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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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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



Sen. Wesseh



Sen. PYJ

I can't comment on what God told PYJ

-Sen. Wesseh

UP withdraws appeal to Supreme Court

-following Ellen, Boakia's meeting



P6

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Continental News

Zimbabweans get new banknotes, but angered by withdrawal limits

Zimbabweans finally got access to new low-denomination currency on Tuesday that authorities hope will end chronic cash shortages, but banks maintained an existing weekly withdrawal limit of \$20, frustrating many customers.

The new 2 and 5 Zimbabwe dollar notes and coins were scheduled to start circulating on Monday but failed to appear on time, causing confusion at banks.

Shortages of cash, foreign currency, fuel and power are the most visible signs of the southern African nation's worst economic crisis since 2008, when hyperinflation forced the government to ditch its currency.

Hundreds of people, mostly pensioners, queued for cash outside one bank in central Harare on Tuesday and were issued 150 Zimbabwe dollars (\$10) of the new 2-dollar bills and coins. They were told to return on Thursday if they wanted more.

"I managed to withdraw

150 dollars but it is not enough to buy anything. The banks should do something about the limit, maybe increase it to 1,000," John Kamuzunga, a 72-year-old pensioner, told Reuters after collecting his cash. The central bank has maintained per-customer withdrawal limits at 300 Zimbabwe dollars a week,

half the amount a farmer needs to buy a bag of fertiliser amid soaring inflation that economists estimate at 380%.

Banking executives said they received the new bills late on Monday and customers were already withdrawing the money. Central bank governor John Mangudya did not respond to calls for comment

on Tuesday.

But he was quoted in the government-owned The Herald newspaper saying the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe had disbursed 30 million Zimbabwe dollars in new notes to banks.

The new banknotes, which will circulate alongside bond notes that were introduced in 2016 as a surrogate for U.S. dollars, are another step by the central bank toward fully restoring the Zimbabwe dollar that it jettisoned more than a decade ago.

Black market traders, taking advantage of cash shortages, have been selling banknotes at premiums of up to 40%, a practice the central bank wants to end by printing more bills.

Tony Hawkins, a professor

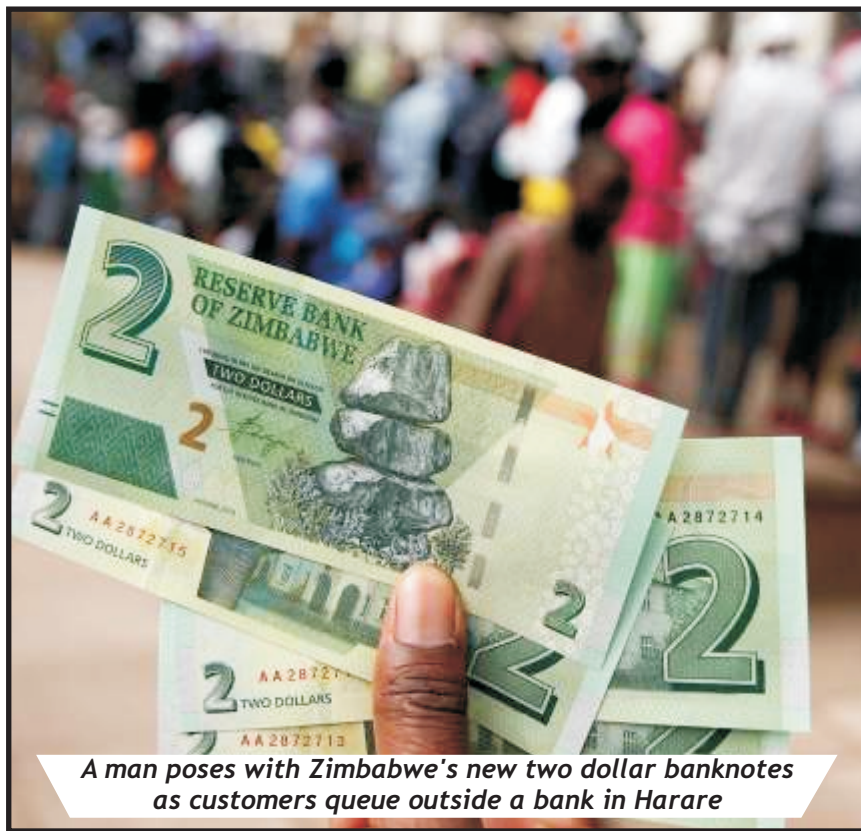
of business studies at the University of Zimbabwe, said on Monday the new notes would not solve the country's economic problems.

"What it means is that we will probably have more cash around to feed the black market for currency," he said.

Cash is the preferred method of transacting business in an economy where unemployment is above 80% and the majority of citizens earn a living from trading in the informal sector.

After the trauma of hyperinflation, when many were left impoverished after losing savings and pensions, Zimbabweans tend to prefer to keep cash at home because they have little faith in the country's financial system. -

AFP



A man poses with Zimbabwe's new two dollar banknotes as customers queue outside a bank in Harare

Kenyans rage at police brutality after viral video

Kenyans have expressed outrage after a video of police officers beating a student was widely shared online. Four policemen can be seen hitting him with a stick and stamping on his head, before he is led away. The four have now been identified and suspended,

police chief Hilary Mutyambai has said. Kenya's police are often accused of brutality, although the authorities usually deny such charges, saying their officers are highly trained.

Human Rights Watch said that during the 2017 election campaign, police officers beat

and killed opposition supporters. The incident on Monday that was captured on video was filmed during a protest at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, close to the capital, Nairobi.

The police had been deployed there after students held a demonstration against rising insecurity. The film of the beating has been widely shared on Twitter, with people using the hashtag #StopPoliceBrutality. "Thanks for making it viral"

"We must condemn police brutality on students. I mean for God's sake this is just a student not a terrorist," Ispan Kimutai tweeted.

"We must also ask ourselves why university students have to be met with excessive force every time they come out to protest," Muthuri Kathure wrote. Announcing the identification and suspension of the police officers involved, the police chief commended "the individual who had the

Twitter boss 'plans Nigeria or Ethiopia stay'



Jack Dorsey, the CEO and co-founder of Twitter, is planning to spend six months in Africa next year to grow the company's business on the continent, a tweet from a British diplomat says.

He is deciding between Nigerian and Ethiopia, Africa's two most populous countries, Britain's high commissioner in Nigeria, Catriona Laing, wrote. Mr Dorsey is currently

on a trip to the continent and made the announcement at a dinner hosted by Nigeria's former finance minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who serves in the board of Twitter.

He is now in Ghana, where he appears to have waded into the jollof war. The Twitter boss has tweeted a picture of Ghanaian jollof. Mr Dorsey will also visit South Africa and Ethiopia during his current month-long tour of Africa. BBC

presence of mind to record the incident and [I] thank all Kenyans who made it go viral".

Earlier, Mr Mutyambai, described what happened as

an "unfortunate incident".

All police officers had "been



The video, filmed from a high-rise building, shows officers beating a student

EDITORIAL

The AG's advice does make sense

LIBERIA'S AUDITOR GENERAL, Mrs. Yusador S. Gaye is warning against printing of new Liberian banknotes for now, “because it will accordingly have an adverse consequence on the economy and the people.”

THE AG'S VIEW is against recent request from the Executive to the Legislature to approve the printing of whopping 35 billion new Liberian currency notes to be placed in circulation immediately.

AG GAYE HAS reportedly written both House Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, warning, “I am strongly of the opinion that giving your approval to print more currency is unfathomable, but will be very misplaced, granted we are yet to understand all what happened at the last currency printing, as evidently, the US\$25 million mop-up exercise does not engender much confidence in the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).”

WE BELIEVE THE Auditor General is being very bold and frank to the Legislature in making sure it does the right thing not only in the interest of the ruling Coalition government, but for posterity. Politics aside, how this administration handles currency matters in the country could have serious adverse effects on the economy particularly, in the long-run with inflation likely to hit three digits or beyond.

MORE SO, THE caution is expedient because the Central Bank is yet to address lapses in its operations, as observed by the Kroll's Scoping Report and the Presidential Investigation Team (PIT) respectively. Kroll had asked the CBL to reconcile its vault balances and maintain constancy in its financial department, while the PIT is concerned about security for the protection of reserves, among other operational standards.

AND THEN THERE are lingering questions about the US\$16 billion printed and brought into the country besides the US\$25 million taken from the reserves to mop up excess liquidity in the economy. In other words, Liberians are apprehensive that if these lapses remain business as usual and the government proceeds with the printing of new banknotes, the economy would further wallop in a vicious cycle.

KROLL'S SCOPING REPORT details that documentation provided by Crane Currency AB showed a total of LRD 15.506 billion was shipped to Liberia between period of July 2016 and March 2018 as follow:

▫ LRD 5,146,250,000 (USD 45,883,113) was documented as being shipped by Crane AB to Liberia in respect of the LRD 5.0 Bn Contract.

LRD 10,359,750,000 (USD 92,365,817) was documented as being shipped by Crane AB to Liberia in respect of the LRD 10.0 Bn Contract.

QUESTION IS WHERE is the LRD10, 359,750,000 documented as being shipped to Liberia in March 2018 under the George Weah Presidency in respect of the LRD10.0 Bn Contract signed with Crane AB? The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah claimed no money went missing, insisting that all Liberian banknotes printed and brought to the country were deposited in the vaults of the Central Bank of Liberia, an assertion which former CBL Executive Governor Nathaniel R. Patray corroborated.

BUT HOW COME the economy is experiencing a serious shortage of banknotes so much so that depositors can't withdraw their money saved with various commercial banks in the country? The authorities should provide some explanations before printing and putting new banknotes in circulation.

WE BELIEVE IT is based on these glaring lack of transparency and accountability that Auditor General Gaye is cautioning against the printing of new Liberian currency for now, until the doubts and concerns are addressed or else, the country risks falling further down the economic ladder, which no patriotic Liberian wants to see.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Barry Eichengreen

Will China Confront a Revolution of Rising Expectations?

Amid much discussion of the challenges facing the Chinese economy, the line-up of usual suspects typically excludes the most worrying scenario of all: popular unrest. While skeptics would contend that widespread protest against the regime and its policies is unlikely, events elsewhere suggest that China is not immune.

ZURICH - For over a decade, China has accounted for a quarter or more of global economic growth. With its economy currently navigating a rough patch, the question is whether this impressive performance will persist.

Cassandras pointing to the possibility of a Chinese growth slowdown regularly invoke the specter of a middle-income trap. Now that China is no longer poor, they warn, growth rates will fall, just as they have in all but a handful of countries that have reached the same income level. Growth is harder, they observe, when it can no longer be based on brute-force capital accumulation. Now, it must be based on innovation, which is difficult to bring about in an economy that is still centrally directed.

Then there is the corporate sector's heavy debt load. A decline in earnings could render many of these debts unsustainable. Whether the upshot is cascading defaults or a flurry of bailouts that shift the burden to the government, the result would weaken the country's finances and sap investor confidence.

On top of this is the country's aging population, which requires shifting investment from industrial capacity to social services. This will imply slower growth insofar as productivity chronically lags in the service sector.

Finally, there is the possibility of a full-blown trade war with the United States. We currently hear much talk of a “phase one” deal between the US and China. But if we know one thing about US President Donald Trump, it is that he is a “tariff man.” Now facing an intensifying impeachment inquiry, he will seek to deflect attention. Like any autocrat meeting resistance at home, he will marshal support by focusing on a foreign opponent. This means that any “phase one” agreement will be at best temporary.

Missing from this line-up of usual suspects, however, is the most worrying scenario of all: popular unrest. Skeptics contend that widespread protest against the regime and its policies is unlikely. The Politburo continues to deliver improvements in living standards - and its security apparatus is formidable.

But consider events elsewhere. In France, the Yellow Vests have been protesting most immediately against higher fuel prices but more broadly against a perceived lack of economic opportunity. In Ecuador, anti-austerity protests reflect, more fundamentally, opposition to President Lenin Moreno's government, which students, unions, and indigenous people criticize as out of touch with the public. Protests in Chile were triggered by an increase in metro fares but have also focused on inequality, the education system, and pension problems. Closest to home, of course, is Hong Kong, where political

meddling by mainland China fueled protests that now target the city's prohibitively high housing costs.

These movements are revolutions of rising expectations. They are protests not so much over a deteriorating quality of life as over government's failure to deliver everything that was promised.

Such protests are spontaneous, sparked by small matters, like a hike in fuel prices or metro fares. But, because those small matters are indicative of the government's disregard and even ignorance of popular concerns, they morph into larger movements. These movements are leaderless, relying as they do on social media, which makes them hard to behead, but also causes them to evolve in unpredictable, even violent, ways.

Mainland Chinese are following developments in Hong Kong closely, at least insofar as state media and Internet censorship permit. While some see events there as an affront to their national pride, others appear to be drawing different conclusions. One recent study shows that those exposed to events in Hong Kong as a result of having visited during demonstrations are more likely to engage in online discussions of politically contentious issues.

And it is not as if Chinese people lack grievances. They complain about regional inequality, especially if they live in the impoverished west. If they farm on land abutting urban development, they are concerned about property rights. Members of the “Ant Tribe” - recent university graduates who can't find jobs matching their academic credentials and are reduced to living in subterranean hovels - are understandably concerned about social mobility.

On top of this are broader concerns about housing prices, especially in China's first-tier cities. Hong Kong has an extraordinarily high house-price-to-income ratio of 49. But China, with a ratio of 30, is not far behind: it ranks fifth among 95 countries for which data are available.

People similarly have concerns about the quality of health care and other social services. While China is moving rapidly up the global per capita income league tables, its ranking for infant mortality, at 122nd, remains shockingly low.

If unrest does, in fact, break out at some point in the future, foreign investors will be quick to withdraw. As capital flees to safer havens, the authorities will have to tighten capital controls. They will be forced to put their plans for financial opening and their dream of renminbi internationalization on hold.

Above all, unrest would cause GDP growth to suffer. A weakened economy would leave more expectations unmet - and raise further questions about popular support for the regime.

O-PED

By Elizabeth Drew

The Impeachment Blues

WASHINGTON, DC - The most dismaying thing about the impeachment proceedings against US President Donald Trump is that they are falling so short of the constitutional gravamen of the issue. True, some Democrats in the House of Representatives, particularly Adam Schiff of California, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, do appear to understand the seriousness of the question before them. But most Republicans - egged on by Trump, who often complains that they are not doing enough for him - are on a search-and-destroy mission. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had long been reluctant to proceed with impeachment, lost control of her caucus over the issue this summer and has ended up where she feared: in a bitter partisan fight.

At the risk of setting an unfortunate precedent by allowing Trump's numerous other abuses of power to go unpunished, Pelosi has narrowed the impeachment inquiry to presidential activity for which there is adequate proof, and that she and her Democratic allies think the American public can easily understand. That means Trump and his allies have a very limited target to shoot at.

The inquiry is thus focused on the fact that Trump withheld \$391 million in congressionally mandated military aid to Ukraine and held out the prospect of a White House meeting greatly desired by that country's new president, Volodymyr Zelensky, while he and his accomplices pressed for political favors to help in the 2020 US election. In particular, they wanted Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden's son Hunter, who unwisely accepted a lucrative seat on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at a time when his father was in charge of Ukraine policy. (Both Bidens have denied wrongdoing and, thus far, none has been found.)

Although Democrats of course have strong feelings about Trump, they have lately tried to adopt a solemn tone. When Pelosi announced the impeachment inquiry in September, for example, she handed over leadership on the issue to the steady, tough-minded Schiff, removing it from the more openly partisan House Judiciary Committee, which has a weaker chairman (Jerrold Nadler of New York).

Hard as it may be to believe, the period since then has been one of relative calm, in which the Intelligence Committee gathered closed-door testimony. That will change when public impeachment hearings begin this week. To make sure that their side is sufficiently tough toward witnesses, Republican leaders have added the rambunctious Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio to the Intelligence Committee.

The closed hearings - not unusual in investigative matters, and unlike in the cases of Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton, there's now no special prosecutor to do their research - produced a strong case against Trump. That was partly because the format was more productive: committee members don't gain by preening and being disruptive when no cameras are present. But the most important factor - one without modern precedent - was the courageous willingness of a number of fairly high-level, non-partisan government employees, most of them career foreign-service officers, to disobey White House orders not to appear. They risked their careers by going before the committee. Some quit their jobs to be able to do so; another has been removed from the staff of the National Security Council.

Trump, who understands almost nothing about governing, made a major mistake in attacking career public officials from the outset of his presidency. He underestimated - or just couldn't fathom - the honor of people who could earn more in the private sector but believe in public service. And he made matters worse for himself as well as for the government by creating a shadow group - headed by the strangely out-of-control Rudy Giuliani, once a much-admired mayor of New York City, and now a freelance troublemaker serving as Trump's personal attorney - to impose the president's Ukraine policy over that of "the bureaucrats."

Such unbounded "off-the-books" operations - whether Nixon's "White House Plumbers" or the Iran-Contra scandal during Ronald Reagan's administration - usually come to grief. I covered Nixon's impeachment, and although Trump is theoretically guilty of more serious offenses, there's one striking similarity: both men got in the deepest trouble for failing to recognize limits on seeking revenge against political opponents.

The sudden firing in May of Marie Yovanovitch, a longtime foreign-service officer and highly respected US ambassador to Ukraine who had tried to block Giuliani's political meddling (she was ordered, without explanation, to take the next plane out) greatly upset the already demoralized State Department bureaucracy. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, whose ill-disguised political ambitions have led him to remain close to Trump, simply refused to protect her.

Congressional Republicans could see from the memorandum on Trump's infamous July 25 phone call with Zelensky that Trump had pressured his Ukrainian counterpart to take actions that would benefit him politically. Many also know that withholding congressionally approved aid to Ukraine likely constitutes an abuse of power, an impeachable offense. But, desperate to protect the president, Republicans have careened from one frustrated defense to another.

As a diversion, they've tried to smear and even expose the whistleblower whose report triggered the impeachment inquiry. For example, Trump recently shouted to the press corps assembled on the White House driveway that the whistleblower's charges were all "lies," even though the charges have been broadly confirmed by witnesses before the committees. Exposing the whistleblower's name - which Donald Trump, Jr, among others, has tried to do - could be a federal offense (except if done by the president), and could put that person's life in danger.

Although some cracks have appeared in the Republican front, Trump seems to be maintaining his grip on the party for now. He insists that the Republicans would have lost the 2016 presidential election but for him, and that he therefore is owed their fealty. For good measure, he's offered help to Republican senators - particularly Majority Leader Mitch McConnell - who are seeking re-election in 2020 (a loss of four Republican seats would lead to the Democrats taking control). Some major fundraising events are, of course, to be held at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC. At least one ethics expert says that Trump's contributions to senators before the impeachment vote could constitute a "bribe" (yet another impeachable offense).

Trump is becoming more confident in his own instincts, and now has almost no aides who will challenge his ideas. At the same time, he's increasingly agitated about his likely impeachment in the House. As a result, the president is even more impulsive in his conduct of foreign policy, in particular regarding the calamity in Syria.

Almost all American presidents have honored their constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." But Trump, with his l'état, c'est moi approach, views his role very differently. As a result, he is in the greatest trouble of his presidency so far.

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OPINION

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Is Economic Winter Coming?

CHICAGO - What could trigger a recession in the United States? In the past, a tightening labor market after a period of expansion served as an early warning sign. Workers would become more difficult to find, wages would start climbing, corporate profit margins would tend to shrink, and firms would start raising prices. Fearing inflation, the central bank would then raise interest rates, which in turn would depress corporate investment and spur layoffs.

At this point, aggregate demand would fall as consumers, fearing for their jobs, reduced their spending. Corporate inventories would then rise, and production would be cut further. Growth would slow significantly, signaling the beginning of a recession. This cycle would then be followed by a recovery. After firms worked down their inventories, they would start producing more goods again; and once inflation had abated, the central bank would cut interest rates to boost demand.

But this description seems to apply to a bygone era. Because inflation is now persistently muted, it is no longer a reliable trigger for interest-rate hikes and the slowdowns that followed. More recent recessions have been precipitated instead by financial excesses accumulated during the expansion. In 2001, the excess was in stock-price growth during the dot-com boom; in 2007-2008, it was in financial-sector leverage following the subprime mortgage boom. And while rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve preceded these recessions, they were not responses to above-target inflation, but rather attempts to normalize monetary policy before inflation actually took off.

Inflation today is still below the Fed's target, and anticipatory tightening is not even on the table (for a variety of reasons). When the Fed embarked on raising rates last year, US President Donald Trump's administration doubled down on its trade war. After markets started tumbling in late 2018, the Fed backed off. With a comprehensive deal to resolve the trade war nowhere in sight, and with a formal impeachment inquiry into Trump now underway, the Fed is unlikely to tighten monetary policy anytime soon.

Moreover, Trump has made it clear that he will blame the Fed in the event of a recession. Having calculated that the reputational risks of slightly higher inflation are smaller than those associated with a downturn after a rate hike, the Fed will not be inclined to raise rates for the time being. Instead, it has cut rates three times in 2019 to "buy insurance" against a downturn. Besides, the Fed has been emphasizing that its inflation target is "symmetric," meaning that it would be willing to tolerate a period of above-target inflation, given that it has undershot the target in recent years, before intervening.

If higher interest rates are unlikely to be the precipitating factor in the next recession, what about financial excesses? Looking around, one can certainly see areas with high asset prices and high leverage, such as in private-equity deals. The International Monetary Fund has warned of substantial corporate financial distress if growth slows significantly. Yet, it is hard to see widespread problems materializing if interest rates stay low and liquidity remains plentiful.

Of course, at some point, growth will slow or interest rates will rise, and liquidity will tighten. Whenever that happens, financial assets will suffer significant price declines, and corporations will find it hard to roll over debt. Moreover, the longer the environment of easy financing lasts, the greater the number of sectors with excesses will be, and the higher the risk that these will precipitate a downturn. But with monetary conditions remaining accommodative, it seems more likely for now that financial excesses will exacerbate the eventual downturn and slow the recovery, rather than being the cause of the economic winter.

The question, then, is what might disrupt consumption, which currently is holding up growth. One answer is layoffs. And what could precipitate those? A further escalation of the trade war - for example, if the US were to levy tariffs on European and Japanese automobiles - could do so. As matters stand, it is unlikely that we will get a comprehensive Sino-American trade deal during the remainder of this US administration's term. There is little trust between the Chinese and the Americans, and it is hard to see China agreeing to the intrusive monitoring that would be necessary to verify some of the actions the US wants it to take. Moreover, the possibility that a deal could strengthen Trump's prospects for re-election in 2020 must also increasingly weigh on negotiations. Do the Chinese want to keep dealing with Trump, or would they prefer a Democrat (who may be no less protectionist)? Either way, the uncertainty over trade will almost certainly continue to dampen investment - and thus growth - for the foreseeable future.

A second possible precipitating factor is geopolitical risk. We saw an example of this in September, when Saudi Arabia's oil facilities were struck in a nighttime drone attack. The apparent vulnerability of Saudi oil production introduces a new element of uncertainty into the global outlook. Iran, increasingly cornered, appears to be sending a clear warning: if it goes down, it will take Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with it. Iranian government hardliners have been strengthened by the Trump administration's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal and emboldened by recent unanswered acts of aggression. And while the Saudis have since indicated a willingness to negotiate with Iran, the risks of a regional conflagration will remain heightened.

A spike in the price of oil could tip the global economy into recession. It certainly would reduce consumers' disposable income and weaken sentiment, further dampening investment. And the possible inflationary consequences would leave central banks with little room for more accommodation.

While recessions are, by their very nature, unpredictable, the greatest near-term threat to the economy is not rising interest rates or various financial excesses, but, instead, unforeseen actions in areas like trade or geopolitics. If the world had fewer wannabe strongmen, the global economy would be much stronger than it is. Unfortunately, most of today's authoritarian leaders are there because voters put them there. But that is a discussion for another day.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP (1 position)

Report to: Information Technology Manager

The Millennium Challenge Account Liberia seeks a dynamic, self-starter, preferably Information Technology/Computer Science college student or fresh graduate to support the Information Technology Unit in supporting users.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide support for video conferences i.e CISCO Webex and Skype
- Assist in performing hardware and software installation procedures
- Provide support in diagnosing ICT issues and troubleshooting activities
- Assist in hardware and software inventory management
- Troubleshoot equipment such as printers and scanners and other peripherals
- Assist in handling IT related documentations
- Provide users with ongoing assistance in their information technology problems
- Provides support for data and systems backup
- Provide support for Desktop Windows Operating Systems to users.
- Provide support for Microsoft Office Suite and Desktop applications to users.
- Assist with network connectivity issues.
- Assist with printing, printer drivers, and system configuration.
- Keep log of IT Support issues provided to users
- Support the day-to-day activities in the MCA Liberia office
- Support the other IT related tasks as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communications
- Strong computer skills with interest and ability to learn new software
- Motivated and energetic self-starter who takes initiative
- Ability to multi-task and balance multiple projects and priorities simultaneously
- Enthusiasm to learn and develop new skills within the role
- Full computer skills in use of email, MS Office Suite, and the Internet is required.
- Self-motivated, good organizational skills, detail-oriented, ability to prioritize, multitask and meet deadlines
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English

EDUCATION

Applicants must be enrolled in a university degree program or recent graduate of Information and communication technology/Computer Science. Internship experience is an added advantage.

LOCATION

MCA Liberia office, Coconut Plantation, Mamba Point, Liberia.

DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

Four days per week, a total of 28 hours per week. Possible work may be required on weekends/evenings for special projects. A commitment of six (6) months is required

COMPENSATION

Interns do not receive any remuneration. Interns are responsible for all costs of taking up the internship (health insurance, accommodations, travel). However, a monthly stipend will be paid.

How to Apply

1. Check the www.mca.gov.lr, www.emansion.gov.lr and the www.ppcc.gov.lr websites for details of the internship description.
2. Only email applications will be accepted
3. Please address your Letter of Application (signed), CV, copy of degree (s), and all supporting documents in portable document format (PDF) to the following address below and submit via email to jobs@mca.gov.lr no later than **22nd November 2019**

**Human Resource Manager
Millennium Challenge Account Liberia
F & F Building, 2nd & 3rd Floors
UN Drive, Coconut Plantation
Monrovia, Liberia**

4. Please indicate position title in your email subject line
5. Please use this order to name your file attachments: First name_Last name followed by document, e.g. *Richard_Scotland Application or Richard_ScotlandCV or Richard_ScotlandDegree.*

Closing date is 22nd November 2019

UP withdraws appeal to Supreme Court

At long last the former ruling Unity Party's faction led by ex-Vice President Joseph NyumahBoakai and Chairman Wilmot Paye has withdrawn its appeal before the Supreme Court of Liberia and accepted ruling by the National Elections Commission against the expulsion of former standard bearer Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and three other members of the UP.

The decision followed a reconciliatory meeting held over the weekend between Madam Sirleaf and Ambassador Boakai at her residence in Monrovia, their first engagement after the 2017 Presidential and Representative elections in which the latter accused the former standard bearer of supporting the candidacy of now President George Manneh Weah.

In a letter dated Tuesday, 12 November 2019 addressed to Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi and Attorney-At-Law KunkunyonWlehTeh both of the International Law Group in Monrovia, UP Acting National Secretary General Patrick Worzie writes, "We wish to inform you that parties to the above mentioned case have accepted the ruling of the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) in our



favor, and are therefore, withdrawing the appeal to the Supreme Court.

In consideration of this, we accept their decision to withdraw the case from the Supreme Court; and hereby write to instruct that you act accordingly to allow the withdrawal to stand."

The withdrawal effectively puts to rest the protracted internal wrangling that nearly disintegrated the former ruling party and greatly affected its performance at the polls, losing to key rival, CDC in 2017.

On January 13, 2018, the UP, under the watch of now political leader, Joseph

NyumahBoakai and Chairman Wilmot Paye announced the expulsion of its former standard bearer, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; national secretary general, Patrick Worzie; Senator Conmany B. Wesseh, and Ambassador Medina Wesseh for allegedly violating the party's constitution.

Sixteen (16) of the 31 National executive Committee members, who attended that meeting, voted to expel the four personalities named above without giving them an opportunity to defend themselves.

But the affected officials on

January 19, 2018 filed a petition before the National Elections Commission, challenging their reported expulsion, which they termed as illegal and in breach of the UP's constitution.

However, the Boakai and Paye-led faction of the party at the time questioned the jurisdiction of the NEC, arguing that the Appellees did not exhaust the available procedure within the party to seek relief, and as such, the Commission lacks jurisdiction.

The Appellants also argued that they were not the proper party to be named, leading to the NEC Hearing Officer to dismiss the complaint.

But on appeal, the NEC Board of Commissioner reversed and remanded the case, holding that there was no available forum within the Unity Party structure to review the National Executive Committee, and that the NEC had jurisdiction over inter-party disputes.

The hearing Officer then resumed jurisdiction and assigned the case to conduct a full-scale investigation, but the Appellants stayed away from the first hearing that had been scheduled for April 6, 2018. The case was reassigned for April 16, 2018, but the Appellants filed an excuse the same day, so on the third reassignment, they informed the investigation that they had sought review of the Board of Commissioners' ruling before the Supreme Court. Hence, the Justice in Chambers declined

to issue the Alternative Writ and refused jurisdiction.

In continuation of the investigations, two witnesses of the aggrieved party, Petitioners Patrick Worzie and Senator Conmany B. Wesseh testified, while one witness for the Appellants, Chairman Wilmot Paye testified for his faction.

The Hearing Officer ruled against Appellees/Petitioners thus, dismissing Petitioners' petition for illegal expulsion and violation of Article 20 (a) & 79 (e) of the Constitution of Liberia.

But the aggrieved party filed a Bill of Exceptions on April 18, 2019, primarily contending that the Appellants violated their rights to be accorded Due Process and that Appellants lacked required quorum and or capacity to have carried out the expulsion.

Therefore, the NEC Board of Commissioners assumed jurisdiction over the case on appeal and entertained arguments pro et con. The Board of Commissioners reversed the Hearing Officer and held that the January 13, 2019 expulsion, having been made without the two-thirds vote required by the UP's constitution, was null and void, as having no legal effect.

Hence, it is the said May 31, 2019 ruling by the Board of Commissioners that Appellants sought a review before the Supreme Court, which they have now withdrawn for as the party forge ahead in reconciliation.

Where is the money? -Dillon questions gov't

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of Montserrado County is questioning government over the whereabouts of money printed by the regime of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, in the wake of what appears to be artificial scarcity of Liberian dollars as government seeks

to print new money.

"Okay so we're vex with Ellen, rightly so for printing money without authority. But we using the money. So where is it? Mr. Dillon asked during a town hall meeting with diaspora Liberians in Michigan, the United States of America where he is visiting.

According to Mr. Dillon, the governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) appointed by

President George Manneh Weah reported to Liberia and the world that no \$16bn was missing.

"... That the \$16 billion dollars printed was received by the Central Bank and can be accounted for through the Central Bank system. Where is it? If it is in the vault then put it outside now, that's what we printed it for," Dillon adds.

Mr. Dillon who won the senatorial seat in Montserrado this year after taking part in the June 7 protest that among other things, demanded accountability for alleged missing Liberian banknotes stresses that if the money is not in the vault of the Central Bank, then it means that somebody took it off through the system.

He has vowed that he will not give approval for the printing of money while Finance Minister Samuel Tweah presides over the process.

"I will not sit and give approval to President Weah for Samuel Tweah sitting as Minister of Finance to preside over printing money. No way," Dillon vows.

Mr. Dillon argues that the Weah administration came to power when electricity and

water were already in place and civil servants had seen rise in their pay up to US\$150 which was being paid regularly during former President Sirleaf's administration.

But he notes that "everything is gone back to the toilet" since the inception of the Weah regime.

"The Judiciary is successfully being killed," he continues.

"I'm a Senator. Since you

made me senator I haven't taken pay. I haven't taken pay since I became senator [in] August. In fact they haven't paid some Senators from July," Mr. Dillon narrates as his audience laughs.

He remarks that "everything is just crumbling, investors are not attracted to Liberia," adding that the ones that are already in the country are scaling down.



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Legislature urged to increase health budget to 15%

By Lewis S. Teh

A civil society group under the banner Partnership for Sustainable Development (PASD) is urging the government through the Finance Ministry and the Legislature to increase the budget of the Ministry of Health to at least 15% or above.

"We call on the MFDP [Ministry of Finance and Development Planning], and the Legislature to ensure that the health allocation in the national budget 2019-2020 and onward is increased to at least 15% in adherence to the Abuja declaration," the group said recently in Sinkor.

Addressing a news conference, PASD program officer Thomas N. Teah says his organization has been implementing a 12-month Action for Accelerating Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Policy Implementation in three of the 15 counties of Liberia.

According to him, the objective of that engagement was to improve public financing, intervention programs, behaviors and policy on reproductive, sexual, maternal, newborn,

child and adolescent health and to end every form of violence against women, girls and children.

Teah narrates that PASD in collaboration with other local partners have implemented five petition actions in three project counties which include Montserrado, Lofa, and Gbarpolu.

He notes that several petition statements were developed and presented to relevant government offices in

the three counties.

In these petition statements, PASD made few recommendations, including a call for the Ministry of Health to develop a new roadmap for the reduction of maternal and new-born mortality and morbidity to replace the expired roadmap of 2007-2015.

Further, PASD calls on the MFDP and the Legislature to create clear and disaggregated budget lines for maternal and new-born child health of 10% of

the health budget in adherence to "Every Woman Child Initiative" which Liberia has acceded to.

At the same time, Mr. Teah says PASD and other organizations applaud the government for passing into law the Domestic Violence Bill and allocating mini funding in the current 2019-2020 National Budget.

He also commends the National Traditional Council of Liberia for announcing ban on Female Genital Mutilation activities across the country for the period of one year.

But Mr. Teah condemns in

the strongest term, the Ministry of Health's alleged failure to develop and put into action a new roadmap for the reduction of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality in Liberia to replace the expired 2007-2015.

Mr. Teah says PASD started working in Liberia since 2003, and obtained its legal permit on November 9, 2005, with a vision to see Liberia where every person's basic social, economic, political and cultural rights are progressively realized.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Bong Judge challenges justice actors to be hard working

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

The assigned judge at the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga, Bong County has challenged judicial actors in Bong to be dutiful and result-oriented in the discharge of their duties.

Delivering his charge during the formal opening of the November A.D. 2019 Term of Court, Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay attributes Liberia's underdevelopment to laziness and slothfulness on the part of Liberians.

Responding to the judge's charge, Bong County Chief Prosecutor Jonathan Flomo assures Judge Gbeisay that he will ensure the fair and impartial dispensation of justice to all.

Attorney Flomo at the same time calls for coexistence between the defense councils and persecution for the speedy trial of cases on the court's docket.

He narrates that the court currently has about 58 criminal cases on its docket, which he

NAYMOTE ends debate in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The National Youth Movement for Transparent Election -NAYMOTE with support from the Sweden Embassy, UNDP and USAID has ended a day-long debate with Cuttington University and the Bong County Technical College in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The debate is part of NAYMOTE's nationwide debate tournament with several universities and

colleges across Liberia.

Held under the theme: "Youth Perspective on the Local Government Act of 2018," the debate is being organized between several universities and colleges to include: the Cuttington University, Stella Maris Polytechnic, United Methodist University, Nimba County Community College and the Bong County Technical College.

In his welcome remarks, NAYMOTE Regional

Coordinator for Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties, Moses Bailey narrates that ascertaining young people's perspectives on the Local Government Act was key to enhancing their civic trust and competence.

Bailey extends commendations to the citizens and the student community for their support to the pilot phase of NAYMOTE's nationwide debate tournament.

Speaking earlier, NAYMOTE Program Assistant Bako Korboi Shuaibu averred that the process is also part of efforts to support the national policy of the decentralization process and discover what citizens think about the Local Government Act of 2018.

Shuaibu maintains that if citizens in rural Liberia must have an understanding of the legal document, the need for more of such engagement cannot be overemphasized.

Giving the level of financial support, Shuaibu discloses that the exercise is expected to be extended to all of Liberia's 15 political sub-divisions.

Meanwhile the Bong County debate saw Cuttington University defeating the BCTC to face the winner of the Grand Bassa County's debate. --

Edited by Winston W. Parley



He says Liberia is not developed as a result of its citizens' unwillingness to work.

Judge Gbeisay asserts that most Liberians appear to be committed and hard working in the process of acquiring job; but later become sluggish upon receiving said job.

The 9th judicial circuit judge notes that he will not accept any act of slothfulness from judicial actors under his watch as the Chief Justice's direct representative in the county.

believes can only be fast tracked when the both parties coexist.

For her part, Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker alarms over the growing wave of land dispute in the county, thereby calling on the court to work harder to savage the situation.

Superintendent Walker then calls for mutual respect among the three branches of government if the dream of the Weah's administration must be realized.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Justice et corruption : Les juges mis en garde et les avocats pointés du doigt

Les juges ont été conseillés de ne pas céder à l'injonction ou l'influence des hommes politiques et des individus puissants dans la prise de décision de justice.

Faisant une déclaration lundi lors d'un rassemblement des professionnels de l'appareil judiciaire du Libéria dans le cadre de la rentrée judiciaire pour le mois de novembre 2019, au Temple de la justice de Monrovia, la juge Nancy Finda Sammy a mis ses collègues en garde qu'ils seront confrontés dans l'exercice de leur métier à des tentatives d'intimidation de la part des personnes influentes et des hommes politiques. Elle a ajouté qu'il incombe aux juges de résister et de se faire respecter. Selon elle, ces gens ont la manie de se servir de la justice pour exhiber leur supériorité et protéger leurs intérêts personnels.

Quoique la juge Sammy



n'ait pas donné un exemple précis d'ingérence politique dans une décision de justice, dans la plupart des cas, les juges ont du mal à donner leur verdict notamment dans les conflits fonciers.

Selon elle, pour que la

démocratie s'épanouisse dans le pays, il faut que le pouvoir judiciaire soit fort, et pour que le pouvoir judiciaire soit fort, il faut que les acteurs de la justice agissent en conformité avec les lois du pays, surtout qu'ils refusent de se laisser

influencer par les politiciens.

« Que les juges sachent que certains politiciens pourraient essayer d'utiliser les tribunaux comme des plates-formes et essayer de s'ingérer dans les décisions judiciaires pour défendre leurs causes et se rendre influents », a-t-elle averti.

« Ne permettez à aucun politicien ni à toute autre personne de s'immiscer dans vos décisions », a-t-elle martelé.

Par ailleurs, la juge a également tenu des propos très fermes à l'encontre des

avocats qui, selon elle, recevraient des pots-de-vin de leurs clients sous le prétexte de les remettre aux juges afin qu'ils jugent en leur faveur. Elle a demandé aux avocats de cesser de solliciter des pots-de-vin et de faire croire à leurs clients que les juges en ont besoin pour rendre des décisions en leur faveur.

« Comme les différentes parties qui donnent de l'argent à leurs avocats prétendument destinés à des juges ne peuvent pas avoir des entretiens directs avec ces juges pour vérifier si les affirmations des avocats sont vraies, la plupart ont souvent tendance à croire les fausses déclarations que font leurs avocats », a dit la juge Sammy.

Elle a révélé que comme les juges et l'ensemble du pouvoir judiciaire sont très souvent soupçonnés de corruption, elle a entrepris des investigations indépendantes pour déterminer la véracité des allégations. Cependant, il est ressorti de ces enquêtes que, « les avocats demandent très souvent de l'argent à leurs clients tout en leurs faisant comprendre que c'est ce que réclament les juges pour donner des verdicts qui leur sont favorables ».

Elle a accusé les avocats de ternir l'image de la justice par les actions.

Forum sur la paix à Paris : « l'Afrique doit être un maillon de la solution »

Le 2e Forum de Paris sur la paix vient de s'ouvrir, à la Grande Halle de La Villette. L'objectif est de réfléchir aux défis de la gouvernance mondiale, et à l'importance du multilatéralisme. À la tribune ce matin, pour la cérémonie d'ouverture, plusieurs chefs d'États africains étaient aux côtés de leur homologue français, Emmanuel Macron.

Le président de la RDC a

été le premier chef d'État à prendre la parole ce mardi 12 novembre à la tribune du Forum pour la paix. Devant les participants, dont certains de ses homologues, Félix Tshisekedi a dit l'importance de gagner la paix, et de la conserver, pour les générations futures.

Le dirigeant congolais a souligné les défis auxquels l'Afrique est confrontée, les problèmes que rencontre le

continent africain, notamment au niveau sécuritaire. Mais Félix Tshisekedi a aussi mis l'accent sur les points forts de la RDC, citant pêle-mêle le bassin du Congo, les forêts, les terres arables.

Il assure que son pays sera lui aussi une solution aux problèmes de notre temps. Pour lui, l'Afrique doit être une solution, un atout, à l'avenir : « L'Afrique, en général, avec sa position géostratégique, sa population jeune et ses ressources naturelles, doit cesser d'être un problème pour le monde, mais plutôt devenir un maillon important de la solution aux problèmes du monde. »

« Nouvel ordre international » Ensuite, Emmanuel Macron hôte de cette rencontre a remercié ses homologues africains pour leur présence. Lui aussi a évoqué les menaces sécuritaires en Afrique. Et pour le chef de l'État français, comme pour Félix Tshisekedi, la solution militaire est nécessaire, mais ne doit pas être la seule envisagée : « Nous avons, dans ce nouvel ordre international, à bâtir aussi de nouvelles solutions dans le cadre des Nations unies, permettant d'accompagner

mieux qu'on ne le fait aujourd'hui cette capacité sécuritaire de l'Afrique, mais aussi à l'aider à bâtir sur le plan de l'éducation, de la santé, de l'environnement et de l'économie, ce qui sont les quatre solutions qui permettent de bâtir la paix durable. » Le Forum s'ouvre au lendemain du 101e anniversaire de l'armistice de la Première Guerre mondiale. Dans un monde qui évolue, dans lequel les équilibres changent, et où certains pays sont tentés par un repli sur soi, Emmanuel Macron a donc souligné l'importance de la coopération internationale, pour ne pas reproduire les scénarios et les erreurs du passé.

Bilatérale Macron -

Tshisekedi

Solder le passé, c'est aussi l'objectif des deux chefs d'État qui se retrouvent cet après-midi pour une rencontre bilatérale. Emmanuel Macron et Félix Tshisekedi devraient aborder toute une série de thèmes assez classiques : la situation sécuritaire dans l'Est, la santé, la Francophonie et mettre à plat leurs différends. On se souvient des revirements de la diplomatie française à l'issue de la dernière présidentielle.

Une page définitivement tournée, assure-t-on dans l'entourage du président congolais. Reste que Félix Tshisekedi s'est déjà rendu en Belgique et aux États-Unis, et avait esquivé la France dans un premier temps.



Français

Éditorial

L'Auditrice Générale fait une mise en garde pertinente

L’Auditrice générale de la république du Libéria, Mme Yusador S. Gaye, a mis en garde contre l’impression de nouveaux billets de banque libériens pour le moment, "car cela aura des conséquences néfastes sur l’économie et la population".

L’AG s’oppose à la demande que le pouvoir exécutif a adressée à l’Assemblée législative pour approuver l’impression de nouveaux billets de banque d’une valeurde 35 milliards de dollars de la monnaie libérienne.

L’AG Gaye aurait adressé un courrier au président de la Chambre des représentants Bhofal et au président du Sénat, Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, pour les avertir du risque économique qu’encourra le pays par l’impression des nouveaux billets de banque au stage actuel. « Je suis fermement convaincue que donner son approbation pour imprimer davantage de billets de banque est non seulement incompréhensible, mais aussi inopportun, d’autant plus que nous ne sommes pas jusqu’à présent à même de comprendre tout ce qui s’est passé lors de l’impression des dernières coupures, et encore faut-il savoir que l’opération de nettoyage de l’excès de liquidité pour laquelle 25 millions de dollars américains ont été décaissés engendre un doute quant à savoir s’il faut faire confiance en la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) ».

Quelle audace de la part de l’Auditrice générale qui fait preuve de beaucoupde franchise à l’égard de l’Assemblée législative à qui elle demande d’agir avec beaucoup de circonspection, non seulement dans l’intérêt du gouvernement de coalition au pouvoir, mais également pour la postérité.

Mettons la politique d’un côté. Il est indéniable que la manière dont cette administration gérera les problèmes de change dans le pays pourrait avoir de graves effets négatifs sur l’économie, en particulier à long terme. L’économie risque d’être confrontée à l’avenir à une inflation pouvant atteindre les trois chiffres ou même plus.

Nous estimons en outre que cette mise en garde est pertinente d’autant plus que la Banque centrale a toujours du mal à résoudre les défaillances de ses opérations, comme l’ont fait observer le rapport de cadrage de Kroll et celui de la Commission d’enquête présidentielle. Kroll avait demandé à la CBL de rapprocher ses soldes de coffre-fort et de maintenir la constance de son service financier, tandis que la commission d’enquête présidentielle s’est dite inquiète de la sécurité des réserves.

Et puis, outre les 25 millions de dollars US prélevés sur les réserves pour éponger l’excès de liquidités dans l’économie,il subsiste encore des questions en ce qui concerne les 16 milliards de dollars libériens qui avaient été imprimés et introduits dans le pays. En d'autres termes, les Libériens craignent que si ces défaillances persistent et l’on continue de faire comme si rien n'était et si le gouvernement se met à imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque, l’économie pourrait se retrouver coincéedans un cercle vicieux.

Le rapport de cadrage de Kroll indique clairement que, selon la documentation fournie par Crane Currency AB, un montant total de 15,506 milliards de dollars libériens a été expédié au Libéria entre juillet 2016 et mars 2018, comme suit :

Cr 5 146 250 000 LRD (45 883 113 USD) ont été documentés comme étant expédiés par Crane AB vers le Libéria au titre du contrat LRD 5.0 Bn. Un montant de 10 359 750 000 LRD aurait été expédié par Crane AB au Libéria au titre du contrat LRD 10.0Bn.

La question est de savoir où sont passés les 10 milliards expédiés au Libéria en mars 2018 sous la présidence de George Weah. Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, avait affirmé que l’argent impriméavait été déposé dans les coffres de la Banque centrale du Libéria, ce que l'ancien gouverneur de la CBL, Nathaniel R. Patray, avait confirmé.

Mais comment se fait-il que l’économie connaisse une grave pénurie de liquidité au point que les banques commerciales rependues sur toute l’étendue du territoire national ne soient plus à même de permettre à leurs clients de retirer de l’argent?Il faut que les autorités nous donnent des explications avant qu’elles imprimentde nouveaux billets et les mettent en circulation.

Nous sommes convaincus que c’est vu le manque criard de transparence dans la gestion de la chose de l’Etat que l’Auditrice générale a pris le courage pour mettre en garde contre l’impression de la nouvelle monnaie libérienne, du moins pour le moment, jusqu’à ce que l’on fasse la lumière sur la gestion des finances et de l’économie, de peur que l’économie du pays ne sombre totalement. Nous sommes convaincus qu’aucun patriote libérien ne veut que cela arrive.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Barry Eichengreen

Chine : si l'économie ralentit, comment va réagir la population ?

ZURICH - Depuis plus de 10 ans, la Chine représente plus du quart de la croissance économique mondiale. Mais son économie traverse une passe difficile ; dans ces conditions, pourra-t-elle rester sur sa même trajectoire de haute performance ▯

Les Cassandre prédisent un ralentissement de sa croissance et soulignent qu'elle risque de tomber dans le piège du revenu intermédiaire. Selon eux, maintenant que la Chine n'est plus un pays pauvre, son taux de croissance va chuter - comme cela s'est produit dans d'autres pays qui ont atteint le même niveau de revenu. Il est alors plus difficile de maintenir la croissance, car elle ne peut plus reposer sur la simple accumulation du capital. Elle doit reposer sur l'innovation, ce qui n'est pas facile dans un pays dont l'économie est encore entre les mains du pouvoir central.

Il faut aussi prendre en compte le surendettement des entreprises. Une baisse de leur bénéfice pourrait rendre la situation de beaucoup d'entre elles insoutenable. Que cela se traduise par des défauts de paiement en cascade ou une flambée de faillites à laquelle l'Etat devra faire face, il en résultera un affaiblissement du pays sur le plan financier, et une baisse de la confiance des investisseurs.

S'ajoute à cela le vieillissement de la population qui va exiger de réduire le budget consacré à l'industrie au profit des services sociaux. Dans la mesure où la productivité de ces services n'est généralement pas très élevée, cela entraînera un ralentissement de la croissance.

Enfin, on ne peut exclure le risque d'une véritable guerre commerciale avec les USA. On parle beaucoup d'un premier accord entre les deux pays. Pourtant nous savons une chose sur le président Trump : c'est l'homme des taxes douanières. Face au risque croissant de destitution, il va chercher à détourner l'attention. Comme tout autocrate confronté à une opposition, il va chercher à unir autour de lui en désignant un adversaire extérieur. Autrement dit, s'il était signé, il ne faut pas trop compter sur la viabilité d'un premier accord.

Mais on peut imaginer un scénario beaucoup plus inquiétant : un soulèvement populaire en Chine. Les sceptiques pensent que des manifestations de grande ampleur contre le régime sont improbables. Le niveau de vie continue à monter sous la houlette du Politburo, et son appareil sécuritaire est impressionnant.

Regardons ce qui se passe ailleurs. En France, motivés initialement par une hausse de la taxation du diesel, les gilets jaunes ont rapidement pointé ce qu'ils perçoivent comme un manque d'opportunités économiques. En Equateur, les manifestations contre l'austérité traduisent plus fondamentalement l'opposition au gouvernement du président Lenin Moreno. Les étudiants, les syndicats et la population indigène le critiquent pour avoir perdu le contact avec la population. Au Chili, c'est l'augmentation du prix du ticket de métro qui a mis le feu aux poudres, mais les manifestants ont rapidement dénoncé les inégalités, les insuffisances du système éducatif et du régime

des retraites. A Hong Kong les interférences de la Chine ont alimenté des manifestations qui visent maintenant le coût prohibitif du logement.

Toutes ces manifestations sont dues à des attentes grandissantes. Elles ne visent pas tant la détérioration de la qualité de vie que les promesses non tenues de l'Etat.

Elles sont spontanées, leur détonateur est un problème d'apparence secondaire, comme la hausse du prix du diesel ou du ticket de métro. Il s'agit apparemment de petites choses, mais elles symbolisent le mépris, voire l'ignorance à l'égard des préoccupations de la population. Ces mouvements font alors tache d'huile et le spectre des revendications s'élargit. Ils n'ont pas de meneur et s'appuient sur les réseaux sociaux, ce qui fait qu'il est d'autant plus difficile de les étouffer. Mais leur évolution, parfois violente, est imprévisible.

En Chine continentale, autant que le permettent les médias officiels et la censure du pouvoir sur Internet, la population suit de près la situation à Hong Kong. Une partie des Chinois considèrent que ce qui s'y passe est un affront à leur pays, mais d'autres voient les choses autrement. Une étude récente montre que ceux qui ont été témoins directs des manifestations participent plus facilement à des discussions en ligne sur des questions politiques controversées.

Or les Chinois eux-mêmes ont des sujets de mécontentement. Ils se plaignent des inégalités régionales, notamment dans les provinces pauvres de l'ouest du pays. S'ils cultivent un terrain proche d'habitations urbaines ils s'inquiètent de leurs droits de propriété. Les récents diplômés de l'université qui ne parviennent pas à trouver un emploi correspondant à leur qualification et en sont réduits à vivre entassés dans des taudis (on les appelle "la tribu des fourmis") sont manifestement inquiets pour leur avenir.

Et surtout il y a la préoccupation assez générale du coût du logement, notamment dans les villes de première catégorie. A Hong Kong le prix d'un appartement de qualité représente 49 années de salaire moyen. Il est de 30 ans pour la Chine, pas très loin derrière, qui se classe cinquième parmi les 95 pays pour lesquels on dispose des données voulues.

La population s'inquiète aussi de la qualité des soins médicaux et des autres services sociaux. Si le revenu par habitant augmente rapidement dans l'empire du Milieu, son taux de mortalité infantile a de quoi faire frémir : il se classe au 122° rang mondial.

Si des troubles éclataient, les investisseurs étrangers prendraient rapidement la fuite vers des pays plus sûrs. Les autorités devront alors renforcer le contrôle des capitaux et suspendre leur projet d'ouverture financière et leur rêve d'internationalisation du yuan.

Mais c'est surtout la croissance du PIB chinois qui en souffrirait. Si l'économie est affaiblie, les attentes de la population seront déçues. Dans ces conditions, le régime conservera-t-il le soutien de la population ▯



Date: November 12, 2019

Contact: Rajiv Dua

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STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE AT A PSI FACILITY IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY

PSI Liberia works closely with the Ministry of Health on meeting the health needs of the Liberian people.

On Saturday, November 9, 2019, a crowd gathered around a party held in a PSI facility in Montserrado County. The guests of the host were PSI colleagues, friends and religious leaders.

As the noise of the party grew, community members became curious. When a guest left in all-white attire, which was the theme of the party, community members grew suspicious of a rumor that there was a gay wedding going on inside the facility.

The event was a birthday party. However, motivated by the rumor, the crowd overtook the hired security guards and Liberia National Police officers to storm the building over a concrete wall laced with barbed wire. Several guests were injured by the mob violence and it only ceased when more Liberia National Police arrived and arrested the most violent among the uninvited.

PSI continues to be open with the community and encourages transparency in its activities. We are setting up workshops with members of the Ministry of Justice, Liberia National Police and the media to continue engaging the community in our work and to further dispel any myths, misconceptions or rumors.

Who is PSI Liberia?

PSI Liberia is a health organization serving at the advice and consent of the Liberian Ministry of Health. We work to keep Liberians safe from water-borne and sanitation-related illnesses, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, as well as unwanted pregnancies.

I can't comment on what God told PYJ

River Gee County Senator, Conmany B. Wesseh says he reserved comments on recent revelation by Senator Yormie Johnson that God told him (Johnson) in a dream that President George Manneh Weah would rig the next presidential election in 2023.

Sen. Wesseh is a bold critic of Senator Johnson. He recently challenged the Nimba County Senator, who is also leader of the disbanded Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) to take full responsibility for killing President Samuel Kanyon Doe on September 9, 1990 at the Freeport of Monrovia rather than hiding behind the people of Nimba for his actions.

But when asked Tuesday to comment on Sen. PYJ's latest prophecy from God during a brief visit at the offices of the New Dawn on Crown Hill, Broad Street in Monrovia Senator Wesseh categorically asserts, "I cannot comment on what he claims God has told him."

Senator Johnson was a staunch supporter of Mr. Weah during the runoff poll in 2017 won by the now ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

Also an evangelist and preacher, PYJ had told a



gathering recently in Nimba that the pending 2023 presidential and Legislative elections will be rigged by the governing Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC. Therefore, he will not waste his time to contest for the presidency.

"Prophetically speaking, I am a man of God. I'm a man of God and this is not something bad I'm saying about this government-I say it will be rigged by this government to remain in power," Sen. Johnson said during an interview after the dedication of his newly constructed

college in Nimba.

The senator went further: "I see some confusion between the citizens and some people (after the 2023 elections). I see more demonstrations. I see chaos. If it don't happen don't believe me."

Sen. Johnson said the current economy situation and the cry from public servants about non-payment of salaries would turn the public against the government.

He told his compatriots that because of the plan to rig the 2023 elections he has decided not to waste his to throw his hat in the 2023 presidential



race, rather he would seek reelection in the senate. "I will go to the Senate, because you know why, I see this, 2023, it will be rigged" Sen. Johnson said.

Senator Johnson a two time presidential candidate in both the 2011 and 2017 elections and a key player in the election of President George Weah in the presidential runoff in 2017, said the rigging of the 2023 presidential election by the CDC government will be the recipe for chaos in the country.

"Ok and that will bring the government and the civilians into confrontation. So if I run for president and if it is rigged, I will lose both Senate and the Presidency," Sen. Johnson said.

Told that as senators they too share the responsibility of the poor state of the country's economy, Sen. Johnson said "we do our best. We advise. But you cannot take the horse to the river and force it to drink." His comment suggests that the Executive Branch is said to be down playing advises from the Legislative Branch.

He said one of the problems facing this government which has made it unpopular with the

public is the delay in payment of salaries.

"If I were the President, I will prioritize salaries. Salaries put food on the people table. It makes the civil servants to buy things and the money goes around. But look at (us) the senators, for four months, we haven't gotten pay. We have gone back to Taylor's days."

Asked if he was disappointed with the current administration, Johnson answered in the affirmative.

"I am disappointed because my people are crying. A cup of rice in Nimba County is expensive. The price of a bag of rice is so high. So if you want us to vote for you we are prepared, but the first term we are crying then we must continue to cry on the second term" he queried.

He said this is where the problem of the government would come from because if the current state of affairs continues up to 2023, many people would vote against the regime.

"That cry when we continue up to 2023, it will make us to change our mind because I won't be stupid to come to Nimba County and say let's vote for the same people aah, they will throw me out".

He then alleged that the 2017 elections were also rigged in favor of the Coalition and that he refused to make such a claim and kept quiet because he knew what was unfolding but did not say what.

"I tell you, there was a massive rigging during this gone election. My school, looks at my children here who came to sing-my wife and myself went to my school to vote, I didn't get one vote from there. So my wife betrayed me. Ehn, I betrayed myself"

(Whether he took the issue to NEC) "I careless because I knew what happened, so I remain quiet," he added amidst laughter.

Legislators to return

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Reports gathered by this paper indicate that members of the Liberian Legislature are expected to return in their chambers this Monday, 18 November at the Capitol Building to discuss some pending financial concessions and printing of new banknotes.

Senate Pro tempore of the Liberian Senate, Senator Albert Chie told reporters that lawmakers are returning to contribute and smartly resolve the economic meltdown facing the country.

Chie says the Executive Branch of government has

lobbied for some financial concession agreements which need legislative action in the soonest possible time.

Understanding the constraints of President George Manneh Weah's administration, Sen. Chie says the Legislature is to make a quick return to the Capitol Building.

This is the second time that the Executive Branch of government has called for the return of the lawmakers within a year.

Based on reported advice from authorities of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), President George Weah, has written the Senate to

authorize the printing of new local currency to replace the current ones.

President Weah informed lawmakers that he had received a communication from the CBL, advising that the Liberian economy may be seriously affected due to the unaccounted local currency infused into the economy that is causing high inflation.

According to him, the CBL had recommended the printing of new local currency to replace the existing ones.

Two sets of local banknotes which were separately printed during former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's administrations are in use here.

"While the decision needs to be made now to address this issue that impacts the economy, it is important to note that the printing of new banknotes will require your approval, in accordance with Article 34(d) through the 1986 Constitution," President Weah told the lawmakers.

Liberians have decried the present economic hardship in the country and called on President George Manneh Weah to urgently address the current rate of inflation.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



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Ronaldo's substitution anger defended by Szczesny



Cristiano Ronaldo's angry reaction to being substituted against AC Milan is "normal" and he will make the difference in the decisive moments of the season, says Juventus team-mate Wojciech Szczesny.

Portugal forward Ronaldo was hauled off for the second game running when the Bianconeri were chasing a goal and, just as they did against Lokomotiv Moscow in midweek, Juve went on to secure a victory with Paulo Dybala's strike sealing a 1-0

win.

Ronaldo stormed straight down the tunnel after being hooked and is reported to have left the Allianz Stadium before the final whistle.

Goalkeeper Szczesny had sympathy for Ronaldo's reaction, saying: "I think it is normal for a champion to get a little angry when he leaves the field.

"He will return in better physical condition and, as he has always done, will make the difference in the decisive phase of the season.

"In recent weeks he has not

trained at 100 per cent, after the international break it will be better. We all know the qualities and personality of Ronaldo."

After the game, Ronaldo posted on Instagram with the caption: "A difficult game, an important win!"

Head coach Maurizio Sarri later said Ronaldo is still struggling with a knee injury and insisted he should be thanked for trying to play through the pain barrier.

Ronaldo's angry reaction to being withdrawn suggested he was not entirely happy with Sarri's decision, although it is reported the club will not take any action against their superstar forward.

"We must thank Ronaldo, because he made a sacrifice to be there at all tonight in a difficult situation," Sarri told Sky Sport Italia post-match.

"He did everything possible to play, but I saw he was not well and thought it best to take him off. It's only natural a player is going to be irritated to leave the pitch, especially when he worked so hard to be there.

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Sterling dropped by England after clash with Gomez

Raheem Sterling has been dropped by England manager Gareth Southgate for Thursday's Euro 2020 qualifier against Montenegro after the hostilities between Manchester City and Liverpool spilled over into the England camp.

Liverpool beat Sterling's City 3-1 on Sunday to move nine points clear of the defending Premier League champions at the top of the



table. The Daily Mail reported that Liverpool defender Joe Gomez and Sterling had to be separated by teammates on Monday after a "physical confrontation." The pair had also clashed on the field towards the end of Sunday's match.

In a statement issued by the Football Association, Southgate said: "We have taken the decision to not consider Raheem for the match against Montenegro on Thursday.

"One of the great challenges

and strengths for us is that we've been able to separate club rivalries from the national team. Unfortunately the emotions of yesterday's game were still raw. "My feeling is that the right thing for the team is the action we have taken. Now that the decision has been made with the agreement of the entire squad, it's important that we support the players and focus on Thursday night."

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