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Hint...
"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."
-Proverbs 15:27

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You in the photo??



Pres. Weah

-Pres. Weah responds to Liberian song



Chairman Mulbah Morlu

CDC calls for cabinet reshuffle

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Continental News

Cameroon peace prospects slim in wake of national dialogue

A month after Cameroon held a national dialogue hoping to resolve the country's bloody anglophone separatist crisis, the prospect of peace still seems far away.

Armed anglophone separatist forces have clashed with government troops almost daily over two years of escalating conflict in the North West and South West regions of the central African country. The population has been hostage to the violence, which has claimed more than 3,000 lives in English-speaking parts of the mostly francophone country, according to the International Crisis Group. More than half a million people have abandoned their homes.

The Yaounde government responded to international pressure by organising the talks that took place from September 30 to October 4, leading to the adoption of dozens of recommendations to restore peace.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian will be in Cameroon on Wednesday for a

two-day visit, with the declared aim of encouraging President Paul Biya "to follow up on this dynamic".

"The population in the crisis zones is still confronted with the same realities as prevailed before the dialogue," said Blaise Chamango, an activist in Buea,

the capital of the South West region.

- 'Bandit groups take advantage' -

Schools in some districts "remain closed and inaccessible," he added, while "dead city" protest strikes imposed every Monday by

separatist forces have not stopped.

Several attacks by armed groups have been reported in the past weeks, notably in the North West, reputed to be the more rebellious.

"Atrocities have resumed strongly in Bamenda," the North West regional capital, Cameroon state radio declared last week.

"There are people who still have weapons, who are still in camps," acknowledged George Ewane, the spokesman for the national dialogue.

"We're not necessarily dealing with separatists, but with bandit groups who take advantage of the situation." Ewane said that 58 fighters had laid down their arms in the South West earlier this month. "The situation gets better by the day... The grand dialogue has brought much comfort to people's hearts."

The five days of talks were boycotted by most separatist leaders, but gathered more than

1,000 participants. They recommended "special status" for the North West and South West regions, home to most of the anglophone minority that makes up 16 percent of Cameroon's population.

The language split is a vestige from federation in 1961, a year after independence, when a British-ruled territory on the Nigerian border joined with the former French Cameroons.

The federal system was replaced in 1972 by a united republic. Some separatists have long argued that centralised francophone power neglected the anglophone regions. In 2017, the tension erupted into violent conflict. Biya, who has maintained authoritarian rule since 1982, hailed the resolutions from the dialogue as "rich and varied". He promised that they will be "the object of attentive and diligent examination with a view to implementing them." -AFP



Heavily armed gendarmes in Buea, capital of Cameroon's South-West region, one of the territories where separatists took up arms in 2017 (AFP Photo/MARCO LONGARI)

Comedian 'held' for Magufuli face-swap

Popular Tanzanian comedian Idris Sultan is being held by police after sharing face-swap photos of himself and President John Magufuli, his lawyer says.

His lawyer said he was being held under the controversial Cybercrimes Act, which forbids using a computer system to "impersonate" someone else.

If charged and convicted, he could face up to seven

years in prison.

Sultan was called into a police station on Wednesday, according to a relative.

Police and MrMagufuli's office have yet to comment.

Sultan, the one-time winner of Big Brother Africa, shared two photos on his social media accounts which have more than five million followers.

One of the pictures shows Sultan posing on a presidential chair with the national seal,

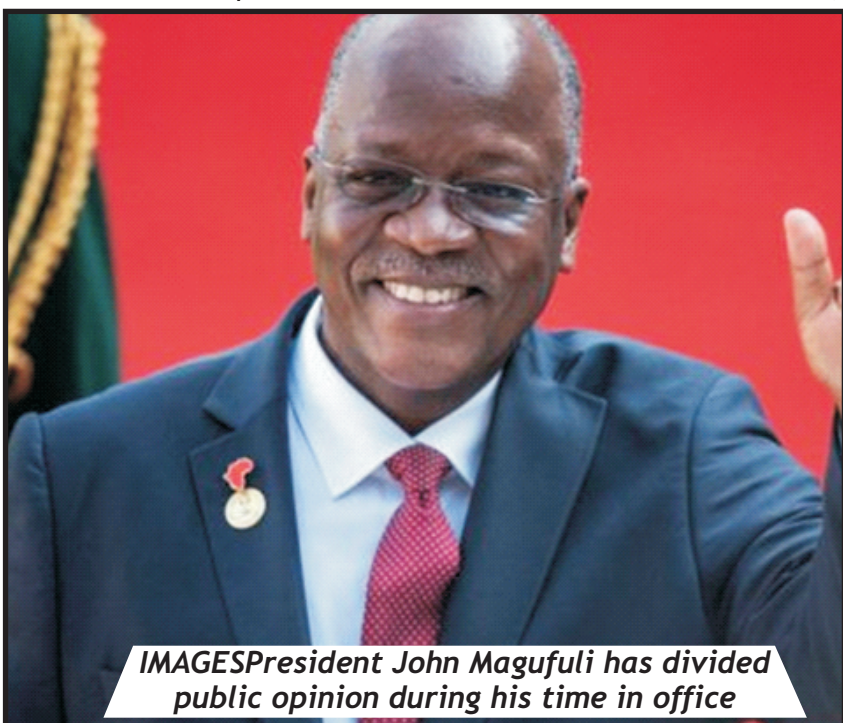
while the other shows MrMagufuli's face on the comedian's body.

The caption was in Swahili, and read: "We swapped roles for a day so that he could enjoy his birthday in peace."

Shortly after the photos were posted, an Instagram comment, thought to be from Paul Makonda, the Regional Commissioner for Dar es Salaam, told Sultan to report to any police station in the city for further instructions, adding that he "doesn't know the boundaries of his work."

A relative told the BBC that Sultan had turned himself in on Wednesday evening, and had not yet returned. Sultan is being held under the 2015 Cybercrimes Act, which forbids using "computer technology" to impersonate someone else, his lawyer Eliya Rioba told the BBC. If convicted he could face up to seven years in prison, or a fine of up to five million Tanzanian shillings (\$2,170; £1,678).

The 2015 Cybercrimes Act has been criticised by human rights activists, who say it infringes on freedom of expression. -BBC



IMAGES President John Magufuli has divided public opinion during his time in office

Ethiopia says 78 died in Oromo protest



Copyrights: AFP Supporters of Jawar Mohammed staged protests last week

Some 78 people were killed in the violence which hit parts of Ethiopia last week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's press secretary, Billene Seyoum, has said.

The security forces had arrested more than 400 people in connection with the killings and the destruction of properties, she added.

The violence broke out after an influential activist from the Oromo ethnic group, Jawar Mohammed, said on Facebook that the government was trying to endanger his life by removing his bodyguards. The

government denied the allegation.

Ms Billene said the violence had an ethnic and religious dimension to it and had been exacerbated by the involvement of forces "that push to create a climate of fear and hopelessness".

Police in the Oromia region, which was badly affected by the violence, had previously said that 68 people had been killed.

Mr Abiy was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last month for ending hostilities with neighbouring Eritrea, and his efforts to achieve reconciliation in Ethiopia. -BBC

EDITORIAL

Growing dissent

LIBERIA IS INCREASINGLY on edge with dissatisfaction and uncertainty everywhere in the country due to declining economy under the George Weah administration.

THE SITUATION IS even compounded by the government's conspicuous silence and apparent lack of capacity and experience.

PRESIDENT WEAH HAD promised in the first quarter of the year that several measures were underway to at least stabilize the economy but those promises never saw the light of day for the most part.

THE ECONOMY REMAINS in shambles with the exchange rate and prices hitting the sky, leaving behind discomfort and harsh reality of lack of purchasing power among ordinary citizens whose primary desire is to be able to get basic necessities of life.

THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF is beset by protests, involving public workers who are demanding unpaid salaries and incentives.

FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS and university to health institutions, the Judiciary and the legislature, the story is the same: employees are yet to receive arrears accumulating to about four to five months.

WITH NO CLEAR and reliable remedy insight, the authorities are being pressurized daily by street protests and threats of go-slow because workers are hungry.

RATHER THAN MOVING quickly to assure the frustrated workforce, the government is involved in blame-game, holding oppositions responsible for the growing unrest. But leaders of opposition political parties have denied.

WE CALL ON THE authorities to stop the blame-game. President Weah should instead, face the nation and say how he intends to address issues affecting the economy. This is important because the government must demonstrate that it is in charge.

ON THE CONTRARY, the reality we have seen in the past 12 months or more doesn't indicate this administration is on top of the issues that matter most - state of the economy.

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Bill Emmott

What Brexit Reveals About the EU

After almost four years of divisive Brexit politics, it is easy to forget that most UK voters had previously given little thought to the European Union. And according to recent polling, the same is true of voters across the rest of the EU, suggesting that the bloc's biggest problem is not Euroskepticism but indifference.

LONDON - In another bizarre twist in the Brexit saga, the United Kingdom's Parliament has signaled its acceptance of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's withdrawal deal with the European Union, but has also decided there must be a general election on December 12 before the deal can finally be ratified. EU leaders could be forgiven an ironic smile. Even though opinion polls give Johnson's pro-Brexit Conservatives a commanding lead as the campaign opens, they also indicate that a clear majority of British voters - larger than the one that backed "Leave" in the 2016 referendum - actually favors remaining in the EU.

But EU leaders may want to contain their smiles. The EU's biggest enemy is not Euroskeptic hostility, but rather indifference. Although polls taken even before the Brexit referendum tended to show a majority for Remain, they also found that most Britons didn't care about the EU one way or another. The question of EU membership simply wasn't a priority issue for most people. It was assumed that voters would select the less risky option and support Remain. In fact, their indifference put the referendum up for grabs.

As a result, random contingencies or the effectiveness of either side's rhetoric had the potential to push the result over the line in either direction. In the event, immigration had become an especially potent issue in 2016, owing to media images of mass migration and refugee flows across the Mediterranean and the Balkans. For the "Leave" campaign, the EU's failure to manage the crisis was a boon.

Yet when future historians look back at this episode, they will probably conclude that there was an ocean of apathy between two sets of hardcore true believers on each side of the European question. Britain had always been a semi-reluctant EU member state, so it didn't take much to tip the balance slightly in favor of leaving. The key moment came when then-Prime Minister David Cameron, driven by political dynamics within the Conservative Party, made the fateful decision to hold a referendum on the issue, amid the economic and political stress of the long recession that followed the 2008 global financial crisis.

Ever since the establishment of the European Economic Community (the precursor to the EU) in 1957, Britons have had a rather detached, sometimes even condescending, view of European integration. This remained the case even after the United Kingdom's accession to the bloc in 1973, and even after a significant majority of British voters affirmed EU membership in a referendum in 1975. For the British, being a part of "Europe" was a transactional relationship, not a marriage of love.

By contrast, the countries that suffered the most from two world wars and German occupation during World War II (France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy) have always had deeper, more sentimental reasons for supporting the EU. The specter of war features prominently in these countries' collective memory, even among younger generations that were born long after peace had been secured.

But even continental Europeans' commitment to the European project should not be taken for granted. This month, the think tank Friends of Europe published an opinion poll based on interviews with over 12,000 respondents across the 28 EU countries, and found that 60% of respondents "aren't sure they would miss the EU if it were gone." That result should chill the bones of all EU leaders.

Predictably, the share of British respondents who aren't sure if they would miss the EU is 63%. But a staggering 72% of French respondents feel the same way, as do 67% of Italians and 60% of Germans. On this evidence, the EU's biggest problem is that citizens simply take it for granted, and do not particularly care whether it thrives or fades away.

This problem may reflect a failure of communication. After all, a supranational bureaucratic entity comprising an endless array of directorates, agencies, and committees was always going to find it hard to be loved, or even to explain what it does and why it exists. But the bigger problem is that the EU struggles to make quick, clear, and ambitious decisions. It has a far easier time saying no than yes. It is a lot better at defusing conflicts among members than it is at mustering collective action in the interest of clearly defined shared objectives.

This wasn't always the case. The launch of the euro in 1999 was a big, clear, epochal moment, following a major political decision and the successful implementation of many technical measures. But since then, things haven't gone well when it comes to the one issue that most concerns ordinary voters: the eurozone's effectiveness at creating jobs and ensuring rising living standards. Nowadays, the euro elicits reluctant acceptance, not passion and conviction.

The slogan of Britain's famed Special Air Service is, "Who Dares Wins." But in the case of Brexit, one could adapt it to say, "Who Cares Wins." In the run-up to the 2016 referendum, pro-EU forces failed to make enough Britons care about EU membership. Perhaps that will change during the December general election campaign, but it would be risky to bet on it. Proponents of the EU across the other member states should take note. Indifference is their greatest enemy.



Lord, it just starting

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 Jean Pisani-Ferry

The Great Wealth Tax Debate

WASHINGTON, DC - In 1990, 12 advanced economies had a tax on household wealth. Now only four do, after French President Emmanuel Macron scrapped his country's version in 2017. Yet, a fierce debate has erupted in the United States over the proposal by Senator Elizabeth Warren, a leading Democratic presidential candidate, to introduce a tax of 2% on the wealth of "ultra-millionaires" (and 3% on that of billionaires).

In a new book, economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman of the University of California, Berkeley, who have advised Warren, claim that her tax would tackle growing wealth concentration in the US and yield some \$250 billion per year, or 1.2% of GDP. But critics such as Larry Summers, a former US Secretary of the Treasury under President Bill Clinton, and Greg Mankiw, who served as President George W. Bush's chief economic adviser, argue that a wealth tax would yield little revenue, distort investor behavior, and fail to curb the billionaires' power. The ongoing controversy over the wealth tax is bound to be a defining one for the Democrats.

The starting point of this debate is fairly clear. As Lucas Chancel of the Paris School of Economics noted at a recent conference on combating inequality organized by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the increase in wealth concentration is unmistakable, at least in the US. According to Saez and Zucman, the top 1% of US households now own 40% of the country's wealth, while the bottom 90% hold only one-quarter. Since 1980, the 1% and the 90% have traded places.

Economists are generally reluctant to make normative judgments about wealth inequality, because theory does not provide them with a proper yardstick for doing so. If innovators become immensely rich, it is presumably because their innovation was immensely valuable - in which case their wealth is deserved - or because they have managed to turn their idea into a monopoly rent, which should be addressed via competition policy, not taxation. Although many economists advocate curbing Amazon's growing monopoly power, for example, most do not propose taxing away the value of Jeff Bezos's innovation.

Furthermore, wealth taxation itself gives rise to disputes. As Mankiw suggests, consider two high-flying professionals with comparable incomes but different lifestyles. Why should the one who saves and invests be taxed more than the one who uses a private jet to go skiing? Surely, the saver contributes more to collective wellbeing; if anything, the tax burden should fall on the skier.

For that reason, many economists advocate a combination of a progressive income tax and an inheritance tax, rather than a tax on wealth. But there are two problems with this idea. The first is that many of the super-rich have little income. As Saez and Zucman point out, Warren Buffett and Mark Zuckerberg earn little more than they spend. Their wealth increases as a result of capital gains, not saved income. And because such gains are taxable only when the corresponding assets are sold, their annual increase in wealth essentially escapes taxation.

The second obstacle is that inheritance tax is politically toxic. Opinion polls consistently show that while economists love the idea, most voters hate it. Politicians understandably tend to steer clear of what most voters reject.

But if the income tax does not apply to capital gains and the estate tax does not redistribute wealth when someone dies, wealth inequality is bound to increase further. Some will say there is nothing wrong with that, provided capital is put to productive or collectively beneficial use. In Germany, for example, private companies are exempt from inheritance tax so that family-owned Mittelstand firms - which are essential to the country's prosperity - can be transferred to the next generation.

However, a society of heirs in which a person's lifetime labor income matters less than the capital they inherit from their parents is morally indefensible, unlikely to be politically sustainable, and may not be economically efficient. Heirs are often poor managers and poor investors.

True, a wealth tax does not come without difficulties. How, for example, should a start-up founder be taxed when their firm has a market value but is yet to generate any income? Should he or she pay the government in shares? And in Europe, which lacks a harmonized tax regime, how can national authorities cope when rich people can simply move to another country? Designing a fair and efficient wealth tax is bound to be more complicated than its proponents typically claim.

At least one thing is clear: the European wealth taxes of the past are not examples to follow. They kicked in at far too low a threshold - €1.3 million (\$1.5 million) in the case of France's impôt de solidarité sur la fortune - and were riddled with loopholes as a consequence. In the French case, a business owner was exempt as long as he or she did not sell the company. That led to successful serial start-up founders being taxed while sleepy entrepreneurs were not. And whereas a moderately wealthy French household's financial portfolio could easily generate a negative after-tax return, the effective tax rate on the wealth of the country's 100 richest individuals was a ridiculously low 0.02%.

As Saez and Zucman argue, a wealth tax should treat all assets equally and have a high enough threshold. Warren is proposing a 2% tax on wealth above \$50 million. The equivalent threshold in Europe would probably be lower, but certainly not low enough to satisfy Thomas Piketty, who proposes in his latest book a 5% annual tax on wealth of €2 million. Whereas Warren wants to reform capitalism, Piketty would like to end it and eradicate private property as we know it.

Inequality is back at the forefront of economic policy debates, for good reason. A wealth tax is no panacea, and not even an ideal response to growing inequality at the top. But absent a better alternative, it can serve as a reasonable second-best policy. At the very least, the idea does not deserve to be banished as a heresy.



Abdoulaye W. Dukulé, PhD

West Africa Integration & Security Cooperation

As West Africa moves towards regional economic integration, it becomes imperative that it pays attention to transnational security threats. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) follows a roadmap for cooperation in areas from agriculture to currency, but its security infrastructure has not evolved at that same pace and may be its weakest link.

In May 2012, ECOWAS convened a special security summit in Dakar, Senegal. The 15-member community spanning from Dakar to Lagos had two major issues on its agenda: The Crisis in Northern Mali and Constitutional issues in Guinea Bissau.

In Northern Mali, a separatist movement led by Tuaregs launch an attack that reignited a historic conflict. The separatists were composed of a mix of fighters who had drifted South during the Libyan crisis, along with their weapons. In Guinea Bissau, a leadership conflict threatened to plunge the country into renewed fighting. The political turmoil was fueled by drug traffickers who wanted to turn Guinea Bissau as transit point for their merchandise.

While these conflicts topped the Dakar Summit, the participating Heads of State also discussed two other security issues. In northern Nigeria, an Islamist group called Boko Haram was carrying out attacks with increasing frequency and severity. In Côte d'Ivoire, supporters of ousted President Laurent Gbagbo were using Liberia to launch attacks into the country.

Forward, 2019, six years later, the crisis in Mali was no longer confined to the desert, fighting and attacks on civilian and military installations have extended as far as Mopti, hundreds of miles away in central Mali far from the Sahara. Almost weekly attacks took place in Burkina Faso and Niger. Malian forces are now seconded by the French intervention forces Barkane, with a mix of international support from the US and a UN peacekeeping force. ECOWAS formed the G-5, a regional defense group that comprise Chad and Cameroon to mobilize resources to combat the various insurrections. At a recent summit in Ouagadougou, ECOWAS vowed to raise a \$1 billion support fund to fight the various insurrections.

In Nigeria, Boko Haram has morphed into a regional threat, with attacks targeting Cameroon and Niger while the Nigerian army, certainly the largest in the region doesn't seem to find a path to eradicating the crisis. Banditry and open grazing are adding to the tally and template of conflicts in the sub-region.

The southward advances of the Malian separatists as well as the widening of the Boko Haram network and other conflicts in Nigeria moving northward, could result in the "movements" conjoining and posing greater threat to regional stability. This also exposes the limited capacities of national armies in battling insurrections.

In recent history, while national armies succeeded in toppling governments in almost every country in the region except Senegal, they were unable to contain rebellions and insurrections. In Liberia, both Samuel K. Doe and Charles Taylor regimes crumbled in just a few months after attacks by rebel forces. Sierra Leone suffered the same fate more than once. In Côte d'Ivoire, without the intervention of the French forces, President Gbagbo would have been ousted by a rebellion in 2001 who were using neighboring countries as staging grounds. ECOWAS and UN peacekeepers have also been deployed to address conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

West Africa must reform its current military cooperation structure, with ECOWAS members contributing the resources required to establish a multinational standing force. This force can be equipped to rapidly respond to transnational threats and would be a more efficient use of the region's collective security resources.

Rather than maintain ill-equipped armies, it would appear more impactful to invest and coordinate a strong, decisive regional military force to combat transnational threats and protect the entire region. An elite regional force with air, sea, and land capabilities could protect ECOWAS countries, improve cooperation in other areas such as trade, combat terrorism the incubation of non-state armed groups in West Africa. In coordinating their existing resources, ECOWAS could set up a naval defense force with capacity to monitor the entire West African coastline, from Senegal to Nigeria. Similarly, a ground and air force could monitor territory with external borders from Senegal to Nigeria.

Under this plan, a country like Togo will only focus on its maritime border or Burkina Faso will have no border to protect because it's surrounded by ECOWAS borders. Conversely, the force could fight drug trafficking and piracy throughout the entire coastline. This initiative would replace the current, and often incoherent, formation of joint military operations that are still bedeviled by a lack of capability, hardware, and/or the political will required to be effective. Under the current system, joint operations are hurriedly put together sub regionally, with attendant challenges. An example is the Cameroun, Chad, Nigeria, and Niger joint operations forces on Boko Haram.

Issues of command, control, and logistics would have to come under critical scrutiny. This is especially true where the interest of individual member states clash with regional interests.

An elite force can serve as the launching pad for an integrated regional army that would ensure the integrity of external borders. It would advance the integration of regional trade and allow national government to focus scant resources on effective local police forces for internal security.

Regional security must become one of the essential pillars of the integration process. This will call for reviewing the role and capacity of the military in the region.

Dr. Abdoulaye W. Dukulé is a Coordinator of the West Africa Center for Policy and Strategy (WACePS), a regional non-profit, non-partisan think tank that conducts research and analysis on matters related to African security, economic development, and migration. WACePS.com



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**REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS
 (RFQ)**

4A1507/EP/003

Reconstruction and Remodeling of Existing

Customer Service Center of the Liberia Electricity Corporation

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 this RFQ is issued.

MCA-Liberia now invites Quotations from legally constituted Contractors/ firms to execute the required construction works. More details may be found in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) which is available free of charge at the email address below. This RFQ is open to all eligible firms who wish to submit a quotation.

This RFQ is for:

Reconstruction and Remodeling of Existing Customer Service Center of the Liberia Electricity Corporation

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested Bidders/Contractors should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the complete RFQ with Specifications, Bill of Quantities and Construction Drawings, which is free of charge.

Important activities and dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFQ	October 25, 2019
2	Pre-quotation Meeting	November 05, 2019 at 2:30 pm
3	Last date for Request for Clarifications	November 06, 2019
4	Deadline for Submission	November 26, 2019 by 3:00 pm

**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.

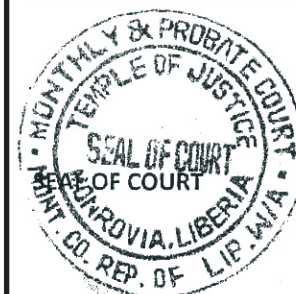
NOTICE!

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

EDWIN S. BOITMAH, SR.
 CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
 MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA launches campaign to boost tax compliance

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), through its Domestic Tax Department, on Tuesday (Oct 29), launched an awareness campaign on its new initiative called the Compliance Clustering System (CCS).

The Compliance Clustering System seeks to improve tax education and ensure that taxpayers have full access to information they need in becoming compliant with the revenue code.

The new system involves the division of small and medium taxpayers according to their defined locations or communities which will be called clusters or zones. In these clusters, a team of tax officers from the LRA will be assigned to manage tax compliance of each taxpayer on a day to day basis.

Launching the awareness campaign in Bentol, Montserrado County, LRA Assistant Commissioner for Medium Tax Division, Sabastian A. Weah said the

program is part of the new initiatives of taking the LRA to the taxpayers.

There are four separate awareness teams, spread across Montserrado county's 17 electoral districts creating awareness ahead of the official launch of the Compliance Clustering

System.

Mr Weah said the Compliance Clustering System will make tax compliance easy, tax information accessible and tax payment efficient for taxpayers.

"This exercise is not just about collecting taxes and enforcing tax payment; rather,

it is to inform the taxpayers about the right tax payment processes," he told the gathering during the launch.

LRA mobile tax teams will be available in every district to address concerns of taxpayers in regards to Business Registration process, Corporate Income Tax, Goods & Services (GST), Excise Tax, Withholding Taxes, Real Property Tax and other fees and charges, the Assistant Commissioner said.

The Compliance Clustering

System is starting in Montserrado County and will roll out to other parts of the country.

Also speaking at the launch, Montserrado County Superintendent Florence F. Brandy thanked the LRA for such an initiative and noted that said exercise will help educate the entire country on tax payment and generate more revenue to enable government fund developments initiatives in the country. -Press Release



Partial view of LRA awareness team going into the Bensonville Community

Fight over dead man's property goes to court

Family members of the late Aljahai Taweh Vaikai, former vice president of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) are in court as fight over the deceased's properties intensifies.

The legal action follows the alleged abrupt seizure of the deceased's huge compound in Caldwell - New Georgia by one Peticia Candy Cooper who is believed to be an associate of the late Vaikai.

The deceased's family has filed a lawsuit against Cooper for illegal occupancy of the late Vaikai's property.

The reported property seizure came to light early this month, days after it was announced that Alhaji Vaikai had passed off at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana.

Vaikai who had gone to attend this year's Muslim Pilgrimage in the Holy City of Mecca, died while returning home.

In a release issued in Monrovia Tuesday, 29 October, the family members explain that while they went to take delivery of Vaikai's body at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County, Peticia without regard for the family allegedly seized the deceased's property which houses his official residence and a mineral water production company.

The release further states that since the unfortunate incident, Peticia Candy Cooper has allegedly removing valuable items been secretly

from the compound including vehicles and key parts of the mineral water production plant.

During Alhaji Vaikai's Seventh Day Sacrifice in Caldwell on Sunday, 20 October, Cooper allegedly showed up for the ceremony but never directly commented on the matter and the elders who conducted the rituals cleverly avoided the issue.

Madam Peticia Cooper also boycotted a big dinner hosted by the deceased's family held just a stone's throw from the disputed facility in Caldwell.

In the release, the family says it is shocked by Peticia's action and has resolved to file a lawsuit to reclaim the deceased's property.

Prior to his death, Vaikai held a number of reputable positions in the country including Deputy Auditor General for Administration at the General Auditing Commission and Country Senior Partner at the PWC in Sinkor, among others.

When contacted for comment on Tuesday evening, 29 October, Madam Cooper named one Mr. Gabriel Nah whom she says is her lawyer and must speak to this paper on the matter. But she could not reveal detailed information about him, including his contact.

This medium is exerting all efforts to get Madam Cooper's official version of the property seizure saga. She promised to call back, but failed to do so up to press time.

Nursing Board assesses BCTC

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

The Nursing Board of Liberia has completed an assessment of the nursing department at the Bong County Technical College (BCTC) in Gbarnga for possible accreditation.

Early this year, the Nursing Board suspended all instructional activities at the nursing department of the Bong County College because the college was not accredited to offer nursing.

A delegation from the Nursing Board completed the assessment in three days at BCTC.

The Director of Nursing

and Midwifery Services at the Nursing Board of Liberia, Mary Tiah, said the findings of the assessment will be released in the next one to two months.

The president of the college Dr. Roland Massaquoi told Radio Gbarnga Wednesday that the administration of the college welcomes the assessment aimed at granting accreditation to the college to effectively run the nursing program.

Dr. Massaquoi says BCTC with support from the government has prepared simulation laboratories and the facilities necessary to ensure that the college gets the accreditation for its

nursing program.

The construction of the Bong County Technical College started in 2010 and funded through the County Development Funds.

Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker, who also attended a post assessment meeting at BCTC on Wednesday, 30 October, attributed the institution's failure to acquire accreditation from the Nursing Board to lack of teamwork and consultation during the formation of the college.

Madam Walker hails the current administration at BCTC for embarking on a process to ensure that the college's nursing program is accredited to prepare students with the requisite skills and knowledge needed to work in the health sector.

Walker wants citizens of Bong County to give moral, financial and material contribution to the college, adding that BCTC is a cardinal institution for the human resource development of the county.

The post assessment meeting was attended by the chair and co-chairpersons of the college's board, a representative of Bong County civil society, the media, representatives of the Nursing Board of Liberia as well as the administration of the college. -

Edited by Winston W. Parley



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gov't plays audio in alleged US\$80,000 bribery

By Winston W. Parley

By permission of the Court, prosecutors have played an audio in which it is purported that suspended National Housing Authority (NHA) Managing Director Duannah Siryon and his two deputies Tugbeh C. Tugbeh and Isaac Roberts were in heated argument over inequitable distribution of alleged bribe of US\$80,000.

Judge Blamo Dixon of Criminal Court C granted the permission despite resistance from the accused lawyer questioning government's rebuttal witness Detective Jacob J. Suah of the Liberia National Police (LNP) as to whether he is a voice specialist.

Meanwhile, the defendants have since denied all charges of economic sabotage, theft of property, criminal solicitation, bribery, and criminal facilitation.

Following the playing of the audio, Detective Suah responded in the affirmative when he was asked by the



prosecution if the recording was the audio recording that was submitted to the investigation.

However it was difficult for our staff to understand what was being argued in the audio due to the noise in the recording.

But prosecutors say they

want to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt and they don't need a voice specialist for that purpose, questioning why the defense didn't reject the submission of the audio which was presented to the State from the Executive Mansion.

Criminal Court "C" Judge A.

Blamo Dixon said the Court was inclined to grant the request of the prosecution for the audio recording to be played in open Court in order to give sufficient notice to the defendants because it is alleged that the defendants had altercations in the recording.

Further, Judge Dixon says the audio recording was testified to, identified, and recognized by the prosecution's witnesses, confirmed and reconfirmed.

Finally, he says the instrument was admitted into evidence to form part of the record in the case and subsequently submitted to the jury de factor (the Judge) to determine its weight and credibility to give unto it the probative value that it deserves.

"Therefore the resistance of the defense team is denied and dismissed. The said recording shall be played in open court for the hearing of all," the Judge orders.

During the course of the investigation, Officer Suah says there was a recording that was turned over "at which there was an altercation"

[among] defendants Siryon, Tugbeh and Roberts.

He testifies that during this argument, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Tugbeh were angry with their boss Mr. Siryon for the alleged inequitable distribution of an amount that was given to Augustine Weah to be brought to the office at the NHA to Siryon's two deputies for distribution.

Mr. Siryon earlier on Tuesday denied taking a bribe of US\$80,000 from Emmanuel Tapsoba, the coordinator of Burkina Fasso - based company GELPAZ-IMMO in connection to the construction of 50,000 housing units here.

The suspended NHA officials were arrested following some alleged transactions that also involved one Augustine Weah, an alleged chief executive officer of Guss Group of Companies and Emmanuel Tapsoba, a coordinator of Burkina Fasso - based company GELPAZ-IMMO.

Their charges came amid a claim of alleged bribery in connection to the construction of the housing units for which the Liberian government and GELPAZ-IMMO had reached agreement.

Illiteracy increases SGBV

--Deputy Min Fofana

By Ethel A Tweh

Deputy Information Minister for Technical Services Mr. Boakai M. Fofana says Sexual Gender - Based Violence (SGBV) is on the increase in Liberia due to the rate of illiteracy here.

are holding two days media training in Gbarnga, Bong County from October 31 to November 1, 2019 SGBV Reporting under the theme: "Enhancing Local Media Reportage of SGBV".

Speaking at the two - day

will help the journalists to educate the public to change their mindset, adding that reporting on these SGBV issues will help them change their mind. He observes that the [public here] has gotten used to political stories, but notes that women's issues are key and must be reported.

Mr. Fofana urges the participants to report on any domestic violence act, thanking the Liberian Legislature for passing the Domestic Violence Bill into law.

The workshop brought together journalists from various counties in Gbarnga.

The Advocacy and Communications Officer at the UNFPA, Mr. Calixte S. Hessou says the media need to work to ensure a greater coverage on SGBV to help the society.

He adds that SGBV was high before and during the civil war here, and that Liberia still faces the same issue even after the war. But Mr. Hessou indicates that a continuous reporting and awareness on the issue will help educate the public to put an end to it.

He says the UN is committed to having zero tolerance on SGBV.

Darius Gweh, Director of Culture at MICAT says cultural practices bring about violence in the society, citing female genital mutilation (FGM) and

media training in Gbarnga this week, Mr. Fofana says cultural belief makes some tribes to accept that women should be beaten by their men.

But according to Deputy Minister Fofana, the training



The Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT), Plan International Liberia and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with support from the Swedish Embassy,

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early marriages, among others. In some cultures, Mr. Gweh notes that parents choose husbands for their girls, noting that it brings about violence when the children are not allowed to make their own choice.

He urges journalists to talk to the old people during their reportage to seek answers to why they chose these kinds of cultures and what impact they have on society.

For her part, the president of the Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL) Mrs. Siatta Scott - Johnson says gender - based violence is still the least reported crime in the media, noting that it usually

takes place in the home and the family hides it.

According to her, the silence surrounding GBV contributes to the lack of information in the media, among others. Madam Scott - Johnson adds that it is important to make GBV visible in the media, adding that the press should force society to acknowledge it as a problem.

The FeJAL president says sensitive reporting on gender - based violence can also help survivors and others by providing them with the information that they need to protect themselves or others and seek help and justice.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Le Sénégal découvre d'importants gisements offshore et se lance dans la course au GNL

Le Sénégal, où du pétrole a été découvert en 1961, s'attend à ce que tous ses projets offshore deviennent opérationnels d'ici 2022 à 2026.

Lorsqu'il est question de zones gazières émergentes, tous les regards se tournent vers la côte de l'Afrique de l'Est et notamment vers le Mozambique, mais cela pourrait bien changer sous peu. Si le Sénégal ne compte pas, pour le moment, parmi les principaux producteurs de pétrole et de gaz du continent, le pays prévoit de les rejoindre dans les années à venir. À la suite de découvertes notables en eau profonde, la nation d'Afrique de l'Ouest devrait devenir au cours de la prochaine décennie une zone névralgique pour les clusters de GNL à coût relativement faible.

Le Sénégal, où du pétrole a été découvert en 1961, s'attend à ce que tous ses

projets offshore deviennent opérationnels d'ici 2022 à 2026. Selon le Fonds monétaire international, entre 2014 et 2017, des réserves pétrolières et gazières s'élevant à plus d'un milliard de barils de pétrole et à environ 1 100 milliards de m3 de gaz ont été

découvertes - à partager, en majeure partie, avec la Mauritanie. Actuellement, deux vastes gisements sont en cours de développement : le champ SNE confié à la société australienne Woodside Energy, et le projet Greater Tortue Ahmeyim développé par la co-

entreprise BP/Kosmos Energy.

La Tortue avance à toute allure

BP a pris sa décision finale d'investissement (FID) dans le cadre du plan FLNG Mauritanie-Sénégal, à la fin de l'an dernier. Le projet Greater Tortue Ahmeyim LNG fournira environ 2,5 millions de tonnes de gaz par an à partir de 2022. Des plans d'expansion sont prêts concernant un hub gazier à Yakaar-Teranga et un autre à Birallah. Le puits Orca, qui devrait être inauguré en octobre, devrait soutenir le hub de Birallah et la première phase fournira du gaz domestique et des données aux producteurs. Le Sénégal a lancé un plan de développement en 2014 et, selon la société Kosmos Energy, il devrait être soutenu par ces gisements gazières offshore.

En septembre, Kosmos Energy et son partenaire BP ont confirmé que le puits d'évaluation Yakaar-2 avait rencontré environ 30 mètres de gaz net d'une qualité élevée similaire à celle du réservoir cénomaniens du puits d'évaluation Yakaar-1, en continuité avec le taux de 100% de réussite des puits gazières ciblant la tendance gazière onshore de la Mauritanie/Sénégal.

Selon Kosmos Energy, les résultats du puits prouvent que la base de ressources Yakaar-Teranga est de taille mondiale et pourrait soutenir un projet GNL qui fournirait des volumes significatifs de gaz naturel pour le marché domestique et pour les marchés d'exportation. Le développement du champ Yakaar-Teranga devrait se faire par étapes, la phase 1 fournissant du gaz domestique et des données qui permettront d'optimiser le développement des étapes suivantes. Il soutiendra également le « Plan Sénégal Émergent » lancé par le Président du Sénégal en 2014. Kosmos Energy a déclaré avoir l'intention de vendre sa participation dans le projet. La société cherche à différer ses coûts de développement pour se concentrer sur son expertise dans l'exploration.

Champ pétrolier en eau profonde SNE

Le champ pétrolier en eau profonde SNE est situé dans les blocs d'exploration Rufisque, Sangomar et Sangomar Deep, qui couvrent ensemble une zone de 7 490 km² dans la partie sénégalaise du bassin MSGBC. Il s'agit de l'un des champs pétroliers les plus vastes découverts au cours de la dernière décennie ; son développement a été confié à une joint-venture entre Cairn Energy (40%), Woodside Energy

(35%), FAR (15%) et Petrosen (10%), Woodside Energy étant l'opérateur du projet.

Lors du forage des premiers puits en eau profonde au large du Sénégal en 2014, Cairn Energy a fait deux découvertes en bordure de bassin, dont le champ SNE, la plus grande découverte mondiale de pétrole en 2014. Depuis lors, la région a évolué, de bassin frontalier à zone pétrolière émergente, attirant ainsi l'attention de l'industrie mondiale. L'année dernière, des progrès importants ont été accomplis dans son développement, un certain nombre de jalons clés ayant été atteints. Woodside assume le rôle d'opérateur et la contrepartie cible une décision d'investissement finale au second semestre 2019, en vue d'une première extraction de pétrole en 2022.

Il est prévu que le champ soit développé au moyen d'un système de navires de stockage FPSO (Floating Production Storage Offloading) d'une capacité d'environ 100 000 barils/jour, avec 23 puits sous-marins et une infrastructure sous-marine de soutien. L'ensemble sera conçu de manière à permettre l'exécution des étapes ultérieures de développement du champ SNE, et comprendra des options d'exportation du gaz vers la côte et de futurs raccordements sous-marins à partir d'autres réservoirs et champs.

Au début de l'année, les bases techniques du projet ont reçu une approbation de principe et l'extension de la licence couvrant la zone de développement a été confirmée, de manière à permettre la conclusion du FEED et la finalisation des activités de financement en 2019 avant l'octroi de la licence d'exploitation.

« La région a maintenant évolué, passant du statut de zone frontière à celui d'opportunité émergente d'hydrocarbures, ce qui attire l'attention de l'industrie mondiale, a déclaré Eric Hathon, directeur de l'exploration chez Cairn Energy. Au cours des trois dernières années, nous avons mis en œuvre trois programmes de forage sûrs et fructueux et jeté les bases d'un plan de développement en plusieurs phases. »

« Nous sommes déterminés à apporter au Sénégal des avantages sociaux-économiques, notamment la sécurité énergétique, des revenus, des emplois, le développement d'infrastructures et des investissements sociaux », a-t-il poursuivi.



La Banque Centrale met l'accent sur le renforcement de la politique monétaire

Les interventions en matière de politique monétaire doivent être renforcées, a indiqué la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), avant de reconnaître que l'économie du pays traverse des temps durs.

Prononçant un discours lors de la cérémonie d'adieu de l'ancien gouverneur de la CBL, Nathaniel R. Patray, qui a démissionné le 24 octobre, le « gouverneur par intérim » de la Banque centrale, M. Musa Dukuly, a mis un accent sur le renforcement de la politique monétaire. (Le discours complet a été publié sur le site de la banque).

« Honorable Patray, nous

vous disons merci. Vous quittez certes la banque, mais pas l'économie libérienne. Aujourd'hui, notre économie est en difficulté. La croissance est modérée et les interventions en matière de politique monétaire doivent être renforcées », a déclaré le Dr Dukuly.

M. Patray a finalement remis sa lettre de démission au président George Manneh Weah la semaine dernière, près de deux mois après la date à laquelle il devrait quitter la Banque centrale dans le cadre des mesures visant à réorganiser la direction de cette institution secouée par des scandales financiers

inquiétants.

Vers la fin du mois de mai de cette année, le président Weah avait annoncé que M. Patray, qui faisait également partie de l'équipe technique de gestion économique (TEMT), devrait avoir pris sa retraite de la CBL dans trois mois.

Le Président avait fait la déclaration au moment où la Banque faisait l'objet d'enquête aussi bien dans le cadre de la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars de libériens qu'au sujet de l'opération financière controversée qui consistait à éponger l'excès de liquidité de la monnaie locale. Le décaissement de 25 millions de dollars américains avait été ordonné à cet effet par le président Weah.

Mais cette opération a plutôt aggravé la crise économique qui continue de déclencher une série de manifestations.

M. Dukuly a félicité M. Patray d'avoir initié plusieurs réformes,

notamment l'élaboration du nouveau cadre de politique monétaire de la CBL, qui marque un changement important dans la stratégie de politique monétaire et la prise de décision à la Banque.

M. Dukuly a cité également le renforcement du système de vente aux enchères de devises et le développement de la stratégie nationale d'inclusion financière.



Français

Éditorial

Le Libéria est frappé de plein fouet par une crise économique sans précédent

Le Libéria est en proie à un mécontentement généralisé et à l'incertitude en raison du déclin de l'économie sous l'administration Weah. La situation est encore aggravée par le silence assourdissant du gouvernement et son manque de compétence et d'expérience.

Le président Weah avait promis au premier trimestre de l'année que plusieurs mesures étaient en cours en vue de stabiliser l'économie, mais ces promesses n'ont jamais vu le jour pour la plupart.

L'économie reste en ruine, pendant que le taux de change et les prix des denrées alimentaires s'envolent. A cela il faut ajouter le malaise et la dure réalité du manque de pouvoir d'achat chez les citoyens ordinaires qui ne sont plus à mesure de se procurer les produits de première nécessité.

La fonction publique est paralysée par des grèves des fonctionnaires qui réclament des arriérés de salaires de plusieurs mois et de meilleures conditions de vie.

Des écoles publiques aux universités en passant par les hôpitaux, le pouvoir judiciaire et le pouvoir législatif, nous assistons à la même histoire. Les fonctionnaires n'ont toujours pas reçu des arriérés de quatre ou cinq mois.

Avec le manque de solutions claires et fiables, les autorités sont quotidiennement sous pression, les manifestations et les menaces de grève se multiplient, car les travailleurs ont faim.

Cependant, au lieu d'agir rapidement pour rassurer les travailleurs frustrés, le gouvernement ne fait qu'accuser l'opposition d'être responsable des troubles grandissants.

Nous appelons les autorités à cesser de pointer le doigt aux opposants. Le président Weah devrait plutôt s'adresser à la nation et dire comment il compte s'attaquer aux problèmes qui affectent l'économie. C'est important parce que le gouvernement doit démontrer qu'il est responsable.

Au contraire, la réalité que nous avons constatée au cours des 12 derniers mois ou plus est loin d'être rassurant car cette administration n'a pas l'air de maîtriser les questions qui importent le plus, à savoir la question de la relance de l'économie.

Articles traduits

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COMMENTAIRE

Par Bill Emmott

Ce que dit le Brexit de l'Union européenne

LONDRES - Dans un nouveau rebondissement de la saga du Brexit, le Parlement britannique vient d'approuver l'accord de retrait de l'Union européenne négocié par le Premier ministre Boris Johnson, mais a aussi décidé qu'une élection générale devra se tenir le 12 décembre, avant que l'accord ne puisse être finalement ratifié. On pourrait pardonner aux dirigeants européens un sourire amusé. Même si les sondages créditent les conservateurs de Johnson, favorables au Brexit, d'une large avance à l'heure où s'ouvre la campagne, ils indiquent aussi qu'une nette majorité d'électeurs - plus importante que celle qui a soutenu le « Leave » lors du référendum de 2016 - s'affirme désormais en faveur d'un maintien dans l'UE.

Mais il serait possible que les dirigeants de l'UE préfèrent réprimer leur sourire. Le principal ennemi de l'Union n'est pas tant l'hostilité des eurosceptiques que l'indifférence. Si les sondages menés avant le référendum sur le Brexit semblaient dessiner une majorité favorable au « Remain », ils montraient aussi que la plupart des Britanniques, d'une manière ou d'une autre, ne se souciaient guère de l'UE. La question de l'appartenance à l'Union n'était tout bonnement pas prioritaire. On pensait alors que les électeurs choisiraient l'issue la moins risquée et soutiendraient le « Remain ». À la vérité, leur indifférence offrait le référendum à qui souhaitait s'en emparer.

Par conséquent, le hasard des contingences ou l'efficacité rhétorique d'un bord ou de l'autre pouvaient faire pencher dans un sens ou dans l'autre les plateaux de la balance. En l'occurrence, l'immigration était devenue une question particulièrement importante, avec les images des flots de réfugiés traversant la Méditerranée ou débarquant dans les Balkans diffusées par les médias. Pour la campagne du « Leave », l'échec de l'UE dans la gestion de la crise migratoire fut une aubaine.

Mais lorsque les historiens du futur se pencheront sur cet épisode, ils concluront probablement qu'il y avait un océan d'apathie entre deux groupes irréductibles de croyants sincères matérialisant les deux rives de la question européenne. La Grande-Bretagne a toujours été un État membre plus ou moins réticent, il n'en fallut donc pas beaucoup pour que l'emportent des partisans du retrait. Le moment de vérité survint lorsque le Premier ministre d'alors, David Cameron, poussé par la dynamique politique interne du parti conservateur, prit la décision fatale de convoquer un référendum sur la question, en pleine incertitude politique et économique, après la longue récession qui avait suivi la crise financière mondiale de 2008.

Depuis la formation de la Communauté économique européenne (l'ancêtre de l'Union), en 1957, les Britanniques ont porté sur l'intégration européenne un regard plutôt détaché, parfois même condescendant. L'accession du Royaume-Uni à la Communauté, en 1973, ne change pas vraiment les choses, pas plus que le référendum de 1975, ou une confortable majorité d'électeurs confirment pourtant l'appartenance du pays à la Communauté. Faire partie de l'« Europe » relève

pour les Britanniques de la relation transactionnelle et non du mariage d'amour.

Les États qui, en revanche, souffrirent le plus des deux guerres mondiales et de l'occupation allemande durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale (la France, les Pays-Bas, la Belgique et l'Italie) ont toujours eu des raisons plus profondes et plus sentimentales de soutenir l'UE. Le spectre de la guerre hantait la mémoire collective dans ces pays, même parmi les jeunes générations, nées après que la paix fut conclue.

Pourtant, l'engagement des membres continentaux eux-mêmes dans le projet européen ne devrait pas être considéré comme allant de soi. Lors d'un sondage d'opinion, publié ce mois-ci par le groupe de réflexion Friends of Europe, mené à partir d'entretiens avec plus de 12 000 participants dans 28 pays de l'UE, 60% des personnes interrogées ont affirmé « ne pas être certaines de regretter l'UE si elle disparaissait ». Ce résultat devrait donner des sueurs froides aux dirigeants européens.

Comme on aurait pu s'y attendre, la part des sondés britanniques n'étant pas certains de regretter l'Union est de 63%. Mais 72% - chiffre extravagant - des sondés français partagent ce sentiment, tout comme 67% des sondés italiens et 60% chez les Allemands. À l'évidence, le premier risque encouru par l'Union, c'est tout simplement d'être tenue pour acquise par des gens qui ne se soucient guère de son développement ou de sa disparition.

Le problème pourrait être attribué à un manque de communication. La bureaucratie supranationale constituée d'une infinie batterie de directions, d'agences et de commissions aura toujours eu du mal à se faire aimer, voire à expliquer pourquoi elle existe. Mais le drame authentique, c'est que l'UE ne parvient pas à prendre des décisions rapides, claires et ambitieuses. Il lui est beaucoup plus facile de dire non que de dire oui. Elle sait bien mieux désamorcer les conflits entre ses membres que se rassembler dans l'action collective au service d'objectifs communs et clairement définis.

Ce ne fut pas toujours le cas. Le lancement de l'euro, en 1999, fut un grand moment, un moment historique et marquant, consacrant une décision politique majeure et la mise en œuvre réussie d'une pléiade de mesures techniques. Mais depuis, les choses sont allées de travers, du moins si l'on considère ce qui importe aux électeurs ordinaires : la capacité de la zone euro à créer des emplois et à garantir la hausse du niveau de vie. L'euro ne recueille aujourd'hui qu'un consentement réticent, n'inspire ni passion ni conviction.

« Qui ose gagne », telle est la devise du glorieux Special Air Service britannique. On pourrait l'adapter au Brexit, pour en faire : « Qui s'en soucie gagne ». À l'approche du référendum de 2016, les forces favorables à l'Union ne sont pas parvenues à faire en sorte que les Britanniques se soucient de leur appartenance aux Vingt-Huit. Peut-être la situation changera-t-elle durant la campagne pour les élections générales du mois de décembre, mais il serait risqué de le parier. Les partisans de l'Union parmi les États membres devraient en prendre note. L'indifférence est leur plus grand ennemi.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Festival Seeks Graduates for Work in Africa

By Kester Kenn Klomegah

In this Eurasia Review interview, Natalie Pavlovna Neporada, Head of the International Recruitment and Cooperation Department of the Russian University of People's Friendship or popularly referred to as RUDN, talks about recruitment of graduates for employment in Africa, and further about efforts at identifying various sectors with job opportunities and diverse ways to increase the number of specialists from Russian universities to support humanitarian cooperation between Russia and Africa.

Her university is an educational and research institution located in Moscow. It was established in 1960 to provide higher education to Third World students. It became an integral part of the Soviet cultural offensive in nonaligned countries. Many students especially from developed countries attend this university.

As an Executive Director at the International Employers' Club, Natalie Neporada has initiated and coordinated employment festivals and job fairs that seek to establish a long-term cooperation and development of relations with and within Africa. The idea of this festival is to become an annual event. Here are the excerpts from the interview:

What's the aim of the festival "I want to work in Africa"?

The aim of the festival "I want to work in Africa" is to ensure communication of the maximum number of potential employers with the target audience - students and graduates from African countries studying in the Russian Federation, as well as promote the African region as promising and with a lot of potential. This festival will also help African students and graduates as well as any student or graduate interested in working in the region find a good work placement, broaden their minds and, in general, appreciate the multi-faced cultures of the continent

Why only at this time it is being organized?

There are several reasons for that. As you may know, late 2018 the RUDN University established the International Employers' Club as means to unite employers, universities and students/graduates. The club was founded by the RUDN University as well as Russian HR holding Ancor, Domodedovo holding, Syngenta, Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Russia-Brazil Chamber of Commerce.

It is under the International Employers' Club that the festival will be taking place. The decision to organize the festival dedicated to Africa lies in our desire to be unconventional covering new grounds and providing new opportunities. There is also an ever-rising interest in the African countries as promising and with great potential. We do plan on broadening our reach and dedicating similar events to other parts of the world, but the Africa-related festival is planned to be an annual event.

Who are the target groups? Russian students in the university?

The target audience - students and graduates who want to be employed in the African region, that is, students from African countries studying in the Russian Federation, but any student or graduate from any walk of life, passionate about working in Africa, is welcome. But the event is also organized for Russian companies developing business projects in Africa, African companies with interests in the Russian market, international holdings, business associations, alumni associations and Russian and foreign universities are also invited to participate.

How does it work, what mechanism do you have in place?

The mechanism for employment of students and graduates after the festival relies on inspiring interest and increasing an already existing interest within the students and graduates for working in Africa and interest of African and international employers in students and graduates from Russian universities. We already have experience in HR scouting and helping with employment in the region. We have been carrying out such work for several years now.



Я ХОЧУ РАБОТАТЬ
В АФРИКЕ

Many high-stakes companies from Russia, Africa or around the world are invited to meet, greet, celebrate African culture and its promising prospects in the areas of development as well as share experience. Students and graduates are invited as well to meet those high profile companies, tell them about their skills and knowledge acquired in the RUDN University to potentially secure a job.

With whom, in Africa, do you intend to work with African employers?

To name a few, we will have master-classes held by employers of Universal Mining & Chemical Industries Ltd from Zambia, Fintrac Consulting Limited from Nigeria, Letshego Bank Tanzania, Dikon Associates Co. Ltd General Trading from Gambia and many other employers and representatives of African companies will attend. A b4b session between Chambers of Commerce of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Republic of South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Zimbabwe, as well as representatives of the Mauritius Economic Development Council.

And in Russia?

Representatives of world-famous holding Danone will hold a master-class as part of our festival. Russian companies such as Rosatom will be participating. Many other high-profile employers will come celebrate the African cultures and future business opportunities along with many Russian universities and Alumni associations. The idea of this festival was to make new partnerships and enrich old ones with new opportunities, prospects and relations.

This is an international employment. So what about getting visas for Russians and other foreigners who want to go to Africa?

The festival aims to invite as many African and international companies to participate, therefore, because the estimated majority of those willing to work in African countries are, in fact, students from Africa there is no need for a visa or a work permit. One of the most important directions we are developing is employment of students in their homeland. However should a student without a visa desire to work in an African company, we will help in acquiring a visa. [This interview was first and originally published by Eurasia Review]

You in the photo?

President George Manneh Weah for the first time publicly responds to the politically-charged Liberian song, "Post for the photo" first made popular by Liberian musician Colorful, featuring Takun J, comedian KpokoloKpakala, and others, saying "You are not in the photo because you are not prepared for the photo."

Liberian musician and politician Jonathan Koffa, a.k.a Takun J, recently told New Dawn's Culture & Entertainment that the song had been in studio for some time, but was released recently, immediately becoming a hit because of its political undertone and various shades of interpretations.

Ordinary Liberians in the streets of Monrovia have been giving their own interpretations with specific focus at the President's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change where huge disappointments exist over

jobs with many partisans feeling left out and forgotten despite sacrifices made in bringing the party to power.

"Post for the photo" is the original version, but President Weah discloses that he personally wrote a remix of the song titled "Selfi" produced by United States-

based Liberian musicians D 12, DENG and others which is an apparent response to the original version by Colorful.

"I wrote the song because I love it; it has become one of the best songs in Liberia", President Weah disclosed recently while addressing worshippers at the Georgia

Patten Memorial United Methodist along UN Drive, Monrovia.

The church is where the President's late mother Ma ForkyKlonJlaleh worshipped and held membership up to her demise. He has constructed a family church named ForkyKlonJlaleh Family Fellowship Church in her memory.

However, referring to the original, "Post for the photo" which has gone viral here, President Weah says, "in life, when you have a team, stay with that team. When you're in one political party, stay with

the party."

He warns his officials to understand they have unflinching obligations to serve the nation and its people diligently and faithfully.

He explains, "Selfi is sand and to be in the selfi, you have to post, so if you don't see yourself in the picture that means you're going from one studio to another."

But critics say the statement could be referring to the ruling CDC, where most politicians from other parties have crossed over, seeking greener pastures. **Story by Jonathan Browne**



CDC calls for cabinet reshuffle

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change reiterates call on President George Weah to reshuffle his cabinet to bring on board loyal, committed and dedicated partisans.

National chairman Mulbah Morlu re-echoed the call at the National Patriotic Party headquarters in Congo Town during program by the NPP to welcome its embattled chairman James Biney as legitimate chairman.

According to the CDC chair, the ruling Coalition has people in higher positions of government who are not loyal and who do not believe in the Pro Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity.

He claims some officials are involved in leaking classified documents to the public only to create scenario that the government is

wicked to the people.

"It is unbelievable for officials of government to leak classified documents to the public. This is wickedness to a job that put bread on your table to be undermined by them. It is time that we bring on board partisans who love the president, who support the Pro Poor Agenda for Development than to have people who are wishing to see the downfall of the government," he blasts.

He says the three collaborating political parties including the Congress for Democratic of President George Weah, the National Patriotic Party of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor and Liberian People Democratic Party of former House Speaker Alex Tyler have competent and qualified people.

Morlu notes that President Weah in government some

members of the opposition because of love and reconciliatory so he did not downside as his predecessor did, adding, it appears that the goodwill of the President has been taken for granted and it is time to take drastic action for the betterment of the state.

Commenting on the internal battle between the NPP and the CDC, he says the matter is now resolved among the three political parties and it is time to work together closely.

A statement from the national executive committee of the ruling establishment under the signature Chairman Morlu stresses empowerment of 'those who stood with the party during its period of struggle, adding, that officials working outside the 'Pro Poor' Agenda should vacate government.

"We the members of the National Executive Committee of this great party are committed to all of you. Now is the time that we have to swallow the bitter pills by taking some hard decisions both in government and our party. We commit to continuously seeking the interest of Liberians. Most importantly, our supporters who stood with us during our difficult days in the struggle must continue to be empowered. We can no longer sugarcoat this reality. The moral demands to empower our people are a fierce urgency that remains our first line of defense as we serve our country", Chairman Morlu asserts.

Faith-based actors

Starts from back page

matters of reproduction are strongly tied to faith.

"As we are struggling to gather faith leaders in Nairobi before the summit, our biggest headwind comes from some very strong churches in Kenya, which are erroneously depicting the summit as a clandestine attempt of the West to impose on Africa issues of homosexuality, contraception and abortion in order to weaken Africa and that these are against the will of God".

He continues: "A strong campaign by Kenyan churches is going to have a negative impact in Kenya, but thank God this is a global summit, with many supporters, noting that in case other faith actors really promote this wrong view of the summit, many people in those countries will believe the wrong message and come to wrong conclusion."

According to him, at All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), they are trying to use the same leverage religious leaders have to promote responsible and sustainable family sizes as a great factor in national development goals, saying that the AACC wants to use its position positively, and promote SDGs in a more sustainable way, based on its theological positioning.

Rev. Dr. Mwombeki discloses that many governments are increasingly taking over the responsibilities for the development of their citizens, and the number of schools and high learning institutions run by governments and private people and non-faith based organizations are increasing, therefore, the ratio of those run by churches is decreasing.

This, he notes, is good news and a commendable step, since governments are there for the sake of the people who are of different faiths or even no faiths at all. There are also many places without presence of churches but who do deserve the service, he laments.

The keynote speaker observes that the world is guided by the vision provided by Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and that this framework which guides faith-based actors' intentions also as a continent, indicating that it is on this basis of the SDGs that the African Agenda 2063: "The Africa we want" is based.

The religious leader says he is impressed by SDG goal number 17 which talks about partnerships, stressing, "No one can implement the goals alone in the time when we are all trying to play our part in the implementation of the SDGs." He finds it crucial that a specific attention be given to the role of faith-based actors, including churches.

For his part, German Ambassador to Liberia, Hubert Joger, says for many decades German development cooperation with its partners among them Liberia, has been based not only on its own governmental actors like GIZ, but also on providing governmental support to German church-based development actors, Lutheran as well as Catholic and currently to the tune of about 300 million euros.

Ambassador Joger explains that with its dual approach, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has become a frontrunner worldwide and that way German development assistance has been able to reach many more people in need that would have not been possible otherwise.

Performing the study launch officially on behalf of President George M. Weah, Liberia's Education Minister, Dr. Ansu Sonii, says he is impressed with the contribution of faith-based institutions to the country's education sector, noting that he would read the study findings and make government's import to the document. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Lonestar Cell MTN's MoMo Discount Market set to offer discounts on hundreds of products



Liberia's telecommunications giant, Lone Star Cell MTN announced Thursday that it will on November 2 set up a one of the biggest sales event of 2019 just right on Randall Street.

The sales event dubbed the MoMo Discount Market, promises to be a fun-filled shopping experience with jaw-dropping discounts on thousands of items, the company said.

The campaign said over 100 unique vendors are expected to be present, adding that shoppers can save up to 80%

on products from vendors including Sharp Showroom, Uhai Hair, Club Beer, Aqualife, J-Palm, Naz Naturals, Electroworld and more.

The mobile telecommunications giant said the MoMo Discount Market offers a splendid opportunity for friends and families to do their Christmas shopping and save money while doing it ahead of the festive season.

It said all transactions at the MoMo Discount Market will be done solely through MTN Mobile Money and all a customer needs to do is make sure they are registered on

Mobile Money (MoMo) and have their wallet loaded with cash.

The company said signing up for MoMo is free. It urges interested customers to visit any Lonestar Cell MTN service center or registered MoMo agent with a valid identification card and fill out an application form.

Speaking about the MoMo Discount Market, Prince Chesson, MFS Manager said, "MTN Mobile Money has always been more than just sending and receiving money. The platform was mainly designed to make transactions fast, convenient and most importantly, secure."

"We see the Discount Market as an opportunity to bring our extensive list of merchant partners and growing Mobile Money customers together in one convenient place to buy and sell items. The event will be an opportunity to demonstrate how easy it is to make transactions and how convenient cashless transactions can be." Said Chesson.

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Faith-based actors are not competitors

-Rev. Dr. Mwombeki

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki calls on governments around the world to appreciate role played by churches and other faith-based actors from history into the



present, and facilitate the contribution of that role rather than seeing them as competitors or unneeded intruders.

He made the call here while serving as keynote speaker at the study launch of Faith-based actors' contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in Liberia.

The occasion was held in the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sinkor, Monrovia.

Dr. Mwombeki notes that faith-based institutions are of the opinion that the SDGs will not be attained easily in Africa, if the Continent continues to double its population every few years, adding that we are aware that many people do not use these services, even for free, even with strong and sustained promotion by government, because



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