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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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Ellen blasts Unity Party



Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf



Lawmakers left hanging

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Continental News

Rice price rises by 29.41% in two months

Price of rice, a staple consumed during festivities in Nigeria, has risen by over 29.41 per cent since July, along with other foodstuffs. This is even as Christmas is just a few weeks away, Anna Okon reports

before August 28 when the Nigeria Customs Service closed the borders against her neighbours, the price of rice was N17,000 per 50-kilogramme bag, having risen from N14,000 a few months before.

Currently the price of foreign parboiled rice, has gone up to between N22,000 and N30,000, findings by our correspondent have shown.

Also, the price of local rice that is positioned to replace foreign ones on Nigeria's dietary palate has also gone up.

It was gathered that the local rice at Bodija market in Ibadan, Oyo State, was being sold for N20,000 per 50kg bag

and N16,000/50kg in Minna in Niger State.

In Garko Market, Kano, it sells for N20,000/50kg bag.

In Lapal, Niger State; Gboko, Benue State; Maitagari, Jigawa State and Ughelli, Delta State, local rice sells for N18,000/50kg, N11,000/50kg, N19,000/50kg and N23,000/50kg bag,

respectively.

In Egbeda Market in Lagos, local rice sells for about N18,000; in Umuahia main market, Abia State, it sells for N22,000.

The popular Ofada rice, consumed for its rich nutritional value and great flavour, sells for N28,000 per 50kg bag and between N2,800

and N3,500 per 5kg bag.

This was not the case in July as data from Nigerian agriculture produce portals show.

In July, imported rice was N17,000; local rice sold for between N11,000 and N15,000 for 50kg bag.

Other staples such as noodles, chicken and mackerel (ice fish) have also witnessed price increases.

Mackerel, for instance, has increased from between N950 and N1,000 per kilo to N1,200/kilo. The price of noodles has moved from between N1,800 and N1,950 per carton to N2,100.

The breeder agriculture chicken sold for N4,500 in October, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, currently sells for between N5,000 and N5,500.

The NBS in its Consumer Price Index which measures inflation stated that inflation rate hit 11.61 per cent in October from 11.24 in September, increasing by 0.37 per cent.

The bureau stated that this was the highest increase in eight months.

Some consumers said it would be tough to buy food items for the Yuletide season.

One of them, a housewife, Buky Olaoye, said, "The only way to do it is to buy items from far away markets where things are cheaper. Instead of buying foodstuffs in Ikeja, for instance, we will have to buy

from Oyingbo or Egbeda.

"Also, it will be wise for two or more people to come together and buy in bulk and then share items."

The Director General, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Muda Yusuf, said the months ahead would be tough for consumers.

He said at this time of the year, due to high demand ahead of the festive season, rice and other staples usually witnessed increase in price.

Yusuf said, "However, this year has been more severe because of the border closure as a large supply of food items comes from neighbouring countries and once that supply is suddenly cut off, then it leads to scarcity.

"Things will likely continue to be tight for consumers up till early next year and it affects other commodities apart from rice as people try to find cheaper alternatives."

He advised the government to intensify efforts at boosting local production.

He said, "Productivity is still very low. Many farmers are still relying on the traditional method of farming. That cannot feed 200 million people.

"Government should do something fast because this is a real social problem. The government should consider the plight of those who are paying the high prices."

DR Congo crowd burns UN base and Beni town hall

Protesters have torched a UN military base and the town hall in Beni in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The protesters were furious that UN and government troops had failed to prevent an attack by an Islamist militia.

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) had killed eight people during a raid on the town on Sunday night.

The UN has an 18,000-strong force in DR Congo, but

its troops and those of the government have battled to curb instability in the mostly lawless east.

The ADF is one of many militia groups operating in eastern DR Congo, a mineral-rich area which borders Uganda and Rwanda.

The militia, formed by Ugandan rebels, has been accused of widespread atrocities in the region.

On Monday, an angry crowd marched to the camp of the UN

force, known by the acronym Monusco, to protest against the latest attack.

"Several offices at the Monusco headquarters were set on fire and looted," a civil society leader in Beni, Teddy Kataliko, told Reuters news agency.

"Residents are demanding the withdrawal of Monusco from Beni because of the inaction of UN forces," he added.

The protesters had earlier stormed the town hall, and had set ablaze the mayor's office, police said in a tweet in French.

DR Congo President Felix Tshisekedi has responded to the protest by promising that UN and government troops would carry out joint operations to protect civilians in Beni, AFP news agency reports.

The town, with a population of more than 200,000, has also been at the epicentre of an Ebola outbreak.

More than 2,000 people have died in the epidemic - the second most deadly anywhere in the world - and health services have been disrupted in the city because of the years of instability.



Lassa fever 'at risk' Britons sent home from Sierra Leone

Three British nationals have been brought back to the UK from Sierra Leone for medical assessment after coming into close contact with two people diagnosed with Lassa fever.

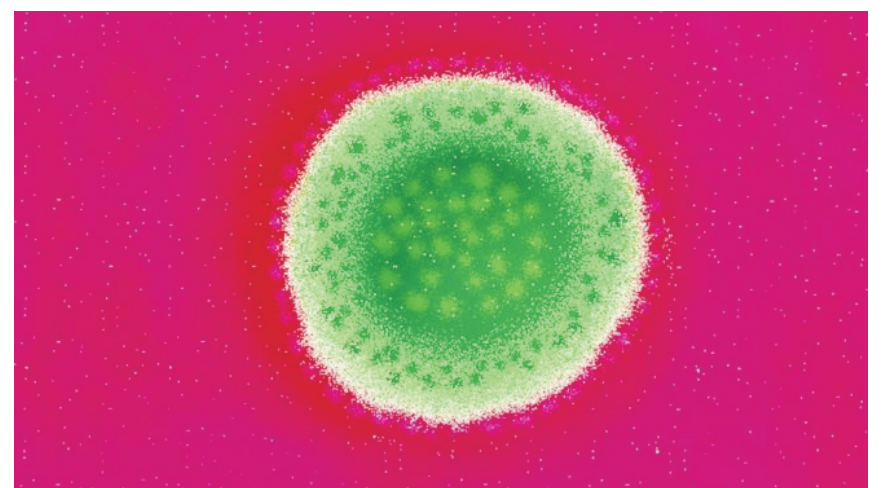
One of the two infected Dutch nationals - both doctors working in Sierra Leone - has died from the virus.

Health officials say the

move is a precautionary measure - Public Health England has also notified another 15 British nationals who may be at risk.

Risk to the general public is very low.

There are no confirmed cases of Lassa fever in the UK. Public Health England says it is closely monitoring the situation.



EDITORIAL

Weah's analogy on football and governance

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah assured foreign investors recently in Dubai that just as he exercised high degree of honesty during his professional soccer career, the business climate in Liberia under his Presidency is guided by honesty. But this is far from the truth.

WHAT MR. WEAH did not tell investors is that his performance on the soccer pitch was governed by football authorities who even decided his contract and how much money he should be paid. His prime duty was to play and score, which he did very excellently that earned him both Africa and the world best footballer title in one year.

SO, HOW COULD he cheated on the pitch while being guided by referees, linesmen, match commissioners and monitored by video cameras? It was difficult to cheat if he wanted to hence, that reference cannot be a yardstick to measure his Presidency.

THE POINT IS Mr. Weah' experience from the football field cannot be compared with the superior presidency he now enjoys in Liberia, where he decides absolutely when and how to declare his assets, who should be awarded a contract from bidding process, outcome of cases in court, including flagrant violations of the Constitution of Liberia, among others.

WE ARE AWARE just as the President himself is in the know of some of his officials being heard on tape soliciting bribes from construction contracts in order to act favorably for said firm. The head of the National Housing Authority was suspended, charged and taken to court but returned innocent and a freeman despite overwhelming evidence.

HOW DARE PRESIDENT Weah to talk about fair-play and honesty in his government when newly printed Liberian banknotes totaling billions brought into the country under his Presidency vanished in thin air, though the authorities say no money is missing.

HOWEVER, THE COUNTRY faces serious shortage of banknotes to the extent that the government is unable to pay salaries, while commercial banks cannot meet customers' demand for money. Yet the President talks about honest business environment under his leadership.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD be told in no uncertain terms that no amount of sugar-coated tongues to foreign investors would change realities in Liberia: a government that is unable to pay its employees and is engulfed by serious moral and integrity issues.

THE WORLD HAS become a big village, where unfolding developments in Liberia, member of this village, is on the global screen, so no amount of window-dressing or public relations void of facts can make up or impress investors.

THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION lacks high moral grounds to talk about honesty and integrity because it is not only corrupt, but inept. High level of financial indiscipline in the government characterized by lack of transparency and accountability cannot attract investors' confidence in the economy. The President should know by now that unless he improves such ugly picture, nothing would work.

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Mark Suzman

The Most Important Story You Missed in 2019

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria recently secured \$14 billion in new funding. This replenishment will help to save millions of lives and is a testament to the success of multilateralism in solving humanitarian crises - but rising isolationism means that good news like this could become a thing of the past.

SEATTLE - According to the most recent tally, The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal publish a combined total of 1,000 stories every day. Although the report didn't say how many people read all of them, it's safe to assume that nobody managed to do so.

Each of us probably overlooks tens of thousands of important news stories every year. But the biggest one that people missed in 2019 happened on October 10 in a conference hall in Lyon, France, where a gathering of government officials, business leaders, and philanthropists pledged \$14 billion to an organization called the Global Fund.

Not many people know what the Global Fund is until they hear its full name: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Fund was established shortly after the turn of the millennium, when hundreds of thousands of children were dying from preventable diseases. The AIDS crisis was at its height, with news outlets describing the virus as a "malevolent scythe" cutting across Sub-Saharan Africa. Its unstoppable spread, some predicted, would lead to the collapse of entire countries. This was an international crisis that required an international response.

At the United Nations, then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan rallied the world around the Millennium Development Goals - a set of specific targets related to poverty and disease reduction - and launched the Global Fund to achieve them.

The Fund was designed to be a new kind of multilateral venture, not just a coalition of governments. It also brought in partners from the business and philanthropic sectors, including the newly-formed Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This inclusive approach enabled the initiative to draw on a wider range of expertise.

Over the last two decades, the Global Fund has transformed the way we fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria - the three biggest killers in poor countries. By pooling resources, the Fund created economies of scale for life-saving products such as anti-malarial bed nets and antiretroviral drugs. Then, by working with almost 100 countries, the Fund built a massive supply chain to deliver the goods. In the process, deaths from AIDS have fallen by 50% from their peak, and malaria deaths have decreased by about 50% since the turn of the millennium. Now, the Fund has \$14 billion in new funding to continue this work.

The replenishment is vitally important news, first and foremost because of the sheer

number of lives it will help to save. The \$14 billion, the Fund predicts, will be enough to cut the three diseases' death rates by almost 50% again by 2023. That translates into 16 million lives saved.

But what happened on October 10 in Lyon is critical for another reason: it illustrates how we are at a pivotal point in history, from which the world might move in one direction or another.

On one hand, the successful recent fundraising effort was a testament to the way the world went about solving humanitarian crises in the early years of this century. Multilateralism, it turns out, worked - and worked extremely well.

That same period also gave rise to organizations like Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a global alliance of public- and private-sector stakeholders that aims to get vaccines to some of the world's poorest children. Gavi has helped to immunize more than 760 million children to date. And the coverage rate of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine in Gavi-supported countries increased from 59% in 2000 to 81% in 2018 - only four percentage points below the global average. (Gavi, too, will need to raise new funding over the next year.)

On the other hand, the fact that no similar multilateral organization has been established since the early 2000s - at least not on such a scale - should give us pause.

The Fund managed to raise the \$14 billion at a time of rising isolationism. Today, many governments seem to prefer to go it alone rather than engage in the expansive problem-solving that worked so well over the last 20 years. Brexit is one example of this. Others include US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris climate agreement, and his administration's call for deep cuts to US foreign aid (which, thanks to Congress, have yet to be made).

I often wonder what would have happened had the AIDS crisis emerged 20 years later than it did. Would we be able to create the Global Fund today? The answer, I think, is no. It would be very difficult to build support for that kind of initiative in this environment.

Last month's news from Lyon, then, is part of an ongoing story. Will the world realize that multilateral coalitions work and reverse course? Or is the era of multilateralism at an end?

The Global Fund's replenishment may be the best news you hadn't heard about yet in 2019. But unless we halt the slide toward isolationism and start rebuilding a global community, it's the kind of news you may never hear again.

O-PED

By Stephen S. Roach

After the US-China Trade War

NEW HAVEN - For the last two years, the conflict between the United States and China has dominated the economic and financial-market debate - with good reason. After threats and accusations that long predate US President Donald Trump's election, rhetoric has given way to action. Over the past 17 months, the world's two largest economies have become embroiled in the most serious tariff war since the early 1930s. And the weaponization of US trade policy to target perceived company-specific threats such as Huawei has broadened the front in this battle.

I am as guilty as anyone of fixating on every twist and turn of this epic struggle between the world's two economic heavyweights. From the start, it has been a political conflict fought with economic weapons and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. What that means, of course, is that the economic and financial-market outlook basically hinges on the political dynamic between the United States and China.

In that vein, the so-called phase one "skinny" trade deal announced with great fanfare on October 11 may be an important political signal. While the deal, if ever consummated, will have next to no material economic impact, it provides a strong hint that Trump has finally had enough of this trade war. Consumed by domestic political concerns - especially impeachment and the looming 2020 election - it is in Trump's interest to declare victory and attempt to capitalize on it to counter his problems at home.

China, for its part, would also like nothing more than to end the trade war. Politics is obviously very different in a one-party state, but the Chinese leadership is not about to capitulate on its core principles of sovereignty and its aspirational mid-century goals of rejuvenation, growth, and development. At the same time, there can be no mistaking downward pressures on the economy. But with Chinese policymakers determined to stay the course of their three-year deleveraging campaign - an important self-inflicted source of the current slowdown - they should be all the more eager to address the trade-related pressures brought about by the conflict with the US.

Consequently, the political calculus of both countries is coming into closer alignment, with each looking for some face-saving truce. There is always a risk that other complications will arise - recent events in Hong Kong and revelations of developments in China's Xinjiang Province come to mind. But, at least for the time being, the politics of the trade war are now pointing more toward de-escalation rather than a renewed ratcheting up of tensions.

If that is the case, and if a phase one accord is reached, it behooves us to ponder what the world will look like after the trade war. Several possibilities are at the top of my list: deglobalization, decoupling, and trade diversion.

Deglobalization is unlikely. Like the first wave of globalization that ended ignominiously between World War I and the Great Depression, the current wave has generated a mounting backlash. Populism is rearing its ugly head around the world, and tensions over income and wealth inequality - aggravated by fears that technological innovations such as artificial intelligence will undermine job security - are dominating the political discourse. Yet the climactic event that underscored the demise of the first wave of globalization was a 60% collapse in world trade in the early 1930s. Notwithstanding the current political dysfunction, the odds of a similar outcome today are extremely low.

Global decoupling is also unlikely. Reflecting the explosive growth in global value chains (GVCs) over the past 25 years, the world is woven together more tightly than ever before. That has transformed global competition away from the country-specific paradigm of the past to a far more fragmented competition between widely distributed platforms of inputs, components, design, and assembly functions. A recent IMF study found that GVCs accounted for fully 73% of the rapid growth in global trade that occurred over the 20-year period from 1993 to 2013. Enabled by irreversible trends of plunging transportation costs and technological breakthroughs in logistics and sourcing, the GVC linkages that have come to underpin global economic integration are at little risk of decoupling.

Trade diversion is another matter altogether. As I have long argued, bilateral trade conflicts - even a bilateral decoupling - can do nothing to resolve multilateral imbalances. Putting pressure on one of many trading partners - precisely what the US is doing when it squeezes China in an effort to reduce its merchandise trade deficits with 102 countries - is likely to backfire. That's because America's multilateral trade deficit reflects a profound shortfall of domestic saving that will only get worse as the federal budget deficit now veers out of control. Without addressing this chronic saving problem, targeting China will mean pushing the Chinese piece of the multilateral deficit on to America's other trading partners. Such diversion will shift trade to higher-cost foreign sourcing - the functional equivalent of a tax hike on US consumers.

Trade truce or not, a protracted economic struggle between the US and China has already begun. A cease-fire in the current battle is nothing more than a politically expedient pause in what is likely to be an enduring Cold War-like conflict. That should worry the US, which is devoid of a long-term strategic framework. China is not. That is certainly the message from Sun Tzu in *The Art of War*: "When your strategy is deep and far-reaching ... you can win before you even fight."

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OPINION

Bynina L. Khrushcheva

Putin Means Money

MOSCOW - In her 2014 book *Putin's Kleptocracy*, the late Karen Dawisha argued that the key to understanding Vladimir Putin's Russia is money. While Putin was selling stories to the public about restoring Russia's global influence, she explained, he and a coterie of trusted cronies were amassing massive amounts of personal wealth. More than an authoritarian, nationalist, or revanchist, Putin, in her view, should be understood as a crook.

At the time, I disagreed: though money was undoubtedly important to understanding the Putin regime, the drive for global influence was not to be dismissed. But in the wake of the security forces' raid on the Lebedev Physics Institute (FIAN) in Moscow last month, I have changed my mind.

For decades, FIAN has been at the frontier of Russian scientific and technological progress. It would thus seem that the institute is ideally suited to play a central role in advancing the strategic priorities that Putin himself identified in May 2018: science, technological innovation, and export-oriented production.

And yet last month, Russian security forces descended on the institute, in order to find, detain, and question its director, Nikolai N. Kolachevsky, about a supposed plan by the company Trioptics, which rented offices in FIAN's premises, to export a special type of optical window to Germany. Because the window has applications in space or military activities, the authorities claim, exporting it could undermine national security.

Why are Russia's security apparatchiks taking actions that contradict the Kremlin's stated policy goals? Some argue that they have simply escaped Putin's control. For 20 years, Putin has been installing his former KGB colleagues and friends into powerful positions in Russia's security and military apparatus. These so-called siloviki, or strongmen, could have accrued so much power that they do what they please, even if it means undermining Putin's efforts to put Russia on the road to progress.

This is possible, but not likely. A more plausible explanation is that Putin himself is conflicted. While he wants to be able to tout Russian achievements in science and innovation, he also wants to enrich himself as much as possible. And, as Dawisha observed, if he has to choose, money comes first.

With regard to FIAN, Putin's financial interests seem to be linked to his daughter, Katerina Tikhonova, who directs Innopraktika, a scientific institute that receives state money. Innopraktika is affiliated with Moscow State University, whose rector, Viktor Sadovnichiy, has a long history of catering to those in power.

The institute's work seems to center on devices that read brain activity. But it also apparently oversees all kinds of construction projects on a vast plot of land adjacent to the headquarters of the Federal Security Service (FSB) - the KGB's successor organization - and the Federal Protective Service.

If we keep following the scientific-money trail, we arrive at the prestigious Russian Academy of Sciences (RAN), which held elections last week. After the organization's 2013 elections, in which the Kremlin-backed candidates for membership did not perform well, the government announced major reforms, including a three-year moratorium on RAN elections.

It was then decided that, to ensure "fairness," the government would approve all candidates, despite the fact that they are academics. The government then attempted to make Mikhail Kovalchuk - the physicist brother of Putin's billionaire "personal banker," Yuri Kovalchuk - RAN's president in 2017.

But, despite all the machinations, the far more distinguished physicist Alexander Sergeev won the election. Although Sergeev had criticized the government's RAN-reform efforts, as well as its broader control over scientific research - a major reason why young talent flees Russia - his international reputation was so great that Putin had little choice but to approve his candidacy.

The Kremlin did not do the same for Sergeev's colleague, the well-regarded Alexei Khokhlov. Yet, in another blow to the government, Khokhlov later became RAN's vice president.

This year, RAN members have continued to push back against the Kremlin's agenda. Two months before the election, RAN's anti-falsification commission named 56 candidates for membership as plagiarists or purveyors of pseudoscience. The government ruled that this should not disqualify them. (This stance is no surprise: Putin's own doctoral dissertation was allegedly copied from a 1978 management textbook.) Ultimately, only six were disqualified.¹

RAN's resistance is unacceptable to the Kremlin, as is the high standing of Khokhlov, who, having served as Moscow State University's vice-rector until last year, is a likely successor to Sadovnichiy. If Khokhlov secures that position, the university may become less open to FSB-related construction projects, less supportive of the First Daughter's institute, and less willing to hand out fake degrees to Kremlin cronies. The FIAN raid - which, Sergeev laments, further diminished the reputations of Russian scientists - may thus have been orchestrated to undermine him.

In discussing the raid, a journalist friend in Moscow deadpanned, "In Putin's Russia, physics belongs to spies, history is written by Chekists, and geography by soldiers." And, indeed, Sergei Naryshkin, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, is also president of the Russian Historical Society, and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu leads the Russian Geographical Society.

Science is still putting up a fight. But, given the insatiable financial appetite of Putin and his inner circle, there is only so much Russia's honest scientists can do - a message that the FIAN raid conveyed loud and clear. As a retired academic put it to me, "Whatever you say about the Soviet Union, knowledge mattered. Today's Russia, despite its claims to be a 'great country,' resembles a small former colony, where every general in power wants to call himself a doctor of philosophy, just to increase his profits."

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Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)

Roberts International Airport (RIA)
Lower Margibi County, Liberia

INVITATION FOR BIDS (Repair and Maintenance of Electrical Appliance)

N°:IFB No. RIA/SBA/NCB/006/19/20

1. The Liberia Airport Authority/ Roberts International Airport from its internal generated revenue intend to apply part of its funding to contract the services of a firm to provide Repair and Maintenance service for RIA's electrical Appliance at the new terminal Building, the office complex, staffs houses and all other offices within the airport.
2. The Liberia Airport Authority/Roberts International Airport now invites proposals for the provision of this services: One Year Repair and Maintenance Service of Electrical Appliance and more details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference.
3. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is addressed to all firms who is Qualify to bid in this National competitive bidding process.
4. A firm will be selected using the **least cost Selection Method** and procedures as described in this RFP, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA).
5. The RFP includes the following documents:
Section 1 - Letter of Invitation
Section 2 - Instructions to Consultants (including Data Sheet)
Section 3 - Technical Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 4 - Financial Proposal - Standard Forms
Section 5 - Terms of Reference
Section 6 - Standard Forms of Contract
Qualifications requirements include the follow:
 - ❖ Current Business Registration Certificate
 - ❖ Current Tax Clearance
 - ❖ Past Performance History With At Least Three (3) References
 - ❖ Audited Financial Statement For The Last Two Years.
 - ❖ Capacity To Do At Least (45) Forty Days Pre-Finance Of Supply.
 - ❖ Must be part of the PPCC Vendors Registry
6. Your offer comprising of **technical proposal and financial proposal (Cost of services and labor rates)**, in separate and sealed envelopes should be delivered into the tender box at the Purchasing office marked with the below address no later than Monday December 9, 2019 no later than 12:00pm local time.
7. A complete set of bidding documents in English and other pertinent information may be obtained from the office of the Manager of Procurement, Roberts International Airport first Floor for a non-refundable fee of Fifty United States Dollars (U.S. \$50.00).

If you request additional information, we would endeavor to provide information expeditiously, but any delay in providing such information on or before the deadline for submission will not be considered a reason for extending the submission date of your proposal.

Yours sincerely,

The address referred to above is:

Attention: Purchasing Manager
LIBERIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY/ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Provision of Repair and maintenance of Electrical Appliance
IFB No. RIA/SBA/NCB/006/19/20



Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)

Roberts International Airport (RIA)
Lower Margibi County, Liberia

IFB No. RIA/NCB/014/19/20

INVITATION FOR BIDS (Lubricants)

1. The Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)/ Roberts International Airport (RIA), from its internal generated revenue intends to apportion funds toward the cost of procuring Lubricants for its Operations under the 2019/2020 budget.
2. The Airport now invites qualified and eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Lubricants, which will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act of 2010.
3. Interested bidders should have the capacity to retain supply and delivery of Lubricants. Must also be able to respond to RIA'S schedule of supply. All bids prices should be quoted in United States Dollars (USD).
4. Qualifications requirements include the follow:
 - ❖ Current Business Registration Certificate
 - ❖ Current Tax Clearance
 - ❖ Past Performance History With At Least Three (3) References
 - ❖ Audited Financial Statement For The Last Two Years.
 - ❖ Availability of Supply at All Times.
 - ❖ Capacity To Do At Least (30) Thirty Days Pre-Finance Of Supply.
 - ❖ Must be part of the PPCC Vendors Registry
 - ❖ Bid Securing Declaration
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English and other pertinent information may be obtained from the office of the Manager of Procurement, Roberts International Airport first Floor for a non-refundable fee of Fifty United States Dollars (U.S. \$50.00).
6. Submissions must be clearly marked, signed and sealed in an envelope, including other requested information as follows:
CONFIDENTIAL BID, PROVISION FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LUBRICANTS and addressed to:
THE MANAGER OF PROCUREMENT
FIRST FLOOR,
ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MOBILE NUMBER: +231-770-555-106/0776816682
7. Bids must be submitted at the RIA Procurement Unit located at the first Floor of the office complex building on **Monday, December 9, 2019** on or before **2:00 PM**. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Opening will be done after closing at **2:05 PM on Monday, December 9, 2019** in the Conference Room of the Roberts International Airport office complex building.
8. The Roberts International Airport reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereof; Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with Public Procurement Procedures.

Signed: _____

Procurement Manager
Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)/ Roberts International Airport (RIA)

ARTICLE

Buhari's Ban on Rice Importation is a Bad Economic Policy

By: Akinyemi Muhammed

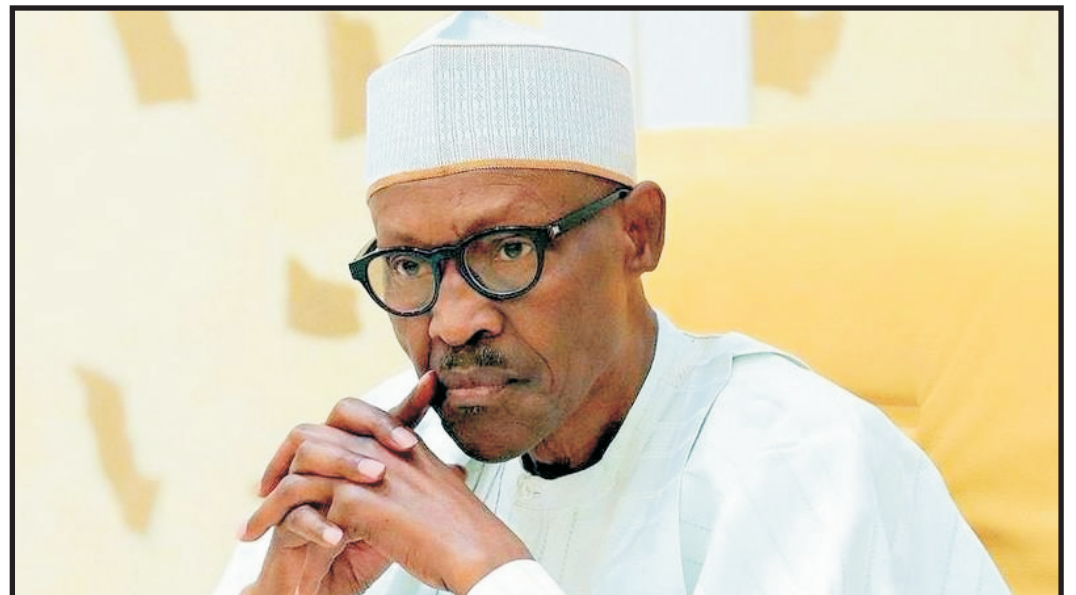
In August 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari announced a decision to partially close the Nigeria-Benin border due to smuggling activities, especially of rice, into the country. Later in October, the decision was made indefinite with the government arguing the policy would encourage the local production of rice.

While the government prides itself on promoting local production, rice traders are bitterly complaining about low sales as customers groan at the low quality of local rice; they often demand Indian and Thai brands instead. The Governor of the Central Bank revealed that rice farmers in Nigeria are telling consumers to 'hold-on' while they process orders due to power outage affecting processing machines. It is simple economics: people will avoid expensive and low-quality local rice and prefer more affordable brands. This, unfortunately, would be bad for local farmers.

But there are deeper economic consequences for the government's poor decision.

On the one hand, local farmers cannot access government aid due to corruption. The distribution of these aids is often controlled by cronies to state officials, who sometimes sell items like fertilizers and tools to farmers rather than give them free as provided. Their problem is complicated by constant power outages facing the operation of processing machines, which prevents local farmers from reaching 6.7 million tons of local demand, as against 3.7 million tons of local production.

On the other hand, though, the purported encouragement of local production would only give individuals like Aliko Dangote, Dalhatu Abubakar, and others who own bigger shares in local rice companies, an unhealthy monopoly.



Nigeria clearly needs to address the underlying challenges like constant power outages, and corruption, in order to meet production demands before closing its borders.

The rice problem is in its early stage and further problems could still be averted. The government should allow the importation of foreign rice and support local farmers concurrently.

If the government, however, continues to insist on clamping down on all rice importation channels, Nigerians would be left with three options: to either eat the low-quality local rice and not get satisfied, to buy the expensive Dangote rice only when they can afford it, or avoid eating rice altogether, which is a staple food. Whereas, neither options are best for the Nigerian consumer.

The continued closure of borders is creating an unfair dilemma for innocent Nigerians. People should have the option to decide what they prefer to eat. It is unimaginable that the only way the government seems to see solutions to every problem is by taking the most extreme measures. An extreme economic policy, in this case, is already having extreme consequences. Nigerians deserve better.

Akinyemi Muhammed is a writing fellow at African Liberty and holds an LLB (Hons) from the University of Ilorin. He is an alumnus of the African Presidential Leadership Program, Cairo, and tweets via @theprincelyx.

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Brumskine's death saddens Judiciary

The Judicial branch here says it is deeply saddened by the demise of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, a senior member of the Supreme Court Bar and an astute and dedicated professor of Law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia.

Cllr. Brumskine is the former standard bearer of the opposition Liberty Party (LP), one of the four collaborating political parties here.

He has led the party to three presidential elections as the standard bearer, but did not win any of those elections.

He challenged the 2017 presidential elections on grounds of irregularities, but the Supreme Court here did not agree for a rerun.

"Cllr. Brumskine's demise, the Judiciary says, is a great loss which has created an unfathomable void in the community of the legal profession in Liberia," the Judiciary laments in a press release dated 25 November.

According to the release, the Judiciary describes Cllr. Brumskine as a legal luminary



whose pursuit for the rule of law in Liberia was interminable, until his death.

The Supreme Court says it will remember Cllr. Brumskine for his legal astuteness, his copious arguments before the Supreme Court Bench and the respect he had always shown to the courts and the Judiciary

during his years of practice.

The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia, on behalf of the Judiciary Branch of Government extends deepest condolences to the family of the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine for their irreparable loss.--*Press release*

London Forum to Boost Investment in Liberia

Key private and public sectors actors from the United Kingdom and their Liberian counterparts are expected to meet in London early December, to identify areas and prospects towards expanding the reach of UK

Government of Liberia- will identify approaches that highlight Liberia's comparative advantages as a profitable investment destination.

Strategic sectors will roll-out the country's investment

Minister for Operations at the Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy, Emmanuel O. Sherman, will present the key linkages between Liberia natural resource endowment; along with the urgent need for job creation while maintaining an investment climate with greater profitability.

Commerce Minister, Prof Wilson K. Tarpeh, is expected to outline Liberia's trade context and the ease of doing business in Liberia. The managing Director of the Forest Development Authority, Mike Doyen- will reflect on the changing dynamics of Liberia vast forest reserves as well as promoting sustainable development.

The Head of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Wendell Addy; and the President of the Liberia Business Association, James Strother, will engage their counterparts in the UK about increasing the stake of Liberian businesses as a key pillar of national development.

Carla Senatore, Senior Business Officer at UK Export Finance, deliver updates about efforts towards cushioning UK investments abroad. The British Ambassador to Liberia, David Belgrove will reflect on the UK government's public and



businesses in Liberia.

The UK-Liberia High-Level Business Forum - Is a product of sustained efforts at the bilateral and multilateral levels- that seek to advance trade and international development support.

The Forum led by the

readiness and important policy shifts under the government Pro Poor Agenda for Development (PAPD), with emphasis on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah Jr, and the Deputy

C.B. Dunbar lauds

Starts from back page

boundary.

In the three years of its operation in Liberia in five counties, Solidaridad undertakes cocoa and oil palm programs, and is hoping to introduce the aqua - culture program in the next few years.

Solidaridad's cocoa program is in Lofa, Bong and Nimba; while its oil palm program is in Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Bomi and Brand Bassa. It works with private companies and gives support to smallholder farmers that are trained to adopt best management practices to boost their productions and yields in the two sectors.

Following the donation, C.B. Dunbar maternity hospital official Dr. Kour Elma Geah says she is so excited and overwhelmed with joy over the donation, saying her hospital is blessed.

"I can tell you, it's not easy. Like he said, it's not easy," Dr. Geah explains, adding that C.B. Dunbar has been looking for a way out when God has blessed it with the donation from Solidaridad.

"So on behalf of the hospital, I want to tell the Solidaridad organization, thanks a million. We are so, so grateful for this donation," Dr. Geah says.

She expresses gratitude that among the many health facilities in Liberia, Solidaridad has identified C.B. Dunbar for the donation, assuring that whatever is donated will be used for the intended purpose.

Making the donation, Solidaridad Acting Country Representative Mr. Cyrus Saygbe says he was touched when he walked through the Hospital and listened to the young mothers explain the ordeal they go through.

"It's not easy to be a mother. Imagine some of them leave from there [hospital], they have to cut their lappers to prap up their kids," he says in connection to mothers who said they could not afford to buy diapers for their babies.

Mr. Saygbe notes that Solidaridad believes that agriculture and health work hand - in - hand, adding that if the farmers are healthy, they will grow more food.

"As we walked through and listened to the mother, we felt that these things would be of help," he says.

He says the organization focuses on two major value chain in West Africa, which are oil palm and cocoa.

Hopefully by 2020, he says Solidaridad will be introducing the third, the aqua - culture sector.

Madam Jetty S. Carter, Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU) Program Officer for Agriculture at the Ministry of State lauds Solidaridad for its three years of operation in Liberia, especially for its activities in the last couple of days in observance of the organization's 50th anniversary.

"We want to say thanks so much to Solidaridad and the entire team ... this is something actually strange and actually new. First of its kind in the sector of agriculture where I work with the president to see this happening in our country," she says.

She urges Solidaridad not to limit its assistance just at C.B. Dunbar Hospital, but it should look at Grand Bassa County and the other counties where the organization works.

Mr. Galah Toto of the National Oil Palm Platform of Liberia lauds Solidaridad for looking outside its area of operation to extend help to the health sector.

"For me this is new," he says, adding that being in agriculture sector, he has never seen any agriculture organization undertaking some activities in the health sector.

Solidaridad Liberia Participatory Farmer and Training Specialist Mr. Sylvanus Agordorku expresses gratitude to Solidaridad for identifying with Bong County and the C.B. Dunbar Hospital to benefit from the group's social responsibility during its 50th anniversary.

"As we all know the conditions of our various health facilities in the county, considering our mothers that have come to give birth and then more especially the only maternity hospital outside Montserrado which is C.B. Dunbar Hospital to have been ... selected for this donation, I must be appreciative and say thank you," says Mr. Jonah Nulee Togbah, County Health Services Administrator for Bong.

Solidaridad climaxed the 50th Anniversary celebration

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VP Taylor rate youth high in transformation process

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, Thursday, November 21, 2019, addressed the 2019 SDGs Global Youth Summit Held in Accra, Ghana declaring that youth are the only drivers for the transformational changes needed to change the status quo.

According to a dispatch from Accra, Ghana, VP Howard-Taylor opined that instead of just talking about changing the status quo, the youth are an indispensable part of what needs to be done to transform their respective communities.

She said considering the different actors and the percentages of their contributions which would allow for rapid transformation, the one segment which has the greatest potential is the youth segment.

The Liberian Vice President who addressed the Summit on the theme: "EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR DEVELOPMENT- A PATHWAY TO ACHIEVING THE SDGs", urged youth to sharpen their vision, gain the



relevant understanding and knowledge and work together to build frameworks and synergies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

She expressed the belief that achieving the SDGs, especially on the African continent, it would require strong political will and the building of collective partnerships across socio-

economic and political lines.

According to VP Howard-Taylor, while many advanced parts of the world are already in the process of SDG's implementation, the African continent where the stark realities and overwhelming need for change are still on the shelves, citing the absence of holistic and collective ways which is key to the transformation urgently

needed.

She said, "We must accept that the challenges being faced by our World are great - and they can seem daunting; thankfully we have all agreed that the solutions to them lie in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Thus each of you can make a difference by contributing to building the better world we each seek. Critical to making that difference is your additional role as drivers of inclusive and sustainable development".

She maintained that youth must rise up to the challenge, roll up their sleeves and work together to create the Africa of their dreams; as they are the beneficiaries of the present and future they seek.

While admitting that social

change and redirection is a Herculean task which she believes is most often accompanied by the sacrifices of blood, sweat, agony, and tears, VP Howard-Taylor encouraged the youth to remain determined in the struggle to meet their goal despite the challenges.

"If the future the YOUTH seek in order to live the world of their dreams is to become a reality, each of you must use your energies, visions, talents and knowledge to create synergies which would eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities globally, thereby creating synergies which bring about systemic change and break enduring cycles of poverty to ensure that NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND" the Liberian first female Vice President reminded her audience.

Liberia /Ghana sign technical corporation pack for fish export to EU market

The government of Liberia through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) and the Ministry of Commerce Friday November 22, 2019 signed a Technical Cooperation with the Ghana Standard Authority as a temporary arrangement for the certification and testing of Liberian Fish and Fish Product only, for export to the EU market.

At the same time, Liberia has sent two technicians from the Commerce Ministry to Brussels to undergo training for

the REX Program (Registered of Exporters) so that the REX program can be maintain and implemented in Liberia. These are set criteria prior to the commencement for direct export of fish and fish product from Liberia to the EU market.

According to a NaFAA Press Release, Prior to this arrangement, the Legislature under the Weah led government signed into the economic partnership agreement which is the framework for implementing the REX program which allows export to EU market on a zero% tariff basis. And, this is the first

time that Liberia fish and fish product will be exported to the EU market under this program and it's also a gateway for other Liberian products to hit the EU market.

In another development, Liberia through NaFAA for the first time, has Flagged Two Tuna Purse seiners of Sovereign Trade Services a Liberian registered company (industrial pelagic fishing vessels) on its domestic vessel registry and attracted investment to start operating by January 2020. Sovereign Trade Services.



(L To R) Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco NaFAA DG, Prof. Alex Dodoo of Ghana and Deputy Commerce Minister Nyema Wisner

AVC warns District #14 Youth against insult

The Representative for Montserrado County Electoral District #14 Abraham Vamuyan Conneh has warned elders, women and youth in the district against profane attacks towards him, threatening court action if he were further insulted.

"Let me send this as a caveat that I am your lawmaker and your father. I have lot of followers, but if you challenge me now, we will go to the Supreme Court. I will not take any mess from any child again in this District. Even if you go under your mother's bed, I will hunt for you," Conneh said recently.

Speaking recently at a reconciliation meeting between the Doe Community Youth Association and the Elders Council of the Community, Rep. Conneh complains that some youth in the District are in the constant habit of raining insults against him, with some calling him "notorious criminal."

He alleges that some members of the Veterans' Bureau in Doe Community continue to use invectives towards him, adding that he will not tolerate anyone using profanity against him.

Conneh narrates that since he announced that he would seek a third term in the district, it has created a serious problem for Mr. Myers

Beteah and his supporters in the district.

"I challenge Beteah if he wants to contest on the ticket of CDC in the next elections, I will leave the party and contest against him in District #14," Conneh says.

When contacted via mobile phone, Mr. Beteah told newsmen that the party has advised him not to speak to any issue regarding this matter because it is an in-house discussion.

However, the director of press and propaganda at the Veterans' Bureau of Doe Community, Christian Nyanti says the meeting that was held between the youth and the elders was not a reconciliation meeting.

He says Rep. Conneh was voted to ensure that the people of District #14 have a proper representation, adding that the Veterans' Bureau has been demanding the lawmaker to provide a concrete report regarding the district's funds.

"Whenever you attempt to engage the lawmaker on national issues, he takes you as his enemy. Our lawmaker will not be our enemy," he says.

Nyanti says they are not against Rep. Conneh, but the lawmaker chose to send a strong statement to the people of District #14 because of their constructive engagement with him.

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Français

Sauver le secteur de la téléphonie

Après des années de plaidoyers intensifs de la part d'Orange et de MTN, le gouvernement du Libéria a accepté d'intervenir pour soutenir les sociétés de télécommunications et booster leur rentabilité. Orange et MTN, les seules compagnies de télécommunications au Libéria, ont fait valoir que leur concurrence actuelle ne leur permet pas de générer des bénéfices suffisants. Pourtant elles engrangent suffisamment de bénéfice dans la plupart des pays dans lesquels elles opèrent, où la concurrence est beaucoup plus forte avec au moins 4 opérateurs.

Toutefois, la marge de bénéfice réelle des opérateurs n'est pas claire. Selon des informations, tels opérateurs multinationaux se font payer des droits de marque, des frais de gestion et des intérêts afin de transférer leurs bénéfices à leur société mère. Cette pratique a récemment été remise en question dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest et interdite.

Malgré cette forme agressive de transfert de

bénéfices, le gouvernement a cédé à la volonté des opérateurs et a accepté d'intervenir sur le marché en leur nom. Cela a été fait après une étude minutieuse réalisée par l'Autorité des Télécommunications du Libéria. L'étude a montré que le gouvernement pourra également augmenter sa part des recettes fiscales sur le secteur, après de nombreuses années de baisse des recettes

fiscales.

Pour inciter le gouvernement à établir des prix planchers qui suppriment la promotion d'un dollar pour 3 jours et augmenter le coût du service Internet, les opérateurs ont convenu que le gouvernement établirait également des surtaxes réglementaires, à l'instar de ce qu'ils ont vécu dans plusieurs autres pays. Ce compromis visait à faire en sorte que, si les

opérateurs tiraient des bénéfices inattendus à partir de la nouvelle réglementation, le gouvernement pouvait également engranger des recettes suffisantes pour financer son développement et son programme en faveur des pauvres.

Si l'intervention du gouvernement dans le secteur pour fournir des prix plancher est unique, les surtaxes réglementaires ne le sont pas. Elles sont au contraire très courantes en Afrique de l'Ouest. En Guinée voisine par exemple, où MTN et Orange sont toutes deux présentes et réalisent des bénéfices importants, le régulateur gouvernemental a imposé les mêmes majorations réglementaires au secteur des télécommunications. Malgré ces surtaxes, le secteur des télécommunications guinéen reste très rentable et continue

de se développer. Pendant ce temps, les consommateurs de ces pays continuent de bénéficier aussi des prix très compétitifs.

Il est à noter que le prix plancher a déjà un impact positif sur les revenus du secteur. Cependant, jusqu'à ce que les suppléments sur les opérateurs entrent en vigueur en mars 2020, le gouvernement réalise un très petit avantage par rapport aux opérateurs. Pendant ce temps, les opérateurs ont beaucoup de temps pour profiter d'une aubaine sans partager une grande partie des bénéfices. Entre-temps, étant donné les avantages inespérés dont bénéficient les opérateurs, il est clair qu'ils auront la capacité de financer les suppléments, comme ils le font déjà dans d'autres pays où les consommateurs bénéficient d'un service de qualité.



L'ANC présente ses condoléances à la famille de Brumskineset à son parti LP

Le Alternative National Congress (ANC), a présenté ses condoléances les plus attristées à la famille Brumskine, au parti de la liberté et à la nation, pour la mort prématurée de Me Charles Walker Brumskine, avocat érudit, ancien

candidat à la présidence et fondateur du Parti de la liberté.

Me Brumskine, 68 ans, serait mort aux États-Unis mercredi 20 novembre. L'ANC a indiqué dans un message que Me Brumskine, de son vivant, a fait preuve d'un immense courage dans sa lutte pour

changer la vie du peuple libérien.

L'ANC, qui est l'un des quatre partis unis au sein de la plateforme de l'opposition et dont le LP de Brumskine est membre, a décrit le regretté Brumskine comme un dirigeant, un père et homme d'État astucieux.

En réaction à cette fâcheuse nouvelle, le chef politique de l'ANC, M. Alexander B. Cummings, a écrit : « Me Brumskine est l'un de nos meilleurs citoyens, sans aucun doute, dont on se souviendra le patriotisme et l'engagement envers son pays, tant sur le plan politique que juridique, pour les générations à venir ».

« Pendant cette période de deuil, puissions-nous tous continuer à garder la famille endeuillée dans nos prières et nous engager à veiller à ce que le Libéria devienne meilleur, dans la continuité de la vie et de l'héritage de Me Charles W. Brumskine. Que son âme et les âmes de tous les fidèles qui nous ont quittés, par la miséricorde de Dieu, reposent en paix », a conclu le parti.



Journée de vote dans une ambiance calme en Guinée-Bissau

Ce dimanche 24 novembre, les bureaux de vote ont ouvert officiellement à 7h TU, dans une ambiance plutôt calme en Guinée-Bissau alors que le pays doit choisir son nouveau président.

Les opérations ont débuté pile à l'heure dans un bureau de vote du centre-ville. Installé à l'extérieur, sur le trottoir, une urne, des tables en plastique, un isoloir en carton sont prêt pour accueillir les votants. Avant même l'ouverture officielle, Lourdes, était là : « Oui, c'est important d'être là. Le futur président va avoir beaucoup de boulot. C'est comme si on était dans un bateau, qui tanguent dans la mer, on a besoin de stabilité. »

Sur chaque bulletin, il est inscrit les noms et photos des douze candidats, il faut cocher une case. Carlos Voss vient de voter et de plonger son doigt dans le pot d'encre indélébile : « C'est une nouvelle page pour changer des choses. Trop de

choses au pays, il y a beaucoup de choses qui ne marchent pas. Je pense que ça va être calme. »

« Un tournant important »

Le vote se fait sous la surveillance des forces de défense et de sécurité qui ont déjà voté jeudi. Et aussi sous le regard des observateurs internationaux dont la mission de la Cédéao dirigée par l'ancien Premier ministre malien Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga : « Il y a un climat de relative sérénité. Nous avons constaté depuis quelques jours qu'il y a beaucoup de mobilisation. Tout le monde est conscient que c'est un tournant important de la vie politique institutionnelle du pays et que ces élections-là sont destinées à ouvrir une étape nouvelle pour le pays. »

Les bureaux de vote restent ouverts jusqu'à 17h TU alors qu'il y a déjà moins de monde que dans la matinée. Le dépouillement débutera dans la foulée.

Articles traduits
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Français

« Il faut que notre conscience environnementale s'aiguise, c'est une histoire de survie »

L'agriculture africaine utilise de plus en plus de pesticides. C'est le constat que font plusieurs scientifiques africains dans une étude publiée par le réseau des Académies des Sciences Africaines. Armand Paraiso, entomologiste, spécialiste en protection des végétaux et professeur à l'université de Parakou répond aux questions d'Alexis Guilleux.

Les experts s'inquiètent notamment de l'usage de néonicotinoïdes, des produits interdits en Europe, qui sont particulièrement nuisibles pour les abeilles et pour les nappes phréatiques. Avec une nouvelle menace, voir se déverser en Afrique des produits qui ne sont plus utilisés sur le Vieux continent.

RFI : Le rapport de l'académie des sciences africaines souligne qu'il y a de plus en plus de pesticides en Afrique, d'où vient cette évolution?

Armand Paraiso : Ils en font de l'intensification abusive, de l'agriculture. Les gens veulent plus produire, croire que plus produire cela veut dire toujours utiliser plus d'insecticides alors qu'il y a ce qu'on appelle l'agriculture durable, qu'on peut faire sans l'abus d'insecticide.

Depuis quand on assiste à ce phénomène de pesticides de plus en plus nombreux?

Depuis au moins une dizaine d'années. Surtout pour les pays qui font de la culture de coton et qui pensent qu'ils peuvent beaucoup exporter, avoir des devises. C'est pour gagner, pensent-ils, de la productivité, mais en fait quand on y regarde correctement il n'y a pas plus de productivité. Les terres sont de plus en plus importantes, mais la production n'est pas ce qu'elle doit être. Par exemple, je parle du Bénin. Il y a dix ans, les étendues des terres cultivées par le coton s'élevaient à 300 000 hectares. Aujourd'hui, c'est le double, mais la production au lieu d'augmenter à baisser.

Et dans ce rapport, vous mentionnez une crainte de voir des produits, qui étaient au départ utilisés en Europe, être utilisés en Afrique?

Tout à fait. C'est le cas maintenant

néonicotinoïdes qui sont abondamment utilisés alors que ces mêmes néonicotinoïdes sont interdits en France. Ce pays se rend compte qu'il faut lutter contre cette perte de biodiversité. Nous, on est ici tranquillement à ne rien dire, on nous envoie le pesticide chimique qui ne s'utilise pas dans le pays qui vous les envoie. Vous finissez le produit, vous envoyez le coton. Ensuite dehors. Ça ne ressemble à rien. Ce n'est pas possible, ce n'est pas bon.

Quelles sont les cultures en Afrique qui utilisent le plus de pesticides?

C'est le coton en première position. Le café, le cacao certainement bien après. Au Bénin, c'est le coton en première position. Il y a le maïs, le sorgho, le caféier, le palmier à huile, etc.

Est-ce qu'il y a des pays, au-delà des cultures, en Afrique qui sont particulièrement concernés par ces néonicotinoïdes, qu'ils utilisent plus que d'autres, et donc qui sont concernés par les risques?

C'est le cas en Côte d'Ivoire et dans tous les pays producteurs de coton d'abord. Ils utilisent le même programme de protection, qui est un programme calendaire, qui ne se fait nulle part qu'en Afrique, sur le pays, comme tous les pays du Sahel. Et en dehors des pays du Sahel, il y a des pays comme le Sénégal, la Côte d'Ivoire, le Ghana, qui sont concernés aussi par cette utilisation de néonicotinoïdes.

Quels sont les dangers précisément de l'usage de ces néonicotinoïdes?

L'abeille, par exemple, une fois qu'elle rentre dans ce champ traité, elle butine, et tout ça là contient des néonicotinoïdes. L'abeille rentre dans la ruche, partage avec celles qui sont à l'intérieur et qu'est-ce qui se passe? Toutes meurent, parce qu'elles ont apporté du pollen, du nectar contaminé. Dans la mesure où on intervient maintenant avec des insecticides qui ne sont pas sélectifs, qui tuent tout, vous vous retrouvez sans rien. À telle enseigne que mieux vaut utiliser le système durable de culture que de se mettre à utiliser abondamment le pesticide chimique.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Mark Suzman

La nouvelle la plus importante que vous avez manquée en 2019

SEATTLE - Selon le plus récent recensement, le Washington Post, le New York Times et le Wall Street Journal publient un total combiné de 1 000 articles par jour. Même si le rapport n'a pas mentionné le nombre de lecteurs qui ont tout lu, on ne s'avance pas trop en présumant que personne n'a pu le faire.

Il est probable que des milliers de nouvelles importantes passent inaperçues pour chacun d'entre nous. Mais la plus grande nouvelle que les gens n'ont pas remarquée en 2019 s'est produite le 10 octobre dans une salle de conférences à Lyon en France, dans le cadre d'une réunion de représentants issus du secteur public, des milieux des affaires et de la philanthropie qui ont pris l'engagement d'investir 14 milliards de \$ dans un organisme appelé le Fonds mondial.

Peu de personnes savent ce qu'est le Fonds mondial avant d'avoir entendu le nom complet de l'organisme : Le Fonds mondial de lutte contre le sida, la tuberculose et le paludisme. Ce fonds a été fondé peu de temps après le tournant du millénaire, une époque où des centaines de milliers d'enfants décédaient de ces maladies évitables. La crise du sida était à son sommet, les médias décrivant le virus comme un « fléau maléfique? » s'abattant sur toute l'Afrique subsaharienne. Sa propagation inéluctable, selon les prévisions de certains, entraînerait l'effondrement de pays entiers. C'était une crise internationale qui nécessitait une intervention internationale.

Aux Nations unies, le secrétaire général de l'époque Kofi Annan a rallié la communauté internationale autour des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement – une série de cibles précises liées à la réduction de la pauvreté et des maladies – et a lancé Le Fonds mondial pour les atteindre.

Le Fonds a été constitué pour financer une nouvelle catégorie de projets multilatéraux, et n'est pas une simple coalition d'États. Il mobilise également des partenaires du secteur privé et des milieux philanthropiques, dont la nouvelle fondation mise sur pied par Bill et Melinda Gates. Cette démarche inclusive a permis à l'initiative de puiser dans un plus large éventail d'expertises.

Ces deux dernières décennies, le Fonds mondial a transformé la façon dont nous combattons le sida, la tuberculose et le paludisme – les trois maladies les plus mortelles dans les pays démunis. En mettant en commun les ressources, le Fonds a créé des économies d'échelle pour des produits salvateurs comme les moustiquaires contre le paludisme et les traitements antirétroviraux. De concert avec presque 100 pays, le Fonds a ensuite créé une énorme chaîne logistique pour livrer les produits. Grâce à cela, les décès découlant du sida ont chuté de 50 % de leur pic et les décès causés par le paludisme ont également baissé de 50 % depuis le tournant du millénaire. Désormais, le Fonds mondial est doté de 14 milliards de \$ en nouveau financement pour continuer ce travail.

La reconstitution du Fonds est une nouvelle des plus importantes, principalement par le nombre même de vies qu'elle permettra de sauver. Selon les prévisions du Fonds mondial, cette dotation de 14 milliards de \$ suffira pour abaisser à

nouveau le taux de mortalité de ces trois maladies de presque 50 % d'ici 2023, ce qui devrait se traduire par 16 millions de vies sauvées.

Mais ce qui s'est produit le 10 octobre à Lyon est majeur pour une autre raison : il montre comment notre monde est à un tournant de son histoire, et qui pourrait faire diverger la trajectoire de la lutte aux maladies évitables.

D'un côté, les campagnes récentes de recherches de fonds témoignent de la façon dont le monde a tenté de solutionner les crises humanitaires dans les premières années du siècle actuel. Il semble bien que le multilatéralisme ait donné des résultats exceptionnels.

La même période a vu naître des organismes comme Gavi, l'Alliance du Vaccin, une alliance mondiale d'intervenants du secteur public et du secteur privé qui vise à administrer des vaccins aux enfants parmi les plus démunis du monde. Gavi a contribué jusqu'ici à l'immunisation de plus de 760 millions d'enfants. Et le taux de vaccination contre la diphtérie, le tétanos et la coqueluche (DTC) dans les pays pris en charge par Gavi est passé de 59 % en 2000 à 81 % en 2018 – seulement quatre points de pourcentage en dessous de la moyenne mondiale. (L'alliance Gavi devra elle aussi renouveler son financement au cours de l'année prochaine.)

D'autre part, le fait qu'aucun organisme multilatéral similaire n'a été établi depuis le début des années 2000 – du moins pas à une telle échelle – devrait donner à réfléchir.

Le Fonds est parvenu à recueillir les 14 milliards de \$ dans une période de montée de l'isolationnisme. De nos jours, la plupart des États semblent favoriser une démarche indépendante au lieu de s'engager davantage dans le vaste programme de résolution de problèmes sanitaires qui a donné tant de résultats probants au cours des 20 dernières années. Le Brexit en est un exemple. Parmi les autres exemples, on retrouve la décision du président des États-Unis, Donald Trump, de se retirer de l'Accord de Paris sur le climat de 2015 et sa directive d'effectuer des réductions drastiques dans l'aide étrangère consentie par les États-Unis (une mesure qui, grâce au Congrès, n'a pas encore été entérinée).

Il m'arrive souvent de spéculer sur ce qui aurait pu se passer si la crise du sida s'était déclarée quelque 20 ans plus tard. Serions-nous en mesure de créer le Fonds mondial de nos jours?? J'ai bien peur que la réponse soit non. Il serait très difficile de gagner les appuis pour la création de ce genre d'initiative dans le cadre actuel.

Les nouvelles du mois dernier en provenance de Lyon font donc partie d'un long parcours. Le monde contemporain reconnaîtra-t-il que les coalitions multilatérales donnent les résultats escomptés?? Reviendra-t-on sur les décisions s'éloignant des initiatives multilatérales?? Ou est-ce que l'ère du multilatéralisme arrive à sa fin??

Le renouvellement du financement du Fonds mondial est fort probablement la meilleure nouvelle passée inaperçue en 2019. Mais à moins d'arrêter le glissement vers l'isolationnisme et de renforcer la communauté internationale, c'est le genre de nouvelle qui risque de ne plus se faire entendre.

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

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

A Long, Long Life IN THE CULTURE AND INFRASTRURE OF OUR (LIBERIA'S) HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
November 21, 2019

On June 20, 2019, the sad and very depressing news of the Death of my only living, younger brother, Counselor-at-Law David Deilue Gbala shocked me, almost, to death. For, I am sick and unable to attend the funeral-burial gathering of my family at home in Meabloh, Kaneh Clan, Grand Gedeh County. Now, today the death of one of Liberia's brave and out-spoken political leaders, my "small Brother" Cllr. Charlie Brumskine in the USA, shocked me, also, almost, to death. For, I am still sick and waiting for non-immigrant visa to travel to the USA for medical services not available in Liberia at this time.

I have written tributes to many, how many is not important now, because my own life is only a matter of time. I experienced many deaths, including the deaths of my Father, the legendary tribal leader-fighter, Kwiah Gbala; his Brother the brave Kwiah Kahn; loving Mother Seowah Deh-Gbala; older Sister Gwian Wachen Gbala and youngest brother John Blee Gbala.

Now David is gone and it will be me, sooner or later - that's life and death. But the most depressing and troubling problem of these deaths and thousands of others was and are that they are due to curable diseases for which service treatments are not available in Liberia.

It is not for me to write a tribute to my brother, David Gbala, or to "small Brother" Charlie Brumskine, only to say that these deaths have left a void, an empty space in the respective families and the nation that cannot be filled forever. I told one of my nephews, Mr. Stanley Siah, when he broke the news to me that "I do not know what to say or do for the many, young, growing family members of children - grand and great-grand children who need advice, counsel and support. My God, there are so much to do in this selfish, corrupt, wicked, dangerous and sinful world!!

Only be thankful because I lived a long, resourceful life. For example, one of six daughters said to me, "Daddy, I wish that I could live as long as you have. Young men and women are dying every day around us".

Liberia's (our) Healthcare Delivery System

I have written several articles on this critical and crucial national issue that ignores hundreds of thousands or millions of deaths, annually, due to curable disease in Liberia, but for which there are no service treatment in the country. In other words, hundreds of thousands or millions of Liberian patients die in Liberia of diseases

that can be cured, but for which there are no service treatment in Liberia.

Indeed, it is the fact of Liberian History that all Liberian Hospitals, Clinics and Doctors have been and are, to this day, high-class Pharmacists for foreign drug makers, including faked/medications; they (the hospitals, clinics and doctors) *diagnose only the disease*, but lacked the capacity to treat the disease, because they were not and are not organized to treat the disease, since 1847.

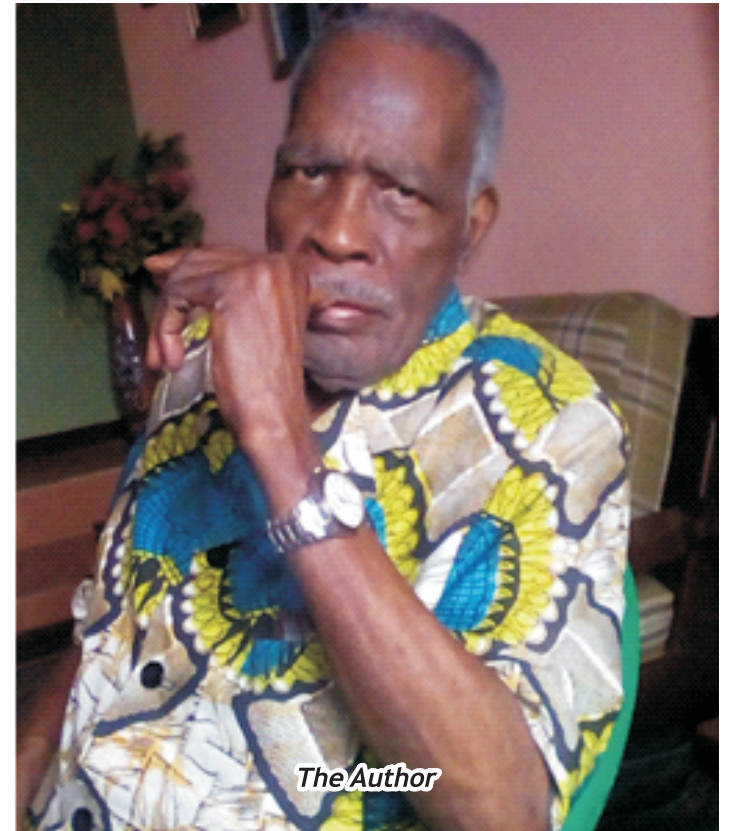
According to Liberian medical history, the late, former President William V. S. Tubman, whose vision and dedicated actions created the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, died in the foreign, London, UK, Clinic. The JFK Memorial, Liberia's premier Medical Center that replaced the ancient Government Hospital, was described by a visiting group of US Medical Doctors on a fact-finding mission of Liberia's Healthcare Delivery institutions as "a place one goes to die".

Earlier, I wrote that the JFK is corrupt, dilapidated and with drugs prices unaffordable by the average citizen, where and when available, due to massive stealing of public resources -corruption.

Additionally, the new "state-of-the-art" Jackson F. Doe Memorial Hospital built in the City of Tapita, Nimba County is not reachable because of lack of roads and related means of transport infrastructure. The towns and villages in Nimba County cannot get to the Hospital, nor the towns and villages of the surrounding Counties. Recent reports of confusions between the Jackson F. Doe and Monrovia indicated that most of the prime, medical equipment of the Jackson F. Doe hospital is down with no service for replacement expected.

Historically, government officials, the politically-connected and wealthy Liberians have been and are flown out of Liberia for medical services because of lack of medical services-treatment of curable diseases in Liberia. Recent examples of this culture are several Liberian government officials flown out of Liberia to Ghana, South Africa, etc. Some, even, died in those countries. The most recent, celebrated cases are about Cllr. Charles Brumskine flown to and now died in the USA for treatment and Cllr. Varney Sherman who was flown, also, to the USA for brain Tumor, now back home.

Indeed, that Liberian Hospitals, Clinics and Doctors lack the required medical service treatment for such diseases, including ear (loss of hearing), throat, skin (itches, swelling feet) and others for which Dr. Francis Addai, then of Fidelity Clinic, found, truthfully, and recommended the foreign option as the best to save my



The Author

life for painless and peaceful Elderly life.

The critical issues raised by my request for Non-Immigrant Visa are (1), the fact that Liberian hospitals and Clinics do not possess the capacity to treat the diseases identified because they (the Liberians hospitals and Clinics) are not organized to treat the diseases and that (2), there is need, therefore, for medical, public policy review and improvement action.

Redeeming Liberia's Healthcare Delivery System

Addressing our nation's Healthcare System lies in placing emphasis on the training of Liberian doctors in all areas of medical practice and providing the Liberian doctors with in-service, continuing education in the new developing medical technology. This training should and must include medical technicians, not breaking grounds for constructions of new hospitals without trained Liberian doctors. What Liberia need are trained and experienced Liberian doctors and medical technicians for the hospitals now in operation, not more "high-class Pharmacists" for foreign drug makers, including faked drugs.

Along, Long Life

June 20, 2019

The sad and very depressing news of the passing of my only living brother, Counselor-at-Law David Deilue Gbala, shocked me, almost, to death. For, I am sick, very sick, cannot walk on my own and not able to attend the funeral gathering of the family at home in Meabloh, Kaneh.

I have written tributes to many, how many is not important now, because my own life is now only a matter of time. I saw the death of our Father, the legendary fighter Kwiah Gbala, the "Weinkuyon" and his Brother, our Uncle, the brave Kwiah Kahn, loving Mother Seowah Deh-Gbala, older Sister Gwian Wachen Gbala, younger brother John Blee Gbala. Now, it is David; it will be me, sooner or later - that's life or death!

It is not for me to write a tribute to my brother, only to say that the death of Cllr. David Gbala has left an eternal empty space in Meabloh, Kaneh, Grand Gedeh County that cannot be filled - forever. Like I told one of my nephews, Stanley Siah, this morning when he broke the news, I do not know what to say or do. There are many, young, growing family members of children, great, and great grandchildren who need advice, counsel and support. My God, there are so much to do in this selfish, jealous, wicked, sinful world!

But thankful because I lived a long life. For example, one of six daughters said to "Daddy, I wish that I could live as long as you have. Young men and women are dying every day around us.



Ellen blasts Unity Party

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf has strongly blasted national leadership and the former ruling Unity Party's current standard Joseph Nyumah Boakai who is also her former vice president, for not hailing successes of the Unity Party (UP) led - government.

Speaking at UP national headquarters in Congo Town during a national executive committee meeting recently, Madam Johnson - Sirleaf said officials of her party appear to be unappreciative about the high mark made by her government.

"Our government created road network, moved the developmental agenda of the country, improved health and education sectors. But our people, the partisans and officials of our party do not talk about these achievements," she says.



Madam Johnson - Sirleaf states that she is glad of the change in the party in recent times through the effort made by many partisans and stalwarts in trying to bring the situation under control in

party.

According to her, reconciliation will only be effective if everyone is committed to the process by reaching out to fellow partisans, elders and officials

of the party.

Speaking further, Mrs. Sirleaf informs the gathering that she will not fully participate in party politics again.

"I want everyone to know that I will no longer be engaged in active partisan politics. That does not mean I will not have a say, it does not also mean I will not recognize good politicians but you will not see me in campaigning or promoting any

particular individual in anyway because my activities don't allow it," she says.

"The source of my prize don't allow and I cannot afford to lose that source of my prize because it is the only real source of support that I have," she continues.

For his part, UP Standard Bearer Joseph Nyumah Boakai expresses thanks for the support and the first meeting attended since reconciliation process was announced, adding that the reconciliation is sincere and partisans are committed to the process.

Amb. Boakai tells the meeting that reconciliation is a process, urging everyone to play their part in moving the country.

He called the meeting on grounds that the country is faced with political and economic downturn, saying the party must play its role to rescue the country from the current nightmare.

He concludes by saying that Liberian people expect much from the Unity Party in delivering the country from tough time and the party will do no less. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Lawmakers left hanging

By Ethel A. Tweh & Bridgett Milton

Members of the Liberian Legislature appear to be left hanging, amidst speculations that they were due for an extraordinary session on Monday, 25 November 2019.

Though details of the extraordinary session scanty, information available to this paper indicates that their sitting would have centered

Liberian banknotes seen on the market.

There have been speculations here that the mutilated banknotes which were due to be burnt at Mount Barclay are the same notes that are now on the market.

Finance Minister Samuel Tweah says a short term measure would be to print additional banknotes of the existing legal tender to enable the payment of civil servants

whenever they're to have an extraordinary session.

But he says up to Monday, he had not received a text, saying he has only heard it from the public.

Meanwhile, a dispatch from the office of the Speaker Bhopal Chambers, says the anticipated extraordinary session has been postponed to a new date to be announced by President George Manneh Weah.



around the printing of the controversial new Liberian Dollars Banknotes.

Currently there is shortage of the Liberian dollars on the market with commercial banks rationing payment among depositors.

In spite of the printing of billions of new local currency by the previous government, there are more mutilated

for the festive season.

Civil servants here have not gotten pay for months and this has even affected some private businesses.

However this has led to so many protests by government agencies and students.

Speaking to this paper Monday, a lawmaker name withheld said that they usually receive text messages

Speaker Chambers says the leadership will continue it's normal business of governance in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives, as the Body is on its many break as dictated by Article 32-A&B of the Liberian Constitution.

The constitutional provision also countenances the return of the Legislature as the present case is.

Jerome Verdier

Starts from back page

that makes up the ruling establishment indicates that the current administration has done [nothing] that warrants sanctions.

He insists that Cllr. Verdier's call speaks to his selfish interest and greed, narrating that the economic meltdown facing the country was not created by the Weah led - government.

Instead, Senator Morais claims that the economic situation here is a global challenge nurtured with several factors that interplayed nearing the end of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's administration.

"George Weah has [done] nothing to merit sanction. Verdier is just another selfish man. We were here when the United Nations placed Liberia under sanctions. We know what we went through, the consequences, the challenges and the aftermath are things that are still fresh in the minds of many Liberians," he says.

Mr. Morais notes that the

economic challenge faced by the country must be concluded and wrapped up in order for the government and its people to open a new page which may create a unique style for smooth operation of the country and the economy.

Civil servants and officials of government have not taken pay for quite long, some counting four months or more, while some private institutions are heavily indebted to employees for months due to the poor performance of the economy.

Also, commercial banks here are unable to meet customers' demands for withdrawal of huge sums of money from their respective accounts due low outflow and inflow of Liberian dollars.

The Weah administration has faced series of protests from government employees against pay cuts, poor working conditions, and delay in salaries payment, among others. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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Jerome Verdier must be 'mad'

-Sen. Morais



Cllr. Jerome Verdier

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Maryland County Senator Dan Morais has described as 'mad man,' former Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Chairman Cllr. Jerome Verdier in reaction to the latter's call for sanctions to be placed on Liberia and

government officials here.

Speaking to this paper via mobile phone Monday, 25 November in Monrovia, Senator Morais who presides over the Liberian Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations claims that Cllr. Verdier does not understand what he's calling for.

The Maryland County lawmaker warns that the interest of the State cannot be tampered for people's personal interests and personal gains.

Recently, Cllr. Verdier who is a resident of the United States, called on the United Nations and the United States Government to place sanctions on Liberia for the alleged mismanagement of the country's resources by President George Manneh Weah led - administration.

Cllr. Verdier suggests that the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government does not mean well for the country and its people, claiming that the best way in restricting some of the 'mismanagements' is to sanction President Weah and his officials and restrict the movement of government officials, among others.

But Mr. Morais, an executive member of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) which forms part of the tripartite arrangement

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C.B. Dunbar lauds donation by Soildaridad

By Winston W. Parley

Authorities at the C. B. Dunbar Hospital in Gbarnga, Bong County and officials of the county have lauded the donation of scores of essential materials to the maternity hospital by global network organization Solidaridad Liberia as part of its corporate social responsibility during celebration of its 50th



Anniversary.

The donation made last week includes 26 dozens of pampers to help young babies mothers to stop the use of pieces of their lappers as baby diapers; three cartoons of baby toys; a cartoon of beddings for the hospital; four cartoon of delta; and 15 cartoon of clora.

The donation to the hospital also includes five cartoons of soap; five cartoons of sanitizers; 20 bags of tissue;

and 20 dozens of tide soap.

Several speakers at the ceremony viewed Solidaridad's donation to the C.B. Dunbar Hospital as new and first of its kind to see an organization which operates in the agriculture sector to make such intervention in the health sector which is beyond its

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