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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.

VOL.10 NO. 03

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

Weah unveils 2020 plans



Pres. Weah



Indian Consulate celebrates Republic Day



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Continental News

Gambians rally seeking dictator's trial for murder, rights abuses

Hundreds of Gambians marched Saturday in the outskirts of the capital Banjul, demanding justice for sweeping rights abuses and murder they suffered under former dictator Yahya Jammeh's 22-year rule.

Jammeh ruled Gambia with an iron fist but fled in January 2017 after losing a presidential election to relative unknown Adama Barrow which he refused to acknowledge before being forced out of power by a popular uprising.

Wearing T-shirts that read #justicemustprevail, the protesters held photographs of people killed or who have gone missing, including AFP correspondent DeydaHydara, who was gunned down on 16 December 2004 by Jammeh's henchmen.

"We want justice and we want it immediately," they cried and demanding a ban on Jammeh's former ruling Alliance for Patriotic

Reorientation and Construction party (APRC).

NyimaSonko, 42, the widow of Solo Sandeng, a political activist who was arrested and tortured to death after he led a protest march for electoral reform, said: "We are calling on the

government to ban the APRC from taking part in active politics."

Since January 2019, some 190 witnesses have appeared before a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) set up to investigate abuses under Jammeh's rule.

The first year of hearings ended in early December, capping months of testimony about torture, murder, rape and witch hunts in the country of around two million.

Last week, thousands marched on the outskirts of Banjul demanding Jammeh's return from exile in Equatorial Guinea, as tensions heighten over Barrow's decision to stay in office for five years -- reversing a previous pledge to step down after three.

Justice Minister Abubacarr Tambadou last week warned that Jammeh would "face immediate arrest and charges of the most serious kind" if he returned, including

"crimes against humanity."

They argue he has a right to return under a joint statement from the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations, published at the time of his exile.

Maron Baldeh, whose husband lieutenant Basiru Barrow was executed in 1994, said she was at Saturday's protest to call for Jammeh to be prosecuted.

"We are sending message to government to act fast, because... justice delayed is justice denied. Yahya Jammeh should be arrested and put on trial."-AFP



Wearing T-shirts that read #justicemustprevail, the protesters held photographs of people killed during Jammeh's rule (AFP Photo/ROMAIN CHANSON)

Burundi ruling party picks Ndayishimiye to contest presidential vote

Burundi's ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, picked its secretary general, Evariste Ndayishimiye, as its candidate in a presidential election scheduled for May, it said on Sunday.

Ndayishimiye, 52, also heads the department of military affairs in the president's office and has served as minister of the interior and security.

Current President Pierre

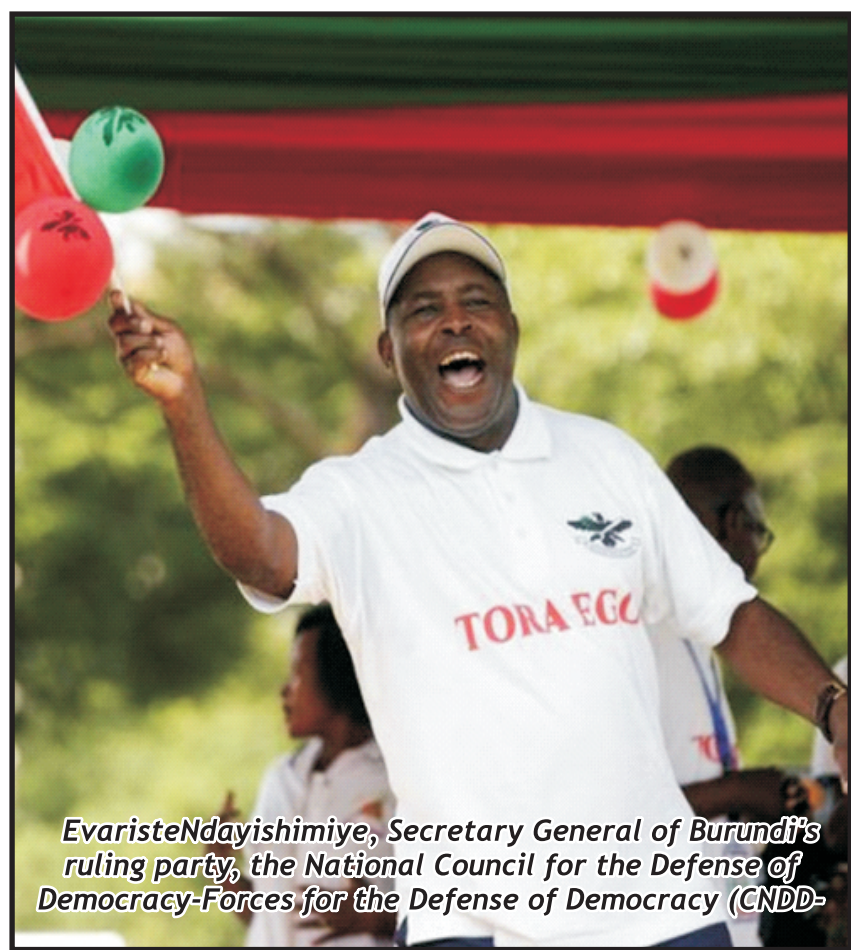
Nkurunziza will not seek re-election.

Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third, five-year term in 2015 sparked widespread protests and violence. His party has welcomed his decision to stand down, conferring on him the title of "Supreme Guide of Patriotism" and lavish send-off perks including a villa worth \$530,000.

Burundi is one of the world's poorest countries and lost donor funding after the political violence following the 2015 election. Its GDP per capita was \$270 per person in 2018, World Bank statistics show.

In September, the United Nations warned that police, security forces and the ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure, were committing serious human rights violations.

Those included killings, disappearances, torture and gang rape of alleged political opponents, and that violence was likely to spike as polls approached. Burundi condemned these accusations.-Reuters



Evariste Ndayishimiye, Secretary General of Burundi's ruling party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD)

Mali: Militants on motorbikes kill 15 troops, officials say

Fifteen members of the security forces have been killed in Mali by suspected Islamist militants, officials say.

The attack came on Sunday at the Sokolo military camp in the central Segou region.

An official speaking to AFP news agency said the gunmen arrived on motorbikes and that all those killed were gendarmes or paramilitary police.

Militants linked to the Islamic State group or al-Qaeda often

Tuareg separatist rebellion in the north and seized several cities.

Malian forces managed to regain control of territory taken by militants with military help from France, which has 4,500 troops deployed in the region. The UN has 13,000 peacekeeping troops in Mali.

But thousands of lives have been lost as Mali struggles to contain the violence, which has spread to neighbouring



carry out attacks in Mali and the wider region.

Late last year, 24 soldiers were killed by militants in eastern Mali. Only weeks earlier, 54 troops had died in another attack.

In the latest incident, witnesses said the militants stole military equipment. The scene was described as "complete chaos".

Mali has been blighted by violence since 2012 when Islamist militants took over a

Burkina Faso and Niger.

Combating militants in the Sahel region is seen as important for maintaining security further afield, including Europe. France's Foreign Minister, Florence Parly, is heading to Washington for talks aimed at persuading the Americans to continue their logistical backing - drones, intelligence and transport - for the French operation.-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 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 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.

COMMENTARY

By Børge Brende

Building Cooperation in an Unsettled World

While the changing nature of global power may tempt some actors to seek advantage through confrontation, the expanding field of stakeholders offers the possibility of a course correction. With the geopolitics of the new era currently in flux, there is still an opportunity to steer the world toward cooperation and away from potentially damaging competition.

DAVOS - The world is at a turning point, with power shifting and dispersing in ways that signal the emergence of a new multipolar era. In the resulting turbulent global environment, opportunities to compete or cooperate are increasing across several domains. In areas such as the economy, technology, and the environment, the question is whether parties will seek progress toward common objectives or strategic advantages over competitors.

For much of the post-Cold-War era, issues like trade, scientific research, and climate change were largely insulated from considerations of global competition. For example, the US and Chinese economies prospered together for 20 years, boosting market and investment opportunities for others through an open global system of finance and trade.

Similarly, the Internet boom of the early part of this century was made possible by a common and easily accessible platform that stood largely apart from national rivalries. As a result, the number of people worldwide using the Internet increased exponentially, from just over 400 million in 2000 to approximately two billion in 2010.

And even during the Cold War, governments and other actors managed to set aside strategic competition in order to address global issues such as the environment. Most notably, the widening hole in the ozone layer spurred collective climate action. Beginning with the 1987 Montreal Protocol, and over the course of subsequent decades, states reduced their use of chlorofluorocarbons to the point that the atmosphere is now expected to recover.

Today, however, issues once marked by partnership now risk becoming frontlines of strife. Global economic growth is expected to weaken in the near term - a situation made worse by the fact that trade is being used as an instrument to pursue geopolitical advantage rather than joint prosperity. Moreover, unlike the depletion of the ozone layer, the melting of the Arctic ice cap has not served as a clarion call for more ambitious climate action. Instead, states see an opening to compete for the natural resources and trade routes opening in the far north. And as for technology, the benefit of a common global communications platform is now at risk,

owing to the possibility of "decoupled" US and Chinese communications systems operating on separate 5G networks.

But these developments do not necessarily mean that we should resign ourselves to a period of geopolitical competition rather than cooperation. The expanding nature of geopolitics - with power dynamics operating across new domains - also means that new actors are exerting influence. As a result, a diverse set of parties can shape the course of international relations.

For starters, rising and mid-size powers are responding to the possibility of a fractured global order by reasserting the need for multilateralism. France and Germany are working with other like-minded countries to forge an Alliance for Multilateralism, which aims to boost international cooperation in areas such as digitalization and climate change. In Africa, states are strengthening economic ties through the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, which will bring together 54 African Union member states and encompass over \$2 trillion of GDP. In Southeast Asia, meanwhile, ASEAN member states are taking steps to strengthen regional partnerships and integration, and intend to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership later this year. This trade agreement - which also will include China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand - will cover an estimated 45% of the world's population and create the world's largest trading bloc.

Non-state actors are also in a position to exert increasing influence. Today, global businesses account for an important part of the world's economic output, and private-sector leaders are increasingly committing themselves to looking beyond short-term profit. Last year, for example, 87 large companies announced that they would work to help limit global warming to 1.5°C. And many CEOs are speaking out about the potential dangers of a technological "cold war" between the United States and China, or the decoupling of the two countries' economies.

While the changing nature of global power may tempt some actors to seek advantage through confrontation, the expanding field of stakeholders offers the possibility of a course correction. With the geopolitics of the new era currently in flux, there is still an opportunity to steer the world toward cooperation and away from potentially damaging competition.

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New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Mark Leonard

Auschwitz in Jerusalem

The conflicting messages delivered at a recent commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz reveal the extent to which today's politics are being defined by the tug of war between nationalism and cosmopolitanism. But when it comes to drawing lessons from the Holocaust, the cosmopolitans retain the moral high ground.

BERLIN - Looming over this year's commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, were two contradictory impulses that lay behind the creation of the Jewish state: cosmopolitanism and nationalism. A painful dialogue between these perspectives marked the event, reflected in the utterances of the officials who attended and the objections of those who stayed away.

In opening the ceremony, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu set the tone for what was to come. He described Auschwitz as "an abyss" and Jerusalem as "a peak," with the former representing "enslavement" and "death" and the latter epitomizing "freedom" and "life." To give meaning to the lives of those murdered in the Holocaust, he sought to link their deaths to Israel's founding just a few years later. Rather than presenting the fate of Europe's Jews as a reason to renew the struggle against hatred and genocide everywhere, he focused more narrowly on the interests of the state of Israel and concluded his remarks with a battle cry against Iran.

The choice between cosmopolitanism and nationalism has always been an especially difficult one for Jews. Historically, the exclusion of "wandering Jews" from official life meant that they were de facto "citizens of nowhere," and thus cosmopolitan by default. Yet precisely for this reason, many Jews went on to become ultra-nationalists in the countries where they were eventually assimilated. A quintessential example was the Austrian writer Stefan Zweig, who as a young man initially welcomed World War I as an opportunity to fight for his country. The same contradictory sentiments are now bound up in Israel's national identity, animating an abiding tension between democracy and the desire to provide a Jewish homeland.

The foreign speakers at Yad Vashem this year also embodied this conflict between nationalism and cosmopolitanism. Russian President Vladimir Putin decried the weaponization of history, before doing exactly that, claiming (not inaccurately) that the Holocaust was carried out not just by Germans but also by European collaborators who "were often crueler than their masters." Not surprisingly, he directed this charge specifically at Ukraine, Lithuania, and Latvia - all countries with which Russia has a troubled relationship.

But it was the Polish government that objected most strenuously to this interpretation. After not being invited to speak, Polish President Andrzej Duda boycotted the ceremony. And in anticipation of Putin's speech, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki wrote a commentary for Politico arguing that, "Russia is trying to rewrite history. Far from being a 'liberator,' the Soviet Union was a facilitator of Nazi Germany and a perpetrator of crimes of its own - before and after the liberation of Auschwitz." The official Polish response comes as no surprise, given that this is the same government that, in 2018, passed a law criminalizing any mention of Polish complicity in the Holocaust.

The contrast with the remarks delivered by the French and German presidents could not be greater. Each reflected on his own country's guilt before making a case for universal human values. "Those who murdered," noted German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, "those who planned and helped in the murdering, the many who silently toed the line: They were Germans."

Like Netanyahu, Steinmeier also focused on the theme of renewal following the Shoah, which gave way to a new "order of peace, founded upon human rights and international law." But, unlike Netanyahu, Steinmeier was not triumphalist. In fact, he underscored an issue that, in spite of decades of *vergangenheitsbewältigung* ("working through the past"), is now afflicting Germany: the return of anti-Semitism.

Likewise, French President Emmanuel Macron was equally brutal in his self-criticism. "France has looked at its history head-on and faced up to the irreparable responsibility of the French state in the deportation of the Jews," he declaimed. The lessons he takes from Auschwitz are universal and forward-looking. "No one has the right to use the memory of the dead," he argued, "to justify some kind of contemporary hatred."

One wonders how Zweig would have responded to all of these speakers. Although he was a protégé of Zionism's founding intellectual, Theodor Herzl, a recent biography by George Prochnik shows that Zweig became increasingly uncomfortable with the idea of nationalism over the course of his life. Following the rise of the Nazis, he argued that Jews had a "sacred mission" not to create yet another state with "cannons, flags, and medals." Rather, he wanted Jews to serve as "the gadfly which plagues the mangy beast of nationalism," and to work for the "dissolution of nationalist tendencies."

In other words, were Zweig alive today, he doubtless would sympathize more with the cosmopolitan humanism of Steinmeier and Macron than with Netanyahu's ethno-nationalism. But, it is worth remembering that even as they established a Jewish nation-state, David Ben-Gurion and most of Israel's founders were similarly committed to a cosmopolitan and universalist vision based on "complete equality of social and political rights ... irrespective of religion, race, or sex."

For my part, as a descendent of German Jews - some of whom were exterminated - I strongly support Israel's right to exist. But I also believe that Netanyahu's instrumentalization of the Holocaust's victims - many of whom did not share his Zionist nationalism - directly undermines the ideals of the country's founders.

As Auschwitz passes from memory into history, it is ironic that the lessons people draw from it would become more particular, rather than more universal. Clearly, the global fight against anti-Semitism needs a new narrative for the twenty-first-century world of hyper-fragmented and multicultural societies, where no one knows Holocaust survivors personally. Otherwise, history will continue to be politicized and pressed into the service of nationalist agendas, rather than showing the way to a more peaceful future for all.

OPINION

By Arvind Subramanian
& Josh Felman**The Next Big Development Challenge**

New strategies for reviving growth in emerging markets will have to be indigenous, rather than coming from Western institutions. But where will such strategies come from, and who will provide the intellectual leadership?

CAMBRIDGE - We have suddenly arrived at a tricky stage in global economic development. Emerging markets are losing their dynamism, after a remarkable three-decade-long run during which they caught up rapidly with advanced economies. Moreover, rekindling this vigor requires a new economic strategy. But where will such a model come from, and who will provide the intellectual leadership?

The latest economic forecasts from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are sobering, pointing to protracted slowdowns across the board in China, India, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. Of course, alarmism about the "end of growth" might be as overblown as past hype about emerging markets' unstoppable rise. But policymakers in developing countries are genuinely concerned and are grappling with how to revive flagging dynamism.

In the past, governments had a ready intellectual solution: the so-called Washington Consensus, a term coined by John Williamson of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, which advocated a broad strategy of macroeconomic stabilization, privatization, deregulation, and globalization.

Some questioned whether and to what extent the strategy worked. But the fact is, there was a template - created by leading Western academic and policy institutions - that was seen as useful by developing-country policymakers. And the high noon of the Washington Consensus coincided with developing countries' strong performance.

Two of the current strands of thought that might replace the Washington Consensus also originated in the West. The first represents a reaction against the neoliberal approach and is motivated by several disturbing long-run trends: weak growth, rising inequality, an increasingly beleaguered middle class, and collapsing social mobility.

This emerging post-neoliberal consensus questions the primacy accorded to markets. It advocates a larger role for the state, both to generate better market outcomes (for example, via minimum-wage increases and stricter enforcement of antitrust policies) and to correct inequitable outcomes via aggressive redistributive policies. This approach also calls for more proactive fiscal and monetary policy in the short run.

The second strand of thought is associated with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, both winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics. Banerjee and Duflo argue that economic growth is not really influenced by policy changes, or at least not in ways for which we have strong evidence. They therefore advocate a strategy of "going small": focusing on measures, such as distributing free malaria bed nets and deworming children, that clearly seem to be effective and will produce localized benefits.

But it is not obvious that either approach is of much help to developing countries. The post-neoliberal consensus almost entirely reflects concerns in advanced economies: secular stagnation and unconventional monetary policies are not high-priority problems for governments in poorer countries. Moreover, emerging markets are still growing, not stagnating. And even inequality, which is a common concern, takes a very different form, and requires very different solutions, in developing economies.

Perhaps the biggest drawback of the post-neoliberal approach is the dichotomy that it poses - or, perhaps, presupposes - between states and markets. The reality in developing countries is that both states and markets are weak - the very definition of underdevelopment. So, a policy agenda that focuses on increasing the role of the state may well be unrealistic.

In addition, climate change is a new and critical aspect of the post-neoliberal consensus that is likely to prove increasingly problematic. On one hand, the overwhelming scientific evidence of global warming is a clarion call to action. On the other hand, policies aimed at promoting rapid decarbonization raise deep concerns in developing countries, because such measures could easily clash with the needs of their energy-deprived citizens.

Similarly, many developing-country policymakers simply cannot afford the luxury of a narrow agenda, making them unlikely to take seriously any advice to focus on the "small and certain." They have no choice but to strive to achieve rapid growth, which has been a prerequisite for all successful development transitions. Moreover, the experience of the 1980s and 1990s shows that this objective is not a chimera, and that growth can indeed be increased by appropriate policy reforms.

Mahatma Gandhi famously said: "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any." Do developing countries today have the capacity not to be blown off course? Do policymakers have the intellectual and cognitive wherewithal to absorb and assess the new thinking on economic development, adopting what is appropriate to their situation and rejecting what is not? And do they have their own new ways of thinking about the development challenge?

Consider the situation in the two largest developing countries, China and India. China has the intellectual capacity, but is facing the breakdown of its economic model. Chinese policymakers now need to find another approach that both encourages growth and ensures that the Communist Party of China remains in control - all the while preventing the extraordinary build-up of debt from triggering a crisis. It's not obvious to anyone how they can do this.

Meanwhile, India's current inward economic turn appears to reflect a broader inclination to be walled in and prevent foreign winds from blowing freely. And this intellectual nativism seems to be more about harnessing technical expertise for political objectives than about valuing it for its own sake.

What is clear is that solutions to the new growth and development challenges in emerging markets will have to be indigenous, rather than coming from Western institutions. Building and maintaining among national policymakers the sort of open, self-confident intellectual capacity that Gandhi espoused could well be the next development challenge.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 PERMANENT MISSION TO
 THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
 Liberia Maritime Authority

January 20, 2020

Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson
 COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW
 Chief Executive Officer and Legal Consultant
 Consortium of Legal Practitioners Incorporated
 Center Street, Opposite Exclusive Supermarket
 Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Cllr. Johnson:

This comes to politely discharge you of the post as my legal counsel representing my legal interest in the ongoing prohibition case before the Honorable, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia effective today's date, Monday, January 20, 2020.

You are relieved of your post because, you now represent conflicting interests. Sir, 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 above entitled cause of action because, you have taken a lucrative Government assignment as Head of its Asset Recovery Team, which effectively bars you from arguing against the Government of Liberia. Unquestionably, as Head of the Government Asset Recovery Team, you will be the principal lawyer prosecuting cases for and on behalf of the Government. Hence, I can no longer retain you as my lawyer.

Another reason for which you have been relieved from representing me is based upon your press conference of April 22, 2019, announcing your withdrawal from the case, coupled with your disregard for my communication, dated May 9, 2019, requesting you to reinstate yourself based upon the well-established rules of Court that counsel is estopped from withdrawing from a case while awaiting the Supreme Court's Opinion, i.e., having accepted representation, and argued the case before the full-bench of the Supreme Court. Regrettably, since my May 9, 2019 communication you have not done me the courtesy of replying, and have not reinstated yourself which clearly says that you have effectively abandoned my case.

Additionally, your repeated failure, despite several requests from me, to file a Bill of Information to the Supreme Court to bring to its attention the Government's continual refusal to abide by the Court's directive, leaves me with no alternative but to let you go.

Now, based upon the foregoing, I have replaced you with Cllr. Finley Y. Karngar, and would be most grateful were you to turn over the casefile to Cllr. Karngar to enable him pick up from where you stopped.

LIBERIA PERMANENT MISSION TO THE
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LIBERIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE IMO

Finally, I wish to thank you once more, for your initial courage and bravery in representing me through out from the Chamber Justice level to the Full-bench of the Honorable, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,

Atty. Isaac W. Jackson, Jr., Esq.
 Permanent Representative to the IMO



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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
CONSTRUCTION OF PRAWN PASSAGE AT MOUNT COFFEE
HYDROPOWER PROJECT, ST. PAUL RIVER, LIBERIA

Background and Context

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Liberia (the "Government" or "GoL") have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia (the "MCA Entity"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for the Construction of a Prawn Passage to allow prawn species to migrate from the reservoir to the downstream river.

For the intended procurement of the Construction of a Prawn Passage, MCA-Liberia wishes to conduct a market survey on the availability, capability and interest of the local, regional and international firms. MCA-Liberia request eligible Contractors that meet the following criteria, to submit a capability document confirming that they meet the following criteria:

1. Experience of 5 or more years in construction of similar structures;
2. Average annual construction turnover of USD 1 million or more in the last three years;
3. Participation as contractor, or approved subcontractor, in at least two construction contracts of similar facilities within the last 10 years, each with a value of at least USD 1 million that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed Works.

The information provided shall be sufficient to indicate a full understanding of the requirement and the competency of the Contractor to construct and complete this kind of project in a period of 6 months.

This request is to obtain information only, not a request for bid. This RFI does not obligate MCA-Liberia to release an Invitation to Bid or award a contract, nor does it commit MCA-Liberia to pay for any costs incurred in response to this RFI.

This RFI is for: Construction of Prawn Passage at Mount Coffee Hydropower Project, St. Paul River, Liberia

How to Participate in the Process:

For more information and a complete copy of the RFI, which is free of charge, interested Firms should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com.

Important activities and dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFI	January 17, 2020
2	Deadline for Submission of Information	January 27, 2020

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Korea encourages Liberians to use education for development

By Winston W. Parley

The Ambassador of South Korea to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, Mr. Lee In - Tae has admonished students at

lecture at the University's Fendall campus.

In a power presentation which was followed by questions and answers both



the University of Liberia that it takes education to develop a country, as he shares the Korean experience with the audience during a one - day

from students and staff at the University recently, Amb. Lee explains that just as Liberian people suffered civil war, his country South Korea also

suffered war.

But he notes that after the Korean war, Koreans had the mind to invest both in human resource development and economic development which have brought the country to where it is.

Touching on South Korea's scholarship programs to aid international students, Amb. Lee indicates that his country has two scholarship programs, one of which is a global scholarship program.

According to him, if an applicant is approved of as successful for the scholarship, the Korean Government pays all the transportation, accommodation and allowance of that person, among others.

Lecturing on the topic "Growing the Liberian Economy through Education: the South Korean Model," Amb. Lee explains that his country can import [crude oil], but then after refinery, it re-exports the product to other countries.

With this business approach used by his country, Amb. Lee asks his audience during the lecture as to who is the winner in the business, as he goes on

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Civil Society coalition damns attacks on VP Taylor

A coalition of three civil society organizations condemns what it terms "unprovoked media war of insults" and other forms of verbal attacks on Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor by individuals presenting themselves as talk show hosts.

The Citizens Action Network (CAN), Democratic Watch Forum (DWF), and the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), in a release says they find it difficult to believe that the second most important public official in the country would be continuously insulted on a media platform owned and operated by a senior official of government with no action taken by relevant state functionaries.

They describe as a national embarrassment, the conspicuous silence of the

to be seen as fighting unnecessary internal battles, much of which is based on mere gossips.

It further reminds President George Weah that history is replete with accounts of destructive rumor mongers who would go at any length to sow seeds of discord, destroy good relationships in pursuit of their selfish agenda.

The coalition calls on the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) to remain consistent in its advocacy for a responsible broadcast and print media, anchored on the code of ethics of good journalism, and not sit back and watch undesirable elements pollute the air wave and the pages of newspapers.

The group is challenging prominent women organizations and activists to explain reasons for their



Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism, the Executive Mansion Press Office and the Press Union of Liberia, over the public disrespect shown to VP Taylor by elements of a pro-government media outlet.

The Civil Society coalition reminds the Government of Liberia that the consistent denigration of the Vice President by a pro-government media institution, owned by a senior government official, if not halted, would give credence to speculations about a sour relationship between President George Weah and VP Taylor.

The group notes that the CDC-government is faced with stiff opposition, coupled with serious political and economic challenges that can only be addressed with a united force, and therefore, cannot afford

conspicuous silence while VP Taylor, a respectable Liberian woman, who has stood and continues to stand for the cause of women generally, is being insulted continuously on the public radio.

The civil society group challenges Liberian women across political lines, to resist the pressure and temptation of selective advocacy which only serves selfish political interests, and rather draw attention to the abuse of any woman regardless of political persuasion.

Meanwhile, the coalition threatens to name and shame individuals responsible for this shameful propaganda campaign regardless of their positions and influence in society, if nothing were done to bring the situation under control. -Press Release

Solidarity Center trains Labor Union leaders, others

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Solidarity Center, a USAID - funded program, over the weekend concluded a three-day intensive training of representatives from several organizations here on human trafficking and hearing resolutions of dispute.

Solidarity Center is the largest U.S. - based international worker rights organization helping workers attain safe workplaces, dignity on the job and greater equity at work and in their community.

The organization also seeks to address knowledge gaps on grievance procedures and processes among the Ministry of Labor (MOL), Labor Commissioners and Hearing Officers, Union Leaders and Grievance Officers.

The Solidarity center (SC) - led workshop started on 22 January, and another phase of the workshop will be held from 27-29 January to highlight principles of good governance and review the legal provision that protects workers' rights.

It will also review mechanisms and processes for resolving grievances in a union setting. For the first meeting, a total of 11 Grievance Officers, 13 Labor

Commissioners and three Hearing Officers participated.

Addressing reporters following the workshop at the offices of Solidarity Center in Mamba Point, Deputy Labor Minister for Manpower Planning and Human Resource Development Atty. Phil Tarpeh Dixon, said that the Government of Liberia is pleased to coordinate with Solidarity Center in building the capacity and knowledge-gaps of labor commissioners and hearing officers of the Ministry.

He stresses that the training also provides an opportunity to union leaders in several parts of the country to be trained in how they can proceed in the resolution of complaints or grievances arising from management and workers at various workplaces.

Deputy Minister Dixon then expresses gratitude to Solidarity Center for assisting the government in building the human resource capacity of key state and non - state actors to effectively perform their

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“No case of Corona Virus”

--Health authorities clarify

By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health (MoH), the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and other development partners including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the World Health

China, but there is no reported case in Liberia so far.

Making remarks at the news conference, NPHIL Director General Dr. Mosoka Fallah said health officials are intensifying surveillance system amid the number of people who have died of pneumonia caused by a new

the MoH and NPHIL will carry out thorough health screenings at the Roberts International Airport and the Freeport of Monrovia on passengers arriving from the destination of the virus.

However, the NPHIL has urged citizens to avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.

It further cautions citizens to do frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.

For his part, WHO Representative Mesfin Gebrikidan Zebelo says based on available information, the WHO does not recommend any restriction on people who are desirous of going, or leaving from China.

He says people should be told to do the right thing by using all the preventive measures so as to avoid coming in contact with others who will be going to China for business or private reasons.

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, and cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

In more severe cases, an infection can cause pneumonia, severely acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

—Edited by Winston W. Parley

coronavirus in China.

Dr. Fallah tells journalists that on 31 December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia of unknown cause was reported in China, and a coronavirus was identified as the causative virus by Chinese authorities on 7 January.

Dr. Fallah indicates that



Organization (WHO) say there is no case of Corona Virus Disease in Liberia.

During a news conference held Friday, 24 January at the Ministry of Health in Oldest Congo Town, health authorities said even though there are confirmed number of cases of Corona Virus in

Solidarity Center

Cont'd from page 6

functions using the knowledge acquired during the training.

Several participants including the Chairman of Labor Commissioners of Liberia Mr. Johnson Quaqua; Labor Commissioner of Rivercess County Joseph J. Zennoh; and Madam Felecia M. Doe, Grievance Officer at GAAWUL/CRC of Maryland County, disclosed that the workshop has brightened their knowledge on human trafficking and grievance procedure and hearing.

They further that the training also acknowledges

them on the differences on issues like complaint, grievance, and human trafficking.

According to the officials, union leaders, grievance officers, and labor commissioners lacked the knowledge, but the training has now increased their knowledge on fighting human trafficking.

The officials thanked Solidarity Center for the knowledge acquired, promising to implement everything acquired from the training.

—Edited by Winston W. Parley

Korea encourages

Cont'd from page 6

to answer in accord with the participants that Korea wins.

Also presenting on education, South Korean Deputy Head of Mission to Liberia Mr. Kim Dohwan says he believes the reason for which Korea's education system could be successful is the focus on realizing potentials for people.

According to Mr. Kim, if more people are able to achieve higher education, it means you have more human resource of high quality education which could contribute to national development.

He adds that the more you have human resource of high quality, the more they contribute to economic development.

Welcoming Amb. Lee and his Korean delegation at the

University earlier, UL President Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson says it is a privilege to have the Korean envoy and his team at Fendall, less than 24 hours after presenting his letters of credence to the Visitor to the University and President of Liberia

George Manneh Weah.

“So it's a privilege for me and the University Family to welcome you and your entourage to visit with us and share some ideas with us how we can prepare ourselves to move into this New Year, this new decade as a University Family,” Dr. Nelson says.

Dr. Nelson notes that it's a privilege that Amb. Lee had accepted to go to the University's Fendall campus to share with the institution as it jumps into the future.

“We're ready for fair business”

- Weah says as he receives 8 additional Letters of Credence

Twenty-four hours after receiving Letters of Credence from eight ambassadors, President George Manneh Weah took delivery of seven additional letters from ambassadors representing their various heads of state and governments on 23 January.

Receiving the letters in separate ceremonies at his Ministry of Foreign Affairs office from ambassadors hailing from Asia, Europe and Africa, President Weah reemphasized his administration's willingness to embrace countries and governments that share the common ideas of world peace, security and development.

According to the Executive Mansion, Ambassadors who presented their respective letters of credence to President Weah include Amb.



Ahmed Nasir Alkhajeh of the United Arab Emirate (UAE), residing in Conakry, Guinea; Ms. Shirley Ho-Vicario, Ambassador of Philippines, with residence in Abuja,

Nigeria; and Ambassador Michael Wimmer of the Kingdom of Belgium, residing in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Others include Ambassador Regassa Kefale of the Federal

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Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, residing in Accra, Ghana; Ms. Anne Lugon-Moulin, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation, residing in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Abdullah Bin Hamed Alsobaiee, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, residing in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Ambassador Mrs. Özlem Gülsün Ergün Ulueren of Turkey residing in Accra, Ghana; and Ebraima Manneh, Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia having residence in Freetown, Serra Leone.

President Weah expressed appreciation to the ambassadors and assured them

that Liberia is open to fostering diplomatic relations with nations that continue to support the country's development agenda and global peace initiative.

He said Liberia remains ready to do fair business with nations of the world that are interested in tapping its vast investment possibilities.

The eight ambassadors, on behalf of their respective governments and peoples, promised to make contributions to Liberia's development drive and enhanced diplomatic ties.—*Press release*

Français

Crise au sommet de l'Etat : Chief Allen pointe du doigt l'entourage du président Weah

La crise au sommet de l'Etat qui a envenimé les rapports entre le président de la république et sa vice-présidente continue de laisser couler plus d'encre et de Salive. M. Chief Cyril Allen, président émérite du Parti national patriotique (NPP) de Mme Taylor, et membre de la Coalition tripartite pour le changement démocratique du président George Weah s'en prend aux responsables gouvernementaux et disculpe le président Weah.

M. Chief Allen, qui dirige actuellement le conseil d'administration de la coalition au pouvoir, accuse certains hauts responsables de l'administration Weah d'avoir privé la vice-présidente de l'allocation budgétaire, ce qui a entravé tous ses mouvements et paralysé le fonctionnement de son bureau.

Dans une plainte officielle adressée au Sénat libérien récemment après avoir boycotté la cérémonie d'ouverture officielle de la

troisième session parlementaire ordinaire de l'ère Weah, Mme Taylor a écrit: «J'ai la tristesse de vous informer, en tant qu'aînés de notre nation, que la situation est telle que les factures dues de 2018-2019 ne sont toujours pas payées et les frais d'opération dont j'avais besoin pour le bon fonctionnement de mon bureau (Bureau de la Vice-présidente de la République du Libéria), au cours des exercices budgétaires 2018-

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President George Weah



Chief Cyril Allen



VP Jewel Howard

Le Parlement des enfants condamne les MGF

Les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF) sont nuisibles, car elles affectent non seulement les femmes et les filles, mais aussi la société entière, déplore Emmanuel G.W. Barzon, membre du parlement des enfants du Libéria.

«Et pour ça, je dis : " Non aux MGF, c'est une pratique néfaste, car elle n'a aucun

effet bénéfique sur la santé et elle nuit aux filles et aux femmes à bien des égards" », a-t-il dit.

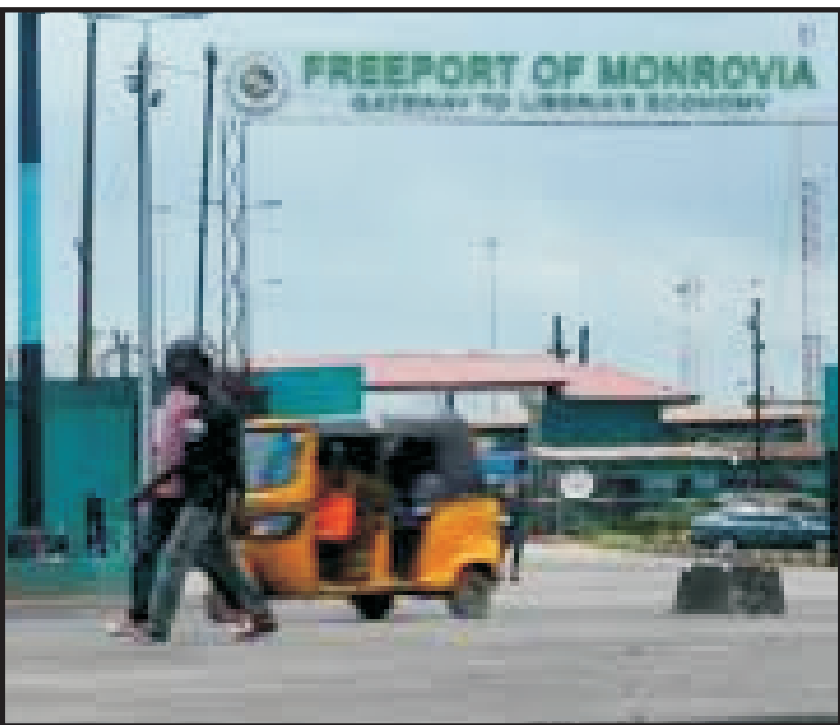
Les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF) désignent l'ablation totale ou partielle des organes génitaux féminins externes. Généralement réalisée par un exciseur traditionnel avec un couteau ou une lame de rasoir avec ou sans anesthésie, la

pratique est concentrée dans 27 pays africains, au Yémen et au Kurdistan irakien ainsi que dans une moindre mesure en Asie et dans les populations immigrées dans les pays occidentaux. Selon un rapport de 2013 de l'Unicef, environ 130 millions de femmes et de filles vivent avec une MGF dans le monde.

Les procédures varient selon les régions et les groupes ethniques. Elles peuvent aller d'un frottage ou ablation totale ou partielle du prépuce du clitoris, à l'ablation partielle ou totale du clitoris et des lèvres (excision) voire à la suture des lèvres pour fermer la vulve (infibulation). Les MGF n'ont aucun bénéfice connu pour la santé et parmi les complications les plus courantes figurent des hémorragies lors de l'opération, des infections urinaires, des règles douloureuses, des douleurs chroniques, une diminution du plaisir sexuel et des problèmes durant l'accouchement.

L'origine des MGF est

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Éditorial

Comment sortir de la pauvreté

Nous, Libériens, risquons d'être plus pauvres en 2020 qu'au cours des deux dernières années, si nous n'agissons pas ensemble pour briser la chaîne de la pauvreté qui nous a confinés aux marges de la société. Les administrations libériennes précédentes, à l'instar de presque tous les gouvernements de toute l'Afrique de l'Ouest, avaient assujéti les citoyens à de lourds impôts sans mettre à leur disposition, en retour, des services de base. L'administration Weah, hélas, n'est pas une exception.

Par exemple, l'administration Sirleaf a accordé des exonérations fiscales à plusieurs nouvelles entreprises au cours de ses dernières années de règne, poussé l'Etat à renoncer à des millions de dollars américains alors que la majeure partie de la population continue de languir, impuissante, sous le seuil de la pauvreté. Certaines de ces entreprises bénéficiaires ont accumulé les bénéfices qu'elles voulaient et se sont retirés, laissant le pays à nu.

Une étude récente d'Oxfam West Africa révèle que les gouvernements ouest-africains exacerbent les inégalités en sous-finançant les services publics, y compris les soins de santé, l'éducation et l'agriculture, tout en sous-taxant les sociétés et les riches, et en ne réprimant pas l'évasion fiscale et la corruption.

Le directeur régional d'Oxfam pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Adama Coulibaly, appelle les gouvernements d'Afrique de l'Ouest à renforcer leur engagement contre les inégalités en promouvant une fiscalité progressive, en augmentant les dépenses sociales, en renforçant la protection du marché du travail, en investissant dans l'agriculture et en renforçant le droit foncier pour les petits producteurs de cultures vivrières.

L'année dernière, une enquête d'Oxfam Afrique de l'Ouest intitulée Engagement à réduire l'indice d'inégalité a noté que les inégalités avaient atteint des niveaux de crise dans la région, mais les gouvernements ici sont les moins engagés à réduire les inégalités sur le continent.

Ces révélations indiquent clairement que les Libériens et leurs collègues de la région sont livrés à eux-mêmes parce que les gouvernements qu'ils ont élus n'ont jamais cherché à défendre leur intérêt et ils n'ont pas la moindre intention de rechercher leur bien-être en termes de prestation de services sociaux.

Cependant, en tant que citoyens, nous pouvons renverser la vapeur en nous levant et en disant que trop c'est trop ! Nous devons exiger notre paix et notre bonheur.

En outre, nous devons nous mettre au travail en nous engageant dans de petites entreprises et en retournant vers le sol, la mère nourricière, le plus grand atout que nos ancêtres nous ont légué.

Au Libéria en particulier, nous devons mettre de côté le syndrome de dépendance et croire en nous-mêmes. Cela nécessite de travailler de nos mains. Aucun Libérien ne devrait se sentir trop grand ou trop fier pour faire quelque chose pour soi-même.

L'administration Weah vient d'entrer dans sa troisième année et les difficultés continuent d'augmenter. Il grand temps que nous cessions de mettre nos mains entre nos jambes et cessions de croire les promesses utopiques que notre gouvernement continue de faire.

Tant que les Libériens n'adopteront pas une approche radicale en prenant les choses en main pour se débarrasser de ce borbier, la belle vie dont ils rêvent les échappera.

Français

Crise au sommet de l'Etat :

2019 et 2019-2020 n'ont pas été payés."

Elle a déploré un manque de dispositions sécuritaires adéquate pour ses mouvements et l'incapacité de sa part de subvenir aux besoins de son bureau, révélant qu'actuellement, les véhicules de sécurité, y compris deux véhicules blindés, indispensables pour ses déplacements, n'ont toujours pas été mis à sa disposition.

« En conséquence, je n'ai pas pu quitter mon domicile au cours des 3 dernières semaines. Je suis donc contrainte d'informer cet honorable organe qu'en raison des contraintes décrites ci-haut, je ne suis pas en mesure d'assumer mes fonctions lors de cette ouverture de la 3e session parlementaire, jusqu'à ce que ces contraintes soient résolues.

Le Sénat libérien a ouvert une enquête. Mais s'adressant aux médias par téléphone mobile à Monrovia, Cyril Allen a fait savoir que le Président Weah n'est pas favorable à la privation dont est victime la vice-présidente Taylor. Il accuse des « acteurs gouvernementaux zélés » d'avoir créé des tensions entre Mme Taylor et le président Weah.

Selon lui, l'allocation budgétaire pour tout fonctionnaire ou agence gouvernementale est une exigence de la loi, et tout le monde est tenu de respecter cette loi.

« Je continue de rappeler aux responsables du gouvernement que la vice-présidente a été nommée comme colistière avant les élections sur la base des accords et selon son éligibilité. Elle a été élue et a prouvé qu'elle comprend le fonctionnement du Sénat libérien, et elle doit recevoir toutes les aides financières nécessaires pour qu'elle

exerce ses fonctions correctement », a-t-il souligné.

Selon lui, la vice-présidente Taylor n'a pas été choisie sur le volet par le président Weah lors de la sélection des candidats, mais ce choix répond aux exigences des accords de la coalition formée par trois partis politiques, dont le Congrès pour le changement démocratique du président George Manneh Weah, le Parti National patriotique de l'ancien président emprisonné Charles Taylor et le Parti démocratique du peuple libérien de l'ancien président de la chambre des représentants Alex Tyler.

M. Chief Allen préside actuellement le conseil d'administration de la National Social Security and Welfare Corporation. Il prévient que Madame Taylor a le soutien du NPP et des populations du comté de Bong, le comté dont elle était sénateur avant les élections de 2017. « Nous savons tous que le comté de Bong est un comté riche en votes, et le NPP est un parti politique plus fort ici, donc, elle n'a pas été tirée sur le volet pour être traitée comme une vieille voiture garée dans le garage. Elle mérite tous ses droits. Et ne vous y méprenez, ces mauvaises formes de gouvernance ne relèvent pas de la volonté du président, mais d'une minorité zélée qui est source de problème.

Il a en outre révélé que le président Weah a mis en place un comité ministériel de trois membres pour mener une enquête sur la situation de la vice-présidente.

La vice-présidente Taylor a été confinée à l'intérieur pendant un peu plus de trois semaines en raison de l'incapacité présumée du gouvernement à débours les fonds opérationnels alloués à son bureau.

Le Parlement des

inconnue mais elles sont profondément ancrées dans les traditions de nombreux groupes où elles sont associées à la pureté, à la chasteté et constituent un rite de passage à l'âge adulte. Les opérations sont habituellement organisées par les femmes tant pour des raisons d'honneur et de fierté que par obligation sociale.

Les MGF sont interdites ou restreintes dans la plupart des pays où elles sont pratiquées mais les

législations sont souvent peu appliquées. Depuis les années 1970, des actions internationales ont été menées pour mettre un terme à ces pratiques et elles sont considérées comme des violations des droits humains par les Nations unies.

Barzon a appelé l'Etat à prendre ses responsabilités conformément à l'article 21.1 de la Charte africaine des droits et du bien-être de l'enfant (ACRWC) pour mettre fin à cette pratique.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Børge Brende

Construire la coopération dans un monde incertain

DAVOS - Le monde arrive à un tournant : la puissance s'y déplace et s'y disperse d'une façon qui indique l'émergence d'une nouvelle ère multipolaire. Dans les turbulences de l'environnement global ainsi créées, les opportunités de rivalité ou de coopération se multiplient et touchent bien des domaines. Pour ce qui concerne l'économie, la technologie et l'environnement, toute la question est de savoir si les parties chercheront des objectifs communs vers lesquels progresser ensemble ou bien des avantages stratégiques dans une concurrence entre elles.

Durant presque toute l'après-guerre froide, les questions afférentes au commerce, à la recherche scientifique et au changement climatique furent pour l'essentiel traitées isolément des considérations de concurrence mondiale. Ainsi les économies des États-Unis et de la Chine ont-elles prospéré ensemble pendant vingt ans, dynamisant les marchés et multipliant les possibilités d'investissement des autres pays au sein d'un système commercial et financier global et ouvert.

De même, le développement rapide d'Internet au début de ce siècle fut rendu possible par une structure commune et facile d'accès, maintenue le plus souvent en dehors des rivalités nationales. En conséquence de quoi le nombre d'utilisateurs d'Internet a connu une augmentation exponentielle, passant d'un peu plus de 400 millions en l'an 2000 à environ 2 milliards en 2010.

Et même au cours de la guerre froide, États et autres acteurs sont parvenus à mettre de côté la compétition stratégique pour répondre aux questions globales comme celle de l'environnement. On se souvient surtout de l'élargissement du trou de la couche d'ozone, qui encouragea à une action collective en faveur du climat. À partir du protocole de Montréal, signé en 1977, les États du globe ont pu réduire suffisamment leurs usages de chlorofluorocarbures (CFC) pour qu'on puisse aujourd'hui envisager que l'atmosphère se reconstitue.

Aujourd'hui pourtant, des questions qui autrefois scellaient le partenariat risquent de se constituer en lignes de fracture de nouveaux conflits. Les prévisions de croissance à court terme de l'économie mondiale ont été revues à la baisse - et les perspectives sont rendues plus moroses encore par la mobilisation des échanges commerciaux au profit des intérêts géopolitiques particuliers plutôt qu'à celui de la prospérité commune. En outre, contrairement à l'amincissement de la couche d'ozone, la fonte de la calotte glaciaire arctique n'a pas battu le rappel en faveur de mesures climatiques plus ambitieuses. Les États y voient plutôt l'occasion d'une course aux ressources naturelles et à l'ouverture de routes commerciales dans le Grand Nord. Quant aux technologies, l'effet positif d'une structure de communication commune globale est

aujourd'hui menacé, étant donné la possibilité d'un « découplage » des systèmes de communication utilisés par les États-Unis et la Chine, passant par des réseaux 5G distincts.

Mais ces développements ne signifient pas nécessairement que nous devrions nous résigner à une période de compétition plutôt que de coopération géopolitique. Le terrain de la géopolitique est en expansion - les dynamiques de puissance s'y ouvrent des chemins dans de nouveaux domaines -, par conséquent les acteurs influents y sont plus nombreux. Les parties peuvent s'y regrouper en divers ensembles pour déterminer l'évolution des relations internationales.

Pour commencer, les puissances émergentes et moyennes réagissent à l'éventualité d'une fracture de l'ordre mondial en réaffirmant la nécessité du multilatéralisme. La France et l'Allemagne travaillent avec d'autres pays animés de la même volonté à la construction d'une Alliance pour le multilatéralisme, qui s'est fixé comme objectif de relancer la coopération internationale dans des domaines comme la sécurité du cyberspace et le changement climatique. En Afrique, les États renforcent leurs liens économiques grâce à la création de la Zone de libre-échange continentale, qui va réunir 54 États membres et représenter en PIB cumulé plus de 2 000 milliards de dollars. En Asie du Sud-Est, pendant ce temps, les États membres de l'ASEAN ont entrepris de renforcer leurs partenariats régionaux et leur intégration, s'appêtant à signer dans l'année un Partenariat économique intégral régional. Cet accord commercial - qui comprend également la Chine, le Japon, la Corée du Sud, l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande - concernera quelque 45 % de la population mondiale et instituera le bloc commercial le plus important au monde.

Les acteurs non étatiques sont également en position d'exercer une influence croissante. Les entreprises de taille mondiale représentent aujourd'hui une part importante de la production économique totale, et les patrons du secteur privé s'engagent de plus en plus en faveur d'actions qui vont au-delà des bénéfices à court terme. Ainsi l'an dernier, 87 grandes entreprises ont-elles annoncé qu'elles contribueraient à maintenir le réchauffement climatique dans la limite d'une hausse de 1,5° Celsius. Et de nombreux dirigeants d'entreprise mettent en garde contre les dangers potentiels d'une « guerre froide » technologique entre les États-Unis et la Chine ou du découplage des économies des deux pays.

Si la nature changeante de la puissance mondiale peut inciter certains acteurs à chercher un bénéfice dans la confrontation, le champ en extension des parties prenantes offre la possibilité d'une correction de cap. La géopolitique de l'ère qui s'annonce est actuellement en construction, et il existe encore une chance d'orienter le monde vers la coopération et de le détourner d'une compétition potentiellement dévastatrice.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Lesotho's murder mystery, Prime Minister Tom Thabane and his estranged wife Culled from the BBC



Lesotho's prime minister and his wife are caught up in a murder investigation involving allegations so sinister that they have the makings of a crime novel. Pumza Fihlani tries to unpack the mystery from the capital of the southern African nation, Maseru.

People are going about their business in the city, vegetable vendors line the streets, taxis whizz pass each rushing to the next passenger.

On the surface everything is in order but newspaper billboards plastered on shop windows and tied to lamp posts give the first indication that something is deeply wrong in Lesotho.

One headline reads in bold type: "Police Hunt First Lady." Another says: "Embattled PM agrees to quit."

The country's first couple - Prime Minister Thomas Thabane and his current wife Maesaiah Thabane - are wanted for questioning in connection with the 2017 murder of Mr Thabane's then estranged wife, Lipolelo Thabane.

The 58-year-old, who had been living apart from her husband since 2012, was killed just two days before Mr Thabane was sworn in as prime minister.

One evening while returning home, she was ambushed, shot several times at close range and died on the side of a dirt road. The murder shocked the nation. At the time, Mr Thabane described it as a "senseless killing".



Image copyright LESOTHO TIMES: Lipolelo Thabane's 2017 murder was at the time described by Thomas Thabane as a "senseless killing"

At the time of her death, the attack was blamed on unknown armed men, but recent court papers filed by the country's police commissioner, Holomo Molibeli, have raised further questions.

Among the court papers, seen by AFP news agency, was a copy of a letter, dated 23 December 2019, that the police chief wrote to the 80-year-old prime minister saying: "The investigations reveal that there was a telephonic communication at the scene of the crime in question... with another cell phone. The cell phone number belongs to you."

First Lady missing

A warrant of arrest of was issued for 42-year-old Maesaiah Thabane on 10 January after she failed to present herself to the police for questioning.

She has not been seen publicly for two weeks and no-one seems to know where she is, well no-one willing to talk that is.

Mr Thabane, who is still in the country, has avoided any questions about his wife's whereabouts.

The BBC contacted government officials for comment but they were unwilling to take questions on the matter. A spokesman for the prime minister's party said "the matter has not been addressed".

Last week, he reluctantly agreed to be questioned by the police.

Neither Mr Thabane nor his wife have been charged.

It says something about the separation of judicial and political power in Lesotho that a prime minister can be wanted for questioning but the police investigation has not been easy.

Death threats

The police commissioner, Mr Molibeli, told me the Thabane investigation was one of the most complex and dangerous cases he had worked on in his 32 years as a policeman.

"It hasn't been easy, there have been many attempts for this investigation to not continue.

"I believe what we are doing is right, as long as my conscious is clear. The people of Lesotho want to know the truth and it is our job to investigate and get to that truth," he said.

People have made threats on his life for pursuing the investigation, he adds, but he insists he is not scared.



Image copyright THE POST Image caption Mr Thabane married Maesaiah at a public ceremony in 2017

"Not at all. I have people who support me. In the past the people who would've threatened me would be the army but no, I have a good relationship with them.

"We all just want to get Lesotho out of this quagmire."

While the police will not say what evidence they have, Mr Molibeli said the case was "strong".

Those who knew Lipolelo say she shied away from the limelight and preferred her slow village life in Ha Masana on the outskirts of the capital.

But the months prior to her death had been filled with turmoil. News of her protracted divorce from Mr Thabane frequently made headlines, as did a counter-suit from her to continue to be recognised as Lesotho's rightful First Lady.

Divorce never finalised

After he had separated from Lipolelo, Mr Thabane was living with Maesaiah as if she was his wife and she was enjoying all the perks that came with the position. Lipolelo on the other hand had been left high and dry.

In 2015, after a long legal wrangle, the High Court ruled in Lipolelo's favour and ordered the government to stop using state funds to support Maesaiah.

It further ruled that she was to stop "performing any functions and exercising any rights vested on the applicant [Lipolelo] as the First Spouse". It was a humiliating loss for the prime minister.

The ruling meant that until the divorce was finalised, Lipolelo was still legally recognised as his spouse and his government was obliged by law to take care for of her. The divorce was never finalised.



Image copyright AFP: The prime minister has announced that he will be stepping down but has given no date for his departure

This small country is relatively peaceful, but does have a reputation for the killing of high-ranking officials. In the past, these have been as a result of a dispute within the military or political classes.

Mr Thabane himself once fled to South Africa supposedly because there was a hit out on him.

Mme Lipolelo, as she was known here, was neither political nor someone who had political enemies. For many her death was always suspicious.

'Lipolelo deserves justice'

"I was so shocked when she died," Maseru resident Lebohlang Liballo said.

"What happened to her was so strange - even now the secrecy around it is strange. Mme Lipolelo deserves justice."

Although people are intrigued by the case and are following each twist and turn, there is still a sense of fear.

Those who agreed to speak to me asked not to have their pictures taken.

"It's been a big embarrassment for the country," said Bakwena Mofoka.

"It paints us as something we are not. The First Lady must come back."



Image copyright GETTY IMAGES: Mr Thabane was sworn in as prime minister two days after the death of Lipolelo Thabane

But Maesaiah does not appear to be backing down.

Her legal team have been trying to have her warrant of arrest set aside. The court is yet to rule on the matter. Her lawyers told the Maseru High Court that the First Lady had always been willing to cooperate with the police but was busy with official duties on the day she was due to be questioned. They have not explained why she appears to have left.

She is no stranger to controversy - in the last couple of years she has repeatedly been accused of interfering in the running of government, something the people of Lesotho have termed a "bedroom coup".

Mr Thabane has denied the claims but the accusations have lost her favour with some in the party.

Political divisions

The scandal has also had political implications for the prime minister.

While his supporters have questioned the timing of the investigation, claiming that their leader was the victim of a smear campaign, he has been forced to agree to step down, although he has not said when.

He said he was resigning because of his age and made no link with the investigation.

The governing All Basotho Convention (ABC) is deeply divided but in the days since the scandal erupted its members have tried to present a united front - if only to keep opposition parties at bay and buy Mr Thabane time to plan his next move.

But he might not have too long.

Hundreds of people, calling themselves "concerned citizens of Lesotho", marched in the capital last week, as part of what they promise will be a series of protests aimed at forcing the prime minister to leave immediately.

"We are determined to keep protesting until he goes.

"If that means that there is instability, so be it, it would have been brought on by the prime minister," protest organiser Ramahoana Mathlosa said.

It was a sign of a people who are growing tired of Mr Thabane and perhaps one scandal too many.

But his resignation would not be an end to the mystery surrounding who killed Lipolelo Thabane.

Weah unveils 2020 plans

President George Weah is expected to unveil his plan for 2020 today, as he delivers his third state of the nation's address or Annual Message before a jam-packed joint assembly of the 54th Legislature today.

It is not yet certain what the President's plan for the nation would be this year, but one thing that is sure is that the Weah government has submitted itself to the International Monetary Fund program that intends to rescue the country's ailing economy.

Also the United States through its agency for international development USAID has reached an agreement with Kroll, a global leader in risk mitigation, investigations, compliance, cyber resilience, security, and incident response solutions, and is the author of the February 2019 analytic report on Liberia's previous procurement of new banknotes.

The agreement enables



Kroll to provide technical assistance to the Central Bank of Liberia. This follows the government dropping a legal battle against Crane Currency of Sweden that printed new Liberian Bank notes, totaling 15.5 billion, which reportedly

went missing.

Contracted by the United States Agency for International Development thru the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia to probe the "missing 16 billion" Kroll uncovered that the CBL under former

executive governor Milton Weeks, printed LRD5 billion excess of the LRD10 billion approved by the Liberian Legislature.

The Weah administration subsequently indicted several officials of the CBL on multiple crimes, including ex-governors Weeks and Charles Sirleaf, among others.

However, the government announced at the close of 2019 plan to print additional 4 billion Liberian banknotes ahead of official request to the Liberian Legislature to print 35 billion new currency.

In his second Annual Message delivered in January 2019 before Legislators, President Weah outlined the manifesto of his three-party Coalition for Democratic Change namely: Power to the People, Economy and Jobs, Sustaining the Peace, Governance and Transparency

These four pillars, which were the core embodiment of my last Annual Message and Legislative Agenda, are now developed into our National Plan, called the Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PAPD) and was officially launched on 29th October 2018.

According to the President, the overall objective of the PAPD, and its ultimate goal, is to lift Liberians from poverty to prosperity.

"As a first step towards achieving this goal, it is our intention, and our determination, to reduce poverty by 23% percent by the end of 2023, by providing greater income security for an additional one million Liberians who now live below the poverty line", he had promised.

But most Liberians seem doubtful whether the government is capable to deliver on its promises, given the dismal performance of the economy in the last two years

of the Weah administration characterized by hyperinflation, high exchange rate and shortage of cash in commercial banks.

In spite of the grim picture, President Weah noted that growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) was projected to rise to 3 percent at the end of 2018, but by 2019, the projection has fallen to 0.0 percent.

"By 2023, we expect the economy to grow by a further 4.7 percent, on account of further expansion in commercial gold production, growth in the agricultural and forestry sectors, formation of Special Economic Zones, and other economic reforms envisage under the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development", he assured Liberians.

But the economy has sunk even deeper in the past two years of the administration and the government seems to find itself in a very tight corner, unable to meet its monthly wage bill.

Amid the current challenges, the President has even begun to give more promises as he embarks on his third term. He told the joint assembly of the 54th National Legislature recently during opening of its 3rd Session that 2020 would be a year of practicality and progress.

President Weah: "2020 is a year when we will consolidate our gains and launch Liberia upwards and onwards on a solid platform of policies and practical programs that will begin to turn our economy around."

As Mr. Weah unveils government agenda for the next 12 months, Liberians would be increasingly gauging their hope on unfolding developments from the past two years to know where the administration is leading the State.

Indian Consulate celebrates Republic Day

By Winston W. Parley

The Indian Consulate near Monrovia has observed India's 71st Republic Day here, as Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, the country's Honorary Consul General to Liberia announces that a charitable clinic will soon start rendering services to the public in Gardnerville on a charitable basis.

"I urge every Indian here to take benefit of it; not only Indians, all my Liberian

He says there are Indian doctors in town, and in the next two weeks the clinic will be commencing services to Indians and Liberians in Gardnerville.

According to Mr. Sachdeva, India gained independence in 1947, following which a Constitutional Assembly was constituted that drafted India's Constitution which came into effect on 26 January 1950.

On separate days, India

Nath Kovind to the Indian community here, indicating that the president had interacted with some achievers who have done commendable work in various fields.

According to the address, the Indians, working silently have made immense contributions to various fields including science and innovation, sports, farming and afforestation, women and



brothers and sisters should take benefit of it. An Indian team of doctors will be serving them, the society and mainly the people of Liberia," he says amidst applause.

Addressing the Indian community at the Consulate on Sunday, 26 January up Mamba Point, Mr. Sachdeva says the charitable clinic will commence service in commemoration of India's 71st Republic Day.

celebrates these two days - the Day of Independence and the day its Constitution came into effect.

He expresses special appreciation to his team at the consulate for their support and hard work in making the observation of the day successful.

During the program, Mr. Sachdeva read an address earlier delivered by the President of India Shri Ram

child empowerment, education, healthcare, revival of old art forms and providing food and nutrition to the needy.

"For example, Sushri Aarifa Jan has revived the Numdha handicrafts in Jammu & Kashmir; Sushri Ratnawali Kottapalli has been serving patients suffering from thalassemia in Telangana; Shrimati Devaki Amma has developed forest wealth

through her individual efforts in Kerala; Shri Jamkhojang Missao has improved the lives of many people through his community development efforts in Manjpur ...," he notes.

Further, Mr. Sachdeva says Shri Babar Ali has been providing education to underprivileged children in West Bengal since his childhood.

"There are numerous such examples, I have mentioned only a few of them. They exemplify that ordinary people can make extraordinary contributions," he continues.

Additionally, Mr. Sachdeva says there are a large number of voluntary organizations too who have been contributing to the project of nation - building, and complementing

the initiatives of government.

Mr. Sachdeva indicates that the Indian President cites the diaspora as another source of India's pride.

"During my visits abroad, I have observed that Indians have not only brought prosperity to their adopted lands, they have also enhanced India's image before the world community. Many of them have made great contributions in a wide variety of endeavors," the Indian President's statement says.

According to him, there is a consistent effort by the Indian Government to ensure overall development of each and every part of the country - be it Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, the states in the North-East or the Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Kobe Bryant: Basketball legend dies in helicopter crash



US basketball legend Kobe Bryant has been killed in a helicopter crash in the city of Calabasas, California.

Bryant, 41, was travelling in a private helicopter when it crashed and burst into flames, according to media reports.

The LA County Sheriff's department said five people

died in the helicopter crash on Sunday, with no survivors.

The five-time NBA champion was widely considered one of the greatest players in the game's history.

In a statement on Twitter, the City of Calabasas said it was "with great sadness that we learn of the death of Kobe Bryant and four others in a

helicopter crash".

"The aircraft went down in a remote field off Las Virgenes around 10:00 this morning. Nobody on the ground was hurt," it added.

Eyewitnesses told news site TMZ they heard the helicopter's engine spluttering before it went down.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the crash and the LA County Sheriff's Department said there would be a press conference at 22:00 GMT.

Bryant played his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers. He retired in April 2016.

Bryant's achievements include being the 2008 NBA Most Valuable Player and two-time NBA Finals MVP. He was also two-time NBA scoring champion and a two-time Olympic champion.

He also won an Oscar for best short animated film in 2018 for Dear Basketball, a five-minute film based on a love letter to the sport he had written in 2015.



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'Everyone wanted us to fail' - Solskjaer defiant after FA Cup triumph

The Red Devils ran riot against the League Two side at Prenton Park, but supporters nevertheless made their voices heard against club owners

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hit out at critics who he accused of wanting his team to fail following Manchester United's 6-0 FA Cup thrashing of Tranmere Rovers on Sunday.

United enjoyed a welcome return to form against lower-league opposition following

back-to-back Premier League defeats at the hands of Liverpool and Burnley.

Harry Maguire, Diogo Dalot, Jesse Lingard, Phil Jones, and Anthony Martial all hit in a sparkling first-half performance that saw the Red Devils go into half-time 5-0 up at Prenton Park.

The visitors extended their lead further after the break when Mason Greenwood converted from the penalty spot, and saw out the rest of the half in comfort



to advance to the fifth round.

But not everybody was content with the win, with United fans heard singing against the Glazer family that owns the club as well as executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, the man signalled by many as responsible for their woes in recent years.

Solskjaer vowed to do his best to pull United out of their slump, while taking aim at certain detractors who he believes would like to see the team crash and burn.

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