief executives gathered last month at the United Nations in New York City to discuss the world's most pressing challenges, the climate crisis dominated the headlines. By contrast, nutrition - one of the cornerstones of human, economic, and environmental progress - received surprisingly little attention.

True, world leaders began the week of UN General Assembly meetings by signing a landmark political declaration on universal health coverage. But although the declaration recognized nutrition as a contributing factor to good health, it did not single it out as a priority. That was not unusual: policymakers often cite inadequate diet as a key barrier to progress, but only rarely make better nutrition the focus of action. By taking this approach, the world is missing a huge opportunity.

World Food Day (October 16) and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17) offer an opportunity to address some of the misconceptions regarding nutrition. This is a vitally important effort, because each of us can play a role in helping to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030 - one of the targets of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.

Many people associate malnutrition exclusively with undernourishment in the world's poorest countries. But, as the Global Nutrition Report has repeatedly stated, malnutrition can take multiple forms and is a universal issue that no country can afford to overlook - including leading advanced economies such as the United States.

According to the 2018 Global Nutrition Report, the US is off track on all its nutrition targets except under-five stunting and wasting, and also is one of seven countries where more than one million children are overweight. Rates of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease in the US have reached alarming levels. Moreover, poor nutrition is not just harming people's health; it is also the most serious threat to the country's public health-care system.

Nutrition is one of the smartest investments a country can make. According to the World Bank, a stronger focus on nutrition within health services could save 3.7 million lives globally by 2025. Nutrition investments also make economic sense: every \$1 spent on basic nutrition programs results in an estimated \$16 returning to the local economy. Given these benefits, the world must push nutrition much higher up the agenda.

As with many global challenges, policymakers often take an outdated, silo-based approach to nutrition. Yet, at least 12 of the 17 SDGs contain targets and indicators that are relevant to nutrition. That means there is a clear, mutually reinforcing benefit in increasing collaboration across different areas of development - in particular between nutrition and climate change.

In that regard, I was pleased to hear food systems being mentioned during last month's UN Climate Summit. Furthermore, various expert reports, including by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have started to warn about the negative links between food systems, diets, and the climate crisis.

These connections are significant. A paper published by the Global Nutrition Report shows that food production uses 70% of the world's freshwater supply, agriculture produces 13% of all greenhouse-gas emissions, and livestock uses 77% of the world's agricultural land. And climate change, in turn, affects food systems and diets. The American Association for the Advancement of Science has found that increasingly frequent droughts and floods are reducing agricultural productivity, while rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are robbing plants of the nutrients and vitamins we need to survive.

Given this knowledge, those of us tackling nutrition and climate challenges cannot simply keep fighting in our respective corners. Over the next few years, we have the chance to turn these two global crises into one great opportunity: to reshape the world's agriculture and food systems, while ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious food. But nutrition, agriculture, and climate experts must collaborate to seize that opportunity and build a future in which people consume the food they need while preserving the planet.

Finally, the private sector needs a bigger seat at the table. After all, a single global food company can reach over one billion people every day through its products. If such a firm chooses to make nutritious foods more accessible and affordable, the impact on consumers' diets and health could be huge.

Some businesses have already made positive moves, such as introducing more transparent content labeling or reducing the amount of sugar in their products. But, given the private sector's capacity and reach, progress is simply too slow.

Following pressure from civil-society organizations, governments have turned to regulations to compel businesses to do more. Denmark, for example, introduced a virtual ban on the sale of products containing trans fats, while South Africa was the first country to legislate maximum salt levels in processed foods.

Food companies must choose: they can either wait for governments to impose tougher regulations, or they can get ahead of the curve, work with the nutrition community, and show their consumers and stakeholders that they care about what people eat. Good nutrition can also be good business.

It would be easy simply to blame governments or the private sector for the lack of action so far. But if nutrition is simultaneously everywhere and nowhere, that is partly because we have failed to make the issue visible and relevant to those actors that can bring about change.

The nutrition community must therefore leave its comfort zone and engage with decision-makers focusing on health, agriculture, climate change, and other big global issues. At the 2020 Global Nutrition Summit in Japan, key players from around the world are expected to renew their commitments to end malnutrition. Part of our duty will be to ensure there is space for a wider range of stakeholders to help meet this goal.

Malnutrition is one of the greatest challenges facing the world, but it is solvable. We already know how to protect our planet while improving the diets and health of millions of people. Now we must start doing it.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



SITTING IN ITS OCTOBER TERM A.D. 2019

BEFORE HIS HONOUR:.....J. VINTON HOLDER,.....JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT:

IN RE: THE PETITION OF DANLETTE MUNA HORTON, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR THE READING OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE MARY ELIZA COOPER HORTON, WHO DIED ON THE 14TH OF AUGUST 2019, AT THE FEDILITY HEALTH CLINIC IN SINKOR, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

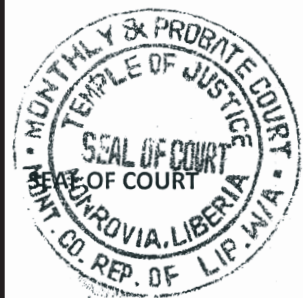
NOTICE!

NOTICE!!

NOTICE!!!

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE MARY ELIZA COOPER HORTON, WAS BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2019. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 4TH. DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2019, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION " GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT
THIS 4TH DAY OF OCTOBER A.D. 2019

[Signature]
EDWIN S. BOIMAH, SR.
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.



LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

October 9, 2019

The Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) publishes this Notice in keeping with Part III Section 11(4) of the Telecommunications Act 2007 (the Act) and specifically in compliance with the Consultation Process Guidelines for LTA Rules, Orders and Regulations, 2009.

Pursuant to Part III, section 11(Q) of the Telecommunications Act, 2007 of the Republic of Liberia (the "Act"), and for the creation of a framework for the compulsory registration of all activated SIM/RUIM card users and the establishment of a control administration and management of a subscriber database for all SIM/RUI M Cards and the users thereof; the LTA has amended the existing SIM Card regulations.

By this Notice, the LTA launches a process of public consultation to seek the informed views of stakeholders, other interested parties and the public on the Consultation Document to be published October 16, 2019. The Consultation Document and this Notice will be available on the LTA website (www.LTA.gov.lr) and the Executive Mansion website (www.emansion.gov.lr). The LTA invites all interested parties to provide written comments, inputs and observations (with justifications) by email to consult@lta.gov.lr by October 30, 2019.

The consultation process schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Publication of Consultation Notice | October 7, 2019 |
| 2. Publication of Draft Regulation | October 7, 2019 |
| 3. Deadline for Receipt of Stakeholders Input | October 30, 2019 |
| 4. Consultation Forum | November 1, 2019 |
| 5. Deadline for Receipt of additional Stakeholder Input | November 9, 2019 |
| 6. Publication of Final Report | December 1, 2019 |
| 7. Implementation of the regulation | January 2020 |

NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE CORPORATION
24TH STREET SINKOR
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
FISCAL 2019/2020

- The National Social Security & Welfare Corporation has allocations in its fiscal 2019/2020 budget and intends to apply these allocations to the procurement of the below listed items:
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and are open to all eligible and qualified bidders.
- The National Social Security & Welfare Corporation now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following items/services

NO	ITEM	IFB NO	BID SECURITY	Deadline & OPENING DATE / TIME
1	Stationery and Ink Supplies	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/005/19/20	US\$ 2,556.00	10/18/19 @ 3:00 PM
2	Petroleum Products	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/RB/001/19/20	US\$ 23,559.00	10/18/19 @ 11:00 AM
3	Vehicle Purchase	IFB NO.NASSCORP/RB/001/19/20	US\$ 8,600.00	10/18/19 @ 1:00 PM
4	Vehicle Insurance	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/RB/002/19/20	US\$ 3,000.00	10/21/19 @ 1:00 PM
5	Security Guard Service	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/001/19/20	US\$ 4,166.00	10/21/19 @ 11:00 AM
6	Uniform	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/009/19/20	US\$ 475.00	10/21/19 @ 3:00 PM
7	Janitorial Service	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/002/19/20	US\$ 6,896.00	10/22/19 @ 10:00 AM
8	Printing and Binding Services	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/007/19/20	US\$ 4,250.00	10/22/19 @ 1:00 PM
9	I D Card Machine and Accessories	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/003/19/20	US\$ 1,000.00	10/22/19 @ 3:00 PM

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit in the office of the Coordinator of General Services at the NASSCORP Complex on 24th Street, Sinkor, and obtain a copy of the Bidding Documents written in English free of charge from Monday, September 30, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on work days
- Qualification requirements include:
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Current business registration
 - Current tax clearance
 - Social Security clearance
 - PPCC vendor registration and
 - Bid security deposit.

Note: The detailed bid evaluation criteria are embedded in the Standard Bidding Documents.
- Individual deadlines for the submission of bids are indicated in the chart above. Bids will be opened on the same day in the Conference Room located on the 3rd Floor of NASSCORP Headquarters on 24th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. All bids must be sealed and hand-delivered to the following address:
 - The Procurement Unit, General Services Department, NASSCORP Headquarters, 24th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia. **Attention: Coordinator- General Services Department**
- Please note that Electronic bidding will not be permitted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. NASSCORP reserves the right to reject all bids.

Signed: _____
The Management
NASSCORP

Subject: Transmission of NASSCORP Bid Advert
Date: 2019-09-24 17:16
From: "David Beekeh" <dbeekeh@nasscorp.org.lr>
To: <info@thenewdawnliberia.com>
Reply-To: dbeekeh@nasscorp.org.lr

Gentlemen:

Kindly publish the attached NASSCORP Bid Advert in your newspaper half-page-long on September 27, October 4, 11 and 18, 2019 and submit your bill to the National Social Security & Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) for settlement.

Thanks for your usual cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

D. Q. Beekeh
NASSCORP PRO

--
Managing Editor
The Searchlight Communications Inc.,
Crown Hill - Broad Street,
Monrovia, Liberia.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC launches six-year Strategic Plan, running from 2018-2024

The National Elections Commission (NEC) on Thursday October 17, 2019 launched its Strategic Plan for the next six years, running from 2018-2024.

Similar to the 2012-2018 NEC Strategic Plan, the 2018-2024 plan hinges on five pillars; Legal Framework, Electoral Stakeholders Engagement, Public Information, Institutional Strengthening, and Election Operations.

The official launch was held at the NEC Headquarters with the co-chairperson of the Commission, Cllr. Sarah Toe performing the official launching formalities. It brought together election stakeholders including political parties and Civil Society Organizations.

The Strategic plan, which roadmaps the Commission's strategic direction for the next six years, describes the approaches the NEC would take to achieve its mission, meet the demand of its stakeholders, exploit opportunities for improved service delivery, and responds to challenges.

During the formulation of the Plan, the Commission undertook series of broad-base consultations comprising internal discussions and external engagements that ensured participation of key stakeholders. Lessons learnt Sessions were conducted from the 2017 Presidential

and Representative elections with Political Actors, Partners and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the outline recommendations were taken into consideration for future planning and implementation.

In her speech, marking the official launch, NEC Co-Chairperson Cllr. Toe, said NEC marked the achievement of a

mission, can enhance the NEC effectiveness. Co-Chair Toe said that this document will serve as a roadmap.

Also making remarks were Representatives from various sectors including Civil Society Actors, Political Parties, Partners, Persons with Disability and the Media. They all complimented the



Cllr. Sarah Toe, Co-Chair of the NEC launched the 2018-2024 Strategic Plan (ROADMAP)

major milestone in the 2018-2024 electoral circle. Cllr. Toe said the Strategic Plan will help the Commission to clarify the sets of goals and strategies that reflect the Commission's changing external and internal environment, considering the roles and expectations of stakeholders and how NEC goal, in alignment and directed towards fulfilling our

Commission for a job well done in developing what they called a Tool or a Roadmap to Free, Fair, and Transparent election.

Financial and technical supports for the Strategic Plan was came from UNDP, USAID, EU, Irish aid the Government of Sweden and Canada.

Save the Children Liberia condemns police excess

Save the Children International (SCI) Liberia Office condemns attacks on students during the recent protest in Monrovia by students of the Monrovia

Consolidated School System (MCSS), leaving several persons wounded.

A release quotes SCI's Country Manager, Joseph Yarsiah, as urging the government and people of

Liberia to exercise patience and commitment to dealing with the grave educational challenges in Liberia today.

Mr. Yarsiah stressed Save the Children's unwavering commitment for the right to education for all children, and calls on the government to listen and respond to the plights of the future leaders of Liberia.

MCSS students took to the streets on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 in protest for their teachers' salaries. The teachers had gone on strike in demand of salary arrears owed them by government. The protest turned violent when Police and students were embroiled in clashes after the police fired teargas to disperse the crowd.

It is not known how many persons sustained injuries and

Sub-Sahara Africa urged to invest more in education

By Lewis S. Teh

The Chief Economist at the World Bank Liberia Office Mr. Daniel K. Boakye calls on Sub-Saharan countries to invest more in education to help in reduction or ending poverty. "Far too many children don't have basic literacy skills; the new analysis undertaken by the World Bank and UNESCO shows that 52 percent of children at or near the end of primary school age cannot read," he notes.

Mr. Boakye made the observation Thursday, October 17, 2019, at the observance of End Poverty Day, a day which is aim at eradicating poverty from Sub-Saharan countries. The program held at the World Bank Liberia Office in German Embassy Compound, Oldest Congo Town, is celebrated throughout Africa.

The End Poverty Day brought together students from various schools here to share their ideas on poverty and how they think it can be reduced.

In introductory remarks, Chief Economist Boakye explains that in absolute number, 270 million children between ages 10-14 are caught in the learning gap, adding that in low income countries, the rate is at 80 percent.

He further discloses that in some Sub-Saharan countries, it is estimated that more than 80 percent children cannot read a single word by Grade 3 level.

"This high rate of learning poverty and slow progress in low and middle income countries is an early warning sign that global education goals are at risk, and threatens efforts to end poverty", he warns.

According to him, most of the countries that the World Bank works with have various challenges, but the key challenge facing most Sub-Saharan African countries is poverty. "But if we are able to address poverty in Africa, it will go a long way in reducing poverty globally."

Mr. Boakye defines poverty as lack of basic necessity of life, noting that when you are

poor and don't even have food to eat, it becomes one of the characteristics of poverty. He names other characteristics as access to basic health services, including education, good or safe drinking water, among others.

"Today as part of the agenda in ending poverty, the World Bank is focusing on the importance of access to education, as the way of reducing poverty. It will amaze you to know that among all the key instruments that are needed to reduce poverty, education is considered first priority."

The Chief Economist says the first thing that every parent, who doesn't have money needs to do is focus on his or her children's education, and once it is attained, a person is automatically on his way come out of poverty.

"Reason is that a child will study and achieve certificate that will show a particular profession that will bring employment to help the family and others."

A District Education Officer from Montserrado stresses that survey conducted by the World Bank should be taken into consideration in making sure children acquire reading skills.

"One of our responsibilities as DEO is to monitor our schools and make sure that teachers meet the required standards, so as to give back to the students, because if the teacher is not prepared, he won't be able to properly teach a student", the DEO underscores.

"When you cannot read with understanding, it's not possible to have anything done; people will have to make decision for you, and we don't want this for our children."

The Principal of the B.W. Elementary school Ms. Sarah S. Barclay says to enable children acquire better reading skills, she has introduced Early Childhood Development, saying, "When the development of any child is well done, it means the foundation of that child is being built."

taken to hospital, but Yarsiah stressed the need for investigation into the melee.

"Any form of violence is condemned especially, when it involves children, and there needs to be an investigation into specific actions on the part of state-actors where they may have been acting against the law. Children should be protected against

harm or anything that threatens their safety," Yarsiah emphasized.

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization for children with a mission to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. **-Press Release**



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Private schools condemn MCSS protest

By Lewis S. Teh

Several private schools in Monrovia have condemned recent protest in Monrovia by students of the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) which resulted to violence and injuries.

Four private schools in Monrovia suffered attack by protesting public school students, who took to the streets in solidarity with their instructors after they boycotted class in demand of salary arrears from government.

The affected institutions include Seventh Day Adventist and Saint Simeon High schools on Camp Johnson Road and Richard M. Nixon School on Capital Bypass.

Administrators and students of these institutions who spoke to journalists Thursday, October 17, 2019, described the attack on private school students by MCSS students is totally wrong, and unlawful.

They though students have right to peacefully assemble to engage their leaders, erecting road blocks, which impeded free movement of citizens and disrupted normal academic activities on private school



campuses is pure gansterism.

They said the action should be condemned by every well-meaning Liberian regardless of political, tribal or religious affiliation.

“Our students were in class learning; unfortunately for us, we witnessed the throwing of stones into our school edifice by MCSS Students. It was seriously chaotic, which led to the injuring of several of our students and the destruction of our school”, says the Vice Principal for Instruction of the SDA High School, Robert S.

Kilah.

According to Mr. Kilah, the action by the MCSS students reminded him of the 14 years of civil war when rebels went on various school campuses to beat on innocent students while they were taking lessons.

However, he applauded President George Manneh Weah for sending the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, who visited the affected schools and called for full investigation to bring perpetrators to book.

Anthony Domah, Dean of

Students of the Saint Simeon Baptist High School wants those MCSS students who were captured on video footages, throwing stones to be dealt with in line with the Monrovia Consolidated School System policy or school handbook.

“This will serve as a precedent for other students who might want to engage in similar act. Students should always behave like students”, Dean Domah underscored.

“While it is true that we pity the conditions of our friends in the public schools and the constrains they go through, we did not subject them to those conditions and as such we can’t be victims of their actions”, a group of private school students asserted.

They call on the government to address

challenges faced by their colleagues in public schools most especially, the recent incident that has to do with payment of salaries to public school teachers.

“They deserve better education like us. We are just privileged to be where we are. When they are empowered educationally, they can also contribute meaningfully to societal growth”, the students added.

They refute speculations in the public that they were brutalized by officers of the Liberia National Police.

Several students were rushed to hospital during protest on Tuesday, October 15, after riot police fired dozens of tear gas canisters to disperse protesting public schools’ students.

The students had taken to the streets demanding that their teachers return to their classrooms, a day after public schools’ teachers here laid down their chalks in protest for unpaid salaries and wages running into months. The teachers took the action a day before a schedule test which should have taken days could begin.

The protesting students, mainly from public schools within the city center erected road blocks in front of the Foreign Ministry, the temporary office of the Liberian Presidency thinking that the President’s convoy would have stopped to allow him interact with them, rather the convoy drove through the crowd of students. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Bong Police Arrest Three Arm-Rubbers

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Police in Gbarnga, Bong County have arrested three alleged armed robbers who on Monday night allegedly killed a man identified as Sekou Swaray.

Eyewitnesses told our Bong County correspondent following the incident that victim Swaray, a local gasoline seller in Gbarnga,

was at his business center on Monday at 8:45pm when the alleged group of armed robbers entered the business center and held him under gun-point.

According to eyewitnesses, the alleged armed robbers asked Swaray to turn over to them, money generated from the sales of the gasoline for the day.

However the eyewitnesses indicate that the victim

allegedly refused, prompting the suspects to kill him.

Speaking to our correspondent, some of the eyewitnesses who are close neighbors to the victim said they heard gun sound.

According to them, they were moved to inquire as to what was going on after hearing the gun sound.

The three individuals arrested by the Liberia National Police Bong County Detachment are yet to be identified.

Prior to their arrest, some members of the Muslim community in Gbarnga moved to the Superintendent’s compound with placards carrying different inscriptions, demanding the release of the three individuals over to them.

According to them, it was important for the police to with immediate effect turn the individuals over to them on grounds that they needed to be killed as well.

Our Bong County correspondent says the Muslim community later became calm following the intervention of the County’s Superintendent Madam Esther Nyamah Walker.

“We wanted to get those



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criminals ourselves and kill them because when we leave them with the Police, they will be well catered to,” Musa Kamara, one of the aggrieved Muslims told our Bong County correspondent.

Bong County Police Superintendent Fredrick

Nappy has promised to disclose the identities of the individuals arrested.

Our correspondent says the victim had LD\$11,000, but the criminals did not carry the money as a result of neighbors’ intervention. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Français

Une autre manifestation se profile à l'horizon, car les professeurs d'université menacent de boycotter les cours

Les professeurs de l'Université du Libéria et des autres universités publiques seraient sur le point d'abandonner les cours en signe de protestation pour réclamer des arriérés de salaires de plusieurs mois et d'autres avantages, a appris ce quotidien de sources dignes de foi.

Il y a quelques jours, les élèves des écoles publiques manifestaient dans les rues de la capitale après que leurs enseignants aient abandonné la craie en signe de protestation pour réclamer des arriérés de salaire.

Selon plusieurs sources des deux campus de l'Université du Libéria, les professeurs avaient décidé d'abandonner les cours à compter d'hier jeudi 17 octobre.

Il se peut que les étudiants descendent dans les rues en signe de solidarité avec leurs



professeurs qui auraient maintenant du mal à supporter le retard dans le paiement de leurs salaires. Cela pourrait aggraver la situation. Les grèves sont devenues récurrentes ces derniers temps dans le secteur public.

Les enseignants du Système scolaire consolidé de Monrovia (MCSS), une filiale de l'Association nationale des enseignants du Libéria, avaient déposé la craie au début de cette semaine, réclamant des arriérés de salaires de deux à trois mois.

Des affrontements avaient éclaté mardi d'une part entre des élèves des écoles publiques qui protestaient et des élèves du privé, notamment du lycée de l'église adventiste du septième jour au centre-ville de Monrovia (Camp Johnson Road), et d'autre part entre les élèves et les forces de l'ordre qui ont fait usage du gaz lacrymogène pour disperser les manifestants. Plusieurs élèves ont été blessés, dont certains étaient inconscients.

Le ministre adjoint de l'Information, Eugene Fahngon, a déclaré mercredi lors d'une interview avec OK FM qu'à la suite d'une rencontre entre les autorités du MSSC, le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, le ministre adjoint des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samoura Wolokollie, et le ministre de l'Éducation au Lycée William VS Tubman, les enseignants grévistes avaient accepté de retourner en classe.

Des milliers d'élèves, pour la plupart issus des écoles publiques, sont descendus dans la rue le mardi 15 octobre. Ils exigeaient la reprise des

classes après que leurs professeurs aient entamé un mouvement de grève. La police anti-émeute, pour disperser les manifestants, a dû faire recours à l'usage du gaz lacrymogène.

Les enseignants des écoles publiques du pays ont déposé la craie en guise de protestation pour le paiement de leurs arriérés de salaire de plusieurs mois.

Les élèves avaient érigé des barrages routiers devant le ministère des Affaires étrangères, où les deux derniers présidents de la république ont eu domicile temporairement. Les élèves pensaient pouvoir obliger le convoi du président de s'arrêter pour parler avec eux.

Et comme ils n'ont pas eu gain de cause, ils ont commencé à lancer des pierres. La police a aussitôt riposté à l'aide du gaz lacrymogène pour les disperser. Mais ce fut une peine perdue car les élèves se rassemblèrent devant la maison du parlement (Capitol Building), interrompant la circulation.

Mais, la police multiplia les tirs, ils ne voulaient laisser aucun répit aux élèves. La bataille devint rude, aucun des deux camps ne voulant reculer. Toutefois, la police aura pour finir raison des élèves sans armes. Irrités par les gaz lacrymogènes de la police, ils finirent par abandonner leurs positions pour courir dans tous les sens. Cependant, les plus têtus s'introduisirent dans une école privée située à proximité et appartenant à l'église Adventiste, pas pour y trouver refuge, mais pour empêcher leurs camarades de suivre les cours. Ils estiment que les enfants des responsables fréquentent cette école, donc il faut les empêcher de suivre les cours. Il s'en suivit là-bas aussi des affrontements, cette fois entre élèves.

Guinée : renvoi du procès des membres du FNDC arrêtés en amont de manifestations

Le procès des membres du FNDC arrêtés ce weekend à Conakry avant des manifestations et de deux autres personnes a débuté ce mercredi 16 octobre. Ils sont poursuivis pour « manœuvres et actes de nature à compromettre la sécurité publique et à occasionner des troubles à l'ordre public ».

Sekou Koundouno du Balai Citoyen raconte son arrestation par des hommes armés, cagoulés, qui le conduisent à la « villa 26 » base des Renseignements

généraux. À sa suite, Bailo Barry, les yeux fatigués mais le sourire aux lèvres, ne reconnaît pas non plus les faits. « Je n'ai fait que mon travail », assure Abdoulaye Oumou Sow, journaliste et blogueur.

Ils relatent leur détention, jugée « dégradante » par leur avocate Halimatou Camara. « En 2019, il est impensable, en République de Guinée, que des hommes cagoulés descendent au domicile d'un honnête citoyen sous prétexte que la sécurité publique serait menacée.

C'est complètement ahurissant. »

Dispositif policier

À l'extérieur, un important dispositif policier maintient d'abord les journalistes à distance avant de les laisser assister à la seconde partie du procès.

À la barre, Abdourahmane Sanoh, coordinateur national, lit une déclaration du FNDC appelant les citoyens à manifester, les entreprises à fermer boutique. Les questions du président portent essentiellement sur ce texte : qui l'a écrit ? Pourquoi ?

Me Mohammed Traoré défend également les prévenus. « Ces citoyens, conformément à la Constitution, ont demandé à leurs concitoyens de sortir manifester leur opposition à un changement de Constitution dont le but est, incontestablement, d'instaurer une présidence à vie en République de Guinée. »

« Tribune politique »

Tous plaident « non coupable » et réaffirment leur volonté de lutter contre un éventuel troisième mandat pour le président

**Articles traduits
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Alpha Condé. Dans une ambiance parfois houleuse, les prévenus lancent un dernier « amoulanfé » (« ça ne passera pas » en langue Soussou), le cri de ralliement du FNDC.

« Ce n'est pas tribune politique ! », s'insurge le procureur qui demande le renvoi du procès. Le président accède à la demande. La prochaine

audience est fixée à vendredi.

Renvoyé au 18 également, le procès d'Elie Kamano et une vingtaine d'autres poursuivis pour « participation délictueuse à un attroupement ». Un renvoi à Mamou où plusieurs dizaines de prévenus comparaissent pour des faits similaires.



Français

Éditorial

L'usage du gaz lacrymogène contre des enfants est inapproprié

L'usage des bouteilles de gaz lacrymogène par les forces de l'ordre à Monrovia le mardi 15 octobre pour disperser des écoliers protestataires était excessif et inutile. Les élèves des écoles publiques protestaient ce jour-là parce que leurs enseignants avaient déposé la craie en guise de protestation pour réclamer des arriérés de salaire.

Les élèves s'étaient réunis au ministère des Affaires étrangères, qui sert également de bureau temporaire au président George Manneh Weah, dans l'espoir d'attirer l'attention de leur président sur leur sort en tant qu'élèves qui n'avaient plus d'enseignants. Mais le convoi présidentiel les a dépassés sans prêter attention à leurs appels. Les élèves se sont donc dirigés vers la maison du parlement, où étaient réunis les parlementaires.

Au lieu de déléguer quelques dirigeants pour s'entretenir avec les élèves en colère, la police anti-émeute a fait recours à l'usage du gaz lacrymogène. Beaucoup d'élèves ont été atteints, certains sont évanouis. Ils ont dû être précipités d'urgence à l'hôpital. Les autres élèves ont quant à eux tenté d'empêcher les élèves des écoles privées de suivre les cours.

C'est la réaction de la police qui a exacerbé la tension dans les rues. Beaucoup de passants ont été touchés par la sensation de brûlure provoquée par les réservoirs de gaz lacrymogène.

Les élèves qui protestaient étaient livrés à eux-mêmes. Personne n'a tenté de les calmer. Ni les autorités du ministère de l'Éducation, de la police libérienne, encore moins les parlementaires n'ont jugé bon de calmer les élèves en leur demandant de quitter la rue parce que le gouvernement était en train de dialoguer avec leurs enseignants et les autres membres de la fonction publique.

Le président Weah a lui-même manqué une occasion en or pour discuter avec les plus jeunes. Il aurait dû s'arrêter pour parler aux élèves avant de se rendre dans son bureau. Cela aurait sans aucun doute apaisé la situation. Mais le président a choisi de les dépasser, comme si le sort des élèves ne le concernait pas en tant que chef de l'État.

Les dirigeants africains aiment toujours fuir leur responsabilité, comme si quelqu'un d'une autre planète viendra agir à leur place en temps de crise. Nos dirigeants devraient apprendre à prendre leur courage en main pour faire face aux problèmes auxquels ils sont confrontés. Seuls les leaders non innovants et insensibles fuient les problèmes.

Le problème qui a poussé les enseignants des écoles publiques à abandonner les cours et à encourager les élèves à descendre dans la rue en signe de protestation n'est pas arrivé de manière brusque. Il faut noter qu'il y a deux mois ou plus que les enseignants ne touchent pas leurs salaires. Le plus écœurant c'est le fait que les autorités compétentes du ministère de l'Éducation ou du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement n'aient donné aucune explication pour rassurer les enseignants.

Le gouvernement devrait mettre de l'ordre dans ses affaires. Nous ne parlons pas seulement du paiement des salaires des fonctionnaires, mais il faut qu'il se penche également sur le bien-être du peuple afin d'éviter des situations désagréables, comme ce fut le cas des grèves des agents de la santé publique, des enseignants des écoles publiques et de la manifestation des élèves des écoles publiques.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Elizabeth Drew

Trump sera-t-il destitué?

WASHINGTON, DC - Pour la première fois, les observateurs américains même les plus raisonnables commencent à envisager une possible mise en accusation de Donald Trump par le Sénat, suivie d'une destitution. Bien que la probabilité soit encore faible, le président américain est effectivement de plus en plus en difficulté, et les sondages indiquent une baisse régulière de sa cote de popularité. Il semble acquis que la Chambre des représentants votera la destitution, ce qui renvoie la question de sa fin de mandat au Sénat, à majorité républicaine, où deux tiers des voix seront nécessaires.

Trump se comporte dernièrement de manière quasi-hystérique en public, son discours se faisant de plus en plus irréfléchi et vulgaire. Le président commet par ailleurs de graves erreurs de politique étrangère, qui exaspèrent les membres de son propre parti. Ainsi, en convenant lors d'une conversation téléphonique de fin de soirée avec le président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan de retirer les troupes américaines du nord-est de la Syrie, Trump y a déclenché un désastre (ce n'est pas la première fois que l'Amérique trahit ses alliés kurdes). L'armée turque est désormais entrée dans la région, où progressent également les forces syriennes. Un certain nombre de prisonniers membres de l'État islamique se sont par ailleurs échappés de prisons gardées hier par les Kurdes.

Sans surprise, la Russie se retrouve une fois de plus au cœur de la politique étrangère de Trump, Moscou bénéficiant à la fois de l'acceptation par Trump de la demande d'Erdogan, et de la pression exercée par ses alliés sur l'Ukraine. Trump semble prêt à croire tous les fantasmes qui lui sont présentés, notamment plusieurs théories du complot concernant l'élection de 2016, et plus précisément l'idée selon laquelle le véritable coupable ne serait pas la Russie, qui a de fait aidé Trump, mais plutôt l'Ukraine. Trump a ainsi souhaité que le nouveau président ukrainien, Volodymyr Zelensky, enquête sur un mythe installé dans l'esprit du président américain par son avocat personnel Rudolph Giuliani, selon lequel l'Ukraine aurait aidé son adversaire de 2016, Hillary Clinton.

Le rôle de Giuliani dans le scandale ukrainien commence à se préciser aux États-Unis, une armée de journalistes cherchant désormais à découvrir d'autres agissements de l'ancien maire de New York, susceptibles d'avoir influencé la politique étrangère et nationale américaine, ainsi qu'à identifier ses autres clients, et à déterminer qui le rémunère dans le cadre de son supposé rôle d'avocat personnel de Trump. Hier admiré par beaucoup pour sa gestion de la ville de New York, Giuliani est devenu le triste

personnage d'une comédie nationale, apparaissant hors de contrôle dans ses multiples apparitions télévisuelles. On sait désormais que Giuliani détenait personnellement des intérêts d'affaires en Ukraine, notamment dans le secteur hautement corrompu du gaz naturel, au sein duquel le fils de Joe Biden, Hunter de son prénom, siégeait au conseil d'administration d'une société au moment même où son père, alors vice-président des États-Unis, avait pour mission d'éradiquer une corruption généralisée en Ukraine (aucun acte répréhensible n'a été mis en évidence de la part de l'un ou l'autre des Biden).

Par la suite, deux clients de Giuliani, nés en Russie, résidant aux États-Unis, et acteurs eux aussi du secteur énergétique ukrainien, ont été arrêtés à l'aéroport de Dulles près de Washington, et accusés d'avoir apporté des contributions de campagne illégales à hauteur de 630 000 \$ à partir de 2016, en faveur de candidats républicains et de plusieurs comités d'action politique, dont 325 000 \$ en faveur d'un comité pro-Trump. Trump a nié connaître ces deux hommes, malgré plusieurs clichés les faisant apparaître tous les trois lors d'un dîner à la Maison-Blanche. « Je suis pris en photo avec beaucoup de gens », s'est défendu Trump. L'argent semble avoir été fourni par un oligarque russe.

Parmi ces donations figurait un montant important en faveur d'un membre républicain du Congrès parvenu à faire pression pour exiger le licenciement de l'ambassadrice américaine en Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, qui appliquait un programme de lutte contre la corruption. Le secrétaire d'État Mike Pompeo a limogé Yovanovitch au mois de mai, à laquelle un responsable du département d'État a pourtant expliqué qu'elle n'avait rien fait de mal. Malgré les objections de la Maison-Blanche, Yovanovitch a témoigné à huis clos devant un sous-comité de la Chambre des représentants, puis rendu public sa déclaration, qui souligne « l'éviscération » du département d'État sous la présidence Trump.

Le personnel du département d'État aurait-il été d'autant plus démoralisé par le rôle joué par Pompeo dans la mise en œuvre de l'agenda politique de Trump, notamment par ce qui a été perçu comme un refus de soutenir Yovanovitch, diplomate à la carrière respectée. Pompeo est connu pour nourrir des ambitions présidentielles, et a toujours pris soin de ne pas s'aliéner Trump et ses sympathisants. Plusieurs responsables du département ont également été troublés par la mission de freelance menée par Giuliani en matière de politique étrangère, l'ancien maire de New York faisant désormais l'objet d'une enquête criminelle pour violation des lois sur le lobbying.

L'erreur colossale commise par Trump en

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

With Ben Polee Wese



Liberian musicians spilt over Photo song

The dropping (release) of the controversial song "Photo" that has spread across the country like wild fire is creating serious division among Liberian artists both at home and abroad.

Since the release of the song, several artists mainly DenG and D12, amongst others whose names were not mentioned, felt offended, on grounds that the lyrics in the song is an indirect talk at them for their association with the President of Liberia. They then came with a remix song to get back at those who released the first effort.

The original song lyric reads: "I posed for the photo, but I'm not seeing myself in the photo, people that were not in the photo, that them we're seeing in the photo."

But remix by D12, DenG and others, goes like this: "I didn't pose for the photo, but I'm seeing myself shining in the photo."

Long time Lib record artist Colorful, a self-proclaimed king of Hipco Jonathan Koffa a.k.a "Takun J" and long time comedian Pokopala just released their latest single of "Photo" that has been greeted with lots of mixed



reactions from the entertainment industry, political sector and the public.

The song, which according to the artists, is not meant for politics, is also being greeted by some disenchanted members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) who feel they have suffered with the party

for over 12 years, but after its ascendancy to power, they are left out.

It is based on these various shades of interpretations the song has become very popular. Liberians all around the world that heard the song had one or two posts on social media, either expressing their disenchantment or making fun

of the lyrics.

While the song was still pending its release date, Liberian artist based in America D12, who released "Born to Win" received huge attention when President George Weah danced to the song during launch of his party campaign in the recent Montserrado County Senatorial and Representative by-elections at the CDC headquarters in Congo Town, Monrovia.

Right after the President danced to D12's "Born to Win" and the video went viral, the song automatically became street anthem, with organizations, political parties, clubs, and radio stations playing the song.

D12 was later invited to the Country to perform the President's favorite song. But after his return to America, a leaked Ecobank check of US\$30,000 from the National Port Authority (NPA) to D12 surfaced on social media.

Again, it became a huge debate on social media, as other artists took to their social media pages, congratulation D12 because it was first of its kind that a Liberian artist will bag US\$30,000 for performing a song. While others were politicizing it, Colorful and

Takun J dropped their effort of 'Photo.'

DenG who has been very silent for some time now since he was allegedly accused of rape by a Liberian female artist in America Sweetiz, joins force with D12 and some underground artists in America to produce the remix to Photo titled "Selfis."

After releasing the remix, lot of gurus within the music industry took to their social media pages, condemning the action by D12, DenG and others who felt offended by the Photo song.

Others noted that those artists (D12, DenG and others) who remix the song of their colleague are unfair to Takun J and Colorful, and the music industry at large, pointing that the song or the lyrics did not in any way refer to anyone, not even politicians that are now playing the song more.

While the debate is ongoing, another group of artists have come in defend of Takun J and Colorful, using the same song to get back at D12, DenG and others for remixing and making mockery out of artists who went through a lot to put Liberian music on par with other countries.

Read our next edition for reason behind the Photo song.

J Slught on fire with two singles

Since rising to center stage in Liberian music, Joseph Wessah Tah III, popularly known by stage name J Slught, has proved to be one of Liberia's best vocalists with his newest singles, "No money and forgive me" now trending at every street corridor.

The award-winning artist, who bags best new artist last year at the MTN Liberia Music Award (MLMA) ceremony held in Monrovia seems to be on

top of his game since then and has represented his Motherland (Liberia) at two of Africa's biggest music festivals, SirreLeon and Ecofestgambia2019 Gambia respectively.

Since the beginning of the year after winning the award, J Slught, who is currently signed to BeeVonne Recordz, has been the major headliners of most entertainment websites and the well written lyrics that always follow his

song keep making international wave for the artist.

Originally with the group Dreams Come True (DCT) boys, J Slught established his solo career with the release of the single "Can't Believe", one of Liberia's most remixed songs of all time.

He followed up with "Sweet Love" which raised him to prominence and brought him to the spotlight in the music industry.



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Gov't teachers reject mutilated banknotes

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Hundreds of public school teachers from the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) in Montserrado County who overwhelmed premises of GN Bank Liberia Limited on Broad Street in Monrovia to receive two months' salary arrears, are rejecting mutilated Liberian banknotes disbursed by the bank.

Some of the disappointed teachers, who spoke to this paper Thursday, 17 October on anonymity, lamented that it was very frustrating that the bank would disburse banknotes that can hardly be accepted for business transaction, which poses serious problem for them as end users.

They explain most of the notes being issued them by the bank are unbecoming, and they find it difficult, if not impossible to take them to the market for transaction purposes due to their physical condition.

A female teacher from the government-run G.W. Gibson High School on Capitol Bypass in Monrovia explains that she already has in her



possession lots of mutilated Liberian banknotes, which were previously received from the bank, but can't be used to buy anything because of their defaced condition.

The teachers overwhelmed the teller windows at the bank, as tellers were busy disbursing Liberian dollars component of instructors' salary arrears with some of them seriously complaining about the disbursement processes.

However, an official of the GN Bank, who declined to reveal his name and position, attributes the situation to alleged refusal of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to withdraw mutilated banknotes from circulation, which continues to pose problem for end users most of whom have no extract means of spending them for business transaction.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) on Monday and Wednesday this

week through the Management of GN Bank sent two separate text messages to all MCSS teachers in Montserrado County, informing them of their salaries for August and September being ready at the bank for disbursement.

MCSS teachers boycotted classes early this week in demand of salary arrears owed them by the government, a situation which led to students from the System taking to the streets in a solidarity protest that subsequently turned violent.

Students from Williams V. S. Tubman High, A. Glenn Elementary, Newport Junior High and G.W. Gibson High schools respectively joined the protest in demand for their instructors' salary arrears.

Police discharged tear gas canisters at the protesting students, many of whom sustained wounds and were rushed to hospital for medication. The action by the police has received widespread public condemnations.

As a result of the teachers' boycott of classes and subsequent demonstrations, most students did not show up on their various school campuses though administrative staffers were present.

During a visitation to the schools mentioned, this reporter was informed by authorities on those campuses that teachers had gone to the bank to receive their salaries for August and September. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

UL pleads with faculty

The Administration of the University of Liberia (UL) says it acknowledges the decision taken by the University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA) to disengage its services due to salary delay.

In a press release issued Thursday, 17 October, the UL Administration adds that this decision taken by ULFA does have the propensity to stall the University's academic

authorized by UL President Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks, the Administration and Board of Trustees have been, and continue to be in constant communication and engagement with the Government of Liberia, to ensure that salaries are paid, and on a timely basis.

In the wake of the present economic constraints in the country, the University says it

that exist in the country, largely due to economic challenges, the Administration therefore, deems it expedient to call for an exercise of restraint.

"The Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the People of Liberia value the contributions of our faculty in molding the minds of our younger generation, as well as the immense sacrifices



Dr. Ophelia Weeks

progress. The Administration and Board of Trustees, however, plead with the UL faculty members through their leadership, for reconsideration, and to return to their respective classrooms while their concerns are being addressed.

According to the release

has been fortunate to have received salary payments up to September, 2019, while the payroll for October has already been submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for processing and subsequent payment in the first week in November.

In consideration of the difficult times and emotions

associated with their efforts," the release says.

"Your professionalism is highly appreciated and respected, and we are sincerely committed to seeking your welfare at all times," it concludes.--*Press release*

'General Power'

Starts from back page

while another group who were loyal to Henry Costa, a talk show host on Roots FM, moved in to allegedly attack Freedom FM.

He narrates that the police, as usual, assisted sheriffs from the Monrovia City Court in implementing a writ to search and seize Roots FM's broadcast equipment.

After executing the court's mandate, Carter indicates that some individuals seeking to get at the police, allegedly began spreading fake information that one [ex-fighter] General Power [alias Augustine Nagbe] was used to assist police in executing the writ of search and seizure from the Monrovia City Court.

"So for the records we do not recognize anyone in the name of General Power. As far as we are concerned, commissioned generals at the level of the Armed Forces of Liberia are recognized under the current AFL administration. If you were a general during LURD, MODEL or whatever warring faction time, your time is over," he notes.

Carter says if anyone must help the police, the person must be trained and go through proper recruitment before coming to help.

"Those officers were deactivated, meaning they are no more in active service. Their ranks have died. They no more hold those ranks. So,

anyone were to call anyone General Power, we do not know of any General Power," he adds.

Speaking on the protest by students from the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) Tuesday, 15 October, Carter claims that no student sustained bodily injury as a result of police's action during the encounter.

Instead, the police spokesman suggests that injuries sustained by students resulted from stone exchanges executed between aggrieved students from the MCSS and private school students.

But he observes that some Liberians are using social media to spread fake videos and pictures aimed at denigrating the image of the LNP and the government by spreading images and videos of past incidents to claim that they were pictorials of the Tuesday incident.

According to him, the intent of spreading the fake videos and photos is to cause widespread violence across the country.

But he urges all those spreading fake videos and pictures to stop with immediate effect, or face the full weight of the law.

"We will not hesitate, where necessary to ensure that necessary actions are taken, aimed at protecting the peace and stability of our country," Carter concludes.

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'General Power' not instructing us

-police react



By Winston W. Parley

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has denied suggestions here that it being assisted in its responses to protests and enforcement of orders by an ex-fighter called General Power, alias Augustine Nagbe.

The claim that General Power has allegedly been showing influence at protest scenes here intensified over

his alleged appearance around pro - government broadcaster Freedom FM while police assisted sheriffs from the Monrovia City Court and broke into government critic station Roots FM, collecting its broadcast equipment and shutting it down.

But Police Spokesman Moses Carter told a press briefing Thursday, 17 October at LNP Headquarters that no police

officer took any instruction from any General Power.

"And that no one gave any instruction to the police. No police officer took any instruction from any General Power. The misinformation even was that General Power went to Roots FM, and when we saw the photos trending, it depicted General Power on Benson Street. Is Roots FM on Benson Street? No," he argues.

During the closure of Roots FM recently, the police say a counter group resisted loyalists of talk show host Henry Costa who were demanding the closure of pro - government broadcaster Freedom FM located at Benson and Randall Streets intersection.

According to Carter, the LNP is not bankrupt of manpower to the extent that it will go out and look for people for help.

However, he explains that when police were shutting down Roots FM, some group went to Freedom FM to protect it from being attacked,



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Eto'o out of Cameroon's U-17 WC Squad

Etienne Eto'o, the son of African football legend Samuel Eto'o, will not play at this year's U-17 World Cup in Brazil after he was left out of Cameroon coach Thomas Libiih's final 21-man squad.

Eto'o, along with Roma forward Barel Fotso, are in a group of Europe-based players who have not made the squad.

Eto'o, who is on the books



of Spanish giants Mallorca, joined the reigning African champions for a training camp

in Brasilia and scored in a friendly against local side Brasilians FC.

A decree signed by Cameroon's President Paul Biya in September 2014 said that the country's U-15 and U-17 teams should be reserved solely for players in domestic championships.

Cameroon coach Thomas Libiih had previously expressed concerns over the eligibility of foreign-based players for the U-17 World Cup in a letter to Fecafoot's President Seidou Mbombo

Njoya.

Libiih, a former Cameroon international who featured in the 1990 World Cup, has also left out five players from his 2019 Nations Cup winning squad.

The list is headlined by midfielder Steve Mvoue who captained Cameroon to their second continental title in April, eventually being crowned the tournament's most valuable player.

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