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French Version Inside

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Hint...

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

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Saving the telecom industry



-The impact of floor pricing and regulatory surcharge



The late Cllr. Brumskine with his wife, Estelle during the 2017 elections

A good fighter falls

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Continental News

Ethiopia's ruling coalition parties agree to merge

Politicians from Ethiopia's governing Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front coalition have approved the idea of forming a new political party - a plan that has been backed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Mr Abiy said the new Ethiopian Prosperity Party would help break down ethnic divisions and unite the country.

He wants it to become the national driving force to replace the three-decade old ethnically based coalition.

But one coalition member, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which dominated the government before Mr Abiy came to power, has refused to join the new party, fearing its influence will be further eroded.

In a tweet the prime minister called the merger a "crucial step in harnessing our energy to work toward a shared vision".

The heavily pregnant



Emilienne Manigirubuntu woke up on the morning of her teachers' recruitment exam last month hoping that a year of unemployment would soon come to an end.

But the 29-year-old Burundian's baby had other ideas.

Nevertheless, even when the first signs of labour began, Ms Manigirubuntu told BBC Great Lakes that she was determined to go ahead with her plan of finishing the exam

and then rushing to the maternity ward.

"This was my third child and I was confident based on my previous experience, that I would make it to the evening, even the following day before giving birth," she said.

Her confidence was misplaced, especially as the test was hit by a delay.

It was supposed to start at 08:00, but the exam paper had still not arrived by 10:00

by which time Ms Manigirubuntu said she could no longer bear the pain

She discreetly asked a friend to get her a motorbike taxi to the nearby hospital.

But the labour was progressing so quickly that an official at the exam centre took her to the hospital on his own motorbike.

Ms Manigirubuntu gave birth to a healthy girl, but soon left the maternity ward and her new born with a midwife and went back to sit the exam.

"Unemployment is painful... I told myself that

rather than missing this opportunity, I would go and do it, even though I worried that I could feel unwell before the end," she said.

There are high levels of unemployment among young people in Burundi.

Giving birth did not seem to affect Ms Manigirubuntu's performance and she received an outstanding score.

She is now hoping to get a job in a secondary school.

And the name of the baby girl? Itangumugisha, which means "God provides blessings".

Nigeria arrests ex-attorney general in Dubai over \$1.3 bln oil deal

Nigerian ex-attorney general Mohammed Adoke has been arrested in Dubai, his lawyer told Reuters on Wednesday, after a warrant was issued earlier this year as part of one of the oil industry's biggest corruption scandals.

However the lawyer, Mike Ozekhome, said the arrest

The deal has spawned legal cases spanning several countries, involving Nigerian government officials and senior executives from ENI and Royal Dutch Shell. Shell and Eni, and their executives, have denied any wrongdoing.

Adoke was arrested on Monday, Ozekhome told

Nearly 5,000 dead in world's worst measles outbreak

Measles has killed nearly 5,000 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2019, authorities said, after the disease spread to all the provinces in the country.

Close to a quarter of a million people have been infected this year alone.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says this is the world's largest and fastest-moving epidemic.

Measles in DR Congo has now killed more than twice the number who have died of Ebola there in the last 15 months.

The Congolese government and the WHO launched an emergency vaccination

programme in September that aimed to inoculate more than 800,000 children.

But poor infrastructure, attacks on health centres and a lack of access to routine healthcare have all hindered efforts to stop the spread of the disease. Four million children have been vaccinated, but experts warn that this amounts to less than half of the total in the country - and not enough vaccines are available. The majority of those infected with measles in the country are infants. Measles is a virus that initially causes a runny nose, sneezing and fever.

A few days later it leads to a blotchy rash that starts off on the face and spreads across the body. Most people will recover, but measles can cause life-long disability. It can be deadly, especially if it causes pneumonia in the lungs or encephalitis (swelling in the brain).

It is estimated that a global total of 110,000 people die from measles each year. BBC



Experts warn there are not enough available vaccines in the country



had been based on an expired warrant.

Nigeria's anti-graft agency secured warrants in April for two former ministers including Adoke and an Eni manager over the \$1.3 billion sale of a Nigerian offshore oilfield by Malabu Oil and Gas in 2011.

Reuters, as his client went to Dubai for medical appointment.

He added however that a Nigerian court had nullified the warrant in October because his client was not served with the charges before the warrant was issued.

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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.

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COMMENTARY

By Patricia Balvanera, Unai Pascual,
Mike Christie & Brigitte Baptiste

Why Value Pluralism Is Essential for Sustainability

The debate over torched rain forests in the Amazon this year tended to focus on commercial interests, on the one hand, and a purely aesthetic ideal of nature, on the other. But the values that different communities attach to, and derive from, natural systems are much richer than that, and must be considered when making policy decisions.

BONN - For much of 2019, news broadcasts and social media have been filled with unsettling images of forests engulfed in flames, leaving behind charred, dead landscapes, destroyed homes, and displaced people. Images of burning rainforests in Brazil and elsewhere have stirred powerful emotions and provoked reactions around the world, providing a glimpse of the many ways that people view and value nature. A sustainable future for our planet and its people will be achieved only if decision-makers understand and account for this value pluralism.

As the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) points out in its recent Global Assessment Report, "Nature is essential for human existence and good quality of life." Yet decisions about the uses of our increasingly fragile natural resources and how to protect them often fail to account for all of the ways that different communities attach value to nature.

Fortunately, a group of the world's leading scientists met recently in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country - the 2012 European "green capital" - to discuss a new IPBES report that will focus on "the diverse values of nature." This forthcoming "Values Assessment" will present the most robust findings to date on how diverse communities value nature differently, and how natural systems benefit us all.

Consider the tropical forests that have been burning throughout the year, and which account for a disproportionate share of the world's biodiversity. Some would argue that we have a moral responsibility to protect such natural treasures for their own sake, regardless of their contributions to people. Yet market forces tend to predominate, such that the focus shifts to economic opportunities: timber, pharmaceutical derivatives, ecotourism, mining, and the like. Some politicians and commercial interests even see forests as an obstacle that must be removed to allow for the expansion of agriculture, mining, housing, and infrastructure.

The problem is that policy decisions tend to reflect these economic concerns without also accounting for the wider

contributions that natural systems provide. Forests, for example, help to regulate the climate, trapping greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of global warming. They also act as global "water pumps" that deliver rain to distant regions. Yet most policy decisions ignore these valuable natural contributions to people. Further, they also neglect the needs of the millions of indigenous people who depend on the forests for their livelihoods and welfare.

Some of the reasons that people value nature are universal. But others are specific to certain groups, and thus can become sources of conflict. Wherever conflicts arise between parties with unequal access to the levers of power, decisions about how we manage nature must account for that asymmetry.

And yet governments, development banks, conservation organizations, and private-sector actors often carve out protected natural areas in ways that ignore the needs of forest-dwelling communities. In many tropical areas, policymakers have enabled the expansion of commodity plantations, such as those producing palm oil and soybeans, to meet global market demand and support lower-income farmers and other constituents who rely on these crops for their livelihoods. Yet too often, such plantations encroach on the homes of indigenous people and the habitats of endangered species, including primates such as gorillas, orangutans, and howler monkeys.

Different cultures see nature in different ways, some of which may not always be obvious to outside observers. Still, policymakers must try to account for the complex mosaic of human values when making decisions about our natural systems. Forest fires and other natural and ecological disasters in recent years have underscored the fragility of these systems and the communities that depend on them.

Governments are increasingly recognizing the need for a broader perspective, and are seeking ways to account for nature when designing policies and mapping a path toward sustainable development. When the IPBES "Values Assessment" is released in 2022, it will provide a scientific basis to inform decisions that account for the diversity of values in our interactions with nature.



Lord, This no money bisnay that na small wahalao

Dear Father:

Hmm, so this no money bisnay that na small wahalasehn? Everywhere you turn in the village people are crying. Some say they put their money in the small, small money houses around here but when they go there they can't get it.

You mean the money just vanished from the village like that?

My son wait oo, so this thing just getting to you ehn?

No oo Father, The thing is getting very serious. Our old people say the place spoon can reach before mouth open, the spoon na reach there na and it tough-it na easy.

But my son, oo, I thought yor village big, big people say they want to go and print new money for the village?

Um, Father, da what we are hearing in the village oo. But in the first place they told us the other money did not disappeared and that it was still in the village, so why they can't put them outside na?

Aah, but where you think they are keeping it?

Father, da one da good question. But that ask, da na my ask. In fact, let them go to the Fula and Lebanese people round here who are playing games with our village.

What do you mean my son?

Oh, Father, you don't know that these people are causing problems for us in this village too. After they come in our village with one hand bag, go to our small, small money houses and credit from there and get rich off us, then they start to tell us all kinds of stupid-ness.

The first thing, they will not want to carry the money them back to the small, small money houses again. They can start to tell the people what they want.

Is that so my son?

Father, these Lebanese and Fula people are the ones killing our village so. They are the ones keeping the money in their houses.

But ehnyor allow the people to control yor village economy how they will not dedictate to yor and cause problems for yor village economy.

Father, this one you talking here da na lie oo. Our village big, big people and the small, small money houses are the ones who have delivered our village economy into the hands of these people. The village big, big people open our doors wide to them, while the small, small money houses take our poor money them we can keep in their houses and gave it to them.

So how we will not be poor in our own village na when you get these so called foreigners hauling our money and keeping it in their shops?

Hmm, my son the thing you talking here that big thing oo.

But Father, you think da fire coming from my mouth? Our people open the door too wide to these people see what they have put our village into.

So if they don't act tough on these people they will continue to cause problems for us here. You go to our own village small, small money houses for money they will rather give it to these Fula and Lebanese people who come in our village with plastic bags rather than us. And when the people ready they take the money back to their villages-ehn da the one the book people can call capital flight?

Hayaka! So, me all I want is when they print any new money they should arrest the people who will pass the ceiling. And nobody must go to these small, small money houses to change 2 million in cash if we get new money, everybody from 500,000 up must have an account period.

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.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Traffic and road safety regulation: -Compromises that contribute to high crash fatality rates in Liberia

A Liberian Journalist currently in the United States on the 2019 International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) has stressed that traffic and road safety regulation compromises by enforcement authorities contribute to high fatality rates in Liberia; as he commends the People of the United States of America for the opportunity which has motivated his urge for best cultural practices in specific respect to road and traffic safety measures in Africa.

Abraham Wheon, one of Liberia's popular talk show hosts was selected by the United States Embassy through the recommendation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation Deputy Chief Kelvin George to participate in IVLP program on Traffic Safety ;A Regional Project for Africa.

Mr.Wheon explained that the program which comes to a climax this weekend has exposed the dangerous circumstances under which citizens travel daily to find earnings meet.

He said safety comes first in everything one does in life and there should be no compromise on the issue of safety of citizens of any country and therefore said it's now time that everyone join ranks to mitigate this menace.

Mr.Wheon said a compromise of every traffic regulations leads to the deaths or injuries of citizens and undermines economic growth of the country.

He stressed that urban and rural crashes are as a result of direct violations of road safety regulations, such as observing speed limits, traffic signs, and failure on the part of enforcement officers to make sure that faulty vehicles are taken off the main street when they break down.

Mr. Wheon exerts that Traffic and road safety regulation compromises contribute to high crash fatality rates in Liberia.

He said compromises through obstruction or policing for personal profit erodes the credibility and confidence in the police force thus fuel lawlessness.

He said the current vehicle and traffic laws were carved for the protection of citizens or road users from potential danger and calls on every state actors responsible especially the police to enforce them.

The RCI Deputy Director General called on national leaders to respect the vehicle and traffic laws if the ordinary citizens are to follow suit.

He said interference with police enforcements by public officials put the lives of other citizens in danger and plead with officials to stop interfering or undermine the enforcement by flagrantly violating those same laws.

Reminiscing his recent visit to America, Wheon



said he has understood that every investment and programs initiated by American Government is to get Liberia on par with best international practices and standards that make America Great in the world.

Wheon said Americans live by the very systems they envisage in Liberia.

He said, Liberia been a country that moulded his governance systems from that of the America, one would think why Liberia has failed over the years to adapt and implement the very system they subscribe to.

He said Liberia can be a symbol of America in Africa and that calls for concerted effort in which no one sees himself as lord or god who cannot be affected when it comes to adherence of the systems and laws meant to regulate everyone.

Mr.Wheon said the influx of Liberians to the United States to seek greener pasture or acquire quality education has never paid off on the local scene; simply because some of those who are products of the western education and opportune occupy enforcement related areas in Liberia failed to replicate same for the good of the country.

Mr.Wheon however said he as professional journalists over the years cannot blame the citizens for the level of lawlessness which now poses serious life threat to everyone but the enforcement authorities.

He reminiscence the ;Every First Saturday Clean Up and Central Broad Street runways restrictions instituted by the former City Mayor Mary Broh and currently obeyed by citizens as most recent references that point to citizens ability to obey once there is stronger and firm enforcement mechanism observed by everyone.

Wheon who has availed himself as traffic safety Ambassador, promise upon his return to engage into

more public awareness through civil society organizations to curb most of the behaviours that lead to the increasing waves of crashes in the country.

Commenting on the issues of road safety, he said it is important that that why the country is faced with serious challenge in the areas of roads infrastructures, much emphasis be played on the existing roads through rigorous maintenance program to be financed from the roads funds. Better roads according to him are gateways for economic growth.

He concludes thanking the United States Government for the opportunity granted through the IVLP and acknowledged that the visit was more than site seeing and cultural exchanges but rather it serves as a catalyst for changing orientation and apply adaptable cultures for national growth and development.

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience this country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. Professional meetings reflect the participants' professional interests and support the foreign policy goals of the United States.

Each year nearly 5,000 International Visitors come to the U.S. on the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). More than 200,000 International Visitors have engaged with Americans through the IVLP, including more than 500 current or former Chiefs of State or Heads of Government.

Wheon was selected to participate in the program that has to Traffic Safety; a regional project for Africa.

The which is sponsored by the US state department and administered by the Graduate School of the USA brought together police inspectors and road engineers from 15 other African countries including: Burkinafaso, Nigeria, Mali, Mozambique, Kenya, Niger, Seychelles, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. While in the United States, the VISITORS were lectured on the appropriate mechanism for traffic safety by law enforcement officers, policy makers as well as engineers in various states they visited during the three week period.

The visit which began in Washington DC on the 2nd of November took a tour through Philadelphia, North Carolina, Arizona and ends in San Diego in the border state of California on the 22nd of November.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Solidaridad suggests ways to attract youth in agriculture

By Winston W. Parley

In an effort to address youth unemployment through interventions in the agriculture sector, Solidaridad Liberia, in observance of its 50th anniversary tells a symposium here that one of the ways to give young people the direction to venture into agriculture is to start engaging them at the community colleges.

“And we think that if we want to encourage youth in agriculture, one of the ways in which we can give them the kind of direction is to start engaging from the community college level,” Mr. Cyrus Saygbe, Solidaridad Liberia official said Thursday, 21 November at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

Among challenges facing smallholder farmers, Mr. Saygbe observes the lack of a commercial bank in Liberia that will give loans to commercial farmers, saying one of the things that Solidaridad focuses on is



access to finance that will enable farmers to do a lot of things.

He notes that the oil palm and cocoa sectors are among the priority areas of the central government here, so Solidaridad looks at how its intervention can fit into government’s priority area by

rendering services to local farmers through partnerships with private companies in the sectors.

In the next few years, he says the goal is to work in the government’s space, urging panelists at the symposium to take stock of what Solidaridad has done better and where it

needs to improve.

“Because whatsoever we gather from here today will prepare us for our next year strategic retreat, to enable us plan for subsequent years as we role out our expansion strategy for Liberia.

Under Solidaridad’s intervention, he says the group has about 6000 beneficiaries and it has distributed close to 1.2 million seeding to farmers in the counties.

As part of its corporate social responsibilities, Cyrus says Solidaridad will pay a visit to C.B. Dunbar Hospital in Bong on Friday, 22 November and make donation of some items.

“...Because a lot of our farmers that we serve in Bong County have their wives and

their children and husbands who go that hospital. So it’s just expedient enough to identify with the hospital so that we can create some sanity around that area. So that part of our corporate social responsibility,” he concludes.

In a power point presentation of Solidaridad’s work in West Africa, Solidaridad Liberia Cocoa Program Manager Mr. Boima Baifae says the group is very cautious about the environment as it carries out its work, being aware that the climate impacts agriculture.

“We don’t do this alone. We do this with the farmers, private sector partners, the donors and the youth,” he says.

During the panel discussion, National Bureau of Concession (NBC) boss Mr. Gregory Coleman says he thinks Solidaridad has done excellent job in the intervention of sustainable development goals, youth empowerment, the promotion of local farmers and going to the extent of expanding their yields.

Mr. Coleman says the agriculture sector is a vital area, but it’s been fixed with lot of issues over the years, one being the RSPO.

A representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Sulunteh, stresses the need for Solidaridad to have the Ministry actively involved in collaboration in making interventions in the districts.

ANC sympathizes with the Brumskines & LP

That Alternative National Congress or ANC has expressed its deepest sympathy to the Brumskine Family, the Liberty Party and the nation, for the untimely death of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, erudite lawyer, former

to change the lives of the Liberian people.

The ANC, which is one of the four collaborating parties of which Brumskine’s LP is a member described the late Brumskine as a leader of his people, a father of many and an astute statesman.

remembered for generations to come”.

“During this period of mourning, may we all continue to keep the bereaved family in our prayers and commit to ensuring that Liberia becomes better, in continuation of the life and legacy of Cllr. Charles



Presidential Candidate and founder of the Liberty Party.

Cllr. Brumskine, 68, was reportedly died in the United States on Wednesday November 20. The ANC in a message said Cllr. Brumskine in his lifetime, exhibited immense courage in fighting

In reacting to the unfortunate news, the ANC’s Political Leader, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings described Cllr. Brumskine as “without doubt, one of our finest citizens whose patriotism and commitment to his country, both in politics and law will be

W. Brumskine. May his soul and the souls of all faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace,” the party concluded.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nigerian journalists attacked and threatened while covering state elections

Nigerian authorities should investigate and hold accountable those responsible for the harassment of journalists working to cover the November 16 gubernatorial and federal assembly elections in Kogi and Bayelsa states, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today.

Armed men threatened and harassed reporters, security forces barred journalists from entering electoral buildings, and demonstrators threw stones at reporters trying to cover the elections, according to news reports and journalists who spoke to CPJ.

The elections in these two states followed nationwide elections in February, which were also marred by violence against journalists, as CPJ reported at the time.

"Journalists play an indispensable role in the conduct of credible elections and should never be the subject of threats, violence, or harassment," said Angela

Quintal, CPJ's Africa program coordinator, from Washington, D.C. "Nigerian authorities must investigate all allegations made by journalists about interference in their work covering the November 16 elections in Kogi and Bayelsa states."

In Kogi state, Chinedu Asadu, a reporter with

the privately owned The Cable online newspaper, told CPJ in a phone call that police officers seized his cell phone for 15 minutes when he attempted to take photos of a politician giving money to women waiting to cast their votes. After police returned his phone, Asadu said another officer made threatening

comments, and he feared the officer would harm him, so he left the polling place.

Lolafunke Ogunlolu, a journalist with the privately owned Africa Independent Television broadcaster, told CPJ in a phone call that a group of armed men threatened to beat her after they saw her film them assaulting a woman at a polling station in Aiyetorogbede, Kogi state.

Ogunlolu said the men, whose identities she could not determine, demanded she delete all the pictures and videos she took of them. Ogunlolu said one man was about to hit her and take her phone when another stopped him after recognizing Ogunlolu as a reporter with the station.

Two journalists with the privately owned Splash FM radio station, Tobi Kusimo and David Bello, told CPJ in phone conversations that a group of demonstrators in AiyetoroGbade, a town in Kogi state, threw stones at their van when they tried to interview a polling officer. The journalists said they fled after demonstrators broke their rear windshield and otherwise damaged their vehicle, and appeared angry enough to kill them.

"If we had waited for two additional seconds, only God knows what would have happened," Bello told CPJ.

In a separate case, Sam Egwu, a journalist with the privately owned newspaper The Nation, and Sunday Amachi, a reporter with the government-owned Kogi State Radio broadcaster, told CPJ via phone that a group of demonstrators in Anyigba, in Kogi state, surrounded their car while they drove to a polling place and threw stones at their vehicle.

"In fact, they destroyed our vehicle. It was a miracle we left that place unhurt," said Egwu.

Egwu and Amachi told CPJ that protesters alleging election interference barricaded all exit routes and surrounded their car. Protesters climbed on their car

in an attempt to force the journalists out, but the demonstrators dispersed after security forces fired their weapons, Egwu said.

In Bayelsa state, four unidentified individuals wielding canes and bottles intercepted Adejumo Kabir, a reporter with the Premium Times newspaper, while he was traveling to the main office of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission, he told CPJ via phone. The individuals forced his driver to leave, and drove Kabir to an isolated area in Opolo, in Yenagoa, the state capital, where they interrogated him for two hours, he told CPJ. Kabir said his abductors had mistaken him for a government official and, after questioning and accusing him of manipulating election results, they released him.

Kabir then traveled to the Independent National Electoral Commission office to cover the collation of the results, but police blocked him and other reporters from entering the building, even though they identified themselves as journalists, Kabir said. He said the officers told the journalists that they were working on orders from above not to admit members of the press.

CPJ's calls and text messages to Oluwole Ozassi-Uzi, the Independent National Electoral Commission spokesperson, went unanswered. The head of voter education in Bayelsa State, Wilfred Ifogah, told journalists that security officials "misunderstood INEC instructions" when they bared reporters from entering the commission's office, according to a report by Premium Times.

In a text message to CPJ, Nigerian police spokesperson Frank Mba said he was not aware of any assaults on journalists and said, "The safety and wellbeing of journalists and media practitioners generally was of paramount importance to the Nigeria Police Force."

Mba said that the force would "take extra measures to ensure [journalists'] safety."



"Don't depend on government for everything"

-Ghana fire chief cautions LNFS authorities

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Fire Service Chief of neighboring Ghana, Mr. Edwin Ekow Blankson has cautioned authorities at the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) not to depend on government for everything that the LNFS will need.

Chief Blankson who is visiting Liberia as guest of the Liberia National Fire Service, gave the caution during an elaborate welcoming ceremony held Thursday, 21 November in his at the Liberia National Fire

Service headquarters on Newport Street.

He encourages his Liberian counterparts to reach out to valuable banking institutions, private corporations, business community, insurance entities and foreign embassies accredited near this Capitol, saying they much assistance to render the LNFS.

According to Chief Blankson, the LNFS can better do so through vigorous fire public awareness exercises and engage key stakeholders that have the ability to help Liberia.

The Ghanaian fire chief also makes reference to his country where he says programs are designed that encourage all Ghanaian to understand the role of fire fighters and the responsibility of the citizens.

He furthers that Liberia and Ghana's fire services have similar constraints including inadequate logistics supply. In spite of the challenges faced by the Ghana Fire Service, Chief Blankson says his institution has made some advancement in its work.

He admonishes the Liberia National Fire Service to ensure that a modern forensic fire structure is in place that would examine fire cases, not only to determine their causes but to also have all relevant documentations that could be used in court in any fire disaster.

Chief Blankson promises to convey to his authorities, the honor bestowed on his delegation and the warmed hospitality showed him and his delegation while here in Liberia.

In a special statement, Liberia's Fire Service Director Col. Alex K. Dickson expresses gratitude to his Ghanaian counterpart and his special aide for visiting Liberia to see things for themselves.

He informs Chief Blankson that the LNFS is the only government agency that was never restructured during the restructuring exercises of some agencies, adding that the LNFS is



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now going through restructure process, depending on the goodwill assistance of Ghana.

Earlier, there was an elaborate program at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) where the top officials and servicemen and women of the Liberia National Service officially received and welcomed Chief Blankson and aide to Liberia.

Meanwhile, the Ghana Fire Chief is expected to on 22 November meet with Liberia's Minister of Justice Musa Dean, followed by a visitation to the Ghanaian Embassy in Liberia and also touring fire stations of the LNFS, among others.

The Ghana Fire Chief was presented with special gift from the authority of the LNFS. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

« Mention très mauvaise », c'est la note du gouvernement Weah, selon un sondage

La plupart des Libériens pensent que le pays se dirige dans une mauvaise direction, qualifiant de « très médiocre » la gestion de l'économie par le régime du président George Manneh Weah, selon le sixième rapport de sondage publié par NaymotePartners for Democratic Development.

Le directeur exécutif de Naymote, Eddie D. Jarwolo, a annoncé mercredi dans son rapport à Paynesville que le niveau de satisfaction des citoyens à l'égard de la qualité de la démocratie dans le pays a fortement diminué.

Le sondage mené du 15 juillet 2019 au 30 août 2019 était axé sur la prestation de services, l'économie, la transparence, la participation et l'engagement civiques et la sécurité.

Selon M. Jarwolo, 3 600 électeurs inscrits dans 46 circonscriptions électorales des 15 comtés du pays ont été interrogés au hasard lors du sondage réalisé par dix agents

recenseurs initialement formés à la réalisation d'un sondage.

Le sondage dont l'objectif principal est de savoir ce que pensent les citoyens de leur gouvernement est mené chaque année par Naymote. Il s'agit de recueillir les diverses

opinions des citoyens de tout le pays à l'égard de la qualité de la gouvernance.

Selon M. Jarwolo, 82% des personnes interrogées pensent que « le pays va dans la mauvaise direction, tandis que 15% pensent que le pays va

plutôt dans la bonne direction ».

On assiste ainsi en 2019 à une nette augmentation des perceptions négatives à l'égard de la gestion et de la gouvernance du pays. En 2018, 64% des personnes interrogées avaient déclaré que le pays allait dans la mauvaise direction.

En outre, en 2019, 89% des répondants ont décrit les conditions économiques actuelles comme très pauvres ou très misérables, contre 70% en 2018.

Le rapport met en exergue naturellement une nette diminution du niveau de satisfaction des citoyens à l'égard du niveau de démocratie dans le pays : 57% des personnes interrogées se sont déclarées très satisfaites du fonctionnement de la démocratie, tandis que 40% ont déclaré ne pas être satisfaites. Trois pour cent ont indiqué qu'ils ne savaient pas. En 2018, 80% avaient déclaré être « très satisfaits » du fonctionnement de la démocratie », ce qui signifie une nette réduction de 23% cette année.

En outre, l'enquête a révélé que le taux d'interactions entre les législateurs et leurs électeurs est faible, 75% des personnes interrogées ayant déclaré n'avoir participé à aucun événement organisé par leurs législateurs dans leur district depuis janvier 2018.

Néanmoins, l'enquête a révélé que la plupart des personnes interrogées se sont dites satisfaites du rôle de l'opposition qui continue de demander des comptes au gouvernement.

Le directeur exécutif de Naymote, M. Jarwolo, a déclaré aux journalistes que 65% des personnes interrogées se sont dites très satisfaites de la manière dont les partis politiques de l'opposition font pression sur le parti au pouvoir afin de fournir des services.

De leur côté, 31% des personnes interrogées ont déclaré ne pas être satisfaits du rôle joué par les partis politiques de l'opposition.

Quoique la plupart des libériens interrogés se félicitent de l'opposition pour son rôle, ils s'opposent à l'organisation des manifestations intempestives dans le pays.

« La plupart des choses que vous voyez aujourd'hui qui ont été mises en œuvre, c'est grâce au travail de l'opposition qui ne

cesse d'exposer les actes de corruption au sein du gouvernement », a-t-il dit.

« Mais les citoyens ne veulent pas de manifestations », a-t-il poursuivi, ajoutant qu'ils estiment qu'en cas de manifestations ils ne pourront pas se rendre au travail.

Il a indiqué que le fait que les partis de l'opposition tiennent des conférences de presse pour dénoncer les méfaits du gouvernement est mieux par rapport à la guerre et aux jets de pierres.

« L'évaluation générale de l'économie était mauvaise. Plus de 92% (2 121 hommes et 1 190 femmes) ont qualifié de très pauvres et très médiocres les performances du gouvernement en matière de gestion de l'économie », a révélé M. Jarwolo.

Il a aussi indiqué que 81% des personnes interrogées (dont 2365 femmes et 539 hommes) ont qualifié de très médiocre la performance du gouvernement en matière de gestion des services de santé.

90% des personnes interrogées (2 049 hommes et 1 172 femmes) ont qualifié de très mauvais et très pauvres les résultats obtenus par le gouvernement dans la lutte contre la corruption.

En outre, la confiance dans les forces armées du Libéria (AFL) a diminué, selon le rapport.

Alors que 93% des personnes interrogées lors du sondage de 2018 considéraient l'AFL comme l'institution de sécurité la plus fiable, seulement 78% des personnes interrogées en 2019 continuent de faire confiance à l'armée. Par contre, la méfiance à l'égard de la Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) of Liberia a diminué déjà en croire Naymote. En effet, dans le rapport de 2018, 72% des répondants ont déclaré ne pas faire confiance à la LDEA, par rapport à 57% en 2019.

D'après Naymote, 58% des répondants sont âgés de 18 à 35 ans, ce qui signifie que les personnes les plus jeunes ont pour la plupart participé au sondage.

« Cette tendance s'aligne sur le fait que les jeunes représentent un peu plus de 65% du nombre total d'électeurs inscrits sur la liste électorale des élections de 2017. Trente-deux pour cent des répondants sont âgés de 36 à 50 ans et 10% de 50 ans et plus », a conclu Naymote.



Burkina Faso : les gendarmes repoussent une attaque jihadiste à Arbinda

Des hommes armés ont attaqué l'escadron de gendarmerie basé à la brigade territoriale de gendarmerie d'Arbinda dans la province du Soum mercredi 20 novembre. Attaque repoussée par les gendarmes selon des sources sécuritaires.

Le bilan est d'au moins 18 terroristes tués et du

matériel, dont des armes, saisi. Un gendarme burkinabè a été tué et sept autres blessés au cours des combats. L'escadron de gendarmerie visé par l'attaque assure la sécurisation de la commune d'Arbinda.

Selon les sources sécuritaires, les assaillants sont arrivés à moto. Ils étaient une quarantaine. « Leur objectif était

certainement de faire un carnage et de prendre le camp », précise l'un de nos interlocuteurs. Ils ont encerclé le camp et laissé juste une sortie, où ils attendaient en embuscade les soldats burkinabè.

Les affrontements ont duré une trentaine de minutes. Et face à la puissance de feu de l'unité de gendarmerie, les terroristes ont abandonné leur projet et ont pris la fuite, laissant derrière eux une douzaine de motocyclettes.

Treize Kalachnikov, des roquettes AC, une vingtaine de chargeurs,

des postes émetteurs et récepteurs pour la communication, plusieurs téléphones, un appareil de localisation GPS et une RPG7 ont été également laissés sur place par les assaillants, selon une source sécuritaire.

Ces hommes avaient lancé un premier assaut contre le détachement sans succès il y a quelques semaines. C'est ainsi qu'ils sont revenus à la charge ce mercredi avec des armes lourdes, selon notre source.



Français

Crise financière : Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf et son gouvernement encore pointés du doigt

L'ancien président du Parti patriotique national (NPP, principal allié du parti au pouvoir), Cyril Allen, a accusé l'administration précédente d'être responsable du manque de liquidités dont souffrent actuellement les banques commerciales du pays.

Selon lui, les banques commerciales ne sont pas financièrement en sécurité du fait que la Banque centrale du Libéria, sous la direction de l'ancien gouverneur Mills Jones ait épuisé les réserves de ces banques commerciales pour achever son siège à Monrovia.

Au cours d'un entretien exclusif avec le New Dawn à Monrovia par téléphone, Chief Allen a rappelé que sous l'administration du Dr Jones et sous les auspices de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, la Banque centrale du Libéria n'avait généré que 5 millions de dollars US comme bénéfice sur une période de 12 ans, pourtant, il lui a fallu 21 millions de dollars américains pour achever sa structure située à Ashmun Street, sans avoir emprunté un centime.

Il s'est demandé où les autorités de la CBL ont sorti les fonds pour accomplir une œuvre d'une telle taille. La seule explication possible, selon lui, c'est que la banque centrale a pillé les réserves des banques commerciales.

M. Allen a décrit le siège de la CBL comme un "éléphant aux pieds d'argile", car les réserves des banques commerciales sont à cours d'argent.

Il accuse l'ancien gouverneur Jones d'avoir intimidé les banques commerciales lorsque ces banques avaient tenté de soulever des doutes. Certaines s'étaient senties menacées, d'autant plus que la CBL était l'organe de réglementation et de surveillance des activités monétaires.

Il accuse donc le régime de la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf d'être entièrement responsable de la crise financière que traverse le pays, deux ans après la prise du pouvoir par le régime en place. Selon lui, M. Jones savait bel et bien que le pillage des réserves des banques commerciales pour la construction d'un siège moderne pour la Banque centrale du Libéria aurait ce genre d'effet à long terme sur le marché.

Lorsque ce journal a contacté le Dr. Mills Jones par téléphone pour obtenir une réaction, son téléphone privé a sonné à plusieurs reprises, sans réponse.

La Banque centrale du Libéria a été créée le 18 octobre 1999 par une loi du parlement national de la République du Libéria. Elle est devenue opérationnelle en 2000 et succède à la Banque nationale du Libéria (NBL). M. Elie E. Saleeby fut le premier gouverneur exécutif.

Le principal objectif de la CBL est d'atteindre et de maintenir une stabilité des prix dans l'économie libérienne. À cette fin, Elle cherche à préserver le pouvoir d'achat de la monnaie nationale; promeut l'équilibre interne et externe de l'économie nationale; elle encourage la mobilisation de l'épargne intérieure et étrangère et son affectation efficace aux activités économiques productives; elle facilite l'émergence des marchés financiers et des capitaux capables de répondre aux besoins de l'économie nationale et favorise des conditions monétaires, financières et de crédit propices à une croissance ordonnée, équilibrée et durable.

Les pouvoirs de la Banque sont conférés à un conseil des gouverneurs, chargé de la formulation et de la mise en œuvre des politiques. Le conseil d'administration est composé de cinq gouverneurs nommés par le président du Libéria, sous réserve de la confirmation par le Sénat libérien.

Se prononçant sur la question de l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque libériens, M. Allen a indiqué que ce n'est pas une mauvaise idée, mais il faut que le gouvernement Weah se concentre davantage sur l'agriculture et cherche à protéger les réserves d'or et de diamant du pays.

Il a déclaré que pour relancer l'économie, il faut que le gouvernement investisse dans les grandes exploitations et utilise les nouveaux billets de banque attendus pour procéder au traitement des minerais. Il a souligné la nécessité de valoriser les gisements naturels et de conserver l'or et le diamant dans la réserve de la Banque centrale du Libéria, au lieu d'utiliser des billets de banque comme réserves.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Patricia Balvanera, Unai Pascual, Mike Christie & Brigitte Baptiste

Pourquoi le pluralisme des valeurs est indispensable au développement durable

BONN - Durant l'essentiel de cette année 2019, les actualités et les médias sociaux ont redoublé d'images troublantes de forêts en flammes, laissant derrière elles des paysages morts, calcinés, des maisons détruites et des personnes déplacées. Les images de forêts tropicales en flammes au Brésil et ailleurs ont suscité l'émoi et ont provoqué des réactions intenses dans le monde entier, en donnant ainsi un aperçu des nombreuses façons dont les gens considèrent et estiment la nature. Un avenir durable pour notre planète et ses habitants ne sera possible que si les décideurs comprennent et tiennent compte de cette valeur : le pluralisme.

Comme le remarque la Plateforme intergouvernementale science-politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (IPBES) dans son récent Rapport d'évaluation mondial, « La nature est essentielle à l'existence humaine et à une bonne qualité de vie. » Pourtant les décisions sur l'utilisation de nos ressources naturelles de plus en plus fragiles et sur la manière de les protéger négligent souvent de rendre compte de toutes les façons dont les différentes communautés témoignent de leur attachement à la valeur de la nature.

Heureusement, un groupe d'éminents scientifiques du monde entier s'est réuni récemment à Vitoria-Gasteiz, au Pays basque - la « capitale verte européenne » de 2012 - pour discuter d'un nouveau rapport de l'IPBES qui mettra l'accent sur « la diversité des valeurs de la nature. » Cette prochaine « Évaluation des valeurs » présentera les conclusions les mieux établies à ce jour sur la façon dont les diverses communautés donnent différentes valeurs à la nature et comment les systèmes naturels bénéficient à tous.

Il suffit de penser aux forêts tropicales qui ont brûlé tout au long de l'année et qui représentent une part disproportionnée de la biodiversité du monde. Certains diront que nous avons la responsabilité morale de protéger les richesses naturelles dans leur propre intérêt, indépendamment de leur contribution aux populations. Pourtant les forces du marché ont tendance à prédominer, notamment quand l'attention se déplace vers les opportunités économiques : le bois, les dérivés pharmaceutiques, l'écotourisme, l'exploitation minière, entre autres. Certains politiciens et intérêts commerciaux envisagent même les forêts comme un obstacle qui doit être rasé pour permettre l'expansion de l'agriculture, l'exploitation minière, le logement et l'infrastructure.

Le problème est que les décisions politiques ont tendance à refléter ces préoccupations économiques sans rendre compte des contributions plus étendues que fournissent

les systèmes naturels. Les forêts, par exemple, aident à réguler le climat, par le piégeage des gaz à effet de serre et par l'atténuation des effets du réchauffement climatique. Elles fonctionnent également comme un « système d'approvisionnement en eau » qui pompe l'eau de pluie vers les régions éloignées. Pourtant la plupart des décisions politiques ignorent ces précieuses contributions naturelles aux populations. En outre, elles négligent également les besoins de millions d'indigènes qui dépendent des forêts pour leur subsistance et leur santé.

Certaines des raisons pour lesquelles les gens accordent de la valeur à la nature sont universelles. Mais d'autres sont spécifiques à certains groupes et peuvent donc devenir des sources de conflit. Partout où des conflits surgissent entre des parties prenantes ayant un accès inégal aux leviers du pouvoir, les décisions sur la façon dont nous gérons la nature doivent tenir compte de cette asymétrie.

Et pourtant, les gouvernements, les banques de développement, les organisations de préservation et les acteurs du secteur privé s'emparent souvent de zones naturelles protégées en ignorant les besoins des communautés forestières. Dans de nombreuses régions tropicales, les décideurs politiques ont permis l'expansion de plantations de produits, comme celles qui produisent l'huile de palme et le soja, pour satisfaire la demande du marché mondial et soutenir les agriculteurs à faibles revenus et d'autres électeurs, qui dépendent de ces récoltes pour leur subsistance. Pourtant, trop souvent, ces plantations empiètent sur les habitations des populations autochtones et sur l'habitat d'espèces menacées d'extinction, notamment certains primates comme les gorilles, les orangs-outans et les alouates.

Différentes cultures considèrent la nature de différentes manières, dont certaines ne sont pas toujours évidentes pour des observateurs externes. Les décideurs doivent cependant s'efforcer de rendre compte de la mosaïque complexe de valeurs humaines dans la prise des décisions sur nos systèmes naturels. Les incendies de forêts et les autres catastrophes naturelles et écologiques de ces dernières années ont rappelé la fragilité de ces systèmes et des communautés qui en dépendent.

Les gouvernements sont de plus en plus conscients de la nécessité d'une perspective plus large et cherchent des moyens de rendre compte de la nature lors de l'élaboration des politiques, en ouvrant la voie vers le développement durable. Lorsque le rapport « Évaluation des valeurs » de l'IPBES paraîtra en 2022, il fournira une base scientifique pour éclairer les décisions qui tiennent compte de la diversité des valeurs dans nos interactions avec la nature.

FROM OUR FILES FROM OUR FILES

"Struggle Beyond words"

By Martin Blayon

Struggle beyond words describes the current status of the Liberian economy; which is reportedly "causing hardship for scores of Liberians"; due to reported "fake inflation" allegedly created by self-styled, anti-government supporters and counterfeit-makers, whose intent is to demonize the Weah's led government.

The hike in the prices of important consumable and non-consumable commodities on the Liberian market need urgent attention because; self-proclaimed patriots and fake-money producers, who are allegedly "supporting the artificial increase in the prices of essential commodities, are using this unbearable situation against the Liberian society and its people; so as to gain undue popularity and ill-gotten wealth; which is totally troubling".

The continuous depreciation of the Liberian dollars due to huge rush for the United States dollars in Liberia needs urgent attention from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Central Bank of Liberia and other institutions, void of politics.

Even though this government is making meaningful efforts to improve all sectors of our country in a short period; it is sensible that the Weah's led administration should focus on revamping the struggling Liberian economy; which needs urgent attention beyond words.

I stand to be corrected, it can be recalled that "financial experts and others expressed disappointment against the past government for its controversial monetary policy"; which created room for printing of new Liberian dollars or bank notes.

The popular call which was announced by the Liberian Senate during the past government that mandated Milton Week' leadership to vigorously remove all old Liberian dollars from the local market has allegedly not been "fully implemented, due to unknown reasons".

However, it is unclear, if the Senate requested a report from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) regarding the mandate to remove old Liberian dollars from the local market; an issue that created debate before the recent resignation of former Central Bank of Liberia Executive Governor, Milton Weeks.

It is an open secret that CBL has qualified and competent staff members, and has made tremendous effort to improve the Liberian economy from "US\$80 million reserve in 2006 to an appreciable level; which is one of the reported factors that led to the construction of the new Central Bank of Liberia building, and improvement in Liberia's gross Domestic Product (GDP), before the deadly Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in 2014."



It can also be recalled that the past government repeatedly said, the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak, the decline in the prices of iron ore and rubber, coupled with the withdrawal of the United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) peacekeeping troops, are some of contributing factors that have reportedly declined the Liberian economy.

However, the decline in the Liberian economy which was repeatedly publicized by the past government; could be one of the factors that allegedly led to "constant budget shortfall during the administration of Amara Konneh, former Minister of Finance and development planning."

Another issue of serious focus looks at Liberia, a country that has an economy; which is import-driven, a dangerous economic path that needs to be changed; so as to overhaul the entire country's economy.

"The millions of Liberian dollars, controversial loans which were allegedly given to individuals and institutions by former Central Bank of Liberia, Executive Governor, Dr. J. Mill Jones who was popularly called "poverty doctor;" by recipients of his loans, should not be ignored; regarding the nonstop depreciation of the Liberian dollars against the United States dollars.

Dr. Jones argued with the Senate and others that his monetary policy to empower Liberian institutions was 'intended to stabilize the country's economy'.

He is reportedly on record of saying: 'I am not giving the money to aliens or foreigners, but Liberians,' one of the famous response or answers of the former CBL's Executive Governor, who contested in the 2017 presidential elections.

Have the CBL submitted the report requested by

the Liberian Senate, about how much Liberian dollars or banknotes are currently in circulation?

Therefore, we need to empower the Liberia Electricity Corporation to improve its service delivery, with reliable and affordable electrical power; which can attract local, international investors and others, if Liberia has stable electricity.

Big thanks to the United States of America, friendly countries, and others for their financial and technical support to LEC; in providing electricity in some parts of Liberia, which is commendable.

However, robust step needs to be taken in reducing power theft; which is one of the major challenges leading to the inability of LEC to expand its services in all parts of Montserrado County and Liberia at large.

Also the hosting of economic/financial submit by the Central Bank of Liberia, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and others; which could help in reducing the huge economic burden currently facing the Liberian society and its people, cannot be overemphasized.

The expected gathering can bring together former Ministers of Finance, governors, financial experts from World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), local commercial banks, Liberian business actors, foreign business practitioners, and others, in brainstorming on issues affecting the Liberian economy; way forward, which could be in the best interest of the country and its people.

I am also aware that the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's led government constituted a committee, headed by a renowned financial expert, Tyron A. Brown to study the burdens facing the Liberian economy.

Where is that report or findings, if the study was conducted by the team constituted by the past government, headed by a Harvard trained economist (ex-President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf).

Finally, the empowerment of Liberia National Police, Liberia Immigration Service, Drug Enforcement Agency, agents of National Security Agency (NSA), and others, to enhance their intelligence operations; in getting useful information against counterfeit-makers, illegal individuals and institutions, whose aim focus on depreciation the Liberian dollars, which is badly affecting the country's economy.

Disclaimer: The views expressed here represent me, and have no connection with any individual or institution, I have association with.



Saving the telecom industry

After years of intensive lobbying by Orange and MTN, the Government of Liberia has agreed to provide unprecedented intervention to support telecom companies and their profitability. Orange and MTN, operate in a duopoly in Liberia, and have been indicating that their current competition does not allow for them to generate sufficient profits. This is in spite of the fact that in most countries in which they both operate, there is much heavier competition with at least 4 or more operators.

Meanwhile, it is unclear what the Operators actual profit margin is. It is widely reported that such multinational operators charge themselves brand fees, management fees and interest so as to transfer their profits overseas to their mother company. This practice has recently been called into question in numerous countries in West Africa as potentially



prohibited.

Despite this aggressive form of transferring profits, the Government has conceded to the Operators and agreed to intervene in the market on their behalf. This was done after a careful study conducted by the LTA determined that the

Government would need to also raise its share of tax revenues on the sector, after many years of declining tax revenues.

To lure the Government into establishing price floors that abolish the \$1 for 3 day promotion and raise the cost of internet service, the Operators

agreed that the Government would also establish regulatory surcharges, just as the Operators experience in several other countries. This compromise was to ensure that while the Operators enjoy windfall profits from new regulations, the Government can also raise sufficient revenues to finance its development and Pro Poor Agenda.

While governmental

intervention to provide Operators price floors is unique, regulatory surcharges are very common across West Africa. In neighboring Guinea where both MTN and Orange both operate profitably, the government regulator levied the same regulatory surcharges on the telecom sector. In spite of these surcharges, the Guinean telecom sector remains highly profitable and continues to expand. Meanwhile, consumers in those countries continue to enjoy highly competitive prices.

It's worth noting that the Price Floor is already positively impacting the sector's revenue. However, until the surcharges on the Operators takes effect in March 2020, the Government is realizing a very small benefit relative to the Operators. In the meantime, the Operators have a window of time to enjoy a windfall without sharing much of the benefit. Meanwhile, given the windfall the Operators are enjoying, it is clear they will have the capacity to finance the surcharges, as they already do in other countries where consumers enjoy quality service.

A good fighter falls

News of the death of three times presidential candidate, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine late Wednesday, 20 November hit the entire country like an earthquake, bringing along profound memories of a true patriot, politician, statesman and erudite lawyer.

President George Manneh

lives and contributed immensely in helping shape our democracy for the better. He was a true trailblazer of civil liberties and a man of impeccable character", President Weah expresses and consoles the family and kinsmen of the fallen politician.

Cllr. Brumskine was former

90s when he entered the Liberian Senate as President Pro-Tempore under jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

But he would soon fall out with Taylor on policy difference and turned out to become his bitter enemy so much so that he had to escape for his life into exile.



Weah led an array of tribute payers Wednesday, after news of a key political challenger broke here.

"This is not only a tough loss for his family, partisans of the Liberty Party and the great people of Grand Bassa County, but for our Country as a whole - as Counselor Brumskine impacted many

standard bearer of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) that he unsuccessfully led to tree presidential polls, beginning from 2005 to 2017.

He was a lawyer par excellence with vast experience in both Liberian and American jurisprudence. Cllr. Brumskine made his debut to Liberian politics in the late

From that life threatening experience with Mr. Taylor, the late Counselor had stepped into politics with a clear focus on state leadership.

He saw the opportunity ripe in 2005 after Taylor had forcibly relinquished power and sought sanctuary in Nigeria, and a peace accord brokered in 2003, which saw

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the coming in of United Nations Peacekeeping Mission to Liberia that executed disarmament and subsequently organized elections.

With prophecy that he would become Liberia's next President, Brumskine launched a formidable campaign against dozens of equally tough-notch rivals, including now President Weah and former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, coming third in the first round of the polls.

That was his closest move towards the Executive Mansion that he had so dearly longed to reside in as President, but that dream was never achieved

despite making two additional attempts both in 2011 and 2017, respectively.

Unlike most aggrieved African politicians who believe the best way in expressing disagreement is mobilizing supporters into the streets, Cllr. Brumskine raised qualm with the first round of polling in 2017, but took his complaint before the law and accepted the outcome for the sake of peace.

The Liberty Party has lost not just its founding standard bearer, but a leader and a father who was endowed with wisdom and guidance. -By Jonathan Browne

Bayern considering Mauricio Pochettino



Mauricio Pochettino is being considered by Bayern Munich to take over as permanent manager at the Allianz Arena, according to Sky in Germany.

No contact has been made with the Argentine following his sacking from Tottenham, but he is understood to be high among their list of candidates for the vacant role currently being filled by interim boss Hansi Flick.

Pochettino departed

Hotspur Way this week after five years in charge, guiding the club to their first Champions League final last term.

The 47-year-old has a £12.5m compensation clause in his Spurs contract and the figure is set to be paid to him in instalments.

If he is re-employed during the three to six month period of notice, those staggered payments to him from his former club would

immediately cease.

Meanwhile, Sky Sports News understands that Real Madrid also see the former Spurs boss as a potential option in summer 2020.

Ajax manager Erik ten Hag, Paris Saint-Germain head coach Thomas Tuchel, and former RB Leipzig boss Ralf Rangnick have all distanced themselves from the managerial position at Bayern in recent weeks.

Arsene Wenger recently quashed any links with the Bayern job by returning to the game as FIFA's new chief of global football development.

Niko Kovac was sacked by the Bundesliga champions earlier in November after 16 months in charge.

Bayern full-back Joshua Kimmich says he admires the coaching abilities of Pochettino and but is also "not against" his former manager and current Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola returning to the club where he won seven trophies in three seasons from 2013-2016.

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Former legendary footballer Samuel Eto'o goes back to school

Retired Cameroonian legend footballer Samuel Eto'o, has set his sights on education.

Eto'o is said to be planning to join Harvard Private University to study management to acquire the necessary intellectual skills to help him face entrepreneurial life.

According to a report Three Zambian Observer, the former No. Nine of the



Cameroon Indomitable Lions said he will resume studies in



January 2020. "When you are a footballer,

you pay people to take care of yours. But when it is up to you to manage them, and you want to develop them, you need to acquire new skills," Eto'o said.

"So I will go back to school to learn business management. In January, I will join Harvard University, which has kindly admitted me to specialized training," he added.

The legend Eto'o has probably understood that being a footballer only requires physical and technical

strength, but managing a company requires intellectual and moral strength.

"It will not be easy, but it is a great challenge and it will open other doors for me," he said

Already active in sports betting, one wonders which entrepreneurial seed Eto'o plans to sprout in the next few years after his studies at Harvard.

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