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TRULY INDEPENDENT

Public Service Announcement

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

VOL.10 NO. 07

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

Weeah vs. Opposition



Pres. Weeah

Mr. Cummings

Sen. Karnga-Lawrence

Mr. Urey

Ex-VP Boakai



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Continental News

At least 36 killed in DRC attack

Thirty-six people have been killed in a suspected militia attack in the eastern DR Congo region of Beni, where hundreds have died in violence since November, a local official said Wednesday.

Congolese troops have been carrying out a military operation on an armed group in the east of the country -- long plagued by various militias -- and militiamen have responded with a series of massacres against civilians.

"They were all hacked to death. This brings (the toll) to 36 bodies," local Beni governor Donat Kibwana told AFP, updating casualties from Tuesday's attack. Two people with skull fractures caused by machetes have been admitted to the hospital in Oicha for surgery, an AFP reporter there said.

The main attack took place late Tuesday in Manzingi, a village 20 kilometres (12 miles) northwest from Oicha, while a pastor was also killed in nearby Eringeti.

According to a toll compiled by a civil society organisation, the Kivu Security Tracker (KST), 265 people have now been killed

in the Beni region since the army began its crackdown on the armed group, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), on October 30.

The massacres seem to be a tactic by the ADF to frighten the population into silence, local commentators say. The group has also disrupted operations to curb an outbreak of Ebola in North Kivu province.

Tuesday's massacre occurred to the west of the

ADF's usual area of operations, which is closer to the Ugandan border.

The army offensive, unfolding in thick forest and jungle, has led to what the military say is the capture of the group's headquarters and the killing of five of its six leaders.

Brutal militia

The ADF, blamed for the deaths of more than a thousand civilians in Beni since October 2014, began as an

Islamist-rooted rebel group in Uganda that opposed Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

It fell back into eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in 1995 during the Congo Wars and appears to have halted raids inside Uganda. Its recruits today are people of various nationalities. UN experts estimated the ADF in 2018 to number around 450 fighters. A report to the UN Security Council last week said the ADF seemed to follow an extreme Islamist ideology, but there is no information on whether the group had links with international jihadist

groups.

The spate of massacres has become a major challenge for President Felix Tshisekedi, who took office a year ago last Friday.

In November, angry protests erupted in the city of Beni, the region's administrative hub, as citizens accused the UN peacekeeping force in DR Congo of failing to protect them. Tshisekedi, in his first state-of-the-nation address to Congress, last month said he had changed the army command in Beni and sent 22,000 troops to the region. AFP



Mourning: The scene in Oicha, in the Beni region

Nigeria closes shop over coronavirus seafood fears

The consumer protection agency in Nigeria says it has closed down a Chinese-owned supermarket selling "illegally imported seafood and meat" in the capital, Abuja, over ongoing fears about the spread of coronavirus.

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) said they made the discovery during a "surprise" inspection.

The agency said that many of the products it found in the supermarket had irregular or expired dates.

The FCCPC tweeted photos of the operation:

The goods were reportedly stored in a hidden area of the supermarket.

The new coronavirus is believed to have emerged from illegally traded wildlife at a seafood market in China's

Ivory Coast student tests negative for coronavirus

A suspected case of coronavirus in the Ivory Coast has tested negative, according to the country's health authorities. A student who had travelled from Beijing to Abidjan over the weekend had shown flu-like symptoms, sparking fears the disease had spread to West Africa.

been treated for her symptoms and is recovering well.

If the results had been positive, this would have been the first confirmed case in Africa.

Another four suspected cases have been isolated in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, including three students travelling from



In a statement, the Ivorian health ministry said that tests by research institutes in Ivory Coast and France had come back negative for the virus. The 34-year-old student was kept in quarantine whilst tests were carried out. According to the ministry she's

the epicentre of the outbreak in Wuhan in China.

Officials from the Health Ministry there say initial tests were negative. Meanwhile Kenya has isolated another student from Wuhan who arrived in Nairobi on Tuesday. BBC



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EDITORIAL

Fighting the Coronavirus

LIBERIA IS A tiny country on the West Coast of Africa with a small population of 4.5 million people. Liberians heavily rely on cross border trade with three densely populated countries: Guinea, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone, which makes the country vulnerable to the coronavirus in Wuhan, China that has killed over 100 persons in that country, and is rapidly spreading across the world.

THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT of Liberia thru the National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL is assuring the public that its surveillance system is on the alert, thousands of Liberians travel to China from time to time for trade, education and other purposes, who risk contracting the virus and bringing it to the country, like it has happened in Australia, France, the United States and other countries.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF NPHIL, Dr. Mosoka Fallah, told a news conference last week that the Ministry of Health through the NPHIL will be strict on screening passengers onboard flights from Wuhan, China arriving at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County, Liberia.

BUT WE THINK the screening exercise should be extended to various entry points across the country, because while attention is concentrated on flights arriving at the RIA, local business people and other travelers passing thru our borders need to be checked as well for the coronavirus.

THE VOICE OF America quotes Chinese National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei as saying, little is known about the virus. "But doctors do know it has an incubation period that can range from one to 14 days" and that the virus is infectious during the incubation period, when no signs or symptoms of the disease are present.

THIS MAKES IT very complicated because within two weeks the virus might have infected an unsuspected victim before signs or symptoms begin to physically appear.

ACCORDING TO DR. FALLAH, the virus is transmitted between animals and people, and common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. He says in severe cases, an infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death.

LIBERIANS GENERALLY SHOULD be on full alert to avoid another major health calamity like we experienced from the Ebola virus that killed thousands of our fellow compatriots and devastated the national economy. This country is yet to fully recover from the nightmare.

OFFICIAL REPORT FROM China puts the death toll at over 100 with nearly 3,000 confirmed cases. Even more sophisticated health institutions like the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention respiratory disease office, says health officials in the U.S. are investigating more about the virus, while handling about 100 suspected cases in 26 states.

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING has reportedly declared his country faces a "grave situation", and that experts, and other resources would be concentrated at specific hospitals to treat severe cases of the illness.

AMID THE INTENSIFICATION of surveillance by the Liberian authorities, we think other options that should be placed on the table is to consider preparing a special flight to evacuate Liberian students and other citizens in currently in China, while promoting WHO's recommended steps against acute respiratory infections such as avoiding close contact with infected persons, unprotected contact with farm animals and wild animals and frequent hand-washing.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
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COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

A Global Economy Without a Cushion

From 1990 to 2008, annual growth in world trade was fully 82% faster than world GDP growth. Now, however, reflecting the unusually sharp post-crisis slowdown in global trade growth, this cushion has shrunk dramatically, to just 13% over the 2010-19 period, leaving the world economy more vulnerable to all-too-frequent shocks.

NEW HAVEN - With the benefit of full-year data, only now are we becoming aware of the danger the global economy narrowly avoided in 2019. According to the International Monetary Fund's latest estimates, world GDP grew by just 2.9% last year - the weakest performance since the outright contraction in the depths of the global financial crisis in 2009 and far short of the 3.8% pace of post-crisis recovery over the 2010-18 period.

On the surface, 2.9% global growth doesn't appear too shabby. But 40 years of perspective says otherwise. Since 1980, trend world GDP growth has averaged 3.5%. For any economy, including the world as a whole, the key to assessing growth implications can be found in deviations from the trend - a proxy for the so-called output gap. Last year's shortfall from trend (0.6 percentage points) brought growth uncomfortably close to the widely accepted global recession threshold of approximately 2.5%.

Unlike individual economies, which normally contract in an outright recession, that is rarely the case for the world as a whole. We know from the IMF's extensive coverage of the world economy, which consists of a broad cross-section of some 194 countries, that in a global recession about half of the world's economies are typically contracting, while the other half are still expanding - albeit at a subdued pace. The global recession of a decade ago was a notable exception: by early 2009, fully three-quarters of the world's economies were actually shrinking. That tipped the scales to a rare outright contraction in world GDP, the first such downturn in the overall global economy since the 1930s.

For global business-cycle analysts, the 2.5-3.5% growth band is considered the danger zone. When world output growth slips to the lower half of that range - as it did in 2019 - the risks of global recession need to be taken seriously. As is typically the case for official, or institutional, forecasts, the IMF is projecting a modest acceleration of annual world GDP growth in 2020 and 2021, to 3.3% and 3.4%, respectively. But as the physicist Niels Bohr once said, "Prediction is very difficult, especially if it is about the future." Just ask the IMF, which has revised down six consecutive iterations of its global forecast. Obviously, there is no guarantee that its latest optimistic projection will be realized.

Downside risks are especially worrisome, because a 2.9% growth outcome for the world economy underscores the lack of a comfortable cushion in the event of a shock. As I noted recently, predicting shocks is a fool's game. Yet the draconian measures that China is now taking to contain the lethal Wuhan coronavirus only serve to remind us that shocks are far more frequent than we care to think. A few weeks ago, it was the possibility of a hot war between the United States and Iran. And before that, there was the increasingly

contentious US-China trade war.

The point is that below-trend global growth, especially when it moves into the lower half of the 2.5-3.5% range, is nearing its stall speed. That leaves the world much more susceptible to recession than it would otherwise be in a more vigorous environment of above-trend global growth.

The same message comes through loud and clear in gauging the risks to the global trade cycle - long the major engine of global growth in an increasingly integrated, supply-chain-linked world economy. The IMF's latest assessment put global trade growth at just 1% in 2019 - its seventh consecutive downward revision. Indeed, last year was the weakest trade performance since the historic 10.4% plunge in 2009, which was the worst contraction since the early 1930s. Compared to the 5% average over the 2010-18 period, the slowdown of world trade growth to just 1% in 2019 is all the more alarming. In fact, it was the fourth-weakest year since 1980, and the three worse years - 1982, 2001, and 2009 - were all associated with global recessions.

Global trade growth has never recovered to its pre-crisis pace, a shortfall that has been the subject of intense debate in recent years. Initially thought to be a consequence of unusual weakness in business capital spending, there can be no ignoring the impact of protectionism following the start of the US-China trade conflict. Now that the two sides have agreed to a truce in the form of a "phase one" trade deal, there is hope that the trade prognosis will improve. Reflecting that hope, the IMF's January update calls for a modest rebound to 3.3% average growth in world trade over the 2020-21 period. But with the average US tariff rate on Chinese imports likely to remain at about 19% after the accord is signed - more than six times the pre-trade-war rate of 3% - and with worrisome signs of escalating US-Europe trade tensions, this forecast, like those of the past several years, may turn out be wishful thinking.

All this bears critically on the precarious state of the global business cycle. Historically, the rapid expansion of cross-border trade has been an important part of the global growth cushion that shields the world economy from all-too-frequent shocks. From 1990 to 2008, annual growth in world trade was fully 82% faster than world GDP growth.

Now, however, reflecting the unusually sharp post-crisis slowdown in global trade growth, this cushion has shrunk dramatically, to just 13% over the 2010-19 period. With the world economy operating dangerously close to stall speed, the confluence of ever-present shocks and a sharply diminished trade cushion raises serious questions about financial markets' increasingly optimistic view of global economic prospects.

O-PED

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

Has Davos Man Changed?

The discussion at Davos this year may be part of a move in the right direction toward a more sustainable capitalism. But we need to see some proof: corporations paying taxes and livable wages, for a start, and respecting - and even advocating - government regulations to protect our health, safety, workers, and the environment.

DAVOS - This year marked the 50th anniversary of the World Economic Forum's flagship meeting of the world's business and political elites in Davos, Switzerland. Much has changed since my first Davos in 1995. Back then, there was euphoria over globalization, hope for ex-communist countries' transition to the market, and confidence that new technologies would open up new vistas from which all would benefit. Businesses, working with government, would lead the way.

Today, with the world facing climate, environmental, and inequality crises, the mood is very different. Facebook, willing to provide a platform for mis-/disinformation and political manipulation, regardless of the consequences for democracy, has shown the dangers of a privately controlled monopolistic surveillance economy. Corporate leaders, and not just in the financial sector, have displayed remarkable moral turpitude.

Moreover, multilateralism is under attack. Its strongest defender historically, the United States, now has an administration committed to "America First," and to undermining global cooperation, even as the need for cooperation in a host of areas - including peace, health, and the environment - becomes increasingly apparent.

This year's meeting highlighted disenchantment with the increasingly dominant American model of shareholder-first, profit-maximizing firms. More than 50 years ago, WEF founder and head Klaus Schwab argued for stakeholder capitalism: enterprises should be accountable for the interests of their customers, workers, communities, and the environment, as well as their shareholders. Some 45 years ago, with Sandy Grossman, I showed in a standard economic framework that maximizing shareholder value would not maximize societal welfare. In speech after speech this year, business leaders and academics explained how Milton Friedman's successful advocacy of shareholder capitalism led directly to the crises we face today - including, in the US, opioid addiction, childhood diabetes, declining life expectancy amid soaring "deaths of despair" - and the political divisions they have fueled.

To be sure, recognition that there is a problem is necessary if we are to change course. But we also have to understand that the causes of societal maladies go beyond maximizing shareholder value. At the root of the problem is neoliberalism's excessive faith in markets and skepticism of government, which underpins a policy agenda focused on deregulation and tax cuts. After a 40-year experiment, we can declare it a failure. Growth has been lower, and most of the gains went to the top. While this should be obvious, there is no consensus among our business leaders.

Even though the applause for US President Donald Trump, who delivered one of the opening addresses, was the most anemic I have seen for a global leader, almost no one openly criticized him. Perhaps audience members feared a critical tweet or felt gratitude for a tax cut that benefited billionaires and large corporations at the expense of nearly everyone else (indeed, tax rates in the US will rise for some 70% of those in the middle).

Cognitive dissonance - or dishonesty - was on full display. Attendees could highlight the importance of climate change and tout their corporations' response to it, and yet welcome Trump's deregulation, which will allow the US, already the leader in per capita greenhouse-gas emissions, to pollute even more.

Moreover, despite much talk about stakeholder capitalism, there was no discussion of reducing CEO and managerial pay to ameliorate growing pay disparities, or of the first element of corporate social responsibility: paying your fair share of taxes by curbing multinational tax avoidance, and ensuring that developing countries get a fair share of tax revenues. This led Rob Cox, global editor of Reuters Breakingviews, to suggest that stakeholder capitalism might be a strategy to unfetter CEOs even more: If they fail to meet profit goals, they could waffle and say they were meeting broader environmental, social, and governance objectives.

Nor were reforms that might increase workers' bargaining power, through the strengthening of unions and collective bargaining, at the center of the discussion, even though in Europe such reforms are at the top of the new European Commission's agenda. To their credit, a few US firms, such as PayPal, explained their commitment to paying livable wages, going well beyond the minimum wage mandated by law.

And yet some of the business leaders at Davos this year, especially those from Europe, seemed to have grasped the urgency of responding to climate change and the scope of what is needed. And some have actually taken giant strides. There might still be some "greenwashing" - banks that talk about energy-efficient light bulbs as they lend money to coal-fired power plants - but the tide has turned.

A few business leaders also recognized that our economic and social maladies will not cure themselves - that even if most businesses were socially motivated, a single-minded focus on profits entails a race to the bottom. A soft-drink company that doesn't want to produce addictive sugar-rich drinks that can contribute to childhood diabetes risks losing out to a less scrupulous enterprise.

In short, unfettered capitalism has played a central role in creating the multiple crises confronting our societies today. If capitalism is to work - if it is to address these crises and serve society - it can't do so in its current form. There must be a new kind of capitalism - what I have elsewhere called progressive capitalism, entailing a better balance of government, markets, and civil society.

The discussion at Davos this year may be part of a move in the right direction, but if leaders truly mean what they say, we need to see some proof: corporations paying taxes and livable wages, for a start, and respecting - and even advocating - government regulations to protect our health, safety, workers, and the environment.

OPINION

By Chris Patten

Britain Enters the Unknown

Compared to the threats posed by climate change and China's hostility to liberal democracy, the consequences of Brexit may seem far less significant. But the United Kingdom has chosen an odd and dangerous time to decide to go it alone.

LONDON - A history teacher at my school believed that every great event in the past should be approached on the basis of a tripartite analysis of its causes, pretexts, and results. He would list these in columns on the blackboard, and we would then have to learn them by heart: the causes of the eighteenth-century War of the Spanish Succession, the pretexts for the French Revolution, the results of the American War of Independence, and so on.

Of course, life and further study teach us that things are not that simple. Causes can be a combination of accident, ambition, and coincidence, together with more profound economic, social, and technological changes. Results can be equally difficult to gauge neatly. After all, history rarely brings closure, and it is hard to know when the effects of a great event begin and end.

In that regard, the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union at 23:00 GMT on January 31 is probably the most important national political event in my lifetime. Enthusiastic Brexiteers are furious that Big Ben, the Westminster Parliament's iconic clock, cannot sound to mark this event because of long-overdue repairs. They act as though this were yet another grievance to add to the long list that has sustained their campaign.

But what are we supposed to be celebrating? No one seems to know what comes next. The future is shrouded in waffle, wishful thinking, and the sort of mendacity that these days appears to exact no political price.

For starters, Brexiteers airily dismiss the question of costs. Bloomberg Economics recently estimated that Brexit has already cost the UK economy £130 billion (\$169 billion) since the 2016 referendum, with the country set to be a further £70 billion poorer by the time its transition period ends on December 31. Other credible sources have produced similar figures.

But why believe anything that contradicts the quasi-religious fervor of Brexit Britain? Brexiteers regard any unwelcome economic estimate as an attempt to talk the country down. In any case, they insist, whatever the cost, we have got our freedom back. We have taken back control.

According to Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid, the UK will avoid aligning itself with EU regulations when it leaves the bloc. Instead of being a rule-taker in the single market or customs union, it will be a rule-maker. But back in 2016, when he was business minister, Javid sang a different tune, arguing that Britain would face "a decade of stagnation and doubt" if it left the EU. So, after Brexit, perhaps we will be taking control of a new narrative that denies what we have previously thought and argued.

We are also apparently going to be able to promise one thing in Brussels and another in Belfast. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's divorce settlement with the EU embraced a deal explicitly rejected by him in the past and ruled out by his predecessor, Theresa May, because it appears to split the UK down the middle of the Irish Sea. Until the UK has agreed a future trade deal with the EU, Northern Ireland will in effect remain in the bloc's customs union and will have to apply checks on goods moving between its own ports and the rest of the UK.

EU officials say there can be no backsliding, but Johnson backslides all the same. Northern Ireland can, he tells people there, be both in and outside the customs union. The early Christian church used to argue about something called consubstantiality when debating the nature of a three-in-one God. Perhaps this is what Brexiteers have in mind. Northern Ireland will be both in and out at the same time: a true miracle.

And will the trade deal that the UK negotiates with its largest market be a close or distant set of arrangements? Only two things are clear. First, we won't be able to agree anything broad, detailed, and sophisticated by the end of 2020, when Johnson wants the deal completed. Second, greater access will come at the cost of closer alignment with EU rules. There is no getting around that fact.

It remains to be seen whether any of this will matter, and whether the Conservative Party, which now owns Brexit lock, stock, and barrel, will eventually pay a political price. Or perhaps such concerns will even be forgotten as we confront two far bigger threats in the century ahead.

The first of these is climate change, and the associated struggle to get world leaders to join together in taking it seriously. US President Donald Trump says that talk of global warming is just doom-mongering, and most of his fellow Republicans appear to agree. Moreover, leaders in Brazil, Australia, and other countries shelter behind Trump's science-defying prejudices, even as temperatures and sea levels rise and fires rage. Whatever the effects of Brexit may be, some of the consequences of climate change are already apparent.

Second, Britain will be celebrating its glorious independence from the complications of international cooperation at a time when the intellectual, political, and economic hostility between China's communist leadership and liberal democracies is becoming ever clearer. If liberal democracy is to survive, it must stand up for itself. And we should be under no illusion: open societies under the rule of law, from the Americas to Europe, Africa, and Asia, are in China's hostile sights. The West should not aim to encircle or pen in China. But liberal democracies cannot allow it to distort international norms in its own favor.

Compared to these huge challenges, the consequences of Brexit may seem far less significant. But the UK has chosen an odd and dangerous time to decide to go it alone.



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PROCUREMENT NOTICE
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

4A1506/ME/027

Supply and Delivery of Two Insulated Bucket Trucks for Asset and Customer Mapping Study (ACMS) of Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

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 which the Request for Quotation (“RFQ”) is issued.

MCA-Liberia now invites priced quotation from eligible firms/suppliers for the Supply and Delivery of Two Insulated Bucket Trucks for Asset and Customer Mapping Study (ACMS) of Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

The RFQ is for:

Supply and Delivery of Two Insulated Bucket Trucks for Asset and Customer Mapping Study (ACMS) of Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested firms/suppliers should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the RFQ, which is free of charge.

Important dates:

| No. | Activity | Dates |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Release of RFQ | January 21, 2020 |
| 4 | Deadline for Submission of Quotations | February 06, 2020 at 3:00 pm |



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SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
LETTER OF INVITATION

4A1506/EP/016

Recruitment of Individual Consultant- Contract Management Consultant

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 which the Letter of Invitation (“LOI”) is issued.

MCA-Liberia now invites applications from eligible Individual Consultants for **Recruitment of Individual Consultant to serve as Contract Management Consultant**. *This requirement is only for individual consultants. Submissions from consulting firms will not be accepted. Individual consultants are also not allowed to subcontract any part of this work to other individuals or firms.*

The LOI is for:

Recruitment of Individual Consultant- Contract Management Consultant

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested individual consultants should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the LOI, which is free of charge.

Important dates:

| No. | Activity | Dates |
|-----|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | Release of LOI | January 28, 2020 |
| 2 | Last date for questions/clarifications | February 7, 2020 at 5:00 pm |
| 3 | MCA Response to Questions/Clarifications | February 12, 2020 |
| 4 | Deadline for Submission of Applications | February 20, 2020 at 5:00 pm |

VP Taylor's

Starts from back page

situation has left her without the proper security arrangements for her safe movements and without the ability to provide necessities for her office, as the security vehicles, including 2 bullet proof vehicles, needed for the 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,” she said.

The President Pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate, Albert T. Chie has constituted a committee which includes Sen. Kangar-Lawrence; Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Varney Sherman; River Gee County Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh; Bomi County Sen. Sando Johnson and Montserrado County Sen.

Abraham Darius Dillon to work with the various ministries and agencies of the Executive Branch to ensure that the matter raised by Vice President Howard - Taylor is resolved and the Vice President can return to work.

However, Mr. Cummings reminds President Weah that Madam Taylor is the second person elected on the ruling party ticket, cautioning that even if she's ambitious, that's not a reason not to fund her office to execute her job.

“You can't be threatened by that, alright. He's the president of this country. He's got you know, four more years to be president, right.

The vice president constitutionally can't, doesn't have any responsibility. It's off, that's just a fact. It can't be, right, and so you should leverage that, right. But you know again, for me there's

... disconnect,” he adds. When deciding who to pick as running mate, Cummings notes that one of the primary considerations he would have is “God forbid,” if something happens to him (Cummings), that person needs to be qualified to step right in and the country continues.

He says if the president has

ambitious people around him, they will take credit at the moment, but history will judge the president as the person that was successful in leading the country in the future but not the ambitious people.

As such, Cummings suggests that strong people, smart people are needed to help to make the team and the country move forward.

According to him, in the end what people have to realize is that history will not remember those people but the president will be remembered.

He says ten or twenty years from now if the president is successful, the credit would be given to him as President Weah or whoever served as president in the past, noting that it will not remember who the minister was or who the vice president was.

Further, Mr. Cummings criticizes President Weah for declaring himself a feminist while he has a female vice president who is not looked after in the appropriate way.

“All I am saying is the president can't say he's a feminist, and he has a female or woman vice president who is not being looked after in the appropriate way constitutionally,” Cummings argues. “She's not being allowed to execute her role because she's not being funded and again she talks about the disrespect, etc., etc.,” Cummings asserts.

He argues that you can't be a feminist and you have a female vice president who is not supported, adding that he can't understand this fuss because it seems like there's no need for this treatment that Vice President Taylor gets.

“I don't know what happened in the inner cycle, but what I do know is you can't call yourself a feminist and then, this thing happens with the VP. So that for me it says that question whether he's a true feminist or ..., and we should question that, right,” Cummings continues.

He notes that he's sure there's some issues which he doesn't know, but he argues that they must be solved and the President got to show an example that's visible.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CPP calls on Weah to adjust

The four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) in the country call on the Weah administration to adjust in its governing process by focusing on domestic revenue generation and hiring competent staff at the Liberia Revenue Authority to boost growth.

In a nine-count recommendations to the government Tuesday this week, one day after President delivered his Annual Message to the 54th Legislature, sitting in joint session at the Capitol, read by opposition leader Alexander Cumming, the parties, among other call for the creation of an Import

and Export Credit Facility to enable Liberian-owned businesses access capital and financing to compete and participate in the economy.

Mr. Cumming also recommends a review of all resources and tax policies with regards to ease of doing business as a means of making it easier to start new businesses and creating employment opportunities.

The parties want a complete remove or substantially reduction in tariffs and other import cost at the Freeport of Monrovia, stressing that this will lower cost of imports and correspondingly reduce prices of goods and services in the

country.

They ask the government to remove all monopolistic and import restrictions in the economy, particularly on key import commodities like rice, noting that "Under this current government, Liberians are still restricted to the percentage of rice they can import in their own country. Enough is enough. Stop restricting Liberians in their own country and let them freely and fully participate in their economy."

The opposition calls for a special Agriculture Investment Fund to provide financing to small and medium size farmers and agro-businesses to encourage and boost local rice production.

They argue that with one of the most fertile lands in Africa and the World for growing rice and other commodities, it is unacceptable for Liberians to continue to rely on consuming imported rice.

The CPP wants government to resume funding to and staff governance and integrity institutions with competent people of Integrity, as well as review acts establishing various anti-graft institutions to boost the fight against corruption.

It further calls for investment in the Health and Legal Systems to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence, which the parties describe as not a women issue

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Pres. George M. Weah

Forex bureaus threaten tough action

--Induct new officers
By Lewis S. Teh

The newly inducted officers of the National Association of Foreign Exchange Bureau of Liberia or (NAFEBOL) have threatened to take further action against anyone, or institution caught in violation of the Central Bank Act of 1999.

"NAFEBOL under our administration will not relent to implement to the fullest, Central Bank Act of 1999 in an effort to promote safe, and secured foreign exchange activities or take drastic action against people that will be caught in violation of the CBL Act," the group said Thursday, 30 January in Monrovia.

During the induction ceremony held in the CBL auditorium, NAFEBOL President Mr. Nimely Sayeh says his organization, particularly the newly elected

general public," he says.

Mr. Sayeh adds that they will remain committed to attaining a collective approach that will strengthen the hardship in the economy, and other policies.

According to the NAFEBOL president, there are 75 licensed bureaus that meet the full requirements of the CBL Act of 1999, saying reports that more than 75 unlicensed foreign exchange bureaus are currently operating here is a violation of section 21.0 of the CBL Act which calls for full compliance.

Under his leadership, he says NAFEBOL will establish a task force that will promote policies, programs and standards that will combat any act that will violate the CBL Act, the Bylaws and Constitution of the organization.

Also making remarks, Deputy CBL Governor for



Liberia embraces U.S. Middle East peace plan

The Government of Liberia welcomes the unveiling of a new plan for the Middle East peace process which aims to find a lasting resolution to one of the world's longest and intractable conflicts.

The latest Peace Proposal, led by the United States, have emphasized that it provides a pathway to the much desired two-state solution that both sides, Israelis and Palestinians, can work with. This well-intentioned effort has the full backing of the Liberian government.

Over the last several decades, we have watched the many concerted efforts by the international community to resolve the Israeli - Palestinian conflict which continues to evolve since its onset in the mid 20th century.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the Liberian Government has stated that as a respector of the fundamental rights of people for security and liberty; and

an ally in the global fight against terrorism and other forms of injustice, Liberia has not made secret of its desire to see that finality is brought to this lingering quagmire.

Liberia urges all sides to view the latest plan with open minds, soberly reflecting on what their peoples have

already endured over the last several decades.

In this regard, the Liberian government stands ready to take the necessary steps in support of ongoing efforts that bring about a workable and comprehensive peace plan which benefits all sides.



officials will do all to implement the CBL Act of 1999 for the promotion of safe, secured foreign exchange activities here in Liberia.

He said NAFEBOL is an intermediary financial institution that was established in August 2000, with the aim to help the government of Liberia to regulate foreign exchange activities. He said since their establishment they have been working with the government through the

CBL to promote local economic activities.

"Our engagement with the government over the years helped us to expand essential economic programs and currency exchange rate service to customers and the

Economic Policy Dr. Musa Dukly expresses delight for the conduct of NAFEBOL's peaceful election, promising the CBL's unflinching support to working along with the group to help resolve the challenge facing the economy.

Dr. Dukly who inducted the new officials into office says CBL will remain engaged with the leadership of NAFEBOL, noting that the induction ceremony is a new beginning of the CBL that will promoted digitization of the economy and wide acceptability of mobile money for financial transaction.

"It's a new beginning for you to deposit your money in bank and have attractive returns," he says, adding that the CBL

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LEC, MCA-L Take Power Theft Awareness into Communities

Amid the passage of the Power Theft Act, the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA-L) have rolled out a series of community forums to increase public awareness on the impact of power theft and the penalties now associated with the new law.

LEC loses 49 percent of the electricity produced to power theft, amounting to US\$21.6 million annually. This heavy loss makes it difficult for LEC to obtain the revenues necessary for purchasing equipment and other goods and services to deliver reliable power to customers.

However, on October 4, 2019, President George Manneh Weah signed the

December 7 at the Newport High School in Central Monrovia, the gatherings ended on Sunday, December 15 at the E. Jonathan Goodridge High School in Bardnerville.

Community leaders and residents were informed of the risk power theft poses to their properties and lives. Additionally, Owen Richards, manager of the Anti-Power Theft Department at LEC, told attendees that power theft overloads transformers, which can cost thousands of dollars and deprive many customers of electricity.

“Some customers who are tampering with their meters buy credit some times to disguise the theft, but a system is being put in place to

both communities and LEC. They suggested that one way to reduce power theft would be to improve LEC’s response time to problems arising in communities. Community members also advocated for a reduction in the tariff to allow electricity to become more affordable for all.

At the end of each meeting, community leaders and LEC agreed to build a stronger network of cooperation to tackle power theft, to enable LEC to provide stable, affordable, and reliable electricity services - crucial for economic development.

The meetings took place in communities within Central Monrovia, Paynesville, Sinkor, and Bushrod Island.



Power Theft Act into law, criminalizing power theft and instituting significant penalties and fines for violators. The law defines stealing of electricity as “illegal connections, tampering with meters, transmission and distribution of line, and theft of assets, including light poles, wires and transformers.”

The series of forums held by MCAL and LEC was also meant to brief community members on what to expect from the new law and LEC’s efforts to combat power theft. Kicking off on

track tampering. Stop taking illegal current,” Richards said.

At another engagement meeting, a senior member of the LEC management team, Noel Welsh, told attendees that LEC does not condone its staff conniving with residents to engage in power theft. He vowed that any LEC employee found violating those rules would be booted out of the institution immediately.

Community leaders and residents thanked LEC and MCA-L for the engagement, but said the issue of the increase in power theft is deep-rooted and needs the concerted efforts of

About MCA-L: In October 2015, the Government of the United States of America, through its development agency, Millennium Challenge Corporation, provided a grant of US\$257 million to Liberia. MCA-L is an independent, legal, and autonomous agency of the Government of Liberia created by the legislature to administer the compact projects, which address the lack of access to reliable and affordable electricity and inadequate road infrastructure. Learn more about MCA-L at www.mca.gov.lr.

CPP calls on

Cont'd from page 6

but rather a national issue.

The parties want government to declare RAPE a national emergency and institute immediate reforms to address its prevalence, lamenting, “Our women and girls are dying.”

Meanwhile, the CPP recommends that government should reduce its wage bill and increase public investments.

It recalls that in 2019, the government invested only US\$27M in the economy, which is far below the estimated US\$150M annual investments needed to stimulate economic growth.

It stresses that if President George Weah can cut back on lavish foreign trips and riding private jet, high wage bill, and end corruption, it would leave more funds for increased public investment.

“If these recommendations and others are considered and fully implemented, we assure you that Liberians will move from being spectators to starting players in their own economy and that the state of our nation will become STRONGER”, the parties conclude. *Story by Jonathan Browne*

Forex bureaus

Cont'd from page 6

has initiated this with its new monetary policy instrument that will allow the interest rate in the bank for bank to compete for deposit.

According to him, the induction is also a new beginning for NAFEBOL, a new leadership that is expected to work and ensure that foreign exchange activities in the country are well structured and organized.

“It’s our believe at CBL that this new leadership will go beyond Montserrado County since the CBL data collection [of] foreign exchange rate is now nationwide,” he adds.

Meanwhile the Manager of Mobile Money at Lonestar Cell MTN Prince Chesson praises officials of NAFEBOL for taking a bold step in forming a leadership that will steer the affairs of the organization for the next four years.

He recalls the partnership and the smooth working relationship with NAFEBOL, as he uses the occasion to call on the newly elected officials to work cooperatively in the discharge of their duties, and to promote a safe, and secured financial environment. —*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Weah Vs. Opposition

Starts from page 11

president stated, 26 peaceful protesters were summarily arrested by the government during the Jan 6 protest held this month. Additionally, a peaceful protester was shot and killed in Kingsville, Number 7, Montserrado County along with two other juveniles that were injured by state security officers under this very administration.”

The statement also points that corruption and unaccountability are key features of the government, as confirmed by the 2019 Corruption Perception Index report

released last week, ranking Liberia as one of the worst decliners in the fight against corruption worldwide.

“Evidence of that is the handling of the US\$ 25 million in the Mopping Exercise and the LD\$ 16 billion saga. A year on from these scandals, the government is yet to hold all those culpable as indicated in various reports.”

The opposition laments that President Weah has shown

no intention of slowing the construction of mansions and apartment complexes especially, after failing to publish his asset declaration.

The parties therefore say they are left with no choice but to deem the President new found wealth as “questionable”.

They argue Mr. Weah wants Liberians to believe he is serious about fighting corruption by promising legislation to give the LACC prosecutorial powers but yet appoints die-hard CDC partisans and supporters to the Commission, adding that the President claims to fight corruption but gave no rebuttal statement to the leaked audio of his National Chairman of the CDC making allegations of corruption against him as President.

This contradiction in what the president says and does is enough to let us know that it is all “mouth-talk”, CPP concludes in its response to the President’s speech.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Français

Coronavirus : 77 étudiants libériens mis en quarantaine en Chine

Soixante-dix-sept étudiants libériens en Chine sont mis en quarantaine suite à l'épidémie du Coronavirus dans ce pays, a appris APA mercredi. Le Directeur général par intérim de

révélation au cours d'une réunion stratégique de haut niveau des acteurs de la santé avec les principaux ministères et partenaires du gouvernement.

Ces étudiants libériens qui

des masques dans leurs résidences respectives afin qu'ils ne puissent pas contracter le virus.

Le vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères Fahnbulleh a déclaré qu'il y a



L'Institut national de santé publique du Libéria (NPHIL), le Dr. Mosoka Fallah a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse que le vice-ministre des Affaires étrangères, Henry Fahnbulleh a fait cette

résident dans la ville de Wuhan, l'épicentre du Coronavirus, feraient partie des millions de Chinois de la ville dont les déplacements sont restreints. Les 77 étudiants libériens porteraient

actuellement 417 étudiants libériens en Chine, dont 77 dans la ville de Wuhan.

Le nombre de décès causés par le virus en Chine serait passé à 100.

L'Etat du Libéria et la BAD signent un accord de financement de 33 millions USD

Le gouvernement du Libéria et la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) ont signé des accords de financement de 33 millions de dollars en vue de la mise en œuvre de deux projets. Les deux projets sont « l'énergie renouvelable pour l'électrification du Libéria (projet REEL) et le soutien aux agences de promotion des investissements dans les pays en transition ».

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement Samuel D. Tweah a signé pour le gouvernement du Libéria, tandis que le directeur national de la BAD pour le Libéria, le Dr Orison M Amul, a signé pour la Banque lors d'une cérémonie spéciale le mercredi 29 janvier 2020 dans les locaux du ministère des Finances.

Selon l'accord, le projet REEL dont le coût estimatif est de 33,74 millions de dollars US devrait être mis en œuvre sur une période de 4 ans.

L'accord a fait état de la construction d'une centrale



hydroélectrique sur les chutes Gbedin sur le fleuve Saint-Jean dans le comté de Nimba, qui est l'objectif principal du projet REEL. Le barrage devrait avoir une capacité de 9,34 mégawatts et servira de source d'énergie fiable, durable et abordable dans la région, permettant ainsi l'extension du réseau électrique à des localités isolées et des régions éloignées, et encouragera la connexion d'un nombre accru

de ménages, écoles, centres de santé, entreprises et industries au réseau national.

A en croire l'accord, l'accès accru à l'électricité et la promotion de l'utilisation de sources d'énergie renouvelables, l'amélioration de la production annuelle d'électricité, l'accès accru à une électricité fiable, la contribution à la réduction des coûts de production

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« Le tournoi County Meet est politique », ministre adjoint du sport

Le tournoi national et annuel de football, The National County Sports Meet, est un tournoi politique qui implique la participation des principaux acteurs politiques et des représentants des comtés, a fait savoir le vice-ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Andy Quanie.

S'exprimant devant la commission sénatoriale sur la jeunesse et les sports, la ministre Quanie a expliqué que le tournoi national annuel intitulé « County Meet » ne respecte ni les normes de la Confédération africaine de football (CAF), encore moins de la FIFA ; il s'agit plutôt d'un tournoi politique destiné à unifier le peuple.

Selon lui, le tournoi n'est pas supervisé par des responsables de la Fédération Libérienne de Football. Il est directement placé sous la tutelle du ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, d'où sa nature politique. Le ministère des Sports est accusé d'avoir favorisé le comté

La commission sénatoriale de la jeunesse et des sports avait invité des responsables du ministère pour expliquer ce qui s'était réellement passé au complexe sportif Samuel K. Doe, le dimanche 26 janvier, qui avait poussé l'équipe de football du comté de Nimba de quitter la pelouse avant la fin de la finale qui l'opposait à l'équipe du comté de Grand Kru.

Le sénateur Conmany Wesseh du comté de River Gee, président du comité sénatorial sur la jeunesse et des sports, a souligné l'importance de l'audience d'autant plus qu'elle permettra aux membres du comité de fournir des informations détaillées lors de la prochaine séance plénière du Sénat libérien.

Lors de l'audience, le ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Zeogar Wilson, a indiqué qu'avant le début du tournoi, les règles ont été définies comme quoi elles serviraient d'outils de guidage pour le temps de jeu car le



Minister of Youth & Sports, Dester Zeogar Wilson

de Grand Kru, d'où est originaire le président George Weah, au détriment des autres comtés, surtout après avoir déclaré le comté vainqueur du tournoi.

Le sénateur Thomas Grupee du comté de Nimba crie au scandale. Selon lui, la récente décision du ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports contre le comté de Nimba est un sabotage complet et inacceptable.

S'exprimant lors des audiences publiques tenues dans la salle de conférence du Sénat libérien le mercredi 29 janvier, le sénateur Grupee a fait valoir que le comté de Nimba compte environ 1,5 million d'habitants, soit le tiers des 4,5 millions d'habitants que compte le Libéria. Alors la décision risque, selon lui, d'empêcher une grande partie des Libériens qui sont originaires du comté de Nimba d'avoir l'occasion de participer à ce tournoi national qui est considéré comme un événement rassembleur du pays qui avait subi 14 ans de conflits armés amers.

tournoi n'est pas régi par les règlements de la Fédération Libérienne de Football.

Il a dit que toute équipe qui quitte le terrain en plein jeu encoure une condamnation à une amende de 1 500 \$ US et quant au personnel technique, il est passible d'une interdiction de deux ans, « c'est cette peine-là qui a été infligée à l'entraîneur en chef de l'équipe de football du comté de Nimba ».

Le ministre Wilson a cité l'article 19.1 des règles qui stipule que « toute équipe de comté qui se comporte grossièrement sur le terrain de jeu et arrête ou discrédite le match, selon le rapport de l'arbitre du match, sera condamnée à une amende d'un montant de mille cinq cents dollars américains (1 500 \$ US) », tandis que la section 16.5 des règles stipule : « Tout joueur de comté, entraîneur ou officiel d'un comté empêchant, retardant ou obligeant un

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Français

L'Etat du Libéria et

d'électricité, la réduction de la consommation d'énergie fossile et la création d'emplois sont les résultats escomptés.

En outre, concernant l'accord sur le « Projet d'appui aux agences de promotion des investissements dans les pays en transition » soutenu par la BAD dans le cadre de son « Mécanisme d'appui à la transition (FAT) FAD-14 », il est évalué à 1 million de dollars et devrait être mis en œuvre sur une période de trois ans. Le projet TSF appuiera les efforts du gouvernement du Libéria pour améliorer l'environnement des affaires et le climat des investissements.

Plus précisément, le financement de la Banque dans le cadre de ce projet est destiné à soutenir les efforts de promotion des investissements de la Commission nationale d'investissement (NIC) et à positionner l'institution dans la réalisation de certains de ses objectifs et cibles critiques.

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développement pour son soutien au programme de développement du gouvernement. Il a ajouté que le soutien de la Banque à l'administration du président Weah reste solide.

Le ministre Tweah a également révélé que la BAD continue d'être un acteur clé dans l'électricité, les routes, la gouvernance et d'autres secteurs du pays.

Le ministre des Finances, qui s'est également réjoui de la signature des accords, a déclaré que la connectivité de l'électricité et des routes sont des facteurs importants pour la croissance économique et sont cruciales pour le succès de la vision PAPD du président Weah.

Il a déclaré à l'assemblée que l'appui budgétaire discuté avec la Banque sera utilisé pour des domaines clés du secteur agricole du pays. Il a également félicité la Banque d'avoir adopté le document du Libéria et a révélé que le document qui se concentre sur les routes, l'énergie et l'agriculture verra le pays aller dans la bonne direction.

Pour sa part, le directeur national de la BAD, le Dr Orison M. Amu, a souligné que les projets soutiennent le programme de développement du Libéria.

« Le tournoi County Meet

match à s'arrêter sera condamné à une amende de deux cents dollars américains (200 \$) [et] Cinq cents dollars américains (500 \$) pour une deuxième infraction. L'amende doit être payée avant le match suivant prévu du comté, avec une suspension de deux ans de la National County Sports Meet.

Il y a eu plusieurs inquiétudes à la suite de la décision du ministère de suspendre l'entraîneur Fofana, qui est également l'entraîneur en chef du club de deuxième division BYC, de toutes les activités de football, lorsque les règles du comté respectent uniquement l'État : "Suspension pour deux ans du comté national Sports Meet." Mais, selon Min. Wilson, la décision a été prise en consultation avec la Fédération Libérienne de Football (LFA). Pendant ce temps, les ministères de la Jeunesse et des Sports et des Affaires intérieures, co-organisateurs de la National County Sports Meet (NCSM), ont annoncé que

"Grand Kru County est le vainqueur de la 2019/2020 National County Sports Meet". La décision intervient deux jours après la fin de la grande finale de la catégorie football du tournoi dans une impasse en raison d'une controverse concernant l'arbitrage au Complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe de Paynesville. Grand Kru County avait un but d'avance, but marqué sur penalty par le capitaine Rufus Kennedy en première mi-temps, jusqu'à ce que la controverse éclate cinq minutes après le début de la seconde mi-temps, lorsque l'arbitre Hassan Corneh désigna le point de penalty en faveur de Grand Kru County, un deuxième penalty. Ce qui a provoqué la colère des Nimbaniens. Pendant ce temps, le sénateur Wesseha fait savoir que les conclusions de l'audience seraient transmises à la plénière du Sénat libérien afin de cerner les questions entourant le tournoi.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Stephen S. Roach

Une économie mondiale sans matelas de sécurité

NEW HAVEN - Grâce aux données désormais disponibles sur une année complète, nous commençons à prendre conscience du danger auquel l'économie mondiale a échappé de justesse en 2019. D'après les toutes dernières estimations du Fonds monétaire international, le PIB mondial a augmenté de seulement 2,9 % l'an passé - soit sa plus mauvaise performance depuis la nette récession observée au plus fort de la crise financière mondiale de 2009, et loin du rythme de 3,8 % de la reprise d'après-crise sur la période 2010-2018.

En surface, une croissance mondiale de 2,9 % n'apparaît pas problématique. Quarante années de recul nous prouve cependant le contraire. Depuis 1980, la croissance tendancielle du PIB mondial atteint en moyenne 3,5 %. Dans n'importe quelle économie, comme au niveau planétaire, la clé pour évaluer les implications de la croissance réside dans les éloignements observés par rapport à cette tendance - dans l'esprit de ce que l'on appelle l'écart de production. La baisse de l'an dernier (0,6 point de pourcentage) par rapport à la tendance a très infortablement rapproché la croissance du seuil mondial de récession largement admis, à savoir environ 2,5 %.

Si les économies dans leur individualité se contractent naturellement en période de franche récession, c'est rarement le cas pour l'économie mondiale dans son ensemble. Grâce aux travaux approfondis du FMI sur l'économie planétaire, qui couvrent un large ensemble de 194 pays, nous savons que lors d'une récession mondiale, environ la moitié des économies de la planète se contracte généralement, tandis que l'autre moitié poursuit son expansion - à un rythme certes modeste. Or, la récession mondiale survenue il y a dix ans a nettement fait exception à cette règle : début 2009, pas moins de trois quarts des économies de la planète étaient en situation de contraction, ce qui a fait pencher la balance du côté d'une rare contraction franche du PIB mondial, premier ralentissement de cette ampleur pour l'économie mondiale depuis les années 1930.

Pour les analystes du cycle mondial des affaires, une croissance de 2,5 % à 3,5 % est considérée comme une zone de danger. Lorsque la croissance de la production mondiale tombe dans la moitié inférieure de cette fourchette - comme ce fut le cas en 2009 - les risques de récession mondiale doivent être pris au sérieux. Comme souvent dans les projections officielles ou institutionnelles, le FMI prévoit une légère accélération de la croissance annuelle du PIB mondial en 2020 et 2021, à savoir respectivement 3,3 % et 3,4 %. Mais comme l'a dit un jour le physicien Niels Bohr, « Les prévisions sont toujours un exercice difficile, surtout lorsqu'elles concernent l'avenir ». Posez la question au FMI, qui a revu à la baisse ses prévisions mondiales à six reprises consécutives. De toute évidence, rien ne garantit que ses toutes dernières projections se réaliseront.

Les risques baissiers sont d'autant plus inquiétants qu'une prévision de croissance de 2,9 % pour l'économie mondiale souligne le manque de matelas confortable susceptible d'amortir un choc. Or, comme je l'ai récemment expliqué, la prévision des chocs est un jeu de dupes. Les mesures draconiennes actuellement appliquées par la Chine pour contenir le coronavirus mortel de Wuhan doivent nous rappeler que les chocs sont beaucoup plus fréquents que nous semblons le penser. Il y a quelques semaines, intervenait la possibilité d'une guerre totale entre les États-Unis et l'Iran. Avant cela, la guerre commerciale sino-américaine se faisait de plus en plus tendue.

Ce qu'il faut retenir, c'est qu'une croissance mondiale inférieure à la tendance, notamment lorsqu'elle chute dans la moitié inférieure de la fourchette des 2,5 % à 3,5 %, est une croissance qui approche de sa vitesse de décrochage. Le monde est par conséquent plus vulnérable à une récession qu'il le serait dans un environnement plus dynamique de croissance mondiale supérieure à la tendance.

Le même message émane clairement d'un examen des risques dans le cycle mondial des affaires, qui constitue depuis longtemps le principal moteur de la croissance mondiale au sein d'une économie planétaire reliée par ses chaînes logistiques. La toute dernière évaluation du FMI situe la croissance du commerce mondial à seulement 1 % en 2019 - soit sa septième révision consécutive à la baisse. La performance commerciale a en effet enregistré l'an dernier son plus mauvais résultat depuis la plongée historique des 10,4 % de 2009, pire contraction depuis les années 1930. Comparé à une moyenne de 5 % sur la période 2010-2018, ce ralentissement de la croissance des échanges commerciaux mondiaux, qui s'est élevée à seulement 1 % en 2019, apparaît d'autant plus alarmant. C'est en effet la quatrième plus mauvaise année observée depuis 1980, sachant que les trois pires - 1982, 2001 et 2009 - ont chacune été associées à une récession mondiale.

La croissance du commerce mondial n'a jamais retrouvé son rythme d'avant-crise, un manquement qui fait l'objet d'un débat intense ces dernières années. Si beaucoup y voyait initialement la conséquence d'une faiblesse inhabituelle des dépenses d'investissement des entreprises, il est impossible d'ignorer l'impact des mesures protectionnistes nées du conflit commercial entre les États-Unis et la Chine. Les deux camps ayant désormais convenu d'une trêve, sous la forme d'un accord commercial de « phase 1 », l'espoir existe de voir s'améliorer le pronostic lié au commerce. Illustration de cet espoir, l'actualisation de janvier émanant du FMI prévoit un léger rebond en direction d'une croissance moyenne du commerce mondial de 3,3 % pour la période 2020-2021. Seulement voilà, la moyenne des droits de douanes américains sur les importations en provenance de Chine étant vouée à atteindre environ 19 % après même la signature de l'accord - plus de six fois supérieure aux 3 % d'avant-guerre commerciale - et compte tenu de plusieurs signes inquiétants d'escalade des tensions commerciales entre les États-Unis et l'Europe, cette prévision pourrait bien, à l'instar de celles des années précédentes, demeurer un vœu pieux.

Tous ces éléments témoignent clairement de l'état précaire du cycle mondial des affaires. Historiquement, l'expansion rapide du commerce transfrontalier a joué un rôle majeur dans le matelas de croissance mondiale qui permettait d'amortir les chocs trop fréquents subis par l'économie planétaire. Entre 1990 et 2008, la croissance annuelle du commerce mondial était plus rapide de 82 % que la croissance du PIB mondial.

Aujourd'hui, en revanche, et reflétant le ralentissement inhabituellement prononcé de la croissance du commerce mondial depuis la crise, ce matelas a considérablement perdu en épaisseur, ce pourcentage s'élevant à seulement 13 % sur la période 2010-2019. L'économie mondiale approchant dangereusement de sa vitesse de décrochage, la confluence de chocs incessants et d'un matelas commercial réduit soulève de sérieuses questions quant au regard de plus en plus optimiste que portent les marchés financiers sur les perspectives économiques mondiales.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Uprooting Corruption: Cosmetic Politics Or Total Overhaul Of Corruption

Have you ever wondered what is really wrong with Liberia? Why is it that Africa's oldest republic is always stuck in underdevelopment, endemic corruption, ritualistic killings, impassable roads, excessive salaries of lawmakers and officials, skyrocketing unemployment, terrible economic mess and always relying on international partners for everything? Easy. Liberia's disappointing state of affairs is not an accident. Liberia was designed to be a place where the political leaders are empowered and enriched to the detriment of the people. Worse, the system of governance in Liberia was designed to keep Africans as slaves for ever and trap Liberian Citizens in poverty and misery under the control of White American Slave Masters.

To reverse Liberia's two centuries of misery for citizens and prosperity for politicians, we need a new constitution designed by ordinary citizens, not by politicians. A constitution that empowers the people, provides equal opportunities, justice and ends representative democracy, replacing it with participatory democracy.

Replacement of one politician with another while keeping the old corrupt system intact have yielded the same results for two hundred years; more corruption! Proof: Aftermath of changing political leaders in 1822, 1841, 1871, 1980, 1997, 2005, 2017... Without question, our system is broken and corrupt by design! But isn't it incredible that not a single Liberian politician has suggested a complete overhaul or changing our system of governance which was clearly broken and corrupt by design two centuries ago?

Where is the source of corruption in Liberia? The United States of America is the undisputed source of corruption in Liberia. Most of the political leaders of Liberia are American Citizens or agents of the CIA. The United States of America, Liberia's de facto colonial power has long held erroneously that Liberia is not an American Colony but a country founded by freed American Slaves. America lied because American Slaves could not have created Liberia in 1822 when the slaves were not freed until after the Civil War on January 1, 1863. In fact, the American Colonization Society (ACS) was founded in 1816 to remove and illegally colonize mixed race and Black Americans. And the American Settlers arrived in 1822 in what became Liberia! In fact, high ranking United States Government officials who were also white supremacists and slave owners specifically created Liberia to protect their property (African Slaves and the dehumanizing institution of American Slavery).

The purpose of the ACS was not to liberate slaves but to disenfranchise and oppress all Americans who were not white (mixed race and free Black Americans) aka 'free men of color' in subjugation and misery forever in a remote American Colony in Africa, never to return. Misery in Liberia is an ongoing crime against humanity, two centuries in the making, thanks to America! That is why America must allow Liberians of American Descent to return home if they so desire without visa requirements and why the United States must also pay damages for the excesses of their dehumanizing racial colonization of Americans that still ravages lives in America and Liberia two hundred years after Congress paid the American Colonization Society \$100,000.00 to colonize all mixed race and free Black American Citizens

According to documents from the Library of



Congress of the United States, the idea of Liberia did not originate within the community of "free men of color" (mixed race and free Black Americans). America's racial colonization was created by high ranking American Government Officials who were white supremacists and slave owners with the goal of protecting their property (African Slaves) and oppressing mixed race and free Black Americans forever in the American Colony they created in West Africa.

Evidenced by the records of the 2nd annual report of the American Colonization Society (ACS) filed at the Library of Congress, keeping African Slaves in America in bondage forever was one of the main objectives of the ACS: "If, as is most confidently believed, the colonization of the free people of colour, will render the slave who remains in America more obedient, more faithful, more honest, and, consequently, more useful to his master, is it proper to regard this happy consequence to both, as the sole object which the Society hope to attain..."

In the first 20 years, the colony of Liberia was not governed by free men of color or mixed race Americans but exclusively by white folks. The ACS itself was governed not by Black Americans or mixed race Americans but by white slave owners who never freed their slaves. Not only did Congress pay the ACS \$100,000 to colonize Americans based on their race, the American flag was proudly hoisted over the colony of Liberia, making all actions and excesses of the brutal colonization wholly owned by the United States of America. Liberia was a US Naval Base.

The system of representative democracy in Liberia is broken and corrupt not by accident but by design. It was designed by American Slave Masters to keep Africans enslaved in America and oppress free color people in the colony of Liberia subjugated under white leadership.

Decolonization and liberation of Liberia is the only way to give Liberia a fresh start. All the colonial names Europeans gave African countries and cities were changed after liberation. Why do we still have Monrovia, named after a slave owner and President of the United States who illegally colonized American Citizens because of their race? Why do we still have Bushrod Island, named after a white supremacists and Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court who sold 54 African Slaves because they wanted to escape slavery? Why do we still fly the American Flag when 22 million citizens from 38 countries enter the US yearly without a visa but the US Embassy illegally make millions of dollars from Liberians wrongly deny visa to visit the country built by the blood, sweat and tears of their ancestors? Liberia's founding fathers were white supremacists and slave masters. The United States of America is in partnership with current Liberian politicians who are running the business established by the American Colonization Society two hundred years ago because Congress invested \$100,000 to remove and colonize all mixed race and free Black Americans in order to prevent slave revolt and protect the property of political leaders. No wonder while Liberians are crying from excessive salaries and benefits of Liberian lawmakers and politicians, America doesn't complain because its citizens and agents are working according to the grand old design of colonization of Americans based on race. Stay tuned for how to decolonize Liberia.

A pastor and human rights activist, Torli was instrumental in lobbying with US congressmen and policymakers to increase the quota of refugees from Africa being allowed into the US. He has also worked tirelessly in the New England region and beyond to champion the rights of refugees and immigrants. His organization, Universal Human Rights International, worked with thousands of immigrants from 38 different countries over the span of 30 years. He has been honored by the National Peace Corps Association and the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

Weah Vs. Opposition

By Jonathan Browne

President George Manneh Weah faces a serious check here from members of the opposition with the four opposition Collaborating Political Parties or CPP dissecting his Annual Message delivered on Monday this week to the 54th Legislature and debunking several claims in the speech.

The Annual Message is a constitutional mandate to the President to comprehensively report on the State of the Republic for the year ended, and present his programs for the new year, which is done on the fourth working Monday in January of each year.

In his speech, President Weah asserted that the year 2019 was marked by global economic uncertainty, as recovery of global economic momentum remained slow, largely due to trade and geopolitical tensions, including country-specific effects, constraints he said, adversely impacted the performance of the domestic economy.

"The domestic macroeconomic environment was difficult in 2019. It was characterized by low economic growth of less than 1 percent, annual inflation of more than 20 percent and depreciation of the Liberian dollar by more than 20 percent", President Weah reported.

But in a joint reaction to the address, the opposition Unity Party, the Liberty Party, the Alternative Congress and All Liberian Party, which make up the CPP, debunk the President's attribution of the country's economic woes on trade and geo-political factors, countering that if this were the case, Liberia's neighbors and other countries in the region would have experienced similar, if not the same economic situations.

The opposition block argues that nations in the region are experiencing economic growth and projecting high growth for 2020 unlike President Weah, who is projecting 1.4 percent growth for 2022, roughly three years from now or five years into his administration, while neighboring Sierra Leone is projecting 4.20 percent, Guinea 6.10 percent and Ivory Coast 6.5 percent, respectively for the same period.

"What this means is that our country will continue lagging behind our neighbors while our people continue to suffer", the CPP's statement reads.

It further debunks that trade and geo-politics is not responsible for Liberia's

economic problems. The statement rather notes that massive corruption and outright stealing by government officials, mismanagement of government resources, incompetence to implement economic growth and job creation policies coupled with reckless spending by the president are among reasons for the economic hardship.

"Example of reckless spending is the President flying all over the world on a private jet the country cannot afford while neglecting the cries for help for people struggling in the country."

The Collaborating Political Parties took on the President's economic policies one by one, dissecting the issues, beginning with an ongoing government salary harmonization scheme that has seen civil servants, including doctors and nurses, teachers and security pushed further down the income



ladder amid inflation and rising prices.

They note that government is compounding the suffering of hardworking public and civil servants by reducing salaries, which they describe as unacceptable.

According to the CPP, reducing civil servants' salaries that are not paid on time by 30-50 percent while basic commodity prices increase by 30 percent is not harmonization.

"This is a wicked and malicious attack on our people standard of living. Instead of harmonizing workers' salaries, it is time for the President to harmonize his frequent private jet travels, cutback on building more mansions for himself and cutback on the corruption that has taken center-stage in his government."

The statement says the President was not truthful when he stated that he had met his promise of a 25 percent salary cut and was the first to

have his salary harmonized.

"Fellow Liberians, it will interest you to note that after reviewing the president's budget, particularly the salary component of the president's budget of 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, there has been absolutely no reduction in the salary of President Weah. In fact, our research revealed that the Compensation portion of the budget of this current president which was \$381,414.00 in 2018-2019 was increased to \$494,949.00 in 2019-2020."

The statement continues that yet, the President in his message, thanked Liberians for their patience and understanding during this harmonization which he promises will continue, while his budget and wealth multiplies or shoots upward.

However, President Weah maintains that the harmonization exercise is necessary to ensure that his government lives within its

means.

"During this process, we discovered that more than 25,000 public workers were being paid from a General Allowance that had no particular grading system. For example, a secretary in one ministry or agency could be paid \$400 dollars while another secretary with the same level of skill or education in another ministry would be paid \$1,500", he explains.

He continues that with the exercise, government has now eliminated the General Allowance system and have ensured that all public workers have one standardized and harmonized pay, saying, "One of the outcomes of this process is that it increased the income of almost 15,000 public workers, among them teachers and security personnel."

FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY

The CPP accuses government of grossly

mismanaging the public finances which further weakens the economy.

It says fiscal irresponsibility is evident by the government owing workers salaries arrears and unjustifiably increasing the public wage bill to about \$320 million from \$297 million by hiring unqualified and incompetent political cronies, increasing the wage bill or payroll.

"This fiscal irresponsibility has drawn the ire of development partners like the IMF who have insisted that the wage bill be reduced to 2018 level as a pre-condition to receiving budgetary support, as mentioned in the Annual Address."

Notwithstanding, it commends the President for expressing his willingness to work with international partners in strengthening the country's monetary policy framework and for steps towards making the Central Bank more autonomous, but frowns on report by Mr. Weah that Liberia's debt portfolio has increased from 987.8million at end of 2018 to 1.27 BILLION at end of 2019, representing 282 MILLION increase in just a year, which it laments, is cause for concern especially, when the impact is not felt on the lives of the people.

However, President Weah says the increase in the debt stock was mainly driven by disbursements from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Saudi Development Fund, and other creditors which totaled One Hundred and Twenty-nine point Five Million United States dollars (US\$129.5 million) as loans signed and ratified by the previous administration.

He notes that his government's public debt has increased, largely because the country has had to finance major infrastructure projects over the last several years, adding that as of the close of 2019, total stock of public debt amounted to One point Twenty-Seven Billion United States Dollars (US\$1.27 billion).

EMPLOYMENT

President Weah boasts of employing about 15,000 in just over two (2) years, but the CPP says government is not the place to grow jobs and reduce unemployment for political supporters and cronies.

Instead, it calls on the administration to create an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive and create jobs, noting, government has failed to enable the private sector in

the last two years.

According to the opposition block, despite President Weah citing the participation of Liberian construction firms in the construction of feeder roads as keeping his inaugural promise that Liberians will no longer be spectators in their economy, the truth is Liberians continue to struggle to get financing to start a business or expand existing businesses and fully compete and participate in their own economy.

"Under this Weah administration, Liberians are not even spectators to their own economy because they cannot afford to enter the stadium to watch the economy game but rather are stuck at home."

POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

President Weah describes his government's human rights record as "pristine clean", bragging that in two years, not a single bullet has been fired in anger by this administration at any citizen or deaths from street protests.

He continues that no persons have been arrested for exercising their constitutional rights of peaceable assembly, and above all, no Liberians jailed because of their political beliefs or associations.

But the CPP disagrees, pointing to the eroding of civil liberty under the government, as political opponents and critics face intimidation and threats regularly.

It says Mr. Weah was again untruthful when he reported that citizens have enjoyed their rights under this administration and there has been no arrest nor guns shot in response to protests.

CPP notes that on the contrary, peaceful civil action, which is the bedrock of democracy, is being denied under the Weah administration, as recently demonstrated by the unjustifiable dispersal of peaceful citizens protesting current economic hardship and governmental Corruption, which was confirmed by the Independent National Human Rights Commission.

The government subsequently chased the organizer of the protest and talk show host, Henry Costa out of the country, for allegedly falsifying his travel document. Mr. Coast fled to neighboring Sierra Leone, where the authorities here requested his extradition, but the request was denied.

"The CPP empathized and sympathized with those injured on January 6th, 2020 as the result of state-sponsored crackdown on peaceful Liberians. Contrary to what the

VP Taylor's ambition

-Is the president uncomfortable?



By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander Cummings is cautioning President George Manneh Weah against feeling threatened by Vice President Jewel Howard

Taylor's 'ambition,' saying the president should want strong, ambitious people

that will push him and move the country forward.

"You got to be comfortable with yourself as a leader. You can't be insecure. You should want strong, ambitious people. They will push you," Cummings

said during a talk show on local radio Sky FM Thursday, 30 January in Monrovia.

His caution to the president comes in the wake of Vice President Taylor's written complaint to the Liberian Senate, expressing concern that her office is not being funded in line with the budget to enable her to execute her duties which has compelled her to stay away from office for weeks.

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

She furthered that the

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Sinclair ties record as international soccer's all-time leading scorer

More than Lionel Messi. More than Cristiano Ronaldo.

Canadian soccer icon Christine Sinclair has cemented her legacy globally (if she hasn't already), tying the record for the most international goals ever scored by a male or female.

Sitting one goal back of retired United States international Abby Wambach's 184 entering Wednesday afternoon's 2020 Concacaf Olympic Qualifying

tournament match against St. Kitts & Nevis, the 36-year-old Canadian striker found the back of the net for the 184th time in her illustrious career early, as she's done so many times before.

In fact, entering the competition that was a goal of the legendary Canadian striker.

"[My teammates] have done a pretty good job at keeping it pretty quiet," Sinclair told reporters on Tuesday, when asked about the record. "Today



was the most it has probably been built up. To be honest, they're probably looking forward to it more than I am.

"I just know how important this tournament is and how important the games are as we move on. Obviously I'd like to get it over with (in a positive way) just because I don't want it to be a focus for the team in the coming weeks."

While Sinclair is quick to downplay the individual milestone, the magnitude of this accomplishment is difficult

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