



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

Erratum:

We mistakenly attributed the Guest Speaker for the University of Liberia Alumni Home-Coming Day program to Alumnus Saydah Taylor, as was published on December 9, 2019 under the caption: UL Alumni urged to be innovative

The official Guest Speaker for the occasion was Madam Lucia Massalee Yallah, not Saydah Taylor.

Management sincerely regrets all inconveniences.

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Continental News

Tech firms sued over DR Congo cobalt mining deaths

Apple, Google, Tesla and Microsoft are among firms named in a lawsuit seeking damages over deaths and injuries of child miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The case has been filed by the International Rights Advocates on behalf of 14 Congolese families.

They accuse the companies of knowing that cobalt used in their products could be linked to child labour.

DR Congo produces 60% of the world's supply of cobalt.

The mineral is used to produce lithium-ion batteries used to power electric cars, laptops and smartphones.

However, the extraction process has been beset with concerns of illegal mining,



Artisanal mining is common in DR Congo as people do it as a means to make a living

human rights abuses and corruption. The lawsuit filed in the US argues that the tech companies had "specific knowledge" that the cobalt sourced for their products could be linked to child

labour.

They say the companies failed to regulate their supply chains and instead profited from exploitation. Other companies listed in the lawsuit are computer

manufacturer Dell and mining companies, Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt and Glencore, who own the minefields where the Congolese families allege their children worked. Glencore said in a statement to the UK's Telegraph newspaper that it "does not purchase, process or trade any artisanally mined ore" adding that it also "does not tolerate any form of child, forced, or compulsory labour." The BBC has sought comment from Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt. The court papers, seen by the UK's Guardian newspaper, give

several examples of child miners buried alive or suffering from injuries after tunnel collapse.

The 14 Congolese families want the companies to compensate them for forced labour, emotional distress and negligent supervision.

In a response to the Telegraph, Microsoft said it was committed to responsible sourcing of minerals and that it investigates any violations by its suppliers and takes action.

The BBC has also sought comment from Google, Apple, Dell and Tesla. BBC

Wife charged with attempted murder of Zimbabwe vice-president

The estranged wife of Zimbabwe's vice-president has been charged with attempting to murder him. Marry Mubaiwa - already facing corruption charges - has been denied bail in Harare.

It is alleged that she tried to kill General Constantino Chiwenga while he was receiving medical treatment in South Africa.

The estranged wife of Zimbabwe's vice-president was initially arrested, and accused of money laundering and fraud.

The case was presented as proof of the country's new commitment to clean governance, after the misrule of the Mugabe era.

But then came the news that Marry Mubaiwa was also being charged with trying to kill her husband - the army general who overthrew Robert Mugabe.

He alleged that she had tried to prevent him getting medical treatment in South Africa, and had even pulled an intravenous drip out of his arm in hospital.

Regardless of the specific

details, in the eyes of many this case now fits a more familiar pattern - of a country where corrupt elites accuse each other of assassination plots and poisonings, and where the police and courts are used to settle scores.

A country, in other words, where precious little seems to have changed since the days of Mr Mugabe. That sense is compounded by Zimbabwe's deepening economic crisis - the country is gripped by hyperinflation, crippling power-shortages, and mass hunger. BBC



ECOWAS leaders meet over Niger army base attack



Image copyright NIGER PRESIDENCY: Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou received the bodies of the dead soldiers on Friday

Leaders from west African countries fighting the jihadist insurgency in the Sahel have held a short prayer service in Niger beside the graves of 71 soldiers who were killed last week during an attack on a military camp.

They were buried on Friday inside a military base close to the capital Niamey.

The Islamic State (IS) group said it carried out the attack.

A regional force, helped by French troops, is battling the jihadists.

Analysts say the insurgency waged in the Sahel by militants linked to IS and al-Qaeda is escalating at an alarming rate despite the presence of thousands of troops.

Last week's attack in Niger's western town of In Ates was described as the deadliest raid against the Nigerien military in living memory.

The presidents of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania and Chad will be holding a crisis meeting amidst the deteriorating security situation after the deaths of more than 230 soldiers over the last four months.

The 71 soldiers killed in In Ates were part of the G5 Sahel regional force, which is supported by 4,500 French troops.

The five-nation counter insurgency force was launched four years ago when almost all the attacks by the Islamist militants were in Mali.

But since then the area affected by the violence has grown significantly and spread to neighbouring countries. That's partly because the regional force is under equipped and many of the soldiers are poorly trained. - BBC

EDITORIAL

How pastors abandon Brumskine

THE ARCHDIOCESAN BISHOP of the Bethel Cathedral of Hope, Dr. M. WoloBellehput it bluntly on Friday, 13 December in his discourse at the funeral rites for the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, former presidential candidate and ex-political leader of the opposition Liberty Party, when he asked, "where are the pastors?" in complete surprise over the conspicuous absence of religious and church leaders at the funeral of a man who supported churches and became a friend to pastors.

DURING THE 2005 Presidential and General Elections a group of pastors prophesized that God had confirmed Cllr. Brumskine as the next President of Liberia, prophecy that never came to pass, making the men of God liars. Instead, Brumskine came third in the first round of the polls, which was the closest he ever came to the Presidency.

THAT SINGULAR RECOGNITION of the absence of pastors and churches at the official funeral of the man whose hand they had lifted as 'God-chosen' for the Land clearly exposes the fake prophecy and deceptive messages that some of our religious leaders preach to their congregation, primarily aimed at satisfying personal interest, using the name of God in vain.

IT IS SO regrettable that the late Cllr. Brumskine could have been abandoned so soon by the 'men of God' even prior to his death. Few months ago, the Liberty Party issued statement on the deteriorating health of the political leader, asking the nation for prayers for God to restore his health, but he eventually succumbed to the almighty death in the United States.

THERE ARE MANY lessons to learn from the unfortunate scenario involving the late Cllr. Brumskine and the so-called 'men of God' who parade the political corridor of our nation, raining prophecies on politicians desperate for power, deceiving them that God has approved their candidacy in exchange for 'brown envelopes.'

THEY NEVER GET tired of declaring prophecies and are currently parading the corridor of this administration, telling President George Manneh Weah not to worry, because all is well, and Liberia will shine with gold and diamond in the streets.

TODAY, CLLR. BRUMSKINE is no more. He has departed with an unfulfilled dream despite the 'men of God' prophecy. Those pastors who gave the prophecy should now ask themselves whether they truly heard from God.

BESIDES, POLITICIANS BRACING themselves for senatorial elections in 2020 should beware of con-artists moving about under the guise of bringing God's messages. They prey on people in desperate situations, seeking urgent attention from God.

THEY ALSO DECEIVE sick people, presenting themselves as spiritual healers when in fact, they are agents from the devil, seeking who to devour. Such individuals are heartless, as they would suck every penny out of a person that is already ill, leaving them naked and dry on their dying bed.

AND SO, PASTORS and churches that abandon Cllr. Brumskine on his sick bed and eventually his funeral, are nothing else, but wicked. They are not true children of God, as they parade themselves to be. Rather, they are money seekers, selling prophecy, handkerchief, oil and salt for fake miracle at the detriment of desperate solution seekers.

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Europe's Green Deal

The Green Deal announced by the European Commission is a demonstration of European social democracy at work. A mixed economy, combining markets, government regulation, the public sector, and civil society, will pursue a mixed strategy, combining public goals, public and private investments, and public support.

NEW YORK - Europe has done it. The European Green Deal announced by the European Commission is the first comprehensive plan to achieve sustainable development in any major world region. As such, it becomes a global benchmark - a "how-to" guide for planning the transformation to a prosperous, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable economy.

To be sure, the tasks confronting the European Union are daunting. Even reading the new document is daunting: a seeming welter of plans, consultations, frameworks, laws, budgets, and diplomacy, and many interconnected themes, ranging from energy to transport to food to industry.

Critics will scoff at the European bureaucracy. But this is bureaucracy in the finest Weberian sense: it is rational. The goals of sustainable development are spelled out clearly; targets are based on the time-bound goals; and processes and procedures are established in line with the targets. The overarching objectives are to reach "climate neutrality" (net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions) by 2050; a circular economy that ends the destructive pollution caused by plastics and other petrochemicals, pesticides, and other waste and toxic substances; and a "farm-to-fork" food system that neither kills people with an overly processed diet nor kills the land with unsustainable agricultural practices.

And the European Commission understands that this must be a citizen-based approach. Again, the critics will regard the talk of public consultations as naive fluff. But tell that to French President Emmanuel Macron, who has faced street riots for more than a year; or Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, whose country suddenly erupted in riots this fall after the introduction of a small increase in metro fares. Both Macron and Piñera are exemplary environmentalists. Both have committed their countries to climate neutrality by 2050. Both are urgently searching for a path of public consultations, but after the fact.

American neoliberals will scoff, too, arguing that the "market" will sort out climate change. Yet look at the United States today. If neoliberalism does for the planet what it's done for America's infrastructure, we're all in big trouble. Arriving at a US airport means facing elevators, escalators, and people movers that don't work, taxis that don't arrive, rail links that don't exist, and highways with broken lanes and overpasses.

The reason for this dysfunction is obvious: corruption. Each US election cycle now costs \$8 billion or more, financed by billionaires, Big Oil, the military-industrial complex, the private health-care lobby, and vested interests intent on tax breaks and protecting the status quo. Market-based solutions are a sham when politics is subordinated to lobbying, as it is in the US. The European Green Deal shows government as it should be, not government subordinated to corporate interests.

Europe's Green Deal is in fact a demonstration of successful European social democracy (in an operational rather than a narrow partisan sense). A mixed economy, combining markets, government regulation, the public sector, and civil society, will pursue a mixed strategy: public goals, public investments in infrastructure, private investments

in industrial transformation, public-private research and development missions, and an informed population. In fact, it is industrial policy at its most sophisticated. (I recently outlined such a social-democratic Green New Deal strategy for the US.)

There are reasons for optimism. Most important, the advanced technologies exist, commercially or pre-commercially, to create a zero-carbon, resource-saving, environmentally sustainable advanced economy. By combining renewable energy, digital technologies, advanced materials, and a sharing economy in transport and other infrastructure, we can decarbonize the energy system, move to a circular economy, and dramatically reduce the flow of primary resources.

Yet three big challenges must be addressed. The first is to overcome status quo interests. Big Oil will have to absorb the losses, but workers and coal regions should be compensated, with income support, retraining, and other public services. Europe's plans rightly call for a "just transition."

The second challenge is financing. Europe, and indeed every region of the world, will have to direct an incremental 1-2% of annual output toward the green economy, including new infrastructure, public procurement, R&D, industrial retooling, and other needs. Much of this will be financed by the private sector, but much must go through government budgets. Europe will need to face down the ideologues who oppose more EU spending. Facts will need to matter.

The last big challenge is diplomatic. Europe accounts for around 9.1% of global carbon dioxide emissions, compared with 30% for China and 14% for the US. Even if Europe fully implements the Green Deal, it will be for naught if China, the US, and other regions fail to match its efforts. European leaders therefore rightly treat diplomacy as crucial to the Green Deal's success.

Consider China. After decades of rapid growth that has eliminated mass poverty, China has become the world's leading emitter of CO₂ (though only half of America's emissions per person). China by itself will determine the world's climate future. On one hand, Chinese leaders know that their country is extremely vulnerable to climate change and at risk of becoming diplomatically isolated if it fails to decarbonize. On the other hand, they are confronting the dangers of America's misguided cold war. Government hardliners and China's coal lobby are resisting decarbonization in the midst of US pressures, especially since Trump himself is rejecting decarbonization.

European diplomacy can make the difference if it refuses to go along with America's insidious efforts to contain China, and instead offers China a clear and positive partnership: working together on sustainable Eurasian infrastructure, development, and technology, in the context of a Chinese Green Deal alongside Europe's. Such a partnership would hugely benefit Europe, China, and the dozens of Eurasian countries in between, and indeed the entire world.

Europe has made a historic breakthrough with its ambitious, challenging, and feasible plan. The Green Deal is a powerful beacon of hope in a world of confusion and instability.

O-PED

By Howard Davies

Should We Fear Singapore-on-Seine?

LONDON - The idea that London might have a post-Brexit future as a kind of deregulated "Singapore-on-Thames" is one of the more curious notions to have emerged in the three and a half years since the United Kingdom's citizens voted narrowly to leave the European Union in the fateful June 2016 referendum. In fact, at least as far as the financial sector is concerned, the bigger threat to European regulatory harmony could come from France.

The phrase "Singapore-on-Thames" is shorthand for Britain becoming a low-tax, lightly regulated economy that can out-compete the sclerotic, over-regulated eurozone from a strategic position only 20 miles or so offshore. The general idea was first mooted a couple of years ago by Philip Hammond, then Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, as a means of encouraging the EU to strike a friendly Brexit deal with the UK.

Those who know Singapore well will quickly recognize that the analogy is far from perfect. True, Singapore has low tax rates (unless you wish to import an expensive foreign car), and low levels of public spending - although the latter does not seem to be part of the plan for Singapore-on-Thames advocates.

But the idea that Singapore is a deregulated paradise is not borne out by reality, as anyone who has tried to dispose of a piece of used chewing gum there will know. As Guy de Jonquières has noted, Singapore's success owes more to the fact that it is a "meticulously planned economy," with "handholding and cossetting" of overseas investors by "powerful, eager to please bureaucrats."

The political prospectuses of both major parties in the UK's December 12 general election, with their nostalgic ideas for reviving British manufacturing, would seem to suggest that Britain should be reborn as a latter-day Stoke-on-Trent, rather than as a twenty-first-century European Singapore. Nonetheless, the notion that the UK might seek a post-Brexit competitive advantage through deregulation - particularly in relation to financial services - has taken hold on the continent, where it has become something of a bogeyman, used to frighten other EU member states.

The EU commissioner responsible for the financial sector, Valdis Dombrovskis, has warned that the UK cannot hope to retain access to EU markets if it departs from the bloc's rules. "The more systemically important the market," he argues, "the closer the regulatory alignment that is expected." The UK, Dombrovskis says, must think very carefully before it moves away from rules followed by the rest of the EU. If it does diverge, the access of UK-based financial firms to EU markets could be restricted.

From the perspective of a London-based bank, this argument seems strange. I can identify no notable constituency in British politics that favors significant bank deregulation. The Bank of England argues that capital ratios are now adequate, and those who disagree tend to want even heavier burdens on banks. The issue of financial regulation has not featured prominently in the general election debates, which is hardly a surprise. And we have seen no sign that the pendulum is swinging back toward deregulation, as it has begun to do in the United States.

UK banks have an average core Tier 1 capital ratio - the key measure of their strength - of over 15%, which is above the eurozone average, and the prospect of a material reduction of that figure seems remote. The Bank of England's stress tests, which are the tightest constraint for most banks, are "biblical" in nature: banks must show that they can survive a 5% annual contraction in GDP, a doubling of unemployment, and precipitous falls in house and stock prices. So, the argument that the UK is about to deregulate its banking system seems odd. And it seems even stranger when one compares the political rhetoric on both sides of the English Channel.

Whereas British politicians recently have offered no words of comfort to UK banks, France's finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, has declared himself in favor of easing the capital burden on French banks in the interests of competitiveness. "We have gone too far in setting these requirements," Le Maire said recently. Basel III, the stone tablets that contain the global standards for banking regulation, "must be simplified and lightened," he declared, adding that "American banks are not subject to rules as strict as those which apply to European banks."

Le Maire thus seems to be on a collision course with Dombrovskis, the EU's financial rule-setter-in-chief, who says, "the EU is committed to carrying through the final Basel III reforms faithfully."

That is the UK position, too, but it seems no longer to be the French view. So, in the world of financial regulation, a "Frexit" from the Basel framework seems more of a threat to the level European playing field than Brexit is. With French President Emmanuel Macron having recently deemed NATO to be in a state of "brain death," it seems that a similar verdict on the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision is now being prepared.

It is true that some aspects of the global agreement on Basel III, reached - reluctantly in the case of France and Germany - at the end of 2017, weigh more heavily on European banks than on their US peers. That is partly because mortgages are rarely securitized and sold in Europe, whereas in the US, two state-guaranteed enterprises, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, stand behind the mortgage market and warehouse loans originated by banks. Also, European banks lend more to large, highly-rated corporate customers, which in the US typically fund themselves in the capital markets. The so-called "output floors" in the Basel accord therefore affect European banks more severely.

These are valid points. But, rather than launching another transatlantic political dispute, it would be preferable if consenting regulators could privately negotiate a way to smooth the hard edges in the Basel accord. Frexit could be just as damaging to Europe's financial system as Brexit.

ARTICLE

High price to pay now for Power Theft, as new Law takes effect

Compiled by Frank Sainworla, Jr.

Persons and institutions caught stealing power will now go to jail for years and pay fines ranging up to ten thousand US dollars, after Liberia's President George Manneh Weah signed the Power Theft Act on October 4, 2019, following its passage into law by the Legislature.

Every year, 62% of the electricity produced by LEC is lost to power theft, which amounts to US\$51 million, thus prompting government to put this law into place.

This Act amends Chapter 15 of the Penal Law, repealing the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia and adding Section 15.88, which establishes a system to stop power theft and stipulates penalties to deal with stealing electricity

It defines the crime of staling electricity as "illegal connections, tampering with meters, transmission and distribution of line and theft of assets including light poles, wires and transformers" something the law says "remain the most singular challenge to the operations and maintenance of an effective public utility system in Liberia."

This has caused "electricity tariff in Liberia to remain among one of the highest tariffs in the world, resulting in high production cost, which dis-incentivizes investment and frustrates economic development," the law says and the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) loses millions of dollars from theft every year.

Power theft is considered as Second Degree Felony and an individual or institution



is guilty of this crime "knowingly and willfully" tampering with transmission and distribution lines and interference or destroying of electric meter and/or improper use of it.

If found guilty in court, violators shall be subjected to tough penalties, which range from no less than 2 years with a maximum of ten in prison and fines ranging from US\$400.00 to up to US\$10,000.00 depending on the gravity of the offense. At various levels, individual(s) can be punished for power theft if he/she causes or abets or helps in tampering with LEC power lines or meter by seeking, accepting, using, attempting to get or agreeing to receive for himself or others electric current through illegitimate means, either connection or reconnection.

For example, Section 3 d of the Power Theft law states: "Any person who has been convicted of Second Degree Felony for tampering with transmission facilities of electric power shall be sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment which shall be no less than three (3) years, and no more than five (5) years maximum, and shall be sentenced to pay a fine of One Thousand United States Dollars (US\$1,000.00) or double the gain realized from the commission of the crime."

Also, harsh penalties are also stipulated in the law for industrial, commercial entities or other organized groups or syndicates that are caught involved in power theft directly or by aiding and abetting this crime.

Section 6 g of the Act states: "Any Industrial, Commercial entity or organized group or syndicate who has been convicted of second degree felony for Tampering with transmission and distribution lines, or interference with, or improper use of electric meter of a licensee, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of Ten Thousand United States Dollars (US\$10,000.00) or double the gain realized from the commission of the crime."

At the same time, the Law says criminal group or syndicate caught involved in power theft will, in addition to paying a ten thousand UD dollars fine, shall see the "seizure and forfeiture of assets associated with the offense including vehicles, properties and bank accounts owned by the syndicate and each of the officers and operatives thereof, who shall have knowingly permitted, failed to prevent or was otherwise involved and responsible for the commission thereof," Section 6i of the Act.

Lonestar Cell MTN Kicks-off its Annual Yello Santa Christmas Gift Initiative to Customers



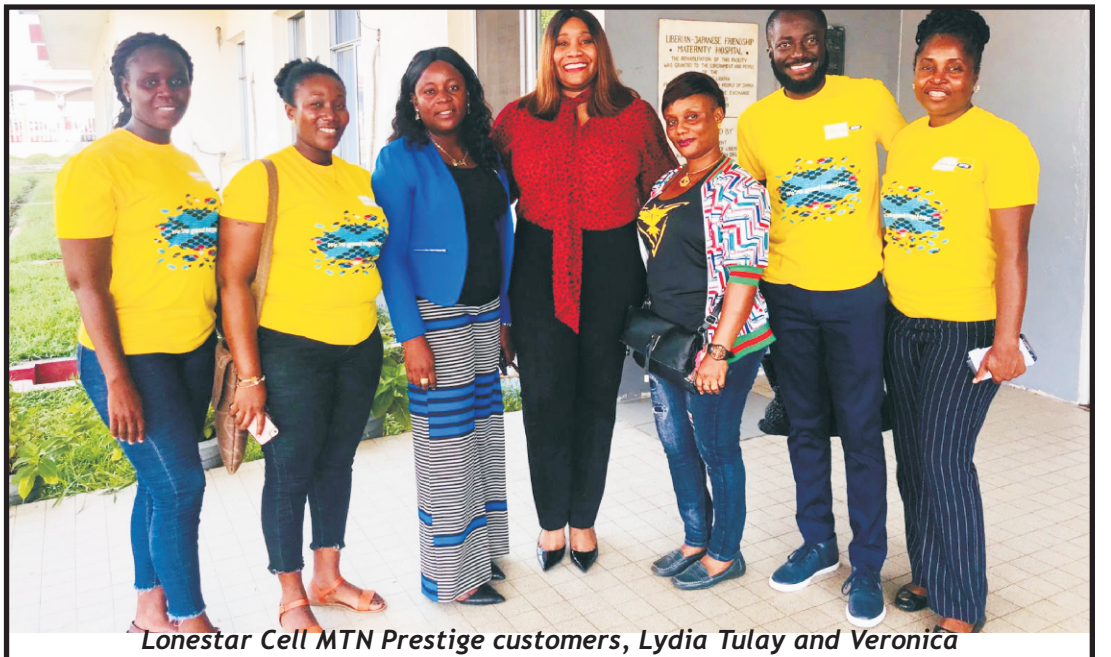
Lonestar Cell MTN CEO, Uche Ofodile, presents gifts to the mother of a newborn at JFKMC



Lonestar Cell MTN Prestige customer Germu Marvis presents a gift to a newborn with the Lonestar Cell MTN team at the Sonnewein Health Center



Lonestar Cell MTN Prestige customer, Mrs Lydia Tulay, and patients at the JFK



Lonestar Cell MTN Prestige customers, Lydia Tulay and Veronika Harris with CEO Uche Ofodile, and Lonestar Cell MTN staff



Lonestar Cell MTN staff and MTN Prestige customer, Germu Marvis and mothers with their newborns at the Sonnewein Clinic



Lonestar Cell MTN staff presents a gift to the mother of a newborn at JFKMC



Lonestar Cell MTN staff presents gifts to new mothers at the Redemption Hospital



Mothers of newborns, Lonestar Cell MTN staff and Pipeline Health workers after the presentation of gifts

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Schools ordered closed

By Winston W. Parley

Public schools across the country have been ordered close ahead of a plan go slow by

ended up in a bloody clash with some private schools' students when police fired tear gas canisters to disperse the

be affected by the planned action of the public school teachers, as lot of panicking parents and guardians may not



both public and civil servants- this include public schools' teachers.

The government through the Ministry of Education ordered the closure of all public schools here as of December 13, 2019, a pronouncement that have left private schools' operators panicking and thinking to do likewise for the safety of their students.

A recent demonstration by public schools' students

students.

A statement from the Ministry of Education shared on social media, said the government's decision to close all public schools is predicated upon the pronouncement made by the National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL) in conjunction with the Monrovia Consolidated School System Teachers Association (MCSSTA's) proposed stay home action as of December 16.

Private schools here might

want to risk sending their kids to school while public school students are out of school.

Public school students have in past times vented anger against their counterparts in private schools for not showing solidarity when public school teachers abandoned classes, most often leading to tussles and disruption of normal academic activities on the private school campuses.

Earlier this year, another go

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Identity crisis haunts Weah's LACC nominee?

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

An identity crisis is said to be haunting President George Manneh Weah's nominee Cllr. A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike to head the Liberia Anti-Corruption Corporation.

Cllr. Nwabudike was nominated as chairman of the country's anti-graft commission, but his nomination has been stagnated by doubt over his nationality.

But Cllr. Nwabudike has maintained that he is a Liberian although he has failed to state as to whether he's born Liberian or naturalized.

Cllr. Nwabudike appears before the senate along with vice chairman designate at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala, the son of former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs in the regime of slain President Samuel Doe.

During the Confirmation hearings Monday December 16, in the chambers of the Liberian Senate, Rivercess

County Senator Dallas Gueh raised a question about the nationality of Cllr. Nwabudike and again he gives the loop-warm response that he's a Liberian and that he had served the Liberian government at the level of the Good Governance Commission and that he has also served as national secretary for the

Liberia National Bar Association.

Following few exchanges of questions and answer, the chairman of the confirmation committee, Bong County Senator Henry Yallah argues that the spelling and pronunciation of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Agriculture value chain will enhance job creation

-Deputy Finance Minister Flomo

Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Augustine J. Flomo believes agriculture value chain will enhance job creation, economic expansion, and domestic revenue capacity in the country.

According to a press release, Deputy Minister Flomo was speaking at the 9th Summit of the ACP Heads of State and Government and Ministerial Discussion in Nairobi, Kenya.

He says discussions held over the last few days are important in moving the future of ACP and enhancing the ability of member countries to strengthening and developing

economic growth.

The release quotes the Deputy Minister as saying, "We are aware that SMEs are strong pillars of sustainable economic development in our respective countries and so the declaration should highlight and support the development and sustainability of SMES in our respective economies as they serve as the bedrock for our economic growth."

He notes the ACP agriculture value chain program as highlighted in the declaration will focus on sustainable agriculture to promote especially, countries that have survived on agriculture for the purpose of food security.

Flomo adds that private sector development and



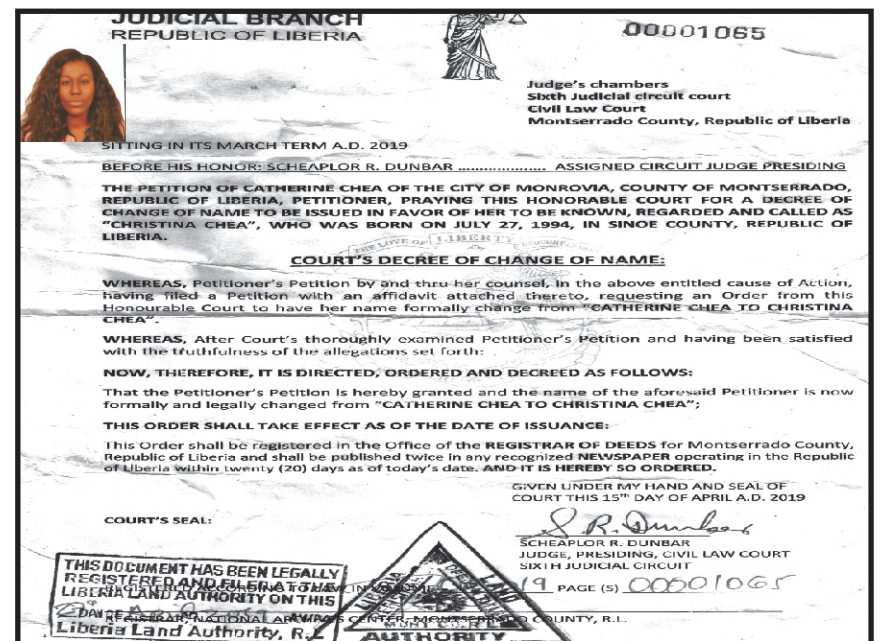
development programs of the organization activities.

He explains that SMEs are strong pillars of sustainable economic development in ACP countries and the declaration should highlight and support the development and sustainability of SMES in their respective economies as they serve as the bedrock for

promoting economic development and growth are critical to the sustaining of countries.

"We would like to encourage that ACP agriculture value chain program, as we highlighted in the declaration, will focus on sustainable

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Light International School students visit JFK Pediatric Unit

-shares toys and candies

Ahead of the festive season which is usually characterized by sharing and visitation, some students of the Light International School have visited sick children at the JFK Pediatric Unit and gave them toys and candies.

truly appreciate life and learn to help people in need.

“By coming here and seeing the conditions of the sick children, you will not only know about their conditions and feel sorry for them, but you will also be more thankful to God for the life you have...,” Madam Matthews said.

children.

“Pediatric is the branch of medicine that involves medical care for infants, children, and adolescents”, she said.

Like most of the health centers across the country, the JFK Pediatric Center is flocked with children for medical treatment. Every room at the center has a number of children with different medical conditions including



Prior to the tour of the pediatric center, Light International School nurse, Madam Julia Matthews, said that the visitation was intended to help familiarize students with serious health challenges other children are faced with so that they can

Leading the guided tour of pediatric rooms on Thursday, 12 December was Pediatric Resident, Dr. Joy Cole. Before asking students about their interest in becoming medical doctors, Dr. Cole explained to the students that pediatrics is about medical care for

malnutrition, children with regular illnesses, surgical conditions, children bitten by dogs, and children abandoned by their parents and relatives due to the protractedness of their illnesses.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

ECOWAS ends two days consultative meeting in Capemount

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), through its national office in Liberia, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning have climaxed two days of National Stakeholders Consultations on ECOWAS post-2020 vision in

Devos Village, Tewor District, Grand Cape Mount County.

The workshop held from December 13-14, 2019, was under the Theme: “Ideas for a Peaceful, Borderless and Prosperous Region”.

It aimed to gather stakeholders views, experience, opinings and perceptions of policies,

programmes, projects and activities of ECOWAS over the last ten years since the introduction of the Development Agenda for the transformation of West Africa into a Borderless, peaceful and prosperous Region by the year 2020.

Assisting Minister for Development Planning Hon. Benedict Kolubah, who proxied

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Civil servants go-slow

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Over 77,000 civil servants here began a go-slow Monday, 16 December, pressurizing the government of President George M. Weah to pay them four months' unpaid salaries.

The go-slow left several government ministries and agencies partially dormant, as most employees remained homes in adherence to directive by the leadership of the Civil Service Agency (CSA).

The Minister of Education Professor Ansu Sonii had announced closure of all public schools across the country over the weekend ahead of the go-slow.

Normal activities at most government ministries yesterday were at a slow pace, as those responsible to make things happen form part of the go-slow action.

While the go-slow was in progress, Liberia's Minister of Information Eugene Nagbe told the British Broadcasting Corporation or BBC that the government has made payment into the direct saving accounts of civil servants, but for one month.

workers who trooped at some of the commercial banks in Monrovia lamented there was no money deposited into their accounts contrary to government's pronouncement.

The CSA disclosed that the go-slow would remain enforced until all salary arrears owed civil servants throughout the country are paid.

However, some civil servants reported for work, and were seen seated behind their desks and standing outside of their various ministries and agencies following news that they would receive special incentive from the government.

Minister Nagbe blamed opposition politicians and detractors of the government for the current crisis.

He said government is aware of its obligations and is doing everything possible to address the concerns of civil servants.

This assertion was later supported by Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel Tweah, who also attributed the go-slow to work of opposition politicians



Members of the Civil Service Agency are requesting the government to clear all four months' arrears before they would return to work, which the government has failed to address.

The normal flows of hospital ambulances which in most instances are seen transporting emergency patients were generally out of sight in direct response to the go-slow.

However, the government had promised other employees to provide extra incentive to stay on duty in the wake of the ongoing go-slow.

Several government

who, he claims, want to see President George M. Weah fail.

Since taking office, the administration of President George M. Weah has been challenged with scores of mass protest in demand of unpaid salary and incentive, including a recent one by public school students most of whom sustained wounds from clashes with riot police in the streets of Monrovia.

The protest by the students saw the government paying arrears of public school teachers subsequently, and the return of students to school.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Le FMI s'est dit prêt à accorder des capacités de crédit de 213,6 millions USD au Libéria

Le Conseil d'administration du Fonds monétaire international (FMI) s'est dit prêt mercredi 11 décembre à accorder des capacités de crédit d'un montant de 213,6 millions de dollars américains à la république du Libéria.

Le montant devrait être échelonné sur une période de quatre ans en vue d'aider le pays à rétablir la stabilité macroéconomique, à jeter les bases d'une croissance durable et à remédier aux faiblesses de la gouvernance.

Après avoir fait face à des défis économiques et financiers pendant plus d'un an, il s'est dégagé un consensus sur la nécessité des réformes à grande échelle. Le programme vise à soutenir les efforts d'ajustement vigoureux des autorités, à catalyser un financement important des donateurs et à fournir un cadre dans lequel l'ambitieux programme de réforme des autorités pourra être mis en œuvre. La décision du Conseil d'administration permettra un décaissement immédiat d'environ 23,4 millions de



dollars.

À l'issue des débats du Conseil d'administration, le premier directeur général adjoint et président par intérim, M. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, a déclaré :

« La situation économique du Libéria est difficile et fragile. L'inflation et la dépréciation du taux de change annuel se sont élevées à 30% et la croissance est modérée. Les autorités sont déterminées à mener les politiques macroéconomiques prudentes et les réformes

structurelles ambitieuses nécessaires pour rétablir la stabilité macroéconomique et pour placer le Libéria sur une trajectoire de croissance financièrement viable et inclusive dans le cadre de la capacité de crédit élargie de quatre ans du Fonds.

« Le récent resserrement budgétaire initial est le bienvenu. Pour préserver les gains et maintenir la crédibilité budgétaire, il est important que l'ensemble de contrôles fiscaux récemment

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

L'apparition soudaine des nouveaux billets de banque suscite la polémique

Le représentant du comté de Nimba, Larry P. Younquoi, s'interroge sur l'origine des nouveaux billets de 500 dollars libériens qui ont soudainement fait leur apparition dans les banques commerciales et remis aux législateurs, tandis que les populations continuent de recevoir des billets mutilés.

L'émergence soudaine des nouveaux billets pendant que le gouvernement se plaignait d'une pénurie de billets suscite de vives inquiétudes parmi le public. Beaucoup se demandent si les autorités ont imprimé et apporté des billets supplémentaires.

Le député Younquoi ne comprend pas surtout

l'impression illégale d'argent supplémentaire en attendant l'approbation du pouvoir législatif avant d'être injecté sur le marché est source d'inquiétude.

« De plus, ce qui semble être une grave préoccupation, ce sont les billets de cinq cents dollars qui ne sont remis qu'aux législateurs alors que les autres citoyens continuent de recevoir de l'argent mutilé. Cette tendance actuelle des événements obscurcit notre intégrité, en particulier au milieu de la demande de l'Exécutif pour l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque et de la spéculation selon laquelle les législateurs ont donné leur approbation à la

Le ministre de la Défense guinéen a reçu son homologue libérien

Le ministre d'Etat chargé de la Défense nationale a reçu vendredi matin son homologue libérien, porteur d'un message du président Georges Weah.

Les deux hommes d'Etat ont discuté de questions d'intérêt commun, notamment le renforcement de la coopération militaire entre la Guinée et le Libéria.

A cet effet, en application

des accords précédents entre les deux armées, des missions de reconnaissance ont déjà débuté du côté libérien et seront suivies dès le mois de janvier par celles des Forces armées guinéennes.

Dr. Mohamed Diané et Daniel Ziankahn sont convenus de tout mettre en œuvre afin que les patrouilles mixtes le long de nos frontières commencent courant février 2020.

Les deux ministres de la Défense n'ont pas manqué de rassurer les populations de leur ferme volonté d'œuvrer au renforcement de la sécurité dans l'espace de la Mano river union.

Le ministre libérien de la Défense a réitéré que son pays ne servira jamais de base arrière pour déstabiliser la Guinée. Il a remercié Dr. Diané du soutien apporté à l'armée libérienne dans le cadre de son



pourquoi de nouveaux billets de 500 dollars sont remis aux législateurs, alors que les citoyens ordinaires continuent de recevoir de l'argent mutilé.

Dans une communication datée du mercredi 12 décembre adressée au président de la Chambre Bhofal Chambers, le représentant Younquoia fait part de son incompréhension quant à l'apparition soudaine des nouveaux billets de dollars libériens sur le marché après que le gouvernement a fait état de la rareté de la devise nationale dans les banques commerciales, et que ce soit disant manque de liquidité a causé de sérieux inconvénients pour ceux qui ont l'argent en banque, qui n'ont pas eu la possibilité de retirer de l'argent de leurs comptes d'épargne.

Selon lui, le flux inhabituel de nouveaux billets du dollar libérien sur fond de spéculations au sujet de

Banque centrale du Libéria pour ladite impression », a dit le législateur.

« Honorable Président, c'est au vu de ce qui précède que nous écrivons, demandant à l'Assemblée Plénière d'inviter les autorités de la Banque centrale du Libéria pour expliquer à cet organe la source de ces sommes suite à la pénurie de dollars libériens », conclut la lettre.

Cependant, le ministre libérien de l'Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, a déclaré que le gouvernement n'apas imprimé de billets supplémentaires, ajoutant que les nouveaux billets mis en circulation provenaient des coffres de la Banque centrale du Libéria.

S'adressant à Voice of America mercredi, le ministre Nagbe a affirmé que la CBL atoujours de l'argent dans ses coffres et, de temps en temps, elle met cet argent en circulation.



Français

Le FMI est dit prêt à accorder des capacités

institué soit pleinement mis en œuvre. En outre, le renforcement de la politique et de l'administration fiscales au cours de la période de programmation est essentiel pour permettre au secteur public de fonctionner efficacement.

« Le resserrement monétaire imposé par la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) en novembre 2019 était nécessaire pour réduire l'inflation. Une condition préalable essentielle au succès serait la pleine adhésion à l'interdiction du programme d'emprunter auprès de la CBL.

« Les vulnérabilités extérieures du Libéria sont importantes et les stocks de réserves de change sont tombés à de faibles niveaux. En plus d'éliminer le financement du budget, le renforcement de la résilience exigera de contenir les dépenses opérationnelles de la CBL et de limiter les interventions en devises.

« Étant donné qu'une légère détérioration des termes de la dette ou un défaut d'ajuster suffisamment l'orientation budgétaire pourrait rapprocher le Libéria d'un risque élevé de surendettement extérieur, les autorités se sont engagées à respecter le plafond des emprunts non concessionnels et à s'abstenir des accords de garantie non transparents dans le cadre du programme soutenu par le Fonds.

« Assurer la stabilité du secteur financier est un élément important du programme. L'amélioration de la communication des données, l'obtention d'une vue d'ensemble de la santé du système bancaire et la prise de mesures décisives au besoin permettront d'identifier et de remédier aux vulnérabilités du secteur financier. Dans le même temps, il est important de renforcer le cadre juridique pour permettre à la CBL de disposer des instruments nécessaires si une correction est nécessaire.

« Les réformes structurelles visant à améliorer la gouvernance aideront à réduire les vulnérabilités à la corruption et à promouvoir une croissance tirée par le secteur privé. »

Annexe

Développements économiques récents

Au cours de la dernière période, une baisse de l'aide extérieure combinée à une faible génération de recettes intérieures, des ajustements limités des dépenses - en particulier sur les salaires - et une politique monétaire accommodante ont entraîné de nombreux défis macroéconomiques. Il s'agit notamment d'une position budgétaire insoutenable, de l'émergence d'arriérés, d'un financement excessif de la banque centrale, de l'épuisement des tampons budgétaires et externes et de la pression sur l'inflation et le taux de change.

Le président George Weah a lancé l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD) en octobre 2018, mais ses objectifs de construction de routes et d'amélioration des services sociaux ont été largement retardés en raison d'un manque de financement. Le programme soutenu par le FMI aidera à stabiliser l'économie - qui est une condition nécessaire à une transition durable hors de la fragilité - et à catalyser le financement de leur plan de développement (le PAPD), plaçant finalement le Libéria sur une trajectoire de croissance durable à moyen terme.

Résumé du programme

Le programme se concentrera sur :

- Rétablir la stabilité macroéconomique, qui est une condition préalable essentielle à une transition durable hors de la fragilité, tout en protégeant le segment le plus pauvre de la population du fardeau de l'ajustement ;

- Placer le Libéria sur une trajectoire de croissance financièrement viable, qui est le principal objectif du PAPD ; et

- Remédier aux faiblesses de la gouvernance et des institutions du secteur public, ce qui aidera à protéger les ressources rares et facilitera la réalisation des deux premiers objectifs.

Le programme vise également à catalyser un soutien extérieur substantiel, ce qui est essentiel car cela permettra à l'ajustement programmé d'être contenu à des niveaux politiquement et économiquement réalisables tout en garantissant la viabilité de la dette publique et extérieure.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

Le « Green Deal » européen

NEW YORK - L'Europe l'a fait. Le « pacte vert pour l'Europe » annoncé par la Commission européenne est à ce jour le premier plan global de développement durable décidé par une grande région de la planète. Il devient de ce fait un point de repère pour le monde entier - un guide de la transformation vers une économie prospère, socialement inclusive et écologiquement durable, un premier agenda, à l'usage de tous, pour y parvenir.

Bien sûr, la tâche qui attend les Européens est impressionnante. Même la lecture des documents qui viennent d'être rendus publics l'est : une débauche au premier abord de plans, de concertations, de cadres réglementaires, de lois, de budgets et de diplomatie, un grand nombre de sujets impliqués et connexes, qui vont de l'énergie aux transports, de l'alimentation à l'industrie.

Ses détracteurs vont moquer la bureaucratie européenne. Mais c'est une bureaucratie au meilleur sens wébérien du terme : elle est rationnelle. Les objectifs de développement durable sont énoncés clairement, les cibles sont définies en fonction d'objectifs soumis à un échéancier, et les programmes et procédures sont adaptés aux cibles. Globalement, l'ambition affichée est de parvenir à la « neutralité carbone » (une émission nette nulle de gaz à effets de serre) d'ici 2050, de mettre en place une économie circulaire qui mette un terme à la pollution destructrice due aux plastiques et autres dérivés pétrochimiques, aux pesticides et aux déchets toxiques, d'instaurer un système alimentaire « de la ferme à la table », qui ne tue pas les gens en leur faisant manger des produits trop transformés par l'industrie, ni ne tue la terre avec des pratiques agricoles non durables.

Et la Commission européenne comprend que la méthode pour y parvenir doit s'appuyer sur les citoyens eux-mêmes. À nouveau, les détracteurs vont considérer les annonces de consultations publiques comme de l'esbroufe pour songe-creux. Mais allez parler de bavardages inutiles au président français Emmanuel Macron, confronté pendant plus d'un an à des manifestations tournant à l'émeute, ou au président chilien Sebastián Piñera, dont le pays s'est soudain soulevé, cet automne, après une légère hausse du prix des tickets de métro. Macron et Piñera sont tous deux convaincus de la nécessité du changement écologique. Tous deux se sont engagés à la neutralité carbone de leurs pays d'ici 2050. Et tous deux cherchent désespérément comment organiser ou structurer une consultation publique, mais après coup.

Les adeptes américains du néolibéralisme vont à nouveau se gausser, et affirmer que le « marché » saura comment remédier au changement climatique. Mais il n'est qu'à regarder les États-Unis d'aujourd'hui. Si le néolibéralisme traite la planète comme il a traité les infrastructures américaines, nous avons tous du souci à nous faire. Débarquer dans un aéroport aux États-Unis, c'est devoir supporter des ascenseurs, des escaliers roulants, des navettes en panne, des taxis qui n'arrivent pas, des liaisons ferroviaires qui n'existent pas, des autoroutes, dont les files sont en trop mauvais état pour qu'on puisse y circuler, remplacées par des déviations.

La raison de ces dysfonctionnements est simple : la corruption. Chaque cycle électoral américain coûte aujourd'hui 8 milliards de dollars, si ce n'est plus, et le financement en est assuré par les milliardaires, par les grandes compagnies pétrolières, le complexe militaro-industriel, le lobby de l'industrie des soins de santé et par des groupes d'intérêts résolus à faire baisser les impôts et à protéger coûte que coûte le statu quo. Les solutions apportées par le marché sont une farce lorsque la politique est soumise à toutes les influences qui en émanent, comme c'est le cas aux États-Unis. Le pacte vert européen montre un gouvernement tel qu'il devrait être et non un gouvernement subordonné aux intérêts des entreprises.

Le Green Deal européen apporte en fait la démonstration du succès de la social-démocratie européenne (dans son acception opérationnelle et non étroitement partisane). Une économie mixte, qui combine marchés, puissance réglementaire de l'État, secteur public et société civile,

poursuivra une stratégie mixte : des objectifs publics, des investissements publics dans les infrastructures, des investissements privés dans la transformation industrielle, des missions de recherche et développement fondées sur des partenariats public-privé et une population informée. En fait, c'est une politique industrielle à son niveau le plus sophistiqué. (J'ai récemment indiqué, dans ces grandes lignes, ce que serait, pour les États-Unis, une stratégie de Green New Deal social-démocrate.)

Nous avons des raisons d'être optimistes. Le point le plus important, c'est que les technologies avancées, qui permettront de créer une économie avancée décarbonée, économe en ressources et donc écologiquement durable, existent, au stade commercial ou précommercial. En combinant l'énergie renouvelable, les technologies numériques, les matériaux de pointe et l'économie collaborative dans les transports ou dans d'autres infrastructures, nous pouvons décarboner le système énergétique, passer à une économie circulaire et réduire drastiquement les flux de ressources primaires.

Mais il faut pour cela relever trois grands défis. Le premier est de surmonter les intérêts qui cherchent à maintenir le statu quo. Les grandes compagnies pétrolières devront absorber les pertes, mais les travailleurs du secteur et les régions minières devraient recevoir des compensations, sous forme d'aides au revenu, de reconversion par la formation et d'autres aides publiques. Le plan européen revendique avec raison une « transition juste ».

Le deuxième défi est celui du financement. L'Europe, comme bien entendu les autres régions du monde, devra réorienter une part relativement peu importante de sa production, de 1 % à 2 %, vers l'économie verte, pour ce qui concerne notamment les nouvelles infrastructures, les marchés publics, la recherche et le développement, le renouvellement des équipements industriels, etc. Le financement proviendra du secteur privé, mais aussi des budgets publics. L'Europe doit tenir tête aux idéologues qui s'opposent à une augmentation des dépenses de l'UE. Les faits devront être pris en compte.

Le dernier grand défi est diplomatique. L'Europe représente environ 9,1 % des émissions mondiales de dioxyde de carbone, quand la part de la Chine s'élève à 30 % et celle des États-Unis à 14 %. Même si l'Europe parvient à mettre en place son pacte vert dans sa totalité, ce sera peine perdue si les autres régions du monde ne la rejoignent pas dans sa lutte. Les dirigeants européens considèrent donc à juste titre que la diplomatie est fondamentale dans la réussite du pacte vert.

Prenons l'exemple de la Chine. Après des décennies de croissance rapide, qui ont éliminé la pauvreté de masse, la Chine est devenue le premier émetteur mondial de CO2 (quoique ses rejets par habitant demeurent deux fois moins que ceux des États-Unis). La Chine, à elle seule, déterminera l'avenir du climat mondial. D'une part, les dirigeants chinois savent que leur pays est extrêmement vulnérable au changement climatique et court le risque d'un isolement diplomatique s'il ne fait pas assez d'efforts pour décarboner ; d'autre part, ils doivent affronter les dangers de la malencontreuse guerre froide lancée par l'Amérique. Les tenants de la ligne dure au sein du gouvernement et les lobbies chinois du charbon résistent, face aux pressions exercées par les États-Unis, à la décarbonation, surtout depuis que Trump la rejette lui-même.

La diplomatie européenne peut faire la différence si elle refuse de souscrire aux mesures insidieuses de l'Amérique pour entraver la Chine et propose au contraire à cette dernière un partenariat positif et sans ambiguïté : travailler ensemble à la mise en place d'infrastructures, d'un développement et d'une technologie durables en Eurasie, dans le cadre d'un Green Deal chinois comparable à celui de l'Europe. Un tel partenariat serait d'un bénéfice immense pour l'Europe, la Chine, et la douzaine de pays eurasiens qui les séparent, sans parler du monde dans son ensemble.

L'Europe a fait un pas historique avec son plan ambitieux, mobilisateur et réalisable. Le Green Deal est un puissant signal d'espoir dans un monde d'incertitudes et d'instabilité.

Schools ordered

Cont'd from page 6



- slow by public school teachers in demand of their salaries prompted mass street protests by public school students to claim government's attention over their teachers' absence in class and to settle the salaries issue.

The protests extended to private school campuses, and police used teargas canisters against kids who had blocked President George MannehWeah's motorcade in hope of hearing from him concerning their demand for their teachers' salaries payments.

The public school teachers' plan to stage a go-slow comes ahead of the December 30 mass protest planned against President

Weah's regime by the Council of Patriots (COP), the same group that staged the June 7 protest here this year.

The Ministry of Education says it is cognizant of the fact that additional five instructional days will be missing, adding that the days will be added when schools resume 3 January 2020 for 3rd, 4th and 5th periods, respectively.

The Ministry adds that in protection of the interest of students and children who will be affected adversely by the teachers' stay away action and who shall be most at risk in the event of any unforeseen situations counterproductive to peace, it is resolved to close all public schools across the country.

Agriculture value

Cont'd from page 6

agriculture to promote, especially countries that have survived on agriculture just for the purpose of food security. We also believe that private sector development and promoting economic development and growth is critical to the sustaining of our respective countries", asserts.

He stresses the need to enhance program design and development of the ACP

execution which supports strengthening the future as ACP countries and at the same time strengthening the union.

He thanks organizers of the summit for its successful conduct and expresses sympathy on behalf of the Government of Liberia to the people Kenya, for the loss of lives for the challenged of climate change encountered by the country during the summit. -Press Release

Cont'd from page 7

Meanwhile, Dr. Joy Cole lauded the students and accompanying staff for their visitation and gifts.

"We are extremely grateful for your visit and gifts, and we hope you will do this often because such a gesture can help to give hope to the sick children," she told the Light School delegation.

Also speaking, an accompanying staff, Light International School Moral Education, Mr. Mehmet Simsek, thanked the JFK authority for the visiting opportunity.

"I just want to thank the JFK people for allowing us visit the sick children", he said.

Light International

The Light International School located on 24th Street, Sinkor in Monrovia is one of the leading international schooling Liberia dedicated to preparing

students for leadership roles and providing them with opportunities to be successful, responsible and productive citizens.



Cont'd from page 7

for Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, explained how ECOWAS has used the 2030 vision as a tool to achieve accelerated sustainable development in West Africa economy through regional integrations .Asst. Min. Kolubah said the ECOWAS vision 2020 goal is to raise the living standard of the people through inclusive programs for sustainable income generation.

According to him, over the years, ECOWAS has been successful in shifting democratic governance by free fair and transparent election in the region as well as conflict and crisis resolutions

ECOWAS ends two days

and prevention.

"As we move in developing the ECOWAS 2020 vision, we should consider demographic challenges of West Africa and how the population is growing faster and may pose a burden on the existing social and economic structures including health and educational facilities" Kolubah added.

He stressed the need to build human capital so that demographic dividend will have potentials to boost economic growth. He encouraged participants to propose programs to ECOWAS that will build human capacity

and reduce dependency, mortality and fertility rates. It can be record that he stressed the same issues during the phase one of the National Stakeholders Consultative Workshops was held on November 22nd, 2019 in Ganta City, Nimba County, Liberia.

At the end of the consultantion ,participants propose amongst many other that ECOWAS post 2020 vision should consider key priorities including; Regional security, Free movement and trade amongst members states, Human capacity development and harminization of shool curriculum and systems, single currency regime to easy doing business in the region and improve cross-boarder trade.

The two days' workshop was attended by the Assisting Minister for Development Planning, Sierra Leonean Border Contingent, senior officials in the public sector, Representatives from security agencies, Political parties, Women, youths, Academics, students, lectures, researchers, media, Religious and Traditional leaders, civil society organization (CSO) Trade Union as well as producers umbrella organizations in Liberia.-Press release



Cont'd from page 6

nominee's name suggest that he comes Nigeria.

Cllr. Nwabudike was seen uncomfortable in the confirmation chair but he raised the argument that he had worked with the Liberian government that suggests that he's a Liberian.

One senator who earlier spoke about the nationality of Cllr. Nwabudike before the confirmation hearing is Senator Conmany Wesseh, "I know that he hasn't been confirmed but I don't know what the reasons are. I know he is a naturalized Liberian by

Identity crisis haunts

virtue of his practice of law in Liberia he has to be a citizen and only Liberian practice law in this country," said Senator Conmany Wesseh.

Now with his new nomination at Liberia's main anti-graft agency, observers are keen on seeing him pass through the microscope by weighing-in on his level of integrity in a country where allegations of corruption and misappropriation in the public sector remain a massive concern.

The Nigerian, now a

naturalized Liberian, was appointed Chairman of the Governance Commission in May 2018, replacing long serving statesman Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer but his confirmation was unsuccessful.

He now faces criticisms for knowingly violating the Constitution by acting in the position of Chairman of the Governance Commission for more than 90 days. The Liberian Senate had refused to confirm him although the reason for snubbing him is still unknown.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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.

Weah's request to print LRD 4 Billion

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Following months of speculations that the Government of President George Weah had printed additional new bank notes without a legislative approval, Mr. Weah on Monday December 16 wrote the National Legislature requesting to print additional 4 billion new banknotes days

Senate during its special sitting, Monday December 16, said that the president is requesting the Liberian Senate to permit his administration to print additional current banknotes legacy to help melt down the tension on the local currency.

According to the communication, commercial

at the same time requesting to print additional banknotes. Currently the government is unable to account for the amount of Liberian dollar in circulation.

Meanwhile, the plenary of the Liberian Senate confirmed newly nominated Central Bank of Liberia Executive Governor Aloysius Tarlue.

The senate decision follows confirmation hearings conducted by its committee on Banking and Currency.

During his confirmation hearing recently, Mr. Tarlue said before the government can consider printing of new currency, the CBL must first put control in place, strengthen the internal system and rebrand the bank. He added that his vision for the CBL will be to rebuild lost confidence in the country's banking sector.

"This will be done through reforms aimed at improving governance, ensuring technical soundness in policies, and achieving financial sustainability of the CBL and above all ensure that the CBL is focused on carrying out monetary policies that seek to keep inflation low, stabilize the exchange rate, as we as ensure Liberia has enough foreign exchange buffers," he said.

"Internal audit and control functions will be strengthened. Key policy decisions will be made and implemented with the approval of the board of governors. We will strengthen the research department of the bank so that policy decisions are informed by proper analysis and evidence. We will ensure that the CBL is focused on carrying out monetary policies that seek to keep inflation low, stabilize the exchange rate, and ensure that Liberia has enough foreign exchange buffers," he said.



after new legacy notes appeared on the market.

Mr. Weah's request for the printing of additional LRD4 billion legacy notes comes as mystery surrounding the missing 16 billion banknotes remain unresolved although the government insists that no money went missing. But despite the insistence that no money went missing, there are reported cash shortages at the local banks here.

In his letter addressed to the Liberian Senate, Mr. Weah said the reason for his request is to calm down the high economic challenges facing the country.

The communication read in the plenary of the Liberian

banks operating here are facing serious challenged in giving out local currency to their respective depositors and that the printing of additional banknotes will help to reduce the tensions facing the Liberian dollars.

The president further argues in his letter that members of the legislature should take the printing of the banknotes serious as it carries national security implications in the near future if nothing is done to manage the situation.

However, Mr. Weah's request was resisted by Margibi County Senator Oscar Cooper on grounds that the government cannot be discussing new banknotes and

Buchanan Port contract backfires

By Jonathan Browne

The Management of Acelormittal Liberia (AML) objects to a concession agreement entered into by the National Port Authority (representing the Government of Liberia) and Prista Port Buchanan LLC for the Port of Buchanan, protesting that it includes and overlaps a majority of AcelorMittal Liberia's current concession area in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

AcelorMittal Liberia currently exports ores from Yekepa, Nimba County thru the Port of Buchanan under a concession agreement.

But the company says it has been advised some initial agreement of the contract between Prista Port Buchanan LLC and the Government of Liberia has been executed, noting that of critical importance is that it awards the iron ore port and most of

that overlaps AML's concession area."

The Government of Liberia is yet to respond to the communication, which tone seems to indicate there could be serious legal battle ahead over the deal reached with Prista Port.

Meanwhile, the Management of AcelorMittal Liberia says the importance of the matter is as such that it cannot proceed with the Phase 2 investment proposal that is currently underway unless and until this situation is corrected.

The Company demands absolute certainty that its concessions and permits are in good standing as an official component of its business case for investment and cannot consider an investment where security of tenure is in dispute or at risk.

"Honourable Minister, with



the associated facilities currently held by AcelorMittal Liberia to Prista Port.

In an official communication to the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill dated 12 December AML Chief Executive Officer, Scott Lowe writes, "This action undermines and creates uncertainty regarding the security of tenure of AcelorMittal Liberia's business and future investment. Recently, representatives of the Prista Port approached AcelorMittal in London and asserted that their concession would come into effect and that the company would eventually replace AcelorMittal Liberia (AML) as the concessionaire. We reject this assertion by Prista Port and maintain that no valid concession can ever be granted

this in mind and given the strong and positive relationship between the Government and the Company, we respectfully request written confirmation that the Government of Liberia:

- a) has not ratify, and will not ratify the Prista Port concession agreement;
- b) and will not grant any concession that overlaps or in any way reduces AML's concession while it remains valid", the letter further protests.

The AML management says it believes a formal communication from the government that contains these commitments would be valuable in assuring its parent company (AcelorMittal) that the concession in Liberia is in good standing and not at risk.

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Arsenal in talks with Man City over coach



Arsenal are in talks with Manchester City over the availability of coach Mikel Arteta.

It is not known whether Arteta, 37, has been offered the chance to succeed Unai Emery, who was sacked in November.

Gunners chief executive Vinai Venkatesham was pictured outside the

Spaniard's home after both flew north following City's 3-0 win at Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

City boss Pep Guardiola says he would not stop Arteta if he decided to leave.

It is understood Arteta has told City this was his second conversation with his old club and a third, with Josh Kroenke, son of Arsenal owner Stan, has been scheduled - possibly as

soon as Monday night.

However, Everton, who are also without a permanent manager since Marco Silva was sacked on 6 December, have shown an interest in Arteta, who made 209 appearances for the Goodison Park club between 2005 and 2011.

The Toffees have also been linked with former Napoli manager Carlo Ancelotti.

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Cldraw: Man City face Real Madrid, Liverpool draw Atletico

Manchester City will face Real Madrid while holders Liverpool have been drawn against Atletico Madrid in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Chelsea play Bayern Munich in a repeat of the 2012 final while Tottenham take on another German side, RB Leipzig.

In the pick of the other ties, Borussia Dortmund will

play Paris St-Germain and Napoli take on Barcelona.

The first legs will be played on 18, 19, 25 and 26 February with the return matches on 10, 11, 17 and 18 March.

This season's final is on 30 May at the Ataturk Stadium in Istanbul, the ground where Liverpool won the epic 2005 final against AC Milan when they came back from three down to draw 3-3 and win on penalties.



The Reds' last-16 draw will take them to Atletico's Wanda Metropolitano, which also has good memories for Liverpool as it is the stadium in which they won last year's final.

City's tie with Real features the first competitive meeting between multiple Champions League-winning managers Pep Guardiola and Zinedine Zidane.

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