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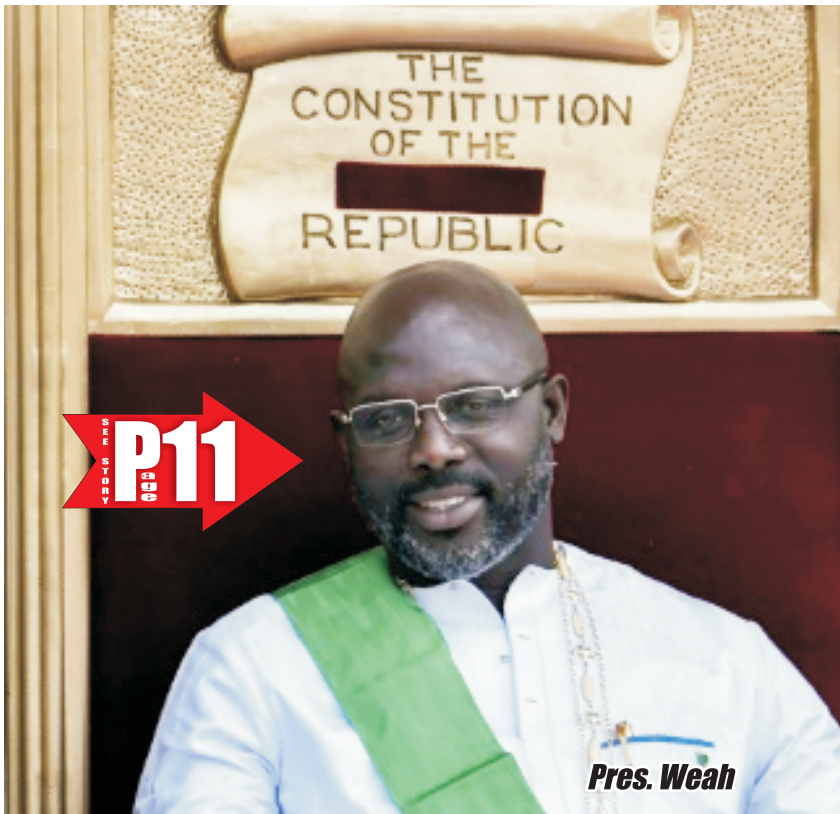
Public Service Announcement

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

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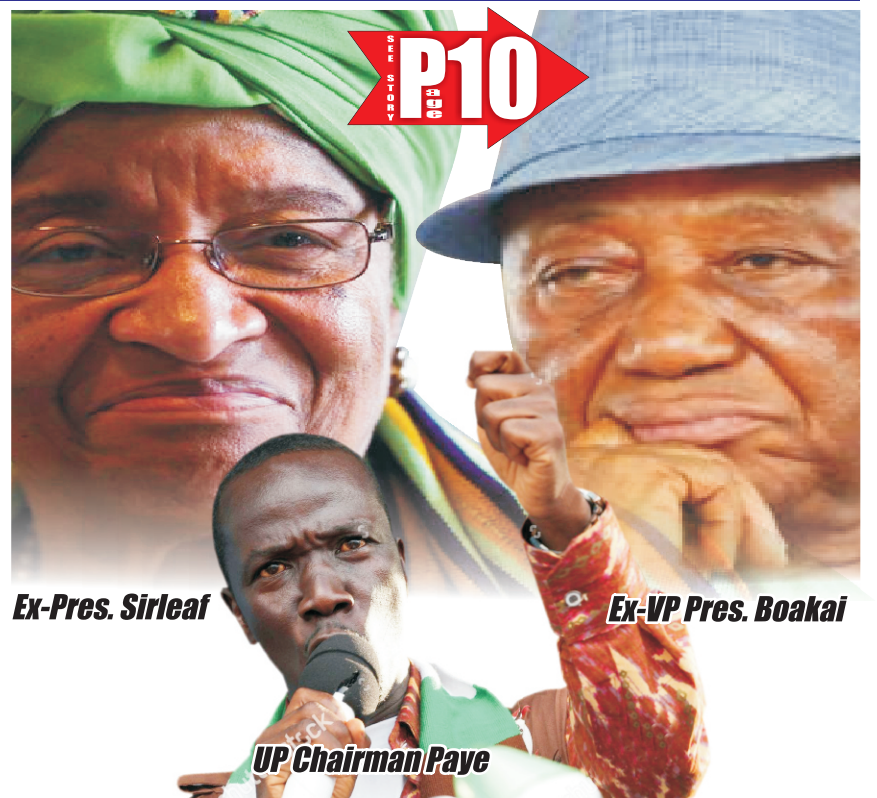
Pres. Weah

Weah to run for third term?

-Rep Pelham raps on changing constitution

CoP's allies scatter

-UP in trouble



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf

UP Chairman Paye

Ex-VP Pres. Boakai



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Continental News

The diet which helped Ugandan president lose 30kg

A diet of cassava, Irish potatoes and indigenous vegetables helped Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni shed 30kg (4 stone), he told the BBC.

"I am always fit but the doctors pointed out the mistakes and then I decided to shed off," Mr Museveni said.

The 75-year-old leader said he had not been watching his weight, which had gone up to 106kg.

He denied comments on social media that he "looked tired", saying that he had deliberately shed some fat.

In his personal blog last month, he said he "had allowed fat to accumulate in his body frame because the doctors had not explained to us clearly the mistake of not fighting fat".

He added that his current weight of 76kg was suitable for his 5ft 7in (170cm) height.

Mr Museveni did not say how long it took him to shed

the 30kg. "I eat some cassava, because I don't eat your European food and your Asian foods. I eat our food; which is cassava, some bananas, millets and our vegetables," Mr Museveni told BBC Newsday presenter Alan Kasujja.

"So I normally eat a little bit of that in the morning. Then no lunch, I just drink water and coffee without sugar because it's very bad - sugar is not good," he said.

"Then at around seven [in the evening] I eat two Irish potatoes because they have

got low starch, and a lot of vegetables to deceive the stomach that I am putting there something when in fact it's just the roughage," he added.

In 2015, he said that then US President Barack Obama told him during a meeting in Ethiopia that he looked young.

"I forgot to tell him that it's because I eat Ugandan grown foods," Mr Museveni said. He has advised Ugandans several times to shun Western foods for local ones, which are,

according to him, healthier and also stave off diseases.

Mr Museveni has been in power since 1986 and plans to run for a sixth term in 2021.

Pop star-turned politician Bobi Wine, 37, plans to run against him.

Two weeks ago Mr Museveni walked 195km (121 miles) through central Uganda to retrace the journey his forces used in 1986 when they seized power after the fall of Milton Obote's government. BBC



Mr Museveni has refuted comments on social media that he "looked tired", saying that he had deliberately lost weight

Latest Trump travel ban may include four African countries

US President Donald Trump is planning to add four African countries to the travel ban list, according to media reports.

The four countries are thought to be Nigeria, Tanzania, Sudan and Eritrea, according to multiple US media outlets who reported they had spoken to people who had seen the list.

President Trump, in an interview with Wall Street

Journal on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, confirmed that he was considering adding some countries to the travel ban list but declined to name them.

The list is not final and could be changed, the Politico website said.

The ban will not be a blanket one for all the listed countries but will be on specific types of visas, such as

business or visitor visas.

The list is still being debated but the final announcement could be made next week, media reports said.

In September 2017, President Trump issued a travel ban prohibiting most people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen from entering the US.

The ban was challenged in court but a Supreme Court ruling in June 2018 upheld it. BBC



President Trump's ban in 2017 on people from Muslim majority countries was controversial

Kenya at risk of killer virus

Kenya is at high risk of an outbreak caused by a new virus lurking in China, if travel inflows from the Asian country are anything to go by. The coronavirus has put the world on high alert with countries increasing fever checks at airports amid fears of a bigger outbreak.

With Kenya Airways operating a non-stop flight twice a week between Nairobi and Guangzhou, China's third-largest city and a key hub of the country's southern region, the country needs to ramp up measures to block the disease.

Government statistics show that the number of international visitors through all points of entry in 2019 shot up to 2,048,834 compared to 2018, when arrivals were 2,025,206. Neither the Health ministry nor the Kenya Airports Authority has issued an alert. China has confirmed human-to-human transmission in the outbreak of the SARS-like virus as the number of cases soared and authorities Tuesday said a fourth person had died. The news came as the World Health Organisation said it would consider declaring an international public health emergency over the outbreak.

Coronavirus, which has spread to three other Asian countries and infected more than 200 people in China, has caused alarm because of its genetic similarities to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-

2003. The discovery of human-to-human transmission comes as more than 400 million people are expected to travel domestically and internationally this week to celebrate the Lunar New Year with relatives.

Enhanced screening measures including fever checks have been set up at airports in Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and the United States, with particular attention on arrivals from the central Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak. Health authorities there, where a seafood market has been identified as the centre of the outbreak, said Tuesday that an 89-year-old man became the fourth person to die from the virus and that 15 medical staff had been infected. A second case was also confirmed in Shanghai on Tuesday, while five people have been diagnosed with the illness in Beijing.

The virus has also reached Japan, Thailand and South Korea, with four people hospitalised after visiting Wuhan.

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses common among animals. In rare cases, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reports, these viruses can become zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans. These viruses are also classified under the contagious viral respiratory disease known as SARS. AFP

EDITORIAL

Saving ourselves from poverty

WE LIBERIANS RISK being poorer in 2020 than the last two years, if we don't get our acts together to break the poverty chain now! Previous Liberian administrations had governed in way that subjected people to paying taxes without receiving basic services. The Weah administration is no exception, so are governments in the entire West Africa.

FOR INSTANCE, THE Sirleaf administration granted tax holidays to several new investments in her final years, waiving millions in a country where poverty is nearly 90 percent. Some of the beneficiaries extracted what they and pulled out, leaving the country bare.

A RECENT STUDY by Oxfam West Africa reveals that West African governments are exacerbating inequality by underfunding public services, including healthcare, education and agriculture while under-taxing corporations and the wealthy, and failing to clamp down on tax evasion, tax avoidance and corruption.

OXFAM REGIONAL DIRECTOR for West Africa Adama Coulibaly, calls on governments in West Africa to strengthen commitment against inequality by promoting progressive taxation, boosting social spending, strengthening labour market protection, investing in agriculture and strengthening land right for smallholder food crop farmers.

LAST YEAR, AN Oxfam West Africa investigation titled, Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index, noted that inequality has reached crisis levels in the region, yet governments here are the least committed to reducing inequality on the continent.

THESE REVELATIONS CLEARLY indicate that Liberians and their colleagues in the region are on their own because governments they elected are not seeking their welfare in terms of social services.

HOWEVER, WE AS citizens can turn this picture around by standing up and saying enough is enough! We need to demand our peace and happiness.

BESIDES, WE MUST get to work by engaging in small-scale businesses and returning to the soil which our ancestors left with us.

WE IN LIBERIA, especially, should put aside the dependency syndrome and believe in ourselves. This would require working with our hands. No Liberian should feel too big or too proud to do something for himself.

THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION has just entered its third year and the hardship continues to increase. We should not put our hands between or legs believe in utopia that government will deliver on promises made.

UNLESS LIBERIANS ADAPT a radical approach by taking matters into our hands to rescue ourselves from this quagmire, the good life we dream of would elude us for long.

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COMMENTARY

By Hans-Werner Sinn

Who Pays for the Green Deal?

As laudable as they are, the European Commission's proposals for addressing climate change rely overwhelmingly on forms of financing that violate EU rules. Because the Commission is barred from assuming debt, the European Investment Bank will do so on its behalf, and the European Central Bank will ultimately be left holding the bag.

MUNICH - Under President Ursula von der Leyen, the new European Commission has big plans to address climate change. With a €1 trillion (\$1.1 trillion) investment package, it hopes to transform Europe into a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

But much of that €1 trillion for the Commission's proposed Green Deal would be generated through financial-leverage effects. In 2020, the European Union will formally allocate for such purposes only around €40 billion, most of which is already included in the budget from previous years; arguably, only €7.5 billion of additional funding under the plan would actually be new.

As with the previous Commission's 2015 Juncker Plan, the trick, once again, will be to muster the lion's share of the quoted sum through a shadow budget administered by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The Commission, after all, isn't allowed to incur debt; but the EU's intergovernmental rescue and investment funds are.

In essence, the EU is doing what the major banks did before the 2008 financial crisis, when they circumvented regulation by shifting part of their business to off-balance-sheet conduits and special-purpose vehicles. In the case of the EU, the guarantees offered by the Commission and individual EU member states are sufficient for a high credit rating, and thus for the issuance of European debenture bonds. The funds generated will be used for public and private purposes, and sometimes even for public-private partnerships. But should the guarantees be called in one day, eurozone taxpayers will be the ones to foot the bill.

These planned shadow budgets are problematic, not just because they would allow the Commission to circumvent a prohibition against borrowing, but also because they implicate the European Central Bank. To be sure, ECB President Christine Lagarde has already announced that she wants the bank to play a more active role in climate-friendly activities within the eurozone. And the ECB is now considering whether to pursue targeted purchases of bonds issued by institutions that have received the Commission's climate seal of approval.

In practice, of course, this most likely means that the ECB would buy up the "green" bonds now being devised by the EIB. Those purchases will then reduce the interest rates at which the EIB can take on debt, ultimately leading to activation of

the printing press to provide the money for spending on climate policy.

It is laudable to want to do something about climate change. But under the current plan, the ECB would be pushed into a legal grey area. The institution is not democratically controlled, but rather managed by technocrats on the Executive Board. Every member state, big or small, appoints its own representative, who then has equal voting rights, personal immunity, and the autonomy to operate free from any parliamentary accountability.

Moreover, under the Maastricht Treaty, the ECB Board is primarily obligated to maintain price stability, and may support separate economic-policy measures only if doing so does not endanger its ability to fulfill this mandate. In the case of the Green Deal, the dangers are obvious. If the additional demand created by an expansion of green projects is funded by printing money instead of collecting taxes, it will not withdraw demand from other sectors of the European economy and would therefore be potentially inflationary.

Situations like this serve as a reminder of why Article 123 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union strictly prohibits the ECB from taking part in the financing "of Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies, central governments, regional, local, or other public authorities, other bodies governed by public law, or public undertakings of Member States." But, of course, the ECB has already circumvented this rule by purchasing around €2 trillion in public debt from the market, thereby stretching the limits of its mandate to a legally dubious degree.

The latest plans to circumvent the Maastricht Treaty will not improve matters. Before the financial crisis, the ECB was concerned only with monetary policy. During the crisis, it turned into a public bailout authority rescuing near-bankrupt banks and governments. Now, it is becoming an economic government that can print its budget as it sees fit.

The impending violation of the spirit of the Maastricht Treaty will be twofold: the EU will be assuming debt covertly, and it will be doing so through the printing press. As such, the Commission's plans will further undermine the credibility of the very institution on which Europe relies for its financial and macroeconomic stability and its long-term growth prospects - and this at a time when the world is becoming even more uncertain, competitive, and aggressive.

O-PED

By Ana Palacio

Forgetting Auschwitz

75 years after the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, anti-Semitism is again on the rise across the Western world. This trend - and the weak response to it - is a harbinger of democratic decay.

MADRID - This week, world leaders are gathering in Jerusalem to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise across the democratic world, recalling the lessons of this painful history could not be more important.

These are difficult times for liberal democracy. Institutions are under strain. Rules and norms are being challenged and, in some cases, shamelessly flouted. Societies are becoming increasingly polarized and fragmented. And the toxic "isms" of the past - ethno-nationalism, populism, anti-Semitism - are being revived.

Whereas ethno-nationalism and populism have been dominating debates for years - particularly since the Brexit referendum and US President Donald Trump's electoral victory in 2016 - the resurgence of anti-Semitism has been less discussed. And yet the evidence of this trend is abundant - and chilling.

In Hungary and elsewhere, the dog-whistle demonization of the Holocaust survivor George Soros has gone on for years. In the United Kingdom, a leaked document revealed "relentless" incidents of anti-Semitism within the Labour Party. During the Yellow Jacket protests in France, a prominent Jewish intellectual was met with cries of "dirty Zionist."

Violent anti-Semitic hate crimes - from an arson attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris to shootings at synagogues in Pittsburgh and eastern Germany - are also on the rise. In France, police reports indicate that anti-Semitic incidents increased by 74% from 2017 to 2018.

Likewise, according to a forthcoming report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, anti-Semitic hate crimes in America's three largest cities (New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago) are on track to reach an 18-year high. The German government's anti-Semitism commissioner has warned Jewish men not to wear yarmulkes (the traditional Jewish head covering) in public.

It has been said that anti-Semitism is a red flag for a society. Attacks on the Jewish community portend attacks on other groups. The German pastor Martin Niemöller's post-World War II confession eloquently captures this progression: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me."

But the risks of rising anti-Semitism run even deeper. The rejection of anti-Semitism lies at the root of modern Western liberalism, and forms the foundation of our societies. Nowhere is this truer than in the European Union, which was founded explicitly on the goal of preventing the horrors of World War II from ever being repeated. Indeed, even beyond rules, institutions, and the rule of law, the EU is based on respect for human dignity - a priority born from and sustained by the memory of the Holocaust.

Europe's "never again" mantra has always been more aspiration than reality. The Srebrenica massacre in 1995, and, more broadly, the war and ethnic cleansing that accompanied the breakup of Yugoslavia, clearly defied it. But the soul-searching that followed the Balkan conflict suggests that Europeans at the very least recognized the betrayal of their fundamental values.

Such self-reflection is much harder to come by these days. Mentions of anti-Semitism are often shrugged off or even cynically rationalized. Displays of outrage or solidarity lack depth, with discussions hijacked by arguments about Israeli - or even US - policies. Meanwhile, liberal democracy weakens.

Two reasons for this weak response are worthy of particular attention. The first is the fading of memory. The history of anti-Semitism in Europe is nearly as old as Europe itself. But the last 70 years have brought a remarkable respite, because of the indelible mark the Holocaust left on those who had lived through, or near, it. But nearly all of them have died. Younger generations view this singularly horrific event as yet another tragedy of history, and thus do not fully appreciate the scale or urgency of the threat anti-Semitism poses.

The second reason is the broader erosion of democratic principles and institutions. In this sense, anti-Semitism is a canary in the coal mine, showing us just how toxic and divisive our social and political discourse has become. The instrumentalization of the most basic rules, norms, and principles to advance personal or partisan objectives threatens to unmoor our societies. If we cannot agree that anti-Semitism has no place in our societies, what can we agree on?

The resurgence of anti-Semitism - and the weak response to it - is a harbinger of democratic decay. The commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz will hold a mirror up to our societies. We can either avert our eyes and allow ourselves to reach the point where there is no one left to speak for us, or we can recognize the threat we face - and confront it head on.

OPINION

By John B. Taylor

Restoring Fiscal Order in the United States

The United States' federal budget deficit is currently projected to explode, increasing the federal debt to unprecedentedly high levels. A very gradual fiscal consolidation, with federal spending as a share of GDP declining slightly each year, would both raise economic growth and create a more resilient economy.

STANFORD - In recent years, the US government has taken several essential economic-policy steps. The tax reform embedded in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), the recent United States -Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement, "phase one" of a China-US trade deal, and recent regulatory reforms are all needed to revive and strengthen economic growth. It is now time for another essential policy step: correcting the trajectory of fiscal policy.

The Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) current baseline projection of federal government spending in future years far outpaces federal government revenue, as the figure below clearly shows. The result is an exploding federal budget deficit, which will bring the federal debt as a share of GDP to 144% by 2049, according to the CBO baseline, and likely to the 219% projected in the CBO's alternative fiscal scenario. These debt levels are unprecedented in US history.

In contrast to previous periods when the deficit fell after similar upward bursts, the current CBO projections show no such reversal. The large deficit will crowd out important federal programs, including needed infrastructure investment, as well as private investment needed for economic growth. Debt service will account for a rising share of spending, and the high debt will likely increase interest rates by more than the CBO assumes, leading to an economically perilous debt spiral.

It does not have to be this way. The figure also shows a sensible target for spending as a share of GDP, establishing a path toward fiscal consolidation. This target moves very gradually - by only 0.1 percentage point per year - reducing the share of federal spending in GDP from 20.7% to 19.5%.

This gradual path does not represent "austerity" in any meaningful sense. Federal spending would grow at a rate slightly less than the growth rate of GDP, leading to smaller deficits over time. If credible, the plan would have no negative demand effects on GDP. According to CBO research that I cited when I testified before the House Budget Committee in November, such a target would lead to higher GDP growth and more income per person, in contrast to current CBO projections of exploding deficits.

But achieving this target means that the future expenditure share of GDP would be substantially lower than projected by the CBO under current policy. As John Cogan explains in his recent book *The High Cost of Good Intentions*, consolidation paths like this require reforms that boost the efficiency of government programs - such as keeping the growth of Social Security spending per person in line with inflation.

Some economists - such as Jason Furman of Harvard University's Kennedy School - have argued for another type of fiscal reform, which would increase the magnitude of automatic stabilizers. I disagree. Yes, there are good reasons for the federal deficit to rise automatically during economic downturns and to fall during booms. Such movements tend to stabilize the economy, and they occur automatically as a result of programs like unemployment compensation and a progressive tax system.

But automatic stabilizers have been working well for many years. Regression estimates show that their recent size has been about the same as it has been for the past half-century. As real GDP declines relative to its potential (that is, as the output gap rises), spending growth increases and tax revenue growth declines, resulting in a larger cyclical deficit. From 2000 to 2018, the output gap accounted for 38% of the cyclical component of the deficit, about the same as the 36% share over the five decades from 1969 to 2018, based on data from the CBO's January 28, 2019, report on the automatic stabilizers. One can see this relationship in the scatter plot below, showing the cyclical deficit and the GDP gap during 1969-2018. The dots are scattered tightly around a straight line with a slope of 0.36.

One reason sometimes given to justify strengthening the automatic stabilizers is that monetary policy can no longer do the job because it is constrained by the zero bound on interest rates. But it is better to fix monetary policy by using rules, including rules for forward guidance, than it is to change the automatic stabilizer component of fiscal policy when the problem lies elsewhere.

The current federal budget is off track and needs to be reformed. The problem is that spending is projected to grow too rapidly relative to revenues, not that the deficit responds too modestly to the ups and downs in the economy. The reform suggested here would focus on the problem with a very gradual fiscal consolidation, which would make the policy process more permanent, pervasive, and predictable. Most important, it would both accelerate GDP growth and create a more resilient economy.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Gbah - From Village to Town

-how SDPL transformed a small village in Liberia

By: Antonio Dee

Anyone who ever visited Gbah town in the early 1990s or in 2005 and returned there today, will see how the city once considered as a no-go zone area during the war and even after the war, would know how it has gradually been transformed into a modern town.

There were check points mounted in the past by former rebels to interrogate people who commuters from one place to another. There were fears that some of the travelers were either the enemies of the other group or spies; hence the need to interrogate.

"This fear used to exist here those days. This place used to be a fearful place for many people. Most of the time, you will see armed men roaming the streets. At some instances, people would walk and when they reach, they would pretend like they are coming to the town to sleep; all to ease fear," Anthony Massaly, a resident of the town told this reporter recently.

This story was attested by a man who said, he helped to rescue the life of a Roman Catholic Priest in Gbah town.

"I remember this small town. In 1990, one Catholic Priest, Fr. John Thomson was arrested by fighters from Charles Taylor at the border with Sierra Leone. The priest took some Liberians to Robert Sports in Cape Mount county for rescue," the man who declined to be named said.

"But one day, when he went to the border to get some food, we saw him in handcuff. The rebels brought him and said he was seen with SSB radio communicating. When he got to Gbah, they wanted to kill him. But thanks to God that I was around and appealed to the fighters who later released him. I will never forget that small town," the person added.

Today, the town which had one shop at that time and later went to three shops in 2010, the story has changed completely.

"We have to give credit to SDPL for the level of in direct support they brought to this county. The coming of SDPL meant a lot for us here. This place was fearful and one could see ex-rebels roaming around here. The Guthrie plantation here was a no man's land. People killed one another for different reasons," Roland Davies, a resident of the town said.

"If you look here today, you can see bank in Gbah, several shops, cook shops, restaurants, night clubs and many more. If SDPL had not come to employ people from this town, the story would have been different today. Even when you go back the other side, you will see an estate that one employee is constructing around here. This is what we call development," he added.

Madam Kebeh Passaway said the women have market center that they can go to sell. I have been able to start from small business to a bigger business today. My children are attending SDPL school. All this, have helped us today. Some companies came in the past and not much was done. But today, I can say that SDPL has made impact on our lives here."

Some residents in the town said they will always remember SDPL for the level of work it carried out. "Even though, there were some tough times and we clashed with management here. But at the end of it, we settled down. Even children and parents can have confusion and later settle their problems. So, it was with SDPL and residents here."

"From this town, many students are going to school. They do not pay one cent to attend the school. They ride bus to go to school. When we get sick, we go for treatment to the clinic. Our children too, take treatment as well. That is the type of transformation that has been made," Boakai Sambulleh said.

These were buttressed by the former head of the Bureau of Concession, Mr. Gregory Coleman when he once toured the facilities of the company and went to Gbah.

"I think that SDPL has done a lot for the people of this place and they are doing more. I remember years ago, most of these things we see today, were not here. But I think there is room for more," he said.

According to him at the time, things would be much better if the residents were seen part of the entire operations of the company. Once that was seen you would see lot more of things being done indirectly.

Will miss SDPL:

"For me, I have to say here that I will miss the company. We have a saying that you will not know the importance of a river until it runs dry. Today, SDPL is the river. It has run dry and we are getting to know its importance," Abraham Koroma, a youth in Gbah said.

But there were some level of disagreement with some youths who were with him in the discussion.

"For me, I will miss the company small. I did not enjoy a lot from them. I just got to Gbah six months ago. But some of you that were here many years ago, will say all the good things about the company. I am trying to get my first contract with them. At least if I have been benefiting from the company, then you can say something of enjoyment," Boima Fahbuleh said.

Many of them agreed that the transformation could

have been more than it is now, if the company has been given the chance to expand. "The more they expand, the better it is for us. We think that some of these things were the fault of the government at that time. If the government has done the right thing by meeting the locals first, all these issues about land problem were not going to come out in anyway," Jerry Swaray said.

His statement was earlier buttressed by the NBC. The former chairman admitted that along the way, the government made some errors. That was why this current government of President George Weah decided to look into many of these things.

The former acting Agriculture minister Mrs. Precious Tetteh, at one of the meetings held at the Executive Mansion said it was regrettable for SDPL to pull out at this time. According to her, the company has made an impact on the lives of the locals and the government was prepared to work on it.

The level of transformation seems to be great on the lives of the people of Gbah and its environs, but those that actually wanted to see a lot more are the students who attending the SDPL school system.

"I think we should have benefitted from the company in few years to come if we have stayed her them. This town has changed and so it is with some of us who have changed. In the past, there was no bank here, but today, we can easily walk around here to get money," Amos T. Kiazulu a student of six grade said.

He said, "We regret the leaving of the company. It is better to deal with the devil you know than the angel you have not seen. So, the way this little town face has been changed, many of us are happy and proud of that."

No matter the situation would be, one thing that has remained on the minds of residents is indeed SDPL transformed Gbah, once a small town to a big town with many facilities that attract people to live there.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sen. Lawrence leads investigation into VP Taylor's complaint

By Ethel A Tweh

Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence has been appointed as head of a five - man committee to probe Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor's [absence]

committee which includes Sen. Kangar-Lawrence; Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Varney Sherman; River Gee County Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh; Bomi County Sen. Sando Johnson and

that the matter raised by Vice President Howard - Taylor is resolved and the Vice President can return to work.

Recently, Vice President Taylor wrote the President Pro-tempore requesting his intervention in relation to budgetary support to her office as Vice President.

In her communication, she said since last year she met with members of the Liberian Senate to inform them of the difficulties she was undergoing with some members of the Executive Branch regarding budgetary support to her office and the need for their intervention.

She noted that they agreed that they would have intervened and things would have gotten better, but things have not improved after waiting.

"I am saddened to inform you, as elders of our Nation, that the situation remains that bills due my office from 2018-2019 are still not paid and the operational expenses which I needed for the effective running or functioning of my office (Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia), during 2018 - 2019 and 2019 - 2020 budget years

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence

from work and her recent communication to the Liberian Senate.

The President Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate, Albert T. Chie has constituted the

Montserrado County Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon.

The committee is set up to work with the various ministries and agencies of the Executive Branch to ensure

Partners sub-grant SGBV funds to improve reporting

By Winston W. Parley

European Union (EU) Head of Cooperation to Liberia Mr. Theodorus Kaspers says through the newly launched Enough! Project, more than 65 percent of the funds are sub-granted to local women rights organizations so that more action can be taken from within communities surrounding sexual gender - based violence (SGBV).

The disclosure was made Tuesday, 21 January in Vai Town, Bushrod Island where Oxfam with support from the EU launched the project "Enough! Empowering women, girls, boys and men to take positive action in ending SGBV in Ghana, Liberia and Mali."

"Through the Enough! Project, having more than 65% of the funds sub-granted to local women rights organizations, we are confident that by increased participation, resources and capacity building activities in transformative leadership more action can be taken

from within communities," he said Tuesday, 21 January in Monrovia.

"It will allow for improved monitoring and reporting on cases of SGBV, changes in structural behaviors and active participation of women in decision - making," Mr. Kaspers continues.

He adds that the Enough!

Project along with the extensive EU/UN joint program Spotlight Initiative also focusing on the elimination of sexual and gender - based violence, translates the EU commitment - to make a real and lasting difference for women and girls all over the world - into action.

"Breaking the stereotype, breaking the culture of silence

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



World Bank empowers A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine

The World Bank Liberia Country Office donates two buses to the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, University of Liberia, to facilitate movement of students and faculty to and from the Fendall Campus outside Monrovia. The cost for the buses is put at US\$121,000.00, including comprehensive insurance for a year.

Making the presentation at the Ministry of Health in Congo Town, World Bank Liberia Country Manager, Dr. Khwima Nthara, says the two new vehicles (30 and 18-seater buses) will maximize use of the newly constructed dormitories and clinical skills laboratory at the Fendall Campus.

Receiving keys to the vehicles, Liberia's Minister of Health Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah, thanks the World Bank for

between Monrovia and the Fendall Campus for classes and the John F. Kennedy Hospital for teaching, learning and clinical rotations.

"The A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine was founded in 1968, once considered a model for medical training in West Africa", he recalls but laments that economic constraints, political turmoil and disease outbreaks have taken a toll on the medical school, impeding the quality of medical education and sometimes jeopardizing its very existence. However, he praises the heroic dedication of the faculty, administrators and students, which is leading the College to continue training doctors for Liberia.

The handover ceremony was attended by Dr. Bernice Dahn, Vice President for Health



providing the buses, which is in fulfillment of the Bank's promise a year ago. Minister Jallah praises the bank for supporting the Health Workforce Program (HWP) which is one of the key pillars of the Ministry of Health's Investment Plan for a Resilient Health System. She also lauds the World Bank for providing immense support for infrastructure development which is an integral part of workforce development.

The Dean of the College of Agriculture and Forestry, at the University, Dr. Moses Zinnah, who represented University of Liberia President, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., thanks the Bank and the Ministry of Health for the vehicles.

Dr. Zinnah notes that the vehicles will aid faculty and students of the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine commute

Sciences, University of Liberia, Madam Norwu Howard, Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Health, Matthew Flomo, Project Manager and other senior officials of the Ministry of Health.

Recently, Dr. Nthara said, the World Bank provided initial support of US\$2.45m to finance construction of two state of the art and fully furnished 48-bed dormitories, two furnished classrooms and one skills laboratory. "This support was aimed at strengthening the learning environment of the A. M. Dogliotti College of Medicine, thus enhancing the health workforce and contributing to the improvement of health care services in Liberia," he added.

The support then was in response to findings of the comprehensive assessment of

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Tweah forecasts 2020 recovery

-As he signs 3.7m PPAA with World Bank

Finance Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah has predicted that the country will begin to show some sign of recovery beginning this year 2020, while indicating

US\$3.7 million out of US\$40 million Fisheries Agreement between the World Bank and the Government of Liberia, Tweah acknowledged the challenges faced by Liberians

be challenges, but we are going to overcome them through the robust implementation of the mandate of the president," Minister Tweah averred.

He said the country is currently making progress with regard to the fiscal and monetary sectors, adding that confidence is being restored at the Central Bank of Liberia, while giving an upbeat appraisal of the significant reforms done in the fiscal and monetary spheres which according to him have begun to yield positive results.

He disclosed that the government is currently working with the World Bank to deliver on the pavement of the Ganta-Zwedru road corridor and that 'yellow machines' for the pavement will arrive during Dry Season of 2021. He added that the second stretch from Tappita to Zwedru is set for 2022. He also mentioned that when completed, the Sanniquellie-Laquatu, will serve as trade link with Cote d'Ivoire and boost trade and commerce along that corridor.

Speaking further, Tweah added that the government has paid all arrears owed the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation nearly all of which

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that there will be increase prospect for the subsequent years.

Speaking Tuesday January 21, during the signing of the Preparatory Project Advancement Agreement of

in 2019.

He, stated that the government is working with vigor to turn things around in 2020 and the years moving forward.

"Going forward, there will

Atty. Isaac Jackson sacks Cllr. Arthur Johnson for conflict of interest

Liberia's Permanent Representative to IMO, Atty. Isaac W. Jackson Jr. has with immediate effect relieved Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson of his post as his legal counsel representing him at the ongoing Prohibition Case before the Supreme Court.

Atty. Jackson says he has dismissed Cllr. Johnson because he (Cllr. Johnson) now represents conflicting interests.

In his letter dated January 20, 2020, addressed to Cllr. Jonson, Jackson says "consistent with Rules 8 and 9 of the Code for the Moral and Ethical Conduct of lawyers, you can no longer make effective representation for me in the ongoing Prohibition Case, considering that you now Head Government's Asset Recovery Team, which effectively bars you from arguing against the Government of Liberia".

Jackson's letter further says that as Head of the Government Asset Recovery Team, Cllr. Arthur Johnson will be serving as principal lawyer prosecuting cases for

and on behalf of the Government; so he (Jackson) could no longer retain Arthur Johnson as his lawyer.

Isaac Jackson also blames Cllr. Johnson for failing, despite several requests to file a bill of information at the Supreme Court to bring to the court's attention the Government's contemptuous refusal to abide by the

Supreme Court's directive; and for abandoning his case. Jackson says following Cllr. Johnson's April 22, 2019 press conference, announcing his withdrawal from the case, he (Jackson) wrote Cllr. Johnson requesting him to reinstate himself based upon the well-established Rules of Court, which do not allow lawyers to withdraw from a case after



Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson

German investor

Starts from back page

Company is operating in that part of the county.

The forest land conflict led to series of meetings between aggrieved citizens of the county and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to resolve the matter.

The aggrieved #3B citizens at the time requested the management of the FDA to replace the Forest Representative of the FDA and that the benefit of the area should be received from their forest land, among others.

It is also yet to be

established by the Liberia National Police whether the killers of the investor ever toke away valuables and money from the home of the victim following the incident.

Up to press time on 22 January, no arrest had been made by the police here, and there was no official statement issued by the Ministry of Information or other institutions in the sector. The police did not respond to call from this paper for further inquiry on the matter—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Sen. Lawrence leads

Cont'd from page 6

have not been paid," Madam Taylor explains.

She furthers that the situation has left her without the proper security arrangements for her safe movements and without the ability to provide necessities for her office.

"Currently, the security vehicles, including 2 bullet proof vehicles, needed for my movements have still not been provided to my detail," she says.

"As a result, I have been unable to leave my home over the past 3 weeks. I am therefore constrained to inform this Honorable Body that due to the constraints described, I am unable to attend to my duties during this opening of the 3rd Session of the 54th National Legislature 2020 until these constraints are attended to," she concludes.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

World Bank empowers

Cont'd from page 6

training institutions conducted by the Ministry of Health in 2015, whose results revealed the poor learning environment and living conditions that contributed to low enrollment and high attrition of medical students, the World Bank Country Manager points out.

The assessment findings included: unstable electricity and internet; lack of a skills lab to learn through hands-on practice; and, overcrowded dormitories with no desks or tables for studying. Previously, 18 students were housed in each 3-bedroom apartment, with six students sharing a bedroom, and all 18 students sharing one bathroom with no running water. Therefore, the new dormitory and skills laboratory project was commissioned on December 20, 2018 to address these

bottlenecks.

Following commissioning of the dormitory, Dr. Nthara discloses there were further requests from the A. M. Dogliotti College of Medicine and the Ministry of Health for procurement of transformer to power the dormitory, and vehicles to convey students and faculties who are not currently accommodated on site to ensure fulfillment of the objectives of the initial support provided by the World Bank. The Country Manager expresses happiness that the World Bank has once again responded to these requests, but appeals to the A. M. Dogliotti College of Medicine and the Ministry of Health to ensure proper maintenance of the vehicles and the dormitories to serve the purpose for which they were procured.

making representation before the Full-bench of the Supreme Court. But, Cllr. Johnson ignored and disregarded the advice.

Meanwhile, Atty. Isaac Jackson has appointed Human Rights lawyer, Cllr. Finley Y. Karngar to serve as his legal counsel to pick up from where Cllr. Johnson stopped.

Isaac Jackson therefore

thanks Cllr. Arthur Johnson for his initial courage and bravery to represent him throughout from Chambers Justice level to the Full-bench of the Supreme Court, and asks Cllr. Johnson to turn over the case file to Cllr. Finley Y. Karngar to enable Cllr. Karngar continue with representation in the going prohibition Case at the Supreme Court.

Français

« Tout va bien au sein de l'UP et de la plateforme de l'opposition », selon Wilmot Paye

Le Parti de l'Unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir), se dit optimiste quant à un accord entre les partis politiques de l'opposition pour conjuguer leurs efforts en vue des élections de 2020 et de 2023. Bien que le parti ait démenti la rumeur selon laquelle la plateforme de l'opposition serait secouée par un conflit interne, il a fait état d'un processus de réconciliation qui serait en cours.

Le président de l'UP, M.

Wilmot Paye, a confié au New Dawn lors d'un entretien téléphonique le lundi 20 janvier 2020 que, pour l'heure, l'ancien parti au pouvoir a fait de la réconciliation entre les partis de la plateforme de l'opposition sa priorité.

À la suite des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2017, l'ancien parti au pouvoir a été secoué par des querelles internes qui ont vu la suspension de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson

Sirleaf et d'autres responsables qui étaient considérés comme ses proches collaborateurs.

L'affaire avait été portée devant la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) qui avait statué en faveur de la présidente Sirleaf et ses proches. Toutefois, l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai, qui fut candidat du parti lors de la dernière élection présidentielle remportée par le footballeur George Weah, et le président Paye avaient fait

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A la présidence du Liberia depuis deux ans, Weah a déçu

En arrivant au pouvoir il y a deux ans au Liberia, l'ancienne star du football international George Weah avait suscité d'immenses espoirs aujourd'hui déçus dans un pays ravagé par des années de guerres civiles et le virus Ebola, qui reste miné par la pauvreté.

Le corps ruisselant de sueur, Dominic Kpadeh, 45 ans, casse des pierres dans la banlieue de Monrovia. "Je fais

ça pour nourrir la famille", dit ce père de quatre enfants, plié en deux par l'effort.

Avant, son travail pour l'industrie du bâtiment lui rapportait 1.000 dollars (900 euros) par mois, à partager avec plusieurs ouvriers travaillant avec lui. Maintenant, dit-il, ils peuvent s'estimer heureux quand ils en touchent 250 (225 euros).

"Les gens ne font plus construire comme avant.

Même ceux qui viennent acheter de la pierre concassée la veulent pour pas cher", se désole-t-il.

Une plainte répandue au Liberia, petite république d'Afrique de l'Ouest, où l'inflation et les maux économiques attisent le dépit envers George Weah.

L'ancienne star du foot de l'AC Milan et du PSG a accédé à la présidence le 22 janvier 2018 en promettant de créer des emplois et d'investir dans l'éducation. De nombreux pauvres adulaient l'ancien gamin des bidonvilles devenu vedette planétaire, puis chef d'Etat.

Au cours de ces deux années, M. Weah a lancé des chantiers routiers et aboli les frais pour les premières années d'université. Mais sa conduite des affaires et son action économique sont sérieusement remises en cause.

Une inflation à environ 30% érode le pouvoir d'achat. Les fonctionnaires ne sont pas payés régulièrement. Avec la crise des liquidités, les titulaires de comptes

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Weah commence l'année 3 de son règne avec des défis

L'euphorie et l'éclat de joie qui ont caractérisé la cérémonie d'investiture officielle de l'ancienne icône du football, George Manneh Weah, en tant que 25^e président du Liberia, sont tombés il y a quelques temps, tandis que l'homme qui est passé instantanément du football professionnel à la politique entre sérieusement dans l'année trois de son mandat présidentiel dans un pays en proie à de nombreux défis, allant de l'économie à la gouvernance, en passant par l'état de droit, la corruption et la réconciliation nationale.

Bien qu'il ait pris les rênes du pouvoir à la fin du règne de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, une femme expérimentée pour avoir été pendant longtemps dans le système et dans l'opposition, il a dit avoir hérité d'une économie en berne.

L'administration Weah avait fait croire que la réserve nationale était pratiquement vide, ce que l'ex-présidente Sirleaf avait contesté lors d'une interview accordée à la BBC, informant le monde entier que son gouvernement avait laissé 150 millions de dollars américains et avait appelé les responsables appropriés de la nouvelle administration à vérifier les comptes.

Le gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique n'est plus retourné vers le peuple libérien pour infirmer ou confirmer les dits de l'ancienne présidente et dire clairement combien il a réellement trouvé dans la réserve. Le régime s'est plutôt lancé immédiatement dans la réalisation d'une série de projets d'infrastructure ambitieux, dont un projet de construction d'une route côtière, un hôpital militaire et plusieurs routes communautaires. Ces projets avaient initialement été annoncés comme des initiatives personnelles du Président, mais l'on s'est rendu compte par la suite du contraire.

En outre, le président Weah a démolit ses maisons privées et en a construit de nouvelles, dont 10 duplex, le tout au cours de la première année de son leadership sur fond de vague de protestations publiques pour déclarer ses biens.

Cependant, alors que la poussière retombait et que les réalités s'établissaient au cours de la deuxième année, le gouvernement s'était vu empêtré dans une crise financière. À cela il faut ajouter

l'échec du pouvoir de situer les responsabilités concernant la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens nouvellement imprimés et concernant les 25 millions de dollars américains décaissés pour nettoyer l'excès de liquidité dans l'économie.

Toutes les autres étapes du processus ont vu l'administration sombrer plus profondément dans les problèmes financiers, créant une grave pénurie de liquidités dans les banques au cours de la deuxième partie de sa deuxième année au pouvoir, et l'incapacité du gouvernement à réunir des revenus suffisants pour payer les salaires mensuels des fonctionnaires.

Mais ce n'était pas là l'espoir que le président Weah a donné aux Libériens, en particulier à ses partisans, et aux partenaires internationaux, y compris les délégués et diplomates étrangers qui se sont rassemblés au Complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe à Paynesville le 22 janvier 2018.

« J'ai prêté serment devant vous, et devant le Dieu Tout-Puissant, de faire respecter notre constitution et de faire de mon mieux pour présider à la destinée de ce gouvernement et ce pays. RESTE ASSURÉ, JE NE VOUS DÉPOSERAI PAS », avait promis le président.

Les Libériens ne semblent pas croire que ces promesses ont été tenues jusque-là, car le citoyen ordinaire de la rue continue de ressentir le pincement de l'économie qui est meurtrie par une hyperinflation sans précédent et le taux de change à trois chiffres.

Mais le président, qui ne semble pas tarir de promesse, en a fait d'autres récemment dans un discours lors de la rentrée parlementaire, indiquant que 2020 serait une année de progrès.

Le président Weah: "2020 est une année où nous consoliderons nos gains et lancerons le Liberia vers le haut et vers l'avant sur une plate-forme des politiques et des programmes pratiques et solides qui commenceront à redresser notre économie."

Les Libériens espèrent que ce ne serait pas un nouveau déluge de promesses, car ils attendent avec impatience de voir le gouvernement fournir des solutions tangibles en fournissant des services de base et en rétablissant rapidement la confiance du public.

Français

« Tout va bien au sein de l'UP et de la plateforme

appel de la décision devant la Cour suprême, puis, une année plus tard, retiré l'affaire à la suite d'une rencontre de réconciliation entre Mme Sirleaf et M. Boakai.

Selon M. Paye, le processus de réconciliation implique un engagement individuel, un respect mutuel et la recherche du bien commun les uns pour les autres, tout en ajoutant que « le parti reste le véhicule commun qui les anime tous ».

Il a démenti les informations selon lesquelles les relations entre lui et l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai ne sont pas assez bonnes.

Pour M. Paye, le rapport médiatique concernant un certain malaise dans les relations entre lui et son patron Boakai n'est que l'œuvre des distracteurs « qui veulent s'accaparer des gains

réalisés au sein du parti en créant un conflit artificiel dont ils pourront de servir pour atteindre leur objectif ».

Il a dit qu'il n'est pas surpris que des rumeurs de ce type arrivent en ce moment car des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat sont prévues pour octobre cette année.

A.M. Paye d'ajouter que les membres de l'UP sont restés unis quoi que les détracteurs aient prédit son effondrement en 2011 et en 2017. « L'UP a toujours eu un certain nombre de problèmes mais a surmonté ces défis », s'est-il vanté.

Le président de l'UP a laissé entendre que la chose la plus importante en tant que cadre de l'UP, c'est l'intégrité. « Que nos détracteurs ne nous obligent pas à faire ce qui n'est pas conforme à ce en quoi nous croyons.

A la présidence

bancaires peuvent repartir des distributeurs sans avoir pu toucher à leur argent.

- Héritage -

Environ la moitié des 4,8 millions de Libériens vivent avec moins de 1,90 dollar (1,69 euro) par jour, selon des chiffres de la Banque mondiale.

Il reste "beaucoup de travail", concédait M. Weah à l'occasion du Nouvel, mais, ajoutait-il, "j'ai confiance, 2020 sera une année de rétablissement économique".

M. Weah "a hérité d'une économie en ruines", dit à l'AFP son porte-parole, Solo Kelgbeh, "mais il fait tout pour (la) ressusciter".

Seul Ballon d'or africain, en 1995, George Weah a pris ses fonctions de président dans un pays peinant à se remettre de guerres civiles qui ont fait 250.000 morts de 1989 à 2003, après des années de mauvaise gestion. Plus de 4.800 Libériens sont morts entre 2014 et 2016 de la fièvre Ebola.

Par un "effet pervers", après l'épidémie d'Ebola, le pays a perdu une source majeure de revenus avec la fin de l'aide extérieure, ce qui a favorisé l'inflation, dit le représentant local du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), Geoffrey Oestreicher.

Il note les efforts du gouvernement. Mais "ce sont les pauvres qui souffrent".

Les Nations unies étaient le deuxième employeur du Liberia et, avec le départ des humanitaires, il a fallu "piocher dans les caisses pour

mener à bien des choses qui n'étaient pas budgétées, des choses que la communauté internationale n'avaient pas faites, c'est un énorme fardeau financier", dit le porte-parole du président.

Les interrogations se font jour. Avec la politique, l'ancien crac évolue-t-il sur un terrain pas fait pour lui? On le lui avait déjà reproché en 2005, quand celui qui avait décroché au lycée avait concouru à la présidentielle.

- Décisif devant les buts? -

Il a depuis passé un diplôme universitaire.

Pour la troisième fois en moins d'un an, un collectif composé d'associations de la société civile, le Conseil des Patriotes, a fait descendre les Libériens dans la rue le 6 janvier pour de meilleures conditions de vie.

La police a dispersé les manifestants par la force. Les autorités ont fait fermer en octobre la radio de l'une des figures du collectif, l'animateur Henry Costa, virulent détracteur de M. Weah. Inquiété sur la validité de ses documents de voyage, M. Costa a quitté cette semaine le Liberia en catimini.

"Ces deux années de George Weah ont été un échec complet", dit l'un des co-présidents du collectif, Mo Alie.

La présidence Weah a dû faire face à une sombre affaire de corruption

COMMENTAIRE

Par Hans-Werner Sinn

Qui va payer la note du Green Deal ?

MUNICH - Sous la présidence d'Ursula von der Leyen, la nouvelle Commission européenne a de grands projets de lutte contre le changement climatique. Avec un bloc d'investissement d'un billion d'euros (1,1 billion de dollars), cette Commission entend transformer l'Europe en une économie sans carbone d'ici 2050.

Mais une grande partie de ce billion d'euros pour le projet de Green Deal de la Commission doit être produite par des effets de levier financier. En 2020, l'Union européenne n'allouera officiellement à de telles fins qu'environ 40 milliards d'euros, dont la plupart sont déjà inscrits au budget des années précédentes. Il n'y aurait en fait que 7,5 milliards d'euros de financement supplémentaire dans le cadre du plan, au titre de nouveaux fonds.

Comme dans le précédent plan Juncker de la Commission 2015, le tour de passe-passe va consister, une fois de plus, à rassembler la part du lion de la somme citée par le biais d'un budget fictif administré par la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI). Après tout, la Commission n'est pas autorisée à contracter des dettes. Mais les fonds intergouvernementaux de sauvetage et d'investissement de l'UE sont habilités à le faire.

Essentiellement, l'UE fait ce que les grandes banques ont fait avant la crise financière de 2008, lorsqu'elles ont contourné la réglementation en transférant une partie de leurs activités vers des conduits hors bilan et des entités ad hoc. Dans le cas de l'UE, les garanties offertes par la Commission et les différents États membres de l'UE sont suffisantes pour une cote de crédit élevée - et donc pour l'émission de bons d'obligations européens. Les fonds générés seront utilisés à des fins publiques et privées - et parfois même pour des partenariats public-privé. Mais si les garanties doivent être appelées un jour, les contribuables de la zone euro seront ceux qui vont payer la note.

Ces projets de budgets fictifs sont problématiques, non seulement parce qu'ils permettent à la Commission de contourner une interdiction d'emprunt, mais également parce qu'ils impliquent la Banque centrale européenne. Certes, la présidente de la BCE Christine Lagarde a déjà annoncé qu'elle souhaitait que la banque joue un rôle plus actif dans les activités respectueuses du climat au sein de la zone euro. En outre, la BCE se demande à présent si elle doit poursuivre des achats ciblés d'obligations émises par des institutions qui ont reçu le label qualité climatique de la Commission.

Dans la pratique, bien sûr, cela signifie très probablement que la BCE achèterait les obligations « vertes » actuellement inventées par la BEI. Ces achats réduiront ensuite les taux d'intérêt auxquels la BEI peut s'endetter, ce qui aboutira finalement à faire fonctionner

la planche à billets pour fournir l'argent nécessaire aux dépenses de politique climatique.

Il est louable de vouloir faire quelque chose au sujet du changement climatique. Mais dans le cadre du plan actuel, la BCE risque d'être poussée dans une zone de flou juridique. L'institution n'est pas contrôlée démocratiquement, mais elle est plutôt gérée par des technocrates du Conseil exécutif. Chaque État membre, grand ou petit, nomme son propre représentant, qui dispose alors de droits de vote égaux, d'immunité personnelle et d'autonomie pour fonctionner sans aucune responsabilité parlementaire.

En outre, en vertu du Traité de Maastricht, le Conseil d'administration de la BCE est principalement tenu de maintenir la stabilité des prix et ne peut soutenir des mesures de politique économique distinctes que si cela ne met pas en danger sa capacité à remplir ce mandat. Dans le cas du Green Deal, les dangers sont évidents. Si la demande supplémentaire créée par une expansion des projets verts est financée par l'impression de monnaie au lieu de la collecte d'impôts, elle ne retirera pas la demande d'autres secteurs de l'économie européenne et sera donc potentiellement inflationniste.

Des situations comme celle-ci nous rappellent pour quelles raisons l'Article 123 du Traité sur le Fonctionnement de l'Union européenne interdit strictement à la BCE de participer au financement « des institutions de l'Union, organes, bureaux ou agences, des gouvernements centraux, régionaux, locaux, ou d'autres autorités publiques, d'autres organismes régis par le droit public ou des entreprises publiques des États membres. » Mais bien sûr, la BCE a déjà contourné cette règle en achetant environ 2 billions d'euros de dette publique sur le marché, ce qui étend les limites de son mandat à un degré juridiquement douteux.

Les derniers plans visant à contourner le Traité de Maastricht n'amélioreront pas les choses. Avant la crise financière, la BCE se souciait seulement de politique monétaire. Au cours de la crise, elle s'est transformée en une autorité publique de sauvetage financier qui a sauvé les banques et les gouvernements proches de la faillite. À présent, elle se transforme en un gouvernement économique qui peut imprimer son budget à son gré.

La violation imminente de l'esprit du Traité de Maastricht sera double : l'UE assumera secrètement la dette - et elle le fera en imprimant de la monnaie. En ces circonstances, les plans de la Commission mineront davantage la crédibilité de l'institution sur laquelle l'Europe se fonde pour sa stabilité financière et macroéconomique et ses perspectives de croissance à long terme - et ce à un moment où le monde devient encore plus incertain, plus compétitif et plus agressif.

CoP's allies scatter

By Othello B. Garblah

It appears like allies of the Council of Patriots or CoP are scattering all over the place one by one following the December 30th protest and the subsequent immigration fracas with leader Henry Costa.

On Tuesday night, the Executive Committee of the former ruling Unity Party or UP announced the suspension of its Chairman Mr. Wilmot Paye on grounds that he unilaterally issued a press statement requesting UP partisan to stay off the CoP's much trumpeted protest after the party standard bearer and leader former Vice President Joseph Boakai and other executives have publicly announced their support of the protest.

The suspension of Mr. Paye follows media reports that he and former Vice President Boakai were not on speaking terms, a report Paye denied in an interview with this paper on Monday night, Party Secretary Mo Ali, who also serve as the co-chair of CoP, said the party has put together a committee to investigate Chairman Paye's unilateral decision and the rationale behind it.

He told reporters that Paye's suspension will remain enforced till findings into his motives are established. He further noted the further action will be based on the committee's findings.

However, Mr. Paye who



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf

Ex-VP Pres. Boakai

UP Chairman Paye

appears to be defiant says he was duly elected on a white ballot just as the former Vice President to serve the party.

He opined that it is only the delegates from the 15 political sub-division of the can change that decision through another election.

He sees his suspension as a conspiracy between former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Joseph Boakai, describing it as a flop.

"They have tested us inside and outside and they have failed," referring to his political leaders trying to manipulate his actions.

He said despite these twist and turns, the decision to suspend him has only reinforced his resolved speak the truth and stand up against

the ills in society.

On Monday, Paye dismissed rumor of an internal conflict within the party saying its reconciliation process is on course.

The UP Chairman told the New Dawn via telephone interview Monday, January 20, 2020 that the party is focused on its reconciliation process and is building on the commitment of members who see the UP as their common vehicle.

Following the 2017 presidential and legislative elections, the former ruling party was embroiled in an internal bickering, which saw the suspension of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and other officials who were deemed close allies of hers.

The matter was brought before the National Elections Commission (NEC) which ruled in favor of President Sirleaf and others. However, current party standard bearer former Vice President Joseph Boakai and chairman Paye took an appeal to the Supreme Court. Nonetheless the case was soon withdrawn a year later following a reconciliation meeting between the both parties, led by Mrs. Sirleaf on one hand and Mr. Boakai on the other.

Paye says the reconciliation process entails individual commitment, mutual respect and seeking of the common good for each other, while the party remains the common vehicle that drives them all.

He denied reports that there is currently a bad blood between himself and party standard bearer Joseph Boakai, adding that they have been on good terms and that

there is even a planned meeting of party officials in days.

Mr. Paye described the media report of a brawl between he and former Vice President Boakai as the work of distracters who want to exploit the gains being made within the party by creating an artificial conflict to ride on.

He said he is not surprise that such reports are coming at the time when there is a pending mid-term senatorial election in October of this year.

But it is not clear what all these will boil down to now as the party has announced his suspension validating claims on an internal conflict within its ranks.

Of course one thing that is certain is that Mr. Paye argues that the UP is a party which has held its members together even when the naysayers predicted its collapse in 2011 and 2017. "UP has always had a number of issues but has surmounted the challenges," he bragged.

Tweah forecasts

Cont'd from page 7

predates the current government.

He disclosed further that government has begun processing the payment of about US\$600,000 of US\$1 million owed the Liberia Electricity Corporation and that additional payments to clear the entire debt to the Corporation will be made in the next few weeks.

He, however thanked the World Bank for its support to the government, and the meaningful projects they have supported under this administration.

He noted that Liberia's partnership with the World Bank is expected to move towards transformative and impactful projects for jobs creation.

He added that the Bank is looking towards additional financing in the amount of US\$75 million for scaling up agriculture. The Minister thanked the Director of the National Fishery Authority Emma Glassco for her passion and outstanding leadership aimed at transforming the fisheries sector.

Also speaking, World Bank Country Manager, Dr. Khwima Nthara, said the Bank believes making an impact in the sector will be transformative, and that supporting Liberia in the right and significant way was important. The Country Manager expressed the hope that Liberia can get the requisite qualification from EU to enable the sector gain access to the EU market and thereby attract significant investments.

The Project, he said, will

help monitoring capabilities by putting in place systems for industrial fishing, while increasing sea patrols to curtail illegal fishing.

He enjoined NaFAA and the West African Fishery Authority to integrate lessons.

Dr. Nthara also expressed commendations for the development vision of President Weah's government which is embedded in the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and assured the Bank's continual support.

The US\$40 million project titled "Sustainable Management of the Fisheries Project" aims to sustain the gains of the WARFP in Liberia and develop national capacities to improve the value-added and increase the economic contribution of the fisheries sector and the restoration of key infrastructure to enhance the sector's contribution to the economy.

The new World Bank National Fisheries Project will focus on the rehabilitation and expansion of the Mesurado Fishing Pier to a state-of-the-art modern fishing port with onshore processing facilities for value addition. The Project will also prioritize the establishment of landing jetties in five coastal counties with densely populated fishing communities such as Montserrado, Grand Bassa among others in an effort to reduce huge post-harvest loss and supply the domestic market with high quality of fish products which has a fish demand deficit of 33, 000 metric tons.

Cont'd from page 6

Partners sub-grant

is the first step to transforming high [prevalence] of gender-based violence and start building a balanced, empowered society. Attitudinal change is a game changer. Indeed, addressing adverse social norms and all forms of discrimination could be leveraged as a vehicle for gender equity," he says.

According to Mr. Kaspers, violence against women and girls remains one of the most significant human rights violations in Liberia, noting that with this project, the EU aims at creating an enabling environment for women and girls to learn, exercise and claim their rights to ultimately end violence against them.

"We strive to strengthen capacities of community actors and women's organizations to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) crimes and to ensure that there are response services in place for SGBV survivors," he says.

Lisa Kindervater of Oxfam

reveals that the project worth about 1.7 million dollars and is being launched with the Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI).

Out of the amount, she says 1.5 million comes from the European Union, expressing thanks for the project because it will help a lot of women and girls, men and boys from Margibi, River Cess, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh and Montserrado Counties.

She notes that out of 16 local organizations that applied to be part of the project, eight of them were selected.

Madam Kindervater observes that because of the shame and stigma surrounding SGBV cases, only a small number of them get reported, as survivors of these crimes handle the cases through family interventions.

But through the Enough! Project, she says partners will be working with the communities so that people do not compromise SGBV cases. Of all the cases reported last year, she

laments that only one percent was adjudicated.

She warns that there is never any excuse for abuse, as she dismisses the notion that people get raped either for their dress code or their movement, adding: "We want to say that's not true! That's not true!"

Also speaking, Margibi County District #3 Rep. Ellen Attoh Wreh says she sees it as an insult and an affront to those who worked to ensure the passage of the Domestic Violence Act, to still have all the SGBV cases around as if people are not in the know of the law.

She warns that if everyone continues to hide behind culture and family business as a reason of compromising SGBV cases, nothing will be achieved in the fight against domestic violence.

Shah Liton, Oxfam Country Director calls for the collaborative efforts of all in the fight against violence, saying enough is enough, and they cannot tolerate it anymore.

Weah to run for third term?

By Othello B. Garblah

Just as he enters the third year of his first term, House Representative Munah Pelham has hinted of plans by her party, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to alter the constitution and ensure that President George Weah runs for a third term.

Speaking in a recent interview Rep. Pelham who has been absent on the Liberian political scene for over a year due to a protracted illness said the Weah regime will get to a point where it will seek a referendum to amend the constitution to allow Weah to contest for a third term.

“We will get to a point where we will seek a referendum to amend the constitution to have Ambassador George Weah sitting as our President for a third term,” Rep Pelham said amidst cheers in an AP Interview at the CDC’s headquarters.

Rep. Pelham further disclosed that she was making a prediction about altering the Constitution to have



President Weah contest for a third term and that will surely come to pass.

“You could never imagine this is a prediction and I can tell you it will come to pass,” she added.

Rep Pelham who is trying to make her presence felt after a long absence here has just upped the debate among ruling party faithful to

another level. Though it has not been official but many Cdcians have joked that Weah could probably be a life time president.

What the Constitution says about term limits

The Liberian constitution calls for a two term limit for a president and no president has ever in the history of Liberia attempted to alter the

constitution to seek third term at least not publicly like is the case with the CDC regime.

Article 50 of the Liberian 1986 Constitution says, “The Executive Power of the Republic shall be vested in the President who shall be Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The president shall be elected by universal adult suffrage of registered voters in the Republic and shall hold office for a term of six years commencing at noon on the third working Monday in January of the year immediately following the elections. No person shall serve as President for more than two terms.”

The executive power of the state is vested in the President of Liberia, who is entrusted to faithfully execute the laws of the country. Among the changes made to the presidency from the previous constitution include the introduction of term limits, prohibiting the President from serving more than two terms, and the reduction of presidential terms from eight

years to six.

The Liberian Constitution of 1847 was the first constitution of Liberia. It was mostly modeled on the Constitution of the United States, it remained in effect from its adoption on 26 July 1847 until its suspension by the People's Redemption Council on 12 April 1980.

The July 26, 1847 Constitution was approved in a referendum on 27 September 1847. It has since seen several amendments from 1847 to 1980.

Among these amendments, the term length of the president was extended to four years in 1908, and to eight years in 1934. The 1986 Constitution saw the term length of the president being reduced from 8 years to six years and limited to two terms.

Furthermore, the Constitution provides that in the event of the assumption of the presidency by the Vice President in the event of the President's death, resignation, incapacity or removal, the Vice President will be not considered to have served a term in office for the purpose of term limits.

ACCF grants \$4.7m to support projects in African countries

The Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) recently approved seven new project proposals amounting to around \$4.7 million.

The approval of these projects increases ACCF's overall portfolio to 15 projects. These projects demonstrate how the ACCF helps Regional Member Countries to finance climate-resilient, low-carbon development. They will expand the ACCF's geographic reach and diversify its field of intervention. The projects align with the Bank's Strategy 2013-2022 and Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020. The projects are as follows:

Syntropic agriculture as strategy to foster resilience, climate adaptation and recovery of vulnerable communities living in degraded marine and coastal ecosystems in Mozambique: This project will improve the environmental resilience and economic sustainability of smallholder families in Zambezia Province using scaled-up "gender-oriented eco-governance productive model"; it will be implemented by ICEI, a non-profit organization and ORAM, a local NGO.

Building climate resilience through youth and women farmers: The project will contribute to building an inclusive and climate resilient ecosystem for food security and sustainable growth in

Sudan, strengthening collective entrepreneurial capacity of farmer associations; it will be implemented by local NGO ZWD.

Removing barriers to climate finance access by local governments/municipalities: The project will remove barriers hindering local government's access to international climate finance; it will be implemented by the Ministry of Territorial Governance, Development and Management of the Territory of Senegal, in conjunction with CSE.

Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) - Benin and Lesotho: The project will scale up the United Nations Capital Development Fund's LoCAL Mechanism which supports local governments to execute climate resilient development projects using performance-based grants. The project will be implemented by UNCDF.

Green energy for women and youth resilience in Uganda and Kenya: The project will support the transition to low carbon development and scale up access to climate finance by boosting the development of the Sustainable Energy Value Chain, focusing on women and youth engagement; it will be implemented by a consortium of CSOs led by AVSI Foundation and including Pamiga.

The Africa NDC Hub: Supporting NDCs Implementation in Africa: The project will support African countries to accelerate access to climate finance and effective utilization of funds for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It will support the pipeline development of eight project proposals, strengthening institutions in Namibia, Uganda, São Tomé and Príncipe and Cameroon. The project will be implemented by the African Development Bank. **Cocoa Livelihoods Resilience - enhancing the resilience of smallholder cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire** through piloting the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism (ABM): The project will introduce a set of sustainable climate-resilient agro-forestry measures to enhance resilience of cocoa farmers to climate shocks in Soubre and Sinfra districts. The project will be implemented by the African Development Bank in collaboration with ICRAF and partners and will pilot the ABM - an innovative mechanism for mobilization of public and private sector finance.

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Death announcement



This is to announce the death of Oldma Kebbeh Konah Kollie of Chugbor community, Old Road. This event occurred on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia following a protracted illness. She was 88 years old.

The late oldma Kebbeh Konah Kollie was survived by several children including, Mr. Aaron Kollie, Manager of Power TM/TV, as well as a host of other relatives. The first family meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the Kollie's residence in Chugbor community, Old Road at 3: 00 PM.

This announcement goes out to the citizens of the town of Kpademai and Kpakarmai in Lofa County and relatives in Monrovia, Harbel and abroad.

Signed:
Aaron B. Kollie
Son of the deceased for the family

German investor killed in Grand Bassa

-Police hunt for suspects



The late Mr. Juergen Schedema

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Reports reaching the New Dawn newspaper says a German investor operating a logging company in Grand Bassa County has been killed in Buchanan by unknown men believed to be armed robbers.

The incident reportedly occurred in the early morning hours of Wednesday, 22

January, and the detachment of Liberia National Police (LNP) in the county has launched an investigation into the matter, reports say.

The investor, named Mr. Juergen Schedema was said to have been shot within his International Constant Logging Company's vicinity by the unknown men.

According to residents in the area, it is the first time in

the history of the county for such a high profile killing to be carried out against a foreign national there.

The locals are making demands that everything must be done as humanly possible by the government to probe the murder.

The citizens in Grand Bassa have expressed concern that this incident sends a negative signal to the outside world about the safety of foreign nationals doing business in Liberia.

The reported death of the businessman was received with shock by many citizens of the county, prompting a call on government to timely investigate the matter and bring the perpetrators to justice.

However, prior to the incident, there has been a misunderstanding between citizens of #3B in Grand Bassa County over land and benefit for the citizens.

It has not however been established whether the International Constant Logging

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Arteta hopes 10-man Arsenal's grit points to brighter future

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta hopes the resilience his side showed in twice coming from behind while a man down to hold Chelsea 2-2 at Stamford Bridge proves a "stepping stone" to a brighter future for the Gunners.

Arteta's men remain 10th in the Premier League, 10 points behind Chelsea in fourth, but while a point may be too little for their hopes of a return to the Champions League, the manner in which

it was achieved gave their new manager cause for optimism.

"Time will tell if this is a stepping stone, but at least I saw a reaction," said Arteta.

"I demand from the players that they never give up. We have to keep playing with the spirit we showed in every game. I'm proud of the way they reacted."

David Luiz endured a nightmare evening on his return to Stamford Bridge as the Brazilian was sent off



after 26 minutes for hauling down Tammy Abraham. Jorginho converted the resulting penalty.

However, Chelsea's struggles at home continued as they offered another lifeline to those challenging for a top-four finish.

Frank Lampard's men are now six points clear in fourth, but Manchester United can cut that gap to three with victory over Burnley on Wednesday.

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