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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.

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ANC Leader, Alex Cummings

P11

Complete nonsense

-ANC dismisses coup plot rumor

Permit denied

-As MOJ warns COP of treason charges



P11

Flashback: Protesters from June 7

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Continental News

'Racist terror plot foiled' in South Africa

South African police have arrested three members of the National Christian Resistance Movement (NCRM) for an alleged terror plot.

The leader of the so-called Crusaders group, Harry Knoesen, and two others were found with firearms, ammunition and explosives after a tip-off that they were about to launch a string of attacks on government buildings, shopping centres and informal settlements where most black people live, police.

The trio have made a brief appearance in court. They were not asked to plead, and were remanded in custody until their next court appearance on 21 January.

Police said they were still investigating.

In April this year, in a video that was posted on social media, Knoesen called on white people to strike first

and start a war as this was the only way "white people can save themselves".

He also said he had a "godly" instruction to take back what the devil had stolen from white people through politics.

Knoesen is a retired pastor and former member of the South African defense force.

White-minority rule ended in South Africa in 1994, when the black majority was allowed to vote for the first time.-BBC

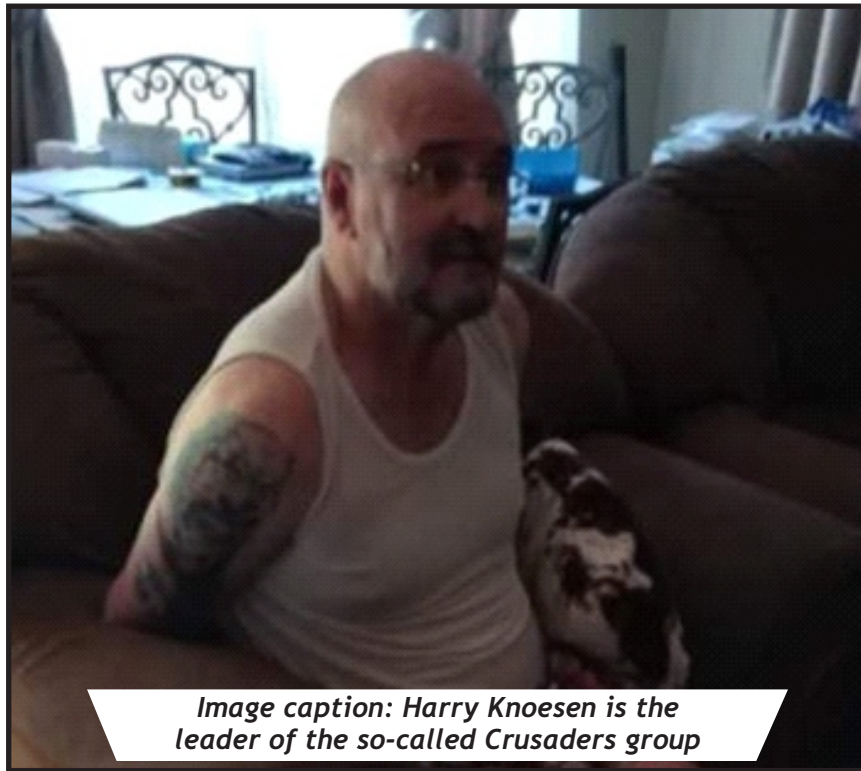


Image caption: Harry Knoesen is the leader of the so-called Crusaders group

Tanzanian expelled pregnant school girls finally graduate

Tanzanian mothers who were thrown out of school for getting pregnant graduated this weekend thanks to a retired teacher. Teenage pregnancy in Tanzania became a topic of international debate after President John Magufuli said in 2017 that pregnant girls should be expelled from school.

But now 72-year-old retired teacher Martina Simon Siara is giving them a second chance with her school for mothers in

Arusha, northern Tanzania.

The Faraja Centre provides courses such as catering and tailoring but crucially it has a crèche which allows students to concentrate on classes uninterrupted.

One of the students who graduated, 23-year-old mother of twins, Debra Emmanuel, was thrown out of her family home and expelled from school after she became pregnant at 17 years old.

"I will start my own business

and get some money to help my children and to take them to school," she told the BBC on her graduation day after finishing a catering course.

President Magufuli was criticised heavily after, at a rally in 2017, warning school girls: "After getting pregnant, you are done".

But actually he was emphasising a law that already exists. The law, passed back in 2002, allows for the expulsion of pregnant schoolgirls.-BBC



Zambia in row with US envoy over jailing of gay couple

Zambia's Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph Malanji plans to send a protest letter to Washington over last week's comments by the US ambassador on the jailing of a gay couple.

Japhet Chataba and Steven Samba were sentenced on Wednesday to 15 years in prison by the High Court in the

Mr Malanji told journalists over the weekend that he will dispatch the protest letter on Monday.

"To question (the judiciary's) decision by a representative of a foreign government is tantamount to questioning the Zambian constitution," Mr Malanji said.

"Until the Zambian constitution is changed to



Getty Images: Ambassador Daniel Foote complained about the ruling last week

capital, Lusaka, after they sought a review of their conviction handed last year by a magistrate's court.

US Ambassador Daniel Foote reacted to the sentence by saying he "was personally horrified to read about the sentencing of two men, who had a consensual relationship, which hurt absolutely no-one".

accommodate that, the courts will always rule according to the Zambian constitution," he said.

Homosexuality is illegal in Zambia.

Zambia's President Edgar Lungu has previously warned western countries that the country will not be forced to accept gay rights.-BBC

Ghana cancels constitutional referendum



Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo has cancelled a referendum on changing the rules around local government elections less than three weeks before the vote was intended to take place.

Currently candidates stand as individuals and it is against the rules for them to be backed by political parties.

The referendum had been set for 17 December and was to

decide whether that rule would be scrapped, allowing parties to openly back their candidates.

But in a televised presidential address on Sunday the president said he was cancelling the referendum as there was a lack of consensus between the ruling and the opposition parties.

He called it a "matter of major importance":-BBC

EDITORIAL

The consequences of Liberia losing the IMO seat

LIBERIA WILL NOT sit on the 40-member Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in the next two years after the country was defeated and relegated to floor membership in London.

THE CHAIRMAN OF the Liberia Maritime Authority, Dr. James F. Kollie, confirms the loss in a recent post conceding, "We fought a great fight today at the IMO but we lost. Liberia will not be on Council this biennial (2020 to 2021). However, we will put the pieces together and return for another fight. Hats off to the London team and all those who supported us."

ACCORDING TO REPORT, the Council election was held on Friday, November 29, 2019, with Liberia coming 24th out of 24 member states that contested for the Council's Category C, receiving 100 votes. The defeat means Liberia will not have a voice on the Council in the next two years, and would have to rely on other nations to speak on its behalf despite being the world's second largest shipping registry.

BUT ALL THIS did not come as a surprise. Liberia's Permanent Mission to the IMO, Attorney Isaac Jackson and the Weah administration have been at loggerheads after President George Manneh Weah nominated a confidant, Moses Owen Brown to the post thought it is a tenured position.

ATTORNEY JACKSON RAN to the Supreme Court and won, but since then, the government has withheld support, including salaries. We're hearing that Jackson has not been paid for the last 10 months, including rental, and the authorities in Monrovia have reneged in renewing his official passport.

A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST itself cannot stand. Liberia went to the IMO election divided. How can the country's Permanent Mission that supposed to lobby other nations for support, be on his own? The Weah administration appears to have abandoned the Mission at the IMO, purely for political reasons. This is sad!

AS LIBERIANS, WE should not always place our personal interest above the national interest. How can we have the second largest ship registry in the world and yet kicked out of the Council that exercises high influence on global maritime issues?

OUR PRESENCE AND participation on international bodies should not be beclouded by selfish motives that rub us of the general good. No matter who is appointed a Permanent Mission abroad by which administration, government is continuity especially, when it involves a tenured position. Doing so would demonstrate respect for the Constitution and statutes.

IT IS OUR hope that with this defeat, Liberians should come together in rallying support for future international engagement and the government should take the lead by lending support to the person sent out there to represent the country irrespective of ethnic, political, and social diversity.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY with a collaborative effort, Liberia would come out of this defeat strong and be far more prepared for the next IMO Council election in 2021 to regain our seat on this vital international platform.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Jean Pisani-Ferry

The UK and the EU Should Prevent Mutual Assured Damage

Assuming Brexit happens, future historians will probably remember 2020 as the year when an enfeebled and vulnerable Europe chose to make itself feebler and more vulnerable. The task for its leaders now is to avoid making matters even worse.

PARIS - Nothing can be taken for granted in the United Kingdom these days, but it is now very likely that 2020 will be the year when Brexit finally happens. A majority of UK citizens will probably be relieved to bring this seemingly endless agony to a close, while most European leaders will likely be glad not to have to argue over another postponement. But questions will remain.

To the question of "Who lost Britain?", the answer must be, first and foremost, Britain itself. Whatever mistakes the European Union's other 27 members may have made, they cannot be held responsible for the extraordinary behavior of the UK's three equally amateurish governments of the last five years.

Yet, there are deeper lessons to be drawn from what happened in Britain. The first, as Wolfgang Münchau pointed out in the Financial Times, is that the battle in the UK over EU membership was lost long before it was fought. Since the 1990s, leading pundits and media outlets have routinely portrayed the EU as a stifling bureaucracy obsessed with expanding its own power; few senior politicians have dared to confront such prejudices.

Unfortunately, similar trends are currently visible in other core EU countries. In France, 56% of citizens - as many as in the UK - tend "not to trust" the EU. Working-class voters are especially negative. Confidence in the EU is stronger in Germany, but the European Central Bank's policies are under attack. For years, horror stories circulated about hidden transfers to the South. Germany's best-selling tabloid Bild now claims that German savers lost €120 billion (\$132 billion) during the tenure of former ECB President Mario Draghi (or "Count Draghila," as the editors called him). Many politicians, like their British counterparts before them, find it easier to pander to such perceptions than to oppose them. This is paving the way for future backlashes.

At the same time, the EU should not exempt itself from a bit of soul-searching. When the UK's then-prime minister, David Cameron, sought a temporary limit on immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe, it might have been advisable to work out a solution with him. And after the EU started Brexit negotiations with Cameron's successor, Theresa May, it might have been wise to respond to her calls for a "bespoke" arrangement for the UK. Since the June 2016 Brexit referendum, the EU27 have been surprisingly united, remarkably consistent, and astoundingly bereft of a strategy. Their stance has been motivated not so much by a desire to limit mutual damage, but rather by the fear that any softening in negotiations with the UK could lead to further fragmentation. Their apparent strength concealed internal weakness.

Bygones are bygones. The EU's priorities now should be to keep mutually beneficial cooperation alive and to avert the danger of the UK pursuing an aggressive regulatory competition strategy.

Joint defense initiatives involving the UK and continental partners will most likely survive, cooperation within the multilateral system will almost certainly continue, and ad hoc projects will probably flourish. But the big casualty of

Brexit risks being economic integration with the European single market.

A screw is a screw, and a bolt is a bolt. But the UK no longer produces screws and bolts. It is a major exporter of banking, insurance, accounting, communication, and professional services, half of which go to the EU. Moreover, most of these services are regulated.

If the Brexiteers' "take back control" slogan means anything, it implies substituting UK laws for EU legislation. On the day after Brexit, Britain's regulatory regime will be identical to that of its EU trading partners, because the UK's 2018 Repeal Bill copy-pasted all EU laws into domestic legislation. But as the UK Parliament gradually amends these laws, and the EU introduces new laws of its own, the two legal systems will start diverging. The question is: how far can they diverge without endangering economic linkages and destroying prosperity?

There are two possibilities. One is that the UK adopts laws that differ from those in the EU but are based on the same core principles. For example, there can be different ways to guarantee that insurance contracts offer the same degree of consumer protection, or to uphold bioethics standards. In that case, UK national laws would embody different approaches to regulation, and yet create only limited obstacles to trade in services.

The second possibility, however, is that the UK attempts to undercut EU legislation. In this scenario - often dubbed "Singapore-upon-Thames" - Britain would impose less stringent standards for financial stability, be softer on data protection and, or perhaps relax its labor laws, in the hope of attracting more investors and selling cheaper services. Such a move would rightly be regarded as uncooperative by the UK's European partners, and would result in the EU cutting off market access for British services exporters (most of which currently supply their continental clients directly from their UK base).

Which route will Britain follow? Ideally, it would agree with the EU on common principles and credibly commit to sticking to them. But because some of the most adamant Brexit supporters openly dream of completing the Thatcher revolution and turning the UK into a low-regulation paradise, the EU is understandably wary. There is a serious risk of a negative spiral of aggressive British deregulation and forceful EU tightening, with damaging consequences for services trade.

The EU should not ask the UK to copy slavishly its legislation. But it should make clear that aggressive regulatory competition is unacceptable and present the UK government with a black-and-white choice: either it agrees to commit to common principles and exercise regulatory self-restraint in order to maintain good access to the European market, or it refuses - and exposes British firms to a severe, across-the-board curb on their ability to export to Europe.

Assuming Brexit happens, future historians will probably remember 2020 as the year when an enfeebled and vulnerable Europe chose to make itself feebler and more vulnerable. The task for its leaders now is to avoid making matters even worse.

O-PED

By Thomas J. Sargent

The AI Frontier of Economic Theory

NEW YORK - Until recently, two big impediments limited what research economists could learn about the world with the powerful methods that mathematicians and statisticians, starting in the early nineteenth century, developed to recognize and interpret patterns in noisy data: Data sets were small and costly, and computers were slow and expensive. So it is natural that as gains in computing power have dramatically reduced these impediments, economists have rushed to use big data and artificial intelligence to help them spot patterns in all sorts of activities and outcomes.

Data summary and pattern recognition are big parts of the physical sciences as well. The physicist Richard Feynman once likened the natural world to a game played by the gods: “you don’t know the rules of the game, but you’re allowed to look at the board from time to time, in a little corner, perhaps. And from these observations, you try to figure out what the rules are.”

Feynman’s metaphor is a literal description of what many economists do. Like astrophysicists, we typically acquire non-experimental data generated by processes we want to understand. The mathematician John von Neumann defined a game as (1) a list of players; (2) a list of actions available to each player; (3) a list of how payoffs accruing to each player depend on the actions of all players; and (4) a timing protocol that tells who chooses what when. This elegant definition includes what we mean by a “constitution” or an “economic system”: a social understanding about who chooses what when.

Like Feynman’s metaphorical physicist, our task is to infer a “game” - which for economists is the structure of a market or system of markets - from observed data. But then we want to do something that physicists don’t: think about how different “games” might produce improved outcomes. That is, we want to conduct experiments to study how a hypothetical change in the rules of the game or in a pattern of observed behavior by some “players” (say, government regulators or a central bank) might affect patterns of behavior by the remaining players.

Thus, “structural model builders” in economics seek to infer from historical patterns of behavior a set of invariant parameters for hypothetical (often historically unprecedented) situations in which a government or regulator follows a new set of rules. The government has strategies, and the people have counterstrategies, according to a Chinese proverb. “Structural models” seek such invariant parameters in order to help regulators and market designers understand and predict data patterns under historically unprecedented situations.

The challenging task of building structural models will benefit from rapidly developing branches of AI that don’t involve more than pattern recognition. A great example is AlphaGo. The team of computer scientists that created the algorithm to play the Chinese game Go cleverly combined a suite of tools that had been developed by specialists in statistics, simulation, decision theory, and game theory communities. Many of the tools used in just the right proportions to make an outstanding artificial Go player are also economists’ bread-and-butter tools for building structural models to study macroeconomics and industrial organization.

Of course, economics differs from physics in a crucial respect. Whereas Pierre-Simon Laplace regarded “the present state of the universe as the effect of its past and the cause of its future,” the reverse is true in economics: what we expect other people to do later causes what we do now. We typically use personal theories about what other people want to forecast what they will do. When we have good theories of other people, what they are likely to do determines what we expect them to do. This line of reasoning, sometimes called “rational expectations,” reflects a sense in which “the future causes the present” in economic systems. Taking this into account is at the core of building “structural” economic models.

For example, I will join a run on a bank if I expect that other people will. Without deposit insurance, customers have incentives to avoid banks vulnerable to runs. With deposit insurance, customers don’t care and won’t run. On the other hand, if governments insure deposits, bank owners will want their assets to become as big and as risky as possible, while depositors won’t care. There are similar tradeoffs with unemployment and disability insurance - insuring people against bad luck may weaken their incentive to provide for themselves - and for official bailouts of governments and firms.

More broadly, my reputation is what others expect me to do. I face choices about whether to confirm or disappoint those expectations. Those choices will affect how others behave in the future. Central bankers think about that a lot.

Like physicists, we economists use models and data to learn. We don’t learn new things until we appreciate that our old models cannot explain new data. We then construct new models in light of how their predecessors failed. This explains how we have learned from past depressions and financial crises. And with big data, faster computers, and better algorithms, we might see patterns where once we heard only noise.

OPINION

By Sally Jewell

Natural-Born Climate Commitments

WASHINGTON, DC - When world leaders gather at the 25th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid from December 2-13, they will discuss concrete steps for meeting and increasing national emissions-reduction targets. But equally important, COP25 offers an opportunity to elevate one of the most powerful tools we have to address climate change: nature.

Nature-based solutions (also known as natural climate solutions) leverage the world’s forests, grasslands, wetlands, and soils to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Healthy ecosystems absorb and store carbon on their own. And if they are protected, restored, and managed sustainably, they can provide one-third of the emissions reductions needed to meet the Paris climate agreement’s goal for 2030.

In other words, nature is offering us an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss. Reducing fossil-fuel emissions is crucial, but it will not be enough to keep global warming below 2° C, let alone 1.5° C, relative to pre-industrial levels. To secure a livable future on this planet, we also must commit to funding nature-based solutions. All countries need to start incorporating nature-based solutions into their national climate pledges, and begin investing accordingly.

Two years ago, scientists from The Nature Conservancy and its partners published new research showcasing nature-based solutions’ potential to fight climate change. Yet natural climate solutions have continued to attract relatively little attention - and even less funding.

Fortunately, this may be starting to change. In September, nature-based solutions featured prominently at UN Climate Week in New York City. Although that event did not live up to UN Secretary-General António Guterres’s call for “clear steps to enhance nationally determined contributions by 2020,” it did offer a platform to a new generation of climate and nature advocates. From the Youth4Nature coalition to the Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, young people were on hand to demand that today’s leaders account for the challenges they will inherit.

Climate Week also produced an announcement from a coalition led by China and New Zealand, focused on encouraging nature-based solutions in both national climate plans and the corporate sector. And the private sector itself has made new commitments, with a group of 230 international investors (representing \$16.2 trillion in assets under management) calling on companies to take immediate action to address deforestation in their supply chains.

Political leaders now must maintain this momentum, by taking a closer look at what nature can do to help mitigate and build resilience to climate change. For example, one promising solution is sustainable agroforestry, in which food crops are grown alongside native trees. Expanding this practice can bolster food security and boost incomes in rural communities and simultaneously restore soil health, sequester carbon, and nurture critical wildlife.

Another nature-based solution is being pioneered in Australia, where massive bushfires are putting people and wildlife at risk - and releasing enormous amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The Nature Conservancy is cooperating with Indigenous communities to improve grassland health, sequester carbon, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Drawing on traditional knowledge dating back thousands of years, Indigenous rangers set smaller, controlled burns to prevent the buildup of dry grass that contributes to larger, hotter wildfires. This program contributes to healthier grasslands while generating income for Indigenous communities through the sale of carbon credits.

These kinds of programs benefit people and the environment; but much more investment is urgently needed. Although natural systems play a critical role in regulating the climate, nature-based solutions still receive under 4% of total public funding for climate action. France, Sweden, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and a few other countries have pledged to increase funding for international preservation and restoration efforts, and finalizing the details of these programs is now on the COP25 docket. But unless more countries make similar commitments, natural climate solutions will not achieve the necessary scale.

Worse, natural systems that could be part of the solution to climate change are facing increasingly severe threats. We have all seen the recent images of fires raging through the Amazon rainforest, which plays a major role in regulating the world’s climate. Record-high temperatures, environmental crimes, weak oversight, ineffective firefighting, and other factors have increased the vulnerability of systems that store a disproportionate share of the planet’s carbon.

And the Amazon is just one example. The conversion and degradation of natural land and marine habitats is ongoing around the world. Such practices undermine our ability to adapt to climate effects like rising sea levels, and directly threaten our food security by wiping out species that pollinate crops, contribute to soil health, and provide habitats for fish and other marine life. Nature, climate, and human wellbeing are intimately connected; none can be addressed in isolation.

COP25 offers an opportunity for world leaders to seize on these connections in the run up to 2020, which will be a veritable “environmental super year.” In addition to finalizing an international high-seas treaty and establishing a new framework for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, governments will also revisit their climate commitments at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

But any commitments that countries make at these meetings will mean little without concrete plans to back them up. We have the science, and we have the solutions. What we need now is action to leverage the power of nature. Our shared existence on this planet depends on it.

FEATURE

FEATURE

Liberia: Ethnic “Feeling” for “Embattled” President George Manneh Weah: This Isn’t the “Right Way” to Help Our “Tribal Brother” Get It “Right”

By Samuel G. Dweh—development journalist (231 (0)886618906/776583266/samuelsophy@yahoo.com)

This article ends with recommendations (solution methods).

I am a Grand Kruan—a member of President George Manneh Weah’s ethnic group: Kru.

Is President George Manneh Weah giving order—with words or body language—to any of his tribal members to form an “armed group” to defend him against his “haters”?

The FrontPage Africa newspaper of Liberia, in its Friday, November 22, 2019 edition ran a story (by the paper’s Desk Chief—LennartDadoo) about one Augustine Nagbe “threatening” to form a “Defense Force” of Grand Kru County only to protect the Head of State (George Manneh Weah) The President is a member of this region of Liberia via the nativity of his father to this place.

The story was under a headline: “Forming the Kru Defense Force” (original headline in capital letters)

Part of writer LennartDadoo’s quote of Mr. Nagbe reads: “I am a Kru warrior, I am the warrior for the Kru people...I will defend him (President George Manneh Weah) if anyone tries to molest him, the same way they had the Lofa (County) Defense Force, you will see the Kru Defense Force.”

“Ethnic Defense Force” Thinker Augustine Nagbe

According to the writer, Mr. Nagbe is an ex-rebel general (during Liberia’s civil war that lasted 14 years and snuffed out more than 250, 000 lives), and that he made these comments during an interview with a local newspaper named PRIME FM. The story appeared in the paper the next day after the interview on Radio. (Mr. Dadoo didn’t state the name of the warring faction Mr. Nagbe had fought for) Mr. Nagbe was nicknamed “General Power” when he was fighting in Liberia’s civil war.

FACTORS OF AUGUSTINE NAGBE’S “THREAT”

In recent times, some Liberians have been spewing “assassination threats” against President George Manneh Weah. They use their Social Media platforms. Few months ago, the FrontPage Africa newspapers published an “assassination threat” from a Social Media account of a man who disclosed his Liberian nationality. The writer’s message was President Mr. George Manneh Weah should be “eliminated”, because his presence on Liberia’s most exalted seat (is) responsible for Liberia’s current biting economic environment.

This Social Media writer’s threat followed the reported alleged disappearance of sixteen billion new Liberian Bank Notes—printed by the Government of President Weah’s immediate predecessor, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf—from the Country’s premier Sea Port through a container. This happened during the period of national outcry on President Weah’s personal multi-million Dollars homes—built at time the Country was still being grounded by economic hardships, partially inherited from his predecessor Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

On June 7, 2018, few months after this writer’s “assassination threat”, a mammoth crowd of angry citizens—from various political, professional, and Civil Society organizations—stormed Liberia’s Parliament House (National Legislature) to present a petition ordering the George M. Weah-led Government to address the Country’s excruciating economic problems immediately. The protesters picked Council of Patriots (COP) as an identification name. COP didn’t, however, get the “Presidential attention” the body had envisaged. President Weah wasn’t present to “receive” the petition; Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor wasn’t available to “represent” the Head of State.

Liberia’s Commander-In-Chief George M. Weah (who had always performed with productive distinction in his “leadership” role in the World of Soccer) and his “Lieutenants” appear unable to find solution to the biting economic hardship on Liberia—being exacerbated by galloping price of gasoline (that dictates circulation of citizens’ needs and mobility of people), devaluation of the Liberian Dollar against global-trade currencies, and risen level of armed robberies—products of extreme poverty now in the country. The President often tells “complainants” he inherited the “broken economy” from his predecessor—Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.



President George Manneh Weah-native of Grand Kru County

BUT “THREAT” ISN’T THE “WAY” TO ENSURE PRESIDENT WEAH’S “PROTECTION”

But these citizens’ “reactions” to the suffering they experience daily do not warrant the kind of “threat” Mr. Augustine Nagbe—a former member of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL)—has disgorged during his interview session over PRIME FM. In fact, such threat has the potential of creating a bigger political problem—endangering the lives of the President’s “tribal members”—than Mr. Nagbe had envisaged. Liberians saw that during their Country’s war periods—1990-95; 1996—when a particular ethnic group was being targeted for “elimination” because a prominent member of the ethnic group had announced a “defense group” against “loyalists” or tribal members to a prominent member of another ethnic group. A typical example is the attempted arrest of General Charles Julu, of the Krahn ethnic group, and leader of a separate faction of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO), by loyalists to a Gio/Mano tribe-dominated National Patriotic Front of Liberia (under Charles Ghankay Taylor) in 1996.

PRESIDENT’S “ETHNIC GROUP” UNDER ATTACK OVER “SILENCE” ON MR. NAGBE’S “THREAT”

Majority of Liberians—from other ethnic groups—are criticizing local leaderships of Grand Kru County—President Weah’s tribal group—on “muteness” toward comments from the former “rebel soldier”. They want prompt reactions “against” the former war-time fighter’s “inciting comments”. Other critics are perceiving the ‘silence’ as being an ‘approval’ to their kinsman’s ‘threat’ of Defense Force formation. One of such criticisms was reflected in the Editorial of Liberia’s oldest private newspaper—Daily Observer—in its Thursday, November 28, 2019 edition. Part of the criticism portion: “With the exception of Grand Kru representative FonatiKoffa, the deafening silence of Kru elders and opinion leaders on general power’s threat to form a Kru Defense Force is not only notable but telling...Their silence and failure to speak out in condemnation of Power’s divisive and inciteful rant, therefore, suggests tacit approval and agreement with the blatantly false notion that Kru people are under threat simply because the President of Liberia, an ethnic Kru, is facing a barrage of criticism for poorly managing the nation’s affairs”

The Daily Observer, as an entity, has made a little error of ‘generalization’—implying “all” elders and opinion leaders (of Grand Kru County) ‘failed’ (in) speaking out against Mr. Augustine Nagbe’s threat. In the same edition with this editorial—entitled “Appraising Justice Minister Musa Dean’s Shit Show”—the paper has a story of Hon. FonatiKoffa (Member of the House of Representatives) “speaking up against” the threat of his tribal brother (Grand Kruan) Augustine Nagbe. Hon. Koffa is an “opinion leader”. Another Grand Kru County’s “opinion leader”, Mr. Phillip Wesseh (journalist), Publisher of The Inquirer newspaper, Liberia’s second oldest print medium next to the Daily Observer, also “spoke up against” Augustine Nagbe “threat” through his regular column. Mr. Wesseh’s “speaking up” was contained in his write-up (regular column in The Inquirer) entitled “Does President Weah Need AKru Defense Force”, published in the Thursday, November 28, 2019 edition. (The same time the Daily Observer published its editorial on “silence” of Grand Kru County’s elders and opinion leaders on Grand Kruan Augustine Nagbe’s “threat”) A portion of Mr. Wesseh’s “speak-up” states: “By his (President George

Manneh Weah) being a Kru man in no way suggests that he is only for the Kru people...I always disagree with people who say, This is a Kru Government...By Law, the President is to be protected by State security...not any tribal group...”

THE “WAY” TO “DEFEND” PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH

The word “way”, in the subtopic above, is a synecdoche of the various “means” of calming the “economic heat” pushing Liberians to “hate” President George Manneh Weah—a once-upon-a-time seemingly “economic savior” to the belief of (majority) of Liberians—specifically the masses. This was when Mr. Weah was running for Liberia’s Presidency in the elections in 2005 and 2015.

Having known economic and political factors now “pushing” Liberians to “issuing threats” against the “Kru Man” (President) George Manneh Weah, former AFL office Augustine Nagbe and his fellow “tribal people” should come out and address these factors.

The first place to start from is to advise or persuade President George Manneh Weah to READ—with COMPREHENSION—extensively about “Leadership” and genuinely or impartially implement the ‘strategies of Leadership’ he “comprehended” from the reading. One principle of Leadership says a “good leader” employs jobseekers based on action-based performance, not on mere political affiliation; and quickly weeds out any poorly-performing (or visibly ineffective) employee.

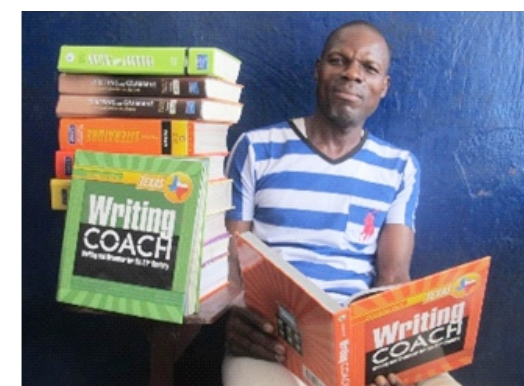
The second place Mr. Augustine Nagbe and his fellow “ethnic defenders” of President George Weah is to advise the Head of State that “Political rival” is not the same as a “enemy”; so, he should absorb, into his Government, his “political rivals” who have deeper practical knowledge in fast nation-building sectors (Agriculture, Health and Education) where his political buddies have a “handicap”. For now, majority of President Weah’s “Lieutenants” (Ministers and Directors of Government’s Agencies) have deeper knowledge in only “talking” (loquacity) A large percentage of them were “hauled” from public Talk Points locally called “Intellectual Centers”, where attendants discuss only European Football teams and their players (from 6am local time); national politics (from 11am to 12 midnight) and alcohol & sex on liquids tables (from 12 midnight to dawn) Go around town and you believe what I’m saying.

For the fourth place, former AFL officer Augustine Nagbe and his fellow “defenders” should get Head of State George M. Weah to invest in “talents” of Liberia, for young Liberians with innovative knowledge to go outside and participate in International competitions in inventions and other innovation areas and win laurels (which will come with money) for Liberia. It’s talent that made George Weah rich beginning from his days on the Football Fields in Europe.

There is no record from any part of the World where forming a “Defense Force” for a President has ever developed a Country. This is possible only in the imagination of a jobless man—or woman—courting a President for a job.

One job-or attention-seeking Grand Kruan shouldn’t be left alone to create a bad “political image” for our calm and law-abiding County to other parts of Liberia or the World.

George Manneh Weah needs the “brains” (nation-building ideas) of his tribal brothers and sisters to perform well in the Presidency—not “brawns”.



About the Author:

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ACCF grants nearly \$1 million to support access to climate finance

The Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) has approved a project proposal for a total of \$997,524 to support Benin and Lesotho to access international climate finance, an initiative underpinned by evidence that adaptation to climate change must start locally.

While local responses can create opportunities for innovative solutions, most local governments in least developed countries lack the institutional, technical and financial capacities to contribute to building resilience. Benin and Lesotho are two African countries which face such challenges and need more local-level investments to undertake measures to enhance water retention, promote more resilient farming and irrigation methods and climate-proof existing infrastructure such as water wells, bridges and rural

roads.

The project proposal, approved in September, has been designed with the goal to improve the climate resilience of communities and local economies by increasing

investments in climate change adaptation in target areas. Specifically, the project seeks to support (i) development of high quality, bankable projects aligned with African countries' Nationally Determined

Contributions (NDCs); (ii) identification and strengthening of national institutions and stakeholders to access the Green Climate Fund and lastly, (iii) small-scale or pilot adaptation initiatives targeting vulnerable communities. On completion, the project will increase local governments' access to climate finance to implement climate change adaptation investments in Benin and Lesotho, through internationally recognized mechanisms.

The project will be implemented by the United Nations Capital Development through its Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) programme.

Naida Mohamed, ACCF Coordinator, said the approval

was "an opportunity to expand the ACCF's geographic reach and field of intervention and is in line with the Fund's overall goal to address climate change challenges facing the African continent".

The ACCF is an enabler fund which creates institutional capacity for recipient countries or institutions to access climate finance. This project aligns with the African Development Bank's Strategy 2013-2022 and Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2015 and demonstrates how ACCF finance helps Regional Member Countries find financing through domestic sources or externally towards enabling their transition to climate resilient, low-carbon development. -Press release



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 bedding 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 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 prop 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.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Legislature resumes today but...

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Members of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate are today, Tuesday, December 03, returning to the Capitol for a weeklong work legislative work, but lawmakers here, who have been recalled from their annual break, say their stay at the first branch of government, will base on the nature of the proclamation issued by President George Weah.

Though, the nature of the proclamation is yet unknown but information suggests that the President is seeking for resumption to stabilize the economy before things get worse.

Some Liberians are contemplating to join a planned December 30 protest, organized by the group, Council of Patriots. It is being organized under the banner "Weah step down campaign."

While some Liberians planned to join the protest on grounds that the economic situation is 'terrifying and unbearable' and maybe to curtail that, the government is now considering printing new banknotes to pay salaries.

Currently, both the Ministry of Finance and

Development Planning Ministry and the Central Bank of Liberia cry wolf that government does not have control of the current banknotes in circulation as buck of the local currency is outside of the banking sector, being reportedly controlled by individuals from various homes and business centers here.

On Monday, December 02, both members of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate spent about four hours behind doors discussing the essence of their return, but Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate Pro-

Tempore Albert Chie declined to speak to the media about the protracted meeting.

However, information gathered from the corridors of the Capitol suggests many of the lawmakers are demanding that government pay their four months' arrears but signals from the Executive Mansion show that availability of such demand is far from reality as the George Weah-led government struggles to settle two months' arrears for civil servants.

The outcome of the two separate meetings is unknown

to the media as lawmakers were seen leaving one by one without saying a word to the media. Senate President Pro Tempore Albert Chie promised to speak to the media after the first session of the special session.

Some lawmakers who confided in this paper said if President George Weah is calling them back for the printing of new banknotes, many of them would walk out of session.

It is suggested in some quarters that the government is anticipating that the

lawmakers give green light for the printing of new currency in order to arrears for workers and local vendors here.

President Weah's legal advisor Archie Bernard, was seen moving between Senate Pro Tempore Albert Chie and Speaker Chambers' offices, chasing lawmakers to resolve the deadlock.

This is the second time that lawmakers have been recalled from constitutional break; the first was when they were called for the passage of few concession instruments.



1 dead in Slipway

Starts from back page

erected around the Slipway Football Field by individuals believed to be supporters of one of the candidates.

In an exclusive interview with this paper, the Chairman of the Elders Council of Slipway, Daniel Davies narrates that while the electoral process was ongoing, he received a communication from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) ordering the Council to halt all activities, pending outcome of a complaint filed by one of the candidates.

Mr. Davies explains that prior to the Justice Ministry's communication, the Council had decided to intervene into the situation, but an opposing candidate in the race refused to recognize the body of elders.

He discloses that on Sunday morning 1st December he went at the Slipway Football Field to watch a practice session and while there, he saw a group of people believed to be supporters of one of the candidates approaching the field chanting, "No elections, no tournament."

Chairman Davies continues that after fifteen minutes, he also saw the group tearing down posters of a rival candidate, blocked the main entrance to the community, compelling riot police officers to moved into the community to arrest those inciting the violence.

He says subsequently, Candidate Kosso M. Kali filed a citation through the County Attorney Officer of the Ministry of Justice, which led him (Davies) to visit the office of the County Attorney and the office of the Inspector General of Police, requesting their intervention to halt to the election process, but the authorities said they could not intervene because there was no formal communication from the community.

However, Chairman Davies

discloses that some people involved in the disturbances were arrested by the police, adding that while on his way to the community, he got news that the police were running behind some alleged troublemakers and one person drowned into the river.

According to him, there have been so many complaints by opposing parties about some non-residents of the community trying to participate in the elections, among other things, forcing him to write a letter to the parties concerned but they refused the communication from the Elders Council.

Davies notes that after every effort aimed at resolving the situation failed, the Council decided to leave the parties to go ahead with the elections, which later turned violent allegedly instigated by supporters of Kosso Kali.

Attempts to get comment from Candidates Kosso Kali, Isaac Kraah, and others on the standoff within the community proved fruitless.

Meanwhile, the body of deceased Edward is left lying by the riverside in the community, awaiting arrival of the Liberia National Police (LNP).

In a related development, the police are in search of several others said to be connected with Sunday's electoral violence, most of whom are on the run.

A man who claims to be a friend of the deceased, Johnson Saywon told this paper the late Edward was part of a security team from the community, who prior to the elections, had gone to his house to encourage him (Johnson) to go and vote.

He also claims Edward was pushed into the river by a community resident, who went after those believed to be part of the violence.

Save the Children donates to mother of triplet

Save the Children International (SCI) Liberia Office donates an assortment of food and non-food items to a mother of triplet, Aletha Binda, in Kakata, Margibi County.

According to a press release, items donated include a bag of baby used cloths, six bags of 25Kg rice, one tin of vegetable oil, a cartoon of baby powder, cartoons of washing and bath soap, hot water flask, a dozen of diapers and rechargeable solar light, among others, valued at LRD202,806.00.

SCI says the gesture was in response to a passionate plea made by Ms. Binda when she gave birth to three boys in August this year, and

immediately appealed to philanthropist and well-meaning Liberians to help her with the children.

The release notes that SCI being the world's leading independent organization for children saw the need to intervene because of a newspaper publication and ensure that the mother and her kids get needed assistance.

Making the presentation recently in Kakata, Ms. Kebeh Kwekwe, Education Team Leader said Save the Children was moved to intervene in seeking the welfare of the triplet and their mother after an SOS call.

She said it has always been a pleasure for SCI to ensure the survival and safety of children,

emphasizing that the donation will go a long way.

Ms. Kebeh noted that SCI remains committed to its vision by ensuring that every child attains the right to survival, protection and development that inspire breakthroughs in his or her life.

Receiving the items, the grandmother of the triplet, Bendu Kerkula, expressed gratitude to SCI for the assistance.

She recalled that two months ago when the kids were born, she had no idea how her grandchildren and daughter would have been assisted, noting the donation came at a time they needed it most. -

Press Release



Items donated to mother of triplet



Aletha Binda (middle) and her triplet

Français

La réconciliation au sein de l'UP serait-elle la cause des démissions?

Les efforts frénétiques déployés par le Parti de l'unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir) pour mobiliser ses militants semblent avoir provoqué une série de démissions au sein de l'administration Weah, qui semble être dominée par les responsables du régime précédent.

Le vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères, B. Elias Shoniyin, a démissionné de son poste en mai de cette année avant de s'installer aux États-Unis après avoir été sélectionné comme boursier mondial de Maurice R. Greenburg de l'Université de Yale en 2019.

L'ancien diplomate libérien a passé douze ans dans le service public au sein du ministère des Affaires étrangères sous l'administration Sirleaf. Il aurait démissionné de son poste en mai 2019 pour des raisons professionnelles et personnelles.

Le directeur général de l'Institut national de la santé publique du Libéria, Tolbert Nyenswah est un autre haut responsable du régime actuel qui a démissionné. Il avait

travaillé avec l'administration précédente. Il a démissionné en octobre de cette année et s'est installée aux États-Unis.

Alton Vanie Kesselly, sous-ministre de la Planification, de la Recherche et du Développement, au ministère de l'Éducation, avait quant à lui demandé un congé annuel depuis juillet 2019. Mais il n'est jamais revenu. Il se trouve actuellement aux États-Unis.

En ce qui concerne le directeur général de la Cellule

de renseignement financier (CRF), Alex Cuffy, qui avait auparavant servi sous l'administration Sirleaf puis sous l'administration Weah, a quitté son poste cette année. Mais l'exécutif a gardé sa démission secrète, quoique la lettre de démission ait cependant par la suite été rendue publique sur les médias sociaux.

La semaine dernière, deux responsables du régime actuel,

à savoir Gregory Coleman qui dirigeait le Bureau des concessions, et J. Bernard Nagbe, contrôleur de la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria, ont tous deux rendu démission. Ils ont également tous deux servi sous le régime précédent.

Cela peut sembler être une simple coïncidence, mais la démission de ces responsables, qui a eu lieu cette année, survient après que l'ancienne patronne du parti de l'unité a réuni tous ses militants dans le cadre d'un pourparlers de réconciliation.

L'ancien parti au pouvoir, actuellement dirigé par l'Ambassadeur Joseph Nyemah Boakai, qui fut vice-Président de l'ex-Présidente Sirleaf pendant 12 ans, a récemment décidé d'enterrer son hache de guerre judiciaire et de prôner la paix et la réconciliation entre ses membres.

A noter que le Parti de l'unité, au lendemain de sa défaite au second tour de l'élection présidentielle en 2017, avait expulsé Madame Sirleaf et trois autres, dont l'ancien secrétaire général Patrick Worzie, les accusant de trahison. Mais, dans une lettre qui date du mardi 12 novembre 2019 adressée à Me Jonathan Massaquoi et à l'avocat général Me Kunkunyon Wleh Teh, tous deux membres du groupe du droit international à Monrovia,

le secrétaire général national par intérim Patrick Worzie a écrit: «Nous souhaitons vous informer que les parties dans l'affaire susmentionnée ont accepté la décision du conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) en notre faveur et retirent donc le recours déposé devant la Cour suprême. Par conséquent, nous acceptons leur décision de retirer l'affaire de la Cour suprême ; et par la présente, nous vous demandons d'agir en conséquence pour permettre le retrait du dossier.»

Ce retrait mettrait effectivement un terme à la longue querelle interne qui avait presque désintégré l'ancien parti au pouvoir et pesé lourd sur son rendement lors des élections face à son rival historique, le CDC, en 2017.

Avant sa rencontre avec Mme Sirleaf, M. Boakai avait tenu une série de réunions publiques avec des militants du parti de la diaspora, au cours desquelles réunions il a prononcé un discours passionné pour la galvanisation de sa troupe.

Les observateurs et les commentateurs politiques estiment que l'ancien parti au pouvoir veut reconsolider sa base en vue des élections sénatoriales de 2020 et de la présidentielle de 2023.



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf and Ex-VP Boakai

Démission massive : qui est le suivant ?

Le gouvernement dirigé par le président Weah devient de plus en plus impopulaire. Les fonctionnaires de la fonction publique ne reçoivent plus leurs salaires mensuels en raison de graves problèmes fiscaux et économiques, ce qui oblige certains d'entre eux (ceux qui n'en peuvent plus) de rendre le tablier.

En effet, en moins d'un mois, l'administration

actuelle a enregistré trois démissions. Il s'agit de deux directeurs et un contrôleur général, issus de trois agences gouvernementales distinctes.

L'incapacité du gouvernement de payer les salaires régulièrement semble gêner son bon fonctionnement. Des rumeurs font état de plusieurs autres démission à l'avenir.

Un haut responsable de la Coalition pour le changement

démocratique (CDC) a récemment appelé le président George Weah à procéder à un remaniement de son administration, déclarant que la «lune de miel» est terminée et qu'il est maintenant temps de se pencher sur la bonne gouvernance.

Le législateur Moses Acarous Gray a récemment déclaré qu'il était temps de se séparer des brebis galeuses (les fonctionnaires qui ne sont pas efficaces) et de les remplacer par des personnes beaucoup plus compétentes.

Les critiques estiment cependant que le gouvernement pourrait se tirer une balle dans la jambe en licenciant des gens. Depuis sa prise du pouvoir, le parti au pouvoir n'a fait que placer ses militants dans toutes les agences publiques, dont notamment la Banque centrale du Libéria, l'Autorité Fiscale du Libéria. Même récemment, environ deux douzaines de militants du parti ont été embauchés à l'Autorité de l'Aviation du Libéria.

A cause de ces recrutements anti-orthodoxes, la masse salariale a fortement

augmenté, ce qui a amené le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) à demander au gouvernement libérien en septembre dernier d'accroître ses recettes intérieures et de rationaliser ses dépenses, notamment les salaires, tout en préservant l'espace budgétaire social nécessaire et les dépenses en capital. Le FMI a également appelé à la poursuite des réformes de la gestion des finances publiques afin d'améliorer la qualité des dépenses et à améliorer l'environnement des entreprises afin d'attirer des investissements de haute qualité, porteurs de croissance. «Le personnel se félicite de la détermination des autorités libériennes à restructurer la masse salariale. Il s'agit d'une réforme politique clé nécessaire pour libérer l'espace budgétaire et rendre possible un budget crédible et viable, tout en augmentant la transparence, la responsabilité et l'équité. Il convient de noter

que les trois pouvoirs de l'État y ont participé et que le processus a abouti à un résultat progressif, en ce sens que le fardeau a été porté par les employés les mieux payés, les plus pauvres bénéficiant d'une augmentation de salaire, notamment les enseignants, les agents de santé et les forces de sécurité. L'accord au niveau du personnel est subordonné à la réalisation d'importantes actions préalables dans les domaines fiscal et monétaire qui devront être examinés par les autorités libériennes. En supposant que ces demandes soient satisfaites dans les délais, il est prévu que le Conseil d'administration du FMI examine l'approbation de la demande officielle d'aide financière du Libéria au titre de la facilité de crédit élargie dès le premier semestre", a déclaré le FMI dans son communiqué de presse en septembre après la lecture d'un accord sur le personnel avec le gouvernement libérien.



Ex-NBC Boss, Gregory Coleman



Ex-FIU Boss, Alex Cuffy



Ex-FD NPHIL, Tolbert Nyenswah



Ex-LACC Comptroller, J. Bernard Nagbe

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Français

Il se peut qu'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque soit une solution, mais...

L'information selon laquelle le pouvoir en place ne dispose plus de billets de banque et les banques commerciales sont incapables de répondre aux demandes de leurs clients en raison du fait qu'elles n'ont plus d'argent dans leurs réserves est non seulement décevante, mais effrayante. L'Etat du Libéria est en proie à un marasme économique caractérisé par des mouvements de contestation sociale sporadiques. Il a désespérément besoin d'argent pour payer les salaires des fonctionnaires qui n'en peuvent plus et financer ses activités.

Quelle explication la nouvelle administration qui a atteint cette ligne grise au cours de ses 24 premiers mois de gestion peut donner non seulement aux nombreux Libériens ébahis, mais aussi aux partenaires internationaux qui semblent ne rien comprendre ? Au cours de ces 12 premiers mois de gestion, les dépenses du président lui-même et de plusieurs de ses principaux responsables, qui pour la plupart ont refusé de déclarer publiquement leurs avoirs ont suscité des inquiétudes quant au risque d'une dégringolade imminente des opérations de l'État.

Aujourd'hui, les conséquences commencent à se manifester partout, tant dans le secteur public que privé. L'économie est sur le point de sombrer. Les fonctionnaires et les responsables de l'État, dont notamment les magistrats, les législateurs et même les agents de l'exécutif, n'ont pas reçu leurs salaires depuis trois mois ou plus.

Le Président Weah a officiellement écrit à l'Assemblée législative, qui est actuellement en congé annuel, lui demandant de reprendre le travail afin de se pencher sur certaines opérations urgentes relevant de l'État, notamment l'approbation de l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque libériens pour permettre au gouvernement de payer ses fonctionnaires.

Moses Acarous Grey, député de la coalition au pouvoir dans la circonscription n° 8 du

comté de Montserrado, a indiqué que l'impression des nouveaux billets est indispensable d'autant qu'elle permettra à l'administration de payer les salaires des fonctionnaires, en particulier pendant la période festive de Noël et du Nouvel An.

Cependant, il faut que le gouvernement se garde de penser que le simple fait d'imprimer des billets guérira immédiatement l'économie qui est étouffée par une corruption sans égale, un manque de transparence et une gestion calamiteuse. La coalition au pouvoir aurait dû savoir que le suremploi de ses partisans gonflerait la masse salariale et qu'il aurait fallu qu'il disposât d'assez d'argent pour payer ses employés.

À court terme, l'impression de nouveaux billets pourrait soulager quelque peu le gouvernement, car il pourrait atténuer la pression actuelle exercée par l'énorme demande de liquidités. Mais l'inflation pourrait même aller au-delà de trois chiffres si d'autres mesures d'austérité, notamment dans le secteur monétaire, ne sont pas introduites et respectées.

Tant que le gouvernement ne considèrera pas sincèrement le secteur agricole comme l'un des domaines potentiels d'investissement pour atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire et, éventuellement, augmenter le volume d'exportation, l'économie continuera de stagner.

Les spéculations selon lesquelles les billets ont déjà été imprimés abondamment, mais encore faut-il que l'on sache que ces nouveaux billets en eux-mêmes ne peuvent ressusciter l'économie, à moins que nous augmentions nos exportations et diminuions l'importation.

Par ailleurs, il faut que le gouvernement pèse les raisons économiques consistant à dépenser 31 millions USD pour imprimer 35 milliards de billets libériens, d'autant que ces billes risqueraient devenir de simples papiers entre les mains de citoyens, n'ayant aucune valeur.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jean Pisani-Ferry

Brexit : Maintenant, éviter les dommages réciproques

PARIS - Rien ne peut être tenu pour certain au Royaume-Uni mais il semble désormais très probable que l'année 2020 sera finalement celle du Brexit. Dans leur majorité, les citoyens britanniques seront certainement soulagés de voir enfin s'achever ce feuilleton interminable. Pour la plupart, les responsables européens seront de leur côté contents de ne pas avoir à se disputer sur l'échéance d'un nouveau report. Mais pour le reste, les questions essentielles demeurent.

Tout d'abord, « qui a perdu le Royaume-Uni ? ». A cette question, on ne peut que répondre : avant tout les Britanniques eux-mêmes. Quelles que soient les erreurs commises par les 27, ceux-ci ne peuvent être tenus pour responsables de l'extravagant amateurisme des trois gouvernements que le pays a connus au cours des cinq dernières années.

D'autres leçons, cependant, doivent aussi être retenues. La première est, comme l'a déjà observé Wolfgang Münchau dans le Financial Times, qu'outre-Manche la bataille pour l'Europe a été perdue longtemps avant le début des combats. Dans les années 1990, déjà, l'Union était présentée, jour après jour, comme une bureaucratie asphyxiante, préoccupée avant tout de renforcer son propre pouvoir, et bien peu de responsables britanniques osaient contredire ces préjugés.

Malheureusement, des évolutions comparables s'observent sur le continent. En France, 56% des citoyens - autant qu'au Royaume-Uni - déclarent ne pas faire confiance à l'UE et ces sentiments négatifs sont particulièrement répandus dans les classes populaires. En Allemagne, la confiance en l'Union est plus élevée mais l'action de la Banque centrale européenne fait l'objet de vives attaques : des années durant, l'opinion a été abreuvée de sombres récits de transferts cachés vers les pays du Sud. Elle est à présent la cible d'un nouveau récit, promu par le tabloïd Bild, selon lequel les épargnants allemands auraient perdu 120 milliards d'euros pendant le mandat du « comte Draghila » à la tête de la BCE. Comme hier au Royaume-Uni, de nombreux responsables politiques choisissent la facilité en flattant ces penchants plutôt que d'y résister. C'est préparer les prochaines secousses.

L'Union européenne, cependant, ne peut pas se dispenser d'un examen de conscience. Quand le Premier ministre David Cameron a demandé la possibilité de brider temporairement l'arrivée de migrants d'Europe centrale et orientale, il aurait été habile de trouver une solution avec lui. Et après que les négociations de séparation eurent commencé avec son successeur à ce poste, Theresa May, il aurait été astucieux de répondre à ses demandes d'un accord « sur mesure ». Depuis le référendum de juin 2016 sur le Brexit, les 27 ont été étonnamment unis, remarquablement cohérents et parfaitement dépourvus de sens stratégique. Leur position a été commandée par la peur que toute attitude conciliante vis-à-vis de Londres favorise de nouvelles fragmentations, plutôt que par le souci de limiter les dommages mutuels. Leur force apparente cachait des failles internes.

Le passé est le passé. Désormais, les priorités sont de préserver la coopération quand elle est bénéfique et de faire obstacle à la tentation britannique d'une stratégie de concurrence réglementaire.

Les initiatives communes en matière de Défense continueront à fonctionner. La coopération dans le système multilatéral, comme à l'ONU, se poursuivra aussi certainement. Des projets ad hoc vont probablement voir le jour. Mais la grande victime sera l'intégration économique avec le marché unique européen.

Une vis est une vis et un boulon est un boulon. Mais le

Royaume-Uni n'est plus un producteur de vis et de boulons, il exporte plutôt des produits bancaires, des produits d'assurance ou de comptabilité, des services de communications et des services aux entreprises, dont la moitié est destinée au marché européen. Or la plupart des services ont besoin d'un cadre réglementaire.

Si le slogan des Brexiteurs - « reprendre le contrôle » - signifie quelque chose, il implique de substituer des lois britanniques aux lois européennes. Le premier jour du Brexit, le système normatif britannique sera le même que celui de ses ex-partenaires européens (la loi de sortie de l'UE de 2018 a intégré toute la législation européenne dans le droit britannique). Progressivement cependant, le Parlement va amender ces lois, et de nouvelles dispositions seront introduites du côté européen par les 27. Les deux systèmes législatifs vont ainsi commencer à diverger. La question est de savoir à quel point ils peuvent s'éloigner l'un de l'autre avant de mettre en danger les liens économiques qui unissent Royaume-Uni et UE.

Il y a deux possibilités. La première est que le Royaume-Uni adopte des lois différentes de celles de l'UE tout en se fondant sur des principes identiques ou voisins. Il y a par exemple plusieurs manières de garantir qu'un contrat d'assurance offre un même haut degré de protection aux consommateurs, ou de faire respecter des normes exigeantes en matière de bioéthique. Auquel cas, les lois britanniques pourraient relever d'une approche différente de la régulation sans créer pour autant d'obstacle majeur aux échanges de biens et de services.

La seconde possibilité, en revanche, est que le Royaume-Uni s'engage dans une concurrence par le bas avec règles européennes. Dans ce cas - un scénario souvent nommé « Singapour-sur-Tamise », ce qui n'est pas très gentil pour Singapour - le Royaume-Uni imposerait des règles moins contraignantes pour la stabilité financière et la protection des données, ou abaisserait ses standards sociaux, avec l'espoir d'attirer les investisseurs et de vendre des services à prix cassé. Une telle évolution serait bien sûr considérée comme inamicale par ses partenaires européens, ce qui les conduirait à priver de l'accès au marché européen les exportateurs britanniques (dont la plupart actuellement fournissent directement leurs clients continentaux depuis le Royaume-Uni).

Quelle voie le Royaume-Uni choisira-t-il d'emprunter ? Dans l'idéal, il devrait s'accorder avec l'UE sur des principes communs et s'engager de manière crédible à les respecter. Mais quelques-uns des partisans les plus intransigeants du Brexit rêvent à voix haute d'achever la révolution thatchérienne en transformant leur pays en paradis normatif. L'Union observe la situation avec circonspection, tant le risque est grand de se faire aspirer dans une escalade négative de dérégulation britannique agressive et de durcissement européen, dont les conséquences seraient importantes sur les échanges.

L'UE ne doit pas demander aux Britanniques de copier servilement sa législation. Mais il faut qu'elle leur dise clairement qu'une concurrence réglementaire agressive serait inacceptable et qu'elle propose un choix binaire : soit Londres accepte de s'engager sur des principes communs et de faire preuve de retenue, comme prix à payer pour garder un bon accès au marché européen, soit les Britanniques refusent et devront faire face dans ce cas à une sévère limitation de la capacité de leurs acteurs économiques à exporter sur le continent.

L'histoire retiendra probablement l'année 2020 comme celle où une Europe affaiblie et vulnérable a choisi de s'affaiblir et de se rendre encore plus vulnérable. La tâche des responsables politiques est maintenant d'éviter d'aggraver la situation.

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Election Jitters and Uncertainties in Cote D'Ivoire

Ivorians are preparing for next year's electoral deadline. The same actors from 2010 could again be competing. What can be expected? Will the country face another upheaval such as 2010 when post-electoral violence caused the deaths of over 3000 people?

Four years ago, Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara cruised through an easy re-election without much opposition. He was in partnership with former President Konan Bédié, the leader of the PDCI (Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire) the former ruling party under Houphouët-Boigny, the founding father. Ouattara also enjoyed the full support of Soro Guillaume, the President of the national assembly and former head of the Nouvelles Forces, the rebel army that tried to overthrow Laurent Gbagbo in 2002 before settling for a share in a national unity government. Laurent Gbagbo who had lost against him in 2010 was awaiting trial in a jail cell at The Hague for crimes committed against humanity during the post-electoral violence. However, 11 months to the next presidential elections, everything has changed, and for Ouattara, the exit from power might prove as challenging as his ascend to it.

The second term of Ouattara began with Soro still as President of the national assembly. Soro began his political career as a student leader and a disciple of Laurent Gbagbo. After they broke up, Soro went to school in Europe before reappearing as head of the Nouvelles Forces who, with the help of the French forces, forced Gbagbo out of power and sent him to the Hague.

Soro however lost the comfort of his position, both as President of the National Assembly and constitutional heir. A new constitution passed by Ouattara changed the succession clause in favor of a Vice President, a new position currently held by a former strong ally and the only Prime Minister of Bédié for 6 years, Daniel Kablan Duncan. Soro also lost his "moral" authority over the military, whose leadership sprung mainly from his Nouvelles Forces, when his nemesis Ahmed Bakayoko, one Ouattara's closest lieutenant was appointed Minister of Defense. Soro has joined Gbagbo and Bédié in the opposition and intends to run for president in 2020.

The alliance with Bédié broke down because of a dispute about who should field the "houphouëtist" candidate come 2020. Bédié argued that there was an agreement that his fringe of the loose coalition he and Ouattara had formed, self-styled Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix, (RHDP), the PDCI, would nominate a candidate. Ouattara countered that there was never such a deal and proposed a primary system. In 1993, at the death of Houphouët-Boigny, and suspecting that then Prime Minister Ouattara wanted to usurp power, Bédié walked into the studios of the national television station and interrupted a newscast to declare himself President. From then on, the two men fell into enmity. In 1995, he managed to exclude Ouattara from the elections by enacting citizenship laws based on an ethnicity called "ivoirité" which tended to separate "real Ivorians" from "strangers." This policy targeted mostly people from the Muslim North where Mr. Ouattara hails from. Bédié has started to dust-off his "ivoirité" discourse albeit very subtly, dog-

whistling about "strangers" and Muslims. Ouattara kept the name RHDP for his new coalition.

Gbagbo was released from prison by the ICC and has been in transit for months in Brussels, awaiting appeals from the prosecution. He could go back home a free man or back to jail. For now, he has been holding talks with both Bédié and Soro, while trying to regain control of his once powerful Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI) more fragmented than ever. His ex-wife Simone Gbagbo -freed by Ouattara last year- and his former VP Affi'Guessan are competing for leadership. His youth leader and jail mate Blé Goudé - also freed by the ICC - has now embarked on a path of his own and could carry with him the radical and youth wing of the party. In the mid-1990s, after Ouattara was sidelined by Bédié, he and Gbagbo formed an alliance. In 2001, the military leader who had overthrown Bédié called elections under the "ivoirité" constitution, which again excluded Ouattara. General Robert Guei claimed to have won the elections, but Gbagbo mobilized his supporters and pushed him out. Once in power, Gbagbo went on to enforce land tenure policies based on Bédié's "ivoirité", causing many northerners to lose farmlands they exploited for generations.

Ouattara has linked his decision to run again to the fate of his former opponents. The FPI recently accused him of wrongfully trying to insert itself in the Gbagbo's appeal case, trying to keep him from returning home, not until after elections.

The new constitution - revised during his second term - gives him the right to do so. He faces the same dilemma Abdoulaye Wade faced a few years ago in Senegal. Having the legal right to contest elections does not mean the electorate is ready.

The contest next year, will indicate whether the country's democracy has matured and signal the end of the deadly rivalries and divisive policies of the past two decades.

If he decides to seek another term, Ouattara will face not only a three-headed opposition but also Ivorians who may have no appetite for a repeat of 2010.

Bédié, Gbagbo and Ouattara spent the 1990s fighting over Houphouët's legacy. Each of them served as President. But both Bédié and Gbagbo argue that they were not allowed to govern fully because of the 1999 military coup (Bédié) and the 2002 rebellion (Gbagbo). Now in their twilight, they want to make up for their loss or extend a legacy. At what price for Côte d'Ivoire and the region?

In the current ethnic configuration of the electorate, no single party could win the election outright in the first round, however a second round will favor Ouattara.

Like everywhere on the continent, ethnicity plays an important role in politics. In Ivory Coast, the electoral map follows well-defined lines. The north is easily considered Ouattara's bastion. With 42 percent of the population, the Muslims strongly identify with Ouattara and provide a solid electoral base. His party has co-opted members of other groups that were victimized by the policies of "ivoirité" of Bédié and enforced by Gbagbo. The center of the country - the



Abdoulaye W Dukulé

Akan/Baoulé area- is Bédié's stronghold, with 15 to 20 percent of the population. The Southwest - the Kru/Bété - follows "their son" Gbagbo. The district of Abidjan is the elephant meat, with more than 4 million people, where everyone has a piece. Ethnic rivalries and alliances run deep and were further exacerbated by the conflicts.

Founding father Felix Houphouët-Boigny was Baoulé, like Bédié. He cultivated strong bonds with the Muslims northerners as well as with other ethnic groups. Long before independence, Boigny had problems with the Kru-Bété. Gbagbo came from that line of ethnic opposition that runs deep between Akan and Kru. Bédié may go into an alliance with Gbagbo but can he bring along the rest of the Akan? Same problem with Soro. He may take some votes from Ouattara in the first round, but in a second-round northerners may not follow him to vote Gbagbo or Bédié.

With the advantages of incumbency, a strong regional and ethnic support, with Gbagbo battling legal issues and trying to regain control of his party, Bédié straddled with age and a shaky divisive past, and Soro who will have challenges to shake away his warlord moniker, Ouattara could easily see the finish line.

However, is the Ivorian electorate ready for an "Old Folks Warfare" that could ignite old rivalries and risk plunging the country and the entire region into uncertainty? Each of these leaders groomed very capable and battle-ready lieutenants who can take the nation forward, into a new era.

The wounds of 2010 are still fresh. Notwithstanding its economic success, the Ouattara administration has faced challenges in the area of national reconciliation, full demobilization and reintegration of war combatants as well as the restructuring of state security apparatus.

In 2020, Ouattara will be the first Ivorian democratically elected president to turn the country over to another democratically elected president and retire gracefully. If he so desires.

This human billboard standing in the street with the national television in the background epitomizes the anxieties of the population. It says: If we are sheep, in 2020 we will take up guns and kill each other." On social media, another message says: "Why are we killing ourselves for people we only see on television?" (courtesyFraternitéMatin.)

Complete nonsense

The opposition Alternative National Congress says here it has come to its attention that the CDC-led government is purposely spreading vicious propaganda and lies aimed at framing its political leader, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, into a coup plot.

“These media campaigns come in the wake of information circulating in the communities and on social media of the government’s plan to arrest key opposition leaders, including Mr. Cummings, on treason charges, before or during the Step Down campaign”, the ANC says.

In a press release issued here on Monday, December 02, the party recalls that few weeks ago, Freedom FM, a pro-government radio station said to be owned by National Security Agency (NSA) Deputy Director, Sam Siryon, broadcasted that Mr. Alexander Cummings was planning to overthrow the



Weah administration through the December 30th Step Down Protest. Besides, it further says a local daily reported yesterday that Mr. Cummings is planning and supporting the overthrow of the government on December 30, 2019.

“Our Political Leader wishes to make it categorically clear that this is not about fear

of arrest. However, he would like to clarify for the records that while we support the rights of Liberians to protest their grievances, he has never and will never support a coup or any unconstitutional removal of a sitting President. He wants the Liberian people to know that these allegations are COMPLETE NONSENSE and

describes those cooking up their fake treason charges as irresponsible leaders who should not bring their nonsense to him”, the party responds.

It quotes its political leader as saying that instead of engaging in misinformation and distractions, they [the government] should focus on their responsibility to the people, find the money to pay salaries during these difficult economic times and prioritize the well-being of the citizenry.

The ANC further notes it is a shame that while its Political Leader is busy helping the people, investing in businesses to keep the economy afloat, etc., the government is busy sponsoring silly stories about a fake coup plot just to divert public attention from its piss-

poor performance and bad governance.

“While we expect these lies and chicanery to continue given the people’s reception of Mr. Cummings as the alternative, we will no longer respond to them. Notwithstanding, we’d like to remind our people that our history is replete with such misguided behavior from a ruling government using fake coup plots to get rid of formidable opposition leaders”, it reflects and adds this was the path of the Doe era, which is rearing its ugly head again under President Weah. “This is distasteful, unacceptable and should be condemned by all Liberians”, the release urges.

The Government of Liberia has kept conspicuously silent on these rumors, linking opposition leaders to a coup plot.

Permit denied

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia’s Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean says the Ministry is without authority to grant the Council of Patriots (COP) permit, protection or approval to execute a planned ‘Weah Step Down’ campaign which violates the Constitution and statutory laws of Liberia.

In the Minister’s response to the COP on Monday, 2 December, he warns the organizers of the planned Weah Step Down campaign scheduled for 30 December that the campaign is unconstitutional and bespeaks treason, an offense against the internal security of the State.

“However, given the facts and circumstances herein described above, we are without legal authority to grant you permit, protection and/or approval to undertake an act which is, indisputably, in clear violation of the

Constitution and statutory laws of Liberia,” Cllr. Dean writes.

He details in the communication that the Ministry has taken due cognizance of the several public pronouncements emanating from the hierarchy of the COP, charactering the assembly as the beginning of a “Weah Step Down” campaign.

Justice Minister Dean says the Ministry is further aware that in preparation to execute planned objectives, the COP has solicited and received funding from individuals, both within and without Liberia, some of whom may not be Liberian citizens.

He warns that individuals comprising the leadership of the COP will be held personally, individually and collectively culpable and liable under the law for consequences associated with their actions.

Reacting to the Minister’s communication, COP Acting

Chair Mr. Mo Ali told this paper via mobile phone Monday, 2 December that nowhere in the COP’s communication did it say President Weah must step down.

He argues that the COP cannot stop people from saying what they want to say on radio, but its official communication to the Ministry says in furtherance to the June 7 protest, they want to assemble on 30 December and government must provide security for them.

He notes that comments that President Weah must step down is not part of COP’s official plan, so it is not coming from the group.

A COP letter dated 11 November 2019, authorized by Mr. Ali informs the Ministry of Justice of another peaceful assembly in furtherance to the June 7, 2019 peaceful assembly held here.

According to the COP, the peaceful assembly is being organized and scheduled to begin on Monday, 30 December and would potentially last for several days in Monrovia.

The group writes: “During this peaceful assembly, we intend to gather as many as 100,000 persons and we will be gathering at the Seat of Government, Capitol Hill. Those participating in the assembly will begin gathering at 6:00 am GMT and they will come from various parts of the country.”

COP says it looks forward to the Ministry’s usual cooperation in providing security for the peaceful assembly.

Weah recalls lawmakers

President George M. Weah has issued a proclamation recalling members of the 54th Legislature to convene a special session for one week as the country’s economic woes deepened.

Mr. Weah has cited national emergency and national concerns as the main reasons for his proclamation requesting the lawmakers to convene a special session.

His proclamation comes months after the country’s national legislature adjourned on 31st of August 2019 for its regular break.

Mr. Weah’s action is backed by Article 32(b) of the Liberian constitution which provides “that the president shall on his own initiative or upon receipt of a certificate signed by at

least one fourth of the total membership of each House and by proclamation extend a regular session of the Legislature beyond the date for adjournment or call a special or extraordinary session of that body to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern.”

It can be recalled that on November 4, 2019, Mr. Weah in a letter to the National Legislature requested that body to convene on November 18 through to December 11, 2019 but due to unforeseen factors, the convening period of the Special Session of the 54th Legislature was adjusted. Thus the new date has been set for a period of one (1) working week beginning December 3, 2019 to December 10, 2019.

Lawmaker wants

Starts from back page

executive is not taking the lead in meeting with U.S. officials to request for help, the Legislature here must take the lead in meeting the congressional members to present papers aimed at convincing Congress to sign resolution that will make the U.S. Government to make intervention immediately.

He hopes that when the Liberian legislative delegation gets to America, it could be led by the Congressional leaders to meet and explain to President Donald Trump what the constraints here are.

He says he has written and shared a communication with the Speaker in which he mentioned the financial crisis facing the country calls for the need for the people’s representatives to act, even if they were not called by the

president.

Rep. Kogar argues that by evidence, it’s symbolical that Liberia took one star of the symbol of the American Flag and made it [part] of Liberia’s Flag.

Further, Rep. Kogar urges President Weah to have lobbyists that will ensure that hurdles are cleared for him to meet with President Donald Trump as a way of attracting investors to Liberia.

Owing to the financial crisis in the country, Rep. Kogar says lawmakers should be the ones to give direction to their people.

Concerning the printing of money, Rep. Kogar emphasizes that if new currency must be printed, the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) must be audited and face reshuffle.



Lawmaker wants U.S. intervention



By Winston W. Parley

Nimba County Rep. Samuel Kogar says President George Manneh Weah's travels to the Arab World and Asia for foreign help will not bring much needed solutions to revive Liberia's crumbled economy, suggesting the need for a Liberian legislative delegation to meet U.S. Congress and plead for U.S. Government's immediate

intervention.

"Leaving from here to go to Arab world, leaving from here to go to Asia, my brother, I can tell anybody, America is the number one super power in the whole world," Rep. Kogar told a local broadcaster in Monrovia Monday, 2 December.

Reminding the Weah regime of former President Charles Taylor's downfall, Rep. Kogar argues that for any government to survive it needs

to be friendly with America and its leadership has to be acknowledged by America.

His call comes as the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government suffers prolonged financial crisis that has resulted to the regime's failure to pay government employees their salaries.

In some entities, government workers are claiming areas of up to four months. To compound the situation, prices of goods and services have more than doubled, and the Liberian dollar seem to be artificially scarce as the regime mounts pressure for lawmakers to give approval for the printing of money to address the shortage of the local currency on the market.

The Liberian dollars remains acutely devalued against the U.S. dollars, and commercial banks here are unable to meet depositors' demand for withdrawal of the local currency from their accounts.

However, Rep. Kogar says if the

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1 dead in Slipway electoral violence

-several suspects arrested

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Liberia National Police arrests several suspects, including one of the candidates in an election for chairmanship of the Slipway/Crown Hill Community in Monrovia following violence and one death characterised by

attack on riot police officers.

Information gathered indicates the electoral process had been postponed on several occasions by the interim leadership of the community.

A total of four candidates are in the race for the community chairmanship, including Messrs Abraham G. Williams, Fofee Soko Sirleaf,



Isaac K. Krah, and Kosso M. Kali.

The deceased only identified as Edward reportedly drowned in the Mesurado River while escaping police arrest. Riot police had moved in the community to arrest individuals involved with burning tyres and destroying a temporary fence

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