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Public Service Announcement

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

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Behind the Costa extradition drama



Liberian Pres. Weah

Talk Show Host Henry Costa

Ex-Liberian Pres. Taylor

Pres. of Sierra Leone Julius Maada Bio

Capitol Building goes amok



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Continental News

Africa's richest woman eyes Angolan presidency

Angolan billionaire Isabel dos Santos, who is embroiled in a huge financial scandal, has suggested that she may seek to become the country's president.

In a BBC interview, Ms Dos Santos pointedly declined four times to rule out running for the presidency.

Her father José Eduardo dos Santos ruled Angola for 38 years. Prosecutors are seeking to recover \$1bn (£760m) Ms Dos Santos and her associates are alleged to owe the state.

She has denied any wrongdoing.

Ms Dos Santos, 46, is one of the world's richest women, with Forbes magazine estimating her fortune to be worth \$2.2bn, making her the richest woman in Africa. Her father controversially appointed her as the head of Angola's state-owned oil firm Sonangol in 2016.

She was sacked from the post in 2017 by President Joao Lourenço, her father's handpicked successor. In an interview in London, she

repeatedly stressed that her life was at risk if she returned to Angola in the current circumstances.

Refusing to rule out the possibility of running for president, she said she had a strong sense of patriotism and duty to her country.

"To lead is to serve, so I will do whatever my life takes me," she said.

Ms Dos Santos later told a

Portuguese television channel that "it's possible" she might run for the presidency in 2022.

The announcement marks a dramatic shift for a woman who has consistently portrayed herself as an entrepreneur with no interest in politics. A court in the Angolan capital, Luanda, last month ordered the freezing of her bank accounts and of her vast

business empire in the oil-rich country, following a string of investigations into alleged corruption by the Dos Santos family which prosecutors say has robbed the state of more than \$2bn.

"These are false allegations and this is part of... an orchestrated attack by the current government that is completely politically motivated," she said.

Her half-brother, José Filomeno dos Santos, is on trial in Angola on charges of corruption.

The prosecution alleges that he and his co-accused helped spirit \$500m out of the country during his time as head of Angola's Sovereign Wealth Fund. They have pleaded not guilty. Ms Dos Santos repeatedly lashed out at President Lourenço, who succeeded her father two years ago as president.

Despite coming from the same party, the MPLA, he has since stunned many Angolans by appearing to target the Dos Santos family as part of a broader anti-corruption drive.

"President Lourenço is fighting for absolute power. There's a strong wish to neutralise any influence that [former] President Dos Santos might still have in the MPLA," Ms Dos Santos said. "If a different candidate would

appear [ahead of the 2021 presidential election] supported by former President Dos Santos or allies linked to him, that would really challenge [Mr Lourenço's] position because his current track record is very, very poor," she added, citing rising unemployment, a stagnant economy and a wave of strikes.

But the allegations of corruption aimed at Ms Dos Santos and her half-brother have been given new weight by the criminal investigations launched against her in Angola.

"The reality is that there is more than enough evidence against her. She's a key figure in the Dos Santos family and a credible threat to Lourenço," said Darias Jonker, a regional analyst for the Eurasia Group, who said that legitimate allegations of corruption were being wielded by the state as part of a vicious power struggle within the MPLA.

"Lourenço is sending a signal that there's a new sheriff in town, with new rules," Mr Jonker added. "He needs his own patronage network, but his model is much more modest - he won't allow the multi-billion-dollar patronage deals that were a hallmark of the Dos Santos era. Would Isabel support some sort of palace coup? I think it's something she'd certainly consider." BBC



Isabel dos Santos is one of the wealthiest women in the world

UN warns hunger crisis in Africa

Roughly 45 million people in southern Africa are in urgent need of food aid as a result of drought, flooding and economic hardship, the UN said Thursday.

"This hunger crisis is on a scale we've not seen before and the evidence shows it's going to get worse," World Food Programme (WFP)

regional director Lola Castro said in a statement.

The agency warned that it had secured only \$205 million (184 million euros) of the \$489 million it requires, saying families across the region were already skipping meals, taking children out of school, selling off precious assets and falling into debt to stave off agricultural

losses. In southern Africa as a whole -- where temperatures are rising twice as fast as the rest of the world -- people are experiencing the worst drought in 35 years, according to the UN. Low growth, rising population, drought and floods have combined to worsen food insecurity in the region. "If we don't receive the necessary funding, we'll have no choice but to assist fewer of those most in need, and with less," Castro said.

The worst-hit countries were Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Nearly half of Zimbabwe's 15 million people live in a state of chronic food insecurity, according to UN figures.

Wildlife has also suffered, with over 200 elephants having starved to death in Zimbabwe in just three months last year.

Twenty percent of the population in drought-stricken Lesotho and about 10 percent of Namibians are also suffering from food insecurity.

In October, Zambia's Red Cross flagged that drought had left an estimated 2.3 million people facing "severe food



insecurity". Zambia was long known as the region's breadbasket but a recurring drought has cut water reserves at the hydroelectric dam of Kariba, the main source of energy of Zambia.

Across the region, women and children are bearing the brunt of the difficulties.

Meanwhile, experts have forecast more hot and dry weather in the coming months, auguring another poor harvest.

The situation could decline further as the dry season may last longer than usual, affecting the annual cereal harvest in April.

The WFP plans to provide lean season assistance to 8.3

million people in areas that are grappling with crisis levels of hunger.

It called on the international community to accelerate both emergency assistance to millions of desperately hungry people in southern Africa, and long-term investments to enable the region's vulnerable to withstand the worsening impacts of climate change.

The European Commission said on Thursday it was mobilising a humanitarian aid package of €22.8 million to assist with emergency food needs and support vulnerable people in Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe. AFP



Drought in Zimbabwe reduced the mighty Victoria Falls to a relative trickle last month

EDITORIAL

GoL should come clear on demonstrations

A JOINT STATEMENT of the Ambassadors of ECOWAS, the European Union, the United States, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Liberia issued here over the weekend on Liberia's National Discourse in the New Year following the 06 January peaceful assemble on Capitol Hill stresses the need for the Government of Liberia to urgently clarify a comprehensive notification or application process for large demonstrations, including what qualifies as individual, small, or large group protests, timelines, permissible locations, restrictions on what can be brought to events, etc.

THE JOINT STATEMENT notes that multiple recent requests by large citizen groups in the country seeking to demonstrate in central Monrovia underscore the need for such direct clarity from the government, it emphasizes that transparent notification or application procedures for permits to hold large demonstrations, coupled with apolitical and content-neutral adjudications of said applications, can ensure that future events, which are normal and healthy in a democracy, efficiently allow protestors to gather, express grievances, and present petitions to the government.

HOWEVER, IT CAUTIONS that any restrictions on the right of peaceful assembly should be consistent with the Constitution of Liberia and Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states "The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than that imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health, or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

WE BELIEVE THESE concerns raised in the joint statement by the foreign ambassadors are very important in not just strengthening civil liberty, free speech and democracy in Liberia, but enhancing our governing system.

WHEN PEOPLE ARE aggrieved about the state of affairs, they should be allowed to call their leaders to attention, and one way of doing so is by peaceful protest or assembly as guaranteed in the Constitution.

THE JOINT STATEMENT continues, "We note with regret for all present on Capitol Hill on 6 January, that a protest ended abruptly after a day in which approximately 2,000 demonstrators had peacefully assembled and security forces had displayed commendable professionalism in executing their duties. While it is understandable why the Liberian government would find it untenable for a large group of demonstrators to block the primary route through the government quarter endlessly, to disperse the crowd without reasonable audible warning increased the risk of harm to citizens."

IT ALSO UNDERSCORES the importance for individuals in all democracies to be able to exercise their freedoms of expression, petition, and peaceful assembly, saying, "We note that, if individuals in Liberia believe that their rights have been abridged, there are possible judicial remedies accessible under Liberian law. Review of administrative decisions by the courts can serve as an important mechanism in a democratic society to refine and clarify the interpretation of domestic laws and Constitutional rights. Citizens should also feel that their concerns can be heard and deliberated through their elected representatives in the legislature."

RATHER THAN JUST denying citizens' requests to peacefully assemble and protest to petition their leaders, we call on the Weah administration thru the Ministry of Justice to say in clear terms what it would require to protest in the country, including timelines and specific locations for protesters to assemble.

WE HOPE THAT the authorities would pay heed to the call from the foreign diplomats to save the country from future embarrassment and calamity. It is unhealthy for a democratically-elected government and its aggrieved citizens to always haul and pull on matters that affect their peace and happiness.

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Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 / +231-775407211
www.thenewdawnliberia.com;
Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

Is America Going Fascist?

Given US President Donald Trump's propensity for racist, divisive rhetoric, it is easy to see why so many of his opponents would describe him as a modern-day Benito Mussolini or Adolf Hitler. But by implying that all Trump supporters are irredeemable extremists, such rhetoric merely plays into his hands.

CAMBRIDGE - White nationalism is on the rise in the United States. According to the Anti-Defamation League, there were 6,768 incidents of extremism and anti-Semitism (mostly from the right) in the US in 2018 and 2019. That figure is significantly higher than in previous years, leading many to conclude that President Donald Trump is to blame for the uptick in domestic extremism.

Since the launch of his presidential campaign in 2015, Trump has overtly and covertly encouraged violence by his supporters. After a white supremacist, James Alex Fields Jr., drove his car into counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing one and injuring dozens, Trump infamously said that there were "some very fine people on both sides." And he has not shied away from racist rhetoric when describing African countries and even non-white members of Congress.

Trump's words have consequences. In addition to the Charlottesville killer, several other high-profile white nationalists who have carried out acts of violence or domestic terrorism have said that they were inspired by the president. These include Cesar Sayoc Jr., who mailed pipe bombs to prominent Democrats, including former President Barack Obama and Trump's 2016 opponent, Hillary Clinton; Robert Bowers, who killed 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue; and Patrick Crusius, who gunned down 22 people in El Paso. New research by economists Karsten Müller of Princeton University and Carlo Schwarz of Warwick University draws a direct causal link between Trump's anti-Muslim tweets and anti-Muslim hate crimes.

Owing to Trump's propensity to foment violence and distort the truth, many have concluded that he is a fascist. Most ominously, Trump seeks to delegitimize democratic institutions and impartial bureaucratic procedures, not only to insulate his and his family's dubious business dealings, but as a strategy to increase his personal power and authority. Italian fascists and the Nazis routinely used similar strategies from the 1920s onward.

But it would be a mistake to exaggerate these similarities. For starters, interwar fascism cannot be understood without the foil of communism, which many middle-class Germans and Italians considered an existential threat. There is no such threat today. Obama's election as America's first black president did reinforce extremists' fears that America's white population is being "replaced." But such conspiracy theories cannot be compared to the real-world threat posed by communism following Russia's Bolshevik revolution in 1917.

Second, in the post-World War I era, traumatized, disillusioned, and battle-hardened young men comprised a significant share of many countries' population. While many veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered similar traumas (and some are staunch Trump supporters), they command neither the numbers nor the political influence that their interwar counterparts did.

Third, despite his rhetoric and attempts to enlist the help of other countries in his re-election campaign, Trump has not yet tried to consolidate his power by non-electoral means. That could change if he loses to the Democratic challenger in November. But even then, it would be a far cry

from past fascists' systematic undermining of democratic processes.

Lastly, while the Republican Party's unconditional support for Trump is eerily similar to the behavior of center-right politicians who backed Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler, there is nothing uniquely fascist about unprincipled politicians behaving dishonorably.

This is important, because it really does matter whether one calls Trump a fascist, as opposed to applying some other label. To be sure, a second Trump term would represent an existential crisis for American institutions. The forces that have hampered his agenda - most critically, mobilized citizens - would become less powerful as his rule became further normalized. Political conventions would be even more radically undermined than in Trump's first term. The administration's ongoing effort to abolish impartial expertise from the bureaucracy would continue unabated. The political system, including the judiciary, could become irreparably polarized.

But partisan polarization and the decimation of any middle ground for compromise are key weapons in Trump's own war against the institutions that are meant to keep him in check. Those who brand him and his supporters as fascists are merely deepening the divide, and delegitimizing the (often valid) grievances of millions of Americans, most of whom have nothing to do with white nationalism or extremism.

The most promising strategies for resisting and defeating Trump are nothing like those required to fight twentieth-century fascist movements. Once Mussolini and Hitler took power, there simply was no way to stop them by working within the system. By contrast, the most effective way to combat Trump is through the ballot box, as demonstrated by the 2018 midterm congressional elections, when Democrats trounced Republicans to retake the House of Representatives.

The best way forward, then, is with a two-pronged strategy. First, Democrats (and all other interested parties) need to find a better way to communicate with the millions who voted for Trump because they felt - and, in many cases, truly were - left behind economically and ignored politically. Any movement that turns its back on these Americans not only reduces its own chances of winning political power, but also deepens the polarization that has allowed Trump to act with near carte blanche. Yes, most Trump supporters will not readily switch to the Democratic nominee in 2020. But it is nonetheless critical that Democratic candidates recognize these constituents' concerns and start building bridges to them.

Second, the Democrats must win decisively. Otherwise, Trump and his supporters will claim that the election was stolen from them. An overwhelming Democratic victory is needed to signal to the country that most Americans oppose Trump's destructive agenda, disrespect for US political institutions, and polarizing rhetoric.

It is not too late to address Americans' grievances and rebuild the country's institutions. But that won't be possible in a politically polarized environment, and charges of fascism will merely make that environment less hospitable to Trump's opponents.



Lord, this thing is becoming normal in our village now oo?

Dear Father:

Hmm, you know in our village when papa comes home repeated broke, he soon become a stranger in his own home. His own children who used to go and greet him will no longer care when he is even around. Soon his wife will start questioning his manhood not about his performance in bed but purchasing power.

And the way am seeing things Father that is exactly what appears to be happening now a days. Everywhere you go in our village no money. People we working for or those even working for us are all crying.

Da the one you talking slow so my son!
Father it na small thing oh but you see this mouth it na know how to talk things the way the eyeball can see it.

One of my friend was telling me the other day that his staff have stop coming to work because he is owing them salaries from last year. He said even the ones he depended on for which he had made all the big mouth that he believe will stand with him have all given up on him. Um, I just smile, but little did he know that I was simply trying to tell him come let's sit on the same bench.
Da small thing my son?

Yes, oo Father and you can't blame the people too. They have their own problems they need to solve so if the money not coming there is nothing like better days.
But da better days will pay the people children rent and their children school fees, da the whole thing sefya.

So all this thing da happening people businesses closing, no money in bank what the Country Giant doing about it?

Father, the thing looks like it has become common for the village now oo. Everybody getting use to this no money thing so it looks like the Footballer and his people are just relax.

He really need to do something oo my son
But Father da the one you talking like that so. Right now everybody in this village is feeling the pinch, unless you are in the Country Giant's inner circle but if you are just like you and my friend, then da only God can save your businesses.
Tell me something!

Yes oo, Father, da only Papa God can rescue us right now. And for the most part it looks like our big people themselves are so confuse to the point that they don't know what to do. Sometimes I wonder whether this thing here too heavy for the people because the village continues to go round in circles.

The other day, somebody was telling me that it looks like the thing na fall down on the Country Giant's lap. They can follow up on anything. The sit down and when one person come to say they want to do something small in the village they jumped on the person like one vulture.
I see why all the foreigner them running away they na want come to do business here.
But you think da joking thing we talking here Father, when they say death carry the living thing that the one we on here so oo.



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PROCUREMENT NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUOTATION 4A1506/ME/015

Supply and Delivery of Tools and Equipment for the LEC Asset and Customer Mapping Study

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 Tools and Equipment for the LEC Asset and Customer Mapping Study.

The RFQ is for:

Supply and Delivery of Tools and Equipment for the LEC Asset and Customer Mapping Study

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 10, 2020
4	Deadline for Submission of Quotations	January 20, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Global economies adopt

Starts from page 10

woman's ability to work or own businesses- a country's actual norms and practices are not captured. The global average score was 75.2, which improved slightly from 73.9 two years ago. Clearly, much more work remains as women in many countries have only a fraction of the legal rights of men, holding them back from opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

The eight areas covered by the index are structured around women's interactions with the law through their careers: Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.

Reforms are urgently needed in the area of Parenthood, which scored just 53.9 on average. In almost half of economies that provide any form of paid maternity leave, the burden falls on the employer, making it more costly to hire women. But paid maternity leave can help to retain female employees, reducing turnover cost and improving productivity. These longer-term benefits often outweigh the short-term costs to employers, according to the study.

The study says of the 10 economies that improved the most, six are in the Middle East and North Africa, three are in Sub-Saharan Africa and one is in South Asia. It continues that while there was considerable progress, the Middle East and North Africa remains the region with the most room for improvement, says the study.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Meet Mikhail Mishustin, Russia's Prime Minister

By KesterKennKlomegah

Plucked from obscurity and little known in wide national political scene, the Head of the Federal Tax Service, Mikhail Mishustin, to become the new Prime Minister was a complete surprise, but not the first time in Russia's politics. President Vladimir Putin was pulled up to the top political field, in a similar way, by Boris Yeltsin. In August 1999, Putin was appointed one of three First Deputy Prime Ministers, and later on, was appointed acting Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation by Yeltsin.

Yeltsin announced that he wanted to see Putin as his successor. Readily, Putin agreed to run for the presidency and later approved by State Duma with 233 votes in favor (vs. 84 against, 17 abstained), while a simple majority of 226 was required, making him Russia's fifth PM in fewer than eighteen months.

On his appointment, few expected Putin, virtually unknown to the general public, to last any longer than his predecessors. He was initially regarded as a Yeltsin loyalist, like other prime ministers of Boris Yeltsin, Putin did not choose ministers himself, his cabinet was determined by the presidential administration.

Now, with a new chapter opening, Mikhail Mishustin eventually replaces Dmitry Medvedev who served as Prime Minister until mid-January 2020. Putin and Medvedev worked together and even switched positions between President and Prime Minister. This switch was termed by many in the media as "Rokirovka", the Russian term for the chess move "casting" and later Medvedev said he himself would be ready to perform "practical work in the government" with under Putin.

On January 15, in his address to the Federal Assembly, Putin explicitly explained: "Our society is clearly calling for change. People want development, where they live and work, that is, in cities, districts, villages and all across the nation. The pace of change must be expedited every year and produce tangible results in attaining worthy living standards that would be clearly perceived by the people. And, I repeat, they must be actively involved in this process." Meeting with the Cabinet thereafter, Putin said: "For my part, I also want to thank you for everything that has been done so far in our joint work. I am satisfied with the results of your work. Of course, not everything was accomplished, but things never work out in full." He thanked the government and added that Medvedev served as President and for almost eight years now he has been the Prime Minister, which is probably the longest stint in this post in Russia's recent history.

Further, Putin held a separate working meeting with Head of the Federal Taxation Service Mikhail Mishustin and proposed him to take the post of Prime Minister. Having received his consent, the President submitted the candidacy of Mikhail Mishustin for consideration to the State Duma. On January 16, the State Duma (lower house) endorsed Mishustin, as the new Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. As many as 383 lawmakers supported Putin's choice, none were against, and 41 parliamentarians abstained. "Colleagues, the decision has been taken. We have given consent to the appointment of Mishustin Mikhail Vladimirovich as Prime Minister by the president of the Russian Federation," Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said, summing up the results of the vote.

President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree appointing Mikhail Mishustin as the country's Prime Minister. "In accordance with Article 83(a) of the Russian Constitution, Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin is appointed as Russia's Prime Minister," says the decree published on the Kremlin's website. The decree comes into force on the day of its signing.

Mikhail Mishustin was born on March 3, 1966 in Moscow to a father of Russian-Jewish origin and a mother of Russian origin. He completed postgraduate studies in 1992. He is



married and has three sons. His interest is in sport, playing ice hockey. He is a member of the supervisory board of HC CSKA Moscow.

In 2003, he defended a thesis, headlined "Mechanism of state fiscal management in Russia" and received a PhD in economics. In 2010, he received a doctoral degree in economics at the Academy of National Economy under the Government of the Russian Federation (currently Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration).

Since graduation, he has worked in several enterprises. In February 2009, he joined the personnel reserve of the President of Russia. In 2010, Mikhail Mishustin was appointed as the Head of the Federal Tax Service (FTS). From 2011-2018, he was a member of the Presidential Council for Financial Market Development.

During this period, the tax service was criticized for its overly strict approach to business, and Mishustin rejected this accusation, citing a significant reduction in the number of inspections. So, with the arrival of Mishustin in 2010, the Federal tax service changed its approach to the organization of control events, focusing on analytical work.

As a result, the number of on-site tax audits has sharply decreased, while their efficiency has increased. If earlier every tenth taxpayer was checked, in 2018, the tax authorities checked only one small business company out of 4,000. The number of inspections of large and medium-sized businesses has also decreased significantly.

"This candidacy comes absolutely unexpectedly, but that does not mean he is a figure who brings about repulsion. Perhaps even the contrary. Not all fiscal heads are likeable and agreeable. In my view, Mishustin is largely seen by the public as agreeable," Federation Council Deputy Speaker Ilyas Umakhanov told Interfax News Agency.

"This is yet more proof that our president relies on professionals at this difficult, critical moment when the country needs a qualitative leap, primarily in the economic sphere. This is down to new technology, digitalization; this is precisely where Mishustin made a mark as the Russian tax chief. He has huge experience under his belt, which has been embedded into the system," added Umakhanov.

First Deputy Head of the Federation Council Committee for the Budget and Financial Markets Sergei Ryabukhin, for his part, described Mishustin as a very successful public administrator. "A top professional, a very big statesman and individual who has achieved great successes within the system of public administration in

the tax and financial sphere. I think his is a good candidacy," according to Ryabukhin.

According to experts, the surprise shake-up could have been triggered by launching a reset of the Russian political system and the upcoming power shift. Political Analyst Konstantin Kalachev believes that Putin's decision to pick Mishustin as the new premier is related to his political neutrality, and he is also known in the business and corporate community. However, the new head of the government is unlikely to become Putin's successor.

All officials interviewed by Vedomosti have described the choice as a surprise but a good one. Taxation is the only sector that has demonstrated a breakthrough in Russia's state administration. The Russian Tax Service is one of the best in the world in terms of collecting taxes and developing technologies, an official linked to the financial system said. Mishustin is well-known in the government as a good administrator and his service was a lifesaver during the crisis, according to several media reports.

Mishustin is tasked with fulfilling Putin's economic program, namely the National Projects to the tune of 26 trillion rubles (\$424 billion) up to 2024. The program's slow implementation and weak economic growth were among the reasons Medvedev's government came under fire, the paper says. Mishustin's major achievement is turning the tax-collecting agency into a service tool, said Partner at Taxology Alexei Artyukh.

He reformed the administration of major taxpayers and businesses can coordinate deals in advance in exchange for the Federal Tax Service's access to companies' accounting systems. If these approaches are extended to other services, this would result in huge progress, Alexei Artyukh said.

Kommersant, a local Russian newspaper, reported that Russia would remain as a strong presidential republic, and all the upcoming changes are linked to the the upcoming presidential election in 2024. Unreservedly, Mishustin stated during a plenary session of the State Duma that Russia has sufficient funds to achieve all goals set by President Vladimir Putin. Implementation of all the social obligations the president enumerated in his State of the Nation Address would require \$64.8 billion.

Russia, with the largest territory in the world, has a wide natural resource base, including major deposits of timber, petroleum, natural gas, coal, ores and other mineral resources that can be used to support the expected economic development and raise the overall living standards of the population.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Private sector will drive demand for cement

-Weah assures CEMENCO during launch of new plant

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has inaugurated a US\$14m worth state-of-the-art cement production plant at CEMENCO - Liberia, assuring the company that the creation of new jobs in the private sector will continue to

demand for cement," he said Thursday, 16 January at CEMENCO on Bushrod Island.

President Weah sees the investment as timely, stating with confidence that the Liberian economy is now poised for growth after two years of assessment which has

auspices of the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) were being launched the same day.

According to him, it shows the kind of confidence that investors have in the Liberian economy, expressing his pleasure to join others at the inauguration of the new cement production facility.

President Weah says he is informed that the addition of the plant to existing production plant at CEMENCO is a state-of-the-art extension, causing US\$14m.

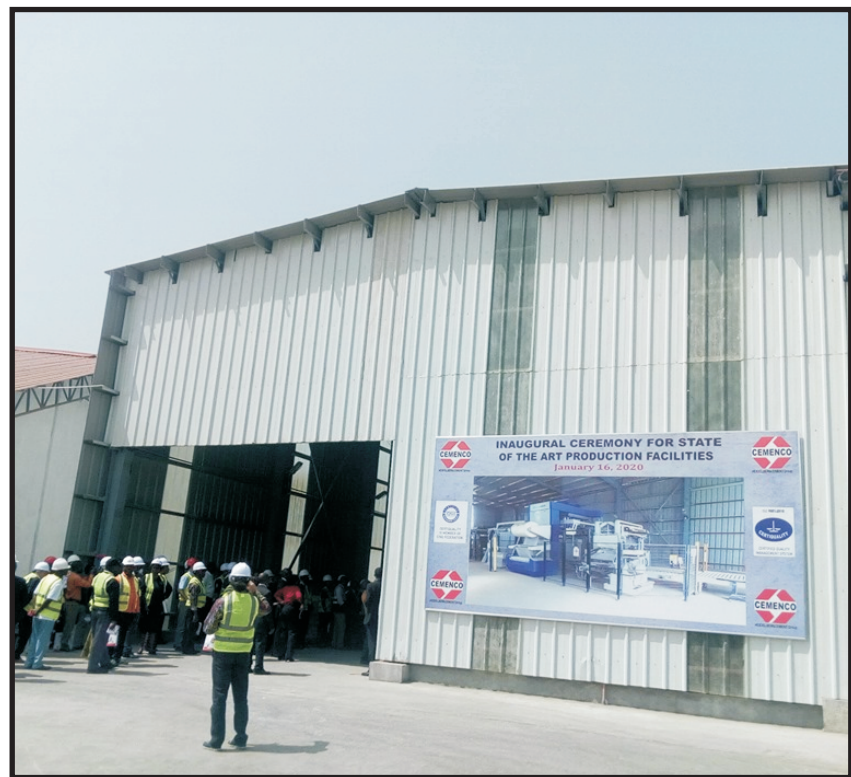
He notes that it will not only significantly increase CEMENCO's total production capacity, but will also introduce a new technology and bring new efficiency to cement production here.

"I am gratified to see this development and I want to congratulate you CEMENCO and your parent company, the Heidelberg CEMENCO which is an indication of the level of trust in the Liberian economy," President Weah continues.

He adds that willingness to continue to make foreign direct investment in Liberia [speaks of the] confidence and stability of the Liberian investment environment.

Speaking earlier, CEMENCO Managing Director Mr. William P. Gagnard expressed delight to welcome the audience at the inauguration of the project.

He discloses that the **▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



drive demand for cement here.

"There will be many new projects which will require your products, including roads and the roll out of new infrastructures. The creation of new jobs in the private sector will continue to drive

necessitated many corrections and adjustments.

He adds that today is a great day for Liberia and its people, as two major investments inclusive of the cement production plant at CEMENCO and a new investment bank under the

GOL declares Costa a "Fugitive"

By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia has described controversial talk show host Henry P. Costa of Roots FM as a 'fugitive from justice,' saying there's nowhere in the world where a person will run without the completion of an ongoing investigation.

Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs Eugene L. Fahngon told a regular press briefing Thursday, 16 January that government has no information about the whereabouts of Mr. Costa.

"When you run from the law you are not guilty, nor suspected or arrested; but when you run from the law than you are a fugitive from justice," Fahngon says.

"We are 4.5 million people in this country, and you ask me about one man, the point is the government does not know where Costa is at the moment. We hear that he was in Sierra Leone, and that

makes him a fugitive of justice," he continues.

Minister Fahngon explains that Costa's lawyers had signed a guarantee note to present him to immigration authorities that are conducting an active investigation surrounding his

travel document.

Minister Fahngon further denies claim that the government had made request to its Sierra Leonean counterparts to bring back Costa to Liberia.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Mr. Henry P. Costa

MOPT celebrates 40th PAPU anniversary

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will celebrate the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) 40th anniversary on Saturday, 18 January.

A press release issued Thursday, 16 January says the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications joins other African nations to

According to report, the day is celebrated on January 18 each year. The celebration will be held on Saturday at the main post office on Carey & McDonald Streets at 11:00AM.

The Ministry's release notes that the Pan African Postal Union is a specialized Institution of the African Union. Its main objective is to coordinate all activities aimed



celebrate the Pan African Postal Union's 40th anniversary.

The press release further states that "as part of its commitment as member of PAPU, the Ministry will celebrate the day by holding an elaborate press conference with media houses to sensitize the public on the significance of PAPU.

at developing postal services on the African Continent.

"PAPU was established by the constitutive Plenipotentiary conference of African ministers in charge of postal services held in Arushia, Tanzania" the release notes.

"The vision of this **▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**

Tricycles plying opposite lane dangerous

-pedestrians warn
By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Traffic Division of the Liberia National Police (LNP) has come under sharp criticism for directing commercial motorbikes and tricycles headed for Central Monrovia via Bushrod Island to take opposite lanes, which poses threat to human lives.

Speaking to this paper in an exclusive interview on Tuesday this week, several pedestrians explained that since mid 2019, the police have directed motorbikes and tricycles coming to town via Bushrod Island to take the opposite lane in the traffic thereby, coming in direct contact with

vehicles enroute from Monrovia to Vai Town, putting them [pedestrians] at harms' way.

A resident of Vai Town, Bushrod Island Lassana Kollie, narrates that people are being injured every day due to the current situation, which he notes, contravenes the traffic law of the country.

Lassana wonders why the police that usually apprehend drivers and bike riders for violating traffic rules would be the ones to direct riders to take the opposite route in the traffic.

He calls on the police to immediately stop such behavior because it endangers both lives and properties.

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Capitol Building goes amok

By Bridgett Milton

The grounds of the Capitol, seat of the Liberian Legislature came under serious tension Thursday, January 16, after rock-throwing protesters, predominantly women and supporters of Montserrado County Electoral District #17 Representative Hanson Kaizulu, clashed.

The scene erupted into violence with several persons sustaining injuries, leading the leadership at the Capitol to call riot police to restore calm at the political theater.

It all started when group of women under the banner, Women of Liberia stormed the Capitol, demanding justice for a woman, allegedly raped by Rep. Kaizolu sometimes ago.

But the alleged rape victim denies every being sexually assaulted by the lawmaker, who happens to be her guardian.

The women paraded with placards, chanting against the lawmaker and subsequently barricaded the front packing lot of the House of Representatives.

However, while protesters were being talked to by some leaders of the Capitol, a pro-Representative Kaizulu group arrived in an apparent counter protest, raining insults and throwing missiles, something that sent both staff and protesters to their



heads for safety. It took officers of the Liberia National Police to calm the situation.

The predominantly female protesters had gone at the Capitol to present a formal complaint to the leadership of the House of Representatives against Rep. Kaizolu for allegedly raping his niece.

The women insisted that their complaint be addressed before they leave the grounds of the Capitol, demanding the intervention of the House's leadership headed by Speaker Bhofal Chambers.

Some of placards read, "Real men don't rape"; "We want Kaizolu go for investigation", among others.

Minutes after the women had gathered in preparation to present their petition, Representative Kaizolu arrived with a group of young men believed to be militants of the University of Liberia's campus-based Student Unification Party (SUP), and began beating and throwing stones at the protesting women.

Madam Marthalyne Davis, reading the petition to the Chairperson on Claims and Petition of the House of Representative, Rep. Rustonlyn S. Dennis, explains the women of Liberia are being victimized and abused daily allegedly by some government officials and influential men in society.

She narrates that some times last year, they received a complaint by a lady only identified as Ms. Massa that

Rep. Hanson Kaizolu who happens to be her uncle, allegedly raped her.

In response, Rep. Dennis promised to take the petition before full plenary after which plenary will get back to them.

The vice chair for political parties, Nuwor Scott intimates that in the past four weeks she and the leadership have received series of calls from the women of Montserrado County Electoral District #17, about an alleged rape case linking Rep. Kaizolu.

She notes that women will not rest until the matter is properly investigated and concluded.

Madam Scott discloses that a team of investigators were sent to the district to thoroughly investigate and report to the group in the soonest possible time. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Transport Ministry generates over US\$700,000 -Deputy Minister Kollie

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Deputy Transport Minister for Land and Rail, J. Darius Kollie discloses that under his watch, the Ministry of Transport generated over US\$700,000 last year from vehicles' registration, issuance of driver's licenses,

and other aspects of movable objects in the country.

Minister Kollie pledges that he and his team at the Ministry are commitment to professionally serving the people of Liberia as well as making sure government generates more revenue to function effectively.

He calls on operators of vehicles and movable objects across the country to cooperate with the Ministry of Transport by regularizing their driver's licenses and other relevant documents to avoid embarrassment.

Speaking when he was honored by a civil society group, Minister Kollie thanks President George Manneh Weah for reposing confidence in him, assuring that he along with staff of the Ministry are fully prepared to serve the public and ensure government generates revenue to operate.

He notes that the honor bestowed on him by the Coalition of Civil Society Organization of Liberia is based on hard work of senior and junior staff of the Ministry of Transport.

Earlier, the Assistant Minister for Land and Rail at the Transport Ministry, Joseph Roberts and the Director for the Department of Land, Rail and Transport J. Liama Canmu, Department of Land and Rail praised the Civil Society Organization for honoring Deputy Minister Kollie which is in the positive direction.



CBL Governor

Starts from back page

working relationship with the FED. He says his institution values the relationship with the CBL and will continue to exert all efforts to enhance the capacity of the Bank.

The meeting was centered around the CBL's regular operations and administration of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) and the Bank's Customer Security Program (CSP) which was recently implemented.

The visiting 5-member FED delegation includes Mr. Matthew Nemeth, Central Bank & International Account

Services Vice President; Ms. Lara Green-Spector, Central Bank & International Account Services Officer; Mr. Matthew Trieste, Central Bank & International Account Services Senior Associate; and Ms. Lauren Komunale, Central Bank & International Account Services Senior Associate. The meeting, which is an annual mission of the FED to Liberia was also attended by CBL's Acting Deputy Governor for Operations, Madam Nyemadi D. Pearson as well as other senior staff members of the Bank. - Press Release

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Français

L'ANC apporte son soutien à l'opposant Henry Costa

Le leader politique de l'ANC (Alternative National Congress), M. Alex Cummings, a promis d'apporter son soutien à l'opposant libérien Henry Costa qui dirige le Conseil des Patriotes (COP).

« Il ne s'agit pas de l'individu en soi, mais nous soutiendrons et protégerons ses droits en tant que membre de l'opposition et citoyen de ce pays. Je veux être très catégorique à ce sujet car aujourd'hui c'est lui et demain ça pourrait être quelqu'un d'autre. C'est tout simplement inacceptable au 21^{ème} siècle et surtout dans une démocratie de viser l'opposition », a déclaré M. Cummings à des journalistes à Harper, Maryland County, lors d'une conférence de presse. Le chef de file de l'opposition est en tournée dans cette partie du pays.

M. Costa aurait été arrêté dans la capitale sierra-léonaise de Freetown alors qu'il tentait de monter à bord d'un vol quelques jours après qu'il se soit vu refuser de sortir de son pays natal à l'aéroport international de Roberts pour avoir, dit-on,

utilisé de faux documents de voyage pour entrer au Libéria. Son extradition vers le Libéria est un processus qui devra se jouer. Les extraditions, selon les experts juridiques, sont des détails et doivent être conformes aux domaines convenus par les deux pays.

Les problèmes de voyage de Costa ont commencé quelques jours après la manifestation du COP le 6 janvier 2020, laquelle

manifestation s'est terminée par un affrontement sanglant avec la police anti-émeute qui a eu recours au gaz lacrymogène et des canons à eau chaude pour disperser les manifestants.

Plusieurs manifestants avaient été interpellés puis inculpés de plusieurs chefs d'accusation par la police et ensuite incarcérés à la prison centrale de Monrovia.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

Un opposant au président Weah dit être retenu en SierraLéone

Un virulent détracteur du président libérien George Weah a indiqué mercredi être retenu en SierraLéone voisine, alors qu'une enquête est en cours contre lui au Libéria pour falsification présumée de documents de voyage.

Les médias libériens disent qu'il a été arrêté à l'instigation du Libéria, et en passe d'être renvoyé dans ce pays. Sollicitées par l'AFP, les

autorités de part et d'autre ont jusqu'à présent gardé le silence.

"Ne vous inquiétez pas, tout va bien", a écrit Henry Costa sur son compte Facebook après la diffusion de premières informations sur son arrestation, "les autorités de la SierraLéone sont très professionnelles et très gentilles avec moi".

Il ajoute qu'il peut encore se servir de son téléphone.

"On va régler ça", assure-t-il.

M. Costa est l'animateur d'une émission de radio populaire au Libéria. Il est l'un des principaux instigateurs de manifestations anti-Weah, dont la dernière a été dispersée par la force le 6 janvier. Les autorités ont fait fermer sa radio en octobre.

M. Costa a été arrêté à l'aéroport de Freetown, ont rapporté les médias en invoquant ses démêlés avec les services migratoires de son pays.

M. Costa, qui se partage entre le Libéria et les Etats-Unis, avait été stoppé vendredi à l'aéroport de Monrovia alors qu'il s'apprêtait à prendre l'avion. Les services de l'immigration ont estimé que ses documents de voyage étaient faux. Il devait se présenter à nouveau aux autorités mercredi. Mais il a pris entre-temps le chemin de la SierraLéone.

M. Costa est l'un des porte-voix de la grogne contre M. Weah, l'ancienne star du foot qui a pris la tête de ce pays pauvre d'environ 4,8 millions d'habitants il y a bientôt deux ans. M. Weah peine à tenir les

Amadou Gon Coulibaly annonce 100% d'électrification à fin 2020 dans le Gôh

C'était le dimanche 12 janvier dernier à Gagnoa lors d'une visite qu'il y a effectuée. Le Premier a invité les populations au maintien de la paix seul "gage pour renforcer le développement dans la région".

Pour le Premier Ministre Amadou Gon Coulibaly, la réalisation de ces actions de développement ne sera possible que dans un climat de paix et de stabilité de la Côte d'Ivoire.

« Au regard de ces investissements importants de développement dans cette Région en particulier, et au plan national en général, il est de notre responsabilité, à tous, de préserver la paix si durement acquise et de maintenir la Côte d'Ivoire dans le cercle vertueux dans lequel il se trouve désormais », a-t-il recommandé.

Dans le domaine de l'électricité, ce sont 6 localités qui seront électrifiées dans le cadre du Programme Social du Gouvernement (PS Gouv), sur la période 2019-2020. « Ces travaux feront passer le taux de couverture à 100% à fin 2020, soit 206 localités sur 206 dans la Région du Gôh », a fait savoir le Premier Ministre.

Toujours dans le domaine d'électrification, des projets de renforcement et d'amélioration du réseau, d'un coût d'environ 7,4 milliards de FCFA sont en cours et permettront la sécurisation du réseau électrique de toute la Région.

Dans le secteur des routes, Amadou Gon Coulibaly a annoncé pour cette année, le démarrage prochain des travaux de reprofilage de 770, 7 km de route en terre, dans le cadre de la tranche 2 du Programme d'Entretien Routier. Aussi, est-il prévu des

travaux de renforcement des axes Gagnoa-Sinfra, long de 60 km, pour un montant de 60 milliards de FCFA et Gagnoa-Issia, long de 94 km, pour un montant de 42 milliards de FCFA.

Un investissement de 3, 7 milliards de FCFA est prévu dans le domaine de la santé dans la région du Gôh cette année 2020. Il permettra la construction et l'équipement de 9 centres de santé sur la période 2020-2021, dans le département de Gagnoa ainsi que la réhabilitation de 6 centres de santé.

Dans ce domaine, « il convient de rappeler que sur la période 2011-2019, 9, 5 milliards de FCFA ont été investis dans le domaine de la santé dans cette région. », a rappelé Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

L'éducation nationale n'a pas échappé à la critique du Premier Ministre qui a annoncé, la construction de 13 collèges à base 4, dans le cadre du C2D et de divers financements de bailleurs. Tout en rappelant la construction de 1742 classes dans le préscolaire et le primaire et 07 collèges dans le secondaire, il a fait savoir que ces nouveaux investissements viendront renforcer les infrastructures existantes.

L'adduction en eau ne sera pas en marge de cet important investissement. En plus des 6, 6 milliards de FCFA qui ont été consacrés au renforcement de la production et de la distribution dans la Région entre 2011 et 2015, des travaux d'alimentation en eau potable des villes de Gagnoa, Sinfra et les localités environnantes, pour un coût de 38,7 milliards de FCFA, sont prévus.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

promesses de résorption de la pauvreté et de lutte contre la corruption qui ont contribué à son élection.

Le pays hanté par une guerre civile qui a fait quelque 250.000 morts de 1989 à 2003,

et éprouvé par le virus Ebola (2014-2016), se débat avec l'inflation et la dévaluation de sa monnaie.

M. Weah invoque la lourdeur de la situation dont il a hérité.

Français

L'ANC apporte

Les manifestants ont été inculpés d'émeute, désobéissance, mise en danger imprudente d'autrui et conduite désordonnée. Ils ont comparu devant les tribunaux le jeudi 9 janvier.

La manifestation, qui est la deuxième plus grande de son genre, a été organisée par le Conseil des Patriotes (COP) en moins d'un an. Elle a été organisée pour exiger du président George Manneh Weah des réformes sérieuses afin de lutter efficacement contre la corruption, la publication de la déclaration des avoirs, le limogeage d'un certain nombre de responsables de son gouvernement et la publication des résultats de l'audit sur la gestion des 25 millions de dollars décaissés pour, dit-ont, lutter contre l'inflation.

La manifestation initialement pacifique a dégénéré en émeute lorsque les forces de l'ordre ont tenté de disperser les manifestants qui avaient tenté de faire la cuisine sur les lieux de la manifestation, devant le palais présidentiel et le palais de l'Assemblée Nationale. Plusieurs manifestants ont été blessés, certains ont été interpellés.

M. Cummings a dit ne pas connaître toutes les circonstances qui entourent l'arrestation de Costa, mais il a indiqué que l'ANC soutiendrait et protégerait ses droits comme tout autre membre de l'opposition et citoyen de ce pays.

«Nous soutiendrons M. Costa en veillant à ce que ses droits soient protégés en tant que citoyen de ce pays et en tant que membre de l'opposition. Aujourd'hui, c'est Henry Costa et Yekeh Kolubah, demain ce sera Joe Boakai ou Alex Cummings. C'est un comportement inacceptable dans une démocratie. Encore une fois, je suis heureux que la question ait été posée », a déclaré Cummings.

Cummings accuse le gouvernement dirigé par George Weah d'avoir organisé

une chasse aux sorcières contre tous ceux qui s'opposent à son régime.

«Je crois que cela... vous savez quand nous avons publié notre dernière déclaration sur la protestation, nous avons mentionné que ce gouvernement commençait à viser illégalement des membres de l'opposition et... Je vous dis qu'il (Henry Costa) ne devrait pas être illégalement poursuivi parce qu'il s'oppose à ce gouvernement. C'est le début de la tyrannie et nous nous opposerons avec force à ce gouvernement et à tout autre gouvernement qui déciderait de faire la même chose », a ajouté Cummings.

Le leader politique de l'ANC est arrivé à Harper. Il a commencé sa tournée nationale dans le comté. Il veut rendre visite à ses militants et aux citoyens afin d'écouter leurs préoccupations. Cummings a souligné que bien qu'il ne soit pas en mesure de répondre aux préoccupations de chacun et de fournir une assistance à tout le monde en tant qu'individu, il doit écouter les gens afin qu'il soit capable d'aborder les problèmes fondamentaux affectant les gens quand il aura eu l'opportunité de diriger la nation.

M. Cummings a déclaré qu'il envisageait de construire une maison dans le comté, mais une structure physique en soi ne peut en aucun cas servir la population. Il a également fait savoir qu'il avait apporté un soutien personnel à la mise en place de la station de radio de l'université TU, désormais connue dans tout le comté sous le nom de TU Radio.

Il a aussi abordé sa performance aux élections de 2017 dans le Maryland, regrettant que, quoi qu'il y ait été extrêmement bien accueilli, les populations de cette partie du pays ont massivement voté pour le président Weah « qui n'a rien fait pour vous depuis son entrée en fonction ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

L'Amérique devient-elle fasciste ?

CAMBRIDGE - Le nationalisme blanc monte en puissance aux États-Unis. Selon l'organisation Anti-Defamation League, pas moins de 6 768 incidents extrémistes et antisémites (émanant principalement de protagonistes de droite) auraient eu lieu dans le pays en 2018 et 2019, un chiffre bien supérieur à celui des années précédentes, qui en conduit beaucoup à considérer le président Donald Trump comme responsable de cette envolée extrémiste américaine.

Depuis le lancement de sa campagne présidentielle en 2015, Trump n'a cessé d'encourager ouvertement ou plus discrètement la violence de ses partisans. Lorsque le suprémaciste blanc James Alex Fields Jr. lance son véhicule sur une foule de manifestants à Charlottesville en Virginie, faisant un mort et plusieurs dizaines de blessés, Trump déclare qu'il y a « des gens très biens dans les deux camps ». Le président n'hésite pas non plus à adopter un discours raciste lorsqu'il décrit les pays africains, ou encore les parlementaires de couleur.

Les mots employés par Trump ne sont pas sans conséquences. À l'instar du tueur de Charlottesville, plusieurs nationalistes blancs coupables d'actes de violence ou de terrorisme intérieur affirment avoir été inspirés par le président américain : Cesar Sayoc Jr. a ainsi adressé des colis piégés à plusieurs hauts responsables démocrates, dont l'ancien président Barack Obama et l'opposante à Trump en 2016, Hillary Clinton ; Robert Bowers a abattu 11 personnes dans une synagogue à Pittsburgh ; Patrick Crusius en a tuées 22 à El Paso. De nouvelles études menées par les économistes Karsten Müller de l'Université de Princeton, et Carlo Schwarz de l'Université de Warwick, attirent l'attention sur un lien de causalité direct entre les tweets antimusulmans de Trump et les crimes de haine commis contre des musulmans.

La propension de Trump à fomenter les violences et à déformer la vérité conduit de nombreux observateurs à parler d'un président fasciste. Aspect certes inquiétant, Trump cherche à délégitimer les institutions démocratiques et les procédures bureaucratiques impartiales, non seulement pour protéger ses affaires douteuses et celles de sa famille, mais également dans une stratégie de renforcement de son autorité et de son pouvoir personnel. Les fascistes italiens et les nazis ont souvent employé des stratégies similaires à partir des années 1920.

Ce serait néanmoins une erreur de s'exagérer ces similitudes. Pour commencer, le fascisme de l'entre-deux-guerres ne peut être observé distinctement du communisme, que de nombreux Allemands et Italiens de la classe moyenne considéraient à l'époque comme une menace existentielle. Cette menace n'existe pas aujourd'hui. L'élection d'Obama, premier président noir des États-Unis, a effectivement alimenté la crainte des extrémistes de voir un jour la population américaine blanche être « remplacée ». Mais les théories conspirationnistes actuelles ne sauraient être comparées à la menace réelle que représentait la révolution bolchévique russe en 1917.

Deuxièmement, dans l'entre-deux-guerres, de jeunes hommes traumatisés, désabusés, et endurcis par les champs de bataille composaient une part importante de la population de nombreux pays. Si de nombreux vétérans d'Irak et d'Afghanistan ont souffert de traumatismes similaires (et soutiennent parfois activement Trump), ils ne représentent ni les mêmes chiffres, ni la même influence politique que leurs aïeux de l'entre-deux-guerres.

Troisièmement, malgré son discours et ses appels à l'aide auprès de pays étrangers pour sa campagne de réélection, Trump n'a pas à ce jour tenté de consolider son pouvoir par des moyens antidémocratiques. Cela pourrait changer en cas de défaite face au challenger démocrate en novembre. Mais même à ce stade, nous serions encore très loin des manœuvres fascistes d'autrefois, qui visaient systématiquement à mettre à

mal les processus démocratiques.

Enfin, bien que le soutien inconditionnel du Parti républicain à l'égard de Trump rappelle étrangement le comportement des politiciens de centre-droit qui appuyaient Benito Mussolini et Adolf Hitler, il n'y a rien d'intrinsèquement fasciste dans le fait que des responsables politiques sans principes se comportent de manière peu honorable.

Il est important de le souligner, tant le fait de qualifier Trump de fasciste ou de lui attribuer une tout autre étiquette a également son importance. De toute évidence, un second mandat Trump représenterait une crise existentielle pour les institutions américaines. Les forces qui entravent son agenda - notamment des citoyens mobilisés - perdraient en puissance à mesure de la banalisation du règne Trump. Les conventions politiques seraient encore plus radicalement menacées que sous son premier mandat. Les efforts soutenus fournis par l'administration pour anéantir le fonctionnement impartial de la bureaucratie se poursuivraient sans relâche. Le système politique, pouvoir judiciaire inclus, pourraient devenir irrémédiablement polarisés.

Or, la polarisation partisane et l'anéantissement de tout juste milieu propice au compromis sont des armes essentielles dans la guerre que mène Trump contre des institutions qui existent pour maintenir la présidence sous contrôle. Ceux qui qualifient Trump et ses partisans de fascistes ne font ainsi qu'aggraver la division, et délégitiment les plaintes (souvent très recevables) de plusieurs millions d'Américains, qui pour la plupart n'ont rien à voir avec le nationalisme blanc ou l'extrémisme.

Les stratégies les plus prometteuses de résistance et de victoire face à Trump sont incomparables à celles qu'il a fallu employer face aux mouvements fascistes du XXe siècle. Une fois Mussolini et Hitler au pouvoir, il n'était tout simplement plus possible de les stopper en œuvrant selon les règles du système. Par opposition, le moyen le plus efficace de combattre Trump consiste à se rendre aux urnes, comme l'ont illustré les élections de mi-mandat au Congrès en 2018, qui ont permis aux Démocrates de balayer les Républicains, et de reprendre le contrôle de la Chambre des représentants.

La meilleure voie d'avenir réside par conséquent dans une stratégie à deux volets. Premièrement, les Démocrates (et toutes les autres parties intéressées) doivent trouver les moyens de mieux communiquer avec les millions d'Américains qui ont voté pour Trump parce qu'ils estimaient - bien souvent à raison - avoir été abandonnées économiquement, et ignorées politiquement. Tout mouvement qui tournera le dos à ces Américains-là se privera non seulement d'une chance de regagner le pouvoir politique, mais alimentera également cette polarisation qui a permis à Trump d'agir avec une quasi-carte blanche. Il sera bien entendu difficile pour le candidat démocrate à la présidence en 2020 de convaincre la plupart des partisans de Trump. Il est néanmoins essentiel que les candidats démocrates reconnaissent les préoccupations de ces électeurs, et qu'ils œuvrent pour se rapprocher d'eux.

Deuxièmement, les Démocrates devront remporter une large victoire électorale, sans quoi Trump et ses partisans parleront de scrutin volé. Un véritable triomphe démocrate est nécessaire si le message doit consister à affirmer que la plupart des Américains s'opposent à l'agenda destructeur de Trump, à son mépris pour les institutions politiques du pays, ainsi qu'à son discours polarisant.

Il n'est pas trop tard pour répondre aux attentes des Américains, et pour rebâtir les institutions du pays. Ce sera néanmoins impossible dans un environnement politiquement polarisé, un environnement que les accusations de fascisme rendent encore moins hospitalier pour les opposants à Trump.

Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Global economies adopt reforms to advance women's economic participation

The regulatory environment for women's economic participation has improved over the past two years, with 40 economies enacting 62 reforms that will help women - half the world's population - realize their potential and contribute to economic growth and development, says a new World Bank study.

However, it notes that the results are uneven, as women in many countries have only a fraction of the legal rights of men, holding back their economic and social development.

In Sub-Saharan Africa,

South Sudan adopted its first labor law since independence.

According to the World Bank, titled Women Business and the Law 2020, the study measures 190 economies, tracking how laws affect women at different stages in their working lives and focusing on those laws applicable in the main business city. It covers reforms in eight areas that are associated with women's economic empowerment, conducted from June 2017 to September 2019.

"Legal rights for women

of laws that protect women from violence, disclosing that in the last two years, eight economies enacted legislation on domestic violence for the first time, while seven economies now have new legal protections against sexual harassment in employment, and twelve economies improved their laws in the area of Pay, removing restrictions on the industries, jobs and hours that women can work.

Globally, the most frequent reforms were in areas related to Parenthood, with 16 economies enacting positive changes, including expansion of the amount of paid maternity leave available to mothers, introduction of paid paternity leave and prohibition of dismissal of pregnant employees.

However, it notes that achieving legal gender equality requires strong political will and a concerted effort by governments, civil society, and international organizations, while legal and regulatory reforms can serve as an important catalyst to improve women's lives as well as their families and communities.

"This study helps us understand where laws facilitate or hinder women's economic participation. It has incentivized countries to undertake reforms that can eliminate gender imbalances," asserts World Bank Group Chief Economist Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg.

Pinelopi underscores, "Achieving equality will take time, but it is encouraging that all regions have improved. We hope that this research will continue to serve as an important tool to inform policy making and level the playing field for women."

The WBL index measures only formal laws and the regulations which govern a

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eleven economies implemented 16 reforms in seven areas, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, which introduced social insurance maternity benefits and equalized retirement ages, while in Côte d'Ivoire, spouses now have equal rights to own and manage property. Mali enacted reforms on non-discrimination in employment. São Tomé and Príncipe adopted a new labor code to meet job market demands and bring laws in compliance with international standards, and

are both the right thing to do and good from an economic perspective. When women can move more freely, work outside the home and manage assets, they are more likely to join the workforce and help strengthen their country's economies," says World Bank Group President David Malpass, and vows, "We stand ready to help until every woman can move through her life without facing legal barriers to her success."

The study further notes that areas of Workplace and Marriage saw many reforms, especially in the enactment

GOL declares

Cont'd from page 6

Mr. Costa was reported to have been arrested in the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown, as he attempted to board a flight, days after he was denied exit through the

Roberts International Airport (RIA) on allegations that he used fake traveling documents to enter Liberia.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Private sector

Cont'd from page 6

project valued at over US\$14m, will increase CEMENCO's cement production, with expectation of producing 14 million bags per year.

CEMENCO Liberia Board Chair Mr. Morten Gade reveals that the production facility inaugurated meets three key demands for cement supplies in Liberia.

First, he states that it ensures that CEMENCO has the

capacity to meet the demand for high quality cement at affordable price for long period.

Further, he details that during rainy season, CEMENCO will provide dried, fresh cement to all corners of Liberia.

Concluding, he highlights the elimination of the risk of pollution in the discharge of materials.

Tricycles plying

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He says nowhere in the world vehicles are allowed to ply opposite lanes in the traffic except ambulances, fire trucks, or VIP convoys.

Another pedestrian, Cecelia Thomas claims to have witnessed at least four accidents involving vehicles and motorbikes colliding, leaving several passengers wounded right in the presence of LNP traffic officers in Vai Town.

She laments that the situation is not only causing death, but crippling many persons as a result of broken body parts even though they were not born in such condition.

She continues that anyone

witnessing the situation in Vai Town would surely get angry with the police because their decision to allow operators of motorbikes to use opposite route poses threat to human lives.

Cecelia urges the police to redirect commercial motorbikes and tricycles headed for Monrovia via Bushrod Island to the rightful route for entering town to protect lives and properties.

When this writer contacted the traffic division of the police for comment on the situation, officers on duty said the Chief of Traffic had left for an official assignment.—*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MOPT celebrates

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specialized institution is to ensure the implementation of single postal territory that provides innovative, integrated and inclusive policy guidelines for development of postal sector in Africa," the

release continues.

Meanwhile, the country will join the celebration under the theme, "The Post: A Veritable Partner for Financial Inclusion and Regional Integration".—*Press release*

Starts from back page

have not been paid", she asserts.

The standard bearer of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) laments that the situation has left her without proper security arrangements for her safe movements and without the ability to provide necessities for her office.

She further details that currently, the security vehicles, including two bullet-proof vehicles, needed for her movements have still not been provided to her detail.

"As a result, I have been

Veep Taylor

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 is optimistic that the communication will claim the senate immediate attention and intervention, emphasizing that she was duly voted into office and should

be empowered to perform her duties, just as other officials and public offices are being regularly supported, noting that if such situation continues to exist, it behooves to inform the Liberian Senate.

Public attention grew here Monday, 14 January when President Weah addressed members of both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate in joint session for formal opening of the 3rd session of the 54th Legislature without the



presence of the Vice President.

Both leaders have been far apart at official public functions in the past two years of the administration with President Weah being on record of frowning at Mrs. Taylor for making excess travels abroad without his knowledge amid unauthenticated rumors that the former First Lady has ambition to become President of Liberia.

At the close of 2019, Vice

President Taylor publicly complained over decision by the Executive to grossly slice her budget for the fiscal period.

A woman with two master's degrees besides a law degree is well educated and very abreast of the workings of the public sector, having served twice as a senator in the previous administration before her ascendancy as Vice President of the Republic.—*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Behind the Costa extradition drama

By Othello B. Garblah

The drama has ended and the dust settled, as Mr. Henry Pedro Costa, the Chairman of the Council of Patriots or CoP, might by now arrived on U.S. soil, beaming smiles of victory over the Liberian government that sought his extradition Wednesday, 15 January to Liberia from neighboring Sierra Leone where he escaped. The Liberia Immigration Services had wanted Mr. Costa for alleged forgery.

The nearly 72-hours drama has catapulted Costa to a new height globally as a vile critic of the George Weah's regime, while the regime itself wallows in diplomatic flop and shame.

The bad news is that Costa will not be able to return to Liberia- at least as long as Mr. Weah remains in power, given the circumstances under which he was allowed to leave the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown early Thursday morning reportedly on board Royal Air Maroc, a free man.

This is not a reputation any contemporary government would want to carve for itself particularly, so when the head of that regime is a former global superstar from whom the world expects much.

The Sierra Leonean government refused to play into the hands of its Liberian counterpart as in the words of its Information Minister- "We cannot take dictation from any other government."

But how did it all begin?

Days after the brutal end of the much trumpeted December 30th "Weah Steps Down" protest here, which actually took place on January 6th, 2020 thanks to Liberia's foreign partners, including the United States and the European Union intervention to calm the tension that led to the rescheduled date for the protest, Mr. Costa decided to



leave the country for the United States.

Bang! He was arrested at Liberia's international airport by local immigration officers on allegations that he had forged his traveling document.

Ahead of the December 30th protest, Costa entered Liberia via Accra, Ghana with a *laissez passer*, (travel certificate) a temporary travel document issue to a person instead of his passport.

Upon his arrest by Liberian authorities, he was taken to the Liberian Immigration headquarters to answer questions on as to how he obtained the document which is allegedly fake. But Costa has since disputed the claim saying, that local authorities swapped his travel papers in their bid to implicate him.

So there were questions being raised as to when the immigration authorities realize that Costa's traveling documents were faked, especially so when he had used the same papers to enter Liberia.

As the debates were unfolding, Costa was due to report back to the Immigration headquarters where he would have

probably began answering questions into how he obtained his *laissez passer*.

However, on Tuesday January 14, it was reported that Costa had crossed the border into neighboring Sierra Leone. There are reports that he was aided by some higher-ups security personnel who had informed him of government's plan to have him assassinated.

The government has since dismissed such a claim saying, it had no such plan but rather a responsibility to protect all its citizens under the law. But Costa has since insisted that top security officials had given him the tip off. He did not say if they assisted him in his escape. But the public has been referring to a social media post purportedly by the Deputy Minister of Information for Public Affairs, which read, "Costa will soon die."

The extradition call

Soon it was widely reported that the government had called on the Sierra Leonean authority to extradite Costa to Liberia. There was no official or written communication at this point- just a mere telephone call.

Costa was immediately picked up by Sierra Leonean Immigration officers and handed over to police while trying to board a flight from Lungi to Turkey and then to the United States. There began the diplomatic row thereby intensifying the global attention into the Liberian Government and Henry Costa Drama.

Did the Government actually request the arrest of Costa in Freetown?

Yes, the government did place a call to have Costa arrested as a fugitive, running away from his alleged criminal acts in Liberia.

Had Costa been charged before leaving Liberia?

It had not been made clear as to whether he had been charged, as at the time he fled

the country. But what is clear here is that he was due to answer questions relating to how he obtained what the Liberian Government now says was a fake traveling document. In other words, he was still undergoing investigations. But a probable charge of forgery which the government now claims was imminent and the government felt that asking for his extradition to face charges was the best option.

How does extradition works?

An extradition is a process and must have specifics as agreed upon by both countries entering such treaty.

Like in the case of Liberia's request to the Government of Sierra Leone, the Liberian government must first write an official letter requesting the extradition through the Sierra Leonean Attorney General's office - something which was not initially done.

Who can be extradited?

Any individual facing any of the specifics crimes outlined in the extradition treaty between both countries in this case, Liberia and Sierra Leone, but the requesting country should go through a formal legal process.

For example, the 1974 extradition law of Sierra Leone, opined that a "fugitive criminal" means a person who is accused or convicted of having committed an offence to which any section of the Act applies in any part of the Commonwealth or within the jurisdiction of any foreign state or on board any vessel on the high seas, and who is in or is suspected of being in, or on the way to, Sierra Leone, such a person needs to be arraigned before a local court when the request is made and a warrant is issued.

According to Part I session 3 of the Sierra Leonean Extradition Act: "When the fugitive criminal is brought before the Judge, to show cause why he should not be extradited the Judge shall, so far as may be expedient, hear the case in the same manner, and shall have the same jurisdiction and powers as if the prisoner were brought before him for trial.

(4) Depositions or statements on oath taken

outside Sierra Leone, copies of such original depositions or statements, the contents of any official prosecution file or other official documents (whether or not confirmed by oath) and certificates or judicial documents stating the fact of conviction may, wherever made, if duly authenticated in accordance with the provisions of section 12 (or the Court is otherwise satisfied of their authenticity), be received in evidence at the hearing or any other proceedings under, or arising out of, this Act.

(5) The Judge shall receive any evidence which may be tendered to show that in the particular circumstances of the case extradition is not permissible under this Act."

Does Liberia have an extradition treaty with Sierra Leone?

Yes, Liberia does have an extradition treaty with Sierra Leone. However, the treaty has specifics and agreed upon crimes for which one citizen can be extradited from one country to another.

The diplomatic flip-flop

So the diplomatic flip-flop has emerged. Initially, the Government of Liberia through the Immigration Services placed a call, requesting its counterpart to prevent Costa from leaving Sierra Leone.

Then the Sierra Leone Minister of Information came along on the British Broadcasting Corporation that his government does not take dictation from a foreign government.

"...We cannot take dictation from any other government, we're a democracy, we value that. We have struggled far too long for democracy and this government is noted for its very strong democratic credential so we will not do anything on toward. So, as soon as we have gone through the process, we will do what we have to do." Sierra Leone's Minister of Information and Communication, Mr. Mohamed R. Swaray told the BBC.

However, late Wednesday, January 15, reports emerged that the government had made a former request. But the Government of Sierra Leone released Mr. Costa due to no apparent grounds for extradition.



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Veep Taylor opens up

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Whoever had thought that former first lady and current Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Jewel Howard Taylor, would suffer in silence in her present situation, may have to reexamine his or her check again before taking it to the bank, because the woman whose husband became

President for this country for six years straight from fighting a bloody guerrilla war in the bush, does not take things lying down.

Mrs Taylor has put her complaints on the table, outlining the issues one by one, and is prepared to face those responsible for her current dilemma that has taken her to seclusion, as she details in her recent


communication to the Liberian Senate that she supervises as President.

Jewel writes: "Last year, I had the privilege to meet with members of the Liberian Senate to inform them of the difficulties I was undergoing with some members of the Executive Branch; as it related to budgetary support for my office and the need for their intervention."

According to her, it was agreed that they would have intervened and that things would have been better. But Vice President Taylor says she had patiently waited without any word, and the situation has not improved.

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

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CBL Governor Tarlue hosts New York FED here

The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr. says his most pressing challenge is rebranding the CBL to restore its integrity. The CBL Executive Governor notes that it is important that immediate steps are taken to restore public confidence in the operations of the Bank.

In a briefing here Wednesday, January 15, with a delegation of the New York

Federal Reserve (FED) at the Bank's corporate headquarters in Monrovia, Executive Governor Tarlue said the CBL, under his governorship, will exercise transparency in its operations to remove the reputational harm the Bank has suffered.

According to a press release issued by the Bank, Governor Tarlue reiterates the need for the implementation of effective internal controls that would help restore the image of the



CBL and thanks the FED for its support, while stressing the need for more capacity building to help the CBL in its effort to maintain price stability in the Liberian economy.

The Head of International Affairs and Senior Vice President, Mr. Michael Schetzel, of the New York Federal Reserve, lauds Executive Governor Tarlue and praises the CBL for the cordial

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