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# The New Dawn

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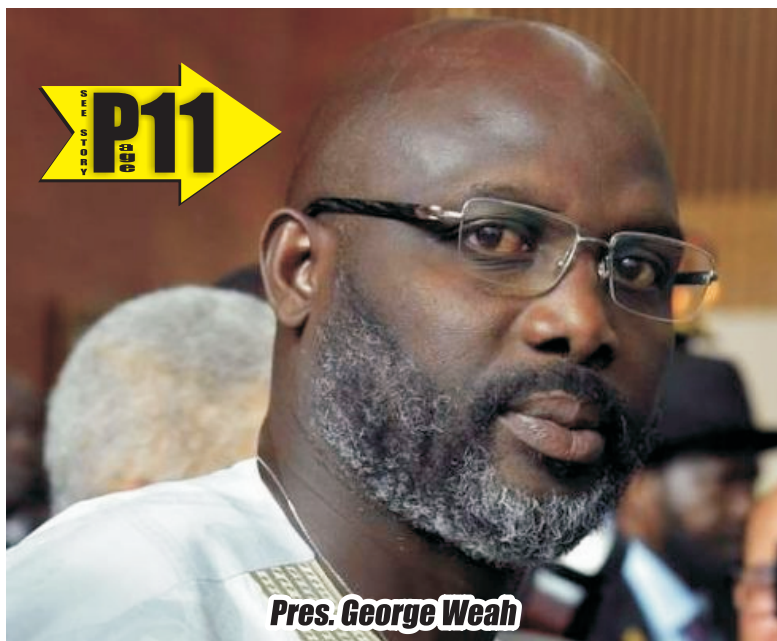
**We have moved**  
"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."  
-Proverbs 15:27

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# Total embarrassment



Pres. George Weah



Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa



Rep. Acarous Moses Gray



Mr. Henry Costa



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

# Step-down campaign is 'reasonable' - Cummings

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# Continental News

## Helicopter collision kills 13 French troops in Mali

**T**hirteen French soldiers have been killed in a helicopter collision during an operation against jihadists in Mali, the French president's office says.

President Emmanuel Macron expressed "deep sadness" over the biggest single loss of life for the French military since the 1980s.

An investigation has begun into how the two helicopters hit each other.

Thousands of French troops have been deployed in Mali since 2013 after militants overran parts of the north.

Mali's army has since recaptured the territory but insecurity continues and the violence has spread to neighbouring countries.

France now has 4,500 troops deployed to support the forces of Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad against the jihadists.

French Defence Minister Florence Parly vowed that her

country would not turn its back on the fight against terrorism after the deadly collision.

"We fight alongside our partners and brothers-in-arms from Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso to together give these countries the peace and

stability to which their people aspire," she said.

What do we know about the collision?

It happened in darkness around 19:40 local time (also GMT) on Monday near the borders of Burkina Faso and Niger where the aircraft were

reinforcing ground troops who were pursuing militants, the French military says.

A Tiger attack helicopter hit a Cougar military transport mid-air as it manoeuvred to engage the militants, who were fleeing on motorbikes and in pick-up trucks.

The two aircraft crashed not far from each other, killing everyone on board including six commandos and an officer.

Among the dead is the son of French Senator Jean-Marie Bockel, Pierre, who was a lieutenant.

How big a blow is this for France? Condolences were sent to President Macron from his Malian counterpart Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Burkina Faso's President Roch Marc Christian Kabore.

"The loss is heavy but the peoples of the Sahel share your bereavement," President Keita said.

It is the heaviest toll in a

single incident since 1986 when a French sea surveillance plane crashed into a mountain in northern Djibouti with the loss of 19 soldiers.

In total, 41 French soldiers have been killed in Mali since the country first intervened.

An officer, Brig Ronan Pointeau, was killed earlier this month after an explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

The brunt of the violence though is faced by local forces and civilians. An attack on a northern military post this month left 53 Malian troops dead.

Who are the militants?

Both the Islamic State (IS) group and a branch of al-Qaeda called Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) are active in the region.

Under the name of its so-called West Africa Province, IS operates in Mali, Nigeria, Niger and Burkina Faso. -BBC



AFP Image caption A Tiger helicopter (file image)

## Guinea opposition supporters in massive new protest

**G**uinean protesters thronged the streets of the capital Conakry on Tuesday in fresh protests against embattled President Alpha Conde.

The crowds, most wearing opposition T-shirts, formed a sea of red -- the colour of the opposition -- with lawmaker Fode Oussou Fofana estimating their numbers at "more than a million".

AFP could not independently verify the figure.

Protesters carried placards reading "No to dictatorship," "Death to murderers" and "Free the heroes".

The poor West African country of some 13 million has seen rolling demonstrations since last month over suspicions that the 81-year-old president is manoeuvring to

seek a third term in office.

At least 20 civilians have been killed since mid-October and one gendarme has also been killed.

A Guinean court handed down jail terms to several opposition leaders in October.

On Tuesday, opposition leader Cellou Dalein Diallo could be seen in the middle of the crowd on the hood of a 4x4 vehicle.

Leading civil society members including a top lawyer and a former defence minister took part in the protest.

Schools and shops were shut across much of capital, and security officers were out in force, although they maintained a low profile, an AFP journalist said.

Conde, whose second term ends next year, launched constitutional consultations in September, saying the former French colony's basic law "concentrates corporate interests" and needed reform.

But his adversaries say the president will try to push through an amendment allowing him to seek a third term in elections due in 2020. He has neither confirmed nor denied his intentions. -AFP



Guinea has seen rolling demonstrations since last month over suspicions that President Conde, 81, is seeking a third term in office (AFP Photo/CELLOU)

## WHO evacuates staff after UN base in Beni torched

**T**he World Health Organization (WHO) says it has evacuated 49 of its staff from the town of Beni in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo because of the worsening security situation, following

On Monday, four people were killed in clashes with police after protesters set fire to the mayor of Beni's office and several UN buildings, AFP news agency quoted police as saying.

The violence was an angry



attacks on a UN base and the mayor's office.

They are described as non-essential staff who have been working to end the Ebola outbreak. A WHO spokesman said more than 70 colleagues would remain there.

response to an escalation of attacks by armed groups in the region.

People are demanding better protection from the Congolese army and UN peacekeepers. BBC

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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 sir, 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.



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 Andrew Sheng  
& Xiao Geng

## Can Hong Kong Avoid Tragedy?

**H**ONG KONG - Nearly six months after they began, the protests in our city have reached fever pitch. On one particularly devastating day earlier this month, police fired more than 1,500 rounds of tear gas, a police officer shot a demonstrator at point-blank range while being attacked, and protesters immolated a man who disagreed with them. More than 4,000 people have been arrested, infrastructure has been destroyed, and the economy has sunk into recession. And for what?

Hong Kong's government withdrew the extradition bill that triggered the protests. Yet the protesters rage on, lacking any coherent strategy or demands. They claim that they are fighting for democracy, but it is hard to reconcile that lofty goal with medieval-style catapults launching bricks and firebombs. In truth, the protesters' scorched-earth strategy can lead only to more chaos, destruction, and death.

It does not have to be this way. To help find a solution, we have conducted a PEST (political, economic, sociocultural, and technological) analysis of Hong Kong's current situation and future prospects.

On the political front, the main lesson is that it is up to the government to ensure order and security. Within the "one country, two systems" framework, Hong Kong's own government has powers to address internal security matters. But where its actions are inadequate, it is the right and responsibility of China's central government to intervene. By allowing peaceful demonstrations to escalate into large-scale riots, Hong Kong's protesters have made such intervention unavoidable.

Economically, Hong Kong is paying a high price for the protracted protests. In July-September, the city's GDP shrank by 3.2% quarter on quarter - the worst economic performance since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Yet all is not lost, as the city's stock market continues to function. Alibaba - China's largest e-commerce company, which holds the world record for the largest initial public offering - has followed through on its plan for a secondary listing in Hong Kong, where it is on track to raise nearly \$13 billion.

For most of the last two decades, IPOs in Hong Kong have raised more than those in the United States or mainland China. The market capitalization of all listed companies in Hong Kong amounts to about half that of the mainland. Hong Kong is also an essential platform for China's management of offshore financial assets, and a critical link to global supply chains, with about 60% of China's inflows of foreign direct investment channeled through the city.

Yet these economic advantages have had unintended social consequences, driving the city's highest level of inequality in 45 years. As in many Western economies, while property owners, developers, and elite professionals amass wealth, Hong Kong's lower-middle-class workers have faced stagnating incomes and surging housing prices. The resulting frustration is at the root of the current upheaval.

Persistent governance failures aggravated public sentiment further. In the face of massive social, geopolitical, and technological disruptions, Hong Kong's government needed to adopt proactive policies that could both respond to new developments and anticipate future challenges - beginning with the lack of affordable housing. But it remained committed to the outdated colonial-era principle of "positive non-interventionism," so the problems festered, and popular anger grew.

That anger found a home on social media.

Technology shook the foundations of the "one country, two systems" arrangement by facilitating "information disorder": the spread of overwhelming volumes of biased, misleading, and outright false information, often designed to stoke anti-China sentiment in Hong Kong. The formation of filter bubbles and echo chambers compounded the problem, inundating young people with the message that mainland China was to blame for their every woe.

When these ideas began to be translated into action, protesters used social media to organize, document, and spread awareness of their activities, often anonymously. For both the demonstrators and their opponents, social media have been a crucial means of shaping the narrative, enabling them to share images of, say, police brutality or protester violence.

But social media are a weapon as well as a battleground. In August alone, more than 1,600 police officers and their family members were victimized by "doxxing" - the publication of private information online, in order to invite harassment or worse. In some cases, even the addresses of children's schools were shared. (Some journalists and opposition figures have also been doxxed.)

Despite these provocations, Hong Kong's police have shown considerable restraint. Yes, two people have died in the chaos. But compare that to the 22 protesters who were killed in just two weeks of demonstrations in Santiago, Chile, or the more than 100 who were killed during recent protests in Iran.

If protesters in the US or France were rioting for six months, the government would send in the national guard to quell the unrest. Yet China has exercised strategic patience, recognizing that direct intervention could help those who seek to paint the conflict as a "clash of civilizations," especially at a time when China is locked in a complex trade and strategic rivalry with the US.

But the longer the violence persists, the fewer options for all. Indeed, the latest district council election, with a turnout rate of 71.2%, showed that people voted peacefully for change. If the protesters had avoided violence and opted to wait patiently to express their preferences at the ballot box, the same message could have been sent. The election result is an opportunity for all to reflect carefully on the need to end violent protests and work together to address genuine grievances. All sides must show empathy, humility, and a willingness to compromise as they design and implement governance reforms that are consistent with Hong Kong's Basic Law and China's constitution.

The alternative is not some fantasy of an independent and thriving Hong Kong. It is a devastated economy, a divided society, and a lost generation. Pretending otherwise will only make that outcome more difficult to avoid.

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## OPINION

Bynina L. Khrushcheva

## Putin Means Money

**M**OSCOW - 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.<sup>1</sup>

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*

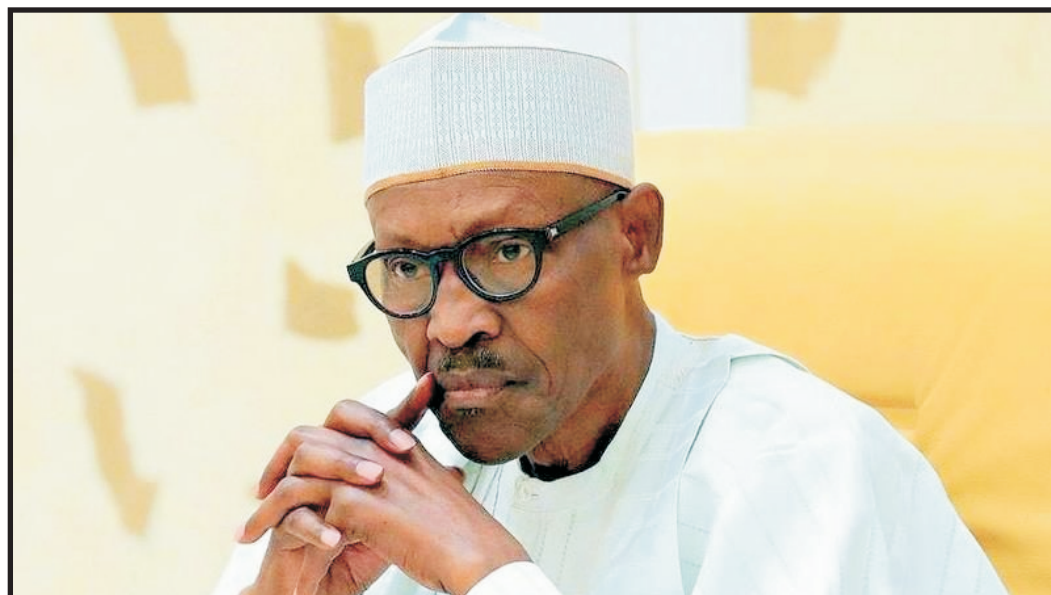
In August 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari announced a decision to partially close the Nigeria-Benin border due to smuggling activities, especially of rice, into the country. Later in October, the decision was made indefinite with the government arguing the policy would encourage the local production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

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Journalists undergo anti-money laundering training

By Bridgett Milton

The Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) has begun a three-day training for journalists in investigative reporting on economic and financial crimes in Monrovia.

The training which began on 26 November is expected to continue until the 28 of the month, bringing together journalists from all over West Africa.

Speaking at the opening, Acting Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism Daniel Gayedyu expressed gratitude to GIABA for selecting Liberia from among ECOWAS countries to host the regional workshop for training of journalists in investigative reporting on economic and financial crimes.

He says the selection is most appropriate at a time the government under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah has given journalists more latitude to work freely by decriminalizing speech offenses.



Gayedyu adds that since 2005 when GIABA became fully operational, it has made considerable progress through the cohesion of regional anti-money laundering cooperation, provision of technical assistance to member countries and the training of different actors in several sectors relevant to the

fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

He stresses that it is important for participants to optimize the knowledge from the ongoing training for the three days because the governments of their various countries also count on them to fight against money laundering.

## Don't mix politics

Starts from back page

and Forestry, University of Liberia, Professor Moses M. Zinnah says, about 70 percent of the country's population is involved with the agriculture sector, which accounts for 37.45 percent of Gross Domestic Product or GDP.

Agriculture, fisheries and forestry have potential to increase revenue by over 200 percent, he says.

Professor Zinnah note that research shows that Africa is expected to spend US\$111.0 billion on food importation by 2025 but quotes Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning as saying. 'Agriculture must be the lead sector in the New Economic Development of Liberia.'

Making a PowerPoint presentation on the topic, "Natural Resource Value Addition -Strengthening the Local Economy: Practical Steps for Sustained Domestic

percent over its 2017 level to get to a level commensurate to their combined share of GDP.

According to Talery, the agricultural sector is a discount sector which can contribute US\$ 77 million to get to a premium sector, noting that in 2017, it contributed only about a quarter of that amount or US\$ 16 million.

"The cassava and rice subsistence growers who do not pay taxes generate 54% of value addition in the sector. Structural changes are required to commercialize agriculture by introducing taxpaying producers", he adds.

He says the LRA Domestic Revenue Mobilization seeks to target "agripreneurs" and empower them thru skills training.

Deputy Finance Minister for Planning and Development Robert K. Fagans says politicians should stop talking agriculture and begin to act,



Revenue Growth within the Agriculture Sector", he says focus should be on production of cocoa, rice, oil palm, cassava and rubber where profit margins are high, stressing the need for public-private partnership.

The dialogue was moderated by Mr. J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. Head of Solidaridad Liberia.

In his presentation on the topic, Small-Scale Agriculture Tax Reform: Impact on Domestic Revenue Growth", the Commissioner for Domestic Tax at the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Mr. Darlington Talery notes that Liberia has a hybrid tax system that is both territorial and worldwide, implemented thru the Revenue Code.

He outlines various tax categories and points out that agriculture, fisheries and forestry hold potentials for increase revenue intake by 245

adding, "Once we divorce politics from agriculture then we can do more."

Presenting on the topic, "Popularization of local cash crops for income generation and food security" Minister Fagans stresses the importance of implementing policy documents and discloses that Real GDP in 2016 for agriculture, fisheries grew by 6 percent from 0.7 percent in 2015 thereby contributing US\$232.2 million to the economy of Liberia.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Governance Commission Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike says the role of the Commission is to generate thinking on key issue and consolidate these key issues to advise government, reminding the discussants, "What you are going to come up with here will be very important." **Story by Jonathan Browne**

## LRA, LNBA pen MOU on fees payment

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) Tuesday (Nov 26) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaboration on the payment of license fees by lawyers.

Under the Mou, lawyers will have to pay their licenses fees to the LRA and submit genuine receipts to the LNBA before they are licensed legally to practice law in the

country.

A press release says LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah and LNBA President Tiawan Gongloe signed the MOU at the headquarters of the LRA in Paynesville Outside Monrovia.

Speaking briefly before signing the MoU, Cllr. Gongloe underscored the importance of the legal profession and indicated that the licensing of lawyers before practicing will ensure a high level of

professionalism and will guarantees that only the right people will practice law in the country.

"We know that the LRA has the statutory responsibility to collect taxes including licenses fees. We know that the medical dental association gives license to its members, we want to do the same too. We are not taking away the license fees. We want to know our professional members. There are some people who come and say they are lawyers and they just pay their license fees and go ahead to practice. We want to elevate our profession in the eyes of the general public that people who are lawyers actually represent people. And

one of the ways of doing it is to make sure that we license our own people," Cllr. Gongloe noted.

The LNBA president said the Bar will authorize [lawyers] to come and pay and then we will issue them licenses. In that way, the LRA will serve the interest of the LNBA, while the LNBA will also serve the interest of the LRA and the Public." He said this will enable the LNBA



LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah and LNBA President Tiawan Gongloe signing the MOU at the headquarters of the LRA in Paynesville outside Monrovia





# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## 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 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 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 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 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.

Speaker Chambers says the leadership will continue its 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.

## Local NGO embarks on skills training

By Lewis S. Teh

A local Non - Governmental Organization (NGO) under the banner Rescue Youth for Change-Liberia over the weekend concluded a day - long skills building training for high students in Paynesville, Montserrado County.

The day - long training brought together several students from the Kollah Foundation Institute, SDA High School; Paynesville AGM High School; Grace Heritage International School System; Royal Christian Foundation and Dele Felderwitz Christian Children Home, respectively.

Rescue Youth for Change-Liberia (RYCL) is a not - for - profit and charity organization founded in January 2019 by a group of young people led by a Liberian journalist Alfred Kollie.

The group seeks to give back to society and underprivileged in Liberia through Charity, Education, Peace - building, Entrepreneurship, Health and other Community - based developmental initiatives.

Speaking to journalists at the climax of the skills training in Paynesville City, the Deputy Executive Director of Rescue Youth for Change-Liberia Juah M. Doeyou says the training is intended to increase students' knowledge on the danger of teenage pregnancy and prostitution.

He notes that the training is intended to also strengthen the education of the young people and help them on how to choose a career as a high school student.

"We have observed in our community and the country at large that lack of information is one of the major factors contributing to teenage pregnancy and prostitution, and young people choose wrong career, something we believe is affecting our society," Juah notes.

She explains that as part of the organization's functions, it is necessary at this time to engage young people beginning with students by increasing their knowledge on issues affecting them particularly on teenage pregnancy and career development.

"From our organization's community awareness conducted, poverty, traditional, cultural practices, lack of enforcement of existing laws, ... marriage under the age of 18 and poor awareness [on] sexual and reproductive health among young people

were also all cited," she says.

Miss Doeyou at the same time urges teenagers in Liberia to deviate from unnecessary activities like early sex and peer-pressure that would kill the dreams and goals in the future.

She says teenagers (13-19 years) should be attentive and pay close attention to their life careers and stop being complacent in pursuing their dreams.

Meanwhile, the organization's Deputy Executive Director calls on parents across Liberia to start educating or disclosing sexual information to their children at their early ages to help their kids to be aware of future failures or embarrassment.

According to her, doing so will save children from dropping from schools, unwanted pregnancy or early death.

Also speaking, students from different institutions praised the RYCL for its excellent and motivating programs about educating Liberian youth on building a solid educational foundation, preventative method of unwanted pregnancy and career development.

The participants also admonished their fellow youths to be focused and serious about their careers and build a good and vibrant society that everyone will live in peacefully.

The students, many of whom came from the Paynesville AGM High School, Grace Heritage International School System, Royal Christian Foundation, call on national government to give support to non- for profit organizations like the Rescue Youth for Change Liberia to help change and spread messages that would change youth for the common good of the society.

"We really want the government of Liberia to help support NGOs like RYCL so they can have more strength to tell us about teenage pregnancy, how to build or prepare yourself in order to become a successful person tomorrow and how to prevent yourself from sexual transmitted diseases" one of the students says.

Meanwhile as part of its community services, the organization discloses that it will on December 7, 2019 carry out a day long cleanup campaign in the GSA Road Community.

## Liberia to celebrate Tubman's 124th birthday

President George Manneh Weah has by Proclamation declared Friday, November 29, 2019 as the 124th Birth Anniversary of William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, the 18TH President of the Republic of Liberia, and is to be observed throughout the country as a National Holiday.

The Proclamation further

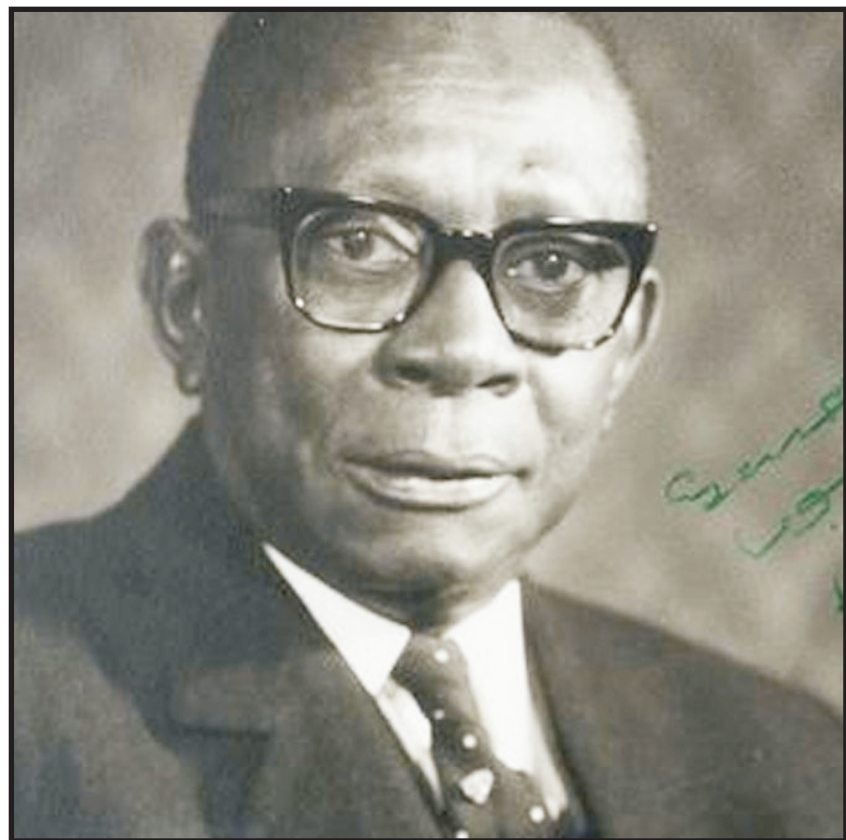
ordered and directed Government ministries and agencies, business houses as well as market places closed during the observance from six O'clock ante meridian to six O'clock post meridian.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the observance is in recognition of President Tubman's productive and

meaningful services to Liberia, including his Integration Policy, the granting of suffrage to Liberian women, Open Door Policy as well as many other Socio-Economic Developments policies and initiatives; particularly highlighting his contributions to the emancipation of African Colonial Territories into Statehood.

The observance of the Day is in recognition of the numerous contributions and profound changes and lasting accomplishments made by former President Tubman during his administration for which the citizens of Liberia expressed their deep appreciation and approval for his outstanding, noble and remarkable leadership, through a petition that requested the National Legislature of Liberia to enact a law in honor of his birth for posterity.

At its 3rd Session, the 42ND National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia enacted a Legislation declaring November 29th of each year, as the Birth Anniversary of the late President William V.S. Tubman to be celebrated as a National Holiday in Liberia in keeping with the will of the Liberian people.





# 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 tanguait 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.

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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 des

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 des 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?? Raviendra-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.



# Anti-graft official quits

## -Over acute pay delays

By Winston W. Parley

**L**iberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) Comptroller J. Benard Nagbe has resigned his post, saying he can no more continue "this useless sacrifice to the LACC, the Liberian people and the Government."

Mr. Nagbe indicates in his resignation letter dated 25 November, and addressed to the LACC Board indicates that it is better he has no job, than have a job and appear irresponsible to everyone he has business relationship [with].

"I owe almost everyone in Liberia and I can no more endure this degree difficulty," he says in a rather strongly worded resignation letter.

Mr. Nagbe's resignation comes at a time President George Manneh Weah's regime faces economic woes, as public servants and civil servants go several months without pay.

The private sector is also hit by the economic calamity here, as businesses struggle without solutions, while commercial banks run out of local currencies, adding more frustration to depositors' problems at a time they need money their money.

A protest recently rocked the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) where employees have not been paid their salaries for months, just as it is in other government ministries and agencies.

In the wake of the financial crisis here, the anti-graft

people of Liberia is not for free," he adds.

"That's just in simple term. I owe my life, career and service to my country but ultimately my family comes first. I have never had this experience in my professional life and never am I [prepared] to endure this nonsense," Mr. Nagbe continues.



institution's official, Mr. Nagbe says he is constrained to tender in his resignation on grounds of uncertainty with his salary and benefits.

"I am not receiving my remuneration on time and my service to the Government and

He stresses that he cannot and will not work without pay.

He indicates that he is aware of the critical responsibility associated with his work at the Commission, but the wellbeing of his family and him comes first.

# Ellen blasts

Starts from back page

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**

# LRA, LNBA pen

Cont'd from page 6

to scrutinize the credentials and abilities of lawyers.

CG Nah, for his part welcomed the initiative and stressed that bulk of the work of the LRA was based on legal reliance. "Much of what is done at LRA has foundation in legality. We agree with you that the right people should practice law. We want to implement the law, but also our taxpayers should be duly represented. The MOU is in both of us interests."

He described the MOU as "a good decision" and hoped for a stronger collaboration with the LNBA going forward.

"We are hoping to even forge a stronger partnership

where we can come to the Bar and talk about taxation, and where you can also get involved with us," the CG noted, adding, "We have similar relationship with the tax practitioners and it would be good to have the same with the Bar Association."

CG Nah expressed optimism that the MOU and other engagement with the LNBA "will allow us in raising additional revenue. Raising revenue is at the core of our work as every dime counts."

LNBA Secretary General Cllr. Bobby W. Livingstone and LRA Counsels Max Duncan and Gabriel Johnson witnessed the occasion. -**Press Release**

# DKT launches awareness programs

**D**KT International-Liberia, a social marketing enterprise that promotes the sale and use of Family Planning Products and services in more than 25 Countries around the world. Since her official launching in September 2019, DKT in collaboration with Sida, continue to support efforts of government with interventions in the Reproductive Health Sector to

mitigate the alarming maternal deaths in Liberia. We also support HIV/AIDS and STI awareness and preventions by supplying quality contraceptive products on the Liberian market at affordable prices.

DKT is focused through social marketing to avail quality products and services with partner clinics mostly the private, to unreached communities as well as key population in Liberia. This

intervention will reshape the supply of contraceptives to aid women have choices in reproductive decisions, HIV prevention, behavior change communication, and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. HIV continues to be a major global public health issue, having claimed more than 32 million lives so far. However, with increasing access to effective HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, HIV infection has become a manageable chronic health condition, enabling people to live long and healthy lives.

DKT Liberia in collaboration with Agents of Positive Change (AOPC); a non-governmental organization that helps educate, motivate and inspire young people to become great leaders; came up with the initiative to commemorate the World AIDS Day 2019 in Liberia with a three-day program. Antonio Turcott, Country Manager of DKT Liberia announced the following planned activities for this important day.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights Conference

November 29th, 2019; William Tubman's Day which is

a national holiday in the Republic of Liberia on which several Liberians are usually involved in leisure activities such as alcohol, narcotics and sex. In order to prevent young students against the disastrous consequences of those illicit activities and to also maintain the high rate of girls enrolment and retainment in schools, there will be a conference on Sexual and Reproductive Rights which will gather over 200 students who will also be asked to participate in free HIV/AIDS testing at these events

Beach Activities

Beaches are the most frequently visited places where people spend time

during holidays. The concept behind the Beach Activities along with the celebration of the World AIDS Day is to create awareness. There will be free HIV/AIDS tests, free condoms distributions. These Beach Activities will be held on the November 30th and December 1st respectively. We anticipate testing at least a hundred people during these activities. Starting on November 29th, 2019; William Tubman's Day, we plan to celebrate the World AIDS Day with a series of activities such as conference, awareness activities, HIV/AIDS test at beaches along with free distribution of condoms and radio talk shows/interviews.



Antono Turcott-Country Manager dkt Liberia

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# Total embarrassment

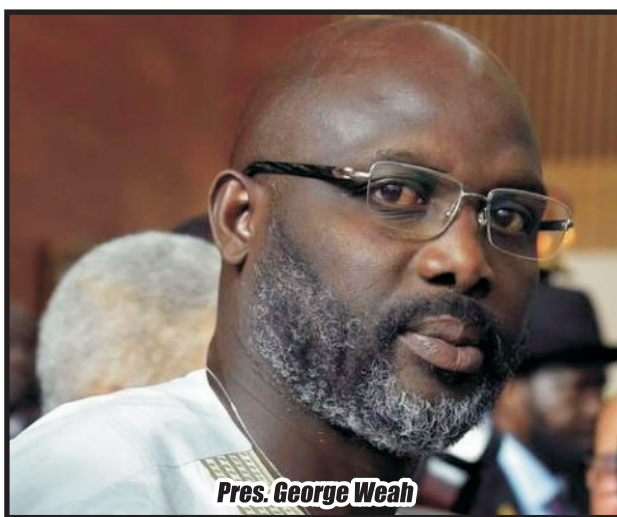
By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Two representatives from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change have branded the recent statement of Col. Augustine J. Nagbe alias General Power as reckless and total national embarrassment to the government and people.

General Power in his recent appearance on Prime fm in Monrovia said that the Kru people will form a 'Kru Defense Force' to protect President Weah and his government till his constitutional required can be expired.

Grand Kru County Electoral District #2 Representative and Chairman on the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, Cllr. J. FonatiKoffa and Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Acarous Moses Gray said that the statement from ex colonel of the Armed Forces of Liberia is counterproductive and it has propensity to under the peace and stability of the already fragile country.

"I feel compelled in no uncertain terms to condemn



Pres. George Weah



Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa



Rep. Acarous Moses Gray

my kinsman, whose nom de guerre (whose war name), is General Power, and urge him to desist from talks of urban militarism. Similarly, I condemn all those engaged in incendiary rhetoric in the name of free speech," Rep Koffa said.

In a separate statement, Representative Koffa intimated that the Liberia as a country is striving to maintain and sustain the peace and to have former soldier making such is condemnable and should be trash in the dustbin.

Cllr. Koffa said at the point in time of the country, President George Manneh Weah is everyone leader and he does not need

unconstitutional faction group to protect him.

But Koffa pointed out that the President Weah is not president for Kru people only instead for the entire republic and that there are paramilitary groups under the constitution that have taken oaths to defend and protect lives and properties including the presidency.

Yesterday morning, November 26, in Monrovia Representative Gray said that the comment of General Power is a national embarrassment and it intended to narrow the presidency to his kinsmen only which is far from the thought of President Weah.

According to him, Weah

platform brings everyone on board and to have everyone work collectively in the common of the country and create a rebel group to protect the president.

Gray, who now serves as chairman on executive for the House of Representatives' committee stressed that the attention of the president is focus on development and uniting the Liberian people and not creating illegal group for protection.

He noted that President Weah is already and safe and he does not need protection from group of Kru people.

In Article 5c of the Liberian Constitution, it is stated: "The Republic shall take steps, by appropriate legislation and executive orders to eliminate sectionalism and tribalism, and such abuses of power as the misuse of government, nepotism, and all other corrupt practices."

## Step-down campaign is 'treasonable'

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress, Mr. Alexander Benedict Cummings has termed as 'treasonable' for anyone within the republic and beyond to call for step down campaign of a constitutional government

which should actively address by the Coalition for Democratic Change led administration but to call for step down campaign is treasonable and should not be accepted by anyone.

Cummings told the show that protest is a unique tenet of democracy which can be over looked by any

international community and ti could also derail productivities of government.

The ANC strongman added that delay in civil servants' salaries is something that should not be practiced by national administration especially in such dispensation and that there are many implications that could follow in a negative form.

Speaking on the current economic meltdown, Cummings intimated that the way the country is being led under President George Weah, shows the level of "incompetence;" further adding: "If the President can say when the competent are not available, the incompetent take over; what kind of leader says that about his government publically?"

"To loot the national treasury of this country for personal gain is appalling and Liberians should be upset. This is your money being spent for personal gains.

"By every economic measurement, the economy is failing. It is not working for the people of Liberia. Inflation is everywhere. Prices are going up. This government has made an 'F'. I don't have to say it for the Liberia people, they are feeling the pinch and what makes it worse for me, there seems to be no plan to fix it by the government," the ANC political leader said.



Mr. Henry Costa



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

and president.

Appearing yesterday, November 26, on a local radio station, the Sky fm, the 50-50 show, Mr. Cummings said while it is true that those who are staging the step down may have some legitimate claims

government or leader but aspect of step down is worrisome and undemocratic.

Cummings also called on the government to pay salaries arrears from now to the end of December of this year or else it would send a bad signal to the

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to announce the sudden home going of Ernest D. Clark (commonly called Daddyboy) who departed this world on Monday, November 18, 2019 at the S.D. Cooper Hospital following a brief period of illness. He leaves to mourn his loss his mother, his 6months pregnant fiancée, his siblings, uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends in Liberia and the United States of America. There will be only one general meeting to be held on Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 4pm at the Clark's residence in Barnersville Estate house # E-60. Arrangements are as follows: A silent night will be held on Friday, November 29, 2019 from 7 - 9pm at the Clark's residence in Barnersville Estate house # E-60. Funeral service will be held at the Maureen Caphart funeral home in

Upper Caldwell, Monrovia on Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 10am. Internment follows thereafter in the City of Arthington at the family's cemetery. This announcement goes out to all relatives and friends in and out of Liberia.

Signed by his sister, Mrs. Famatta Pinky Clark-Gardea and his uncle Rev. William D. Fourd for and on behalf of the family.

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### Public Service Announcement

**THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL OUR CLIENTS & READERS THAT THE BUSINESS AND NEWSPAPER OFFICES OF THE NEW DAWN NEWSPAPER HAVE BEEN RELOCATED ON UN DRIVE OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION (NIC), BEHIND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY.**



## Ellen blasts Unity Party



Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

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



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## Don't mix politics with agriculture

**-Stakeholders tell government**

Stakeholder and partners from a one-day policy dialogue on integrating value addition into small-scale agriculture for sustained domestic revenue growth want practical steps, including support to the agriculture sector here.

They stress the need to de-politicize the sector and

initiate tangible programs that would boost smallholder farmers for sustained domestic revenue generation.

The call followed a day-long policy dialogue conducted by the Governance Commission in collaboration with the Liberia Revenue Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Liberia held Tuesday, 26 November at a local



entertainment Center in Sinkor, Monrovia.

Liberia has the remaining rain forest in Africa, including land suitable for agriculture, but its citizens are engaged in subsistence farming, heavily importing its staple, rice, and other basic foodstuff.

The Dean of the William R. Tolbert, Jr. College of Agriculture



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