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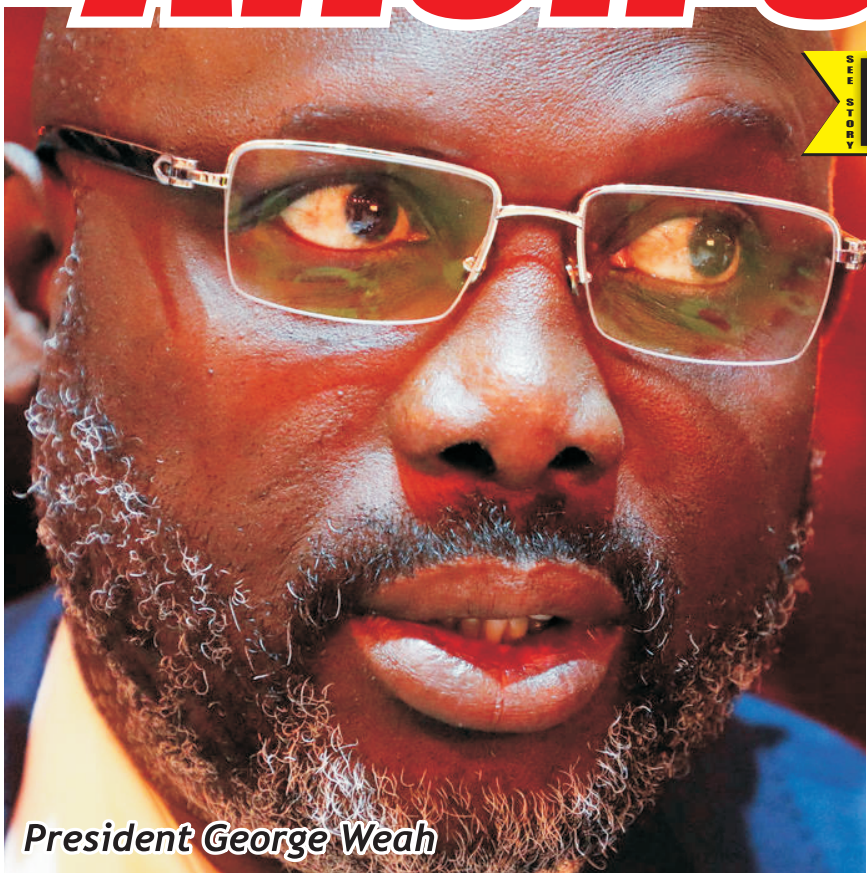
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Backward elements

-Allen on VP Taylor



President George Weah



Chief Cyril Allen



VP Jewel Howard Taylor

P11



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Continental News

Angola's Isabel dos Santos named as fraud suspect

Africa's richest woman, Isabel dos Santos, has been accused of embezzlement and money laundering by prosecutors in Angola.

Attorney General Helder Pitta Gros said the allegations related to her time as chairwoman of state oil firm Sonangol.

He called on Ms Dos Santos to return to Angola and face potential criminal charges. Ms Dos Santos recently denied alleged corruption revealed by leaked documents. The billionaire, who currently lives in the UK, also told the BBC she was considering running for Angola's presidency.

Her father, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, was Angola's president for 38 years before he stepped down in 2017. Prosecutors are seeking to recover \$1bn (£760m) that Ms Dos Santos and her associates are alleged to owe the state.

"Isabel dos Santos is

accused of mismanagement and embezzlement of funds during her tenure at Sonangol," Mr Pitta Gros told a news conference on Wednesday evening.

He said that as a result she was being provisionally charged with "money

laundering, influence peddling, harmful management...[and] forgery of documents, among other economic crimes".

The Angolan authorities will now conduct a criminal investigation to determine whether she should be

formally charged.

They have also named five other people as suspects in the case and urged them to return to Angola.

Mr Pitta Gros said that if Ms Dos Santos did not return to Angola voluntarily an international arrest warrant would be issued for her.

Ms Dos Santos was controversially appointed head of Sonangol in June 2016 by her father. She was sacked from the post in 2017 by her father's successor, President Joao Lourenço.

An investigation into Ms Dos Santos was opened after her successor at Sonangol, Carlos Saturnino, alerted authorities to alleged irregular money transfers. Her assets in Angola have been frozen. On Sunday, the BBC and other news organisations reported on more than 700,000 leaked documents about the billionaire's business empire.

The documents showed how

Ms Dos Santos got access to lucrative land, oil, diamond and telecoms deals when her father was president. Her fortune is estimated at \$2.1 bn (£1.6bn).

They also showed how Western firms helped Ms Dos Santos take her money out of Angola.

She called the allegations entirely false and claimed that the Angolan government was engaged in a politically motivated witch-hunt.

Earlier this week a top executive at financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers left the firm over its links with Ms dos Santos. The company declined to comment on the departure and said it had launched its own investigation.

On Wednesday Portuguese bank EuroBic said it would end its business relationship with Ms dos Santos, who is reportedly the bank's main shareholder through two companies she owns. BBC



Ms Dos Santos has denied allegations that she built her fortune by exploiting her country

Kenya steps up surveillance amid coronavirus fears

Kenya's ministry of health has heightened surveillance at all ports of entry and screening of passengers for coronavirus, which has so far infected at least 400 people and killed nine in China.

Lots of people travel from China to Kenya for business. Every week, Kenya's national airline Kenya Airways

operates two non-stop flights between Nairobi and Guangzhou.

Coronavirus has caused alarm because of its genetic similarities to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Sars), which killed hundreds of people globally in 2002-2003.

Chinese authorities have urged people to stop travelling in and out of

Wuhan, the city at the centre of the new virus, which has spread to several Chinese provinces, as well as the US, Thailand and South Korea.

The World Health Organization is set to determine whether the outbreak should be categorised as an international health emergency. -BBC



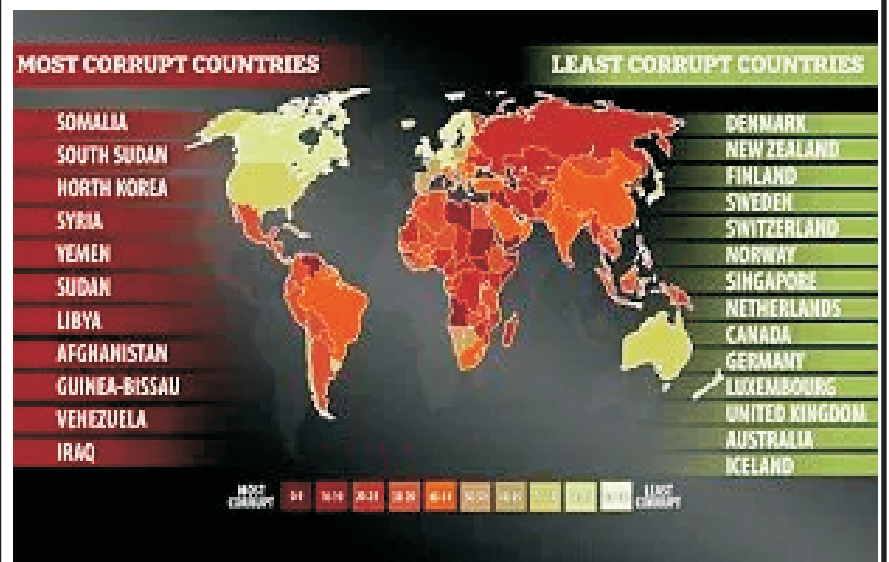
Image caption: Fears are that the deadly coronavirus will spread from China to Kenya

Somalia ranked world's most corrupt nation

Somalia is still ranked the world's most corrupt country, according to the just released 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The index is published annually by Transparency International (TI) and assesses the perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries.

recently, attacks by Islamist militant groups.

Transparency International has called for the establishment of structures for "political accountability to facilitate anti-corruption mechanisms". Somalia's government has in the past dismissed similar poor rankings in the CPI as an



According to TI, the country's poor rule of law has created room for everything from "petty bribery to high-level political corruption". This year, Somalia is preparing to hold its first "one-person-one vote" in over 50 years. The East African country has been ravaged by a decades-long civil war, and more

"unreliable and falsehood". The country's Finance Minister Abdirahman Duale Beyle has previously threatened to sue Transparency International. The country has recently made progress in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank on debt relief. -BBC

EDITORIAL

Saving ourselves from poverty

WE LIBERIANS RISK being poorer in 2020 than in the last two years, if we don't get our acts together to break the poverty chain that has confined us to the margins of society. Previous Liberian administrations had governed in ways that subjected citizens 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 wanted 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 AdamaCoulibaly, 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 had never sought their interest neither do they have the slightest thought to seeking their welfare in terms of providing 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, one of the great assets 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 our legs believing 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 very long.

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COMMENTARY

By Sigmar Gabriel
& Michael Hüther

Finding Europe's Way in the World

For historical reasons, Europe has long resided in the strategic shadow of the United States, which itself has underwritten decades of globalization and rapidly expanding prosperity. But the global balance of power is rapidly shifting, leaving Europe increasingly exposed.

BERLIN - The European Union, and particularly Germany, have yet to rise to the challenge posed by the United States' retreat from global leadership. But, given the new competition from China, together with Russia's renewed great-power aspirations, Western countries must find a way to cooperate more closely.

To that end, five issues seem vital. The first is Germany's relationship with the US, which is now under severe stress. The elephant in the room is Germany's failure to increase its annual defense spending to 2% of GDP, as agreed at the 2014 NATO summit in Wales. For obvious historical reasons, Germany is hesitant to become Europe's de facto military power. Were it to meet its spending commitment, it would be allocating €80 billion (\$89 billion) per year to the Bundeswehr, which is €46 billion more than what France spends.³

Still, to do its part within the alliance without raising fears in Eastern Europe, Germany could spend 1.5% of its GDP on materiel and personnel, while committing an additional 0.5% to fund NATO's operations in the Baltics and in Poland. That would both bolster the eastern member states' ability to defend themselves against Russian aggression and demonstrate Germany's willingness to shoulder more responsibility.

The second big issue is US-EU relations. The immediate challenges facing America and Europe have changed over the past seven decades. Most recently, Russia has expanded its sphere of influence into Crimea, eastern Ukraine, and the Sea of Azov, and China has begun to assert economic and technological dominance in Eurasia.

At the same time, Western democracies are struggling to deal with disruptions caused by globalization, migration, technology, and climate change. Amid deteriorating economic security and social cohesion, populist and nationalist movements have exploited voters' anxieties by promising to defend the homeland against cosmopolitan elites and the multilateral institutions that have underpinned politics and economics since World War II.

Notwithstanding populist rhetoric, economic globalization has in fact created prosperity and reduced poverty, and opened up new development opportunities around the world. But without the West's support, this system cannot be sustained. What we need now to open up new possibilities for the world order is a globalization of civil society, and to remind people and communities that the state is still capable of acting effectively. That starts with investing more in education, research, and infrastructure, while striking a balance between cross-border cooperation and respect for cultural idiosyncrasies.

This brings us to the third issue: Russia. Here, the EU's pursuit of a balanced policy has created friction within the transatlantic alliance, as exemplified by the tensions over Nord Stream 2, a joint Russian-German pipeline

project. In the German government's view, Nord Stream 2 is fundamentally an economic issue. After all, German, French, and other European companies have invested heavily in the project; in any case, it would be a grave political mistake to intervene in the private European gas market.

The liberalization of the gas market has indeed allowed for a tremendous expansion of Europe's energy supply. Ultimately, companies, following market signals, should decide from whom they buy their gas. But nor can Europeans ignore threats to the political independence of neighboring countries such as Ukraine - which Nord Stream 2 bypasses. On balance, a better way to secure Europe's energy supply would be to expand and further integrate Europe's natural-gas infrastructure, while building more terminals for liquefied natural gas. That way, no country - be it a member state or close partner - could be held hostage as a result of its dependence on Russian energy.

The fourth issue is China, which has made clear that it seeks a revision of the international balance of power. For its part, the Trump administration rightly challenged China on trade. There can be no "fair trade" when a country that does not play by the same rules as everyone else organizes two-fifths of the global economy. China lavishes subsidies on its industries, limits access to its markets, and routinely violates intellectual-property rights. Moreover, China's model of authoritarian state capitalism poses a double challenge, because it represents both economic competition and an alternative political model. As such, the EU and America urgently need to devise clear, mutually agreed rules for dealing with China.

The fifth major issue is Europe's role in the wider world. If Europe does not wake up to the realities of the new Sino-American rivalry, it could find itself in a position of geopolitical irrelevance. In fact, there are already signs of Europe's declining global significance. Wars and conflicts along the European periphery are increasingly being decided by other powers, with Europe playing no discernible role in their resolution.

Europe's reluctance to assert itself has a historical dimension. For good reasons, the EU has long resided beneath the US security umbrella, with the Union effectively remaining on the sidelines. But that geopolitical conception of Europe is an American artifact, based on the Marshall Plan. As NATO's first secretary-general, Hastings Ismay, famously put it, the purpose of NATO was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down."

Much has changed since the 1950s. Today, we Europeans are only gradually beginning to understand that we must adapt to the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century. The Atlantic era is giving way to the Pacific era. Europeans must harbor no illusions that all will turn out well on its own. Now is the time to muster the courage and the will to take responsibility for our strategic interests.



Lord, has this lady lost her mind?

Dear Father:

I say what happen to this other woman? Since she came back from sick bush she just talking all kina thing around here, I hope shena losing it small, small oo. Hmm my son, me, myself my mouth full.

I tell you oo, because since she came back she has just opened her mouth wide and saying all kina thing. Maybe that the thing the people from the sick bush told her to do when she come back.

You mean to make her feel that she is wellehn? But Father, what I moh say na. The woman has been lying down one place for whole one year doing nothing and all that one was making her sick more. So it looks like the sick bush people told her when she come, she should be jumping all over the place like one "cutlehay" chicken (Chicken with head cut off) opening her mouth wide like.

Then she will really stay long inside Ay Father, da the one you talking slow like that so. Let her just be there jumping here and there saying things her mouth na supposed to say, how long for them to clip her wings.

But the one she talked sef about the Country Giant running for third term, I think she overdosed her medicine that day, because da one sound like somebody who brain na twist or high on something-my name oo.

Um, my son be careful ay, the woman da whole chief at the Traditional Council oo and na small chief there too oo!

But ehn da what the people can say, if you cook yourself in tomato cup, they will dish you out with broomsticks. Da what she wanted so the people will dish her out with broomsticks.

Instead of her coming back to go to the Old man house to tell him thank you and be testifying how the Old man na give her second chance she want to announce herself by cooking herself in tomato cup.

Don't mind her Ehn da it there. Da why I say maybe da the take home medicine the people from the sick bush gave her na enter her brain so. She mohna think on how see will manage to stay at that Traditional Council.

Father da these kina people can turn people into dictators just for their own benefits. The man will then become slave to them because they will keep putting all kina things in his head like the stupid ones she is saying.

Da why me, I just cut it short to say da the medication they gave her using her so and may she not continue to overdose.

OPINION

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.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia: The Election of George Weah is a Rebuke of Kleptocracy and an Embrace of Transformative Social Change

Francis Nyepon

Liberia's post-conflict democratic governance period left the people of Liberia deprived, desperate and destitute. Liberians believe that the vast resources of the country was squandered, plundered, and pillaged. As a result, they rose-up during the election to hold Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Unity Party accountable, and overwhelmingly elected George Weah, president and Jewel Howard-Taylor, vice president. The Liberian people frantically wanted change at any cost due to their bitterness, anger and disappointment.

After 12 years of the country's best opportunity to fundamentally root transformative social change was squandered, Joseph Boakai became the fall guy for the country's collective hurt. During the presidency of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, poverty became overwhelmingly endemic, while corruption, nepotism, and patronage became the order of the day. Liberians simply could not stomach anything Ellen Johnson Sirleaf or Unity Party after 12 years of pure hell. The overwhelming majority of Liberians lost faith in the governing institutions of the country and in the elite that has hitherto controlled them; thereby, believing that the country has been on the wrong track for the past 12 years, so they rejected Joseph Boakai.

The results of the December 26 runoff election was a rebuke of kleptocracy in favor of inclusion and transformative social change. The majority of the Liberian people flatly disapproved of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf performance while in office, believing that they have nothing to lose after the country's most educated and celebrated leader failed them so miserably. The success of the CDC coalition is quite an achievement for a party that is comprised mostly of young people, many of whom were abandoned, neglected, excluded, and marginalized by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for the past 12 years.

The 2017 elections shock the country to its core. George Weah and the CDC coalition must now seize this golden opportunity to impact the economy and the social order in a big way. The Weah victory should be nothing more than unsettling basic ideas and assumptions about development and transformative social change. Poverty needs to immediately be tackled in order to improve livelihoods, social conditions, awareness and outlook. The enormous expectations of the young people, many of whom are unskilled, unqualified and unemployed, must constructively be dealt with in a holistic manner because the vast majority of Liberians believe that their 'suffering' will come to an end after George Weah takes office in January.



George Weah must remember that he won the presidency because his coalition was able to effectively mobilized the Liberian people to accepted the hard truths that the country will be faced with over the next decade. The CDC coalition rode the wave of change generated by the miserable failure of the Unity Party lead by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Hence, they have been granted a huge opportunity by the Liberian people to make a significant difference in the lives of the youth and poverty stricken masses. The time has now come to govern and lead the country to greatness. The Weah administration must initiate strategic policies of inclusion, and not fuel policies of marginalization and exclusion, which could allowed the country to return to violence, bloodshed and destruction. George Weah must leverage the result of the elections to build an inclusive society where the livelihood of all Liberians can be improved.

Without delay, the state must emphatically declare as offensive and unacceptable, cronyism, corruption, nepotism, privilege, and the use of state resources for self-enrichment. As replacement, strategies must be developed to constructively engage the huge youth bulge in an inclusive manner so as to ignite transformative social change throughout the country. Reform measures must be put in place to make over the entire education, healthcare, and agricultural sectors to enhance a conducive and enabling social environment to improve life, wellbeing and progress. This is the legacy that Liberia deserve. The country

and its political structures must never again be allowed to be manipulated and used for personal benefit. Incompetent, selfish and greedy people must be eliminated so as to fundamentally bring about transformative social change.

Those civil and public servants who go in to assist the CDC coalition should be prepared to not use their office as a magnet for kickbacks and enticements. Extreme poverty, hardship, unemployment, illiteracy, insecurity, and hopelessness are still the order of the day for millions of Liberians. Over 70% of our people lack education, skill-sets, opportunity and basic services to participate in and grow the economy; while, countless number of youth and women continue to experience extreme limitations in accessing opportunities and income to improve livelihood and entrepreneurial skills.

To begin this process, the George Weah administration must immediately commission a fiscal audit and comprehensive appraisal of all concession agreements of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf administration. The new government should also consider establishing mechanisms to provide robust opportunities to confiscate and repatriate stolen government funds hidden away in foreign banks. Our country's enormous natural resource endowment must translate into economic progress and better quality of life for all Liberians. It is disgusting and unacceptable to imagine the squandering of our national resource while children die throughout the country on a daily basis due to penury and curable diseases. After 12 years of corruption, nepotism, and mismanagement, Liberia deserves a government of inclusion, access, participation, equity and development. Those social cancers that plague the Sirleaf administration, should never again be allowed to manifest themselves or permeate our governance structures by becoming impediments, which obstruct our country from realizing transformative social change. Our country should never again be allowed to become a destitute pariah state as it once was. The vast resources of our country should be used to provide the foundation for enviable development and economic growth, and definitely not a curse, while over 80% of Liberians live below the poverty line.



About the Authors: Send comments, observations, questions and remarks to: Francis Nyepon at fnyepo@aol.com

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL lifts ban on student politics

By Winston W. Parley

The President of the University of Liberia Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson has announced the lifting of a ban on students political activities at the Institution.

to [reconvene] the offices of the student political parties.

“And in the light of our consultation, I’m happy to announce that as we’re going to the end of this semester, the University Administration

at the opening of a one - day lecture to the student community and the University by the Ambassador of Korea to Liberia Lee In - Tae on the topic “Growing the Liberian Economy through Education: the South Korean Model.”

Nelson informs the University family that several consultations have been concluded with the student community at the University of Liberia in preparation to move forward.

He says he had a meeting with the Students Advisory Council that had been reactivated.

He notes that the ban has been long in place and the University Administration thought it is time to lift it by the blessing of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Further, Dr. Nelson also announces temporary permit to a new political group on the campus.

Students’ politics at the University have in the time past seen violence, which have sometimes prompted administrative decisions including suspension or ban on student political activities.

is hereby lifting the ban on students political activities as we go on into the future,” Dr. Nelson says amidst applause.

He announced the decision



Announcing the decision Thursday, 23 January at Fendall, Dr. Nelson to work with the students groups for the University Administration

Colombia wants to help address drug use here

Colombian President Mr. Iván Duque Márquez, has expressed his preparedness to partner with Liberia to address the use of drugs here.

President Márquez, said the partnership will be through a comprehensive approach; including but not limited to supporting programs to assist drug users especially ‘At Risk Youths’ to desist from using drugs.

Speaking at a Peacebuilding Commission meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, President Márquez extended an invitation to President George Manneh Weah to visit Colombia on a State visit.

In a dispatch from the Liberina Mission in New York, President Márquez who expressed that he has been a longtime fan of President Weah during his soccer years,

brought together stakeholders.

Liberia’s Ambassador Kemayah, Sr. during the meeting stressed the need for increased continuous and predictable financing of United Nations peacebuilding activities in Liberia.

He noted that increase in the level of financial support is needed for the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office, and the Liberia Multi-partner Trust Fund to ensure sustainability of peacebuilding and conflict prevention related program activities.

Addressing the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission meeting on Good Practices in Financing for Peacebuilding and Partnerships in Cartagena, Colombia, Ambassador Kemayah said while conflict prevention may



Duque Marquez, President of Colombia and H.E. Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., in Cartagena, Colombia, during a meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission focused on Good Practices in Financing for Peacebuilding and Partnerships.

LAC praised for managing Lassa Fever

The National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) together with the World Health Organization and the U.S. Center for Disease Control (US CDC) lauds the Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) for achieving lowest deaths from hospitalized patients affected by Lassa fever worldwide.

“We call this the case fatality rate, the number of people hospitalized with the disease and the number that have died. You have 7 percent and this is the best anywhere in the world,” says the acting Director General of NPHIL, Mosoka Fallah in a communication to the LAC management on Monday, January 20.

Dr. Fallah promises to work with the medical team to develop the LAC medical facility treatment protocol for Lassa fever so that all other doctors can receive their protocol for great results and thanks the management for supporting the medical team that is bent on reducing death rate from the disease.

He has agreed to publish the LAC’s medical team work in a scientific journal to demonstrate the achievement for others to

emulate.

Also expressing its appreciation in recognition of what it terms great achievement for the LAC management, Scofin Group highlighted the standards set by the company in addressing Lassa Fever recently and admitted that it will be shared amongst all other medical departments of the plantations of the Socfin Group across West and Central Africa.

The Chief Medical Officer of Socfin Group, Luolavreys thanks the medical

department of the company for the great achievement.

“This is a very nice example of how the private sector can contribute in an important way in fighting major lethal diseases such as Lassa Fever and other diseases such as the Ebola epidemic, a few years ago (where the LAC medical dept. offered great support),” the CMO recalls.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of LAC, Vijay Maira, expresses delight to learn that the facility in LAC has been

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



extended the invitation to the Liberian Leader during a meeting with Liberia’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr. on the sidelines of the Peacebuilding Commission meeting.

Ambassador Kemayah extended on behalf of Mr. Weah and the Government and People of Liberia, greetings and best wishes, and assured President Márquez that he would ensure that President Weah is informed of the warm sentiments and gestures proffered.

Organized by Colombia as Chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Commission meeting convened in Cartagena, Colombia from January 14-15, 2020, and

seem challenging, directing appropriate resources to prevention and forging relevant partnerships will certainly prove beneficial and less costly in addressing the challenges of conflict prevention worldwide.

Quoting the United Nations-World Bank report “Pathways for Peace”, Ambassador Kemayah asserted that “targeting resources towards just Four (4) countries at high risk of conflict each year; could prevent 34 Billion United States Dollars in losses; in comparison, spending on responses to violent conflict through peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in 2016 was 8.2 Billion United States Dollars for Peacekeeping and 22.1 Billion United States Dollars for Humanitarian Operations;

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Liberia declines in corruption fight

-CENTAL

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) expresses dismay over the country's rating in the 2019 Corruption Perception Index released by Transparency International,

Government Must Act Now, the organization discloses that keeping big money out of politics in Liberia is essential to ensuring political decision-making serves the public interest and curbs opportunities for corruption deals.

CENTAL notes that

and freedom of expression, adding that countries with lower CPI scores experience an uneven balance of power, where a few wealthy and connected individuals control government purse strings and decision-making.

It says countries that perform poorly on the CPI have higher perceptions among people that money influences elections, and that results show more than two-thirds of countries score below 50 on the CPI, with an average global score of just 43.

The statement indicates that it is regrettable to note that Liberia's score significantly dropped to 28; four point down from the 2018 score of 32. The country now ranks 137/180, joining the list of countries significantly declining on the CPI since 2012, including Congo (19), Madagascar (24) and Malawi (31), respectively.

Its adds that with exception of Saint Lucia that has dropped sixteen (16) points since 2012, only Liberia and Syria have fallen thirteen (13) points since 2012, noting that the country's highest score of 41 was attained in 2012 and the country has failed to perform any greater since, instead, Liberia has slid back into fostering a culture of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



CENTAL Executive Director Mr. Anderson Miamen

the global coalition against corruption, terming Liberia as the worst decliner.

In its report entitled "Corruption Perception Index 2019: Liberia Fast Declining in Corruption Fight,

countries that perform well in the CPI have stronger enforcement of campaign finance regulations and broader consultation in policy decisions, including strong institutions, strong judiciary

CBL launches Technical Assistant Program

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) announced Thursday, January 23, 2020, that a team of experts from Kroll has arrived in the country to begin a program of technical assistance. The technical assistance program includes putting in place a transparent and accountable system for procuring a limited run of additional Liberian Dollar banknotes. Through this process, the Central Bank of Liberia will provide the Liberian people with easier access to cash that they need to pay for school fees, health care and other essential products and services.

The Kroll team will support the CBL to undertake an open and competitive procurement process for additional banknote printing. The Kroll team will also work with the CBL to oversee, amongst other things, the secure shipment of the banknotes from the selected printer into the CBL's vaults, and to monitor the distribution of the banknotes into the banking system and broader economy. Over the longer-

term, the Kroll team will assist the CBL to enhance its institutional capability, internal controls and governance structure and overall operations, so that the CBL can more effectively perform its core functions of managing Liberian Dollars and creating the necessary monetary stability for broad-based, inclusive economic

growth.

Speaking after meeting the Kroll team in Monrovia, the Executive Governor of the CBL, Hon. J. Aloysius Tarlue, said "It is important that the Liberian people have confidence in the CBL and the entire banking system so that they can use the banks to transact business. We will therefore provide Kroll all the support it needs—including



LAC praised

Cont'd from page 6

recognized for achieving the best case fatality rate in the world in prevention of Lassa Fever.

Mr. Maira says this has been possible primarily due to the level of commitment of doctors as well as committed staff, stating that he is also pleased that the Socfin Group also intends to work with the LAC medical team to publish its work in a scientific journal.

"I would like to place on our record our appreciation to WHO and the US Centre for Disease Control for the recognition awarded to our management and medical team's effort. This encouragement received will strengthen our resolve to continue to improve our services," says GM Maira.

In September 2019, Liberia's chief medical officer, Dr. Francis Kateh declared a health emergency following the outbreak of Lassa Fever which claimed 21 lives between January 1 and August.

Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness that is transmitted to humans via contact with food or household items contaminated with rodent urine or faeces. Person-to-person infections and laboratory transmission can also occur. Overall, the case fatality rate is approximately 1%; however, it can be 15% or more among patients hospitalized with severe symptoms. Early treatment and rehydration improves chance of survival.

Colombia wants

Cont'd from page 6

respectively."

Reflecting on the United Nations Secretary General's 2018 Report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, Ambassador Kemayah agreed that options to considerably increase and make more reliable and coordinated, the funding for United Nations peacebuilding activities from voluntary, assessed, and innovative sources are very pivotal in transition settings.

The Liberian Envoy noted that transitions and draw-downs of Missions represent some of the most critical periods when investments in sustaining peace made by national authorities and their international partners can either be sustained or lost in a matter of months. "For Liberia, the Peacebuilding Commission provided advice to the United Nations Security Council; on the transition of the mandate of the peace operation, and

the development of our National Peacebuilding Plan, led by national stakeholders. The Peacebuilding Commission; was also a platform for United Nations leadership in Liberia; to confer with Member States of the United Nations; on a capacity mapping exercise; aimed at identifying expected financing; and expertise gaps; following the departure of the United Nations Mission In Liberia -UNMIL. " Ambassador Kemayah recalled.

Ambassador Kemayah expressed thanks that the investments to peacebuilding in Liberia are being sustained rather than lost. He, however, pointed out that the re-direction of appropriate resources during the transition process from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Liberia would have made a real and better difference during the transition period.

Read the NewDawn everyday



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access to relevant information and key personnel—to ensure that it gives us the best advice for addressing the problems it identified last February and thereby help us win the trust and confidence of the Liberian people."

Kroll, is recognized as a

global leader in risk mitigation, investigations, compliance,

Français

Weah veut-il s'éterniser au pouvoir ?

La représentante Munah Pelham a fait état de l'intention de son parti, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), de procéder à la modification de la constitution afin de permettre au président George Weah de briguer un troisième mandat, alors que ce dernier vient à peine d'entamer son année trois de son premier mandat présidentiel de 6 ans.

Animant un point de presse récemment, la députée

Pelham, qui avait été absent pendant plus d'un an sur la scène politique libérienne en raison d'une maladie prolongée, a déclaré que le régime Weah finirait par solliciter un référendum pour modifier la constitution afin de permettre à l'actuel président de briguer un troisième mandat à la fin de ses deux premiers mandats.

"Nous arriverons à un point où nous demanderons un référendum pour amender la constitution afin que l'ambassadeur George Weah

siège comme président pour un troisième mandat", a déclaré Rep Pelham au milieu des acclamations lors d'une interview de l'AP au siège du CDC.

La représentante Pelham a en outre révélé qu'elle faisait une prédiction sur la modification de la Constitution pour que le président Weah brigue un troisième mandat « et cela arrivera sûrement ».

"Vous ne pourriez jamais imaginer que c'est une prédiction et je peux vous dire que cela arrivera", a-t-elle ajouté.

La députée Pelham qui essaie de se faire remarquer après une si longue absence ici vient de relancer le débat parmi les fidèles du parti au pouvoir à un niveau plus haut. Bien que ce ne soit pas encore officiel, beaucoup de militants du parti se réjouissent à l'idée que Weah pourrait probablement devenir président à vie.

Ce que dit la Constitution sur la durée des mandats

La constitution libérienne prévoit la limitation à deux le nombre de mandats d'un président. Aucun président n'a jamais dans l'histoire du

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'ancien parti au pouvoir en proie à une crise interne, le président suspendu

Il semble que les alliés du Conseil des Patriotes (COP) seraient en train de se disperser un par un depuis la manifestation du 6 janvier et à la suite du démêlé entre le chef de file du mouvement, M. Henry Costa, et les autorités des services de l'immigration.

Mardi soir, le comité exécutif de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'Unité

(UP), a annoncé la suspension de son président, M. Wilmot Paye, pour avoir unilatéralement publié un communiqué de presse demandant aux militants du parti de ne pas participer au mouvement de protestation « trompeuse » organisée par le COP, après que le porteur du drapeau du parti, et ancien vice-président, Joseph Boakai et d'autres cadres du parti ont

pendant annoncé publiquement leur soutien à la manifestation.

La suspension de M. Paye fait suite à des informations parues dans les médias selon lesquelles les relations entre lui et l'ancien vice-président Boakai n'étaient pas en bonnes, lesquelles rumeurs il a niées dans une interview accordée à ce journal lundi soir.

Le secrétaire du parti Mo Ali, qui est également coprésident du COP, a déclaré que le parti avait mis sur pied un comité pour enquêter sur la décision unilatérale du président Paye et les raisons qui la sous-tendaient.

Il a déclaré aux journalistes que la suspension de Paye resterait en vigueur jusqu'à ce que les conclusions sur ses motifs soient établies. Il a en outre fait savoir que de nouvelles mesures seront prises en fonction des conclusions du comité.

Cependant, M. Paye a dit qu'il a été dûment élu tout comme l'ancien vice-président

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



«La Cour ne peut pas prendre le risque de faire revenir M. Gbagbo en Côte-d'Ivoire», selon les avocats du gouvernement

En prélude à l'audience du 6 février prochain.

CPI : Observations de la République de Côte d'Ivoire sur la « Requête de la Défense afin d'obtenir que la Chambre d'appel restitue à Laurent Gbagbo, acquitté de toutes les charges portées contre lui, l'intégralité de ses droits humains fondamentaux », 7 octobre

I. Rappel de la procédure

1. Le 15 janvier 2019, la Chambre de première instance à la majorité de ses membres, la juge Herrera Carbuca étant en désaccord, acquittait Laurent Gbagbo de toutes les charges portées à son encontre.

2. Le 16 janvier 2019, la Chambre de première instance rendait une décision orale en application de l'article 81-3-c-i du Statut par laquelle elle rejetait une requête du Procureur qui la priait de conclure à l'existence de circonstances exceptionnelles justifiant le maintien en détention de Laurent Gbagbo et de le mettre en liberté sous conditions, à moins qu'aucun État disposé à l'accueillir et capable de faire appliquer ces conditions ne puisse être trouvé.

3. Le 16 janvier 2019, le Procureur déposait un acte d'appel et une requête urgente aux fins que l'appel interjeté contre la décision du même jour soit assorti d'un effet suspensif.

4. Le 1er février 2019, la Chambre d'appel rendait un arrêt par lequel elle concluait qu'« il existait des raisons impérieuses d'exercer les pouvoirs que lui confère le Statut d'imposer à Laurent Gbagbo et Charles Blé Goudé les conditions exposées ci-dessous ».

5. Le 16 septembre 2019, le Procureur déposait son acte d'appels.

6. Le 7 octobre 2019, la Défense de Laurent Gbagbo déposait une requête afin d'obtenir que la Chambre d'appel restitue à Laurent Gbagbo, acquitté de toutes les charges portées contre lui, l'intégralité de ses droits humains fondamentaux ».

7. Le 17 octobre 2019, le Procureur déposait un mémoire complémentaire à son acte d'appel

8. Le même jour, le Procureur demandait à la Chambre d'appel de rejeter la requête de la Défense de Laurent Gbagbo.

9. Le 25 octobre 2019, la République de Côte d'Ivoire déposait une demande d'autorisation aux fins de présenter des observations sur

cette requête de la Défense.

10. Le 28 octobre 2019, le Bureau du Conseil public pour les victimes déposait une réponse à cette requête.

11. Le même jour, la Défense s'opposait à la demande d'autorisation de la République de Côte d'Ivoire aux fins de présenter des observations écrites.

12. Le 20 décembre 2019, la Chambre d'appel rendait une ordonnance portant convocation d'une audience et autorisant la République de Côte d'Ivoire à présenter des observations écrites sur la requête de la Défense relative à la mise en liberté de Monsieur Gbagbo.

II. Sens de l'intervention de la République de Côte d'Ivoire

13. On rappellera que c'est à la suite du refus par Monsieur Gbagbo et ses partisans de prendre acte de leur défaite électorale le 2 décembre 2010, qu'un très long conflit est né en Côte d'Ivoire du fait de leur refus de se plier à la légalité constitutionnelle ivoirienne. Le résultat du scrutin désignant Monsieur Ouattara comme victorieux a été reconnu par l'ONU,

l'Union africaine et l'Union européenne. Des violences graves et répétées de nature à constituer des crimes contre l'humanité ont été commises durant cinq mois à Abidjan et divers endroits du pays afin de bloquer le processus démocratique.

14. Devant le caractère gravissime de ces faits répétés, sur demande du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, la Cour pénale internationale a été saisie après que la République de Côte d'Ivoire lui ait adressé une requête en ce sens. La République de Côte d'Ivoire a respecté avec scrupule le Statut auquel elle est une Partie loyale et exigeante. Elle a mis l'ensemble de ses moyens juridictionnels et de sécurité au service du Bureau du Procureur dans le strict respect des droits des parties. La Défense n'a d'ailleurs élevé aucune protestation sur la conduite éminemment éthique de la République de Côte d'Ivoire depuis l'origine. Voilà pourquoi la République de Côte d'Ivoire entend fournir ses observations comme elle a été autorisée à le faire afin d'aider la Cour à prendre la meilleure décision dans l'intérêt de la justice et de la paix, principes supérieurs qui ont présidé à sa création.

Français

Weahveut-il s'éterniser

Libéria tenté de modifier la constitution pour demander un troisième mandat, du moins pas publiquement. L'article 50 de la Constitution libérienne de 1986 stipule : « Le pouvoir exécutif de la République est dévolu au président qui sera chef de l'État, chef du gouvernement et commandant en chef des forces armées du Libéria. Le président est élu au suffrage universel des électeurs inscrits dans la République et exerce ses fonctions pour un mandat de six ans à compter du troisième lundi ouvrable de janvier de l'année qui suit immédiatement les élections. Nul ne peut être président pendant plus de deux mandats. »

Le pouvoir exécutif de l'État est exercé par le président du Libéria à qui il incombe la responsabilité de

faire respecter les lois du pays. Parmi les changements apportés à la présidence par rapport à la constitution précédente, figurent l'introduction de limites de mandat, interdisant au président de servir plus de deux mandats et la réduction des mandats présidentiels de huit ans à six.

La Constitution libérienne de 1847 a été la première constitution du Libéria. Elle était principalement calquée sur la Constitution des États-Unis, elle est restée en vigueur depuis son adoption le 26 juillet 1847 jusqu'à sa suspension par le People's Redemption Council le 12 avril 1980 du putschiste Samuel Doe.

La Constitution du 26 juillet 1847 a été approuvée par référendum le 27 septembre 1847. Elle a depuis connu plusieurs modifications de 1847 à 1980.

L'ancien parti au pouvoir

pour servir le parti. Selon lui, seuls les délégués des 15 sous-divisions politiques peuvent changer cette décision par le biais d'une autre élection.

Il dénonce une conspiration entre l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf et Joseph Boakai. "Ils nous ont testés à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur et ils ont échoué", parlant des dirigeants politiques qui tentent de manipuler ses actions.

Il a déclaré qu'en dépit de ces rebondissements, la décision de le suspendre n'a fait que renforcer sa détermination à dire la vérité et à lutter contre les maux de la société.

Le président de l'UP, M. Wilmot Paye, avait confié au New Dawn lors d'un entretien téléphonique le lundi 20 janvier 2020 que, pour l'heure, l'ancien parti au pouvoir avait 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 avait été secoué par des querelles internes qui avaient 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 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 impliquait 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 avait démenti les informations selon lesquelles les relations entre lui et l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai n'étaient pas assez bonnes.

Pour M. Paye, le rapport médiatique concernant un certain malaise dans les relations entre lui et son patron Boakai n'était 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 avait dit qu'il n'était pas surpris que des rumeurs de ce type arrivèrent en ce moment car des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat étaient prévues pour octobre cette année.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Sigmar Gabriel
& Michael Hüther

Trouver la voie de l'Europe dans le monde

BERLIN - L'Union européenne - et en particulier l'Allemagne - n'ont pas encore relevé le défi posé par le retrait des États-Unis du leadership mondial. Mais compte tenu de la nouvelle concurrence de la Chine, ainsi que des aspirations renouvelées de la Russie en matière de grande puissance, les pays occidentaux doivent trouver un moyen de coopérer plus étroitement.

À cette fin, cinq problèmes paraissent incontournables. Le premier est la relation de l'Allemagne avec les États-Unis, qui connaît actuellement de graves difficultés. Le gros problème dont personne n'ose parler, c'est l'incapacité de l'Allemagne à augmenter ses dépenses annuelles de défense à 2 % du PIB, comme convenu lors du sommet de l'OTAN de 2014 au Pays de Galles. Pour des raisons historiques évidentes, l'Allemagne hésite à devenir la puissance militaire de facto de l'Europe. Si elle devait respecter son engagement de dépenses, elle devrait allouer 80 milliards d'euros (89 milliards de dollars) par an à la Bundeswehr, soit 46 milliards d'euros de plus que ce que dépense la France.

Néanmoins pour jouer son rôle au sein de l'alliance sans susciter de craintes en Europe de l'Est, l'Allemagne pourrait dépenser 1,5 % de son PIB en matériel et en personnel, tout en engageant 0,5 % de plus dans le financement des opérations de l'OTAN dans les Pays baltes et en Pologne. Cela permettrait à la fois de renforcer la capacité des États membres de l'Est à se défendre contre l'agression russe et de démontrer la volonté de l'Allemagne d'assumer davantage de responsabilités.

Le deuxième gros problème est celui des relations entre les États-Unis et l'UE. Les défis immédiats auxquels sont confrontés l'Amérique et l'Europe ont évolué au cours des sept dernières décennies. Dernièrement, la Russie a élargi sa sphère d'influence à la Crimée, à l'Est de l'Ukraine et à la mer d'Azov - et la Chine a commencé à affirmer sa domination économique et technologique en Eurasie.

Dans le même temps, les démocraties occidentales s'efforcent de faire face aux perturbations causées par la mondialisation, les migrations, la technologie et le changement climatique. En profitant du climat de détérioration de la sécurité économique et de la cohésion sociale, les mouvements populistes et nationalistes ont exploité les inquiétudes des électeurs en leur promettant de défendre la patrie contre les élites cosmopolites et les institutions multilatérales qui sous-tendent la politique et l'économie depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Malgré la rhétorique populiste, la mondialisation économique a en fait créé la prospérité et réduit la pauvreté et a rendu possibles de nouvelles opportunités de développement dans le monde entier. Mais sans le soutien de l'Occident, ce système ne peut pas se maintenir. Ce dont nous avons besoin à présent, c'est de créer de nouvelles opportunités afin que l'ordre mondial devienne la mondialisation de la société civile. Nous devons également rappeler aux citoyens et aux communautés que l'État est toujours capable d'agir efficacement. Cela commence des investissements plus conséquents dans l'éducation, la recherche et les infrastructures, tout en trouvant un équilibre entre la coopération transfrontalière et le respect des idiosyncrasies culturelles.

Ce qui nous amène au troisième problème : la Russie. Dans ce domaine, la recherche par l'UE d'une politique équilibrée a créé des frictions au sein de l'alliance transatlantique, comme l'illustrent les tensions sur Nord Stream 2, un projet commun de

pipeline russo-allemand. De l'avis du gouvernement allemand, Nord Stream 2 est fondamentalement une question économique. Après tout, des entreprises allemandes, françaises et d'autres entreprises européennes ont investi massivement dans le projet : en tout état de cause, ce serait une grave erreur politique d'intervenir sur le marché privé du gaz européen.

La libéralisation du marché du gaz a en effet permis une expansion considérable de l'approvisionnement énergétique de l'Europe. En fin de compte, les entreprises, en répondant ainsi aux signaux du marché, devraient décider à qui elles achètent leur gaz. Mais les Européens ne peuvent pas non plus ignorer les menaces à l'encontre de l'indépendance politique des pays voisins comme l'Ukraine - que Nord Stream 2 contourne. Dans l'ensemble, une meilleure façon de garantir l'approvisionnement énergétique de l'Europe consisterait à étendre et à intégrer davantage l'infrastructure européenne du gaz naturel, tout en construisant davantage de terminaux pour le gaz naturel liquéfié. Ainsi aucun pays - qu'il s'agisse d'un État membre ou d'un partenaire proche - ne pourrait être pris en otage en raison de sa dépendance par rapport à l'énergie russe.

Le quatrième problème est celui de la Chine, qui a clairement indiqué qu'elle cherchait à opérer une refonte de l'équilibre des pouvoirs internationaux. Pour sa part, l'administration Trump s'est à juste titre opposée à la Chine sur le plan commercial. Il ne peut y avoir de « commerce équitable » lorsqu'un pays qui ne respecte pas les mêmes règles que tout le monde organise les deux cinquièmes de l'économie mondiale. La Chine prodigue d'importantes subventions à ses industries, limite l'accès à ses marchés et enfreint régulièrement les droits de propriété intellectuelle. En outre, le modèle chinois du capitalisme d'État autoritaire constitue un double enjeu, car il représente à la fois une concurrence économique et un modèle politique alternatif. À ce titre, l'UE et les États-Unis doivent d'urgence élaborer des règles claires et approuvées conjointement pour traiter avec la Chine.

Le cinquième problème majeur est le rôle de l'Europe dans le reste du monde. Si l'Europe ne prend pas conscience des réalités de la nouvelle rivalité sino-américaine, elle pourrait perdre sa place sur l'échiquier géopolitique. En fait, il existe déjà des signes de la baisse de l'importance mondiale de l'Europe. Les guerres et les conflits le long de la périphérie européenne sont de plus en plus décidés par d'autres puissances et l'Europe ne joue aucun rôle significatif dans leur résolution.

La réticence de l'Europe à s'affirmer a une dimension historique. Pour de bonnes raisons, l'UE s'est longtemps protégée sous le parapluie de sécurité américain, l'Union restant effectivement en marge. Mais cette conception géopolitique de l'Europe est un artefact américain, fondé sur le plan Marshall. Comme l'a déclaré le premier Secrétaire Général de l'OTAN Hastings Ismay, l'objectif de l'OTAN consistait à « empêcher les Russes d'entrer, à garder les Américains à l'intérieur et à garder les Allemands sous contrôle ».

Bien des choses ont changé depuis les années 1950. Aujourd'hui, nous, Européens, commençons peu à peu à comprendre que nous devons nous adapter aux réalités géopolitiques du XXIe siècle. L'ère de l'Atlantique cède la place à l'ère du Pacifique. Les Européens ne doivent pas se bercer d'illusions en croyant que tout ira bien. Il est temps à présent de trouver le courage et la volonté de prendre la responsabilité de nos intérêts stratégiques.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pres. Weah consoles Germany

-Promises justice in Juergen's death

President George Manneh Weah has extended his deepest condolences to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany for the brutal murder of a German national in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

was at home.

The Executive Mansion says the police are working with the local authorities to bring the perpetrators of this appalling act to justice.

"Such savagery does not define Liberians; we are a hospitable people who will go

exert every effort in order to find and prosecute those responsible for such cruelty.

The victim killed in Buchanan by unknown men believed to be armed robbers, was said to be operating a logging company in Grand Bassa County.

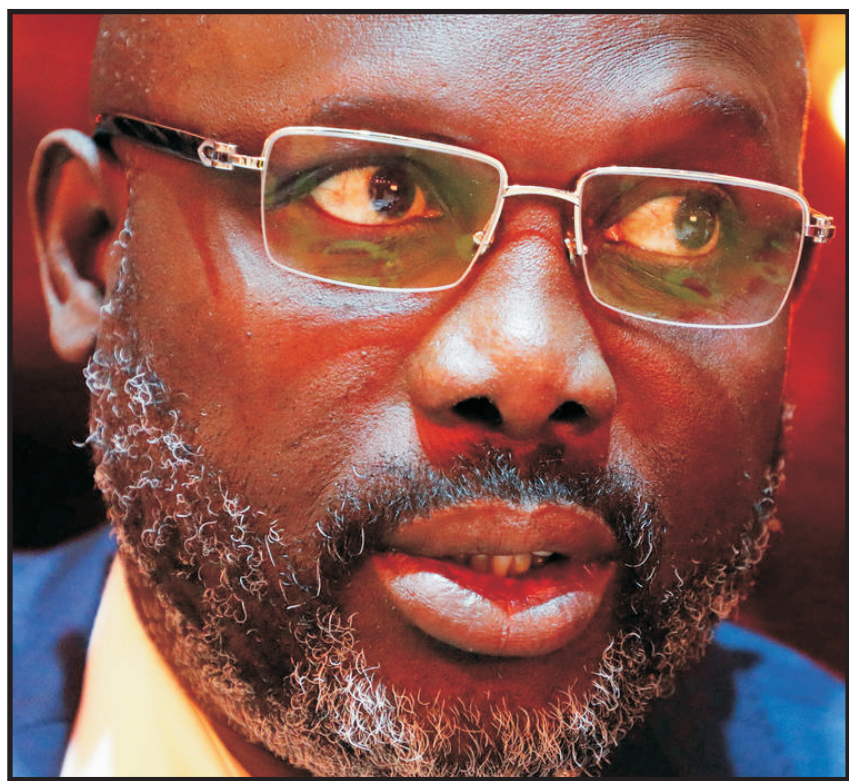
The incident reportedly occurred in the early morning hours of Wednesday, 22 January, and the detachment of Liberia National Police (LNP) in the county has launched an investigation into the matter, reports say.

The investor was said to have been shot within his 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.



According to an Executive Mansion release issued Wednesday, 22 January, the sad incident is reported to have taken place in the early hours of Wednesday, when Juergen Schedema, who was a manager of the International Consultant Company (ICC),

all out to help visitors in our country. Schedema's death is a loss not just for the people of Germany, but all Liberians," the Executive Mansion says.

According to the release, President Weah assures all that the government will

Liberia declines

Cont'd from page 7

corruption and significantly undermining gains made in strengthening governance, financial management, and the rule of law.

The statement continues that it must be noted that Liberia's improved performance in 2012 was mainly attributed to passage of key laws and establishment as well as strengthening of public integrity institutions, but the country has since failed to make these institutions and laws work, as the laws are neither enforced nor respected, and public integrity institutions not fully supported, morally and financially to deliver.

The CENTAL statement read by its Executive Director, Anderson Miamen, among other things recommends scrupulous enforcement of existing global, regional and national laws, policies and frameworks for fighting against corruption, mainly in Liberia, and that the law must work for all and not selected few persons in society.

It calls for timely implementation of anti-corruption commitments in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, especially speedy establishment of a specialized Anti-Corruption Court as well as provision of direct prosecutorial power to the

Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to aid in timely processing and prosecuting corruption cases.

CENTAL further calls for a comprehensive audit of the past administration to ensure that those who embezzled public resources are identified and prosecuted, and that recommendations contained in existing reports of LACC, General Auditing Commission (GAC), IAA and other integrity institutions must be timely implemented.

It wants the Weah administration to address impunity through prosecution of allegedly corrupt officials, among other efforts, investigation into the \$25 million mopping up exercise must be completed and those implicated prosecuted, timely and impartially; increasing moral and financial support to public integrity institutions to operate fully and independently.

It warns that continuous limited funding to public integrity institutions does not show strong commitment to dealing with corruption in the country, which is critical to success of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, and maintains the civic space and allow media, civil society and other critical voices to

Healthcare federation launched here

Private healthcare facilities and practitioners here have launched a federation named 'Healthcare Federation of Liberia.'

The group which was launched recently in Monrovia is a conglomeration of health care institutions comprising of traditional health practitioners.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, the head of the federation Dr. Nicloe Cooper said that the federation is an organization of businesses and associations working in private healthcare sector here.

"Our members are private institutions representing various fields within healthcare. The goal of the Healthcare Federation of Liberia (HFL), is to unify the private health sector towards achieving high quality affordable healthcare for the people of Liberia," she says.

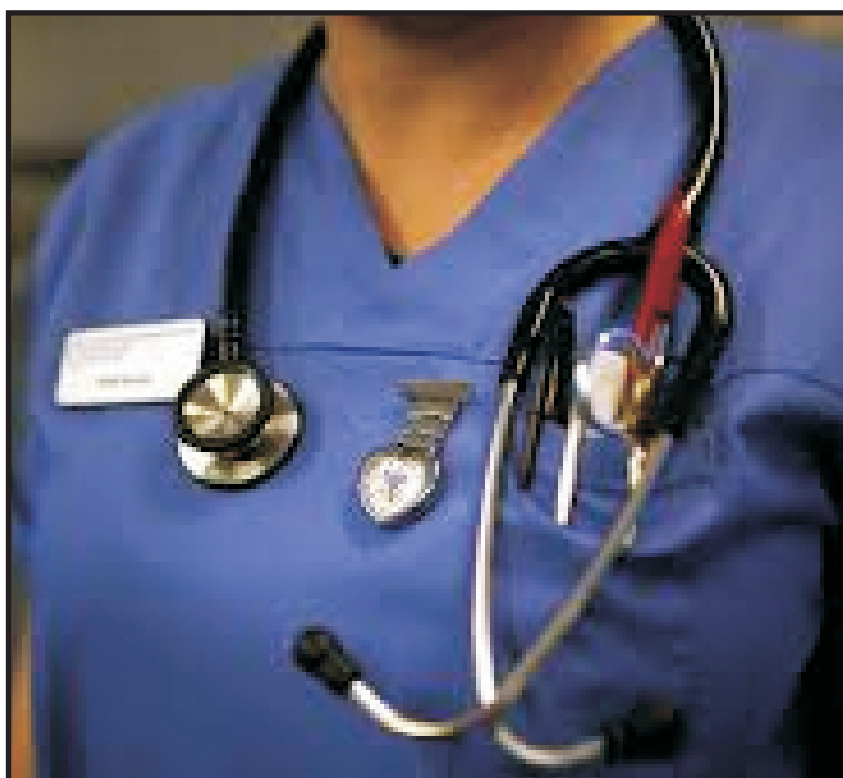
According to Dr. Cooper, the group is to create access to finance for its members,

facility accreditation, joint procurement of health-related medicines, health-related materials and positive engagement with the Liberian government through the Health Ministry.

Dr. Cooper intimates that the group is engaged into providing opportunities for

continuing education, promoting higher technical standards, and educating its members on best business practice, among others.

She adds that the group will work to overcome industry problems through cooperation and advocacy, advocate for a better regulatory



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environment, serve on point of contract with the public sector and collaborate on public-private partnership.

Madam Cooper tells the launch that the program is a great one and is first of its kind in the history of the country.

She notes that despite the group being new, HFL is already a registered member of the West African Healthcare Federation, a regional group which has about ten member states including Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Also speaking at the launch, Liberia's Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah praises the organizers for such initiative, saying the federation will now serve as channel for government to reach out to all private health facilities and practitioners here.

She says over the period, government has had challenges to reach to all health centers, adding that with the establishment of the federation, it will help to ease the challenges.

She continues that the Liberian government will work closely with the group, help to provide education and introduce it to some best international best practices that will be a help to the health community.

For her part, the vice president of the West African Health Federation, Mrs. Clare Omatseye expresses gratitude to the Liberian community for considering the decision of joining the regional group.

She narrates that the federation is making greater impact in member states, adding that attention of national governments within the ten countries are focused on the decision and policy of the federation.

Madam Omatseye expresses anticipation that the Liberian government will follow suit and work closely with the local federation in that health related issues affecting the residents and private health centers can be quickly addressed —Press release

Backward elements

By E.J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The situation with Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, involving delayed budgetary support that constrained her to have gone public recently has claimed the attention of Chief Cyril Allen, chairman emeritus of Mrs. Taylor's National Patriotic Party (NPP) which is a member of President George Weah's governing three-party Coalition for Democratic Change here.

Chief Allen, who currently heads the governing council of the ruling CDC, blames those he calls "backward elements" in the higher echelon of the Weah administration for denying the Vice President basic budgetary allocation that has incapacitated her movement and paralyzed effective function of her office.

In an official complaint to the Liberian Senate recently after she boycotted formal opening ceremony for members of the 54th Liberian Legislature, Mrs Taylor did write, "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



President George Weah



Chief Cyril Allen



VP Jewel Howard Taylor

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 have not been paid."

She lamented that the situation has left her without proper security arrangements for her safe movements and without the ability to provide necessities for her office, disclosing that currently, the security vehicles, including two bullet-proof vehicles, needed for her movements have still not been provided to her detail.

"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."

The Liberian Senate is probing the matter but speaking to the media via mobile phone in Monrovia, Cyril Allen notes that the denying of Vice President Taylor of due budgetary allocation is not sanctioned by President Weah. Instead, he blames 'zealous government actors' for creating tension between Mrs Taylor and President Weah.

According to him,

budgetary allocation for any official or agency of government is by law, and such law cannot be tempered with by anyone, arguing that doing so is a clear violation of the law.

"I keep reminding officials of government that the Vice President was nominated on the basis and facts that she's electable and she has been elected and proven that she understands the workings of the Liberian Senate, and she must be given all due financial assistances to discharge her functions rightly," he underscores.

Chief Allen further argues Vice President Taylor was not handpicked by President Weah during the selection of candidates, instead, the collaboration that brought the three political parties that make up the ruling Coalition, including the Congress for

Democratic Change of Ambassador George Manneh Weah, the National Patriotic Party of jailed former President Charles Taylor, and the Liberian People Democratic Party of former Speaker Alex Tyler, placed Madam Taylor to the Vice Presidency, while the standard bearer post was reserved for Ambassador Weah.

Chief Allen currently chairs the board of directors of the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation. He maintains that Madam Taylor is well placed by the numerical strength of the NPP and Bong County, the county that she represented in the senate prior to the 2017 elections.

"We all know that Bong County is votes-rich county, and the NPP is a stronger political party here, so, she was not handpicked to be treated like an old car parked in the garage. She deserves all her entitlement and don't get it wrong, these bad forms of governance is not the mandate of the President but few zealous elements are the ones causing the problem.

However, he discloses that President Weah has set up a three-member ministerial committee to investigate happenings surrounding the Vice President.

Vice President Taylor has been confined indoors for a little over three weeks due to the alleged failure of the government through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to disburse operational funds allotted to her office.

Government to dredge Freeport

The Government of Liberia through the management of the National Port Authority (NPA) says efforts are being advanced to ensure the dredging of the Freeport of Monrovia.

An NPA release issued in Monrovia Thursday, 23 January says the upcoming dredging exercise is part of series of plans for greater accomplishments for the Port Sector in the New Year and years ahead.

The exercise according to the release, will be executed in line with best practices to

accommodate larger and wilder vessels, provide for safe navigation and ensure improved trade and commerce.

The planned dredging exercise follows a safe memo reducing draft requirement-limiting the size of vessels that could come in because the entrance channel has reduced as a result of siltation buildup over a three year period.

The Freeport of Monrovia was dredged only two times within the last eight years (between 2012 and 2017) prior to the upcoming exercise.

As part of the scheduled

dredging exercise, safe navigational buoy that is sitting ashore as a result of siltation built-up will be recovered and repositioned in order to continue facilitating 24 hours safe vessel movements.

NPA Managing Director Bill Twehway expresses delight that the dredging exercises will accommodate the global trending where vessels are becoming bigger in order to accomplish economy of scale and discharging of more cargoes for multiple consignees on a single trip.

"It is also expected that cargo throughout the Freeport of Monrovia will be increased thereby accommodating bigger and wilder vessel safely and reliably," Mr. Twehway says.

He further expresses optimism that going forward, it will no longer take three to five years before dredging is done.

He assures that the required two years maintenance dredging will be carried out accordingly in order to keep attracting bigger and larger vessels to a safer and reliable port to spur trade and commerce.

Mr. Twehway commits the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led - government to the shipping world of a continued safe and reliable port environment to call at all times.—Press release



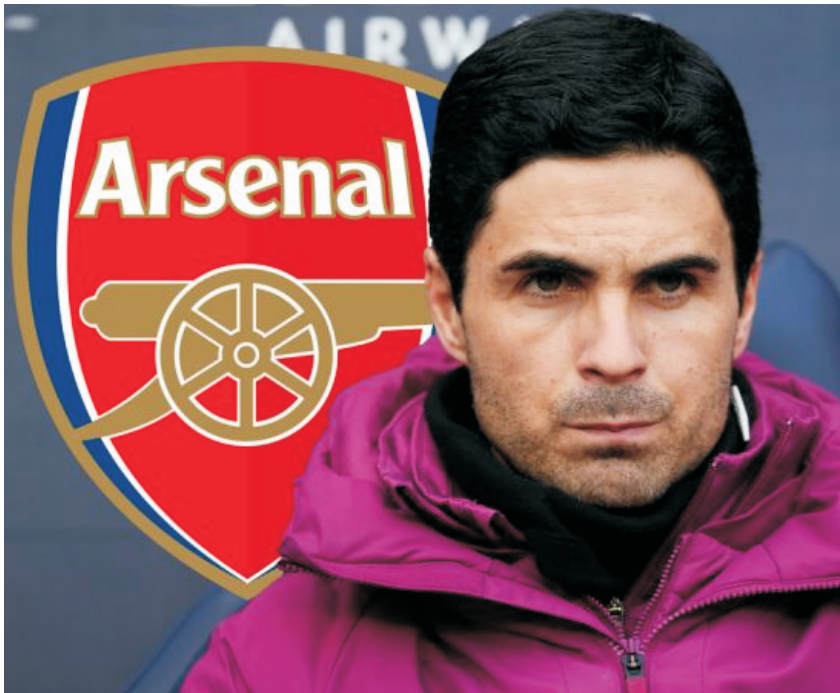
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Cazorla backs Arteta to become a 'great' coach at Arsenal



The Spain international is confident his former team-mate will bring good results to north London in his first job as a head coach

Former Arsenal star Santi Cazorla has backed Mikel Arteta to become "a great coach" at the club.

Arteta made the leap into management when he left his post as Pep Guardiola's

assistant at Manchester City to take over at the helm of the Gunners, replacing Unai Emery in December.

The north London side have lost just one of their seven games since Arteta took charge, but Wednesday's 2-2 result at Chelsea was their third draw in a row and fourth overall under the new boss.

Arsenal are now 10th in the Premier League and 10 points

behind their midweek opponents, who occupy the last Champions League spot, but Cazorla is confident his former team-mate will deliver the goods at the Emirates Stadium.

"Yes, I believed he would become a manager in the future. Even when I was playing with him, he showed great leadership in dressing room," the Spanish midfielder told Goal.

"Some say it's a gamble for Arsenal to appoint him, but I believe it's a reasonable challenge. He also worked as a coach under Pep Guardiola.

"I believe he can become a great coach."

He added: "It's not easy for any manager now to be like [Arsene] Wenger or [Sir Alex] Ferguson. I can't anticipate how long he'll stay at Arsenal, but I believe he can also make great career at Arsenal, and he's a proper one for Arsenal. I hope Mikel leads Arsenal well."

The 35-year-old played 180 games in his six years at Arsenal before leaving for Villarreal in 2018.



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Inter sign Chelsea winger Moses on loan

The 29-year-old has left Fenerbahce, where he was on loan from the Blues, to link up with Antonio Conte's Serie A title hopefuls

Inter have confirmed the signing of Victor Moses from Chelsea after his loan spell with Fenerbahce was brought to an abrupt end.

The 29-year-old becomes the fourth player Antonio Conte has brought in from the Premier League since his appointment in the summer

of 2019, following the likes of Romelu Lukaku, Alexis Sanchez and Ashley Young.

Moses' move to Inter is on loan initially, with the Serie A title hopefuls having the option to make the deal permanent.

Speaking to Inter TV following his move to join the Nerazzurri, Moses said: "It's an honour for me to be here and be an Inter player. I'd like to thank everyone for the welcome I've been given, I can't wait to start."



Moses played under Conte during the Inter head coach's spell in charge of Chelsea, making 78 appearances in total over the two seasons that the Italian presided over the west London club.

Commenting on his reunion with Conte, the Nigeria international added: "Having the opportunity to work with the coach again is something I'm really happy about. I've spoken to him and he's already explained the club's project to me.

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