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-Proverbs 28:3

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Police defend brutality



Police Chief of Operations, Col. Marvin Sackor



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Continental News

Renamo calls for Mozambique elections to be cancelled

Mozambique's main opposition party has called for Tuesday's elections to be cancelled, citing violence and fraud. Renamo accused the ruling party, Frelimo, of violating the August peace deal between the two sides.

A European Union observer mission said the elections were marred by an uneven playing field, violence and a climate of fear.

A Frelimo spokesman dismissed the EU statement as "unfounded", saying the elections passed off smoothly. The election is seen as a test of the peace deal between the two parties, which fought a bitter 1975-1991 civil war, with renewed hostilities from 2013-16.

With preliminary results in from about a third of polling stations, President Filipe Nyusi has a commanding lead in the presidential race, with about 70% of the votes. Renamo's Ossufo Momade is trailing on about 25%. Renamo

general secretary André Magibiri on Saturday rejected the results being announced, saying they did not correspond to the will of the electorate.

He said the electoral process was "brutal and barbaric, with total violence, arbitrary arrests,

ballot-box stuffing, and other irregularities".

Election commission officials have denied reports of ballot-stuffing on election day.

About 10 people have been killed in election

violence, according to a local observer mission.

The latest deaths were a Renamo official whose body was found with multiple gunshots, along with that of her husband after they went missing on election day, according to Human Rights Watch researcher Zenaida

Machado. Five days before the election, an election observer was shot dead allegedly by a group of elite police officers.

The police say they are investigating the circumstances in which Anastacio Matavel was shot dead. BBC



Election officials have denied allegations of ballot-box stuffing

Johannesburg's black mayor resigns in race row

One of the most senior politicians in South Africa's historically white main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) has resigned his post and quit the party over how it handles race.

Herman Mashaba was mayor of Johannesburg for three years.

The election of a black mayor from the DA was seen as a sign of the party could potentially threaten the ruling ANC's grip on power at

national level.

But at a press conference on Monday Mr Mashaba said:

"I cannot reconcile myself with people who believe that race is not important in their discussion of inequalities." He said his decision was sparked by the re-admission of Helen Zille, a white politician who provoked widespread anger in 2017 when she praised aspects of colonialism, to the party's high ranks: "The election of [Helen] Zille as chair of federal council is victory for people

who are opposed to my belief systems."

Black leaders within the DA believe that the liberal, multi-racial party is going back to its roots of being an all-white organisation, the BBC's Milton Nkosi in Johannesburg reports. Mr Mashaba also said his "pro-poor agenda" had been "undermined, criticised and rendered nearly impossible" by the DA. Our reporter says that by "pro-poor", Mr Mashaba means "pro-black". As the first non-ANC (African National Congress) mayor of South Africa's biggest city since the end of white minority rule in 1994, Mr Mashaba's election victory in 2016 signalled a major success for the DA. Self-made businessman Mr Mashaba was seen as a key ally of the party's first black leader, Mmusi Msimane, in his efforts to increase support among black voters. But the DA's share of the vote dropped in the May general election after conservative whites abandoned the party, and Ms Zille's return to a senior post in the party is seen as an attempt to regain their support. Mr Mashaba said he would step down next month, raising questions about whether the



Herman Mashaba was mayor of Johannesburg for three years

Putin accuses West of 'blackmailing' Africa

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has said his country can offer help to Africa without the conditions attached by Western powers.

"We see how an array of Western countries are resorting to pressure, intimidation and blackmail of sovereign African governments," Mr Putin said in an interview with TASS news

October summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Mr Putin said relations with Africa had improved, pointing to military cooperation agreements that Russia currently has with more than 30 African countries which it supplies arms to.

Rwanda is among countries that have deepened relations with Russia.



agency, ahead of a summit with African leaders.

"They are using such methods to try to return lost influence and dominance in their former colonies in a new guise and rushing to pump out maximum profits and to exploit the continent," he added.

Russia is expecting to host 47 African leaders at the 23-24

The Rwandan cabinet recently gave a green light to an agreement with Russia to advance the use of nuclear energy for "peaceful purposes", The East African newspaper reports.

The technology will be used in the agriculture, energy production and environment protection, the report says. BBC

DA would be able to retain the mayoral post in Johannesburg. News of Herman Mashaba's resignation exposes deep fault lines within the DA. It's a far cry from the day when Mmusi Maimane was elected party leader amid much fanfare, his hand clasped by Helen Zille's as they sang along to loud cheers of delegates. For the governing ANC, which is itself trapped in seemingly perpetual internal squabbles, the opposition DA's problems are manna from heaven.

The ANC is weak but the

largest opposition party in the country is mutilating itself in a corner, unprovoked. As for the DA party leader Mr Maimane, he is also fighting for his political life.

Standing side-by-side with Mr Mashaba at Monday's press conference, Mr Maimane held his hand high saying: "You are my hero! You are my hero!"

Mr Maimane's fate will be decided in next year's party leadership congress. But judging by the speed at which events are unfolding, there is no guarantee that he will still be around then. BBC

EDITORIAL

UL caught in political web

IT IS NO secret that the smooth operation of the University of Liberia (UL) is tied to politics on Capitol Hill, specifically, at the Executive Mansion. The state-run university is always under the dictate of the presidency that has always decided who heads that institution.

AND SO, IT didn't come as a surprise last week Thursday, 17 October when news broke late at night that President George Manneh Weah, current Visitor to the University, has dismissed the 14th president and second female to head that institution, Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks, a Neurologist.

DR. WEEKS HAS been replaced by the former Dean of Students, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., a former head of the department of young adult affairs at the Liberia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.

BUT THE MAIN issue that drew public concern is that President Weah announced the abrupt change Thursday night just as lecturers at the University were poised to boycott classes on Friday, 18 October in demand of salary arrears owed them by the government, which they did despite appeal by the UL administration. Earlier in the week, public school students had protested here in solidarity with their teachers who staged a go-slow in demand of three months' unpaid salaries.

THE DISMISSAL AT the UL also came days after ruling Coalition lawmaker, Moses Acarous Gray reportedly called on President Weah to get rid of traitors and haters working against the government's interest without specifically naming anyone. Subsequently, Dr. Weeks is purged from the University.

EARLY FRIDAY, RUMOR circulated on the Fendell Campus that lecturers and staff's salaries were in the bank, ready for disbursement though not independently confirmed.

HOWEVER, THIS WE know for fact; since the inception of the Weah-led government, the University of Liberia had never faced any major financial problem that would cause lecturers to boycott classes for pay except when President Weah drove at the UL main campus on Capitol Hill in 2017, while Dr. Weeks was out of the country and abruptly announced a tuition-freed program for undergraduates, a pronouncement that led many Liberians to question where would the government source funding for such program.

THAT CONCERN HAS never been addressed by the Executive, particularly the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. The Liberian Senate had concluded definitively after listening to various stakeholders that the tuition-freed scheme at the University is unsustainable.

DR. WEEKS HAS been purged as the sacrificial lamb in wake of growing dissent both among students and faculty at the UL just as it is among the entire population over general economic situations across Liberia.

HER SUCCESSOR, DR. Sarwolo Nelson, would perhaps have to perform magic to keep that institution financially afloat because the reality in the country has not changed and wouldn't change in the short-run.

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.

O-PED

By Yanis Varoufakis

The IMF Should Take Over Libra

ATHENS - The Libra Association is fragmenting. Visa, Mastercard, PayPal, Stripe, Mercado Pago, and eBay have abandoned the Facebook-led corporate alliance underpinning Libra, the asset-backed cryptocurrency meant to revolutionize international money. More corporations are likely to follow as pressure upon them mounts from worried governments determined to stop Libra dead in its tracks.

This is a good thing. Humanity would have suffered had Facebook been allowed to use Libra to privatize the international payments system. But the authorities that are now strangling Libra should look to the future and do with it something innovative, useful, and visionary: hand Libra, or its core concept, over to the International Monetary Fund so that it can be used to reduce global trade imbalances and rebalance financial flows. Indeed, a Libra-like cryptocurrency could help the IMF fulfill its original purpose.

When Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced Libra amid great fanfare, the idea sounded interesting and innocuous. Anyone with a mobile phone would be able to buy Libra tokens with domestic currency and by standard methods such as debit cards and online banking. Those tokens could then be used to make payments to other Libra users, whether to purchase goods and services or repay debts. To ensure full transparency, all transactions would be handled by blockchain technology. In sharp contrast to Bitcoin, however, Libra tokens would be fully backed by copper-bottomed assets.

To anchor Libra to tangible assets, the association backing it promised to use its revenues, along with the seed capital contributed by its member companies (at least \$10 million each), to buy highly liquid, highly rated financial assets (such as US Treasuries). Given Facebook's leading role, it was not hard to envisage a moment when half of the planet's adult population, represented by 2.4 billion monthly active Facebook users, would suddenly have a new currency allowing them to transact with one another and bypass the rest of the financial system.

The authorities' initial reaction was awkwardly negative. By highlighting the potential criminal uses of Libra, they only succeeded in confirming the libertarian suspicion that, faced with the threat of losing control over money, regulators, politicians, and central bankers prefer to smother liberating monetary innovations. This is a pity, because the greatest enabler of illicit activity is old-fashioned cash, and, more important, because Libra would pose a systemic threat to our political economies even if it were never used to finance terrorism or criminality.

Starting with Libra's ill effects on individuals, recall the great effort most countries have invested in minimizing the volatility of the purchasing power of domestic money. As a result of those efforts, one hundred euros or dollars buy today more or less the same goods that they will buy next month. But the same could not be said of one hundred euros or dollars converted into Libra.

To the extent that Libra would be backed by assets denominated in several currencies, a Libra token's purchasing power in any given country would fluctuate a great deal more than the domestic currency. Libra would, in fact, resemble the IMF's internal accounting unit, known as Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which reflect a weighted average of the world's leading currencies.

To see what this means, consider that in 2015, the exchange rate between the US dollar and the SDR fluctuated by up to 20%. Had a US consumer converted \$100 into Libra back then, they would be subjected to the agony of watching the tokens' domestic purchasing power move up and down like a yo-yo. As for residents of developing countries, whose currencies are prone to depreciation, Libra's facilitation of money changing would accelerate the depreciation, boost domestic inflation, and make capital flight both likelier and more pronounced.

Since the 2008 financial crash, authorities have struggled to manage inflation, employment, and investment with the fiscal and monetary levers that, prior to the crisis, seemed to work reasonably well. Libra would further diminish our states' capacity to smooth the business cycle. Fiscal policy's efficacy would suffer as the tax base shrank, with every payment shifting to a global payments system residing within Facebook. An even greater shock would await monetary policy.

For better or worse, our central banks manage the quantity and flow of money by withdrawing or adding paper assets to the stock held by private banks. When they want to stimulate economic activity, central banks buy from private banks commercial loans, mortgages, deposits, and other assets. The banks then have more cash to lend. And vice versa when the authorities want to cool down the economy. But the more successful Libra becomes, the more money people will transfer from their bank account to their Libra wallet and the less able central banks will be to stabilize the economy. In other words, the greater the flight to Libra, the deeper the volatility and crises afflicting people and states.

The sole beneficiary would be the Libra Association, which would collect tremendous interest income on the assets from around the world that it would accumulate using the large portion of global savings attracted to its payment platform. Soon, the Association would yield to the temptation to advance credit to individuals and corporations, graduating from a payments system to a gargantuan global bank that no government could ever bail out, regulate, or resolve.

That is why it is a good thing that Libra is unraveling, along with Zuckerberg's dream of a private global payments monopoly. But we should not throw the technological baby out with the monopolistic bathwater. The trick is to entrust implementation of the idea to the IMF, on behalf of its member states, with a view to reinventing the international monetary system in a manner reflecting John Maynard Keynes' rejected proposal at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference for an International Clearing Union.

To bring about this new Bretton Woods, the IMF would issue a blockchain-based, Libra-like token - let's call it the Kosmos - whose exchange rate with domestic currencies floats freely. People continue to use their domestic currency, but all cross-border trade and capital transfers are denominated in Kosmos and pass through their central bank's account held at the IMF. Trade deficits and surpluses incur a trade-imbalance levy, while private financial institutions pay a fee in proportion to any surge of outward capital flows. These penalties accrue in a Kosmos-denominated IMF account that operates as a global sovereign wealth fund. Suddenly, all international transactions become frictionless and fully transparent, while small but significant penalties keep trade and capital imbalances in check and fund green investment and remedial North-South wealth redistribution.

Brilliant ideas that would be catastrophic in the hands of buccaneering privateers should be pressed into public service. That way, we can benefit from their ingenuity without falling prey to their designs.

OPINION

By Carl Bildt

Time to Bite the Bullet in Syria

CANBERRA - Recent events in Syria have naturally raised two questions: Who lost the country? And where might the international community go from here?

The first question is easier to answer. Looking back, Syria has probably been lost since the popular uprising in 2011. When President Bashar al-Assad's regime stubbornly refused any effort to resolve the matter peacefully, no outside power proved willing to intervene. Instead, everyone hoped that a mix of sanctions, United Nations-led diplomacy, and halfhearted attempts to support a "moderate" opposition would eventually bring down the regime.

It didn't work. Fundamentalist forces gained political ground and territory, and others, including Iranian-backed militias and the Russian military after the fall of 2015, rushed to Assad's defense. Although the regime had long deprived the Kurds in northern Syria of most of their rights, it started making concessions to them when it came under pressure. As a result, Kurdish militias abstained from challenging Assad, which led much of the broader Syrian opposition to shun them.

After the Islamic State (ISIS) established its "caliphate" in Mosul and Raqqa in 2014 - enabling it to strike even Baghdad - there was an understandable rush to confront the terrorist threat. In Iraq, that task fell largely to Iranian-aligned Shia militias. But in Syria, the situation was more complicated. The United States had no intention of sending in its own combat forces, but it also knew that the Syrian opposition groups that it (and Turkey) had been arming were not up to the challenge. In any case, those groups were focused on toppling Assad, which had ceased to be a high priority for Western policymakers.

Given these constraints, the US threw its support behind the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). The US has long recognized the YPG as an affiliate of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which it, along with the European Union and Turkey, classify as a terrorist organization. But even if the decision did not fit with any long-term strategy, it did satisfy short-term tactical needs, and supporting the YPG ultimately proved successful in depriving ISIS of its territory (though the group will remain a long-term threat).

The uprooting of ISIS would have been a good time to launch a political process to resolve the broader conflict. In fact, there were at least two options on the table. The first was to establish a Kurdish/YPG-governed entity in northern and northeastern Syria. But, of course, that would have raised the ire of Turkey, which was not ready to tolerate any PKK presence on its border. In addition to requiring an open-ended US military presence, this scenario would have resulted in Kurds ruling over substantial swaths of non-Kurdish territory.

The other option was to pursue a broader political settlement, with the goal of creating an inclusive governance structure acceptable to the regime in Damascus. Over time, this process could have led to an arrangement similar to that in northern Iraq, where the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) now cooperates closely with Turkey.

But this didn't happen. As the US position evolved, the Trump administration rejected the first option and then actively discouraged the second, making a crisis inevitable. The trigger for the crisis was a telephone call in which US President Donald Trump gave Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a green light to send forces into Syria. Trump ordered the US military to abandon the area immediately, and added insult to injury by announcing it all on Twitter, shocking both the Kurds and many of his own advisers.

Since then, everything has come crashing down. With their credibility in tatters, US officials have desperately sought to create some kind of policy out of the ruins created by the presidential tweets. The president has threatened to destroy Turkey's economy if it does what he enabled it to do. With Kurds - most of them civilians - fleeing Turkish bombs, the UN Security Council has remained typically silent, while the Europeans have condemned everything and everyone involved.

As foreign-policy disasters go, this is one for the record books. But the seeds for this larger conflagration were sown long before the now-infamous Trump-Erdogan call. Absent any coherent policy, the conditions were ripe for a crisis. The question now is whether there is any constructive way to proceed.

For now, the US has agreed with Turkey on establishing the wide security zone in northern Syria it sought. Russia, meanwhile, has evidently brokered some sort of arrangement between the YPG and the Assad regime. With Russian and Syrian government forces now entering some of the areas vacated by the US, the Trump administration is left trying to manage its relations with Turkey. As for the EU, there is little to be done. Having already cut off all high-level political contacts with Turkey, it is impotent in the face of this latest crisis.

Logic dictates that all of the relevant parties in the region should now sit down and try to come to some kind of agreement. In addition to the KRG, Iraq, and other Arab countries, there also needs to be a place at the table for Turkey, Iran, and the Syrian government. Yes, the Assad regime is associated with a wide range of horrors and atrocities; but there is simply no other way forward.

Regional talks certainly will not come easy. Many parties will have to swallow hard and face difficult realities. Unfortunately, the prospect of a democratic Syria was lost years ago. The top priority now must be to restore stability and prevent further catastrophes. There are no longer any good options, if, in fact, there ever were.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

Protesting public school students demanding their teachers' salaries last week Tuesday, 15 October clashed with their colleagues from a Seventh Day Adventist High School in central Monrovia amid teargas canisters fired by riot police, leaving many students unconscious and taken to hospital.

The New Dawn asks some residents of Monrovia to give their views on the incident.



Sekou Conner

"I'm totally disappointed in President George Weah for the manner in which he responded to protesting students from our own government institutions recently. Look, Mr. President, the simplest thing you could have done was to use the presence of those students in the street to listen to their plight, as leader, but on the contrary, you decided to demonstrate bad leadership against our future leaders. Lastly, Mr. President, please be very careful with police officers who brutalized the students because if

you don't pay them their salaries on time, they could easily damage your image in the international community."



"My heartfelt solidarity goes to students who were wounded in the recent protest. I totally condemn the action of the police against peaceful students. Col. Patrick Sudue should be held liable for his officers' action. President George Weah gave LRD 5,000 to each zogo, but can't pay teachers their three months' salaries! Sad times; no justice in Liberia."

T.Girl Johnson

"Let me use this medium to condemn the action by the Liberia National Police in using excessive force on Peaceful Students and Journalists. President WEAH is loved by the People so the students of MCSS just wanted to have a conversation with their President. Police shouldn't have used teargas on protesting students. Let me also condemn the act of the students for not allowing the President's motorcade to enter the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. And why would students be involved in throwing stones at Police officers? Students

should always be peaceful and law-abiding."



Benetta G Tarley

"What are the priorities of this government and President Weah's? The last time I checked, NURSES, Doctors and Physician Assistants staged a go-slow action in and out of Monrovia; POLICE in Bong County and other counties ABANDONED their assigned places due to SALARIES' delays; Judges at the VARIOUS courts ABANDONED their duties due to the same problem. Today, it's MCSS Teachers and Administrators. Liberia, don't President Weah and Samuel Tweah know that Teachers are not to be owed? Is President Weah encouraging corruption in both classrooms and on



school campuses as a whole? Wow! This is a complete wickedness on the part of the government and President George Manneh Weah. Why should you owe someone whose SALARY can't even reach US\$100? Where do you expect Teachers to get money from to TRANSPORT THEMSELVES to work daily and at the same time feed their FAMILIES? Frankly, this Agenda is a contradiction to itself and a nightmare to the Teachers as well as the masses in GENERAL. Mr. President, kindly provide treatment for those wounded students."

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Shangyou Wood to export first 100 containers of rubber wood

Shangyou Wood Industrial Development Company's rubber processing plant is preparing to export its first 100 forty-foot containers of rubberwood, having commenced operation of its world class rubberwood processing plant in July this year.

The company's first export is due while it also draws closer to the completion of the first three months of intensive training of over 200 Liberian technicians.

Shangyou Wood Industrial Development Company is based in lower Montserrado County at the boundary of Margi County.

The company announced during the opening of its factory in July that if production capacity is fully realized, it would provide employment for 5,000 Liberians.

It has employed almost 300 Liberians including 69 women. 58 of the workers are

assigned in Firestone, where most of the logging of rubber trees takes place and transported to the plant.

While working with government ministries and agencies to obtain the Export Permit Declaration to ship the

first consignment, the company is also training its workers without any major hindrance.

The firm, which has a 40 year concession agreement with the government, has a target of processing and

exporting around 3,000 cubic meters of rubberwood per month.

This will accumulate huge returns to Liberia in taxes and at the same time create additional jobs for locals.

Shangyou currently has a US\$20 million investment in Liberia and has a

long term plan of expanding its operations to turn the country into the regional hub of furniture and rubberwood products.

Meanwhile, the company faces a challenge in reaching its full production

capacity due to the lack of skilled manpower to run the several modern machines and equipment available at its factory.

"Once we open the factory, we plan to give three months for us to train the workers so that they can be qualified to use the machines because this is a very technical job," said Luo Quanzhang, Manager of the Shangyou Wood.

Nyema Bruce, Operation Manager at the company adds that there are not many skilled technicians available in the country.

"Anybody can use a saw mill but not anybody can use the machine we have efficiently," Bruce says.

Many of the trained technicians were former employees of Firestone who worked at the plantation's rubberwood processing

factory. The factory has since shutdown due to what was reported to be a poor business climate.

But Shangyou Wood is now using the expertise of these Liberians along with 10 Chinese technicians to build the skills of over 200 of its employees.

"After [the] first batch of people have been trained, we will weed out the best ones from the not-so-good ones, then the good ones will supervise and train the others," Mr. Luo discloses.

At the same time, the Manager of Shangyou Wood has praised female workers of the factory for being "very careful and good" on the job.

"Because women are more careful than men, so we hired them and they are working very well," he says.

"They do not do very heavy duty jobs; they take on jobs that require careful handling of the wood and arranging of the woods and they are doing it very good. We will continue to work with them and build their skills," he adds.

For its long term plan, Shangyou Wood is looking to set up a special economic zone (SEZ) for rubberwood furniture in the country.

The SEZ, the company says, will be the go-to-place for rubberwood furniture in the West African region, considering that Liberia is neatly situated and has huge rubber wood capacity.



FIND extends rule of law awareness in rural Liberia

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

The Foundation for International Dignity (FIND) is said to be continuing rule of law awareness in rural Liberia as part of efforts to strengthening the justice system across the Country.

Our Bong County Correspondent says FIND usual rule of law awareness was once again extended to Bong Mines, in lower Bong County and Sanaquellie, Nimba County through town hall meetings with residents of the two areas.

The meeting in Bong Mines brought together,

government officials including Magistrate Richard Flomo of the Bong Mines Magisterial Court, the City Solicitor and the Liberia National Police; while in Sanaquellie city, the Deputy Superintendent of the Sanaquellie Prison Paul A. Vah, Nimba County Police Commander Andrew Flomo amongst others were in attendance.

The justice actors were invited to explain their roles and responsibilities as working arms of the Liberian government through which citizens will understand before following future actions.

In Bong Mines and Sanaquellie, FIND Acting

Executive Director Mr. Aaron G.V Juakollie told the gatherings that they organized the meetings to help ensure the strengthening of the rule of law and access to justice for the People of the two counties.

"It is important for us to make our people to understand the workings of the security sector, their functions and how do they help the local citizens" Mr. Juakollie explains.

He said their work as an organization is to monitor the rights of every citizens and to ensure that their God given rights which is approved by the Liberian government can be protected every time.

He told the citizens before Magistrate Flomo, that the right to legal representation is guaranteed by the constitution of Liberia and in the event an accused is unable to secure the service of a counsel, the State is under obligation to provide such counsel.

In a remark Magistrate Flomo detailed the responsibility of a magisterial court and how does it work to settle disputes.

He told the gathering that it is not the responsibility of the court to look for cases but the court is charged to try cases after receiving complaints from Complainants.

"I can tell you clearly that the court is not bias, the court is for everyone and we serve with impartiality" he adds.

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He explained the reasons why people are sometimes set free one month after being taken to court and saying "some people only care about bringing their complaints but they do not care to follow its logical conclusion. So if the complainant is not serious about the case, we set the person free, which means that the said complainant does not have evidence to prove to the court."

"The court is the second place to go apart from the Police when somebody does wrong to you. All citizens are encouraged to go to the court for redress and not to take the law into their own hands. There are cases you can play with while others, you do not. For instance, rape, murder, armed robbery should not be played with at all times. He concludes.

While also in Saniquellie, Nimba County Police Commander Andrew Flomo told the citizens at the

interactive town hall meeting, that the Police is charged with the responsibility to protect lives and properties.

He explained the duty of the Liberia National Police and informed the people that the Police should not keep anybody in jail for more than two days or 48 hours. "The 48 hours will allow the Police to do their investigation and charge the person before sending them to court"

"Every person arrested or detained shall be formally charged and presented before a court of competent jurisdiction within forty eight hours" making reference to article 21 (f) of the Liberian Constitution.

Mr. Flomo told the Nimba County citizens that no one is to pay money to any Police officer to arrest anyone. However, he said the lack of logistics in some instances compel the police to ask complainants to provide motorcycle fees.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

“Don’t support home delivery”

--Deputy Speaker admonishes traditional midwives

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Deputy House Speaker Prince Kermue Moyer is cautioning Traditional Midwives to desist from carrying out home delivery, if

Jorquelleh District, Deputy Speaker Moyer challenged them to take pregnant women to the nearby clinic or hospital for delivery.

He made the call, at an honoring program organized by his office, to appreciate

very high risk.

He terms the act of home delivery as unacceptable, thereby noting that such act will not be condoned by his office.

“As Traditional Midwives, we are asking you not to support home delivery but help the pregnant women to get at the nearby health facility,” Mr. Moyer continues.

Moyer who represents Bong County District #2 at the 54th Legislature pledges his unflinching support to Midwives who usually take pregnant women to the clinic or hospital for delivery.

He promises to make available LRD\$350,000 for the midwives and the district health office. Further, Mr. Moyer commits to underwriting the Master’s programs of two female health workers of the district to the Philippines.

For her part, Jorquelleh Traditional Midwives president, Rebecca Younger Mulbah applauds Rep. Moyer for always identifying with them.

Madam Mulbah then pledges her group’s commitment to continue the fight against maternal mortality by carrying pregnant women to clinics or hospitals for delivery. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Liberia must succeed in the fight against maternal mortality.

Addressing scores of trained Traditional Midwives over the weekend in Voloblai,

midwives for their passion and efforts in saving lives.

He argues that delivering pregnant women at homes or in bushes put their lives and the unborn children’s lives at a

Former Gbarnga mayor frowns against lawmaker over insults

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Former Gbarnga City Mayor Viola Cooper has expressed dismay over Bong County District #3 Rep. Josiah Marvin Cole’s alleged insults against officials at the Phebe Hospital.

Cooper now works as political advisor in the office of Deputy House Speaker Prince Moyer in the 54th Legislature.

Rep. Cole in a recent interview with our Bong County correspondent branded several officials of the hospital as criminals.

But former Mayor Cooper recently told a press conference in Gbarnga that the insult spewed against officials at Phebe Hospital by Rep. Cole is unacceptable and retrogressive to the advancement of the country’s health care delivery system.

“Representative Cole needs to give the health Workers chance to do their job. This is bad for a



Bong County District #3 Rep. Josiah Marvin Cole’s

Lawmaker who does not know anything about health to be at the center stage of issue of such,” she adds.

Madam Cooper also frowns at Rep. Cole for calling for the immediate resignation of Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah.

She wonders why the District #3 Lawmaker would

decide to unilaterally run Phebe Hospital in the presence of constituted authorities.

“If Honorable Cole has nothing to say, let him shut up because politics and health care are not the same. They do not work together,” Madam Cooper claims.

She alleges that the fight instigated against Phebe by

Legislators are useless

-Cyril Allen

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) executive and chairman emeritus of the ex-governing National Patriotic Party, Chief Cyril Allen brands members of the Liberian Legislature as a group of ‘useless’ people, who are unpatriotic and non-nationalistic.

Speaking to this paper via mobile phone Monday, October 21, in Monrovia, he noted that lawmakers do not have love for

lands for vacation.

According to him, recent cuts in lawmakers’ salaries and benefits came about because of shame, as their salaries and benefits shouldn’t reach such skyrocketing level in the first.

He notes that wickedness being applied to Liberians by lawmakers is something that started decades ago, but Liberians are not doing anything about it.

Chief Allen, currently chairman of the governing council of the CDC, argues that while the 1986 Constitution of



the people they represent at the Capitol, wondering how could 105 persons allot US\$135 million of the national budget to themselves in a country that faces serious economic constraints and still want the people to believe they love Liberia.

Chief Allen laments the current earnings of legislators clearly indicate wickedness of self-seeking individuals, which is driving many Liberians now to only seek employment at the Liberian Legislature to amass wealth.

He says constituency or annual break that lawmakers enjoy every year, many of them do not go home to their people discuss bills they passed; instead, they run to foreign

Liberia gives legislators statutory powers to decide salaries and benefits for themselves, it does not in any way suggest they should abuse such statue by persistent salary increment.

“I’m tired talking about these people because they’re just useless people, who don’t care about the people. Anyway, some of them used rice and cash to be where they are. Why will 205 elected Liberians get about US\$135 million in this kind tight economy? That’s wickedness and lack of love for the country they are leading,” he further laments.

Allen, who chairs the board of the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation, 

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Rep. Cole came as a result of the Board of Phebe’s refusal to accept the appointment of one Alvin Zarwolo as Human Resource Officer at the hospital.

Madam Cooper has meanwhile called on Mr. Cole to shift his focus on the fulfillment of his failed promises to the people of District #3 and halt the fight against the hospital.

In a reaction, Rep. Cole describes Madam Cooper’s statement as elementary, saying it needs not to be given public attention.

According to Rep. Cole, Madam Cooper does not

understand national issue including the responsibility of Lawmakers, evidenced by her statement.

He tells our Bong County correspondent that in spite of the weak criticisms from Madam Cooper, he remains strong to ensuring that better things are done at the Phebe Hospital.

An investigation conducted by our Bong County correspondent says many of the citizens are backing Rep. Cole for his current stance on the alleged corruption scandal at Phebe. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Le Ministère de la condition féminine porte secours aux familles démunies

Le Ministère de la condition de la femme, des enfants et de la protection sociale (MGCSP) a annoncé début du versement de fonds sociaux aux démunis dans les comtés de Maryland et du Grand Kru, au Sud-est du Libéria.

« Aujourd'hui, je suis très heureuse d'annoncer à la nation, à nos partenaires et au monde entier que le ministère de la condition féminine a commencé le versement des fonds sociaux à nos concitoyens qui sont extrêmement indigents et qui souffrent d'insécurité alimentaire dans les comtés de Maryland et de Grand Kru », a déclaré la ministre Williametta E. Tarr.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse tenue au ministère le week-end dernier, la ministre Tarr s'est dite satisfaite de ce que le



gouvernement du Libéria se soit lancé dans une initiative aussi formidable pour améliorer les conditions de vie de ses citoyens.

Selon elle, plus de 3 000 ménages recevront de l'argent en espèce pour survenir aux besoins de leurs

familles. « Le transfert d'argent est une réalisation majeure du premier pilier du programme gouvernemental en faveur des pauvres, intitulé Pouvoir du peuple et investir dans le développement social », a-t-elle dit.

La ministre Tarr a expliqué

et le développement (PAPD) met un accent sur l'importance des transferts monétaires directs en dehors des programmes nationaux centralisés de réduction de la pauvreté. Cette étape, a-t-elle fait savoir, marque également l'essence même des objectifs de développement durable.

La responsable du ministère de la condition féminine a indiqué que le projet de filets sociaux de sécurité au Libéria est un projet gouvernemental qui vise à établir les éléments de base d'un système national de distribution de filets de sécurité de base et à fournir un revenu aux ménages, qui sont à la fois extrêmement pauvres et en situation d'insécurité alimentaire.

Le projet comprend trois composantes, la première consiste à renforcer le système national de filet de sécurité sociale afin d'améliorer l'efficacité et la

capacité, tout en renforçant le système de filet de sécurité sociale, selon elle.

A en croire à Mme Tarr, ce projet financera également la confection d'un registre social pour héberger un système d'information qui comprendra des données sur les ménages ainsi que des fonctions MIS, et transformera ces données en fonction des processus opérationnels de base pour une assistance sociale divergente.

La deuxième composante concerne les transferts en espèces aux ménages extrêmement pauvres et précaires. C'est ce qui est actuellement en cours dans les comtés de Maryland et de Grand Kru. L'objectif est de fournir un soutien de revenu à environ 10 000 ménages extrêmement pauvres et exposés à l'insécurité alimentaire au Libéria, par le biais de transferts monétaires réguliers et de mesures d'accompagnement.

« Nous ciblons actuellement 3 300 ménages, ce qui ne représente que 15 000 personnes dans les deux comtés, et l'objectif est d'atteindre 7 000 ménages qui, selon nous, cibleront plus de 30 000 personnes d'ici le milieu de l'année prochaine ».

Par ailleurs, la ministre Tarr a fait savoir que la troisième composante est la gestion de projet et le renforcement des capacités, ce qui permettra de renforcer la coordination entre les programmes de protection sociale aux niveaux national et régional.

E-Roberts condamnée à une amende de 147 milles dollars libériens

Le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie a infligé une amende de 147 000 LRD (cent quarante-sept mille dollars libériens) à la direction de E-Roberts Distilleries Incorporated qui est soupçonnée de deux infractions.

E-Roberts, un producteur local de boissons alcoolisées, a été condamnée à une amende de 42 000 LRD pour tromperie et à une amende supplémentaire de 105 000 LRD pour avoir utilisé des équipements qui ne répondent pas aux normes

minimales de la distillerie.

Un communiqué du ministère du Commerce a indiqué que la totalité des 147 000 LRD a déjà été versée au compte des recettes publiques de la Banque centrale du Libéria le lundi 14 octobre 2019. Des copies des bordereaux de dépôt ont été officiellement remis au ministère. C'est la preuve que la société s'est conformée à l'amende que lui avait imposée le ministère du commerce et de l'industrie.

La société E-Roberts Distilleries Incorporated avait été mise en quarantaine par le

ministère du Commerce en août 2019, après avoir découvert qu'elle utilisait une installation située le long du boulevard Samuel Kanyan Doe pour la production, qui ne répondait pas aux exigences minimales de distillerie.

Au cours de l'inspection réalisée par l'équipe d'inspection du ministère du Commerce, en collaboration avec la police nationale du Libéria, plus de 900 bouteilles de boissons alcoolisées transformées illégalement ont été découvertes, saisies et ensuite transférées au Laboratoire national de normalisation pour être testées.

Les 900 bouteilles contenaient une variété de boissons alcoolisées dites nocives, notamment le E-Roberts Dry Gin, le Legacy Bitters et le Mandingo Bitters.

Selon le communiqué, un test effectué sur les objets saisis a prouvé qu'ils n'étaient pas contaminés.

À la suite des résultats du test, E-Roberts va maintenant procéder à la transformation de l'installation initialement mise en quarantaine en tenant compte des exigences minimales de distillerie avant de pouvoir poursuivre le traitement normal.

Le ministère du Commerce

effectuera une inspection des installations avant le début de la production.

Le ministère du Commerce soutient qu'E-Roberts est une entreprise libérienne légalement enregistrée, comme mentionné initialement, mais elle avait été condamnée à payer une amende pour fraude en opérant dans une zone isolée autre que celle figurant dans ses registres d'enregistrement, en plus du

non-respect des conditions minimales requises.

Par ailleurs, le ministère du Commerce a accepté la demande de l'équipe juridique de Fuzion Bar and Restaurant de diminuer l'amende qui lui avait été infligée de 3 000 USD à 500 US \$. Le 4 septembre 2019, Fuzion a été condamné à une amende pour avoir empêché des inspecteurs du ministère du Commerce d'entrer dans ces locaux au cours d'une inspection.



Articles traduits

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Français

Ce que Ouattara attend de l'appel de Bensouda, 2 avocats reçus à Abidjan

Le pouvoir d'Abidjan ne reste pas bras croisés à suivre le procès des ex-dirigeants ivoiriens, Laurent Gbagbo et Blé Goudé, qui se tient devant la Cour pénale internationale (Cpi).

Les autorités ivoiriennes suivent attentivement les contours de ce procès pour mieux appréhender les issues possibles.

Selon le confrère Jeune Afrique (JA) dans son édition de cette semaine disponible, depuis dimanche 20 octobre 2020 sur le marché, Abidjan s'intéresse particulièrement à la requête introduite par la Procureure Fatou Bensouda pour l'annulation de la décision d'acquiescement prononcée le 15 janvier passé par la Chambre de première instance I dirigée par le juge italien, Cuno Tarfusser.

Fin septembre dernier, révèle l'hebdomadaire panafricain, le président de la République, Alassane Ouattara, et son ministre de la Justice, Sanson Kambilé, ont reçu sur les bords de la lagune Ebrié deux avocats à cet effet. Il s'agit de Jean-Pierre Mignard et Jean-Paul Benoît, les avocats français de l'Etat de Côte d'Ivoire.

Les autorités ivoiriennes, précise JA, espèrent en effet,

de la requête engagée par Fatou Bensouda, qu'elle relance la procédure judiciaire qui tendait vers son épilogue, et surtout sur une période suffisamment longue.

Ceci, afin de maintenir encore longtemps à l'extérieur les mis en cause, en particulier Laurent Gbagbo, afin que l'ex-chef de l'Etat ne regagne pas de sitôt sa patrie où il pourrait jouer un rôle décisif dans les échéances présidentielles à venir. A ces échéances, Laurent Gbagbo, à défaut de se présenter, pourrait peser lourdement en optant pour l'opposition avec laquelle il laisse entrevoir une alliance. Un projet que ne souhaite pas voir prospérer le pouvoir d'Abidjan.

A en croire JA, les dirigeants ivoiriens ont fait passer le message à l'ex-président en résidence sous condition à Bruxelles, en Belgique, afin qu'il observe une neutralité dans le processus électoral en cours. Des émissions auraient été envoyées à Laurent Gbagbo dont son porte-parole à Abidjan, Assoa Adou et son ex-ministre, Ahoua Don Mello.

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 irréflecti 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'Etat 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 Bidens).

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'Etat Mike Pompeo a limogé Yovanovitch au mois de mai, à laquelle un responsable du département d'Etat 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'Etat sous la présidence Trump.

Le personnel du département d'Etat aurait-elle 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 acceptant la demande d'Erdogan de retrait des troupes américaines, de sorte que la Turquie puisse envahir les territoires sous contrôle kurde dans le nord-est de la Syrie, a considérablement aggravé la situation politique du président américain. Les Kurdes bénéficient d'un soutien bipartisan, pour leur loyauté envers les États-Unis en Irak et en Syrie, et voici que l'Amérique les laisse tomber. Trump a fait l'objet de critiques virulentes de la part même de la sénatrice Lindsey Graham, qui compte pourtant parmi les rares dirigeants républicains à défendre l'approche de Trump concernant Zelensky. Plus inhabituel encore, le chef de la majorité au Sénat, Mitch McConnell, a lui aussi exprimé sa réprobation. « Un retrait précipité des troupes américaines hors de Syrie ne peut bénéficier qu'à la Russie, à l'Iran et au régime d'Assad », a-t-il déclaré. « Un tel retrait accentue par ailleurs le risque de voir se regrouper l'Etat islamique et d'autres groupes terroristes. » L'argument formulé par Trump pour défendre sa décision est absolument stupéfiant : les Kurdes n'ont pas aidé les États-Unis pendant le débarquement de Normandie lors de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Un groupe parlementaire bipartisan avait préparé des sanctions sévères contre la Turquie ; Trump a imposé qu'elles soient assouplies.

Trump a dernièrement perdu plusieurs procès, notamment sur la question de savoir d'il doit fournir ses déclarations fiscales au président de la Commission des voies et moyens de la Chambre, et sur sa déclaration d'un état d'urgence nationale dans le but d'utiliser une partie des fonds de construction militaire pour bâtir son fameux mur. Le président menace désormais de poursuivre le speaker Nancy Pelosi et le président de la Commission du renseignement Adam Schiff, pour avoir amorcé son impeachment. Trump est depuis longtemps connu pour sa tendance à formuler de telles menaces, sans finalement donner suite. Le président américain a néanmoins effectivement demandé à son conseiller à la Maison-Blanche d'adresser à Pelosi un courrier dans lequel il affirme que cette enquête aux fins d'une destitution serait inconstitutionnelle, et déclare que l'administration n'y coopérera absolument pas. Cette défiance de Trump face au Congrès lui promet quasiment un impeachment pour obstruction, entre autres chefs d'accusation possibles. De nouveaux témoignages en défaveur de Trump sont attendus cette semaine.

À supposer que la Chambre vote l'impeachment, le fait est que les voix seront beaucoup moins nombreuses au Sénat en faveur d'une mise en accusation et d'une destitution du président. Pour autant, le seuil de tolérance du Congrès - Sénat inclus - face aux comportements dangereux de Trump dans la conduite du pouvoir, dont certains menacent la sécurité nationale des États-Unis, semble réellement approcher.

Nigeria: raid de la police pour secourir des élèves dans une école Almajiri

La police nigérienne a annoncé, samedi 19 octobre, avoir mené un nouveau raid dans une école religieuse du nord du Nigeria. 150 élèves y étaient détenus, victimes d'abus et de traitements dégradants au quotidien. Cette nouvelle opération policière - la quatrième en un mois - met une nouvelle fois en lumière les dérives des « écoles Almajiri » au Nigeria, entre institutions religieuses et centres de redressement aux méthodes brutales.

En quelques semaines, près de 1 000 jeunes ont été libérés par la police nigérienne au cours d'interventions dans des écoles religieuses du nord du pays.

Fin septembre, 300 garçons ont été découverts dans la ville de Kaduna. Les plus jeunes étaient encore des enfants. Leurs corps portaient les marques des

services subistels que des actes de torture en tout genre et même des abus sexuels.

Dans les jours qui ont suivi, de nouveaux raids ont permis de porter secours à 400 jeunes hommes dans deux autres écoles religieuses. Certains pensionnaires avaient pu s'enfuir et donner l'alerte. Cette fois-ci, la police a donc indiqué, samedi, avoir libéré 150 « étudiants » de plus, dans le district de Kaduna dont 22 femmes se trouvaient aussi parmi eux.

Au Nigeria, 9 millions d'étudiants seraient enrôlés dans ce type d'écoles islamiques privées, appelées « écoles Almajiri ». Il s'agit souvent de la seule alternative pour la scolarisation des enfants les plus pauvres, dans une région marquée par la déliquescence des structures de l'Etat.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Russia-Africa Summit: The Roadmap to Africa

By Kester Kenn Klomegah*

*Collaboration in Industry: Potential Areas of Growth

The development of high-tech and export-oriented industries in the Russian manufacturing sector has laid the groundwork for expanding areas of collaboration and launching ambitious long-term projects. What needs to be done to bring about a substantial improvement in collaboration between Russia and Africa? Which areas of cooperation are of most interest to Russian businesses and African nations? What projects and forms of Russian-African partnership are in need of financial support from parties such as Afreximbank?

*Doing Business in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities

Today, Africa is one of the most promising and fastest-growing regions of the world, with leading powers actively competing with one another. However, the continent should not be viewed as a single, monolithic market. Its economy varies from place to place in terms of type, scale, and structure. Africa today is a place of great political, cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity. As a result, each country has a unique business culture, requiring an individual approach from any company wishing to enter its market.

*Biosecurity: Current Projects and Opportunities for Cooperation

Global threats in today's interconnected world, such as epidemics of infectious diseases, have a huge impact on the development of African nations. Robust healthcare systems and the ability to react to these threats can boost prosperity and help countries to thrive. Over the past few years, the African continent has had to tackle outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases affecting thousands of lives and costing national economies millions of dollars. Russia has a great deal of experience in reacting to health threats, and today is implementing large-scale projects in countries around the world.

*Digital Transformation as a Driver of State Development

Today, digitalization is a major driver of state development. Effective e-government simplifies communication between people and the state, and helps create an effective system for departments to interact with one another. As a result, people gain quicker access to government services. In turn, this leads to greater user satisfaction, and substantial monetary savings.

*The Eurasian Economic Union and Africa: Trends and Opportunities to Develop Integrated Processes and Collaborate

Over the past few decades, economic integration processes have become an overarching trend in regional development throughout the world. They have helped member states to successfully embed themselves in the global economy and minimize the risk of crises occurring in various industries. Economic integration provides a new perspective on crucial projects related to infrastructure, logistics, energy, trade, agricultural and industrial development, digitalization, migration policy, and employment.

It offers additional opportunities to form common approaches to issues concerning the environment, renewable energy, and other factors determining scientific and technological progress. In view of the substantial expertise that regional associations offer, the next logical step is to foster dialogue between them and exchange experience at the forefront of integration, with the aim of optimizing economic integration processes and collaborating on the widest possible range of issues.

*Technological Sovereignty and Security in a Digital World: Solutions to Tomorrow's Challenges

Africa's fast-growing commercial sector is making rapid inroads in the virtual space. African companies are overcoming problems related to communication and financial infrastructure and choosing to immediately build their business online, implementing modern mobile solutions as they do so. However, the cyber security measures used by these fast-growing companies cannot keep up with their rapid development, leaving the companies vulnerable to cyber criminals.

In terms of governmental information systems, a monopolization of global IT markets by a handful of major Western corporations could result in financial losses in Africa, threatening citizens' personal safety and Africa's sovereignty at large. Russian companies are global leaders in digital security and are capable of protecting African businesses from cyber threats while ensuring digital sovereignty for African states. Success can be guaranteed through building partnerships between African and Russian companies and training up an IT security workforce in each country.

*Using Minerals in Africa for the Benefit of Its Peoples

There is a long history of Soviet and Russian specialists participating in and supporting the systemic geological study of a number of countries in the African continent. Their work on natural resource bases has done a great deal to aid mineral extraction. These countries now have the opportunity to leverage modern means of geological research and exploration, and in doing so, continue the comprehensive study of subsoil resources. This could lead to new and globally unique sites being developed, both on land and the continental shelf.

*Business Associations in Russia and Africa: A Starting Point for Long-Term Business Partnership

A major barrier hindering greater cooperation between the Russian and African business communities is a lack of awareness regarding the current state of markets, along with trade and investment opportunities. There is also an insufficient level of trust towards potential partners. These issues can be solved through establishing an effective system of communication between public business associations in Russia and African nations. These organizations can both serve the interests of entrepreneurs, and also guarantee their reliability and integrity.

*Russia and Africa: Science, Education, and Innovation for Economic Development

The accelerated development of both Russia's and Africa's economic potential is inextricably linked to scientific output and the improvement of general education and professional training. The 21st century has heralded the rise of the knowledge economy. Scientific research and development results in new products and industries, and is able to make a vital contribution to tackling current social and economic challenges facing our countries. The Soviet Union made an invaluable contribution to developing the scientific and educational potential of a number of African countries.

*A Safe Africa

Illegal migration, contraband, and criminal activity are all too frequent problems facing the African continent. The biggest threat of all though is terrorism. Experts agree that to ensure a country's national security, a set of measures needs to be taken, along with preventative action to combat possible threats. The biggest vulnerabilities in this regard include weak border control, unprotected industrial facilities, and large urban areas where it becomes easy to disappear into a crowd. An effective set of measures has been developed in Russia to counter terrorism, curtail illegal activity, and provide dependable protection for citizens. Russian organizations and companies are ready and able to share their experience with African partners.*Drivers of Growth in National Healthcare Systems

National healthcare systems are simply unable to cope economically with the burden of disease in Africa.



Particular attention is given to infectious diseases; however, there is a growing need to fight against cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes. What's more, the high cost of medicines and services, together with a shortage of vital modern equipment, is hindering access to medical care in African countries.

The lack of medical personnel is a particularly pressing problem. Cutting-edge technologies, such as mobile phones, blockchain, 3D printing, UAVs, and others clearly need to be applied as drivers of growth in this area. If used correctly, they could significantly improve the quality of medical services while cutting costs. The high number of people in Africa suffering from chronic diseases and requiring remotely administered care and treatment will spur the development of telemedicine.

*New Forms of Cooperation between Russia and Africa: Opportunities for Special Economic Zones Based on the Project to Establish a Russian Industrial Zone in Egypt

A new model for the development of production lines is based on closing the gap between production and delivery to the end consumer, minimising logistical and technical expenses and facilitating projects with a social dimension to successfully develop the local economy. Based on this logic, creating and facilitating conditions conducive to competitive production, including the production of quality hi-tech products, can be done most effectively through the use of points of entry.

Such points draw on the advantages of special (free) economic zones, which provide additional competitive advantages when gaining access to local markets. The project to create a Russian Industrial Zone - devised and implemented at the interface between governments, state development institutions and business communities - is a unique step toward ensuring state investment and implementing the industrial zone mechanism to support access to foreign markets for relevant companies.

*Digitalization in the Mining Industry: New Opportunities, Robots, Artificial Intelligence

Africa is a world leader in volume of reserves and the extraction of many valuable raw materials and fuels, over 90% of which is then exported. The mining industry forms the basis of many countries' industrial capacity and exports and accounts for around 75% of all foreign investments. Traditional field development methods are becoming increasingly expensive. Productivity is dropping due to high maintenance costs, unreliable equipment, reactive troubleshooting, low capacity factors, and incidents related to safety violations.

*Russian Geological Exploration in Africa: Looking to the Past and to the Future

Africa is exceptionally rich in mineral reserves, although these have not yet been studied comprehensively. Compared with other continents, it boasts the largest ore reserves of manganese, chromite, bauxite, gold, platinum, cobalt, diamond, and phosphorite. It also has substantial oil, natural gas, graphite and asbestos reserves. Russian companies, for their part, have a wealth of experience leading exploratory work and are interested in working on the African continent.

TO BE CONT'D

Police defend brutality

By Winston W. Parley

Authorities at the Liberian National Police are defending brutalities sometimes meted against civilians here during protests, saying it is as a result of too many people giving them instructions and that is confusing them.

“Because this is the situation, when, this issue here people don’t understand. That’s the reason why sometimes there’s a result of police brutality because you got so many people giving instruction, too many people giving instruction, and too many people, you know, it confuses the troop,” Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations Col. Marvin Sackor said Monday, 21 October.

His comment comes at a time the Liberia National Police (LNP) is facing condemnation over the handling of protesting public high school students who blocked the main boulevard last week, demanding to speak with President George Manneh Weah concerning their teachers’ salaries.

The students’ protest was triggered after public school teachers abandoned classes to strike for their unpaid salaries.

The situation outside the President’s office was terrifying as several students



were rushed to hospital during the protest as a result of dozens of tear gas canisters fired by riot police to disperse protesting public schools students.

But Col. Sackors aid he had earlier instructed his officers to be careful with the students “until when the president’s convoy came” and the students blocked its passage.

“The only time things went out of hand [was] when the convoy went through and they decided to throw stones. And when you are a student and you are throwing stones, you are not peaceful,” Col. Sackor explains.

According to him, when police tried to take the protesters off the street, they went to privately - run Seventh

Day Adventist (SDA) School and J.J. Roberts to attack the students there.

He argues that the police were not throwing stones, saying some of the injuries that were seen on students resulted from stones that they were throwing.

Expressing confidence in his deputies’ full execution of orders, Col. Sackor told local broadcaster Prime FM that he appears on the scene when he deems it necessary, noting that he sits on his command post and instructs his men to act.

“So I sit and give instructions to my deputy and he gives it to his under men, they execute. That’s how it

should be done,” he continues.

Concerning ex-rebel General Power alias Augustine Nagbe’s alleged involvement with police operations here, Col. Sackor says the ex-general is not an employee of the Liberia National Police, but a Liberian citizen.

“Why will we want to bring ex-generals to work with us? We have people. We have professionals. We have seasoned officers who can execute. We are civil law enforcement officers, the military is different from us. The military is mostly involved in external aggression,” he says.

He also denies suggestions that General Power issued orders to police officers when they broke into talk show host Henry Costa’s radio station Roots FM, collected equipment and shut down the station despite protest by Costa’s loyalists.

“This is the situation here, Power is a Liberian. As far as I am concerned, Power is not an employee of the Liberia National Police,” Col. Sackor says.

Col. Sackor asserts that the president has a legacy which the police must protect.

“Look our job is to advice. Let me say something to you Kelvin, the president has a legacy right? Our job is to make sure we protect that. So if something is wrong or right, we speak truth to power. We are not politicians. I am not a politician,” he states.

The deputy police chief tells that talk show that the police here are not being controlled by anybody, in reaction to public suspicion that the police appear to be regime security.

“You see the problem is people cannot go on the street and disrespect the rule of law, disrespect the Constitution, then when the police act, then people want to politicize it. It’s wrong,” Sackor notes.

Fight over dead

Starts from back page

arrest of several family members, including Otis Yeegen and Roland Paye for attacking victim Samuel Ben, who complained the accused individuals of wounding him.

Our Nimba correspondent recounts that since the road between Ganta and the southeast of the country became impassable due to bad condition, over 10 dead bodies have been physically

transported by family members, toting the corpses on their heads for burial due to lack of vehicles.

Meanwhile, the husband of the deceased Nya Gonyea regrets that he did not expect his in-laws would have behaved in the manner they conducted themselves.

He discloses that his wife, the late Nohn Yeegen, was a mother of seven children and their union last for over 30 years.

The remains of the deceased are yet to be laid to rest, as several family members have been arrested and detained by the police, pending investigation. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Legislators are useless

Cont’d from page 7

accuses the National Elections Commission of sometimes bending the law to fit legislative aspirants, asking why would a sitting lawmaker for an electoral district contest for another district in another county when the Constitution talks about being a domicile of that district or county before contesting?

He says it is only in Liberia these political variables are playing in the political field in the presence of the NEC that should regulate the process. Commenting on series of

protests being faced by the Weah administration, he says it is worrisome and troubling for Liberians to always take the streets as a means to stating their grievances and something should be done to stop such practice. But the very Constitution he talks about provides such right to the people whenever their peace and happiness is threatened.

Allen argues that there are some people who could be over zealous in these demonstrations, which could lead to something else that Liberians would not want to see.

He cautions the CDC-led government to engage citizens thru round table discussions to reduce prevailing street protests here.

The government is beset by growing dissent and protests over salary delays and other social and economic pressures. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

4A30/PSD/004

Supply and Delivery of Three Phase 4 Wire LT CT Connection Smart Meters for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

Background and Context
The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (“MCC”) and the Government of Liberia (the “Government” or “GoL”) have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the “Compact”) in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD (“MCC Funding”). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia (the “MCA Entity”), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for which the Request for Quotation (“RFQ”) is issued.

MCA-Liberia now invites priced quotation from eligible firms/suppliers for the Supply and Delivery of Three Phase 4 Wire LT CT Connection Smart Meters for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

The RFQ is for:

Supply and Delivery of Three Phase 4 Wire LT CT Connection Smart Meters for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested firms/suppliers should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the RFQ, which is free of charge.

Important dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFQ	October 17, 2019
2	Last date for questions/clarifications	October 24, 2019
3	MCA-L Response to Questions/Clarifications	October 29, 2019
4	Deadline for Submission of Quotations	November 6, 2019 at 4:00 pm

Fight over dead body in Nimba



The body of the late Nohn Yeegen, 54, dishonored in a family feud in Ganta City

Victim Samuel Ben

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

A family feud over the corpse of a 54-year-old female relative has led to aggrieved members bursting the casket opened and removing the body.

Police in Ganta, Nimba County have arrested several members of the family of the late 54-year-old Nohn Yeegen, whose remains were prepared for burial, but abruptly removed from her casket in front of the Esther and Jereline hospital in LPMC By-pass community, Ganta

City.

The New Dawn gathered that the late Yeegen was sick before passing out at the hospital where her remains had been kept and embalmed for interment when angry family members moved and allegedly wounded 38-year-old Samuel Ben, who was contacted by the deceased's widower (husband) to cover his late wife's casket.

The aggrieved family members headed by 31-year-old Otis Yeegen and Roland Paye, 16, demanded victim

Samuel Ben not to cover the casket, which they described as unfit for their dead sister, because of its poor quality.

Eyewitnesses narrate the aggrieved family members wounded Samuel Ben, who was covering casket in front of the hospital and he is receiving medication at a local clinic in Ganta.

The family then forcibly burst the casket, exposing the corpse.

Police confirmed



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Sheff Utd stun Arsenal to move into top half of table

Sheffield United claimed a stunning win over Arsenal to move into the top half of the Premier League.

Lys Mousset marked his first start for the Blades with the decisive goal in the first half, turning in Jack O'Connell's knockdown from close range.

Arsenal's £72m signing Nicolas Pepe had earlier skewed a golden chance wide from six yards.



Granit Xhaka forced Dean Henderson into an excellent save but the Blades closed the game out superbly for a famous win.

The victory was Sheffield United's biggest result since their return to the Premier League as they moved up to ninth, four points clear of the relegation zone.

Defeat for Arsenal, meanwhile, means they missed the chance to move back into the top four. They are fifth, two

points behind Chelsea in fourth.

Sheffield United have certainly shown plenty of grit on their return to the Premier League and have been particularly impressive in not rolling over to sides in the top six. They battled from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Chelsea in August before pushing Liverpool close at the end of last month, only to be undone by a single goal from a mistake by Henderson.

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