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# The New Dawn

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

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# Violent clashes at gay party



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Scene of the violence in Sinkor



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Mr. Tarlue: New CBL boss

# CBL Governor: What does the job involve?

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# Continental News

## Anger over detention of Nigerian journalist

Nigeria's state security service says it is still detaining journalist Omoyele Sowore - who is facing treason charges - despite him being granted bail, because nobody came to claim him.

But Sahara Reporters, the news website Mr Sowore founded, said his lawyers were denied access when trying to collect him from jail in Abuja.

Mr Sowore was detained in Lagos in August after calling for a revolution.

The arrest has sparked a public outcry against the intelligence service, DSS. Mr Sowore was a presidential candidate in the general election last February.

An activist and journalist who usually lives in the US, he has been charged with treason, money laundering and "cyberstalking" for allegedly sharing false and insulting information about President Muhammadu Buhari, who won a second term in the elections.

He has called for a revolution because he said the election this year was not

credible.

"All that is needed for a #Revolution is for the oppressed to choose a date they desire for liberty, not subjected to the approval of the oppressor," he tweeted on 2 August.

One day later, on 3 August, he sent another tweet: "DSS invades Sowore's".

This is the second time Mr Sowore has been granted bail but has subsequently not been released. According to Nigeria's security services, known as the Department of State Services (DSS) - yes. In a statement on Friday, the DSS said it had received a court order for the release of Mr Sowore, but nobody had come to claim him.

"It is important that the public notes that since the receipt of the Order, no person has turned up at the DSS to take delivery of him. This becomes imperative for reasons of accountability," it said. But Sahara Reporters have disputed this, stating that Mr Sowore's lawyers were blocked when they attempted to collect him. "On Saturday morning, lawyers and activists

stormed the facility to take Sowore home but were met with stiff resistance by operatives, who said they had no clearance to let him go," it reported. There has been widespread criticism of the DSS on social media over the case. "This is a joke! Just open your damn gate DSS. He will go home or let me call UBER to pick him [up]!" wrote one Twitter user. BBC



Omoyele Sowore was arrested in August on treason charges

## KRA hands 29 tax cheats travel ban

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has issued orders stopping 29 suspected tax cheats from exiting the country, signalling the deployment of new measures to pile pressure on businesses flouting tax regulations.

The 29, 16 Kenyans and 13 foreigners, owe KRA more than Sh9.2 billion, the authority's Commissioner for Investigation and Enforcement David Yego told the Sunday Nation. "The commissioner has the power to issue Departure Prohibition Orders (DPOs) in respect of taxes collectable as a debt to the government as envisaged under Section 45 of the Tax Procedures Act. DPOs have been instrumental in dealing with taxpayers who are a flight risk," said Mr Yego. Orders issued under the said section, he added, have the potential to disrupt travel until outstanding taxes are paid or reasonable arrangements are made to ensure that payment is made. "Once this is done, the commissioner may revoke the orders," he said. The



renewed crackdown on tax evaders is targeting individuals and organisations that fail to disclose fully the income they have earned, those who misreport expenses with the intention of reducing the taxable income, those who fail to pay the correct import taxes through concealment of goods, false declarations and undervaluation, and failure to withhold and remit taxes as required by law, among others.

KRA Commissioner-General Githii Mburu recently said that he was keen to ensure that "all persons who are required to pay taxes do so for the good of this country". The authority issued such orders against 52 Kenyans and 51 foreigners between 2017 and 2018. AFP

## Ugandan mining firms in trouble

Mining companies are facing financial and operational challenges following a Uganda Revenue Authority notice to stop the export of unprocessed mineral ores.

The seven-month long-running ban has hit companies with export permits causing

them to pile up their stocks in stores. It has also encircled companies adding value to mineral ores.

Dicksons Kateshumbwa, commissioner customs Uganda Revenue Authority also the chairperson of the World Customs Organisation in a letter dated February 12, 2019

to all URA customs staff, directed them not to allow through any customs points exports of unprocessed mineral ores. Kateshumbwa said in 2011 President Yoweri Museveni directed the ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to ban the export of unprocessed minerals.

"This is to request you enforce this directive and ensure that no export of unprocessed minerals originate from Uganda whether exporters have licenses or not," Kateshumbwa stated.

According to Ikrom Muminov, operations manager, 3T Mining Ltd, a company mining tantalite in Namayumba sub-county in Wakiso district they received the notice from URA blocking exports despite the fact that they were making value addition on tantalite ore from 0.05% through processing to 15-25% levels.

Muminov added that for tantalite value addition at the moment cannot exceed 25% otherwise it becomes expensive to sell. He said

minerals like tantalite value addition is done to produce concentrates or by-products. He said buyers mix it with steel to produce capacitors, high-end electronic equipment including mobile phones and computers.

"We are laying off some workers; we can't meet all expenses including salaries. We cannot fulfill contracts to suppliers, we are at risk of not paying bank loans," he said.

3T Mining Ltd begun tantalite exploration in 2012 and employs over 50 people. They then got a 21-year mining lease and have been producing five tonnes of tantalite monthly. They are exported to China.

The company has invested over \$10m (sh36.6b) to date in the mining project. He said the current refusal to issue export permits amounts to a ban on the export of materials similar to a ban imposed a few years ago.

"Not all minerals are the same, 100% value addition cannot be done in Uganda because of lack of infrastructure. Tantalite requires large smelting plants and value addition is a complicated process," Muminov said.

He said good investors in the mining sector are losing out and the current ban might discourage others to invest in the sector. AFP



Mining companies cry out as their exports are banned

# EDITORIAL

## Printing new banknotes is government's last hope

**NEWS THAT THE** two years old Coalition government of President George Manneh Weah has run short of banknotes, leaving commercial banks in Monrovia with no money to meet customers' demands is not only disappointing but scaring. The Government of Liberia is in an economic squeeze to the extent that it desperately needs money to pay salaries and fund its operations or risks shutdown.

**HOW THE NEW** administration reached this grey line in its first 24 months is the question many Liberians and perhaps international partners are seeking answers to. In the first 12 months of the government, financial expenditures of the President himself and many of his key officials, most whom have reneged in publicly declaring their assets raised suspicions of a looming crash in the operations of the state.

**TODAY, THE REALITIES** are beginning to unfold everywhere both in the public and private sectors, as the economy faces an imminent nose-dive. Employees of various state functionaries, including the Judiciary, the Legislature and even the Executive have not received salaries for the last three months or more.

**PRESIDENT WEAH HAS** formally written the Legislature, calling lawmakers, currently on annual break here to report at the Capitol to execute urgent matters of State, including approval for the printing of new Liberian banknotes to enable the government pay salaries.

**ALREADY, RULING COALITION** for Democratic Change lawmaker from Montserrado County District#8 Moses Acarous Gray has posted the printing of the new banknotes is a must to enable the administration to pay salary, particularly during these Christmas and New Year holidays when there will be a rush at various commercial banks for cash.

**BUT THE GOVERNMENT** should beware that merely printing banknotes does not immediately heal an economy that has been stifled by corruption, lack of transparency and bad policies. The ruling Coalition should have known that overly staffing or bloating the Civil Service with partisans would have inflated the wage bill hence, the need for sources of funding to accommodate the partisan employees.

**IN THE SHORT** run, the printing of new banknotes may bring some level of relief to the government in terms of easing the current pressure brought about by the huge demand for cash. But inflation could even go beyond three digits if other austerity measures, particularly in the monetary sector are not introduced and adhered to.

**UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT** sincerely sees the agriculture sector as one of the potential areas to invest for both cash and food crops, which may lead to self-sufficiency in food and eventually exportation, the economy would continue to stagnate.

**SPECULATIONS ABOUND HERE** that the banknotes are already printed, but we think that new banknotes in themselves would not resuscitate the economy if we don't swift from being an import-based to an export-based nation. This is important because it helps to generating badly needed foreign exchange.

**BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT** should weight the economic rationale of spending US\$31 million to print 35 billion Liberian banknotes that could become mere papers in the hands of citizens with no value to get essential goods on the shelf.

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# COMMENTARY

By George Soros

## The Rise of Nationalism After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

*Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, open societies were triumphant and international cooperation became the dominant creed. Thirty years later, however, nationalism has turned out to be much more powerful and disruptive than internationalism.*

**B**ERLIN - The fall of the Berlin Wall on the night of November 8, 1989 dramatically and suddenly accelerated the collapse of communism in Europe. The end of travel restrictions between East and West Germany dealt a death blow to the closed society of the Soviet Union. By the same token, it marked a high point for the rise of open societies.

I had become involved in what I call my political philanthropy a decade earlier. I became an advocate of the concept of open society that had been imbued in me by Karl Popper, my mentor at the London School of Economics. Popper had taught me that perfect knowledge was not attainable, and that totalitarian ideologies, which claimed to be in possession of the ultimate truth, could prevail only by repressive means.

In the 1980s, I supported dissidents throughout the Soviet empire, and in 1984 I was able to set up a foundation in my native Hungary. It provided financial support to any activity that was not initiated by the one-party state. The idea was that by encouraging non-party activities, people would become aware of the falsehood of the official dogma - and it worked like a charm. With an annual budget of \$3 million, the foundation became stronger than the Ministry of Culture.

I became hooked on political philanthropy, and, as the Soviet empire collapsed, I established foundations in one country after another. My annual budget jumped from \$3 million to \$300 million in just a few years. Those were heady days. Open societies were in the ascendant and international cooperation was the dominant creed.

Thirty years later, the situation is very different. International cooperation has hit serious roadblocks, and nationalism became the dominant creed. So far, nationalism has turned out to be much more powerful and disruptive than internationalism.

This was not an inevitable outcome. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States emerged as the sole surviving superpower, but it failed to live up to the responsibilities that its position conferred. The US was more interested in enjoying the fruits of its Cold War victory. It failed to extend a helping hand to former Soviet bloc countries, which were in dire straits. Thereby, it adhered to the prescriptions of the neoliberal Washington Consensus.

That is when China embarked on its amazing journey of economic growth, enabled by its accession - with US support - to the World Trade Organization and the international financial institutions. Eventually, China replaced the Soviet Union as a potential rival to the US.

The Washington Consensus assumed that financial markets are capable of correcting their own excesses, and if they did not, central banks would take care of failing institutions by merging them into bigger ones. That was a false belief, as the global financial crisis of 2007-08 demonstrated.

The crash of 2008 ended the unquestioned global dominance of the US and greatly boosted the rise of nationalism. It also turned the tide against open societies. The protection they received from the US was always indirect and sometimes insufficient, but its absence left them vulnerable to the threat of nationalism. It took me some time to realize this, but the evidence was incontrovertible. Open societies were forced onto the defensive worldwide.

I should like to think that the nadir was reached in 2016, with the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum and the election of US President Donald Trump, but the jury is out. The outlook for open societies is aggravated by the exceptionally rapid development of artificial intelligence. It can produce instruments of social control that can help repressive regimes but pose a mortal danger for open societies.

For example, Chinese President Xi Jinping has embarked on creating a so-called social credit system. If he succeeded in completing it, the state would gain total control over its citizens. Disturbingly, the Chinese public finds the social credit system attractive, because it provides them with services they previously lacked, promises to persecute criminals, and offers citizens a guide on how to stay out of trouble. Even more disturbingly, China could sell the social credit system worldwide to would-be dictators, who would then become politically dependent on China.

Fortunately, Xi's China has an Achilles heel: it depends on the US to supply it with microprocessors that 5G companies, like Huawei and ZTE, need. Unfortunately, however, Trump has shown that he puts his personal interests ahead of the national interests, and 5G is no exception. Both he and Xi are in political trouble at home, and in the trade negotiations with Xi, he has put Huawei on the table: he has converted microchips into bargaining chips.

The outcome is unpredictable, because it depends on a number of decisions that have not yet been taken. We live in revolutionary times, when the range of possibilities is much wider than usual and the outcome is even more uncertain than in normal times. All we can depend on is our convictions.

I am committed to the goals pursued by open societies, win or lose. That is the difference between working for a foundation and trying to make money in the stock market.

## O-PED

By Ian Buruma

## Sporting Tribes

**N**EW YORK - Siya Kolisi, who raised the Webb Ellis Cup for his country in Yokohama, Japan, early this month, is the first black man to captain the South African national rugby union team, the Springboks, in a game that used to be associated entirely with white South Africans. He was born in a poor township in the Eastern Cape. Jean de Villiers, a former Springbok captain, said the Springboks' victory was "for the whole country." But it was something in which even non-South Africans could rejoice.

In a way, however, Michael Leitch, the captain of the Japanese team, the Brave Blossoms, is an even more remarkable phenomenon. For several weeks, Leitch, born to a New Zealand father and Fijian mother, became the poster boy of a team representing one of the world's most insular and ethnically homogeneous societies. Of course, native Japanese stock is hardly pure or monolithic. But, to most Japanese, ethnicity cannot be separated from nationality. Japaneseness runs in the blood. Leitch, who arrived in Japan for the first time as a 15-year-old schoolboy, seems to prove otherwise. He is now officially known in Japan as Leitch Michael - his names written in the Japanese order.

Leitch is not the only Japanese player from overseas. Other members of the team come from South Africa, Tonga, New Zealand, and South Korea. To be sure, there is an element of opportunism in the porousness of national sports teams, and the rules for rugby are especially generous. Countries like their teams to win, and they will take excellence where they can find it. This concept long predates international sports competitions. After all, most of the soldiers who defeated Napoleon for the Duke of Wellington were born outside the British Isles. Many didn't even speak English.

It is interesting, nonetheless, how quickly tribal feelings can adapt to new circumstances. Not long ago, British soccer clubs, like clubs in many European cities, commanded fierce loyalty along geographic, ethnic, and even religious grounds. Almost all players were local boys. Some teams in London were associated with Irish fans, and others with Jews. In Glasgow, Rangers and Celtic were bitter rivals because one was supposedly Protestant and the other Catholic. And yet, by the end of the last century, a top British team was lucky to have more than a couple of British players, or indeed a British coach. But fans' loyalty was undiminished, and supporters of different clubs still beat each other up with gusto. The foreign players may be mercenaries, but they are "our mercenaries."

A closer look at tribal loyalties soon reveals a more complicated picture, however, and not just in sports. A Hungarian Jew once told me that Jews are not regarded by anti-Semites as real Hungarians until a Jewish writer wins the Nobel Prize; then they are "one of us." A German soccer star of Turkish parentage once said that he was a national hero when a game was won, but when Germany lost, he would be the first to be blamed.

Japanese are happy to celebrate the successes of the tennis player Naomi Osaka (who has a Japanese mother and a Haitian father, and was educated in the United States) as national victories, but that doesn't mean that many people regard her as truly Japanese. One of her sponsors, noodle company Nissin Foods, had to apologize for running an ad campaign featuring the dark-skinned player as a cartoon character with the palest of hues. Leitch has carried a Japanese passport since 2013 and speaks fluent Japanese. Whether most Japanese regard him as "one of us" when he is not on the rugby pitch is open to question.

And yet something is changing, even in hidebound Japan. In the 1950s, a Japanese professional wrestler named Rikidozan became a national idol because he regularly defeated much bigger and usually very blond Caucasian opponents. There was more than a little showmanship involved in these bouts, which usually began with the pale giant bullying the smaller Asian man and ended with a cathartic victory when the plucky Japanese wrestled the foreigner to the ground. Humiliated by wartime defeat and US occupation, Japanese men, in particular, enjoyed a sense of vicarious revenge by watching Rikidozan on televisions displayed in shop windows throughout the country.

The fact that the Japanese hero was actually named Kim Sin-rak and was born in North Korea had to be kept a closely guarded secret. A few people remember how he built a small shrine in his apartment with a photograph of his mother surrounded by various Korean artifacts. But only his most intimate friends knew about this. In public, he was nothing but Japanese. (Unfortunately, when Rikidozan, who ran in dubious circles, was stabbed by a gangster in a Tokyo nightclub in 1963, he went on a bender instead of recovering in hospital and died a few days later.)

Leitch's family background obviously is no secret. His looks alone would have made it impossible to hide his foreign origin. But that is precisely the point. Rikidozan had to save (male) Japanese honor by pretending to be something he was not. There is nothing Japanese in Leitch's bloodlines. Quite a few Japanese might still regard him as an alien. And yet he was made captain of the national team. Call it opportunism. But it is also a sign of progress.

## OPINION

By Dina Khapaeva

## Making Murder Great Again

**A**TLANTA - The recent film *Joker* tells the story of Arthur Fleck, a lonely psychopath and party clown who tries to build a career as a stand-up comedian but is rejected and humiliated. He then takes revenge on society by becoming a murderer and provoking riots "against the rich."

Although *Joker* won the prestigious Golden Lion award for best film at this year's Venice International Film Festival, it has divided opinion. Many reviewers praised the movie, arguing (predictably) that its violent protagonist is leading a revolt against a cruel, unjust order. The *Joker*, they say, is a downtrodden hero whose violence constitutes a courageous act of self-expression.

Others take a dimmer view of the main character, pointing to his madness, cruelty, and vicious intent. Unlike the conflicted murderer Raskolnikov in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, the *Joker* is a vengeful maniac who commits his crimes in cold blood, feeling no responsibility, much less remorse.

Todd Phillips, *Joker*'s director, is perplexed by the "double standards" applied to his movie. "I just saw *John Wick 3*. He's a white male, he kills 300 people, and everybody's laughing and hooting and hollering," Phillips said. "Why does this movie get held to different standards? It honestly does not make sense to me."

The bigger question is whether a murderous psychopath should be the protagonist in a film critiquing the existing social order. True, the United States, with a highly uneven distribution of wealth mirroring that in Russia under President Vladimir Putin, rather than most other developed countries, certainly needs social change. But are the *Joker* and his ilk, and films that indulge in murderous monsters and unrestrained violence, really the best vehicles for promoting social justice?

This fixation on "empathy" toward perpetrators of extreme violence is rooted in an ideological shift in attitudes toward humans. This shift reflects the influence of the radical critique of humanism and the rejection of anthropocentrism, voiced especially by the animal-rights movement and advocates of transhumanism and posthumanism in popular culture since the 1990s (which I discuss in my book *The Celebration of Death in Contemporary Culture*). By legitimizing what was otherwise perceived as low entertainment, stories aestheticizing violence by idealized monsters against human characters quickly became a much sought-after commodity.

What are the social and political implications of this normalization of mayhem in popular culture? Writing in *Time* magazine, Stephanie Zacharek called *Joker* an exercise in "glamorized nihilism" in which the lead character "inspires chaos and anarchy." And the film has certainly sparked fresh debate about the relationship between fictional and real-life violence.

Prior to *Joker*'s release, the families of the victims of the 2012 mass shooting at a cinema in Aurora, Colorado, issued a letter expressing their concern about the atrocities depicted in the film. Because the Aurora shooting happened during a screening of another Warner Bros. film (*The Dark Knight Rises*), the letter forced the studio, Phillips, and Phoenix to address the families' objections.

Whereas the Warner Bros. statement unabashedly advised the public not to confuse fiction with reality, Phoenix's response summed up the changes in popular culture in recent decades: "I don't think it's the responsibility of a filmmaker to teach the audience morality or the difference between right [and] wrong."

Yet, if *Joker* is a call for social change, then the film is ultimately about knowing right from wrong - in moral terms and from the point of view of social justice.

*Time*'s Zacharek spotted the seminal contradiction in the image of the *Joker*. "Is he a villain or a spokesperson for the downtrodden?" she asked. "The movie wants it both ways. Its doublespeak feels dishonest." In *The Atlantic*, Sims agreed, saying that Phillips "positions *Joker* as an antihero, an evil figure who nonetheless becomes an avatar of vigilante justice within the film."

Neither critic, however, explained the nature of this dishonesty. The *Joker* is a madman whose gratuitously violent acts are understood and performed as entertainment, not as a call for revolution or social change. Rather than inspiring its audience to protest against social injustice, the movie sells a commodified antihumanism that radically refutes the exceptional value of human life and democratic freedom.

Although Zacharek is certainly right that "movies don't cause violence," they may shape our ideas about what is permissible. After all, how could on-screen violence against humans not influence the perceived value of human life and human dignity?

Furthermore, if culture is inseparable from politics, as Phoenix believes, then the normalization of mayhem in popular culture could fuel widespread indifference to distinguishing between right and wrong in public life. We certainly should ask to what extent this indifference, advocated as a professional credo in the entertainment industry, has influenced the behavior of the showman currently occupying the White House.

# Violent clashes at gay party

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Violent clashes ensued in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia when angry crowd disrupted a gay party, which some residence claim was a combined wedding for 20 gay couples early on Sunday, 10 November with one person losing a tooth in the incident.

Though an official invitation to the wedding said party, residents insist that those welcoming guests wore wedding dresses.

The angry mob moved into Allen's Compound at Cheeseman Avenue on 16th Street, Sinkor where the event was taking place; besieged the premises and disrupted the gay ceremony early Sunday.

In Liberia, gay and lesbian practices are not legal, and vast majority of the country's population dominated by the Christian and Muslim faiths gets irritated by campaigns by some individuals in some quarters that are seeking the legislation of same sex marriage here.

Though the act is not recognized or legalized, there



Scene of the violence in Sinkor

are claims however that others are still engaged in same sex activities at their own risk.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper on Sunday, a community leader for Block-B in the area, Mr. Joe Goeh explains that he received a call around 2:30 AM [on Sunday] concerning a gay wedding.

Mr. Goeh narrates that he

was informed by the caller that a combined wedding for 20 gay couples was taking place in the Allen's Compound, but angry mob had besieged the area.

He explains that in no time people were running in different directions when the angry mob and the homosexual men were engaged in a stone-throwing battle.

According to Mr. Goeh, he

was forced to return to his house due to the stone battle and decided to observe the situation from his residence.

Mr. Goeh indicates that community people informed him that they saw gay couples dressed in the same kinds of wedding gowns used in normal wedding programs.

According to him, locals narrated that the gays drew community dwellers' attention when they (gays) left Allen's compound and moved to the main street in the community in their wedding gowns.

Meanwhile Mr. Goeh says he believes that the government here is aware of the gay wedding ceremony due to the presence of security personnel at the compound to protect the gays in the event of any reaction by the residents.

He says one person lost a tooth during the fight, but Mr. Goeh did not say who it was.

He narrates that angry mob brought down the entire Iron Gate at Allen's compound, leaving the building without any security protection.

He reveals that this is not the first gays wedding being held at Allen's compound.

Mr. Goeh recalls that in November 2018, a similar wedding was held in the same compound, but it faced serious setback at that time when some community dwellers reportedly stormed the compound and disrupted the ceremony.

52 year old Jackson Miller who lives close to the fence of Allen's compound narrates that while in his house, he heard the names of gay couples being called-up for the officiating of their wedding.

Elder Miller discloses that by 3:00 AM, objects started to drop on his house continuously from the angry mob, which forced occupants of his house including children to wake from sleep.

Miller says he could not hear people talking again

within the compound following the throwing of objects.

He adds that when he and his family came out door, they saw some of the private security officers who were assigned to the compound hiding behind his house for their own safety.

Elder Miller explains further that the angry mob entered Allen's compound and began pulling out several cartoons which allegedly contained the lubricants used on a person during sodomy.

According to him, the angry mob scattered items on the streets.

Besides, Elder Miller reveals that the mob held the group hostage until daylight, making it difficult for them to easily vacate the compound.

Officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) arrived on the scene, and the gate was later reinstalled by the police and some officers from private security firm SEGAL to ease the high tension in the community.

Mrs. Marie Blessing, another eyewitness who lived opposite the compound, says prior to the tension, some of the gays were wearing high heels, makeup, ear rings, weave caps, and eye lashes, among others.

According to Mrs. Blessing, the gays in the feminine dress code came out of the fence of Allen's compound to receive and welcome their counterparts to the ceremony.

She says it was during that time when zogos in the community saw the gays and attacked them.

An officer from private security firm SEGAL that was on duty during the incident, only identified as Lester, declined to speak to reporters.

SEGAL's motorbike that was parked in the compound was reportedly stolen by the mob.

Other sources hint that most of the participants at the party appear very young.

It can be recalled that during former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's regime, mob attacked Mr. Archie Ponpon, an advocate for gays' rights during one of his advocacies in Monrovia.

LNP officers at the scene refused to speak to the press on grounds that the tension was still high among the community residents who threatened to forcibly eject the gay couples out of Allen's compound.

There was no information of any arrest made by the police in connection to the incident.

Meanwhile, some residents of the 16th Street Community are calling on government to ensure that people publicly involved in homosexual business are arrested and prosecuted because the act is illegal.—Edited by Winston W. Parley

## LTA, Stakeholders discuss draft regulation on SIM Cards Registration

The Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA), service providers and major stakeholders in the telecommunications sector on Friday, November 8, 2019 held a one-day Public Consultation on a draft new regulation on SIM Cards registration in the country.

The draft regulation, when finalized, would require all service providers to use the National Identification Card as precondition to the issuance of mobile numbers to subscribers. It further seeks to set time lines for

enforcement, compelling a new subscriber to present a national identification card before obtaining a mobile number and for old subscribers to submit their National ID Cards to be assigned to their mobile numbers.

According to the LTA, the purpose of the new regulation is to "provide a regulatory framework for the compulsory registration of all activated SIM/RUIM Cards users and the establishment of a control administration and management of a subscriber database for all SIM/RUIM Cards and the users."

The objective of the draft regulation is to "record and maintain personal information of mobile telecommunication subscribers in the Republic of Liberia and to establish, control, administer and protect databases of subscribers." It is also intended to "verify the authenticity of the identity document being used during registration and to establish penalties for violations."

Speaking at the forum held at the Golden Gate Hotel in Paynesville City outside Monrovia, authorities of the LTA said Liberia cannot boast of a digital economy inasmuch SIM Cards registration has been around for while and stated that with the introduction of the National Identification Card, it is time to link the SIM Cards to the national biometric registry. The LTA's authorities believed that linking the SIM Cards to the National Identification Card would unveil the true identity of people using telecommunication to commit cyber crimes in the country. For his part, Mr. Tiah Nagbe, Executive Director of the National Identification Registry informed the forum that his entity has put in place a National Identification Verification Platform which is expected to be rolled out on next week.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Gov't loses NHA case

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian prosecutors have again failed to prove multiple charges of alleged corruption against officials from the Nation Housing Authority (NHA), barely three months after the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led - government also lost another big corruption case against state officials. In a ruling Friday, 8 November in Monrovia, Criminal Court "C" Judge A. Blamo Dixon acquitted suspended NHA Managing Director Duannah Siryon and his two deputies Tugbeh C. Tugbeh and Isaac Roberts of all charges, saying the indictment against them is "fatally defective."

"The Indictment drawn against the defendants is fatally defective. The prosecution did not prove the essential elements of the alleged multiple crimes levied against the defendants beyond a reasonable doubt,"



the Judge rules.

Judge Dixon says the Court refuses to hold the defendants because there is no probable cause for them to be held for the alleged charges preferred against them.

Mr. Siryon was NHA managing director, working

along with Mr. Tugbeh C. Tugbeh, NHA Deputy Director for Administration and Mr. Isaac Roberts, NHA Deputy Director for Technical Services when they were arrested, investigated and charged.

They 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.

The NHA officials were accused of alleged economic sabotage, theft of property, bribery, misapplication of entrusted property and criminal conspiracy, all of which they have since denied during trial. Their charges came amid a claim of receiving alleged US\$80,000 bribe from executives of GELPAZ - IMMO that came to Liberia to do feasibility studies in connection to the construction of thousands of housing units for which the Liberian government and GELPAZ-IMMO had reached agreement.

In the trial, the prosecution played an audio in which it is purported that the suspended NHA boss and his two deputies Tugbeh C. Tugbeh and Isaac Roberts were in heated argument over inequitable distribution of the alleged US\$80,000 bribe.

However it was difficult for our staff to understand what was being argued in the audio due to the noise in the recording. Tapsoba is alleged to have given Mr. Tugbeh US\$80,000 as bribe, while the latter is also alleged to have given US\$20,000 to Augustine Weah for safe keeping for delivery to NHA officials.

But Mr. Siryon denied receiving any money from any executive of GELPAZ - IMMO that came to Liberia to conduct feasibility studies on the project in Monrovia.

Thus Judge Dixon rules that the prosecution cannot establish a prima facie case against the defendants for the alleged multiple crimes in the absences of Benaobazonon, co-defendants Emmanuel Tapsoba and Augustine Weah, including the president and CEO of GELPAZ - IMMO, SA, Zinimanegre Alain Zoungrana.

Judge Dixon therefore set the defendants free and discharges them from further answering to the charges levied against them. This lost in a government fight against alleged corruption comes after the Criminal Court "C", then presided over by Judge Peter W. Gbenewelleh in July similarly acquitted several Liberian officials indicted in 2016 on account of a Global Witness' claim of receiving bribes. The British watchdog group had alleged that Sable Mining, a British firm, had offered the Liberian officials bribes for a concession contract. Key contentions in prosecution's argument in that case included claims that Sable Mining gave bribes totaling US\$950,000 to Liberian officials including lawmakers to insert Section 75 in the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) Draft Act to give the company undue advantage over mineral deposits at the Wologisi Mountain in Lofa.

The case involved former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler, Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman, Nigerian national Chris Onanuga, Dr. Richard Tolbert, and several other past and present officials. On 30 July this year, Judge Gbenwelweh said the defendants were not guilty of the crimes charged, climaxing a major economic sabotage trial that commenced during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's term and extended into the regime of President George Manneh Weah.

## Govt. resolves 132 domestic violence cases

### -Assistant GBV Director

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Assistant Director for Gender Base Violence at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) discloses here that the Government of Liberia (GOL) has resolved 132 raped cases.

Mr. Siemonkwein made the disclosure recently at the Monrovia City Hall in Monrovia after a two-day Gender Base Violence workshop.

He said the ministry

received a total of 1,508 GBV cases between January and June, 2019, among them 135 rape cases with nine suspects tried and convicted.

The GBV Assistant Director said government has 94 cases, pending court hearing.

He said during the period under review government also heard 132 raped cases and arrested 330 alleged perpetrators.

Mr. Kwein explained that

government provided medical care to 1,189 victims.

Meanwhile, at the end of the GBV workshop, participants from five of the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia, including lawyers, police, student groups and international partners, among others presented papers and made recommendations towards curbing the prevalence of rape and gender based violence cases in the country.



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# Deputy Speaker prepares for senatorial race

One of the senatorial aspirants in Bong County for the 2020 special senatorial election Deputy Speaker Prince K. Moye, describes the pending election as a referendum for the county.

He says the senatorial race will be a referendum that will divide or unite Bong by selecting a rhetorical leader or a practical leader with tangible development.

According to him, the race will see skimmers leaving the stage and bringing on board leaders who have built their political career along the way.

Representative Moye, who represents Bong County District # 2 notes that those who want to see people with mutilated political record, jumping from party to party and skimming on the county for personal gain will vote in that direction.

He continues that it is going to be a referendum that will give a face to the county or see it as the boiling point of

politics in Liberia.

He indicates that it is now time the electorate critique the two names in the county. To this, political pundits in Bong say the two names widely known in the county include Deputy Speaker Prince K. Moye and incumbent Senator Henry

Yallah.

Moye notes 2020 will not be a decision made on a silver platter in Bong County.

Speaking with journalists in Tumutu, Salala District, Lower Bong County after a meeting with Muslim leaders from across the district, the Deputy

Speaker

asked Muslims to pray for him as he moves through the last seven percent of his consultation in the county.

Rep. Moye, who is currently carrying on consultation with citizens, says at the conclusion of the exercise, he will brief Muslims and the entire county

on outcome of discussions held.

Liberia is gearing up for mid-term senatorial election next year and many incumbent lawmakers both in the Senate and the House, are eyeing the race, including aspirants outside of government. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



## ON "WHAT IS WRONG

CONT'D FROM PAGE 10

rich-quick schemes of stealing and stealing with the Liberia Revenue stealing Authority in cooperation/coordination", with beliefs that taxes collected are for the exclusive, personal use by the officials of government.

### US-based Liberians expressed Concerns

Recently- announced (*New Dawn Liberia*, April 5, 2019) was yet another commitment by a group of concerned, US-based Liberian professionals to provide social, cultural, economic and political aid to Liberia, our troubled land and its people. That such assistance is in great demand and timely is an understatement.

### Liberia's Turbulent Past, Recent Past & Prevailing Activities

In the light of the chronic graft/greed/corruption and endemic disregard and conscious disobedience and violations of Laws during the more than a century and half of Liberia's existence as an independent country, the following organizations and others have been, and are, engaged in activities designed to strengthen good "Government & Governance", hopefully, for Change & Reforms, and to promote social, cultural, economic and political development of Liberia:

Center for Transparency and Accountability CENTAL  
(www.cental.org)

Liberia Media Initiative (LMI)  
(www.lmi.org)

Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI)  
455 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C., 20001-2621

Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)  
Duazon Road, Duazon, Liberia  
And several others

These are Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), the recent innovative revolution in Foreign Aid, international cooperation and development, perhaps, funded 100% or in part by government but prohibited from government participation or control, although they have lawful responsibility to deliver social services such as health, education, etc.; advocate protection for human rights, freedom of association & assembly, etc.; and influence peaceful public policy Change & Reforms, particularly, for social cultural, economic and political development.

Apparently, moreover, these NGOs are owned and managed by non-nationals who, also, own and manage Liberian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). But ownership and lawful management responsibility of Liberian CSOs which are, in fact, Liberia's major public policy watch-dog agencies, should and must be the legal responsibility of and involvement ONLY by citizens of the Republic of Liberia. Though well-intentioned, dedicated and possess the required expertise for organization and management, but foreign nationals lack the lawful, local, legal muscle (power/authority) necessary to demand, with "guts" and the political will to achieve legal compliance. Essentially, significantly, "None Governmental Organizations (NGOs)" come to Liberia to "help us (Liberians) help ourselves", but may not and cannot, under law, do for us that which we should and must, do ourselves.

Moreover, the NGO Foreign Aid Revolution benefitted only the Donor Countries in terms of employment of their citizens. For Liberia, the NGOs (in agriculture, finance and related enterprises) records show little or no meaningful contribution to Liberia.

The major source of the historical problem within the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is a serious crisis of factionalism based on ethnicity, jealousy and related factors of little and/or meaningless favors (of "hand-outs") from the "tables" of powerful, wealthy officials as compared to national, meaningful pride, dignity, honor, respect and socio-economic and political benefits to the nation and people. Basically, these Liberian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) like

TO BE CONT'D NEXT EDITION

## Solidaridad trains 38

Starts from back page

ceremony, Solidaridad's Oil Palm Program Manager J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. disclosed that the workshop was part of his institution's efforts to disperse the BMPs in oil palm cultivation to other production regions outside Solidaridad's operational areas.

"We [Solidaridad] are trying to extend the BMPs to other parts of Liberia; areas outside Solidaridad project scope because we want to see an increase in harvests and profits for our local farmers. Therefore we all gathered here to work together and ensure that the delivery of BMPs to farmers cultivating oil palm in other regions of the country is assured," he said.

Saygbe Sr., also stressed that extension delivery services remain pivotal to sustaining progress among smallholder farmers in the oil palm sector.

"Without extension delivery services, work in Liberia's oil palm sector may be difficult to sustain because the multiplication of farmers' plots also depends on the pace of extension services delivered," said Saygbe.

The Director of Extension and Research at the Ministry of Agriculture, Oliver Teekpeh, lauded Solidaridad for organizing such a training

workshop.

He said the training comes at a time when the Ministry strives to enhance extension advisory relations. "We appreciate Solidaridad for this initiative. One thing that we are looking forward to is to promote the Extension Advisory relations in the coming years," said Teekpeh.

He, however, called on participants from the Ministry of Agriculture to make the best of the BMPs delivery techniques that Solidaridad preaches.

The workshop opening program was followed by presentations on BMPs in oil palm cultivation, and practical sessions, including on-farm demonstrations.

Solidaridad's Oil Palm Agronomists, Senkro O. Sumo, and BMP Specialist, Benjamin Gabla worked participants through BMPs processes including Fresh Fruit Branch (FFB) weighing and recording, vegetative growth measurement, lining and pegging, weeds and fertilizer management, among others. Memai Sirleaf, a District Agriculture Officers (DAO) assigned in Bong County, Central Liberia, lauded Solidaridad for the level of impartation. She said the training has equipped her to help farmers solve some problems they face.

"I am grateful to Solidaridad for organizing such training for us. This is an added knowledge and experience for me. All the techniques I have learned here, I am going to share them with the farmers, especially the weighing and recording techniques of Fresh Fruit Branch," said Sirleaf. In the same vein, young extension officer, Emmanuel B. William disclosed that [prior to] the training, he has not had an understanding of how the BMPs work.

"There is a lot that I have learned today. This is my first time to ever attend training on oil palm Best Management Practices and I am willing to pass this set-skills to farmers who poor production practices have affected their yield," he said. Solidaridad's work in Liberia forms part of the organization's approach to bringing sustainable solutions to improve supply chains and better the lives and wellbeing of farmers and producers, as well as their communities.

In West Africa, Solidaridad's work focuses on sustainable cocoa production, sustainable oil palm and palm oil production, responsible artisanal gold mining, food and nutrition security, gender and inclusive development, youth-focused support for agricultural transformation, climate and landscape innovations and land tenure and land governance.--Press release

# Français

## Côte d'Ivoire / L'ANC se réjouit de la candidature de M. Guillaume Soro à la présidentielle de 2020

L'Alliance Nationale pour le Changement avec à sa tête M. Alphonse Soro a tenu son 1er conclave, le samedi 09 novembre 2019, 7 mois après de la naissance officielle de ce parti pro-Soro. Ci-dessous, le discours de son président Alphonse Soro à l'ouverture de cette rencontre qui a eu lieu à Abidjan.

Mesdames et messieurs les Membres de la Direction de l'ANC,

Mesdames et messieurs les journalistes,

Je vous félicite pour votre présence à ce 1er conclave qui se tient après 7 mois de la naissance de notre parti, l'Alliance Nationale pour le Changement.

Chers Membres de la Direction,

Il vous souviendra les conditions dans lesquelles nous avons décidé ensemble de la création de ce parti, conformément aux résolutions de l'Assemblée Générale de l'APC, tenue le 02 mars dernier.

Comme nous nous y attendions, des gens, qui ne rate aucune occasion quand il s'agit de semer la division, n'ont pas hésité à payer une dissidence en notre sein, d'ailleurs comme au PDCI, à LIDER, au PIT, au MFA, etc !

Si les gens mettaient autant d'ardeur à la recherche de la réconciliation nationale et au bien-être des ivoiriens qu'il en consacre au débauchage des militants, à l'achat des consciences et à la corruption, il y a longtemps que la Côte d'Ivoire serait un pays de rêve !

Nous avons dû faire preuve d'entregent, d'intelligence en participant, par la mutation de l'appellation APC en ANC. On leur a cédé l'ancienne appellation pour un franc symbolique !

Mais je me réjouis de constater la présence dans cette salle de tous les régionaux précédemment appelés points focaux de l'APC. Merci de votre présence et de votre loyauté sans faille à la Direction pour continuer notre chemin.

Ce que nos contradicteurs n'ont pas compris, c'est que nous n'avons jamais renié ce qui fait notre âme, notre aspiration profonde, celle du changement. Cette aspiration transcende nos égos et ne nous laisse aucune place pour la distraction juridico-politique à laquelle on nous invitait.

Oui dans ce pays, LE

CHANGEMENT EST UNE NECESSITE. Le pouvoir RHDP, avec la minutie d'un orfèvre, s'est attaqué en moins d'une décennie, à tous les équilibres de notre nation.

La peur est aujourd'hui le sentiment le plus répandu entre les ivoiriens. Peur du lendemain, peur de l'autre, peur de ceux qui nous dirigent et qui devraient plutôt nous rassurer, peur même de notre propre ombre. Cette Côte d'Ivoire-là n'est pas celle de notre jeunesse, celle de nos rêves, celle qu'on nous avait tant promise.

L'année 2020 qui devrait consacrer l'ancrage démocratique de notre nation est devenue celle de nos cauchemars et de nos nuits d'insomnies.

Qu'avons-nous fait de ces 10 ans après avoir connu coup

circuler l'argent. L'éducation pour tous, oui mais une éducation de qualité et non ce rafistolage digne d'amateurs !

Qu'avons-nous fait de ces dix années, pour qu'on en soit à négocier une CEI indépendante, vous le savez, cette CEI menace gravement la paix sociale.

Pour qu'on en soit à décrier une justice qui emprisonne pour un tweet ? Pour que des justiciables soient oubliés dans les prisons sans procès équitable ?

Dix ans plus tard, des ivoiriens sont encore en exil, d'autres meurent en prison, pendant que le pouvoir regarde ailleurs !

Dix ans après, la Côte d'Ivoire, dont les tenants du pouvoir se vantent d'en avoir fait le pays le plus réformateur de la planète terre, avait-elle

de jalousie les fervents animateurs des agoras et parlements de triste réputation, cela gêne profondément.

Aujourd'hui, que le RHDP, qui pourtant se voulait un creuset de rassemblement, ait réussi le tour de force de se disloquer en mille morceaux, avec le Président Henri Konan BEDIE et le Président Guillaume SORO hors de cette prétendue grande famille.

J'accuse les cadres renégats du RHDP qui, poussés par leurs ambitions destructrices, sont en train de faire le vide autour du Président OUATTARA en prétendant pourtant l'aimer.

Quelle forfaiture !

Quelle haute trahison !

Il suffit d'une simple lecture de notre histoire, de l'histoire de notre continent, pour comprendre que cette malheureuse entreprise est vouée à un échec cuisant.

Votre affaire-là ne marchera pas ! Elle ne marchera jamais !

Des regrets ? Oui j'en ai ! Je regrette de voir une si belle entreprise s'enliser dans les sables mouvants de l'autodestruction, comme le margouillat qui construit avec ses mains et qui détruit avec sa queue.

Je regrette de voir des individus qui n'ont pas contribué à bâtir cette grande image du Président OUATTARA, l'entraîner dans la fange boueuse de leurs ambitions personnelles, pour finalement l'abandonner.

C'est pourquoi dès le départ, nous avons alerté, non pas pour faire plaisir aux sofas des temps de paix comme les Mamadou Touré et autres Bictogo, qui n'ont qu'une connaissance pelliculaire de la lutte pour ADO et qui veulent nous donner des leçons aujourd'hui. C'est au mieux une naïveté, au pire une imposture. Qu'ils arrêtent d'utiliser le label ADO pour leur cause perdue de 2020.

Nos avertissements c'était le respect et l'amour filial pour le Président OUATTARA et pour tous ces aînés qui, dans le silence de leurs salons feutrés, déplorent la dangereuse pente dans laquelle des va-t'en guerre ont engagé la politique ivoirienne.

Le refus de verser dans l'injure facile et dans le déni. Nous avons notre part de responsabilité dans le bilan du Président. Nous l'assumons.

Fallait-il pour autant céder

au fatalisme ou retrouver nos manches pour reprendre le combat là où nous l'avions laissé ?

Nous avons choisi la seconde option. L'ANC est là pour dire NON à la forfaiture.

C'est pourquoi je me réjouis avec vous, de l'annonce de la candidature de notre grand leader, le Président Guillaume SORO. Cette candidature a elle seule, doit empêcher ceux qui pensent qu'en dehors d'eux il n'y a point de salut, de chercher à s'imposer.

Cette candidature que l'ANC devra soutenir fermement, est un appel à la prise de responsabilité de cette nouvelle génération d'ivoiriens, jeunes, débarrassés des clivages régionaux, ethniques et religieux, cette génération de jeunes formés, expérimentés, prêts à aller à la rencontre du monde avec ses idées nouvelles et pleines d'originalité et de modernité.

Mesdames et messieurs, les Membres de la Direction du Parti, Au cours de ce conclave, nous plancherons sur les stratégies à mener pour faire de l'ANC ce grand parti qui va contribuer à conduire notre Chef, le Président Guillaume SORO, au palais présidentiel, en octobre 2020.

Nous n'avons ni alternative, ni plan B.

Les menaces, les intimidations, les achats de conscience, les débauchages éhontés de militants, toutes ces choses sont des méthodes passistes, qui n'ont pas prospéré en 1990, ni en 1995, ni en 2000, ni en 2010.

Je ne vois donc pas comment cela peut prospérer en 2020. Ne dit-on pas que celui qui se ment à lui-même est assuré d'un bon sommeil ? Tant il est vrai que personne ne viendra lui demander des comptes !

Souhaitons bon sommeil au RHDP ! J'attends donc de ces travaux, des résolutions de haute qualité, qui seront transmises au Président Guillaume SORO.

Plus que jamais, je vous engage à investir le terrain, à parler à tous les ivoiriens, à mobiliser les jeunes, les femmes, les cadres, nos anciens, à préparer 2020 avec courage et détermination, pour une victoire au premier tour, du Président Guillaume SORO.



d'Etat, rébellion, crise postélectorale et même une guerre ?

Il nous fallait retrouver nos manches et rebâtir : des routes et des ponts, certes ; l'économie, les infrastructures, oui ; mais surtout la réconciliation, le vivre ensemble, mais également une justice indépendante, un environnement des affaires qui laisse peu de place à la corruption, des conditions d'élections transparentes, justes, ouvertes, le social, avec un accent particulier sur les populations vulnérables, les femmes, les personnes âgées.

Mais aussi, l'emploi, la promotion du secteur privé par une vraie politique de soutien aux entrepreneurs nationaux. Oui c'est eux qui créent les emplois durables et font

vraiment besoin de ce faux débat sur un éventuel troisième mandat ?

Aujourd'hui encore, nous courrons après la démocratie. Est-ce normal ? Aujourd'hui, des ivoiriens n'ont même pas le minimum pour se nourrir. Est-ce normal ? Aujourd'hui nous sommes classés 1er parmi les pays dont les jeunes, sans espoir, se donnent la mort dans la méditerranée.

Les débats qui ont cours sur la démocratie, la bonne gouvernance, les élections apaisées, les libertés, la réconciliation nationale, l'éducation, l'emploi avec en plus certains qui nous narguent en parlant de 2% de chômage, Ces débats nous gênent profondément.

Aujourd'hui, voir des personnes tenir des discours d'une arrogance qui ferait pâlir

# Français

## Éditorial

### L'impression de nouveaux billets, c'est le dernier espoir du gouvernement

L'information selon laquelle le pouvoir en place ne dispose plus de billets de banque et les banques commerciales sont incapables de répondre aux demandes de leurs clients en raison du fait qu'elles n'ont plus d'argent dans leurs réserves est non seulement décevante, mais effrayante. L'Etat du Libéria est en proie à un marasme économique caractérisé par des mouvements de contestation sociale sporadiques. Il a désespérément besoin d'argent pour payer les salaires des fonctionnaires qui n'en peuvent plus et financer ses activités.

Quelle explication la nouvelle administration qui a atteint cette ligne grise au cours de ses 24 premiers mois de gestion peut donner non seulement aux nombreux Libériens ébahis, mais aussi aux partenaires internationaux qui semblent ne rien comprendre? Au cours de ces 12 premiers mois de gestion, les dépenses du président lui-même et de plusieurs de ses principaux responsables, qui pour la plupart ont refusé de déclarer publiquement leurs avoirs ont suscité des inquiétudes quant au risque d'une dégringolade imminente des opérations de l'État.

Aujourd'hui, les conséquences commencent à se manifester partout, tant dans le secteur public que privé. L'économie est sur le point de sombrer. Les fonctionnaires et les responsables de l'État, dont notamment les magistrats, les législateurs et même les agents de l'exécutif, n'ont pas reçu leurs salaires depuis trois mois ou plus.

Le Président Weah a officiellement écrit à l'Assemblée législative, qui est actuellement en congé annuel, lui demandant de reprendre le travail afin de se pencher sur certaines opérations urgentes relevant de l'État, notamment l'approbation de l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque libériens pour permettre au gouvernement de payer ses fonctionnaires.

Moses Acarous Grey, député de la coalition au pouvoir dans la circonscription n° 8 du comté de Montserrado, a indiqué que l'impression des nouveaux billets est indispensable d'autant qu'elle permettra à l'administration de payer les salaires des fonctionnaires, en particulier pendant la période festive de Noël et du Nouvel An.

Cependant, il faut que le gouvernement se garde de penser que le simple fait d'imprimer des billets guérira immédiatement l'économie qui est étouffée par une corruption sans égale, un manque de transparence et une gestion calamiteuse. La coalition au pouvoir aurait dû savoir que le suremploi de ses partisans gonflerait la masse salariale et qu'il aurait fallu qu'il disposât d'assez d'argent pour payer ses employés.

À court terme, l'impression de nouveaux billets pourrait soulager quelque peu le gouvernement, car il pourrait atténuer la pression actuelle exercée par l'énorme demande de liquidités. Mais l'inflation pourrait même aller au-delà de trois chiffres si d'autres mesures d'austérité, notamment dans le secteur monétaire, ne sont pas introduites et respectées.

Tant que le gouvernement ne considérera pas sincèrement le secteur agricole comme l'un des domaines potentiels d'investissement pour atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire et, éventuellement, augmenter le volume d'exportation, l'économie continuera de stagner.

Les spéculations selon lesquelles les billets ont déjà été imprimés abondamment, mais encore faut-il que l'on sache que ces nouveaux billets en eux-mêmes ne peuvent ressusciter l'économie, à moins que nous augmentions nos exportations et diminuions l'importation.

Par ailleurs, il faut que le gouvernement pèse les raisons économiques consistant à dépenser 31 millions USD pour imprimer 35 milliards de billets libériens, d'autant que ces billets risqueraient devenir de simples papiers entre les mains de citoyens, n'ayant aucune valeur.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par George Soros

### La montée du nationalisme après la chute du mur de Berlin

BERLIN - La chute du mur de Berlin dans la nuit du 8 novembre 1989 a considérablement et brutalement accéléré l'effondrement du communisme en Europe. La fin des restrictions au voyage entre l'Allemagne de l'Est et de l'Ouest a porté un coup fatal à la société fermée de l'Union soviétique. De la même façon, elle a été un point culminant pour l'essor des sociétés ouvertes.

Je me suis alors impliqué dans ce que j'appelle ma philanthropie politique une décennie auparavant. Je suis devenu un défenseur du concept de société ouverte, qui m'a été inculqué par Karl Popper, mon mentor à la London School of Economics. Popper m'avait appris que la connaissance parfaite était hors d'atteinte et que les idéologies totalitaires, qui prétendent être en possession de la vérité ultime, ne pouvaient prédominer que par des moyens répressifs.

Dans les années 1980, j'ai soutenu des dissidents durant l'empire soviétique et en 1984 j'ai été en mesure de créer une fondation dans mon pays natal, la Hongrie. Cette fondation a fourni un soutien financier à toute activité qui n'était pas une initiative de l'État à parti unique. L'idée était qu'en encourageant les activités hors parti, les gens prendraient conscience de la fausseté du dogme officiel - et cela a fonctionné à merveille. Avec un budget annuel de 3 millions de dollars, la fondation est devenue plus forte que le Ministère de la Culture.

Je suis devenu accro à la philanthropie politique, et, quand l'empire soviétique s'est effondré, j'ai établi des fondations dans chaque pays, l'un après l'autre. Mon budget annuel est passé de 3 millions de dollars à 300 millions de dollars en quelques années. Ce fut une période faste. Les sociétés ouvertes avaient le vent en poupe et la coopération internationale était le credo dominant.

Trente ans plus tard, la situation est très différente. La coopération internationale s'est heurtée à des obstacles considérables et le nationalisme est devenu le credo dominant. Jusqu'à présent, le nationalisme s'est révélé beaucoup plus puissant et plus perturbateur que l'internationalisme.

Cette issue n'était pas inévitable. Après l'effondrement de l'Union soviétique en 1991, les États-Unis sont devenus la seule superpuissance restante, mais cette dernière n'a pas réussi à être à la hauteur des responsabilités que lui conférait sa position. Les États-Unis étaient plus intéressés à tirer profit des fruits de leur victoire de la Guerre froide. Ils n'ont pas réussi à tendre la main à l'ancien bloc soviétique, qui était dans une situation désespérée. De ce fait, ils ont adhéré aux prescriptions néolibérales du consensus de Washington.

C'est alors que la Chine a entrepris son périple extraordinaire de croissance économique, activé par son adhésion - avec le soutien des États-Unis - à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce et aux institutions financières internationales. Finalement, la Chine a remplacé l'Union soviétique comme rival potentiel des États-Unis.

Le consensus de Washington est parti du principe

que les marchés financiers sont capables de corriger leurs propres excès et que dans le cas inverse, les banques centrales pourraient prendre en charge les établissements défaillants en les fusionnant dans de plus grandes. Cette croyance s'est avérée fautive, comme l'a prouvé la crise financière de 2007-08.

Le krach de 2008 a mis fin à la domination mondiale incontestée des États-Unis et a grandement favorisé la montée du nationalisme. Il a également inversé la tendance contre les sociétés ouvertes. La protection qu'elles ont reçue des États-Unis était toujours indirecte et parfois insuffisante, mais son absence les expose à la menace du nationalisme. Il m'a fallu un peu de temps pour comprendre cela, mais la preuve était incontournable. Dans le monde entier, les sociétés ouvertes ont été forcées de se mettre sur la défensive.

J'aime à penser qu'on a touché le fond du désespoir en 2016, avec le référendum du Brexit au Royaume-Uni et l'élection du président américain Donald Trump, mais la question n'est pas encore tranchée. Les perspectives pour les sociétés ouvertes se sont aggravées suite au développement extrêmement rapide de l'intelligence artificielle. Elle peut produire des instruments de contrôle social capables d'aider les régimes répressifs, mais constituent un danger mortel pour les sociétés ouvertes.

Par exemple, le président chinois Xi Jinping s'est engagé dans la création de ce qu'il appelle un système de crédit social. S'il parvient à l'accomplir, l'État risque d'avoir un contrôle total sur ses citoyens. Chose inquiétante, l'opinion publique chinoise trouve le système de crédit social attrayant, car il leur fournit des services qui n'étaient pas disponibles auparavant. Ce système promet en outre de poursuivre les criminels et propose aux citoyens un guide qui leur explique comment éviter les ennuis. Plus inquiétant encore, la Chine pourrait vendre ce système de crédit social dans le monde entier à des dictateurs, qui seraient alors politiquement dépendants de la Chine.

Heureusement, la Chine de Xi a un talon d'Achille : elle dépend des États-Unis qui leur fournissent des microprocesseurs 5G, dont des entreprises comme Huawei et ZTE, ont besoin. Malheureusement, toutefois, Trump a montré qu'il place ses intérêts personnels avant les intérêts nationaux - et la 5G ne fait pas exception à la règle. Lui et Xi sont en difficulté politique sur le plan national et dans les négociations commerciales avec Xi, il a mis Huawei sur la table : il a converti les puces électroniques en monnaie d'échange.

Le résultat est imprévisible, car il dépend d'un certain nombre de décisions qui n'ont pas encore été prises. Nous vivons une période de révolution, où l'étendue des possibles est beaucoup plus large que d'habitude et où le résultat est encore plus incertain qu'en temps normal. Nous ne pouvons compter que sur nos convictions.

Je suis attaché aux objectifs poursuivis par les sociétés ouvertes, quoi qu'il advienne. C'est la différence entre travailler pour une fondation et tenter de faire de l'argent en bourse.

# PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

## ON "WHAT IS WRONG WITH LIBERIANS?" CITIZENS OF THE 17-TRIBE LIBERIAN NATION-STATE WITH CONTINUOUS 172-YEAR SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC&POLITICAL QUAGMIRE, SINCE 1847: A PROPOSAL FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.  
August 27, 2019

### Introduction

Today, high-lighting national developing events are political violence, personal injuries and disappearances, destruction of private and public properties, including one of the most disgraceful, dishonest national/international SCAM, the theft/sale of Liberian passports to foreign nationals by the nation's (Liberia's) Passport Director. The impact of these developments dragged the un-divided attention of the law-abiding majority of the Liberian people, the media and discussions at posh restaurants, Fufu and soup cook shops, barber shops, beauty salons, dinner tables, street corners intellectual encounters and the nation's grapevine rumor mills.

Quite recently, some of Liberia's diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Liberia's eyes/ears to the world community of the Comity of Nations, were investigated for reportedly stealing hundreds of thousands of US dollars donated to Liberia by the Empire of Japan, right under the eyes of the past President at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The defendant-officials argued that the official with responsibility for management of the Japanese grant fled Liberia to the USA where he is, allegedly, a Resident Alien. It is, perhaps, a possibility that some of our major diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are citizens of foreign countries!

In an article entitled "What is wrong with Liberians", the same as the questioning headline above (Analyst Liberia,

As it has been and is the case of all nations as Liberia, the Wrongs are many ("to err is human"), *but the Wrongs of Liberia are the most major, unique, profound and pervasive; they affect, with drastic, negative economic and deadly impact, the entire spectrum of the social, cultural, economic and political institutions of Liberian society.* From the Churches, schools (kindergartens to university); private business corporations (for-profit and not-for-profit); secret brotherhood societies (the Masonic Craft, for example); all other related social organizations and, most importantly, the government and officials of the three branches of government.

Significantly, the staff, operating members, congregations, students of schools, churches and all others are, in turn, members of the social, cultural economic and political institutions of the society to which they are exposed to learn, experience and internalized dishonesty, decadent moral rectitude, rejection of honest manual labor, expect government to do and provide everything for the rest of their lives.

The major founding, ruling political class of the Republic and its descendants had been, and are morally-dishonest and corrupt, with some elements lazy, reject manual labor of the agricultural enterprise. The prevailing Liberian government ruling class has, now, monopolized corruption, the universal vice found on all continents, in every country, society and culture, irrespective of political/economic development and affluence.

- a) The African tradition of Ethnic/Tribal Bigotry -fear, rivalry, jealousy, segregation/discrimination, based on myths/superstitions and antagonisms bordering on hate which, often, led to tribal wars has been encouraged, adopted and is, now, unwritten, major government Policy which led to the decades of Liberia's recent, modern civil war of mass destruction;
- b) The National Legislature recently impeached, reluctantly, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for abuse of his judicial power as the then "Justice in Chambers" by issuing Writ of Prohibition which prohibited the Liberian Government from collecting US \$31 million from 2 petroleum importers (proved to be the Associate Justice's business partners) who collected this sum from the public at the gas pump, but due and payable to the government;
- c) The Prohibition was approved by all 5 Justices, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who presided over the Senate Impeachment trial. But Liberian Lawyers, members of the politically-powerful Liberia National Bar Association, have registered opposition to the impeachment. This, indeed, trial/impeachment provided a peak at the iceberg of the dishonesty and corruption of the Liberian judiciary process;
- d) One Senator refused to support impeachment, because it (the impeachment) failed to include all



June 12, 2013), while Author Raymond Leslie Buell posed the question, "What is wrong with Liberia, the nation state?" as the subject of Chapter 2 of his epic book (*Liberia: A Century of Survival, 1847-1947*). The book was published on the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of 1947 and the founding of the Liberian State in 1847. This was a rhetorical question, answer to which was, or is, the subject and analysis of Mr. Buell's book. This book, we argued, is perhaps, the best assessment of the social, cultural, economic and political activities/operations by Liberia during its first one hundred years as a sovereign, independent state.

At that point on June 12, 2013, we chose to navigate the critical issues raised and facing our country, Liberia, in an attempt to seek answer(s) to 'what is wrong with us', Liberians, rather than, "What is wrong with Liberia", the state and land mass.

### Government ad Governance

Since July 26, 1847, the founding of the Republic of Liberia, Government & Governance have become a profound nightmare - a Quagmire - an *awkward, hazardous, complex and complicated situation; a muddled up, mixed-up and messed-up predicament; a difficulty, quandary, entanglement, imbroglio and a socio-economic fiasco in our Liberia's social, cultural and political affairs* throughout succeeding political administrations up to these days, including the previous twelve-year administration, characterized by ACDL civil war, political and economic mismanagement up to this day.

Some administrations of the past cancelled several, questionable, rental contracts between the Government of Liberia and some high officials of government for mansions, hotels and other real estate properties developed with stolen public resources for which exorbitant rents were being paid to the same officials. Buildings and real estate development of this sort were and are regarded as "national development". Rather than arrest, trial, conviction and punishment, these officials were and are commended and rewarded with higher promotions to carry on their corrupt, dishonest enterprise. Hence, it is reasonably factual to argue that the Tubmans and other TWP Big Whigs own most of the Monrovia area real estate in Mamba Point, Sinkor, Paynesville ELWA Junction and the RIA Highway and Cooper Beach estates, etc., etc.

Today's ruling political class, particularly, lawyers and lawmakers, are the most-often law-breakers in Liberia. Judges, prosecutors, practicing attorneys, court officials, juries, national police, national defense, security and Liberia immigration service officials are all, profoundly, dishonest and corrupt. In fact, the National Legislature debates and passes laws with loop-holes intended for selective obedience/disobedience.

Historically, the Republic of Liberia ruling groups have been, and are, very conscious of Social Class stratifications, adopted and thrive on such divisive systems as Americo/Congo Liberian versus Country/Indigenous-Liberian Divides, a political, un-democratic and ritualistic adventure. Some examples:

- five of the Justices, including the Chief Justice and the retired Associate Justice who was one of those who approved the illegal Prohibition. The Senator declared, also, that "Liberia is a Lawless country";
- e) The Liberian Senate routinely ignores, disregards and disobeys the PPCC Act which requires public bidding in awarding public procurement contracts, apparently, because of demands for kickbacks. The Senate, for example, purchased 30 top-of-the-line, expensive automobiles for itself without the required public bidding.
- f) Liberia's historical tragedy has been compounded, continues to be, such that the source of Liberia's only informed and highly-educated Liberian political ruling Class, the MBAs, MSCs, LLMs, PhDs, including those who fled the towns & villages of Rural Liberia, the political Class of Leaders which should and must lead, teach and encourage the citizens to be independent and resilient, but has become the opulent swimmers in the pool of corruption, dishonesty and of lies, deceit, thievery, war & economic crimes. And
- g) The Super Ministry of State for Finance & Development Planning actual ly plans and develops nothing, but continues to be the Center known, historically, for "get-



# CBL Governor: What does the job involve?

By Othello B. Garblah

President George Weah has named Mr. Jolue Aloysius Tarlue to head the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), as the new Executive Governor replacing Mr. Nathaniel Patray.

The surprise appointment which was made on Friday November 8, has received mixed reactions from Liberians both home and abroad, with some questioning his qualification to head the troubled bank, while others think that he does not have to be a financial expert to head the CBL.

Prior to his appointment, Tarlue was the Chairman of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC).

If confirmed by the Liberian Senate, Mr. Tarlue would face a daunting task of trying to revive a cashless economy that is swimming in an increasing double digit inflation pool.

In fact, Tarlue will be responsible to keep an eye on the increasing rate of inflation, ensure that the current cashless situation does not run the country's entire banking system into the mud and making sure that local commercial banks do not go broke as confidence in the banking system continues to erode due to the lack of cash situation.

He is also face with the



Mr. Tarlue: New CBL boss

of Liberia and has a very important responsibility because the CBL is at the core of Liberia's financial system.

Meanwhile, let it be noted here that there were no advertisement for the position, therefore it is difficult for one to exactly pinpoint on what the government expects of the new CBL Executive Governor or the requisite qualification for the successful candidate.

However, in a statement issued, the Government said Tarlue is expected to lead a team of other governors in restructuring the Central Bank of Liberia to tackle Liberia's challenging economy.

Tarlue has no background in

the United States of America including J.P. Morgan Chase, BNY Mellon N.A., Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch and HSBC Bank N.A. amongst many other executive level financial establishments.

According to his curriculum vitae, Mr. Tarlue holds MPA (specializing in Public Policy) from Kean University, New Jersey (USA) and BA in Political Science from the King University in Bristol, Tennessee (USA).

It is expected that with his background in quality control, something the Kroll report pointed to as lacking could help play a key role in the restructuring process at the CBL.

Morgan Chase, from March 2013 up to 2018 as Compliance Officer - Quality Control. There, he provided subject matter expertise on AML/KYC and Sanction requirements to front office, lines of business and operations, and possess in-depth knowledge of BSA/AML Regulations, PATRIOT ACT and OFAC; well versed in AML and Terrorist Financing emerging trends.

He utilized research/investigative databases and software applications to conduct enhanced due diligence, and conduct firm wide risk assessments of customers, products, geographies, and distribution channels and the effectiveness of compensating controls.

He drafted and/or updated AML compliance and written supervisory policies and procedures, and assisted in developing a comprehensive cross-business view of AML risk. He reviewed and approved exceptions, and kept abreast of regulatory developments and enforcement actions to assess potential impact to JPMC.

Tarlue identified and helped resolved compliance and control issues, performed targeted reviews to validate controls and ensured they were in place and appropriate. Tarlue possesses political, social and economic knowledge of countries that

Corporate Investment Banking of business and product lines and assessed money laundering/terrorist financing risks and recommended mitigants and controls.

At BNY Mellon NA, he provided sign-off approval/disapproval for the on-boarding of all new and retention of existing high-risk rated customers as Mellon's Quality Assurance Officer. Tarlue managed customer on-boarding, account closures, detecting and escalating suspicious activity and any other AML or OFAC risks of significant complexity. He worked at Mellon for 6 years, 2008 - 2013.

At Deutsche Bank NA, Tarlue was a Senior Risk Officer—client Adoption Management—Trust Securities Services for two years, 2007 - 2008 before moving on to BNY Mellon NA. He supported management in ensuring that the Lines of Business operations were in accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements and all DB standards relating to anti money laundering and sanctions, so as to protect and enhance the reputation of the Bank with its regulators and avoid significant financial loss or reputational damage.

Prior to working for Deutsche Bank NA, Tarlue worked for Merrill Lynch as the Bank's Compliance Analyst for a year. There he assisted in assessing and mitigating the risks associated with suspicious activity identification and reporting and Office of Foreign Assets Control Compliance to ensure compliance with Federal and State laws and regulations and to minimize penalties and reputational losses.

He applied internal policies and control procedures with a knowledge and understanding of guidance, laws and regulations.

Tarlue started off with HSBC Bank NA, serving Compliance Officer Role - Compliance Policy & Procedure Team. In this role, he conducted reviews on all new and existing clients, ensured that KYC profiles were in accordance with AML Regulations and HSBC policies and procedures; provided testing and feedback to senior management regarding training and system design, from a Quality Assurance perspective.

He conducted quality assurance reviews on New Business KYC profiles, across multiple business lines, ensuring AML Regulations and HSBC policies and procedures are maintained.



ongoing debate about the printing of a new currency, which some say could make an immediate or short term impact but with long term consequences.

**So what skills does he require?**

If confirmed by the Liberian Senate Tarlue will be in charge of the Central Bank

economics, a key point many of his critics has flagged following the announcement of his nomination on Friday by President Weah and the publication of his Curriculum Vitae on the Executive Mansion's website.

But he has a laundry list of major financial institutions and banks he has worked with

**What does his credentials say of him?**

Jolue Aloysius Tarlue, Jr., is a Kean University Masters in Public Administration, with 17 years of solid quality compliance experience, enforcing standards in a range of global financial institutions, mainly in the United States.

Tarlue worked for J.P.

are major players in the global economy and has spent years analyzing client risk due to Major Sanctioned Countries.

He advised, reviewed and analyzed risk assessments on domestic and international

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# Ozil, Kolasinac attacker jailed for 10 years



An armed mugger has been jailed for 10 years after attempting to rob Arsenal duo Mesut Ozil and Sead Kolasinac of luxury watches worth £200,000 (\$257,000, 231,000 euros) (\$NZ 402,688).

Harrow Crown Court heard that Ashley Smith and his accomplice did not count on the bravery of Bosnian defender Kolasinac in fighting back during the attack in London in July.

Ozil then drove them from

the ambush as the would-be robbers pursued them on a stolen moped and threw stones, the court heard.

Smith, 30, was described by judge Ian Bourne QC as a prolific "career criminal" who was well known to police.

A second man, Jordan Northover, has also pleaded guilty to the attempted robbery just feet from Kolasinac's home, and will be sentenced at a later date.

Smith and Northover were "armed and dangerous" with a

knitting needle and a pointed screwdriver as weapons, according to the judge.

"Between them they produced these weapons which they threatened Mr Kolasinac with, a long pointed blade which was thrust in the victim's direction and made contact with him.

"The two of them had not counted on Mr Kolasinac fighting back and he behaved incredibly bravely."

The court heard that footage showed Kolasinac attempting to engage with the culprits, but he was able to get in the car which was then driven away by Ozil.

Both players and Ozil's wife were able to flee despite being pursued by the defendants, who threw stones at the car.

Officers were able to trace the defendants and arrest them after a member of the public later saw the moped being parked in Boreham Wood and called police.

The judge stated that Smith has "an appalling criminal record" of 20 convictions from 38 offences dating back to when he was 14 years old.



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## Solidaridad trains 38 extension officers in oil-palm cultivation

Solidaridad in Liberia has completed a three-day training workshop on the Best Management Practices (BMP) in oil-palm cultivation for extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). According to a release, the workshop took place at Gompa City, Nimba County from 4 - 6, November 2019, bringing together 38 extension workers from the MOA including District



Agriculture Officers (DAOs) and County Agriculture Coordinators (CACs), among others.

The training was conducted as part of the implementation of the Sustainable West Africa Oil Palm Program (SWAPP), which is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Speaking at the opening



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