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# The New Dawn

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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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**P11**



**P11**

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# Continental News

## Son of Angola's ex-leader in 'extraordinary' trial

The son of the man who ruled Angola for 38 years has gone on trial for corruption in a rare case of such a high-profile official being taken to court.

José Filomeno dos Santos and his co-accused helped spirit \$0.5bn (£0.4bn) out of the country during his time as head of Angola's Sovereign Wealth Fund, prosecutors say.

They have both pleaded not guilty.

The case is seen as a test of Angola's commitment to fight corruption.

It is an extraordinary moment for a famously corrupt, impoverished and oil-rich country, says BBC Southern Africa correspondent Andrew Harding. José Eduardo dos Santos was president from 1979 until he resigned in 2017 to be replaced by President Joao Lourenco, who is from the same governing party, the MPLA. The fortunes of the family of the former president, who had allowed

corruption to flourish during his rule, changed after he stepped down, our reporter says.

After coming to power, Mr Lourenço abruptly turned against the Dos Santos clan and promised reforms and a clean-

up, he says.

The new president fired another of his predecessor's children, Isabel dos Santos, Africa's richest woman, from her position as head of the state oil giant Sonango in November 2017 over alleged

embezzlement.

Ms Dos Santos denies any wrongdoing. She now lives abroad after saying that her life had been threatened. In 2017, she told the BBC that she faced prejudice because of who she was. The former president is also believed to have left the country.

This is the first time that a member of the Dos Santos family has been taken to court.

José Filomeno dos Santos, also known as Zenu, spent seven months in jail over the corruption allegations before

being freed in March.

He was appointed head of the \$5bn sovereign wealth fund in 2013 when his father was in power but was removed in 2017.

Mr Dos Santos appeared before the Supreme Court on Monday in the capital, Luanda, along with three co-defendants, who also face charges of money laundering and embezzlement - one of them is former central bank governor Valter Filipe da Silva. BBC



Jose Filomeno was held in jail for seven months over the corruption charges

## Why Kenyan women are writing on the streets

Young women and girls in Kibera, one of Africa's largest informal settlements, are writing their street harassment experiences on roads and canvases to highlight the damaging nature of sexual harassment.

Warning: Some readers may find part of this article distressing

Zubeida Yusuf has lived in Kibera, in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, all her life, and for as

long as she can remember, street harassment has been a part of her life.

"Men will say things like: 'You're very fat. Is your mother a butcher? Did God use his last piece of clay on you because you have large breasts and a big behind.'

"It's a lot for us to take in when we walk out here (in the streets)," says the 22-year-old.

But over time, Ms Yusuf has learnt to fight back and she is helping other women in Kibera

claim their voices back in situations where some women say they feel powerless.

Using chalk and markers, in a campaign dubbed "Chalk Back", Ms Yusuf and other girls and women are writing down their experiences of street harassment.

The campaign, they hope, will spur conversations around the damaging nature of street sexual harassment. "Nowadays, when the men insult me, I stop and ask them to their faces, why they are insulting me. However, for underage girls fighting back may be harder," she says.

"That's why campaigns like these are important. More of us need to push back and tell people it is not okay to speak to women this way." "Unaringa, wewe ni vajo" (You think you are too good for us, yet you're still a virgin).

"Chura hii" (slang for prostitute, which also means frog in Swahili).

Caroline Mwikali, who is 20 years old and also a Kibera resident, confesses some of the slurs used against her have cut deeper than the perpetrators realise.

"You really can't walk down these streets without a man saying something nasty to you.

## Torrential rains in Uganda, 26 killed

At least 26 people have been killed in floods unleashed by heavy rains in different parts of Uganda, the Red Cross said on Monday as authorities urged people in affected areas to relocate.

Seventeen flooding deaths have been confirmed in the western district of Bundibugyo. Another nine people have died in the mountainous districts of Sironko and Bududa in the east, where residents also face

Elgon where mudslides have killed hundreds of people over the years. Some there have resisted the government's attempts to have them relocated to lowlands elsewhere, saying they find it hard to vacate their ancestral lands.

"The risk of more flooding and landslides is real," Musa Ecweru, the government minister in charge of disasters, said in a statement Thursday.



mudslides that can destroy entire enclaves, said Irene Nakasiita, a spokeswoman for the Uganda Red Cross.

Ugandan government officials have acknowledged the continuing threat from flooding and say relief is forthcoming to affected areas. Residents are being urged to move away from areas where rivers and streams have burst their banks. More than 6,000 people have been displaced in Bududa, a rugged area in the foothills of Mount

Hundreds of acres of plantations have been destroyed and an unknown number of livestock lost in the flooding and mudslides in Bududa and Sironko, Ecweru said.

In March 2010 at least 100 people died in mudslides in Bududa, and injuries or deaths have been reported every year since then during the wet season. AFP



Girls in Kibera say they face street harassment on a daily basis

Sometimes we're even likened to animals.

"It affects one's self esteem. When I sit by myself, I wonder: 'Am I really as worthless or as ugly as that person has said I am?'" According to the UN, the lack of conclusive and

comparative national data and policies on street harassment within countries is one among many of the challenges when it comes to combating the problem and ensuring the safety of girls and women in public spaces. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## Weah must listen to the voice of wisdom

**PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH**, currently under mounting pressure to pay salary and improve governance is being advised to allow dissatisfied Liberians express their grievances thru public protest, rather than denying them the right as enshrined in the Constitution.

**FORMER VICE PRESIDENT** and current leader of the ex-ruling Unity Party Joseph Nyumah Boakai says it is important that aggrieved citizens exercise their constitutional right of assembly and freedom of expression, and the government is obliged to provide security and protection.

**IN A DARING** letter to President Weah, the man defeated twice at the polls by the former soccer celebrity in 2017 further urges the Weah administrating to its obligation to civil servants, currently planning go-slow in demand of monthly salary, saying "these patriotic citizens have played their part. They deserved the dignity of their labour and the right to provide for their families.

**THIS IS THE** first time the 75-year-old statesman, who served as Vice President for two terms under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been so frank to the Weah administration on prevailing economic situations in Liberia.

**WE CHALLENGE THE** ruling Coalition government to take the letter in stride and begin to act to addressing citizens' concerns, because this was the social contract they signed with Candidate George Manneh Weah (now President) at the ballot box in 2017.

**A LOCAL GROUP** under the banner Council of Patriots or CoP recently wrote the Ministry of Justice, requesting for security for its planned protest dubbed "Weah must step down" slated for 31 December. The CoP is led by talk show host Henry Costa.

**IN ITS 07** June protest held in Monrovia, the group read several counts to the government subsequently, calling for respect for the rule of law and honest fight against corruption, among others.

**THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT** continue to turn blind eyes on these issues especially when they ways in which it conducts its activities in public leave room for suspicions. Mr. Boakai also points to US\$25 million that the administration from the reserves to mop up excess liquidity in the economy plus the 16 billion newly printed Liberian bank notes that is yet to be properly accounted for.

**WE CONSIDER THE** call from the former Vice President as a voice of wisdom, coming from an elder who had served two previous administrations and has wealth of experience, working in government unlike Mr. Weah.

**PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD** put ego aside, and listen to aggrieved citizens, including civil servants so that, together a common ground can be reached for the good of all and posterity.

**The New Dawn**  
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# COMMENTARY

By Sami Mahroum

## The Arab World Needs a Brexit Debate

*The Arab world has witnessed at least one big Brexit-like event every decade since 1948 - and these political, economic, and social ruptures never seem to heal. The impact of these self-inflicted disasters is now painfully evident, and ongoing street protests in several countries suggest that a moment of reckoning may have arrived.*

**B**ARCELONA - For the last three years, a bewildered world has watched the countdown to the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, better known as Brexit. Leaving the EU will likely affect the British economy severely. Yet, from an Arab perspective, the UK's prolonged Brexit debate is not a sign of political breakdown. On the contrary, only a country with the UK's deeply embedded political maturity could even hope to withstand such a vast rupture in legal, commercial, and even social relationships that have been built up over the last half-century.

The Arab world, by contrast, has witnessed at least one big Brexit-like event every decade since 1948 - and these political, economic, and social ruptures never seem to heal. The first such episode was the establishment of Israel and the resulting Palestinian "Brexit" from the territory that became the Jewish State. Much of historic Palestine was abandoned, and its people were destined to live in refugee camps for decades to come. An entire Arab economy disappeared, and Israel was boycotted by its Arab neighbors.

Then, from 1952 until 1970, Egypt under President Gamal Abdel Nasser embarked on an economic nationalization experiment that championed import substitution and greatly weakened the country's commercial ties to the rest of the region. And when Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, Arab countries punished Egypt with an economic and political boycott.

During the same period, several other leading Arab states, including Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Algeria, were inspired by the Soviet economic model and restricted private-sector trade and investment. Unlike the 15 republics that made up the Soviet Union, the Arab world's Soviet-inspired regimes did not trade among themselves; in fact, some, like Iraq and Syria, boycotted each other.

When the Arab world's political economy was not breaking down or heading toward autarky, geopolitics inflicted further damage. In 1990, Iraqi troops invaded and occupied Kuwait, at the time the Arab world's most dynamic economy, depriving the country of its sovereignty. Iraq was put under international sanctions as a result, and United States-led forces subsequently liberated Kuwait. And, of course, in 2003 a US-led coalition invaded and occupied Iraq, a decision that plunged the regional order into turmoil and continues to affect it today.

During the Arab Spring from 2010 to 2016, the region experienced an accelerated chain of Brexit-like events as protesters in several countries (Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and, eventually, Iraq) sought freedom from regimes that many considered illegitimate. Meanwhile, political tensions elsewhere closed the Algerian-Moroccan border to

business, severed commercial links between Qatar and several Gulf countries, and isolated Iran economically.

Arab "Brexit" come with little warning, negotiation, parliamentary deliberation, or media debate, and usually persist for decades. But the impact of these self-inflicted economic disasters is now painfully evident.

In fact, ongoing street protests, strikes, and violence in several Arab countries suggest that a moment of reckoning may have arrived. This unrest could unleash an Arab Spring 2.0, this time focused, one hopes, on prosperity rather than power.

That certainly seems to be the message in Baghdad, Beirut, and other cities around the region, where protesters are calling for politicians to step back and let technocrats take the lead. Although it may be naive to expect policy experts to behave better than professional politicians, Arabs are fed up with opaque political systems in which they have little if any influence over decisions affecting their lives.

An Arab Spring 2.0 should therefore ignite a debate about the sort of economic future citizens want, how they interact with their own governments, and their countries' relations with neighbors. In short, after decades of their own dead-end Brexits, Arabs need to discuss the same issues that British voters have been addressing since the June 2016 referendum.

That means opening up the policymaking process to society-wide debate and advocacy. Broader engagement with the region's homegrown technocratic talent may produce much-needed policy innovators. Although the Arab world currently lacks strong and active think tank-like institutions that galvanize experts' advocacy (like those who have shaped the fates of other countries during severe crises) that need not always be the case. After all, policy engagement is not just about elections and representation, but also about careful analysis and informed advocacy.

In the Republic, Plato writes that, "There can be no good government until philosophers are kings and the kings, philosophers." At the same time, there is of course no guarantee that Arab technocrats won't turn into ruthless politicians themselves. Both Hitler and Stalin, for example, manipulated science to justify major social engineering projects that killed millions of people.

But without some effort to depoliticize public policymaking and put social engagement before political enforcement, more Arab Brexits, and continued economic malaise, are a certainty. Protesters in Baghdad, Beirut, and elsewhere are calling for participatory politics and open debate. Their call must not go unanswered.



## O-PED

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

# Is Growth Passé?

**N**EW YORK - It's clear: we are living beyond our planet's limits. Unless we change something, the consequences will be dire. Should that something be our focus on economic growth?

Climate change represents the most salient risk we face, and we are already getting a glimpse of the costs. And in "we," I include Americans. The United States, where a major political party is dominated by climate-change deniers, is the highest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases and the only country refusing to adhere to the 2015 Paris climate agreement. So there is a certain irony in the fact that the US has also become one of the countries with the highest levels of property damage associated with extreme weather events such as floods, fires, hurricanes, droughts, and bitter cold.

At one time, some Americans even hoped that climate change might benefit them. Maine's coastal waters, for example, would become swimmable. Even today, a few economists still believe that there is not much to worry about, so long as we limit the increase in average global temperature to 3-4° Celsius, compared to the 2°C limit set by the Paris agreement. This is a foolish gamble. Greenhouse-gas concentrations are projected to be at their highest level in millions of years, and we have nowhere else to go if we lose.

Studies suggesting that we could tolerate higher temperatures are deeply flawed. For example, because appropriate risk analyses are systematically omitted, their models do not give sufficient weight to the probability of "bad outcomes." The greater the weight we assign to the risk of bad outcomes, and the worse those outcomes are, the more precautions we should take. By assigning little weight - far too little weight - to very adverse outcomes, these studies systematically bias the analysis against doing anything.

Moreover, these studies underestimate the non-linearities in the damage functions. In other words, our economic and ecological systems may be resilient to small changes in temperature, with damage increasing only proportionally to temperature, but once climate change reaches a certain threshold, the increase in damages accelerates relative to the rise in temperature. For example, crop loss becomes serious as a result of frosts and droughts. Whereas a below-threshold level of climate change may not affect the risk of frost or drought, a higher level increases disproportionately the risk of these extreme events.

It is precisely when the consequences of climate change are large that we are least able to absorb the costs. There's no insurance fund to draw upon if we need investments to respond to large increases in sea levels, unforeseen health risks, and migration on a massive scale as a result of climate change. The fact is that in these circumstances, our world will be poorer, and less able to absorb these losses.

Finally, those who argue for a wait-and-see approach to climate change - that it's a waste of money to take large actions today for an uncertain risk far in the future - typically discount these future losses at a high rate. That is, whenever one takes an action that has a future cost or benefit, one must assess the present value of these future costs or benefits. If a dollar 50 years from now is worth the same as a dollar today, one might be motivated to take strong action to prevent a loss; but if a dollar 50 years from now is worth three cents, one wouldn't.

The discount rate (how we value future costs and benefits relative to today) thus becomes critical. US President Donald Trump's administration has in fact said that one wouldn't want to spend more than roughly three cents today to prevent a dollar loss in 50 years. Future generations just don't count much. This is morally wrong. But the do-nothing advocates, ignoring all the advances in public economics over the past half-century that have explained otherwise, argue that economic efficiency requires it. They are wrong.

We must take strong action now to avoid the climate disaster toward which the world is heading. And it is a welcome development that so many European leaders are spearheading efforts to ensure that the world is carbon-neutral by 2050. The report of the High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices, which I co-chaired with Nicholas Stern, argued that we could achieve the Paris agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 2°C in a way that enhanced living standards: the transition to a green economy could spur innovation and prosperity.

That view sets us apart from those who suggest that the Paris agreement's goals can be achieved only by stopping economic expansion. I believe that is wrong. However misguided the obsession with ever-increasing GDP may be, without economic growth, billions of people will remain without inadequate food, housing, clothing, education, and medical care. But there is ample room to change the quality of growth, to reduce its environmental impact significantly. For example, even without major technological advances, we can achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

But it won't happen on its own, and it won't happen if we just leave it to the market. It will happen only if we combine high levels of public investment with strong regulation and appropriate environmental pricing. And it can't, or won't, happen if we put the burden of adjustment on the poor: environmental sustainability can be achieved only in tandem with efforts to achieve greater social justice.

## OPINION

By J. Bradford DeLong

# How Trolls Overran the Public Square

**B**ERKELEY - Since 1900, human technology and organization have been evolving at a blistering pace. The degree of change that occurs in just one year would have taken 50 years or more before 1500. War and politics used to be the meat of human history, with advances in technology and organization unfolding very slowly - if at all - in the background. Now, the inverse is true.

The impact of technological innovation on the marketplace of ideas has brought about some of the most consequential changes. The shift from the age of handwritten and hand-copied manuscripts to that of the Gutenberg press ushered in the Copernican Revolution (along with almost two centuries of genocidal religious war). Pamphlets and coffee houses broadened the public sphere and positioned public opinion as a powerful constraint on political rulers' behavior.

As John Adams, the second president of the United States, later pointed out, the "[American] Revolution was effected before the war commenced ... in the minds and hearts of the people." The decisive intellectual battle, we now know, was won by the English-born printer Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*. Still, even during the revolutionary period, the pace of change was far slower than it is today. In the space of just two human lifetimes, we have gone from mass-market newspapers and press lords to radio and network television, and then on to the Internet and today's social media-driven public sphere. And most of us will live long enough to witness whatever comes next.

There is now a near-consensus - at least among those who are not completely steeped in social-media propaganda - that the current public sphere does not serve us well. "Social media is broken," the American author Annalee Newitz wrote in a recent commentary for the *New York Times*. "It has poisoned the way we communicate with each other and undermined the democratic process. Many of us just want to get away from it, but we can't imagine a world without it."

Western societies have experienced a similar sentiment before. In the 1930s, my great-uncles listened to their elders complain about how radio had allowed demagogues like Adolf Hitler, Charles Coughlin, and Franklin D. Roosevelt (that "communist") to short-circuit the normal processes of public discourse. No longer were public debates kept sober and rational by traditional gatekeepers. In the new age of broadcast, unapproved memes could spread far and wide without interference. Politicians and ideologues who may not have had the public interest in mind could get right into people's ears and hijack their brains.

Nowadays, the problem is not a single demagogue, but a public sphere beset by swarms of "influencers," propagandists, and bots, all semi-coordinated by the dynamics of the medium itself. Once again, ideas of dubious quality and provenance are shaping people's thoughts without having been subjected to adequate evaluation and analysis.

We should have seen this coming. A generation ago, when the "net" was limited to universities and research institutes, there was an annual "September" phenomenon. Each year, new arrivals to the institution would be given an email account and/or user profile, whereupon they would rapidly find their online communities. They would begin to talk, and someone, inevitably, would get annoyed. For the next month, whatever informational or discursive use the net might have had would be sidelined by continuous vitriolic exchanges.

Then things would calm down. People would remember to put on their asbestos underwear before logging on; they learned not to take the newbies so seriously. Trolls would find themselves banned from the forums they loved to disrupt. And, in any case, most who experimented with the troll lifestyle realized that it has little to recommend it. For the next 11 months, the net would serve its purpose, significantly extending each user's cultural, conversational, and intellectual range, and adding to the collective stock of human intelligence.

But as the Internet began to spread to each household and then to each smartphone, fears about the danger of an "eternal September" have been confirmed. There is more money to be made by stoking outrage than by providing sound information and encouraging the social-learning process that once taught net newbies to calm down. And yet, today's Internet does offer valuable information, so much so that few of us could imagine doing without it. To access that information, we have tacitly agreed to allow the architects at Facebook, Twitter, Google (especially YouTube), and elsewhere to shape the public sphere with their outrage- and clickbait-generating algorithms.

Meanwhile, others have found that there is a great deal of money and power to be gained by shaping public opinion online. If you want to get your views out there, it is easier to piggyback on the outrage machine than to develop a comprehensive rational argument - especially when those views are self-serving and deleterious to the public good.

For her part, Newitz ends her recent commentary on a hopeful note. "Public life has been irrevocably changed by social media; now it's time for something else," she writes. "We need to stop handing off responsibility for maintaining public space to corporations and algorithms - and give it back to human beings. We may need to slow down, but we've created democracies out of chaos before. We can do it again."

Such hope may be necessary for journalists these days. Unfortunately, a rational evaluation of our situation suggests that it is unjustified. The eternal September of our discontent has arrived.



# GOL, UNDP launch Liberia's Human Development report in pictures



Vice President of the Republic of Liberia Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor launching the UNDP 2019 HDR report at Monrovia City Hall.



Some delegates from diplomatic court representing their institutions at the launching of the 2019 UNDP HDR report at the Monrovia City Hall.



UNDP officially launch of it Human Development Report 2019 Under The Theme: Beyond income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today: inequalities in human development in the 21st century.



Minister of Education Prof. Ansu Soni making remark at the launching of the UNDP HDR 2019 report at the Monrovia City Hall.



UNDP Country Representative Pa Lamin Beyai giving the over view of the UNDP HDR 2019 report at the Mornovia City Hall.



Health Ministry representative Nuwoe Howard making remark at the Launching of UNDP 2019 HDR report at Monrovia City Hall.



Minister of Finance and Development Planing Samuel D. Tweh making statement at the launching of the UNDP HDR 2019 report.



Representative of Central Bank of Liberia making remake at the Launch of UNDP 2019 HDR report held at Monriva City Hall.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Oil blocks for sale

**-Govt. announces**  
By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) announces sale of several blocks here, beginning next licensing round.

A statement from the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority says the decision

decision, through a robust reform process to provide efficient institutional governance system, maximize revenue from potential petroleum resources, and promote citizens' participation.

The reform, besides slump in oil prices and the Ebola crisis, resorted to temporary dormancy within the sector.

LPRA and TGS (the geophysical company hosting Liberia's offshore seismic data and rendering technical support), it was unanimously agreed that all parties have established the need for capabilities and internal mechanisms to ensure Government conducts a successful bid round to attract investors.

The LPRA discloses the next



followed an unsuccessful ratification of negotiated petroleum sharing contracts in 2014, which climaxed the last round of bidding process.

The statement issued over the weekend notes the Government of Liberia made a shrewd and progressive

But after the passage of the New Petroleum and Reform Law of 2014, and the setting up of the LPRA, Government is now in a position to proceed with the tendering process.

In a meeting held between the bankrupt National Oil Company of Liberia or NOCAL,

round of bidding, expected to commence in April 2020, will affect blocks within Harper Basin, Maryland County, southeast Liberia.

The 2019 amendment to the New Petroleum Law



# School Principal calls for effective supervision

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Principal for the World Wide Mission School System in Monrovia, Evangelist Reuben T. Fiamahn, Sr. calls on the Ministry of Education (MOE) to vigorously supervise activities of both public and private schools in the country in ensuring students (12th graders) are being adequately prepared to write the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) administered across the country by the West Africa Examination Council or WAEC.

He suggests that in order to achieve this, the Ministry

should strengthen its Department for School Supervision by equipping it with requisite logistics.

Mr. Fiamahn made the call over the weekend during a press conference held on his school campus situated on Newport Street, Monrovia.

He describes supervision as a hallmark to quality education and explains it means to ensure classroom teachers adhere to classroom management and content presentation.

He maintains that classroom management and content presentation is the surest way of enhancing the learning processes at public

and private schools, adding that as part of work being done by his institution, the administration has re-introduced Phonics, which has been absent there for many years due to absence of a laboratory.

According to him, re-vamping of the school laboratory will better prepare 12th graders by drilling them through key subjects, including English, Mathematics and Physics, among others with serious emphasis on Arts and Sciences. He recalls that in the last examination, the institution sent 120 candidates and 115 made a successful pass.

He notes with extra classes being held for students, he expects a total of 125 senior students being prepared for this year's examination pass in all subjects.

Meanwhile, Principal Fiamahn discloses that due to current economic situation in the country coupled with appeal from parents of over 75 students, he has relaxed payment of tuition, pending improvement in the economy.



# Private and public sectors need each other

**-George Collins**  
By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Vice President of Comax-Liberia says there can be no good private sector in Liberia without the public sector.

Speaking recently on the topic: "How can the private sector help in solving the economic situations in Liberia today" at the National Youth Enlightenment Summit-2019 under the auspices of Integrity Youth for Progress in Monrovia, Mr. Collins emphasized that government is responsible to create and provides enabling environment for every Liberian to work through introduction of good policies and legislations.

He said equally on the other hand, the private sector must also help the government in creating jobs, goods and services in order to have balance sectors.

He admonished youth at the

working in government.

He said if public officials are preaching integrity, their actions and deeds should represent what they speak and do, as the way of enticing the youth to emulate those good examples.

He notes that public officials should also adapt the value of integrity, adding, there are officials who are qualified for positions in government but lack integrity so they should be denied employment.

He wants President George M. Weah and his cabinet officials not only to speak integrity but rather live integrity and as well support anti-graft institutions that require people with integrity to serve. Sallay asserts that whatever happens in the country affects young people greatly, so government should sustain and promote a strong youth generation and anti-

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### Public Service Announcement

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summit to take advantage of the current economic situation in the country by saving in their accounts more Liberian dollars which would eventually add more interest value on their savings at various commercial banks when situation improves.

He urged the government to create the environment for people to easily do business which will help to resolving the tight economic environment here.

Also, speaking at the summit on the topic: "How can public sector promote integrity among youth", a student of governance and public administration at the University of Liberia (UL) and Coordinator of the A. Romeo Horton College, Lamie A. Sallay, calls on Liberians to begin to deny individuals with integrity problem from

graft institutions faced with integrity problem.

According to him, integrity should first start with President Weah, who must ensure that people being appointed to work in his government do not have integrity problems, stressing, the President cabinet's closet must be clean of people lacking integrity to work in government.

He calls on the government to create the political will to implement laws and legislations that prevent people with integrity question from working in government, though they might be qualified.

The National Youth Enlightenment Summit-2019 is an annual event that brings together youth from various backgrounds to brainstorm on issues that affect their growth and development as young people in Liberia.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Liberia to connect plantations, larger customers  
As CLSG sets target for March 2020**

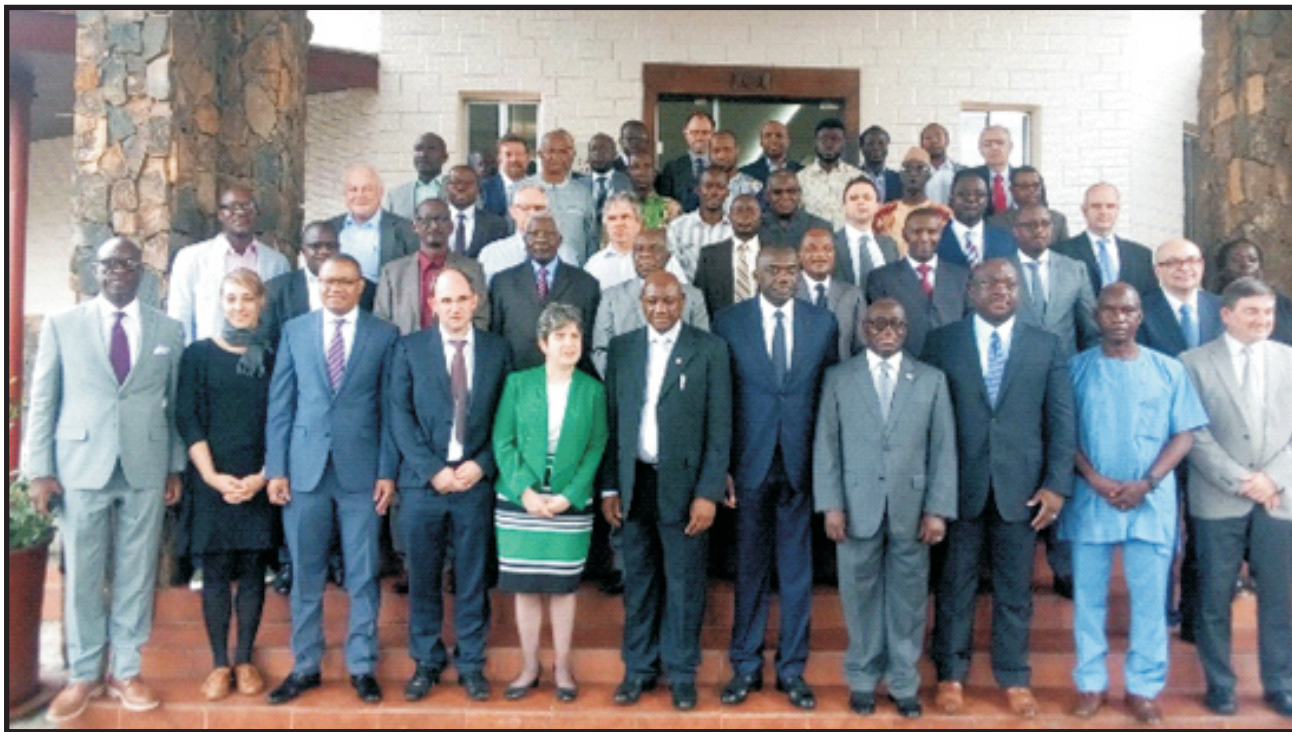
By Winston W. Parley

Liberia is poised to connect to its powergrid, large customers including plantations and mining companies if all goes well to meet a target of commissioning CLSG Transco

Country Manager KhwimaNthara, noted his involvement in making sure that this project comes to fruition due to the immense benefits Liberia stands to get, including supplying power to large customers including

[sector],” Mr. Nthara says.

The Management of TRANSCO CLSG, a regional transmission company responsible for the transmission of affordable and reliable electricity to millions of citizens in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea is holding a major Donors’ Coordination



power supply line from neighboring Cote d’Ivoire to connect targeted designations by end of March 2020.

At the beginning of CLSG Donors’ Coordination meeting in Monrovia Monday, 9 December, World Bank Liberia

plantations and mining.

“Not only will Liberia be able to import power, but it will also be able to export power. But this project will also help with electrification, in particular being able to supply power to some of the large customers between plantations in the mining

meeting in Monrovia to discuss progress and challenges in implementing the CLSG project.

For Liberia in particular, Mr. Nthara indicates that the importance of the project cannot be overemphasized, saying energy



**Local farming group launches rice harvest program**

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Kwapaigei Farmers Development Cooperative Society of Panta District has launched its first rice harvest program in Panta, with support from

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The association is currently benefiting a technical and financial support from the FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and other partners the World Food program (WFP) in Liberia.

Giving the background of the Association in the County, its Manager Mr. Francis Pelewoe says the group was founded in 2012 with the sole purpose of bringing farmers together as a unit to involve into a production of rice on the larger scale in Bong County and Liberia at large.

Mr. Pelewoe calls on central government to provide loan in order to help improve the living conditions of local farmers in the area.

Also making a brief statement at the occasion, the Assistant Internal Affairs Minister for Commune Farming AyoubaFofana lauds the team for the initiative, and for turning it into a hardworking group that is willing to make Liberia self-sufficient in food production.

He assures the group of government’s commitment in providing more support to communal farmers in Liberia, and also extends praises to the group for harvesting seventeen hectares of lowland rice in the County.

Minister Fofana than uses



**No new LD banknotes printed**

**CBL clarifies**

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has clarified that it has not authorized the printing of any new Liberian dollar (LD) banknotes.

The CBL in a statement issued Monday December 9, also dismissed speculations that a consignment of Liberian dollars has been brought into the country.

“The CBL wishes to categorically dispel this information and informs the public that the Bank has not printed any Liberian dollar bank notes, least to say that a consignment of LD has been brought into the country. CBL is guided by conventional and statutory policies regarding the printing and importation of banknotes,” the bank said.

However, the CBL clarified that a consignment of U.S. dollars was imported following

banknotes is a routine activity of the CBL as a modus operandiof its monetary policy actions and mandate.

As per the Central Bank of Liberia Act of 1999, Part V Section 21 (3), the CBL has the authority “to directly administer the currency reserve inventory, develop and implement plans, and ensure the regular supply of banknotes and coins, in order to meet the currency requirements of the economy.”

The CBL statement said while the Bank upholds the principles of transparency and accountability, the CBL wishes to further state that the importation of cash is not publicized, but rather subject to established reporting channels in existence at the Bank.

The release concludes with the bank encouraging the public to cautiously discuss monetary policy operations of



assessment of the liquidity needs in the financial sector. It said importation of

the CBL in order to enhance credibility in the Bank and promote confidence in the

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the medium to encourage other farmers to follow suit.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jackson A. Momo, an official of the FAO also lauds the association for the effort, and promises the Organization’s full commitment in providing more technical and financial supports to group as a way of

empowering it.

At the same time, some of the farmers who spoke to reporters expressed a complete happiness over the harvest, and lauded FAO for the technical and financial supports towards their initiative.—*Edited by Winston*



# Français

## Agnès Taylor, ex-épouse de l'ancien président Taylor, est libre

**A**gnès Taylor, l'ex-femme de l'ancien président libérien emprisonné Charles Taylor, devrait recouvrer sa liberté après qu'un juge d'Old Bailey a rejeté une série d'accusations de torture portées contre elle, a rapporté le journal britannique The Guardian.

Selon The Guardian, le procès, qui portait sur des crimes présumés qui auraient été commises pendant la guerre civile de l'État de l'Afrique de l'Ouest en 1990, avait été reportés à plusieurs reprises à la suite d'une bataille juridique qui a duré des années, avant que la Cour suprême du Royaume-Uni ne fût saisie.

Taylor, 54 ans, qui vivait à Dagenham, dans l'est de Londres, travaillait comme maître de conférences à l'Université de Coventry. Elle a été inculpée en 2017. Elle a nié toutes les charges retenues retenue contre elle, ce qui n'a toutefois pas empêché sa détention préventive dans la prison pour femmes de Bronzefield en attendant son procès, qui devrait commencer en janvier de l'année prochaine.

Les accusations de torture - comme les crimes de guerre - peuvent être jugées par les tribunaux britanniques qui jouissent d'une compétence universelle, où que des délits aussi graves auraient été commis.

Taylor, portant un pull vert et un collier de perles, est apparue vendredi à l'Old Bailey via une liaison vidéo depuis la

prison de Bronzefield pour entendre le juge Sweeney rejeter toutes les accusations portées contre elle. L'accusation a indiqué qu'elle ne ferait pas appel.

Trois autres des huit accusations de torture étaient liées à des « douleurs ou souffrances intenses » qui auraient été infligées à un garçon de 13 ans. Une

accusation de complot en vue de torturer portait sur des allégations de viols commis par les forces du Front national patriotique du Libéria dans un village.

Elle avait été accusée d'avoir commis les crimes alors qu'elle était fonctionnaire ou agissait à titre officiel.

Charles Taylor a été président du Libéria de 1997 à 2003. Il purge une peine de 50 ans dans une prison britannique après avoir été reconnu coupable en 2012 par un tribunal international de La Haye d'avoir aidé et encouragé des crimes de guerre en Sierra Leone. Près de 250 000 personnes auraient été tuées pendant le conflit en Afrique de l'Ouest, en partie à cause de « diamants de sang », entre 1989 et 2003.

L'ancien président a appelé le tribunal soutenu par l'ONU à être autorisé à purger sa peine en Afrique, mais en vain. Taylor est détenu à la prison de Frankland, près de Durham.

Répondant à l'échec du procès, Charlie Loudon, le conseiller juridique international de l'organisme de bienfaisance Redress, qui est intervenu dans la procédure devant la Cour suprême, a déclaré : « C'est un résultat difficile, principalement pour les victimes des crimes présumés, qui n'auront pas la possibilité de faire tester les allégations lors d'un procès.

« En ce qui concerne les conséquences juridiques plus larges, la Cour suprême a clairement indiqué que les membres d'autres groupes armés qui exercent un contrôle suffisant, comme Isis et les Talibans,

peuvent être poursuivis pour torture en vertu de la loi britannique. Et des crimes présumés similaires qui se sont produits plus récemment que cette affaire, à tout moment depuis 1991, s'ils sont prouvés, pourraient également être poursuivis en tant que crimes de guerre.

« La priorité est que le Royaume-Uni continue d'investir dans des poursuites comme celle-ci. Le public britannique ne veut pas que des tortionnaires et des criminels de guerre présumés se promènent dans ses rues. Et pour de nombreuses victimes à travers le monde, leur seul espoir de justice passe par un tribunal britannique. »

Rendant sa décision, qui n'a pas été lue au tribunal lors de l'audience de 10 minutes, le juge a déclaré que Taylor ne

pouvait pas être accusé de torture en tant que crime contre l'humanité ou crime de guerre parce que les infractions présumées avaient eu lieu en 1990 - avant les sections concernées de la loi sur la Cour pénale internationale ont été introduites en 1991.

Taylor a quitté le Libéria en 1992 et a divorcé de son mari en 1996, avant la fin de la guerre civile. Elle n'a pas quitté le Royaume-Uni depuis 2001, avait déjà entendu le tribunal.

Les procureurs ont fait valoir qu'elle agissait à titre officiel de facto au nom du groupe armé Front national patriotique du Libéria (NPFL), qui aurait été formé par Charles Taylor et responsable des attaques contre le président Samuel Doe pendant la guerre civile.

Dans sa déclaration de défense à la suite de son arrestation en 2017, Mme Taylor a déclaré qu'elle n'avait à aucun moment agi à titre officiel pour le NPFL et a contesté que le NPFL était l'autorité gouvernementale de facto dans les domaines concernés aux moments pertinents.

Mme Taylor n'aurait eu aucun contact avec l'ancien dictateur à la suite de sa condamnation pour avoir aidé et encouragé la commission de crimes de guerre, pour lesquels il a été condamné à 50 ans de prison.

Mme Taylor a demandé un congé de durée indéterminée pour rester au Royaume-Uni en 2013, ce qui a été refusé en 2016 au motif qu'il y avait des craintes qu'elle puisse avoir commis un crime de guerre.

Un juge à l'immigration sera désormais invité à se prononcer sur son statut d'immigration, ce qui signifie qu'elle pourrait être autorisée à continuer à vivre au Royaume-Uni où elle a de la famille, y compris deux sœurs et un frère musicien de jazz.

Un porte-parole du CPS a déclaré :

« Il s'agit d'une affaire historique, impliquant des questions de droit complexes qui ont été traitées pour la première fois par la Cour suprême, la plus haute juridiction du Royaume-Uni. De nouvelles limites ont été établies pour définir qui peut être considéré comme agissant en « qualité officielle » dans le contexte d'allégations de torture.

« La Cour suprême a affiné l'interprétation de la loi et, à la lumière de son jugement, le juge de première instance a fait droit à la demande d'Agnès Taylor de rejeter la plainte contre elle. Nous examinerons attentivement cette décision.



Ex-Pres. Charles Taylor

Agnès Taylor

## La Sud-Africaine Zozibini Tunzi est Miss Univers 2019

L'Afrique du Sud se réjouit ce lundi 9 décembre de la victoire de sa candidate au concours de Miss Univers. Âgée de 26 ans et étudiante en relations publiques, Zozibini Tunzi est la troisième Sud-Africaine à être couronnée dans l'histoire de la compétition.

Silhouette longiligne,

cheveux très courts au naturel, et grand sourire, Zozibini Tunzi a marqué l'édition 2019 de Miss Univers par son style original, et son discours final. « J'ai grandi dans un monde où une femme comme moi, avec mon type de peau et mon type de cheveux, n'a jamais été considérée comme étant belle », s'est-elle confiée,

espérant que sa victoire permette de changer ces critères de beauté.

Sa prestation lui a permis de ravir la couronne à plus de 90 candidates, et de battre notamment les deux autres finalistes, Miss Porto Rico et Miss Mexique.

Apprendre aux jeunes filles à devenir des leaders

La candidate sud-africaine est aussi revenue sur le droit des femmes, une question très présente lors de cette édition, et au cœur de l'actualité de son pays. Elle a insisté sur l'importance d'apprendre aux jeunes filles à devenir des leaders et des dirigeantes, pour atteindre l'émancipation.

Une victoire célébrée sur les réseaux sociaux par de nombreuses personnalités, comme l'animatrice de télévision Oprah Winfrey, ou le président Cyril Ramaphosa, qui espère que de nombreux enfants sud-africains seront inspirés par ce couronnement.





# Français

## Editorial

### Weah doit écouter la voix de la sagesse

Le président George Manneh Weah, qui est actuellement sous pression, vu l'incapacité apparente de son gouvernement de payer les salaires des fonctionnaires et d'améliorer la gouvernance et les conditions de vie des libériens deux ans après son ascension à la magistrature suprême à la suite des élections démocratiques, est invité à permettre aux Libériens insatisfaits d'exprimer librement leur mécontentement par une manifestation pacifique. Le chef de l'Etat est prié de ne pas priver le peuple de son droit constitutionnel.

L'ancien vice-président et actuel leader politique de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, a déclaré qu'il est important que les citoyens qui ne sont pas contents exercent leurs droits constitutionnels au rassemblement, à la liberté d'expression et à la sécurité.

Dans une lettre ouverte, le candidat malheureux à la présidentielle de 2017 a exhorté le chef de l'Etat George Weah à s'acquitter de ses obligations envers les fonctionnaires qui menacent de lancer un mot d'ordre de grève pour réclamer des arriérés de salaire. " Ces citoyens patriotes ont joué leur rôle. Ils méritent une récompense digne de leur travail et ont le droit de pouvoir subvenir aux besoins de leur famille », a-t-il dit.

C'est la première fois que l'homme d'Etat âgé de 75 ans, qui a exercé les fonctions de vice-président pendant deux mandats sous l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a été si franc avec l'administration Weah sur la situation économique actuelle du Libéria.

Nous exhortons la coalition au pouvoir à recevoir la lettre et à commencer à agir pour répondre aux préoccupations des citoyens, car il s'agit bien là du contrat social que M. George Manneh Weah, en sa qualité de candidat à l'élection présidentielle précédente, a signé avec le peuple qui a fait de lui aujourd'hui président de la république du Libéria.

C'est le lieu de rappeler que le Conseil des Patriotes (COP), un groupe local proche de l'opposition, avait récemment écrit au ministère de la Justice pour l'informer de son intention d'organiser un rassemblement pacifique baptisé « Weah must step down » pour pousser le président à la démission vu la situation économique du pays et l'incapacité apparente de son gouvernement d'y remédier. Le COP, conformément à la loi, demandait au ministère de la justice d'assurer la protection de la marche qui est prévue le 31 décembre. Le COP est dirigé par Henry Costa, un animateur de radio.

C'est le même groupe qui avait organisé la manifestation du 7 juin à Monrovia. Il avait appelé le gouvernement au respect de l'Etat de droit et à lutter honnêtement contre la corruption.

Le gouvernement ne peut pas continuer de fermer les yeux sur ces problèmes qui sont très pertinents. Le régime du président Weah devrait en toute honnêteté s'en prendre à lui-même car sa manière de procéder laisse champ libre à toutes sortes de soupçons. M. Boakai n'a-t-il pas également fait état des 25 millions de dollars américains que l'administration actuelle avait décaissés pour éponger l'excès de liquidité et des 16 milliards de dollars libériens nouvellement imprimés qui n'ont pas encore été correctement comptabilisés ?

Nous considérons l'appel de l'ancien vice-président comme une voix de sagesse, c'est la voix d'un ancien qui a servi deux administrations et qui a une grande expérience.

Nous encourageons le président Weah à mettre de côté son ego et à écouter son peuple et les fonctionnaires qui ne demandent rien d'autre que leurs salaires car il y va leur survie et celle de leur famille. Nous encourageons également le président à œuvrer en faveur de la négociation avec ceux qui sont considérés à tort ou à raison comme des adversaires politiques ou des frères ennemis, afin que, ensemble, nous puissions trouver un terrain d'entente pour le bien de tous et de la postérité.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Sami Mahroum

### Le monde arabe a besoin d'un débat du Brexit

**B**ARCELONE - Depuis les trois dernières années, un monde confus assiste au compte à rebours du rebours de la sortie du Royaume-Uni de l'Union européenne, mieux connu sous le nom de Brexit. La sortie de l'UE va probablement avoir une grave incidence sur l'économie britannique. Pourtant, d'un point de vue arabe, le débat prolongé sur le Brexit n'est pas un signe d'échec politique. En revanche, seul un pays ayant une maturité politique aux racines aussi profondes que le Royaume-Uni peut espérer résister à une telle rupture dans les domaines juridique, commercial, voire même dans celui des relations sociales mises en place au cours du dernier demi-siècle.

Le monde arabe, en revanche, a été témoin d'au moins un grand événement comparable au Brexit chaque décennie depuis 1948 - et ces ruptures politiques, économiques et sociales ne semblent jamais guérir. Le premier épisode a été la création d'Israël et le « Brexit » du peuple palestinien hors du territoire qui est devenu l'Etat juif. Une grande partie de la Palestine historique a été abandonnée et ses habitants ont été destinés à vivre dans des camps pour les décennies à venir. Tout une économie arabe a disparu et Israël a été boycotté par ses voisins arabes.

Puis de 1952 à 1970, l'Égypte sous le président Gamal Abdel Nasser s'est lancée dans une expérience de nationalisation de son économie, qui défendait la substitution des importations et qui a considérablement affaibli les liens commerciaux du pays avec le reste de la région. Lorsque Anouar el-Sadate, le successeur de Nasser, a conclu un traité de paix avec Israël en 1979, les pays arabes ont puni l'Égypte par un boycott politique et économique.

Au cours de la même période, plusieurs autres grands États arabes, notamment l'Irak, la Syrie, la Libye et l'Algérie, se sont inspirés du modèle économique soviétique et ont restreint le commerce et les investissements du secteur privé. Contrairement aux 15 républiques qui composaient l'Union soviétique, les régimes du monde arabe, inspirés par les régimes soviétiques, n'ont pas développé le commerce entre eux : en fait, certains comme l'Irak et la Syrie se sont boycottés les uns les autres.

Lorsque l'économie politique du monde arabe n'est pas tombée en panne, sans pour autant prendre le chemin de l'autarcie, la géopolitique a infligé d'autres dommages. En 1990, les troupes irakiennes ont envahi et occupé le Koweït, qui était à l'époque l'économie la plus dynamique du monde arabe, privant ainsi ce pays de sa souveraineté. Suite à cela, l'Irak a subi des sanctions internationales et des forces armées sous commandement américain ont libéré le Koweït. Bien évidemment, en 2003, une coalition dirigée par les États-Unis a envahi et occupé l'Irak : une décision qui a entraîné l'ordre régional d'alors dans la tourmente et qui continue de l'affecter jusqu'à présent.

Durant le Printemps arabe de 2010 à 2016, la région a connu un processus accéléré de Brexit en chaîne, lorsque des manifestants dans plusieurs pays (Tunisie, Égypte, Libye, Syrie, Yémen et finalement Irak) ont recherché une liberté que de nombreux régimes considéraient comme illégitime. Pendant ce temps, les tensions politiques dans le reste du monde ont fermé la frontière entre l'Algérie et le Maroc aux affaires,

ont rompu les liens commerciaux entre le Qatar et plusieurs pays du Golfe et ont isolé l'Iran sur le plan économique.

Les « Brexits » arabes surviennent sans mise en garde, sans négociation, sans délibération parlementaire ni débat médiatique et persistent habituellement des décennies durant. Mais à présent, l'incidence de ces catastrophes économiques auto-infligées saute douloureusement aux yeux.

En fait, les manifestations actuelles, les grèves et la violence dans plusieurs pays arabes semblent indiquer l'heure d'une prise de conscience. Ces troubles pourraient provoquer un Printemps arabe 2.0, centré cette fois, nous l'espérons, sur la prospérité plutôt que sur le pouvoir.

C'est le message qui semble se faire entendre à Bagdad, à Beyrouth et dans d'autres villes dans la région, où les manifestants réclament que les politiciens prennent du recul et laissent les technocrates prendre la direction des opérations. Bien qu'il puisse sembler naïf de s'attendre à ce que des experts en politique se comportent mieux que des politiciens professionnels, les Arabes en ont assez des systèmes politiques opaques dans lesquels ils ont peu sinon aucune influence sur les décisions qui affectent leur vie.

Un Printemps arabe 2.0 devrait donc déclencher un débat sur le genre d'avenir économique que veulent les citoyens, sur leur mode d'interaction avec leurs propres gouvernements et sur leurs relations avec les pays voisins. Bref, après des décennies d'impasse de type Brexit, les Arabes doivent débattre des mêmes questions que celles auxquelles les électeurs britanniques sont confrontés depuis le référendum de juin 2016.

Cela implique l'ouverture du processus de prise de décision politique vers un débat et une prise de position à l'échelle de la société. Un engagement plus large auprès des talents technocratiques peut permettre d'y distinguer ces innovateurs politiques dont la région a si cruellement besoin. Bien que le monde arabe manque actuellement d'institutions fortes et actives du type des groupes de réflexion qui galvanisent la prise de position des experts (comme ceux qui ont façonné le destin d'autres pays au cours de crises graves), cela n'est pas toujours le cas. Après tout, l'engagement politique n'est pas seulement une affaire d'élections et de représentation, mais concerne également une analyse attentive et informée des activités de prise de position.

Dans La République, Platon a écrit : « il n'y a pas de bon gouvernement tant que les philosophes ne sont pas rois et les rois, philosophes. » En même temps, il n'y a bien sûr aucune garantie que des technocrates arabes ne deviennent pas eux-mêmes des politiciens sans scrupules. Hitler et Staline, par exemple, ont manipulé la science pour justifier de grands projets d'ingénierie sociale qui ont tué des millions de personnes.

Mais sans un certain effort visant à dépolitiser les politiques publiques et à placer l'engagement social avant la garantie de l'application de mesures politiques, de nouveaux Brexits arabes, ainsi que le maintien du malaise économique, sont une certitude. Des manifestants à Bagdad, à Beyrouth et ailleurs appellent à une politique participative et à un débat ouvert. Leur appel ne doit pas rester sans réponse.



# Weah wants NCCRM functional

President George M. Weah charges Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor to keep the National Center for the Coordination and Response Mechanism (NCCRM) otherwise known as the Early Warning Center functional.

A press release from the Office of Vice President Taylor says President Weah also calls on the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to make available financial support for the effective functioning of the Center which currently faces serious financial and logistical challenges.

The comments by President Weah were contained in a special statement delivered on his behalf by Special Envoy, Dr. Laurence K. Bropleh.

Dr. Bropleh quoted President Weah as saying a proposed legislation to legally establish the Center will

Babatunde Ajisomo, Special Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Liberia, for the continued support to the Center.

She indicated that Ambassador Ajisomo is not only a partner member to the Center but a true friend who is greatly helpful to Liberia's development process.

Lamenting the serious financial constraints facing the Center, VP Howard-Taylor appealed to the Government and donor partners including the United States Embassy here and the ECOWAS Commission to increase their assistance in tackling the challenges facing the Center.

Speaking earlier, the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, Her Excellency Finda Koroma assured that the Commission takes seriously the activities of the NCCRM, saying that the Commission



VP Jewel Howard Taylor

shortly be submitted to the Legislature for passage into law.

He spoke recently at the Center's main offices in the ECOWAS Compound here during official induction of members of the Statutory Board, which is charged with the responsibility to exercise supervisory control of the Center.

By protocol of ECOWAS, the Board is chaired by the Vice President of a member country.

In her inaugural address, Ms Taylor recounted financial constraints faced by the NCCRM, and paid special tribute to visionaries in the sub-regional framework who conceived this peace-building and peace sustaining initiative.

The NCCRM Statutory Board Chairperson expressed government's gratitude to His Excellency

remains committed to supporting the Center through the Commission's recently approved budget.

Vice President Koroma exercises oversight over the Abuja-based ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate.

The NCCRM is an early warning response mechanism which alerts relevant authorities of any threats to the peace and security of a country, region or the continent.

Also speaking, Director of the Center, Dr. Roland T. Clarke, complained of months of salary arrears which he said has caused mass resignations and stalled the operations of the Center.

Under the Agreement that established the NCCRM, the Government of Liberia is responsible to provide operational funds while the United States Embassy through ECOWAS is to provide salary for

# Liberia to connect

Cont'd from page 7

is very critical in catalyzing development.

"I will speak for Liberia, we're now about to enter the dry season, we are already anxious with regards to supply of electricity and therefore we'll be looking forward to the commissioning of the CLSG line sooner rather than later," Mr. Nthara says.

He adds that "we" know the extent to which it's going to help alleviate the challenges that Liberia [has] been facing with regards to electricity supply during the dry season.

Going forward, Mr. Nthara expresses hope that there won't be any surprises, saying he looks forward to the March 2020 target because this is a project that has been long awaited by the people of Liberia.

On the part of the World Bank and the development partners, Mr. Nthara re-commits their support to the

project, working with all of the stakeholders, including government and development partners, saying this will also be a source of revenue for the government.

Through the CLSG Transco Project, Mohammed Sherif, CLSG General Manager says Cote d'Ivoire will sell electricity to the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and sign transmission service agreement with Transco CLSG for the power supply destination.

The supply destination, according to Mr. Sherif, could be substations in Yekepah, Nimba; Buchanan, Grand Bassa; Mount Coffey, Montserrado; Mano, for Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu and Bomi Counties and Botota for Central Liberia, Southeast and Lofa Counties.

Mr. Sherif details that all the substations in Liberia with the exception of Botota, will be completed this December.

He notes that the discussion in Monrovia is about telling the CLSG Donors that it is good to bring in the line and to help the Government of Liberia to do more transmissions and distributions given the financial and economic constraints the country faces.

At the same time, Mr. Sherif notes that the LEC has its own role to play to work internally on control as well as managing its system to cut down losses and illegal connections.

He indicates that "It will be very unfortunate when the CLSG line comes from Yekepah, Government of Liberia is not ready to connect the households," noting that it is the responsibility of the government to connect the households.

"So were we to come in March and the Government of Liberia through the LEC is not ready to take on the electricity which is far ... lower, affordable, than currently

# Oil blocks for sale

Cont'd from page 6

triggered a re-demarcation process, resorting into nine (9) blocks within the Harper Basin and 24 blocks within the entire Liberia Basin. The Harper Basin, which covers nine blocks from LB-25 to LB33, will be tendered during the 2020 licensing round.

The statement says this is a watershed moment for Liberia and the LPRA is excited to reach an agreement with all

parties, including TGS and NOCAL in promoting Liberia's offshore average and attracting investments that would support for the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah.

Meanwhile, a formal announcement on the actual licensing data in 2020 will be made shortly by President Weah, based on

recommendation from the LPRA, working in concert with NOCAL and TGS.

Liberia had sold several oil blocks during the former Sirleaf administration but the ex-regime said deposits found did not meet commercial value, and the NOCAL became insolvent under Mr. Robert Sirleaf, son of Madam Sirleaf, and she took full responsibility under her watch. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# PROMOTION

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# Expert justifies printing of new money

In the wake of ongoing debate over the printing of a new family of Liberian dollar banknotes, an expert has warned that the current economic situation has given a justifiable reason why the government should change the entire currency.

The Executive Director of the Liberian Microeconomic Policy Analysis Center (LIMPA) Mr. Del-Francis Wreh told senior media managers at a strategic media session on the state of the economy, the printing of the proposed Liberian banknotes and the state of the government's salary harmonization program organized by the Ministry of

commercial banks through their accounts. He said this would force people who are keeping the money outside of the banking system to deposit same at the banks.

Currently there are shortages of Liberian banknotes within the commercial banks leaving banks to ration the little available cash. The situation has left depositors without access to their physical cash in the banks.

Mr. Wreh argues that most of the cash are currently in the hands of the Fulani and Lebanese merchants, while some big businesses have

that is also contributing significantly to capital flights here.

He said cross border trade is also affecting the country's foreign reserve, because individuals needing United States Dollars in say Guinea could just buy the equivalent of that amount in good and cross into Liberia to sell in United States Dollar and take the cash out.

Liberia operates a dual currency regime therefore it is very easy for those traders to transact in the US Dollar and take it away.

To address these issues, Mr. Wreh said the government is considering a hybrid system, which is to print less quantity of money and promote digital transaction where there will be less cash available in circulation. He said the introduction of the hybrid system would pave the way for migration to a total digitalization of the economy.

It is against this backdrop that he thinks people should be encouraged to transact in mobile money, instead of cashing out the mobile money which would also decrease available cash at the mobile money centers.

Mobile money transaction is the easy available digital money app in Liberia at the moment.

Speaking earlier on the government salary harmonization program, he said the government has completed the salary harmonization process and that the deadline for full application and implementation is January 2020.

He said the new measure discourages the general allowance system and payroll piling through the now automated system. He said though the process is not 100 percent completed but as it stands it makes it difficult for any ministry or agency to add any employee without going through the rightful recruitment system.



Finance and Development Planning on Monday December 9, that there are too much money outside the control of the banking sector and that is hurting the economy.

He said for government to exercise control over its monetary policy, it first needs to know how much money is in circulation. And in order to know the total amount in circulation, Mr. Wreh argues further that the government needs to change the existing banknotes and put in a framework that would demand that individuals exchange their money at the

resorted to building their own vaults because of the decreasing confidence in the banking sector. He said all these practices are keeping the money outside the banking system.

He also lashed out at the country's foreign exchange transaction system, saying it is working at the disadvantage of the country because most of the Fulani merchants who are engage in the foreign exchange market do not keep their cash in the commercial banks. But rather outside the banking system from where they can later repatriate them to their country-a practice

# UNDP launches Liberia

Starts from back page

government, policymakers, and international development partners, need to jointly craft new policies, put in place new plans, and prescription which will help Government tackle the issues as everyone looks towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

She says nations cannot achieve the SDGs goals of leaving no one behind, if both trends are not inclusive or remain stagnated, unsustainable and the gender gap continues to widen in terms of empowerment, inclusion, and better access to opportunity for women.

Madam Taylor also emphasizes that one cannot achieve the SDG if climate change and environmental sustainability are not confronted, saying if concession based modules of development are not revisited to ensure economic

recommends that in order to achieve SDGs, issues of gender equality and women empowerment are key.

Earlier, UNDP Resident Representative Pa Lamin Beyai says since the HDR first release in 1990, a flagship publication for UNDP, is produced periodically to promote development discourse. He notes that the HDR got the interest of the world, because it presented a different way of measuring progress beyond income.

Mr. Beyai explains the title "Human Development Report 2019: Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century", reveals that despite unprecedented progress against poverty, hunger and disease; systemic inequalities are still present.

He says differences in earnings, inequality are also about unequal distribution of



Vice President of the Republic of Liberia Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor launching the UNDP 2019 HDR report at Monrovia City Hall.

diversification, poor citizen rate engagement and effective governance of natural resources.

"We will never achieve the SDGs if land tenure and land rights do not address issues of alternative livelihood to project their family in the concession areas. If government fails to provide proper education by employment, skills, innovation and jobs for the youthful population of which Liberia has about 60%", VP Taylor warns.

She further says if government fails to mobilize resources of domestic revenues, expand the tax base and reduce reliance on external finance, it would never achieve SDGs. She added that if National budget are not aligned with National priorities to reduce inequalities, lift level of poverty, Liberia will not achieve the SDGs.

Vice President Taylor

wealth and power, and entrenched social and political norms.

He notes that UNDP will continue to work with the Government of Liberia, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders to support inclusive and equitable development, adding that they focus on vulnerable groups, seeking to foster gender equality; and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. in remarks says Liberia is challenging maternal and infant mortality, adding that education and health sectors need to be looked at more. Minister Tweah recalls last year, it was reported that in maternal mortality 25 per 1000 women were dying.

He promises that as a government, they will deliver better, and find more

# U.S. suspends non-immigrant visa

The United States Embassy in Liberia has announced the suspension of the issuance of its Non Immigrant Visa to applicants residing in Liberia.

Though reasons for the temporary suspension has not been given, many here are speculating that the U.S Embassy's move is as a result of the prevailing challenging economic situation in the country.

In a brief statement posted on its website purposely for

visa applicants www.ustravel.doc.com, it reads:

"The U.S. Embassy in Liberia is temporarily suspending its non-immigrant visa operations.

All applications during this period will be rescheduled through our online appointment system. We regret the inconvenience this causes to Liberian applicants."





## UNDP launches Liberia Human Development Report 2019



By Ethel A. Tweh

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launches Liberia Global Human Development Report, under the theme: Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today; Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century.

Officially launching the report here Monday, 09 December Liberia's Vice

President Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor says government's development roadmap, "Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development" seeks to provide access, increase equality and ensure inclusion for all under a development framework.

Vice President Taylor explains the 2019 HDR provides an authoritative and unbiased analysis of ranking in certain key sectors, including

Human Development Index (HDI) International Human Development Index (IHDI) and Global Development Index (GDI), among others which reflects the quality of human development, gender gaps, women empowerment, environmental and social economic sustainability.

She notes that based on findings from the report,



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## Arsenal gain first win under Ljungberg

Arsenal came from a goal down to beat West Ham and end a winless run of nine matches and gain their first victory under interim boss Freddie Ljungberg.

The Gunners, who were in their worst form since 1977, went behind when Angelo Ogbonna's header deflected in off defender Ainsley Maitland-Niles.



Gabriel Martinelli equalised when he converted Sead Kolasinac's pull-back.

Arsenal's record signing Nicolas Pepe curled in a fine second, then set up Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang for a third.

The Gunners had not won since a 3-2 success over Portuguese side Vitoria de Guimaraes in the Europa League on 24 October and sacked Unai

Emery last month.

Former Arsenal midfielder Ljungberg, in temporary charge in his first managerial role, had seen his team draw 2-2 at Norwich and lose 2-1 at home against Brighton on Thursday.

The Gunners failed to have a shot on target in the opening hour before three goals in nine minutes turned the match around at London Stadium.

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