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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

**Hint...**

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

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PRICE LD\$40.00

# Economic lie!



Rep. Francis Dopoe

**-Lawmaker trashes call to print money for salaries payment**



**P11**

# 200 AIDS patients flee treatment center

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# Continental News

## I will reform at my pace: ED

**P**RESIDENT Emmerson Mnangagwa yesterday declared that he will implement political and economic reforms at his own pace, and insisted that the impetus for change and reform comes from within.

In a statement reflecting on his two-year rule after taking over power at the back of a coup that toppled long-time ruler, the late Robert Mugabe in November 2017, Mnangagwa said the sanctions being used by the West as a tool to demand reforms, were not achieving their desired effect.

Mnangagwa's statement came at a time the European Union and United States of America were insisting on reforms as a precondition for the removal of economic sanctions imposed on the country two decades ago over gross human rights abuses by Mugabe's administration. The Zanu PF leader, who released the statement after leaving the country for the United Arab Emirates for an economic forum, said his government had tried to make reforms in line with the demands of the international community, and

will continue to do so, not as a result of pressure from sanctions, but for the good of the country.

"These have been key demands of the international community, and should be interpreted as a sign of our commitment to reform," Mnangagwa said.

"Yet the impetus for change and reform comes from within. We are not reforming to

appease the nations of the world, but because reform is necessary to build the future our people desire. Of course, there is still much work to do, but we are heading in the right direction."

He added: "If the goal of sanctions is to stimulate the reform process, their effect is the opposite. They slow down our progress, inhibit our economic recovery and

empower those who do not wish to see Zimbabwe change. Their removal will, therefore, be an important step on the road to a better future for all the people of this country." When Mnangagwa took over power, he claimed he was a reformist, promising to embark on a new political journey of reform and international engagement.

Insiders in his government, however, claim there are some hardliners stalling the reform process, warning him that he risked reforming himself out of power. Upon returning to Zimbabwe last week, EU ambassador Timo Olkkonen raised the ire of Zanu PF supporters, when he said the putting up of expensive billboards to denounce non-existent sanctions was disingenuous.

"Good to return to Harare after a busy week in Brussels. Heard about these billboards (how much do they cost?) on all major airport roads, but

hadn't seen one due to having had few flights recently. Seems there still are things that need to be clarified," Olkkonen said.

The EU and the US have insisted that Zimbabwe has been hurt more by corruption than the sanctions, calling on government to deal with the scourge instead of hiding behind a finger.

For the sanctions to be lifted, the West has been demanding legislative, political and electoral reforms, including bringing to book members of the army and police involved in the brutal killings of innocent civilians during the post-election demonstration on August 1, 2018 and the January 14 to 16 demonstrations which left a combined 23 civilians dead.

In his statement, Mnangagwa, however, was silent about the killings and the closure of the democratic space, which has seen the opposition being denied their rights to take to the streets through a brutal crackdown by the police.

Instead, he claimed that his presidency had opened up democratic space and done away with the old Mugabe ways. AFP



## A million faulty condoms recalled in Uganda

**A** leading charity, Marie Stopes, says it has recalled more than a million condoms distributed in Uganda following concerns about their safe use.

Tests had found some of the Indian-manufactured Life Guard brand contained holes

or risked bursting, Uganda's National Drug Authority (NDA) said.

Marie Stopes provides contraception and family planning services in more than 35 countries.

Nearly 6% of adults in Uganda live with HIV, the UN says.

Other research suggests that only 11% of people in the country have planned pregnancies. Marie Stopes supplies between 1.5 million and two million condoms to Uganda every month.

"We can confirm this is the first time that one of our country programmes has needed to issue this kind of recall," it said in a statement to the BBC.

The recall came after the NDA wrote to the charity on 30 October, saying two batches of Life Guard condoms failed to comply with "quality tests".

Marie Stopes said it was working with the NDA to "urgently investigate what happened with these batches and ensure our products continue to meet the high standard of quality".

"We can confirm that the two batches we are recalling contained around 335,000 condom packs - just over 1 million individual condoms. We have recovered more than half of those," it added. BBC



Marie Stopes says it is investigating what went wrong with the condoms

## Prosecutor dies after gun goes off in SA court



**There are more than five million firearms in South Africa according to a weapons watchdog**

**A** lawyer has died after she was hit by a bullet when a gun, which was being used in court as evidence, went off by accident in KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, police say.

Adelaide Ferreira-Watt succumbed to her wounds just hours after the bullet from the shotgun hit her in the hip.

The gun went off as it was

being presented to the court as evidence in a house robbery case.

Police say they are investigating Ms Ferreira-Watt's death as a case of manslaughter.

They will also look into why the gun was loaded and whether appropriate steps had been taken to ensure the gun was safe to carry in a public space. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Hailing the Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit

THE CUMMINGS AFRICA Foundation over the weekend, hosted over 100 local entrepreneurs under the Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit, targeting selected Liberian-owned businesses as participants.

THE TWO DAYS Summit in Monrovia provided an avenue to expose young Liberian entrepreneurs to deeper business managerial skills and create empowerment opportunities, focusing on Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that look forward to moving to the next level.

OWNED BY FORMER corporate executive and opposition politician, Alexander B. Cummings, the Cummings Africa Foundation has initiated an endeavor that would enable Liberian entrepreneurs to have a say in their own economy thru nonstop education, inspiration and motivation.

WE BELIEVE THIS is where focus of the Liberian society should be - a strong desire for entrepreneurial skills and courage to venture into business. The timing for the Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit couldn't have been any better than now when the economy has nose-dived.

WE ENCOURAGE THE Cummings Africa Foundation to conduct more of such summits in the country to build and maintain in Liberians particularly, the youth an entrepreneurial spirit that would turn their attention away from seeking government jobs as the only hope for their future.

IF OUR ECONOMY should wake up from its current slumber, the private sector should take the lead thru SMEs, particularly Liberian-owned businesses. No economy has developed exclusively by government spending, though the public sector serves as a stimulus.

HOWEVER, IT IS the private sector that holds a very big chunk of the economy on which government heavily relies for taxes to run the affairs of state.

AS A FORMER executive of Coca Cola Africa, Mr. Cummings has wealth of experience and expertise that both ordinary Liberians and the government itself could tap from. And has made himself available, politics aside.

WE URGE EVERY well-meaning and business-conscious Liberians to take advantage of the opportunity brought about by the Cummings Foundation to emancipate ourselves from the shackles of poverty, dependency and lack. No outsider will do it for us.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING session, Mr. Cummings disclosed that contestants in a business ideas competition from the Summit stand a chance to win up to US\$10,000 and US\$5,000 investment capital thru grants, respectively.

THIS IS A once in a life time opportunity that no business-minded Liberian should afford to miss, as it could well be the start of a journey that could take you to the top, and the Liberia Entrepreneurship Summit, thru the Cummings Africa Foundation should be lauded for availing the opportunity.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

Par Kent Harrington

## The Decline and Fall of William Barr

*There can no longer be any hope that US Attorney General William Barr will approach his job as the country's top law-enforcement official, rather than as US President Donald Trump's personal defense lawyer. Barr has now made clear that he will do whatever it takes to legitimize Trump's hare-brained "deep state" theory.*

ATLANTA - US law-enforcement officials are no strangers to politically motivated investigations. From Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer's infamous "Red Raids" in 1919-20 to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's pursuit of the Berrigan brothers and other nonviolent activists in the 1960s, political prosecutions are as American as apple pie.

The Department of Justice under President Donald Trump appears to be continuing the tradition. No one is surprised that Trump himself is deploying every Orwellian device at his disposal to thwart the current impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives. But it has been tragic to witness Attorney General William Barr following suit by launching investigations into career national-security officials just for doing their jobs.

Owing to his paranoid obsession with a mythical "deep state," Trump has long singled out FBI agents and CIA officers in his public attacks. It is these professionals, after all, who uncovered Russia's operation to assist his presidential campaign in 2016, as outlined in the Mueller Report. But now, Barr, too, has decided to advance the "deep state" fiction on Trump's behalf. Demonstrating an unprecedented level of involvement by an attorney general, Barr has traveled to both Rome and London, reportedly to question Italian and British officials in person about the origins of the Russia investigation.

Barr's actions raise the question whether he is acting as the nation's top law-enforcement official, or as Trump's own defense lawyer. In a phone call with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Trump asked the Australians to assist Barr in his efforts. The blatant political message is impossible to miss. Existing treaties establish clear procedures for law-enforcement cooperation and intelligence sharing (through far more secure and discreet channels). If a US attorney general or US prosecutor needs an ally's assistance in the course of a legitimate investigation, they can simply ask for it themselves.

Moreover, it is no secret that Barr is trying to legitimize Trump's "deep state" fantasy. He has said as much himself. Last May, he described the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into Russian election interference as "spying" on the Trump campaign. When asked about his Trump-like choice of words, Barr resorted to conspiracy theory, suggesting that a "Praetorian Guard" within the US intelligence community may have had designs to influence US elections. Their threat to the republic, he said, was as great as Russian cyberattacks.

Barr is currently reviewing a Justice Department Inspector General (IG) report on whether the FBI misled the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court in order to target Trump's 2016 campaign. And the probe into the Russia investigation, now formally in the hands of John Durham, the US Attorney for the District of Connecticut, has apparently become a formal criminal inquiry.

Durham's investigation will all but certainly have a chilling effect on the US intelligence and law-enforcement communities. Already, Department of Justice investigators have reportedly sought to question CIA analysts about their work uncovering Russian interference on Trump's behalf in 2016, even though both the Mueller Report and the intelligence community's 17 agencies have unanimously confirmed that finding. Needless to say, having criminal prosecutors second-guess intelligence analysts' judgment is not a very good way to

encourage independent fact-finding, including into Russia's ongoing efforts to interfere in US elections. For Trump, who still denies Russia's interference in 2016 and derides the intelligence community's work, perhaps that is precisely the point.

National-security professionals should be particularly on guard for whatever is coming next. The office of the Justice Department Inspector General initially refused to accept written comments about its conclusions from those being questioned about the Russia probe, even though that is the standard procedure for ensuring that statements are accurate and thorough. Following public criticism, it has since said that it will accept written feedback. Reversal or not, the effort to prohibit comments in writing obviously raises concerns that the final report will attempt to politicize the underlying facts.

Worse, Barr is planning to release the report in coordination with Trump's allies in Congress, where Republicans are eager for ammunition to deflect attention from the impeachment proceedings. It is worth remembering that in March, just before the release of the full Mueller Report, Barr issued a four-page summary of that 450-page document that was widely criticized as misleading, including by Mueller himself. After consulting with Barr, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a vocal Trump sycophant, has suggested that the IG's report will include stunning revelations of abuses of a system that has gone "off the rails."

In his warning about an American "Praetorian Guard," Barr condemned those who "identify the national interest with their own political preferences and ... feel that anyone who has a different opinion, you know, is somehow an enemy of the state." Following Trump's example, his language was clearly an attack on the senior officials who oversaw the counterintelligence investigation into Russia's election interference: former FBI Director James Comey, former CIA Director John Brennan, and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper.

Time will tell whether Barr's investigation of the investigators turns up anything of substance. His portentous hints of a deep-state conspiracy have left Trump stalwarts giddily awaiting the release of the IG report. In any event, congressional Republicans have now taken to maligning the career military officers and diplomats who have come before them in the impeachment hearings. At this point, they aren't likely to change their tune. The question is whether Barr will change his.

Last May, Jan Crawford of CBS asked Barr if he worried that his service to Trump might damage his reputation. "Everyone dies," he said. "I don't believe in the Homeric idea that ... immortality comes by ... having odes sung about you over the centuries." Perhaps that response is the best one can hope to hear from an attorney general who is comfortable peddling conspiracy theories to justify otherwise dubious investigations that please his boss.

As for how Barr may be viewed in the fullness of time, there are historical parallels. The Soviet prosecutor Andrei Vyshinsky played a prominent role in the Nuremberg trials, held high academic posts, and became one of his country's top diplomats. But before that, he was the chief prosecutor in Stalin's murderous show trials. Today, that is the only thing for which he is remembered.

## O-PED

By Carlo Ratti

## Reversing the Death of Venice

**V**ENICE - Some of the worst flooding in Venice's history has submerged some of the historic city's renowned cultural sites, including St. Mark's Basilica on Piazza San Marco. This is only the sixth time the basilica has been flooded in 1,200 years, but the fourth time in the last two decades, and the second time in under 400 days. At this rate, Venice's fragile embroidery of calli, campi, and palazzi, draped over sinking sediment, could be washed away within decades. But what about the people who populate them?

Ancient Romans used two words to describe cities: *urbs*, which referred to the edifices and infrastructure, and *civitas*, or an active and engaged citizenry. Today, the world is fretting over Venice's soaked and damaged *urbs*, which is, to be sure, extremely vulnerable even to minor sea-level rises, like those brought about by climate change. But it has largely failed to recognize the extent to which the Venetian *civitas* is unraveling.

Venice's population has been shrinking for decades. Today, there are just one-third as many Venetians as 50 years ago. But that decline is merely a symptom of a rapidly worsening disease: the reckless promotion of large-scale tourism and lack of investment in human capital.

Had Venice's political leaders not begun to shift resources away from higher education and innovation in the 1980s, Venice could have emerged by now as a kind of Cambridge on the Adriatic. But tourism was viewed as a much faster route to growth. So, with the government's help, the number of visitors steadily climbed: in 2017, the city of 260,000 received more than 36 million foreign tourists.

As Venetians have fled the hordes, Venice's civil society has deteriorated and political torpor has become entrenched. Municipal leaders prefer to complain about the city's weaknesses, rather than taking effective action to address them. And Italy's national government has consistently failed to use its authority in the city constructively. These trends contributed to the inadequate environmental surveillance that left the *urbs* so exposed.

Yes, Venice is engaged in a €5.5 billion (\$6 billion) flood-barrier project, called Modulo Sperimentale Elettromeccanico (MOSE). But the project, launched in 1984 - when Venice was already sinking - and inaugurated in 2003, was supposed to be completed in 2011. It remains unfinished. Even if MOSE is finished by its current deadline in 2021, neither it nor any other construction project would be enough to protect Venice. While infrastructure investment is obviously critical - especially to adapt to climate change - Venice must look beyond the *urbs* to restore the *civitas* if it is to avoid the demise that many are predicting.

The first step is to remove Venice from the jurisdiction of the Italian government, whose consistent failures have driven the city's decline in recent decades. This is not some parochial demand for the revival of the Republic of San Marco. It is a call for a new type of outward-looking political construct: an "open city" that welcomes anyone who genuinely wants to settle there as a full-fledged citizen, not as participants in what the American novelist Don DeLillo called tourism's "march of stupidity."

This new, open Serenissima (as the medieval Venetian Republic was called) would work specifically to attract a capable and engaged *civitas* that is prepared to help protect and rebuild the *urbs*. This would include innovators with credible business plans (and their financial backers), engineers researching climate-change adaptation, professionals such as doctors or lawyers, and students willing to dedicate a few years to helping restore the Venetian Lagoon's magnificent palazzos. Venice would thus become a testing ground for an innovative urban model based on a new social contract suited to what the sociologist Manuel Castells called a global "space of flows."

This may seem like a radical proposal, but it is not without precedent. In the mid-fourteenth century, Venice's population plummeted by 60%, owing to outbreaks of bubonic plague. The city opened itself up to foreigners, offering citizenship to anyone who planned to remain for the long term. Newcomers needed only to embrace the key characteristics of "Venetianess," including the desire to work. There is no reason why a similar strategy cannot work today.

In fact, thanks to digital tools, it would be easier than ever to measure civic engagement, from time spent in the city - many properties in Venice are owned by non-residents and used only a few days per year - to concrete contributions, which could become a source of social-media pride. A hefty tax on non-resident property owners - who are generally extremely wealthy - would also help support the local community.

As sea levels rise and Venice sinks, the city must take strong action to restore and protect its *urbs*. But such efforts will mean little without a prosperous and engaged *civitas*. To save Venice, we must first save the Venetians - above all from themselves.

## OPINION

By Rim Dhaouadi

## Crime and Excessive Punishment in Tunisia

**T**UNIS - Since the 2010-2011 Tunisian revolution, reformers have increasingly focused on the need to "humanize" the country's criminal justice system and make it more consistent with the new Constitution. As a result of pressure from civil society, successive governments have started to adopt important reforms in recent years, including a 2016 law protecting suspects' elementary rights during custody. Moreover, policymakers are currently reviewing the country's criminal law and criminal procedure codes.

Yet, the Tunisian justice system is still overly repressive - both in terms of the provisions of criminal laws (whether embedded in the criminal code or scattered across specific statutes), and the way they are implemented. Legislators should therefore seek to permit more flexibility and give courts greater discretion over sentencing, including by allowing them to choose alternatives to prison terms.

Today, Tunisia's criminal legislation still frequently prescribes mandatory minimum sentences, excludes mitigating circumstances, and limits judges' discretionary powers. This has had several strikingly negative consequences, including judicial overload and severe social problems.

Two examples help to illustrate the system's severity and rigidity. First, the Tunisian law on non-sufficient funds (NSF) checks previously mandated a flat, consecutive prison sentence of five years per check. Because judges had no discretion over sentencing, this often resulted in sentences of several decades, some so long that they could not be served in a single lifetime. Moreover, most of those convicted were not con artists or swindlers: after all, everyday commercial relationships rely heavily on deferred and installment payments, and credits and debts.

Besides inducing over-caution and mistrust among businesses, draconian penalties caused Tunisia's prison population to soar. And many Tunisians whose jail sentences exceeded their life expectancy fled the country, mainly to Algeria and Libya.

Eventually, a 2007 amendment to Tunisia's commercial code introduced a number of provisions to alleviate the problem. One of these extended the deadline for defendants to pay checks until just before their sentencing, in which case the charges would be dropped. In addition, judges could now use their discretionary prerogatives to take mitigating circumstances into account and/or impose concurrent sentences. Nowadays, an NSF check is no longer the life-changing disaster it was before 2007.

The second example is still relevant and relates to marijuana consumption, which under a 1992 law was punishable by a flat mandatory minimum one-year prison sentence and a TND1,000 (\$347) fine. At the time, TND1,000 was also the price of a used Vespa, the lightweight Italian scooter that is extremely popular among Tunisian youth. "A year and a Vespa" became a slang term for being convicted for smoking pot.

Courts have applied this law strictly and indiscriminately, because it explicitly excluded any mitigating circumstances. As a result, people convicted of marijuana use accounted for an estimated 30% of Tunisia's prison population at the end of 2016.

Like Tunisia's law on NSF checks, the repressive marijuana legislation caused real social distress. Because the vast majority of marijuana users are young people, many high-school and first-year college students were convicted. A prison sentence seriously damaged their academic and professional futures - often irreparably, because it barred them from entering several professions. And the stigma of imprisonment often compounded the difficulty of their lives after release.

At long last, and after numerous civil-society campaigns, the law was amended in 2017 to allow judges to apply mitigating circumstances at their discretion. This minor relaxation gives some hope to occasional marijuana users, although outcomes remain contingent on the courts applying it.

These two examples point to a broader problem with Tunisia's criminal justice system. In the civil law tradition, criminal law judges have limited leeway because they must interpret statutes narrowly. But the Tunisian justice system seems to favor substantive provisions over procedures, especially where the rights of defendants are concerned. Whereas substantive laws tend to be strictly observed, violations of due process, especially in the pre-trial phase, seem to be taken less seriously.

In fact, suspects sometimes seem to be dehumanized in the eyes of Tunisia's criminal justice system. In some cases, judges tolerate police misconduct, violations of defendants' rights, or procedural flaws, instead of pushing the police and investigators to respect due process.

This de facto hierarchy, in which laws relating to criminal proceedings rank below substantive laws, has no basis in legislation, precedent, or legal doctrine. In fact, judges must interpret procedural provisions even more narrowly than substantive laws, and have virtually no room for discretion - suggesting that procedural rules are, if anything, more important.

It would almost appear that these excessively strict criminal laws reflect a collective presumption of guilt. And yet, long prison sentences do not serve their primary purpose of deterrence. This is evident in the growing number of drug users, and in the general increase in both petty and organized crime during the last decade.

Thus, in addition to fueling social crises, Tunisia's repressive laws and vertical approach are clearly inefficient and not suited to the new democratic and free climate in the country. The clash between, on the one hand, a young society thirsty for freedom and democracy, and on the other, restrictive, excessively punitive laws, can have disastrous future consequences for the democratic process. The modest reforms implemented in recent years don't go nearly far enough. To humanize Tunisian criminal justice, more thoughtful approaches will be needed.

# OPINION

By Huw Van Steenis

## The Digital Money Revolution

**L**ONDON - 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 average 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.



### 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.
- 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.

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

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

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Liberia submits accession protocols**

The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has received, acknowledged and admitted Liberia through the presentation of two instruments of accession.

States as well as the instrument of accession by Liberia to the Convention on Technical and Vocational (TVET).

Receiving the instruments from Liberia's Education Minister Professor D. Ansu

Madam Azoulay said the submission of the two instruments demonstrates Liberia's commitment to UNESCO goals and mission and further strengthen the relationships between Liberia and the organization.

Since 1981, this submission is Liberia's first and it signifies a new birth and new dynamism to the importance of Higher Education and TVET training that Liberia wishes to promote in the coming years and beyond.

The program was held on the sidelines of the ongoing 40th General Conference of UNESCO taking place at the organization's headquarters in Paris, France.

Liberia accession documents were presented alongside other countries, including Guinea, Morocco, Cameroon and others.

Youth and Sports Minister Zeogar Wilson, Liberia's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Mrs. Geraldine Bass-Goloke, Assistant Education Minister Dominic Kweme, the Head of the UNESCO Liberia Office Sam Hare and his Deputy Cston Harris and other members of the Liberian Delegation attended the ceremony. -press



The two accession documents are the Regional Convention on the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas, degrees and other academic qualifications in Higher Education in the African

Sonii, the Director General of UNESCO Madam Audrey Azoulay thanked Liberia for the submission of the two accession instruments and pledged UNESCO unflinching support to programs in Higher Education and TVET in Liberia.

**WASH Sector promises to end open defecation 2025**

Minister of Public Works and Board Chair of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) has reaffirmed the Government's commitment in ending open defecation in the country.

Speaking at the commemoration of World Toilet Day, Minister Nyenpan says there is an urgent need to tackle open defecation to save lives.

In 2013, the United Nations adopted the day and passed a resolution recognizing November 19 as an official UN

year's World Toilet Day will be celebrated across the globe.

The program was supported by Oxfam in Liberia, UNICEF, National Public Health Institute (NPHIL), WaterAid, and Concern World Wide, among others.

Johnathan Kaipay, Senate Chair on WASH says it's time that officials of government develop political will to increase budgetary support to end open defecation.

Also speaking, Vivian Mussah, program Manager of Future Leader Toilet Solution, Liberian owned, recommends



**Lecturer recommends single currency legislation**

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A lecturer at Cuttington University in Bong County, David M. Kolleh has called on the 54th Legislature to consider the passing into law the adoption of a single currency here, specifically the Liberian Dollar, before the printing of any new money.

"I strongly believe that if we have single currency here before printing new money, it will be fine for our economy because we will no longer experience too [much] infliction," he told a press conference in Bong County.

Mr. Kolleh notes that the devaluation of the Liberian currency has brought untold suffering to all Liberians, especially those who cannot afford.

Mr. Kolleh emphasizes the need for urgent government steps to be taken to tackle the situation here.

The Cuttington University

lecturer says calls for the printing of new money is a giant step forward that the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government should implement without delay. Mr. Kolleh warns that any attempt to ignore his

suggestion and go ahead with the printing of new money will further increase the already unstable economic situation in the Country.

The Cuttington University lecturer feels any hasty printing of new money will lead to an unending economic crisis in the Country. --Edited by Winston W. Parley



international day.

Mr. Nyenpan says the government has been working immensely to build conducive toilet facilities in all communities.

Every year, the day is celebrated with a unique theme. This year, the theme for the day is "Leaving No One Behind" with a message that 'a toilet is not just a toilet. It's a life-saver, dignity-protector and opportunity-maker. Whoever you are, wherever you are, sanitation is your human right.'

According to the United Nations, around the globe, 4.2 billion people live without safely managed sanitation today. With the target to give access to safe sanitation, leaving no one behind, this

the usage of biofiltration toilet system.

She says the institution is working with schools and government to tackle open defecation by using the system.

For his part, Mohammed Massaley, WASH program head, Oxfam in Liberia reaffirms the organization's commitment to support the WASH commission in ending open defecation.

For Bobby Whitfield, head of the National WASH commission announces that a campaign to end open defecation is on the way.

He stresses the need for more budgetary and donor support to the sector. --Press release

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Liberia is a great business destination

### -Weah Excites Trade Gurus

President George Manneh Weah has been marketing Liberia's rich investment climate and wooing some of the world's major investors to take advantage of his administration's patronizing policies.

According to an Executive Mansion release issued 18 November, President is in Dubai in the Middle East, having come from France in Europe.

Speaking to an assembly of international investors, entrepreneurs and governments Monday, November 18, 2019, President Weah noted that his administration has re-worked Liberia's trade and commerce ecosystem, making it ideal and perfect for serious investment.

He unveiled Liberia's vast natural resources, including timber, iron ores, rubber, gold, diamonds, fertile soil and favorable climatic

conditions, which he said are underpinned by his government's anti-graft policy and zero tolerance for corruption.

"You will certainly not regret investing in Liberia," the President told the pensive

audience. "My Government is fair and honest, and my people are hospitable and loving."

In conversation with CNN's Africa Correspondent, Eleni Giokos, who moderated President Weah's presentation, he spoke of improved conditions and policies for visa issuance which is done either on arrival or

online, government's anti-graft, and cordiality as his government's way of attracting meaningful investors to Liberia.

He said further: "I am honest and so is my government. Many of you here today are witnesses to my sincerity. During my soccer career, I didn't cheat or dive to win a penalty like many do; yet, I became the best player in the world. This same honesty I bring to politics and governance."

President Weah urged the audience to ask those currently doing businesses in Liberia to verify his claim of the current business climate under his leadership.

"My goal is to help the people of Liberia live in peace and have better life. With my team of cabinet ministers, and our counterparts in the Judiciary and Legislature, we are committed to achieving this," the President said.

He added that Liberia and Africa need sincere investors—investors who, he said, will not defraud the people of Liberia in taxes and will "not swindle our government; investors who are true and honest partners."

President Weah told the forum to pay special attention to startups and the youth as they are the future of any cooperation.

Prior to the interactive forum with Correspondent Eleni Giokos, President Weah held a closed-door meeting with the President of Dubai and Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, H.H. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Later Monday, 18 November, 2019 President Weah will hold bilateral discussions with the President of United Arab Emirates who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Army, His Royal Highness Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.

The President is attending the Global Business Africa 2019 held under the theme "Scale Up Africa". It is being organized by Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

It aims to underline the important role of cross border

cooperation in supporting and accelerating Africa's next phase of sustainable economic growth and development.

According to Hamad Buamim, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Chamber since its inception, GBF Africa has served as a catalyst for UAE-Africa economic cooperation and business exchange.

"The 2019 edition will highlight new high-potential areas where African companies can collaborate with their UAE counterparts to create new business opportunities and capitalize on existing trade and investment potential", he noted.

Non-oil trade between Dubai-Africa has increased steadily in recent years, amounting to \$37.2 billion in 2018. The trend reflects the expanding trade ties and growing business confidence between the two regions.

Beyond high-level speakers and participants, GBF Africa 2019 offers a comprehensive program delving into key trends and technologies reshaping African economies, with interactive sessions and panel discussions putting a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, game-changing partnerships, success stories, opportunities and challenges.

Among the high-level dignitaries attending GBF Africa 2019 are George Weah, President of Liberia; Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of Zimbabwe, Danny Faure, President of Seychelles; and 18 ministers from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Senegal, Uganda, Malawi, Congo, Tanzania, Niger and Liberia. Also attending are senior public and private sector stakeholders from across Africa, including former heads of state, CEOs, entrepreneurs, industry experts and economists.

A fortnight ago, President Weah was in Paris advocating for investors to come to Liberia. He outlined and committed Liberia's readiness for business with the rest of the world as well as ensuring timely issuance of visas online or on arrival.--Press release



## GoL climaxes training for 38 personnel in macroeconomic research

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance with support from the African Development Bank (AFDB), climaxed three weeks of training last Friday, 15 November for 38 Senior Personnel from the Ministry of Education, Transport, Health, Central Bank, LISGIS, Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MDFP), the training which focused on Macroeconomic Research, Modeling and Report Writing was initiated by the Technical and Capacity Building

Assistance Project in the amount of US\$1.4 Million.

It is geared towards building the capacity of Economists and Analysts across Government spending entities and to enhance their respective roles to promote the development agenda of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development across the Country.

The MDFP release further notes that the Technical and Capacity Building Assistance Project has three components.

One of the components is to elaborate on the preparation of sectors strategies to support the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development of Government's medium term

economic paper.

The second is to support the Macroeconomic Planning and Analysis; and the third is on how to create an industrial zone like Agriculture, Mining or other businesses that are part of Government plan.

Speaking during the closing ceremony at Golden Keys Hotel in Paynesville City, African Development Bank Country Representative to Liberia, Dr. Orison M. Amu disclosed that capacity building in West African Countries is paramount to the bank's ongoing work with the African Capacity Building Foundation and other member countries.

The release also quotes the AFDB Representative as saying that he believes that "we will mobilize more resources in order to build capacity in West Africa."

He urges that participants should also use their skills to demonstrate what has been acquired over the past three weeks.

According to him, his organization is keen on promoting the goals of the bank and providing the opportunity for African Countries.

Mr. Amu stated that his expectation is for participants to acquire the full knowledge, make critical policy decisions, and motivate others in driving the development agenda of the PAPD to improve their productivity.

For his part, Finance



Ministry's Deputy Minister for Economic Management Augustus G. Flomo commends the African Development Bank for continued support to the Government in actualizing its development agenda through capacity building across the country.

According to Minister Flomo, capacity building is important to the growth and development of the economy, challenging participants from spending

entities to focus on exploring new ideas and knowledge - sharing.

He says when capacity is built, it must be used to enhance productivity.

He notes that the Ministry of Finance is excited for the level of support from the African Development Bank toward promoting the agenda through capacity building.--Press release

# Français

## L'opposition semble divisée sur l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque

Les députés issus de l'alliance des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition ont signé une résolution qui porte approbation de la demande du président George Manneh Weah pour imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque du dollar libérien qui devraient être mis en circulation avant la fin de l'année. Ces députés, par cette approbation, se mettent ainsi en porte-à-faux avec les consignes du comité exécutif de l'alliance.

Au cours d'une émission matinale sur une radio de la place à Monrovia, le lundi 18 novembre, le Représentant du district 17 du comté de Montserrado, Hassan Kiazolu, a déclaré que ses collègues législateurs issus de l'opposition ont déjà rédigé une résolution favorable à l'impression d'une nouvelle monnaie pour remplacer les billets de banque actuellement en circulation.

Le représentant Kiazolu, qui fut contrôleur général de la République du Libéria sous le régime de l'ancienne

présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a fait savoir que la résolution demande également au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement et à la Banque centrale du Libéria de travailler en étroite collaboration avec le parlement

pour faire en sorte qu'un dispositif optimal soit mis en place et des mesures de sécurité adéquates soient prises.

La semaine dernière, les principaux partis politiques de l'opposition réunis au sein d'une alliance politique, à savoir l'UP

(ancien parti au pouvoir), le parti de la Liberté, le Alternative National Congress et le All-Liberians Party (ALP), lors d'une réunion d'urgence présidée par le leader politique de l'ALP, Benoni Urey, avaient donné des consignes claires aux législateurs issus de l'opposition en leur demandant de ne pas approuver la demande d'impression d'une nouvelle monnaie. Mais ces consignes seraient venues très tardivement à en croire les législateurs qui ont informé les membres du comité exécutif qu'ils avaient déjà donné leur feu vert pour l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque.

Les membres du comité exécutif des quatre partis politiques demandent au régime Weah de rendre compte des 16 milliards de dollars libériens qui, selon les autorités, seraient à la Banque centrale et des 25 millions USD retirés des réserves nationales pour éponger les excès de liquidités. L'opposition exige également un audit pour faire la lumière sur la gestion de cet argent avant de procéder à l'impression de nouveaux billets.

Les partis de l'opposition avaient ainsi demandé à leurs législateurs de rejeter totalement l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque,

mais en vain car ces derniers auraient déjà donné leur accord. Selon eux, ils ne sont plus capables de faire marche arrière car le processus est allé trop loin.

Mais à leur consternation, les législateurs de l'opposition seraient favorables à l'impression d'une nouvelle monnaie pour le pays avant Noël. Toutefois, les dirigeants de l'opposition ont décidé de continuer à faire pression sur leurs législateurs car « l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque n'est pas la meilleure option face aux défis économiques auxquels le pays est confronté ».

Le gouvernement libérien, quant à lui, est sur le point d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque pour remplacer les billets actuels qui sont devenus rares sur le marché à la surprise de tout le monde. Les fonctionnaires et les législateurs n'ont pas été payés depuis trois mois en raison de manque de liquidité.

Le représentant Kaizolu a fait savoir que leur principale préoccupation est de faire en sorte que le gouvernement imprime de nouveaux billets pour remplacer totalement les billets qui sont actuellement en circulation.



Rep. Hassan Kiazolu



Mr. Benoni Urey

## Le juge se retire du procès d'Oliver Dillon

Le juge Roosevelt Z. Willie, président du tribunal pénal "A", s'est récusé du procès de M. Oliver Dillon, frère du sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon du comté de Montserrado, pour le meurtre présumé d'un certain Emmanuel Koffa. Le juge a indiqué que " le tribunal ne peut changer d'avis " dans le cadre de ce dossier car il doute que ce fut un meurtre prémédité.

Après sa récusation le lundi 18 novembre, le juge Willie a immédiatement ordonné au greffier du tribunal de renvoyer

l'affaire devant le tribunal « B », qui dispose d'une compétence similaire à celle du tribunal pénal « A » afin de permettre à l'accusation de poursuivre rapidement son procès.

La décision rendue lundi par le juge Willie fait suite à la demande de récusation formulée par l'accusation sur la base d'une décision antérieure qu'il avait rendue en accordant la mise en liberté sous caution de l'accusé Dillon parce que la preuve du meurtre prémédité n'était assez suffisante » pour maintenir en détention l'accusé

pour meurtre.

Le juge Willie accède à la demande de récusation formulée par l'accusation parce que, selon lui, sa décision antérieure sur la demande de mise en liberté sous caution de l'accusé touchait le fond de l'affaire et le tribunal ne peut pas changer d'avis.

« Le défendeur est accusé de meurtre. Ce tribunal a déclaré que les éléments de preuve d'un meurtre n'étaient pas présents et a donc accordé une mise en liberté sous caution. A-t-il touché le fond de l'affaire [?] Il a répondu par l'affirmative, le tribunal ne pouvait donc pas changer d'avis », a-t-il déclaré.

Le juge Willie rappelle que, malgré la résistance de l'accusation, il a accordé à l'accusé Dillon une mise en liberté sous caution « parce que, dans l'esprit du tribunal, il n'existait pas d'éléments essentiels qui préconisent un meurtre, à savoir préméditation et malice.

M. Dillon, un des employés du coordonnateur de la décentralisation du ministère des Transports, est accusé du meurtre d'Emmanuel Koffa, survenu le 12 avril 2019 à Gardnerville.

La police a indiqué en avril que l'accusé Dillon avait quitté son domicile à minuit pour

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recupérer des objets de son véhicule garé à Supermarket à Gardnerville et a croisé la victime Emmanuel et deux autres hommes dans l'obscurité.

Les enquêteurs ont révélé que la zone dans laquelle l'incident s'était produit constituait une zone pleine de criminels, précisant que sa victime, Emmanuel, était armé d'une paire de ciseaux, tandis que l'accusé, Oliver Dillon, était armé d'un couteau lorsque le défunt et deux autres hommes ont entouré l'accusé dans l'obscurité.

La police a rapporté que le lieu où s'est produit l'incident était infesté de gangs criminels qui terrorisent des résidents pacifiques pour emporter leurs biens, ajoutant qu' « il n'y a pas eu de dispute ou de malentendu entre la victime [Emmanuel] et l'accusé [Dillon] et ils ne s'étaient pas donné de rendez-vous pour se croiser sur le lieu de l'incident. »

Dans une affaire de meurtre, les enquêteurs cherchent à établir que l'accusé avait planifié avec malice et intention criminelle

d'assassiner une autre personne avant son assassinat pour accuser le prévenu de meurtre, un crime passible de la peine maximale de mort ou de la réclusion à perpétuité.

Mais lorsque les enquêteurs déterminent qu'un décès est survenu dans des circonstances telles que la bagarre et un échange de coups de poing, ce qui n'était pas prévu contre la victime, ils envisageraient d'inculper l'accusé d'homicide involontaire, ce qui entraînera une peine beaucoup moins lourde lorsqu'il sera déclaré coupable.

Le juge Willie a déclaré qu'il avait accordé au défendeur Dillon une mise en liberté provisoire sous caution, car les éléments de preuve qui soutiennent la thèse d'un meurtre n'existaient pas dans le cadre ce dossier. Mais l'accusation a fait appel devant la Cour suprême du Libéria. Le juge en Chambre Joseph N. Nagbe de la cour suprême, a ensuite infirmé la décision du juge du tribunal de première instance et ordonné que l'affaire soit renvoyée devant le tribunal « A » pour jugement.



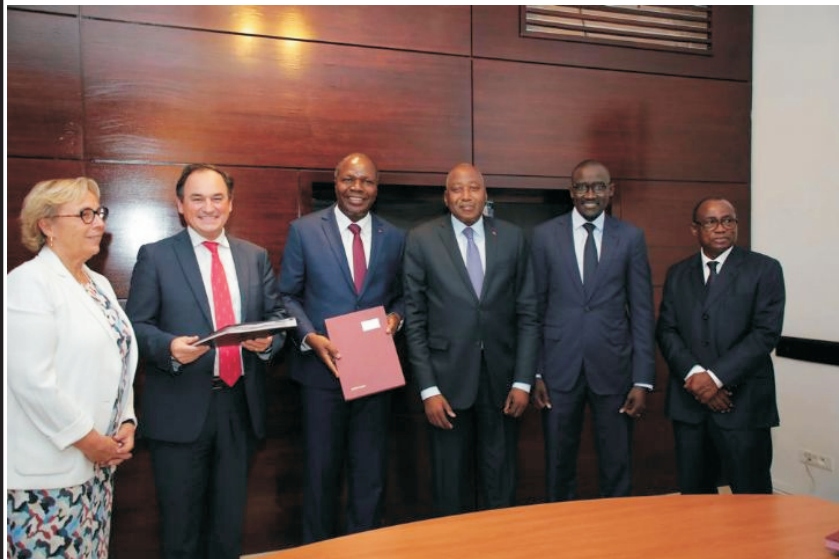


# Français

## Côte d'Ivoire: signature de la convention de création de l'école supérieure du pétrole et de l'énergie

Le gouvernement ivoirien a signé lundi à Abidjan, avec l'Institut français du pétrole (IFP-School), la convention de création de l'École supérieure du pétrole et de l'énergie (ESPE), une institution à vocation sous-régionale au sein de l'Institut national polytechnique Houphouët-Boigny (INPHB) de Yamoussoukro qui formera des techniciens du secteur pétrolier et qui ouvrira ses portes à la rentrée prochaine en septembre 2020, a-t-on appris lundi de source officielle dans la capitale économique ivoirienne. Selon une note d'information transmise lundi à APA, cette convention a été signée pour la partie ivoirienne par les ministres Abdourahmane Cissé (

que la formation d'une durée de 14 mois, se fera en anglais et débouchera sur deux Mastères spécialisées à savoir l'un dans l'Amont pétrolier (exploration-production des hydrocarbures) et l'autre dans l'Aval pétrolier (transformation des hydrocarbures et distribution des produits pétroliers). De son côté, Christine Travers, la directrice de l'IFP-School a soutenu que « notre mission est depuis de longues années, de former pour l'industrie de l'énergie, compagnies nationales et internationales, des talents dont elles ont besoin dans la domaines atlant de l'exploration/production jusqu'à la distribution des produits en passant par le



Pétrole, énergie et énergies renouvelables) et Albert Toikeusse Mabri (Enseignement supérieur) avec l'IFP-School à la Primature ivoirienne en présence du chef du gouvernement ivoirien Amadou Gon Coulibaly. « L'étudiant aura un double diplôme INPHB-IFP-School. A savoir un de l'Institut français du pétrole et un autre de l'Institut national polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INPHB) », a fait savoir le ministre Abdourahmane Cissé.

Pour lui, avec la création de cette école, il n'est plus besoin pour les étudiants ivoiriens de niveau BAC+5 d'aller nécessairement à l'étranger pour suivre une formation complémentaire de haut niveau.

Poursuivant, il a précisé

raffinage, la pétrochimie et l'économie ».

C'est le 13 novembre dernier que le gouvernement ivoirien a annoncé au terme d'un Conseil des ministres, la création d'une École supérieure du pétrole et de l'énergie (ESPE) au sein de l'Institut national polytechnique Houphouët-Boigny de Yamoussoukro (INPHB) en partenariat avec l'Institut français du pétrole.

L'ouverture de cette école à vocation sous-régionale, s'inscrit dans la vision des autorités ivoiriennes de faire de la Côte d'Ivoire, le hub d'excellence de la sous-région en matière de formation dans le secteur des hydrocarbures.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kent Harrington

### Grandeur et décadence de William Barr

ATLANTA - Ce n'est pas la première fois que les autorités policières américaines sont confrontées à des enquêtes à caractère politique. Des tristement célèbres « Raids Rouges » du Procureur général A. Mitchell Palmer en 1919-1920 à la poursuite par le directeur du FBI Edgar J. Hoover des frères Berrigan et d'autres militants non violents dans les années 1960, les procès politiques sont typiquement américains.

Le Département de la Justice des États-Unis sous le Président Donald Trump semble perpétuer cette tradition. Personne ne s'étonne que Trump déploie lui-même chaque dispositif orwellien dont il dispose pour contrecarrer l'enquête actuelle de sa mise en accusation par la Chambre des Représentants. Mais il est tragique de voir que le Procureur Général William Barr lui emboîte le pas, en lançant des enquêtes sur la carrière des fonctionnaires de sécurité nationale au simple motif qu'ils font leur travail.

En raison de son obsession paranoïaque à l'égard d'un « État profond » chimérique, Trump cible depuis longtemps des agents du FBI et de la CIA dans ses attaques. Ce sont ces professionnels, après tout, qui ont découvert l'opération russe visant à aider sa campagne présidentielle de 2016, comme l'a indiqué le rapport Mueller. Mais à présent, Barr, à son tour a décidé de promouvoir la fiction de « l'État profond » pour le compte de Trump. En faisant preuve d'un niveau d'implication sans précédent de la part d'un procureur général, Barr a voyagé à Rome et à Londres, apparemment pour interroger des fonctionnaires britanniques et italiens en personne sur les origines de l'enquête russe.

Les actes de Barr soulèvent la question de savoir s'il agit au titre de premier responsable du maintien de l'ordre de la nation, ou comme avocat de la défense de Trump. Dans un appel téléphonique avec le Premier ministre australien Scott Morrison, Trump a demandé aux Australiens d'aider Barr dans ses efforts. Impossible de passer à côté de ce message politique criant. Les traités existants établissent des procédures claires pour la coopération au maintien de l'ordre public et au partage de renseignements (via des canaux beaucoup plus sûrs et plus discrets). Si un procureur général ou un procureur américain a besoin de l'aide d'un allié dans le cadre d'une enquête légitime, ils peuvent tout simplement le demander eux-mêmes.

En outre, chacun sait que Barr tente de légitimer le fantasme de « l'État profond » de Trump. Il l'a dit lui-même. En mai dernier, il a décrit l'enquête de contre-espionnage du FBI sur l'ingérence russe dans les élections comme étant de « l'espionnage » sur la campagne de Trump. Quand on l'a questionné sur sa formulation semblable à celle de Trump, Barr a eu recours à la théorie du complot, en suggérant qu'une « garde prétorienne » au sein de la communauté du renseignement des États-Unis pourrait avoir des vues pour influencer les élections. Leur menace envers la république, a-t-il déclaré, est aussi grande que les cyberattaques russes.

Barr examine actuellement un rapport d'un inspecteur général (IG) du Département de la Justice, portant sur la question de savoir si le FBI a fourvoyé la Cour de Surveillance du Renseignement Étranger des États-Unis (FISA Court) afin de cibler la campagne de Trump de 2016. Et l'examen portant sur l'enquête russe, désormais officiellement entre les mains de John Durham, le procureur du district de New York, est apparemment devenu une enquête pénale officielle.

L'enquête de Durham aura sûrement un effet paralysant sur les communautés des services de renseignements et du maintien de l'ordre. Dès à présent, les enquêteurs du Département de la Justice auraient cherché à remettre en question le travail des analystes de la CIA qui ont découvert l'ingérence russe au nom de Trump en 2016, même si le Rapport Mueller et les 17 agences de la communauté du renseignement ont confirmé cette conclusion à l'unanimité. Il va sans

dire que faire douter des procureurs criminels quant au jugement d'analystes du renseignement n'est pas un très bon moyen d'encourager l'enquête indépendante, quand on sait quels efforts déploie la Russie pour s'ingérer dans les élections américaines. Pour Trump, qui nie encore l'ingérence de la Russie en 2016 et qui tourne en dérision le travail de la collectivité du renseignement, c'est peut-être précisément le nœud du problème.

Les professionnels de la sécurité nationale devront se montrer particulièrement vigilants à l'avenir. Le bureau de l'Inspecteur Général du Département de la Justice a d'abord refusé d'accepter les commentaires écrits au sujet de ses conclusions sur ceux qui sont interrogés sur l'enquête russe, même si c'est la procédure standard pour s'assurer que les déclarations sont exactes et complètes. À la suite de critiques, il a depuis déclaré qu'il accepterait les commentaires écrits. Revirement ou non, l'effort d'interdire des observations par écrit soulève de toute évidence des préoccupations selon lesquelles le rapport final va tenter de politiser les faits sous-jacents.

Pire encore, Barr a l'intention de publier le rapport en coordination avec les alliés de Trump au Congrès, où les Républicains sont à l'affût de munitions pour détourner l'attention de la procédure de destitution. Il est bon de se rappeler qu'en mars, juste avant la publication complète du Rapport Mueller, Barr a publié un résumé de quatre pages de ce document de 450 pages qui a été largement critiqué comme trompeur, notamment par Mueller lui-même. Après consultation avec Barr, le sénateur Lindsey Graham de la Caroline du Sud, un flatteur proluxe de Trump, a suggéré que le rapport de l'IG allait contenir des révélations stupéfiantes sur les abus d'un système qui « a déraillé. »

Dans sa mise en garde au sujet d'une « garde prétorienne » américaine, Barr a condamné ceux qui « associaient l'intérêt national avec leurs propres préférences politiques et (...) a eu l'impression que tous ceux qui ont une opinion différente, vous savez, sont en quelque sorte des ennemis de l'État. » Suivant l'exemple de Trump, ses termes ont clairement constitué une attaque à l'encontre des hauts fonctionnaires qui ont supervisé l'enquête de contre-espionnage dans l'interférence de la Russie lors des élections : l'ancien directeur du FBI James Comey, l'ancien directeur de la CIA John Brennan et l'ancien directeur du Renseignement National James Clapper.

Seul l'avenir nous dira si l'enquête de Barr sur les enquêteurs fait fond sur des éléments substantiels. Ses indices de mauvais augure sur un complot d'un État profond ont laissé Trump dans une posture robuste et frivole, dans l'attente de la publication du rapport de l'IG. En tout cas, les Républicains du Congrès ont maintenant entrepris de calomnier les officiers militaires de carrière et les diplomates qui les ont précédés dans les audiences de destitution. À ce stade, ils ne risquent pas de changer de refrain. La question est de savoir si Barr va changer le sien.

En mai dernier, Jan Crawford de CBS a demandé à Barr s'il craignait que ses états de service sous Trump ne nuisent à sa réputation. « Nul n'est immortel, a-t-il répondu. Je ne crois pas à cette idée homérique selon laquelle (...) l'immortalité vient (...) des odes que l'on chante à votre propos au fil des siècles. » Peut-être que c'est la meilleure réponse que l'on puisse espérer d'un procureur général qui n'a aucun complexe à colporter des théories du complot pour justifier des enquêtes douteuses qui font plaisir à son patron.

Quant à savoir comment Barr sera considéré avec le temps, il y a des parallèles historiques. Le procureur soviétique Andrei Vychinski a joué un rôle de premier plan dans le procès de Nuremberg, a occupé des postes universitaires de haut rang et est devenu l'un des plus grands diplomates de son pays. Mais avant cela, il a été le procureur en chef des simulacres de procès qui ont fait tant de morts sous Staline. C'est actuellement la seule chose pour laquelle on se souvient de lui.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## UN to conduct recruitment outreach here

The United Nations Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance will begin November 24, 2019, visit Liberia on a five-day Outreach Mission to create awareness on the recruitment process of the United Nations.

The Outreach Mission, according to Ms. Christine Asokumar, Chief, Staffing Diversity and Outreach Section at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, is a part of the United Nations Secretary-General's reform process, which among others, aims to enhance diversity within the United Nations workforce.

Ms. Asokumar disclosed that Liberia is among countries that are under-represented within the United Nations System; and observed that sometimes, qualified candidates who applied for United Nations jobs are not given due consideration because they are not cognizant of the application process; thus making simple mistakes that disqualify them.

Ms. Asokumar said there are positions that are geographically set aside for Liberians and expressed the hope that the Outreach Mission will attract more Liberians to apply to fill such positions. She named the United Nations Young Professionals Programme (YPP) as one of the ways through which Liberians can be recruited for jobs within

the United Nations system.

During a meeting in New York on Thursday, November 14, 2019, with Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ms. Asokumar disclosed that Ms. Floresha Berisha, Human Resources Officer at the Staffing Diversity and Outreach Section of the United Nations, will conduct the Outreach Mission

probability of an applicant getting selected.

In response, Amb. Kemayah, welcomed the Outreach Mission and said it is the direct result of recent engagements by President George Manneh Weah, during meetings with United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres.

Amb. Kemayah stressed that creating opportunities for Liberians to serve at all levels of the United Nations is one of

System. The President is concerned about that to the effect that in his last two meetings, during his participation in activities of the High-Level week of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)--the 73rd and 74th Sessions, one of the Three (3) topics of discussions for meetings His Excellency President Weah held with His Excellency the United Nations Secretary-General, has been the issue of job placement for Liberians within the United Nations System. I am so thrilled as Ambassador that

this is happening. Beyond me, there is going to be a high level of excitement and enthusiasm on the part of our Government and the people of Liberia to receive this United Nations delegation for the purpose of working towards creating room for opportunities for increased recruitment of Liberians within the United Nations System".

Ambassador Kemayah asserted that the employment of more Liberians within the United Nations was also a personal priority for him as Ambassador to the UN, pursuant to a mandate from



(L-R) Ms. Christine Asokumar, Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., and Ms. Floresha Berisha

in Liberia, and requested the support of the Government of Liberia to ensure that the visit is successful and impactful.

As part of the Outreach Mission, Ms. Berisha is expected to present to a diverse range of professionals in Liberia, a detailed overview of the United Nations Secretariat, job and career opportunities, and provide tips on application processes that will increase the

top priorities of President Weah, and consistently highlighted at bilateral meetings with Mr. Antonio Guterres during the High-Level weeks of the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

Said Ambassador Kemayah: "Our President is very much concerned and interested in increasing the number of Liberians at the maximum level in the United Nations

## MRU holds high level

Starts from back page

sub-region are looking for results and it is my hope that following our substantive deliberations over these two days, we will deliver on a concrete plan of actions that will meet their expectations," Amb. Wesseh said.

The conference was convened under the leadership of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Energy, the Mano River Union Secretariat and The Energy Nexus Network (TENN). It is the first High-Level Mano River Union Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking.

Speakers at the conference, which was under the theme: "Growing the Sub-regional Energy Market" called on participants and their respective governments to work assiduously towards to the achievement of the SDG 7 - access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and clean cooking solutions while facilitating sub-regional integrated energy markets, to ensure harmony and shared prosperity across the union and the African continent.

Addressing the global energy context of the conference, TENN's Founder and Chairmen, Kandeh Yumkella hope that the conference become an annual dialogue focusing on providing the enabling conditions for the development of integrated markets following the European Union experience; the best energy integrated market in the world.

"In the EU" said he, "some countries are too small and have no energy. So, they buy from those that have. It is the same for Sierra Leone and Liberia; too small to attract big investments." Yumkella further noted that both he and the minister are from different parties. However, when it comes to what benefits Sierra Leone, we think first about our

country.

Mr. Yumkella also unveiled the construction of the offices and training facility of The Energy Nexus Network. "This will serve as a knowledge hub for Africa with partnerships and institutions from the United States, Europe and Asia." TENN's mission is coordinating energy access with key energy-enabling SDGs and building the energy ecosystem/enabling conditions and processes for scaling-up sustainable energy solutions. "A future where energy poverty is eliminated, energy access is synchronized with sustainable development and processes that are ready for scaling-up sustainable energy solutions," he underscored.

Also speaking, ECREEE's Executive Director, Mahama Kappiah highlighted the work his organization is doing within the ECOWAS region and the immense potential for Sierra Leone to benefit emphasizing the need for robust partnerships that helps to attract major investments.

In 2017, ECOWAS Heads of State adopted the West Africa Solar Corridor Initiative which, when fully implemented, "will allow the region to speed up the attainment of regional renewable targets by developing energy-based power and integrating same into the regional power grid."

Other notable projects include the 270 million Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project - ROGEP supported by the World Bank and the West Africa Clean Cooking (WACCA). The ROGEP which aims to increase access to sustainable electricity services through standalone systems to at least 10 million people while the WACCA aim to ensure the entire population have access to sustainable and modern cooking fuels and

## CDC suspends Jemima Wolokolie

A purported release issued by the Chairman of the Congress for Democratic Change Mulbah Morlu announces the suspension of the membership of Madam Jemima Wolokolie, a staunch member of the CDC, who has been spearheading a controversial loan scheme initiated by the ruling establishment.

A release issued Tuesday, 19 November thru the android phone of Chairman Morlu without an official letterhead and signature, says the National Executive Committee of the Congress for Democratic Change took the decision against Madam Wolokolie with immediate effect for alleged extortion of money, corruption, and fraudulent misrepresentation, among other charges.

The suspension comes amid serious bad blood

between Chairman Morlu and Madam Wolokolie over the controversial loan scheme which Mr. Morlu had claimed was never authorized.

Liberians in Support for Democratic Change, a group said to be an auxiliary of the Coalition for Democratic Change recently embarked on a scheme here to empower Liberians, mainly women thru a loan program, which commenced with collection of fees from would-be beneficiaries.

The group is headed by senior partisans of the ruling Coalition, including Madam Wolokolie, who is also Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Ms. Rebecca McGill, sister of the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill.

But the purported release describes the loan program as a fake scheme suspiciously orchestrated to tarnish the party's ethical image and

disintegrate its ranks.

It says the alleged activities of Madam Wolokolie, who recently rejoined the CDC after several years of support to the former ruling Unity Party, is grave, criminal, dangerous and unbecoming of a party member.

"In light of these acts of systematic and wanton disregard for law and order, the National Executive Committee of the CDC swiftly moves to send suspended partisan Jemima Wolokolie to the Grievance and Ethics Committee for speedy investigation and/or prosecution, and is authorized to employ its constitutional premises to begin, complete and submit findings within a 30-days statutory period as laid down within the framework of the byelaws and constitution of the CDC", the says the release. **-Press Release**

# Economic lie!

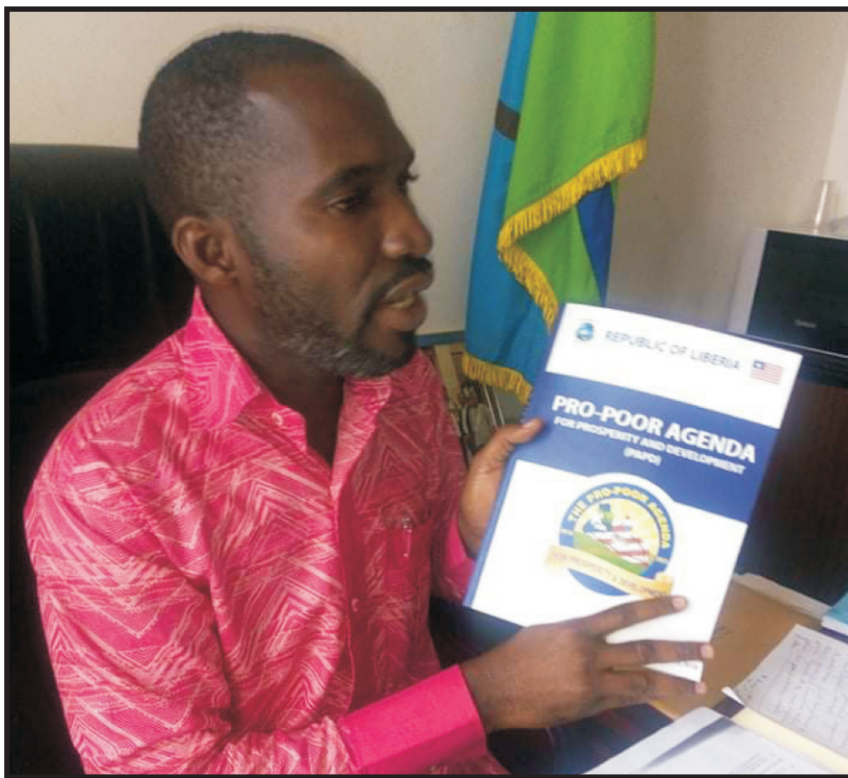
By Winston W. Parley

River Gee County District #3 Representative and member of the House Committee on Ways, Means and Finance, Francis Dopoe says it's an economic, financial and social lie for anyone to suggest the printing of money in order to pay government employees' arrears.

"It's an economic lie; it's a social lie; it's a financial lie," he told a talk show on a local radio station Monrovia Tuesday evening, 19 November.

Mr. Dopoe argues that taxes collected by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in a cash - based environment are used to pay government employees, so there is no reason to rely on the printing of money to pay civil servants.

"My information tells me that the government is collecting revenues ... This



government has collected the highest revenue than any other government. So let them tell us where the money went," he notes.

According to Rep. Dopoe, the Legislature passed the Budget at \$297 [million

dollars] for compensation, noting that when [revenue collecting authorities] collect \$40 [million] on the average, they should be paying like \$24 million for the wage bill on the average per month.

Given the LRA's recent

pronouncement of how much it collects in taxes here compared to the wage bill of US\$297m passed by the Legislature, Rep. Dopoe insists that it doesn't make sense to him for anyone to suggest that the government must print money to pay its employees.

He continues that the LRA is doing its best to collect taxes in cash, but if the government cannot pay its employees, he is inclined to believe that the regime is either doing off - budget spending or it is trying to pay back unauthorized borrowing from the Central Bank.

"So the Ministry of Finance should be truthful to the Liberian people. There's nothing about revenue issue here," he notes.

"There could be something going wrong like it happened the last time. There could be some off - budget spending again or they are trying to pay back to the Central Bank what they took from there that was not appropriate for our economy," the River Gee lawmaker says.

Rep. Dopoe stresses that the same Economic Management Team that [took] the unorthodox economic decision to leave the commercial banks and buy Liberian dollars from people outside the banks, knows

where the money is.

"So they know where the money is. They could find the policy to get it out. But my point is the most rigid way to do it is to change the currency," Rep. Doepoh says.

According to him, before taking their legislative break, the majority view of lawmakers during their discussion was that the CBL should print money because the local currency here is confusing, it is not homogeneous.

Dopoe says he supports the changing of both the legacy notes and the new banknotes, but there are pivotal conditions that must be met by the administration.

He demands an understanding into the 16bn Liberian dollars scandal as well as the controversial US\$25m mop exercise carried out by the regime.

He also makes demands that before printing of new money is done, there must be structural reform at the CBL, which the government has begun; there must be audit of the CBL; and there should be internal control at the Bank.

Further, he questions the government about the whereabouts of the Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) report, the General Auditing Commission (GAC) report surrounding these controversial financial crisis here.

## 200 AIDS patients flee treatment center

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Population Services International (PSI) - Liberia has confirmed here that 200 sex-workers living with the HIV/AIDS disease have fled their treatment center located on 16th Street, Sinkor due to a recent attack on the facility by individuals believed to be drug addicts or "zogoos".

The disclosure was made when PSI Country Representative Mr. Rajiv Dua addressed reporters on Sunday, 17 November at PSI head offices situated between 11th and 12th Streets, Sinkor, outside Monrovia.

The presence of the HIV/AIDS infected sex-workers in the communities could be a potential danger to many innocent persons, as they risk increasing the spread of the sexually transmitted disease to others who might unknowingly come in sexual contact with the patients.

Recently, angry crowd besieged a compound in Sinkor where they claimed a gay wedding combining 20 couples was being held.

The gathering was disrupted as stone throwing erupted at Allen's Compound, the venue of the alleged gay wedding.

But PSI has denied claim that the event was a gay party. PSI Country Representative Mr. Dua says the attackers looted money, cell-phones, motorbike and other valuable items from guests and dignitaries attending the birthday party of an employee of the institution.

Same sex marriage is not legal in Liberia, but others are allegedly into gay and lesbian practices and campaigning for same sex to be legalized here at their own risk.

A vast majority of the population here which is mostly Christian and Muslim dominate does not support same sex practices.

Mr. Dua explains that as a result of the attack on the

treatment facility, 200 sex-workers residing there have escaped the center for unknown destinations.

According to him, the action by the drug addicts resulted into the injury of several persons who were later rushed to local clinics where they were treated for wounds received at the hands of the zogoos.

The PSI boss discloses that the attack on the facility was launched when one drug addict who attempted entering the treatment center was prevented by security officers assigned at the center.

According to him, the alleged drugs addict raised a false alarm that same-sex marriage was being held at the center.

But Mr. Dua terms the allegation as erroneous and criminal, and also a broad day robbery.

The PSI official continues that the attack on the center that provides treatment and counseling and other services to persons living with AIDS poses serious challenges to the institution, especially in terms of relocating the victims whose whereabouts are presently being searched.

He indicates that PSI wants to ensure that the patients return to the facility to continue with their treatment.

Meanwhile, PSI says it could relocate the treatment facility from its present location to another area to avoid stigmatizing the sex-workers who spend time at the center to get shelter, medical care and food assistance.

At the same time, the Liberia National Police (LNP)

## UN to conduct

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President Weah. "From the very inception of my current tour of duty here, creating opportunities for Liberians to serve in the United Nations has been and continues to be one of the top priorities of my administration here. That priority is pursuant to the mandate I received from His Excellency President Weah. The main variable that we want as a Government is to see more Liberians taking up positions in the United Nations. This is one of the many legacies that I as Ambassador want to leave-- that during my tenure as Ambassador, and during the administration of His Excellency President Weah, we had increased number of Liberians taking up employment in the United Nations; not just the United

Nations but in other international organizations". Ambassador Kemayah emphasized.

As part of the coordination, meetings will be set up between the Outreach team and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, officials from the Ministries of State for Presidential Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Information, Labor, Education, Gender, Children and Social Protection, and Youth and Sports; the Civil Service Agency, the National Commission on Higher Education, the University of Liberia, Cuttington University, United Methodist University, AME University, AME Zion University and other Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning.

The Outreach Team will also meet with the Federation of



confirms the arrest and investigation of about nine persons for their involvement in the attack and looting of the HIV/AIDS treatment facility.

Besides the provision of treatment to the sex-workers, the entity is also engaged in public awareness about the disease, sale of star condoms and water guide for several

years now.

In a related development, it has been established that the drug addicts that attacked the treatment center did not come from 16th Street, Sinkor Community but rather from 17th and 18th Streets respectively.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

## MRU holds high level confab on renewable energy in Freetown



A conference for multi-stakeholders in renewable energy and clean cooking opens in the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown Monday November 18, 2019, under the auspices of the Mano River Union (MRU) with a call to finding solution to the region's energy poverty.

Opening the conference which is being attended by representatives of governments (Energy

Ministers and Parliamentarians), Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners, and the Private Sectors, President Julius Maada Bio said it was imperative to address the region's energy poverty.

"It is an imperative for our development that we address energy poverty in Sierra Leone in particular and in the sub-region in general," President Bio said.

He said as part of efforts in

that direction his government is developing meaningful regulations that encourages private sector partnerships. He announced that by 2022, 145 mini grids should be operational serving over 400,000 customers. President Bio insists that his government's efforts "will contribute significantly to narrowing the disparities in energy access between urban and rural areas."

"We recognize the challenges and we are aware that we will have to demonstrate consistent and focused leadership, leverage continued support from our sector partners, and also invest in re-organizing the sector and increasing generation sources and supply," he said.

Speaking earlier, MRU's Secretary General, Amb. Medina A. Wesseh, Esq emphasizes the need to implore all to work hard in providing lasting solutions to energy poverty and clean cooking.

"Our political leaders and the people in the



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## Tite: Messi and Pele incomparable

Tite has dismissed Lionel Messi's credentials as the greatest footballer of all time after insisting comparisons between him and "phenomenal" Brazil legend Pele have "no credibility."

The Brazil coach and Messi exchanged words in Friday's game against Argentina, with Tite claiming the Barcelona forward told him to shut up during the friendly defeat in Riyadh.



Tuesday marks the 50th anniversary of Brazil legend Pele scoring his 1,000th goal and, speaking ahead of his side's clash against South Korea in Abu Dhabi the same day, Tite says three-time World Cup winner Pele remains out in front when it comes to the question of whether he or Messi is best player to ever play the game.

He said: "Pele is incomparable. Anybody who wants to compare Pele to any other athlete...do you know

what I do? I hear but I don't listen.

"It's as if this person doesn't know the history of this man's quality... this guy was phenomenal. Once I said that Messi is extraordinary.

"I meant he's extraordinary to the present time and among humans, with his creativity. Pele is out of normal patterns and I'm not saying this because I'm a Brazilian. You can't find a defect.

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