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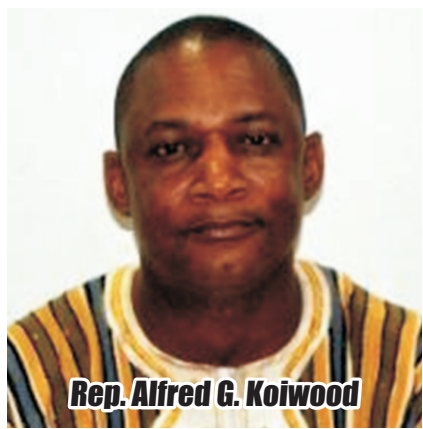
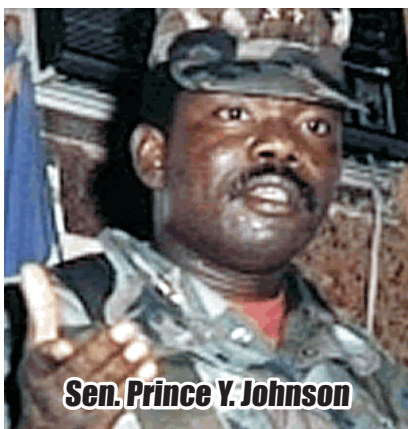
VOL.9 NO. 202

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PRICE LD\$40.00

Hint...

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



PYI, Boley, Koiwood ordered to report

CDC stole my idea

-Cummings cries foul



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Continental News

Bill spells doom for corrupt civil servants

Government officers found culpable of looting public coffers risk being blocked from holding public offices should a proposed amendment to the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act (Aceca) become law.

The amendment proposed by Moiben MP Silas Tiren, and currently before the National Assembly, wants individuals involved in misappropriation of public funds to be held personally liable. The Aceca Bill, 2019, targets managers, chief executive officers and directors of public institutions. It seeks to bar anyone convicted of an offence committed under the Act from holding any public office. In what will cause tectonic shifts in the governance sphere, those convicted of corruption or economic crimes shall stand disqualified from seeking political seats or appointment into public offices for 10 years immediately they are convicted.

"A person convicted of an offence of corruption or economic crime, and was

involved in the management of a public company, institution or State organ that suffered pecuniary loss as a result of the corruption, shall be personally liable for such loss," the bill says. Currently, those who occasion or oversee the loss of public funds are cushioned from individual responsibility under the doctrine of collective responsibility in government offices. The bill

has already undergone first reading in the National Assembly.

If passed in the current form, it will be a big boost to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption (EACC), the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in fighting rampant corruption within the public service.

The bill seeks to provide a

framework for publishing the names of those disqualified from assuming public offices in the Kenya gazette at least once every year so that it becomes easy to weed them out during electioneering period. It also provides that a person who is personally liable is jointly and severally liable in terms of all the losses incurred by the public institution. Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro had a similar amendment to this law – to have individuals found culpable of corruption subjected to capital punishment, which includes either death or life sentence. The bill flopped in

the second reading when MPs ganged up to shoot it down. "I urge my colleagues, regardless of their political affiliations, let us pass this law as it is if the change we desire has to be realised," Mr Tiren said.

He said the agriculture sector is the worst hit in embezzlement of funds.

"We have seen those accused of looting public institutions elected as governors, MPs or even MCAs. Others have been appointed chairmen of parastatals and chief executives, while others land envoy positions abroad. This must surely come to an end," he added. AFP



A general view taken on March 26, 2015 in Nairobi shows the Kenyan parliament

Kenya increase fuel prices to push holiday costs up

Kenyans traveling during the festive season will spend more at the pump after the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) increased fuel prices.

In a statement signed by Epra director general Pavel

Oimeke on Thursday, a litre of petrol in Nairobi will now cost Sh110.59, an increase of Sh2.54, while a litre of diesel has risen by Sh2.65 to retail at Sh104.61.

Households that use kerosene are the hardest hit, in the latest review, that will

see users part with Sh2.98 more for a litre that will cost Sh104.06. The development is likely to witness a rise in transport costs dampening the festive period that experiences increased activities as Kenyans transit from their workplaces to their rural homes.

Kenya's inflation increased to 5.7 percent in the month of September from 4.04 percent the previous month due to increased taxes on petroleum products.

The rate is the highest in 12 months, an indication that the impact of VAT on fuel is sieving into the economy.

The price increase, which takes effect on Thursday midnight and will remain in force until December 14 midnight, is attributed to an increase in the landing cost for super petrol by 0.86 percent from Sh4,593 per cubic metre last September to Sh4,632 per cubic metre last month, while that of



another woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo and then crossed the border from South Africa into Lesotho.

Lesotho's health ministry incorrectly told the press that a woman had been rushed to hospital after displaying

symptoms of the virus and had been tested positive for Ebola.

But the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa clarified that it was actually just an exercise and no-one had tested positive for Ebola. It went on to say that the scenario in the

exercise was unlikely to happen. Multiple news sites said Lesotho's Health Minister Nkaku Kabi had incorrectly confirmed the case. He is expected to talk later on Thursday at a press conference. BBC

diesel increased by 2.08 percent from Sh4,919 per cubic metre to Sh4,999 per cubic metre. Kerosene also had a 2.73 percent increase from Sh4,866 to Sh4,999, while the currency exchange rate rose by 0.23 percent from Sh103.79 to Sh103.55

percent last October.

"The prices are inclusive of an eight percent Value Added Tax (VAT) while the computation has factored the revised Import Declaration Fee of 3.5 percent and the Railway Development Levy of two percent. AFP



A motorist fuels his car. Kenyans traveling during the festive season will spend more at the pump after the Energy and Petroleum

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
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COMMENTARY

By Huw Van Steenis

The Digital Money Revolution

The rapid pace and sheer scale of innovation in digital currencies and mobile payments indicates that a monetary revolution is forthcoming. The choice for governments and central banks is whether to stand in front of a train that is gaining steam, or get on board and reap the benefits.

LONDON - How radically will digital currencies change our methods of exchange and the way that we think about money? With innovation in digital payments barreling ahead, these questions are now commanding the attention of the World Economic Forum and other international institutions.

Regardless of how Facebook's own digital-currency moonshot, Libra, fares, it has already provided a wake-up call for firms and policymakers around the world. "If revolution there is to be, let us rather undertake it than undergo it," Otto von Bismarck once said. The question for policymakers is not whether to try to shape the digital-money revolution, but how.

Digital money is already a key battleground in finance, with technology firms, payment processing companies, and banks all vying to become the gateway into the burgeoning platform-based economy. The prizes that await the winners could be huge. In China, Alipay and WeChat Pay already control more than 90% of all mobile payments. And in the last three years, the four largest listed payment firms - Visa, Mastercard, Amex, and PayPal - have increased in value by more than the FAANGs (Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, and Google). In a way, Libra is actually crashing the party late.

The opportunities offered by digital money are clear. Across Western countries, moving money is overly costly and inefficient, and those who end up paying the most are often the ones who can least afford to do so. As I argued in a report for the Bank of England (BOE) earlier this year, improving these processes could yield significant returns and social benefits.

Moreover, the needs - the potential returns - are even greater in many emerging markets, particularly when it comes to cross-border payments. According to the World Bank, the cost of sending international peer-to-peer remittances averages around 7% of the sum. Efforts to improve the main payment channels are ongoing. TransferWise, for example, claims to have reduced the average cost of cross-border transfers for its clients to 0.74%. But less well-trodden routes remain a challenge, owing to the hurdles posed by anti-money-laundering rules and poor data quality.

Given the concerns that Libra has raised, some central banks have begun to explore the option of issuing their own digital tokens. Others are studying the thorny legal and regulatory challenges posed by digital money, so that they can safeguard monetary and financial stability. For her part, Lael Brainard, a governor on the US Federal Reserve Board, recently suggested that the risks of cryptocurrencies outweigh the benefits. By contrast, the People's Bank of China is forging ahead - though not toward the decentralized or "permissionless" blockchain model envisioned by crypto enthusiasts. The PBOC wants to use cryptography to issue tokens to mainstream banks, which will then be passed on to customers within the existing two-tiered banking system.

Hence, if the European Central Bank (or others) wanted to be the first central bank to issue digital

money, the opportunity is there for the taking. To policymakers considering the options presented by digital money, I would offer five recommendations from my BOE report.

First, monetary authorities should create the infrastructure to enable alternative payment methods to connect to one another. The private sector can flourish when central banks act as a platform for innovation, as BOE Governor Mark Carney has shown by granting non-bank payment firms access to the BOE payments system. But success will depend on how easily new providers can access the central-bank infrastructure, which will require well-designed application programming interfaces through which to receive and share information.

Second, policymakers should usher in the next generation of payments regulation. Rules need to be updated to reflect the increasing complexity and shifting risks of the current system. As the cost of payments falls, the value of data will grow. Yet existing rules pertaining to data sharing, security, and liability are mostly rudimentary. Given the flurry of new entrants, there is a case to be made for tiering regulation - as the Singaporeans have done - and stress-testing payment firms for their financial resilience and cyber-security protections.

Third, governments need to champion better digital identification, which is essential to improving financial inclusion, curbing cyber fraud, and reducing costs. Some countries have already made impressive progress on this front. India, for example, has largely cracked the identification problem with its Aadhaar program, which dramatically simplifies the process through which networks can know their customers. Countries that do not have a tradition of issuing national ID cards have more work to do, but their governments can cooperate with the private sector, or use existing high-quality national data sets such as passport and tax numbers.

Fourth, all countries need to support stronger messaging standards to improve cross-border payments, reduce costs, and prevent fraud. Just as postal codes help mail get to the right place, so too could better tagging of payment senders and recipients.

Fifth, and critically, policymakers need to create a roadmap for the decline of cash. In Sweden, cash payments have fallen by 80% over the past decade, and many other developed markets are just 5-10 years behind. Digital payments bring many benefits, but the Swedish experience shows that without a coordinated plan, the pace of change risks excluding some groups in society. As payment habits shift, each country will need a strategy to improve its payments infrastructure - including broadband and mobile-telephony networks - so that no one is left behind.

Payments innovation is moving at a dizzying pace. Some ideas may fail to get off the ground, while others may need to pivot to become commercially viable. Other issues, like market dominance or cyber-security risks, will undoubtedly become more prominent in policy debates. On balance, however, the economic and social benefits of a frictionless, fraud-free, and trusted global payments system will likely outweigh the risks.



Lord, what is it we are hearing about this new money?

Dear Father:

Hmm, did I hear say we can get new money in our village within two weeks or my hearing thing spoil? Um but if da true then da will be 4G printing oo.

What do you mean my son, can't you see that no money in the village and so, so tear, tear money on the village market?

Father, but where the new money the people say they printed during the Old Lady time? I thought our big, big people no money got missing why they can't put it outside na instead of going to print new money again.

My son, haven't you heard?

Heard what Father?

Haven't you heard that the people who get the money are hiding it and don't want to bring it outside.

But Father, let me ask you something ya, because Flomo used to say the stranger that ask questions can't miss the road. If our people know that the new money did not go missing and it is still in our village why they can't just go for it and put it outside one time?

To me eh, the people talking like they know who all get the money so the best thing is to go to their houses and tell them to put it outside because 16 billion da na small money there for people to be keeping to their houses. Let them put it outside so people can stop suffering mehn.

Hmm, my son, I wish it was that simple.

What do you mean Father, are you saying you know other things that I don't know. I pray thee tell me what about this that is not that simple?

You see my son, the big, big people are just playing with your in this village here.

Umm, what do you mean Father?

My son, the people know that they can't find da money anywhere, and so they are just playing games with your.

Ehn, playing games with us abi? I hope they know how to play that game well oo, because I think they are playing it with themselves because trouble don't dey for their backyards.

Okay let say da na the missing money they are talking about. Let say they want to do new printing of new one, Father my heart na satisfy oo- I smell something. Look, just few days ago that other papay knockout from that place and they haven't put anybody there yet. So tell me who will sign da new money there?

Hayaka, you see where I coming from eh. So it means if they will print additional money in two weeks then it will be da money they say na missing. They will just print small and flood the village with it because it will be an opportunity for the people who have buried it in their houses to put it outside.

But if we see new money in two weeks with da papay who have just knockout from the place there then it means our man them fini printing da money ever since oo. Um, yes oo Father, then da na small wahala we inside so oo.

My son, it is better you wait and listen to see what the people will say. I know Father, but am confused. Is it that the money they want to print in two weeks is the one they say not missing or a totally new money. We the people of this fiefdom want to know, we are scare before water don pass gari.

OPINION

By Graciela Chichilnisky
& Peter Bal

Green Markets for Equitable Growth

NEW YORK - The climate crisis and the 2008 financial crisis are two sides of the same coin. Both were born of the same toxic feature of the world's prevailing economic model: the practice of discounting the future. Protecting humanity from both environmental and financial ruin requires an entirely new approach to growth - one that does not sacrifice tomorrow at the altar of today.

In a sense, both crises can be traced back to the same event: the creation of a new international order after World War II. The Bretton Woods institutions that underpinned the order - the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund - encouraged rapid globalization, characterized by a sharp increase in resource exports from the Global South to the Global North. The revival of neoliberal economic policies - including the removal of trade barriers, wide-ranging deregulation, and the elimination of capital-account controls - in the late 1970s accelerated this process.

While this system spurred unprecedented economic growth and development, it had serious downsides. Financial innovations outpaced - or simply escaped - regulation, enabling the finance industry to expand its influence over the economy, assuming massive amounts of risk and reaping huge rewards. That eventually led to the 2008 crisis, which brought the global financial system to the brink of collapse. With the system having undergone little meaningful reform, acute systemic risks persist to this day.

On the environmental front, unbridled resource extraction destroyed developing-country ecosystems, while encouraging rapidly rising consumption - most fundamentally, of energy - in the developed world. Today, despite accounting for only about 18% of the global population, the advanced economies consume about 70% of the world's energy, the vast majority of which (87%) comes from fossil fuels.

The North-South divide is thus inextricably linked to carbon dioxide emissions. And, in fact, it has reared its head in every United Nations climate negotiation, with the countries that have contributed the most to climate change - beginning with the United States - often standing in the way of effective action.

Resistance usually comes down to a single consideration: current economic prosperity. Thus, the only realistic solution to the climate crisis is to replace fossil-fuel-based energy with renewables quickly and cost-effectively enough to keep the engines of growth running. Fortunately, we already know that this is possible. The key is a global carbon market.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol attempted to use a system of tradable quotas to establish a price on CO2 emissions. While several countries ultimately refused to join the protocol - the US signed, but didn't ratify it - the carbon market that it created (designed by one of us, Chichilnisky) helped to make clean energy more profitable and dirty energy less so.

Although the Kyoto Protocol collapsed, the world has built upon this work, and some of its largest economies - China, the European Union, and several US states, including California - are now using emissions-trading schemes. The value of traded global markets for CO2 allowances surged by 250% last year, and now exceeds \$178 billion annually.

A revived global carbon market would help cut the Gordian knot of economic growth and environmental degradation. Moreover, it would cost virtually nothing to create and operate. offer A scheme offering market-based efficiency would appeal to developed economies, while developing countries would support it because mandatory emissions limits would apply only to high- and middle-income economies, as was the case in the Kyoto Protocol.

The potential of a global carbon market continues to grow. Last year, the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that "negative emissions technologies" that remove and sequester CO2 from the air could be safely scaled up to capture and store a significant share of total emissions. This process would be so cost-effective that the captured CO2 could profitably be sold in the carbon market.

Of course, CO2 emissions are far from the only contributor to the climate crisis. But other types of green markets can also be created. Even before the Kyoto Protocol, the Chicago Board of Trade launched a private market for rights to emit sulfur dioxide. The UN is now considering using similar markets to protect biodiversity and watersheds.

By enabling actors to buy and sell rights to use the global commons, such green markets naturally combine efficiency and equity. And yet the enduring North-South divide - and especially the rift between the US and China - is hampering our ability to seize their potential. We have the tools to arrest, and even reverse, climate change. It is time to come together and use them.

ECOWAS to convene nutritional confab here

As part of efforts to review nutrition policies, progress in the reduction of malnutrition, diet-related diseases and innovative practices in the Sub-region of West Africa, the 15 member states of the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) are expected to converge in Monrovia to hold the 16th ECOWAS Nutrition Conference, a release from the Ministry of Health (MoH) has disclosed.

The Regional Nutritional Conference, which is expected to begin from November 18 to 20, 2019, will bring together major stakeholders, including H. E. the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Jewel Howard-Taylor, UN Resident Representative to Liberia, Head of ECOWAS Commission in Liberia, Head of African Union Commission in Liberia, Director General of WAHO, Honorable Ministers of Health, Gender, among others.

According to the release, the conference is to officially kick-off on Monday, November 18, 2019 at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town; while from the 19th to 20th of November, 2019, the conference will transition to the Millennium Guest House Hotel, Sinkor, opposite the NP Gas Station.

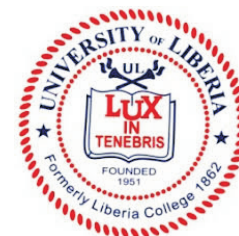
The Theme for this year's conference is: "Adolescent Nutrition" with the lens to improve Adolescent Nutrition in the sub-region.

"As you be aware, Liberia has a huge adolescent burden where thirty-one percent (31%) of pregnancies and maternal mortality are among teenagers with no adequate Health and nutrition progress to address this critical need," the release furthered.

The ECOWAS Nutrition Conference is a regional platform that brings together major stakeholders in nutrition to review nutrition policies, progress in the reduction of malnutrition, diet-related diseases and innovative practices in the region.

The ECOWAS Nutrition Conference begun in 1996 by nine Francophone Countries Ministers. In 1990, the conference was extended to all the 15 ECOWAS Countries. There have been 15 conferences held since the establishment of this August meeting.

Since activities befitting the Conference are held biannually and it is a rotational event, Liberia has being selected to host it this year.



Section I. Invitation for Bids

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS UNDER A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
(Office Supplies & Stationery)
IFB No.: UL/NCB/003/19/20

- The University of Liberia through the Government of Liberia has received budgetary allotment from its National budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 and intends to apply portion of it towards the procurement of office supplies & stationery under a framework agreement for academic year 2019/2020.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of office supplies & stationery for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the PPCA and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.

4. Specification and Quantity:

Lot.1	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE
	Stationery & Supplies	Assorted	Framework agreement

Lot.2	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE
	Cartridges	Assorted	Framework agreement

- Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia (GoL) Business Registration
 - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
 - Must be registered with the PPCC vendor register
 - Past performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 2 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
 - Bids must be signed and complete before consideration for further evaluation.
- A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus, beginning October 29, 2019 – November 27, 2019 between the hours of 10:00a.m – 4:00p.m, Monday – Friday.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., November 27, 2019 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right Wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:
In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF STATIONERY & SUPPLIES (Lot#.....)"
REF: IFB No.: UL/NCB/003/19/20

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

Procurement Department
Administrative Building, Right Wing, Room #: AC1-09
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus, Liberia
- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Open Letter To The Election Committee Of The Press Union Of Liberia

New Georgia Township
Monrovia, Liberia

November 14, 2019

The Chairman & Members
Election Committee
Press Union of Liberia
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members

I have been following with keen interest the disruption in the electoral process of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) due to a court case. I have also received a press statement from the leadership of the PUL, essentially announcing a conclusion of the case and a new date for the holding of the election.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, as one of longest-serving members of the Press Union of Liberia and former Chairman of the Press Club of the Union, I advise that whether or not the alleged court ruling is final, the holding of election on Saturday, November 16, is untimely and should, therefore, be reconsidered. The date, in my mind, is too close to the time the court case allegedly came to an end.

I suggest that in the interest of easing the tension and supporting a stronger PUL in which its members will continue to see one another as a family, you push the election ahead by at least two weeks until you have sat with all the parties to the disagreement, to iron out whatever differences there are.

I am of the conviction, Mr. Chairman and members of the PUL Election Committee, that insisting on holding the election on Saturday, November 16, will only exacerbate an already unfavourable climate. It is not too late to send a word out informing the membership of the PUL that a new date for the holding of the election will be announced within days. Once you have done so, you can now sit with the contestants to come out with a date that is suitable and acceptable to all.

I urge the committee to work independently so that its credibility that we so heavily rely on is not brought into question.

Thanks for your attention and good luck with your assignment.

Sincerely yours

Jonathan Paye-Layleh

Signed: _____
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
DIRECTOR/Procurement Dept.

Approved: _____
Prof. Weade Kobbah-Boley
Vice President for Administration

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MOH celebrate World Diabetes Day

The Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with partners Thursday, November 14, 2019 celebrated World Diabetes Day at the Dupo Road Clinic in Paynesville City, under the Theme: "The Family and Diabetes".

World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes mellitus and is held on 14th of November each year.

Giving an overview of the program, Dr. Fred W. Amegashie, Director of NCDs at the MOH, said the World Diabetes Day was launched in 1991 by the IDF and the World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the rapid rise of diabetes around the world.

"By 2016, World Diabetes Day was being commemorated by over 230 IDF member associations in more than 160 countries and territories, as well as by other organizations, companies, healthcare professionals, politicians, celebrities, and people living with diabetes and their families. Activities include diabetes screening programmes, radio and



television campaigns, sports events etc," he noted.

He said, after conducting a survey in 2013, nineteen percent (19%) of the Country's population lives with the disease, saying, "Since 2013, our survey shows that about 19% has problem with breakdown of Sugar".

Continuing: "Globally, an estimated 422 million adults were living with diabetes in

2014, compared to 108 million in 1980. The global prevalence of diabetes has nearly doubled since 1980, rising from 4.7% to 8.5% in the adult population. This reflects an increase in associated risk factors such as being overweight or obese. Over the past decade, diabetes prevalence has risen faster in low and middle-income countries than in high-income countries."

Dr. Amegashie informed that, as a way of creating more awareness across the country, the day has been observed in other parts of the Country, naming Ganta Cities, Happer, among others.

Meanwhile, in observance of the day, a message from the World Health Organization Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, says WHO is working with Countries across Africa to improve prevention and management of diabetes with focus on building capacity to monitor

the burden through surveys using its STEPwise approach to non-communicable disease surveillance and ensuring health services for diabetes are available as of primary health care, using the WHO package of Essential Non-communicable Diseases (PEN) services.

Reading a prepare text on behalf of the Regional Director for Africa, WHO County Coordinator of the Montserrado County Health Team (MCHT), Sam J. Gebeh, II named Seychelles and South Africa as Countries that have enacted laws to tax sugar-sweetened beverages, which according to him will contribute to reduce consumption—in turn, preventing obesity and diabetes.

"We are also supporting countries to pursue innovations, such as in Benin, where artificial intelligence is being used for early diagnosis of diabetes and in Senegal where the health sector is using mobile technology to educate patients on the treatment to improve medication compliance", he noted.

The WHO proxy indicated that, while the progress is encouraging, the burden of diabetes is increasing, and there is a need to do more to curb the situation.

Liberia entrepreneurship summit starts

The Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit under the sponsorship of the Cummings Africa Foundation opens an entrepreneurship summit here, targeting selected Liberian-owned businesses as participants.

Speaking at the official opening of the summit in Monrovia, Mr. Alexander Cummings, leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress says the event is intended to open eyes of Liberians to a deeper business management and

create empowerment to deserving business entities.

The summit is an event geared towards Liberian Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that look forward to taking their businesses to the next level.

Already, over 100 small business owners from around the country will converge in Monrovia for two days nonstop education, inspiration and motivation.

The summit consists of invaluable networking, spanning several workshops, master classes, panel

discussions and social events. Whether you are a start up, small business or innovator looking for what's next - this summit is for everyone.

Under the banner "The Pitch", it a small business pitch competition that gives entrepreneurs opportunity to pitch their brilliant ideas to improving or scaling their businesses.

Mr. Cummings told the opening that contestants will get a chance to win up to US\$10,000 investment capital thru grant. The 1st place winner will receive US\$10,000, while the second place winner will receive US\$5,000, respectively.

The Liberian Entrepreneurship Summit was created with Liberian entrepreneurs in mind and promises to ensure that every attendee leaves feeling rejuvenated and equipped with knowledge, resources, and skills that will prove extremely useful in his or her entrepreneurial journey.

The Summit is expected to become an annual exercise, will be the most comprehensive business conference of its kind. It will be geared towards practical teaching as opposed to another motivational speaking event.

The Cummings Africa

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Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit 2019

Entrepreneurship Redefined: Taking Liberian Businesses to the Next Level

featuring THE PITCH

Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports a wide range of philanthropic projects that have a core emphasis on education, human development and environmental improvement.

The mission is to contribute to the betterment of communities and positively transform lives, igniting the prospect of possibility for all. -Edited by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NIR ends workshop on Biometric Verification Platform

The National Identification Registry (NIR) has ended a two-day orientation workshop on how both public and private institutions in Liberia can access the Registry's Biometric Verification Platform. The workshop also focused on benefits the institutions could accrue from the verification technology.

The Biometric Verification Platform, introduced in May this year, is designed to enable service providers in the public and private sectors to easily authenticate their clients, customers and anyone with whom they are transacting business.

The Orientation Workshop was held on November 12 & 13, 2019 at the NIR's Head Offices in Congo Town, Monrovia and brought together nearly thirty participants from key government ministries and agencies, the banking sector and the two major mobile-

phone service providers; Lonestar MTN and ORANGE-Liberia.

In his opening statement, Mr. Zeze Reed, Deputy Executive Director for Technical Services at the NIR, said the workshop was

intended to introduce the Biometric Verification Platform to the participating institutions as "the most simple and reliable means to verify people interacting with your institutions."

Mr. Reed said "duplication is

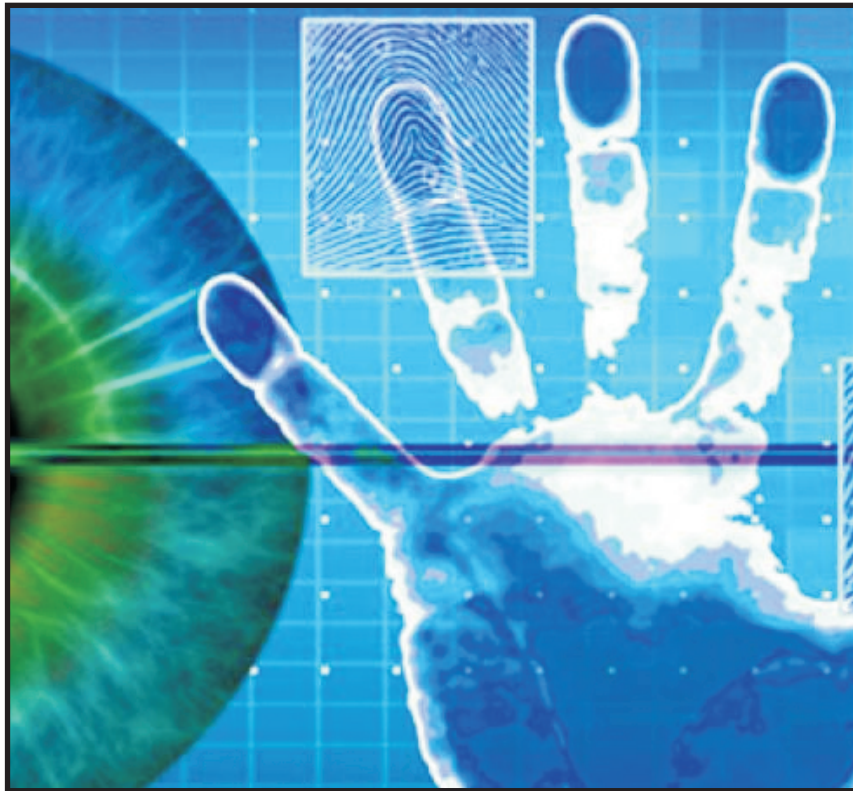
all over the world" but as an agency of government responsible to issue the National Identification Card, it is also responsible to put in place the necessary technology to authenticate or verify bearers of the national identity.

At the end of the two-day workshop, the participants commended the government through the National Identification Registry for introducing the verification platform.

It can be recalled that the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) last week hosted a one-day Public Consultation on a draft

regulation seeking to require all service providers to use government-issued identification cards as a precondition to issue mobile numbers to subscribers.

The LTA said 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."



Grand Kru civil servants cry for 4 months' pay

Over 700 civil servants in Grand Kru County, southeast Liberia most of whom are health practitioners, security personnel and employees of local government have been unable to access their salaries at Afriland Bank for the past four months.

According to numerous and consistent complains through the District Office of Grand Kru County District #2 Representative Cllr. J. FonatiKoffa, the situation is either because of unresolved breakdown in the electronic payments processing system

or unavailability of cash, including poor customer service at the bank.

The extreme difficulties in paying civil servants' salaries at the Afriland Bank branch in Barclayville, the county's seat, have drawn the attention of Rep. Koffa.

A press statement issued Wednesday, November 13, from the lawmaker's office, says District Coordinator Chris Joboe at the head of a five-man committee has been tasked to investigate the "alleged complains" including the bank's operations, obligations, and customer relations.

"Cllr. Koffa has asked the Chris Joboe's Investigating Committee to submit findings to his Capitol Building office within two weeks," according to the statement.

"Upon submission of the findings, Rep. Koffa might engage the administrators of the local bank branch in Barclayville, the County Authorities as well as the headquarters in Monrovia."

Reports say civil servants in the county are worried their salaries will most likely don't have anything left by the time they get paid due to mountains of credits.

"We regret to inform our valued customers of system breakdown," a teacher quoted one of the annoying announcements from the bank.

"I kept checking my phone for notification and there was nothing and when I got to the bank, I was told about the system error and there won't be payment for me until the error is rectified" said a nurse.

"The interest rates go up faster when the demand is high after civil servants failed to access their salaries," said a local foreign bureau operator in Barclayville.

"Sometimes, there are standoffs between bank staff and civil servants when an announcement of postponement is made or certain civil servants can't be paid because of said situation," another forex bureau operator added.



Arcelor Mittal steel redundant workers abandon protest

Protesting redundant workers of Arcelormital-Liberia have agreed to cut off their actions against the company, a release issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs says.

According to authorities at the ministry, the decision was reached following the intervention of Internal Affairs Minister Honorable Varney A. Sirleaf Thursday in Ganta, Nimba County.

The release said the meeting called by Minister Sirleaf was attended by the leadership of the protesters, the management of Arcelormital, Nimba County Superintendent Honorable Dorr Cooper and others.

Early Thursday, November 14th, protesters in Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties setup roadblocks on the train track which is used by the company to transport iron ore from the mountains in Nimba to the port of Buchanan in demand of their benefits or reinstatement into workforce.

Mr. Kingston Nyandibo, head of the redundant Arcelormital employees in a meeting said they and some of their family members embarked on the protest because all efforts aimed addressing their plights have proven fruitless.

Mr. Nyandibo told the Minister that those affected include seven hundred sixty-nine (769) workers, categorized in three groups namely: 363 employees, 366

contractors and 40 others who are considered illegally dismissed.

According to the protesters' leadership, their redundancy was effected in 2015 and 2016 due to drops in pieces of iron ore on the international market, with an understanding that the company would recall them if prices rise.

"Instead, when prices improve beginning 2017, the company chose to hire a new batch of workers which was in total disregard to the redundancy clause". Said Mr. Joseph G. Kaye, spokesperson of the protesters.

Mr. Kaye said they have been pursuing the matter with the company since May, 2018.

Meanwhile, Mr. Marcus S. Wleh, Head of Government Relations of Arcelormital appealed to the protesters to grant a two-week period for the company to sort out the relevant documentations that will lead to finding permanent solution to the problem.

Honorable Sirleaf assured that he will work with the relevant government entities including Ministry of Labor and National Bureau of Concessions.

Based on the Minister's intervention, MrNyandibo promised to immediately communicate with his colleagues as well as travel along the train track informing his colleagues to remain calm and abort all protests, the release concluded.

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Français

La ministre de la famille propose que les trafiquants soient jugés au même titre que les violeurs

Mme Alice Howard, ministre par intérim de la famille, a recommandé que la loi sur la traite d'êtres humains réserve des sanctions aussi sévères que la loi sur le viol.

« La loi sur la traite des personnes devrait être traitée au même titre que la loi sur le viol. Il ne faut pas qu'un coupable de trafic humain aille en prison pendant un an et soit relâché pour continuer son forfait dans une autre communauté. Il faut que le trafic humain soit puni avec sévérité comme c'est le cas pour le viol pour que l'on sache que nous sommes au sérieux », a-t-elle dit.

La ministre a pris la parole le mercredi 13 novembre au début d'une réunion de haut niveau et d'une formation de formateurs pour les partenaires de Liberia Media Development (LMD) au salon TIP de Sinkor, dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

Les institutions gouvernementales et privées concernées, notamment la police, le service de l'immigration, le ministère du Travail, le ministère de la famille, les médias et d'autres parties prenantes, prennent part à la réunion initiale de trois jours dans le but de contribuer à l'acquisition de

nouvelles compétences qui contribueront à la sensibilisation des populations sur le trafic humain et l'application de la loi.

La formation intervient après que le Département d'État des États-Unis ait placé le Libéria sur la liste de surveillance de niveau 2 dans son rapport annuel sur le trafic

d'êtres humains en juin dernier.

Ce déclassement du Libéria marque sa troisième année consécutive. Cela signifie que le pays doit concentrer ses efforts et ses ressources humaines sur la lutte contre la traite d'êtres humains s'il veut accéder aux fonds de développement non humanitaires des États-Unis.

Les autorités bien informées dans le secteur disent que la traite d'êtres humains se présente sous plusieurs formes, notamment en prenant les enfants de la famille ou d'autres personnes sous votre garde, en leur faisant croire qu'ils auront de meilleures chances, comme la scolarité, lorsque l'intention réelle est de violer ultérieurement leurs droits, de les utiliser pour le travail ou en tant que gagne-pain, entre autres.

Mme Howard estime qu'il est important de former les responsables à l'identification des victimes de la traite au sein de la couche sociale la plus vulnérable, dont notamment les femmes et les enfants.

Elle appelle à des efforts collectifs de la part de tous, y compris le gouvernement, les citoyens, la société civile, les partenaires et les médias afin de lutter efficacement contre la traite d'êtres humains comme ce fut le cas dans la lutte contre Ebola, de sorte à se débarrasser de fléau. Elle s'est dite convaincue que si l'on fait des efforts pour mener des investigations et poursuivre les auteurs de la traite d'êtres humains, le pays ira de l'avant.

Pour atteindre cet objectif, a indiqué Mme Howard, il faut que les agents des forces de l'ordre soient formés et soient équipés.

« Je vais simplement dire que, concernant notre propre implication dans la lutte contre la traite au Libéria, nous ne faisons pas beaucoup, car nous connaissons tous les contraintes qui existent au Libéria. Mais le ministère est actif au sein du groupe de travail et nous travaillons en collaboration avec le ministère du Travail et d'autres agences et ministères impliqués dans la lutte », a-t-elle déclaré.

La ministre Howard a révélé que le ministère fournit parfois des vivres et des logements aux survivants pendant un certain temps, en raison du coût « nous ne

pouvons pas les garder trop longtemps ».

Par ailleurs, le ministre du Travail, M. Moses Y. Kollie, a indiqué que le LMD, l'un des tous derniers partenaires locaux du groupe de travail sur la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains, a rejoint le groupe de travail à la fin du mois d'août de cette année et s'est déclaré disposé à mettre en place des stratégies pour mettre un terme à la traite d'êtres humains au Libéria.

Le ministre Kolliea fait savoir que le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du groupe de travail, est disposé à renforcer le partenariat afin de réaliser les quatre domaines thématiques clés, notamment la prévention, la protection et les poursuites et le [partenariat].

Auparavant, le colonel Bolley B. Morlu, responsable de la lutte contre la traite d'êtres humains du Service d'Immigration du Libéria, a promis de renforcer la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains, ajoutant que le service de l'immigration est le premier point de contact des personnes qui entrent au Libéria.

Selon le colonel Morlu, sur 177 points d'entrée au Libéria, des agents sont déployés sur 46 et des patrouilles sont périodiquement organisées au niveau des 131 autres points d'entrée. Il s'est dit déçu que le Libéria soit placé sur la liste de surveillance de niveau 2 pour la troisième fois.

"Et pour cette raison, nous voulons ce jour-ci engager nos meilleurs efforts pour aider le groupe de travail national, non pas pour éliminer complètement le fléau - parce que c'est difficile - mais pour le réduire dans ce pays", a déclaré le colonel Morlu.

Madame Rebekah Eubanks, Directrice de la mission par intérim de l'USAID, a quant à elle rappelé que, pour la troisième année consécutive, le Département d'État des États-Unis a placé le Libéria sur la liste de surveillance de niveau 2 dans son rapport annuel sur la traite d'êtres humains.

"Ce classement reflète l'évaluation du gouvernement américain selon laquelle le gouvernement du Libéria ne respecte pas pleinement les normes minimales pour l'élimination de la traite qui régissent l'aide étrangère des États-Unis", a-t-elle déclaré.

Mme Eubanks a ajouté que



La Côte d'Ivoire demande à l'ONU de superviser ses élections de 2020

Aun peu moins d'un an de la présidentielle, la Côte d'Ivoire a décidé de faire appel à l'ONU pour l'assister dans le processus électoral. Une délégation des Nations unies a été reçue mardi 12 novembre par la Commission électorale indépendante.

La mission onusienne est sollicitée pour déterminer les besoins de la Commission électorale indépendante alors que cette dernière reste très critiquée par l'opposition et que des experts redoutent de nouveaux troubles au vu des

tensions qui subsistent dans le contexte politique actuel.

Une rencontre entre le président de la CEI, Ibrahim Coulibaly-Kuibiart, et la mission des Nations unies a duré une heure et demie. La délégation onusienne répond ainsi à une demande de l'État ivoirien, qui souhaite un accompagnement dans le processus électoral jusqu'à la date fatidique du scrutin présidentiel d'octobre 2020.

Pour Simon-Pierre Nanitelamio, le directeur adjoint de l'assistance

électorale de l'ONU, il s'agira d'évaluer le contexte politique et de rencontrer tous les acteurs politiques, afin d'assurer un climat apaisé dans cette course à la fonction suprême.

L'ONU déjà sollicité en 2015

Le directeur de la communication de la CEI, Kigbafori Inza, rappelle que la Côte d'Ivoire avait déjà sollicité son partenaire onusien en 2015, dont l'assistance avait permis d'apporter un soutien technique, matériel et financier lors du précédent scrutin présidentiel. Un scrutin dont la bonne tenue avait d'ailleurs été applaudie par l'instance internationale.

En réponse aux observations d'experts nationaux et internationaux qui agitent le spectre de possibles troubles à l'approche du jour J, les autorités ivoiriennes se veulent rassurantes.

Le porte-parole du gouvernement Sidi Tiémoko Touré insiste sur le fait que le pays est « suffisamment outillé pour organiser ces élections de manière autonome », tout en acceptant « les conseils de partenaires et amis » de la Côte d'Ivoire. Au moins deux prochaines rencontres sont encore prévues entre la CEI et l'ONU, afin de déterminer dans le détail les besoins.



Français

Le Maire Koijee menace de porter plainte contre Me Verdier, Président de la CVR

Le maire de la ville de Monrovia, Jefferson T. Koijee, a menacé d'intenter une action en justice contre l'ancien président de la Commission Vérité Réconciliation au Libéria, Me Jérôme Verdier, qui l'aurait lié à des crimes odieux au Libéria.

Dans un des récents articles de Verdier intitulé « Le dossier de Koijee », qui a été publié dans plusieurs quotidiens locaux, notamment le People's Newspaper, Koijee a été associé au fils de l'ancien président du Libéria, Charles Taylor, Chucky Taylor, dans le cadre à l'allégation de Justina Taylor. Dans son article, Jérôme Verdier a également accusé Koijee d'être l'architecte d'une série de violations des droits de l'homme perpétrées par le gouvernement dirigé par Weah. Mais le maire Koijee a dit regretter qu'un individu qu'il tient en haute estime se soit lancé dans une « campagne de diffamation » visant à ternir son image en l'associant au « passé douloureux du Libéria ».

Koijee: « J'ai travaillé avec Jerome Verdier pendant des années en tant que militants des droits de l'homme lorsqu'il était président de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation. Il me connaît très bien. Il connaît mon histoire. Il sait que j'étais l'un de ces jeunes qui sont allés en prison à cause de notre plaidoyer en faveur de la Commission vérité et réconciliation. Nous avons travaillé avec la Commission présidée par Jérôme Verdier pour protéger le rapport de la CVR malgré les nombreuses tentatives des auteurs de la guerre de saper cet instrument national. C'est dommage que je sois devenu une cible majeure pour Me Verdier dans la mesure où il m'accusé d'avoir pris part à la guerre civile, quelque chose dont je ne sais rien ».

Le maire estime que le fait que M. Verdier et ses semblables l'accusent avoir pris part à la guerre civile sanglante du Libéria qui a duré 14 ans constitue une tentative de sa part de ces derniers de saper le rapport de la CVR.

« C'est avec peine que je constate qu'il y a des gens qui veulent saper le rapport de la Commission Vérité Réconciliation. La nation et ses partenaires ont collectivement investi des sommes énormes dans cet instrument national. Nous avons également tout mis en œuvre pour que le rapport soit

à l'état actuel et, ainsi, nous ne resterons pas les bras croisés et ferons en sorte qu'il ne soit pas détruit », a déclaré Koijee lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia.

Selon lui, pour sauver le Libéria, il faut que les auteurs des crimes soient punis. Personne ne devrait marcher en toute impunité après avoir porté atteinte aux droits d'autrui ou maltraité autrui.

Pour le jeune maire, un citoyen, qui prétend véritablement aimer le Libéria en tant que nationaliste et patriote, doit placer l'intérêt général au-dessus de ses intérêts personnels et faire preuve de responsabilité. Il a réitéré son opinion en faveur de la mise en œuvre intégrale du rapport de la CVR.

« La création du tribunal des crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques », a-t-il ajouté, « est un élément indispensable pour la démocratie du Libéria ». Le maire Koijee a aussi affirmé que les accusations selon lesquelles il aurait commis des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité ne sont pas dignes du président de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation, à ce titre, il souhaiterait que tous les commissaires, y compris Massa Washington et John Steward, aient publiquement le rapport de la CVR en se dissociant des accusations portées à son encontre par l'ancien président Verdier.

Le maire Koijee souhaite que des personnes comme Jerome Verdier cessent de politiser ce rapport, qui, selon lui, est un élément essentiel pour tous les Libériens et la communauté internationale, y compris lui-même (Koijee). « On peut retracer mon histoire depuis la défense des droits des étudiants jusqu'à la politique nationale. Je ne vous empêche pas de m'accuser faussement, tout ce que je peux vous dire, c'est de fournir les preuves permettant de justifier vos revendications injustifiées à mon égard. Fournissez les éléments de preuves et laissez le peuple libérien me juger », a-t-il dit.

Le maire Koijee s'est dit convaincu que M. Verdier est victime de manipulation de la part d'autres personnes qui veulent « tuer le rapport de la CVR ». Il a indiqué qu'en l'accusant « faussement », Me Verdier risque de discréditer le rapport de la CVR car son incapacité de prouver les allégations qu'il a portées contre lui pourrait faire dire aux gens que le même rapport pourrait avoir été composé sur la base de la désinformation.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Huw Van Steenis

La révolution de l'argent numérique

LONDRES - Jusqu'à quel point les monnaies numériques révolutionneront-elles nos échanges et notre manière de penser l'argent ? Les innovations dans les moyens de paiement numérique s'accumulent, et la question fait son chemin au Forum économique mondial et dans d'autres institutions internationales.

Sans spéculer sur l'avenir de Libra, le projet de monnaie numérique lancé par Facebook, force est aux entreprises et aux dirigeants politiques de par le monde d'en entendre l'avertissement. « Si une révolution doit advenir, engageons-la plutôt que de la subir », aurait lancé Bismarck.

L'argent digital est dès aujourd'hui l'un des enjeux majeurs du monde financier. Les grandes entreprises du secteur technologique, les sociétés de paiement et les banques rivalisent pour prendre le contrôle des points de passage d'une économie de plateforme en pleine expansion. Pour les gagnants, le butin risque d'être fabuleux. En Chine, Alipay et WeChat Pay assurent déjà plus de 90% des paiements en mobilité. Au cours des trois dernières années, les quatre géants cotés du paiement - Visa, Mastercard, Amex et PayPal - ont accumulé plus de valeur que les FAANG (Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix et Google). En un certain sens, Libra s'invite un peu tard dans la partie.

L'argent numérique offre d'évidentes possibilités. Dans les pays occidentaux, il est excessivement coûteux et inefficace de transférer des fonds, et ceux qui finissent par en payer le prix le plus cher sont souvent ceux qui peuvent le moins se le permettre. Comme je l'affirme dans un rapport de la Banque d'Angleterre (Bank of England - BOE), publié en début d'année, l'amélioration des ces procédures peut donner de bons rendements et serait socialement utile.

En outre les besoins - les rendements attendus - sont encore plus importants dans nombre de marchés émergents, notamment pour ce qui concerne les paiements transfrontaliers. Selon la Banque mondiale, le coût moyen des envois de fonds de pair-à-pair par des ressortissants partis travailler à l'étranger représente environ 7 % des sommes. Des initiatives sont en cours pour améliorer les principaux canaux de paiement. TransferWise assure par exemple avoir réduit le coût moyen des transferts transfrontaliers pour ses clients de 0,74%. Mais de nouvelles routes demeurent difficiles à tracer, étant donné les obstacles posés par les règles contre le blanchiment et la mauvaise qualité des données.

Au vu des inquiétudes soulevées par Libra, certaines banques centrales ont commencé à envisager l'émission de leurs propres signes monétaires numériques. D'autres évaluent les problèmes juridiques et réglementaires posés par l'argent numérique, afin de pouvoir préserver la stabilité monétaire et financière. Lael Brainard, qui siège au Conseil des gouverneurs de la Réserve fédérale américaine laisse entendre quant à elle que les risques auxquels nous exposent les cryptomonnaies sont plus élevés que les bénéfices. La Banque populaire de Chine (BPC), en revanche, est en train de prendre de l'avance - quoiqu'elle ne s'oriente pas vers le modèle décentralisé et « libre d'autorisation » des chaînes de blocs tel que le rêvent les zéloteurs de la cryptographie. La BPC veut au contraire utiliser la cryptographie pour émettre des signes monétaires à destination des grandes banques, qui seraient alors transmis à leur clientèle sans sortir du système bancaire à deux étages, tel qu'il existe déjà.

Par conséquent, si la Banque centrale européenne (BCE) - ou quelque autre banque centrale - veut être la première à émettre de l'argent numérique, sa chance est à saisir. Aux responsables politiques qui s'interrogeraient sur les possibilités offertes par une telle initiative, je ferai trois recommandations, qui découlent mon rapport pour la BOE.

Tout d'abord, les autorités monétaires devraient créer l'infrastructure qui permettrait que les méthodes alternatives de paiement puissent communiquer entre elles. Le secteur privé peut profiter du rôle de plateforme de l'innovation que joueraient les banques centrales, comme l'a montré le gouverneur de la BOE Mark Carney en autorisant des sociétés de paiement non-bancaires à emprunter les systèmes de paiement de la BOE. Mais la réussite dépendra de la facilité d'accès aux infrastructures de la banque centrale qu'auront les nouveaux fournisseurs, ce qui requiert des interfaces de programmation d'application bien conçues pour recevoir et partager l'information.

Deuxièmement, les responsables politiques devraient préparer la voie à la prochaine génération réglementaire des paiements. Les règles doivent être actualisées et s'adapter à la complexité croissante et à l'évolution des risques du système actuel. Comme le coût des paiements diminuera, la valeur des données augmentera. Or les règles existantes concernant le partage de données, leur sécurisation et leur fiabilité sont encore très rudimentaires. Étant donné la masse des nouveaux entrants, il serait opportun d'étaler la réglementation - comme on l'a fait à Singapour - et de soumettre les sociétés de paiement à des tests de résistance afin d'évaluer leur résilience financière et leurs protections en matière de cybersécurité.

Troisièmement, les pouvoirs publics doivent en faire plus pour l'identité numérique, essentielle si l'on veut renforcer l'inclusion financière, lutter contre les cyberfraudes et réduire les coûts. Certains pays ont déjà réalisé à cet égard des progrès spectaculaires. L'Inde, par exemple, a pour une grande part résolu le problème de l'identité numérique avec le programme Aadhaar, qui simplifie de manière drastique les procédures au moyen desquelles les réseaux peuvent connaître leurs clients. Les pays qui n'ont pas d'expérience en matière d'émission de cartes nationale d'identité auront plus de travail à faire ; mais leur administration peut coopérer avec le secteur privé ou encore utiliser les ensembles de données généralement de très bonne qualité que forment au niveau national les numéros de passeport et d'imposition.

Quatrièmement, tous les pays doivent favoriser des normes de messagerie plus strictes afin d'améliorer les paiements transfrontaliers, de réduire les coûts et de prévenir les fraudes. De la même manière que le code postal permet d'acheminer le courrier dans la bonne boîte aux lettres, un meilleur marquage des opérations entre émetteurs et bénéficiaires simplifierait l'acheminement.

Cinquièmement, et le point est d'importance, les responsables politiques doivent établir une feuille de route pour la disparition de l'argent liquide. En Suède, les paiements en liquide ont chuté de 80% au cours de la dernière décennie, et beaucoup d'autres marchés développés n'en sont qu'à cinq ou dix ans d'une telle situation. Les paiements numériques ont de nombreux avantages, mais l'expérience suédoise montre qu'en l'absence de plan coordonné, le rythme des changements risque d'exclure certains groupes de la société. À mesure qu'évolueront les habitudes de paiement, chaque pays aura besoin d'une stratégie pour améliorer ses infrastructures de transactions - y compris les réseaux à large bande passante et de téléphonie mobile - afin que personne ne soit laissé sur le bord de la route.

En matière de moyens de paiement, l'innovation atteint un rythme vertigineux. Certaines idées peuvent ne pas parvenir à décoller, tandis que d'autres devront changer de cap pour devenir commercialement viables. De nouvelles questions, comme celle de la domination des marchés ou celle des risques informatiques prendront probablement une place plus importante dans les débats sur la mise en œuvre de ces nouveaux moyens. Dans la balance, pourtant, les avantages économiques et sociaux d'un système de paiements global, sans fraude et fiable, pèseront probablement plus lourd que les risques.

ARTICLE

CHETRA Eyes Africa for Expansion

CHETRA is a Russian company that sells industrial equipment and spare parts under the brand "CHETRA" produced by the Promtractor plant, as well as supplies spare parts and components from the company. It uses a unique technique in the construction of production sites, seaports, development of natural resources and pipelines in 30 countries and in all climatic zones.

The goal is to provide its partners and customers with modern high-performance equipment for successful projects, even in areas with complex climatic and geological backgrounds. More than 3,000 units of equipment under the brand "CHETRA" are now in operation in the Russian Federation and beyond.



Executive Director Vladimir Antonov

Executive Director Vladimir Antonov has been working in engineering industry for 19 years. He has successful experience in product export to the CIS countries and Ukraine, the Baltic States, Europe, Argentina, Africa and Cuba. He has been leading company as its Executive Director since 2018. During his leadership, the share of the company's machinery in the Russian market has doubled.

In this snapshot interview conducted by KesterKennKlomegah, Executive Director Vladimir Antonov talks about his company's plans in the direction of Africa. Here are the interview excerpts:

Q:First, tell us briefly about tPlants previous working connection with Africa=What are your products and services, what African regions or countries are keen using products=

A:Our company has a long experience of cooperation with African countries which began in the Soviet times and continues today. Traditionally we collaborate in the African continent with such partner countries of Russia as Egypt, Algeria, Zimbabwe. About 50 units of CHETRA machines have been supplied to these countries over the last ten years. Our goal is to enlarge our footprint in the African continent. Nowadays, we are negotiating cooperation with potential partners in West Africa and the SADC region (Southern African Development Community, South Africa).

Q:Compared to other foreign players, how competitive is the African market= From the previous experience in the African regions, what key problems and challenges the company faces in Africa=

A:Today the market of mining and construction equipment in Africa is characterized by high competition, all our competitors work in the region, both from the West and from the East. This has led to the fact that the market applies high requirements to new products. For that reason today we do not just sell our machines to customers: we offer a range of services, which includes commissioning of the machines, training of local staff, organization of after-sales maintenance service at the customer's site. The main challenge for us today when working in Africa is the need to find a local partner who has qualified staff, equipment, maintenance facilities and not bound by contracts with other manufacturers of similar machines.

Q:What kind of business perceptions and approach could be considered as impediments or stumbling blocks to business between Russia and Africa=

A:Another challenge for us when working in Africa is that many consumers have no free funds to purchase new machines. This often diverts our partner from the renewal of the fleet or makes them buy used machines on the after-market. We are trying to solve this problem by attracting Russian government agencies of export support, such as the Russian Export Center, in order to finance transactions.

Q:Business needs vital information, knowledge about the investment climate and so forth. Do you think that there has been an information vacuum or gap between the two regions=

A:Taking into account the level of development of information technology today there are no particular problems in obtaining information about the investment level of any country or about business situation of a particular company. Besides that, we are in constant contact with Trade missions at the Embassies of the Russian Federation in the countries of our interest, which are also a good source of information about the conditions of the market.

Q:And now how would you envisage the level of investment and business engagement with Africa=Is Sochi an opportunity for expanding business to Africa=

A:In my opinion the Economic Forum in Sochi was organized at the highest level. A lot of guests from Africa visited it. We held a number of meetings with companies that are new to us, and I hope that these will lead to long-term cooperation and geographic growth of supplies of CHETRA machines in Africa. Interview made by KesterKennKlomegah.

3 Liberian Mayors attend Global Parliamentary Submit

By Lewis S. Teh

The Mayors of Monrovia, Foya and Zwedru Cities have returned to Liberia after attending the 2019 ambitious Annual Summit of the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) in Durban, South-Africa.

Monrovia City Mayor and President of the Mayor Association of Liberia Jefferson T. Kojee, the Mayor of Foya City, Lofa County Cecelia T. Hallie and the Mayor of Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County Cecelia H. Jalo participated in a three-day Mayoral Conference held in South Africa.

Addressing a news conference Thursday, 14 November in Monrovia Mayor Kojee explained the trip to South Africa enabled them to join several Mayors from African, Asian, European and U.S. cities from 9 to the 11 of November to participate in the ambitious Annual Summit of the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) in Durban.

He said this year's conference focused on the most critical challenges that humankind faces in this decade, from migration and pandemic diseases to social inequality and urban security.

According to him, the Global Parliament of Mayors believes these critical challenges that humankind faces around the world must be solved in various cities.

It also believe that more than 50 percent of the world's population lives in cities, so it is inconceivable that national and international bodies decide on policy actions without the cities and their mayors present as equal partners in shaping global policy", says Mayor Kojee.

"This year's GPM Summit focused on 'Empowering Cities for the 2020s, a decade of change: shaping multi-level governance on a global scale", he says and adds the Global Parliament of Mayors also offers a complementary governance approach to the current nation states system.

Kojee continues he along with Mayors Hallie and Jalo from Liberia were able to joined forces with their colleagues around the world to formulate progressive and

achievable resolutions to tackle critical issues confronting cities globally.

The Monrovia Mayor, who is an executive member of the Global Parliament of Mayors and his colleagues from Foya and Zwedru cities respectively, expressed excitement about the summit.

Both Mayors Hallie and Jolod describe the summit as significant because it provides a platform for Mayors to deliberate on how cities can be better equipped to deal with issues of rapid urbanization, climate change and related issues.

According to them, working with other global mayors in an effort to promote efficiency in the delivery of services to citizens was rewarding.

They also noted that the Summit was intended to ensure a clear, united message to amplify city voices in support of the 2030 Agenda for the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 65 mayors including the Mayors from Beira (Mozambique), Braga (Portugal), Bristol (UK), Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), Cape Town (South Africa), Dayton (USA), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Hebron (Palestine), Kampala (Uganda), Kingston (Jamaica), Lubumbashi (Congo), Mannheim (Germany), Monrovia (Liberia), Montpellier (France), The Hague (the Netherlands) and Vyas (Nepal) participated in the Submit.

Mayor Kojee who is also chairperson on Health of the Global Parliament of Mayors has promised to continuously serve as a bridge for many more opportunities that can benefit Liberia.

He discloses that several Mayors from developing countries around the world expressed optimism to work with cities in Liberia, including Monrovia, Foyah and Zwedru, respectively.

The GPM is a unique governance body of mayors from all continents. It functions as a parliament and brings cities to the world fore, while uniting aligning and amplifying voices of mayors in global strategy debates with nation states and international organization such as the U.N. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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PYJ, Boley, Koiwood ordered to report

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Three retired soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) including Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of the disbanded Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL), Grand Gedeh County Representative George S. Boley (decommissioned Mayor) of the defunct Liberia Peace Council (LPC), and Representative (retire Private) Alfred G. Koiwood of Gbarpolu County have been mandated to report for general muster or risks forfeiting their pension benefits.

Addressing a brief news conference at the offices of the ex-soldiers on Carey Street in Monrovia Thursday, Retired Capt. Jerry K. Kollie discloses that the three legislators are recipients of government monthly pension benefit, so they must report for muster in accordance with the general principles of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Despite an appeal Wednesday by the Minister of



gettyimages
Patrick Robert



State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill to ex-soldiers to call off a planned muster, disbanded soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) are resolute in converging for a general muster today, Friday, 15 November. Kollie says the leadership of the ex-soldiers would communicate with the relevant agency responsible to pay pensioners from the

disbanded army to drop names of those who will not turn out for the general muster scheduled to be held simultaneously at the Slipway football field in Slipway community, D. Twe High football field in New Kru Town, and Fiamah football field in Sinkor, Monrovia, respectively.

The pronouncement of the ex-servicemen has created

panic among Monrovia residents, amid serious economic crisis and a planned December protest by group of Liberians to ask President Weah to step down.

The group that stage the June 07, 2019 protest in Monrovia, Council of Patriots or COP says it would return to the streets on December 30th, this time around, to ask President Weah to resign due to his ineptitude to govern the country.

Retired Capt. Kollie, Co-chairman for Administration of the demobilized soldiers warns that retired soldiers, who will not appear for the general muster, will have their names delisted from the pension scheme.

He notes that such individuals would no longer receive money from the Government of Liberia (GOL) as they wouldn't be accounted for by the general muster, which mandates all former soldiers to do so in keeping with the ethics of the military.

He says they were shocked and dismayed over negative utterances against disbanded soldiers by Retired Private Alfred G. Koiwood, now Representative of Gbarpolu County, who trooped hundreds of former soldiers to Gbarpolu to have him elected.

Captain Kollie claims 15,000 soldiers were unconstitutionally retired from the Armed Forces of Liberia in violation of the Accra Peace Accord brokered in 2003, which calls for a restructure of the AFL rather

than complete dissolution but was allegedly ignored by former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

He further confirms a meeting with the Minister of State of Presidential Affairs and Acting President of Liberia Nathaniel McGill which was geared towards reaching an amicably resolution of the ex-soldiers benefit.

He clarifies during Wednesday's meeting with Minister McGill, the ex-soldiers' representative, Retired Major Alexander Giord did not receive any money from the government, contrary to speculations in some quarters, assuring that as leaders of the ex-soldiers, they will never do anything that will compromise the dignity of the former servicemen.

Retired Capt. Kollie confirms they were asked by the Minister to restrict the general muster to a day to enable them present the official listing from the exercise to the Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) President George M. Weah, who is currently in France, upon his return to the country.

He terms as complete disinformation rumors the ex-soldiers are meeting to overthrow the government, which he dismisses as erroneous and baseless.

Kollie says the leadership of the ex-soldiers would communicate with the relevant agency responsible to pay pensioners from the disbanded army to drop names of those who will not turn out for the general muster scheduled to be held simultaneously at Slipway football field, D. Twe High football field, and the Fiahman football field, respectively.

He appeals to all ex-soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia to show up for the muster and be recorded to establish now how many ex-soldiers are still alive or dead since the disbandment of the army.

Meanwhile, Captain Kollie reveals that during the muster, Minister McGill is expected to deliver a special message from Commander-In-Chief, President George M. Weah, to the ex-soldiers. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

CDC stole my idea

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Increasing public criticisms against the governing Coalition for Democratic Change and its standard bearer, President George Manneh Weah about being inept and bankrupt of ideas and leadership strategies come to light here with the leader of a key opposition party accusing the CDC of intellectual theft.

Former corporate executive and political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress, Mr. Alexander Cummings discloses that the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change stole his idea during campaigns for the 2017 Presidential and Representatives elections.

Addressing the official opening of the Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit 2019 at a local hotel in Monrovia, Mr. Cummings, who is also Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Cummings Africa Foundation, claims the phrase "Liberians will not be spectators to their own economy" that was inserted in President George Manneh Weah's inauguration speech in January 2018 is his (Cummings') intellectual property.

According to the ANC leader, the phrase was stolen from him and grossly used by the CDC flagbearer in his inaugural address without any attribution or courtesy to him, as original author of the expression.

Commenting on the national budget, he says for Liberia to move forward, the national budget should be increased to at least US\$2 Billion with emphasis on agriculture.

The House of Representatives on October 1, 2019, passed the national budget at US\$526 million, nearly US\$7 million less of the US\$532.9 million submitted by the Executive for scrutiny.

Despite the approved projection, the administration is unable to pay monthly salary due to a bloated wage bill created by staffing the workforce with partisans and loyalists in clear disregard for competence and professionalism.

Mr. Cummings notes that Liberia faces several national challenges, including failed education, health, infrastructure, unemployment and lack of professionals and trained workforce.

He suggests that to increase the national budget from US\$500 million plus, government should prioritize the agriculture sector, pointing that Nigeria generates about US\$13 billion from cassava production, while Ivory Coast nets about US\$2 billion, and Ghana generates US\$8 billion annually, but Liberia, endowed with rain forest is yet to direct its attention to the agro sector.

The ANC political leader further emphasizes the Government of Liberia should

now start to add value to the country's agricultural products and develop mechanisms that would increase monetary value of locally-produced crops.

A former executive of Coca Cola Africa, he says the private sector should be driving force of the economy of the state, but regrettably, in Liberia, government is the biggest employer, which is negatively impacting the budget.

Mr. Cummings has a long history of philanthropy globally and supporting his native Liberia, including funding water projects and providing scholarships. He has contributed to various educational programs such as funding the African Methodist Episcopal University's Innovation Center, named in his honor.

He vied for the Presidency in 2017 but lost. Notwithstanding, the ANC is currently member of four collaborating opposition political parties, which include the former ruling Unity Party head by former Vice President Joseph Boakia, the All Liberian Party of businessman Benoni Urey and the Liberty Party of Lawyer Charles Walker Brumskine.

During the 2017 campaign, he mingled with ordinary citizens across the country toured the congested Monrovia neighborhood of West Point with his wife, Theresa. West Point was a hotbed for the Ebola outbreak in 2014.

In 2011, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf conferred

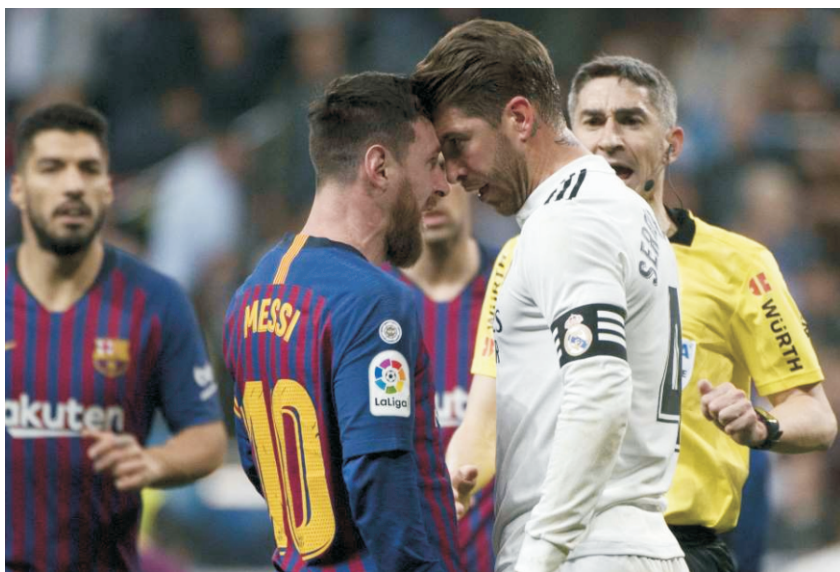
on Mr. Cummings the distinction of Knight Great Band - Humane Order of African Redemption; the medal is one of the highest honors in Liberia, which is awarded for humanitarian work.

During his stay with Coca-

Cola Africa before coming to Liberian politics, he oversaw the creation of the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation in response to the growth and impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Barca v R.Madrid: LaLiga confirms December 18 Clasico



La Liga have confirmed that the first Clásico of the 2019/20 season between Barcelona and Real Madrid will go ahead at Camp Nou at 8pm (CET) on Wednesday 18 December.

The original fixture was postponed over fears it could become engulfed in planned protests in the city relating to the sentencing of prominent figures in the Catalan separatist movement, but there was much debate over when it should be rearranged.

However, there is now a total agreement and no more reason for delay in the decision. A number of dates in December were up for consideration, with the various parties involved seemingly favouring different ones. There was even talk of a legal challenge from La Liga when 18 December was confirmed by the Spanish Federation's competitions committee last month.

That midweek date clashes with the first round of the Copa del Rey, which Barça and

Real are not involved in, and threatened to affect the global audience for the fixture given that it will be played in the middle of the night in the huge Asian market.

Yet a weekend date earlier in December would have involved postponing and rearranging other La Liga fixtures for both clubs. Wednesday 4 December was another midweek date considered.

After 12 games of 2019/20 played, Barça and Real are level on points at the top of La Liga, with the reigning champions in first place by virtue of having a marginally superior goal difference. Both are one point clear of Atletico Madrid and Sevilla in third and fourth respectively.

The reverse Clásico fixture at the Bernabeu later in the season is currently scheduled for the weekend of 29 February/1 March 2020 and could have title race implications.

Barça have won La Liga in eight of the last 11 seasons, with Real collecting only two titles during that time.

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Suarez encourages Barcelona to sign new striker

Luis Suarez welcomed Barcelona's search for a new striker despite the threat it could bring to his starting spot.

LaLiga leaders Barca have been linked to Lautaro Martinez, Erling Haaland and Carlos Vela as they seek to strengthen Ernesto Valverde's attacking options.

The club failed to bring Neymar back from Paris Saint-Germain during the close season, leaving the



squad light on competition for natural centre-forward Suarez.

The 32-year-old has scored six goals in eight LaLiga starts this season but knows he will not always be able to perform at the highest level.

"There will come a time when my age will not allow me to live up to what Barcelona needs to compete," Suarez told Uruguayan publication Ovation.

"But as long as I can, as long as I have the strength, giving me

competition is much better.

"That they are looking for or want to bring another number nine is nothing strange, it is the reality of football.

"It will be better for me and better for the club, because it will feed competition, and it will be better for the future because the club can prepare a player with the help of all the great players at Barcelona."

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