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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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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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# Trump limits entry to America



U.S. Pres. Trump

## **-amid coronavirus fears**



UL Pres. Nelson

UL VP Kobbah-Boley

# Major leadership restructure at UL



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# Continental News

## Ex-police officer arrested for running fake police station in Kenya

**D**etectives have arrested a former senior police officer who had converted his house into a government store and police post.

It was alleged the suspect even recruited youth who were working for him as police officers and were soliciting huge bribes from unsuspecting members of the public who they caught violating of the law.

On Saturday, February 1, the detectives raided the house the suspect, identified as Kiptoo Isaac Jean Koskei, after a tip off and found him in possession of crucial government items that were enough to enable him run a police station.

"Officers from Chepkanga police post acting on a tip off, proceeded to Chembulet area where they conducted a thorough search in the house of

one Kiptoo Isaac Jean Koskei and recovered government items," police said in a statement.

Some of the items recovered include KDF and GSU uniforms, material for making police uniforms, printing materials and 60 litres of local brew (busaa).

The suspect, who was based at main campus Kiganjo as an instructor, reportedly resigned from the National Police

Service (NPS) in 2008.

Authorities said Kiptoo had arrested and extorted a suspect with busaa. He allegedly threatened the suspect with severe police action.

He was being held at Chepkanga police station as police commenced investigations into the matter and would be arraigned upon end of investigation.

In a related news, DCI detectives on Tuesday, January 28, arrested a 23-year-old man masquerading as a police

officer and had even managed to arrest a student for allegedly selling narcotics.

Daniel Ochieng' visited Kabete National Polytechnic where he introduced himself as an officer from Central Police Division deployed to investigate crimes within the institution.

In October 2019, a Tana River-based police officer David Mito Odhiambo was arrested for allegedly renting a house and storing crucial government items and documents.



## Tanzania crush for sacred oil kills 20 worshippers

**A**t least 20 people have been crushed to death and 16 others injured during an outdoor religious service in Tanzania.

Worshippers were attending a Pentecostal service at a stadium in the northern town of Moshi on Saturday evening when the incident occurred.

Moshi district commissioner Kippi Warioba said attendees rushed forward to be anointed with blessed oil.

Tanzania's President John Magufuli sent his condolences and called for better security at such large events.

The service was held by pastor Boniface Mwamposa,

who refers to himself as "the apostle".

Survivors said Mr Mwamposa told hundreds of people gathered at the service to pass through an area where "blessed oil" had been poured over the floor. The crowd rushed forward to try to step in the oil in the hope of being cured of sickness.

Peter Kilewo, who attended the service, described the scene as "horrible", telling AFP news agency that people were "trampled on mercilessly, jostling each other with elbows".

He added: "It was like the preacher had thrown bundles of dollars about." Police said Mr Mwamposa was being held for questioning.

Mr Warioba said the authorities were looking into whether more casualties were taken to other local clinics, health facilities and hospitals.

"The incident took place at night and there were many people, so there is a possibility that more casualties could emerge. We are assessing the situation," he told Reuters.



Relatives of the victims gathered outside a local hospital

## Somalia declares emergency over locust swarms

**S**omalia has declared a national emergency as large swarms of locusts spread across east Africa.

The country's Ministry of Agriculture said the insects, which consume large amounts of vegetation, posed "a major threat to Somalia's fragile food security situation".

There are fears that the situation may not be brought under control before the harvest begins in April.

situation means that planes cannot be used to spray insecticide from the air.

In January, the FAO called for international help in fighting the swarms in the Horn of Africa, warning that locust numbers across the region could grow 500 times by June. The swarms spread into east Africa from Yemen across the Red Sea, after heavy rainfall in late 2019 created ideal



The UN says the swarms are the largest in Somalia and Ethiopia in 25 years.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Kenya has not seen a locust threat as severe in 70 years, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

However, Somalia is the first country in the region to declare an emergency over the infestation.

Somalia's unstable security

conditions for the insects to flourish.

Locusts can travel up to 150km (93 miles) in a day. Each adult insect can eat its own weight in food daily.

In December, a locust swarm forced a passenger plane off course in Ethiopia. Insects smashed into the engines, windshield and nose, but the aircraft was able to land safely in the capital, Addis Ababa.

# EDITORIAL

## Salary reduction is impoverishing Liberians

THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION is determined to impoverish Liberians, especially civil servants by its current "salary harmonization" policy that appears to have no end in sight. Up to now, there is no specific benchmark or ceiling in the ongoing salary reduction exercise that has left public employees here returning home with shrinking disposable income each month. This has constrained civil servants to put less bread on table for their families.

**DELIVERING HIS ANNUAL** Message recently to the 54th Legislature in joint session at the Capitol, President George Manneh Weah vowed to continue to slash wages to in his words, "perfect the wage system."

**THE PRESIDENT INSISTS** that reducing the public wage bill will make everyone in his government better off in the long run without saying how, given the country's nose-dive economy hit by hyperinflation, three-digit exchange rate and sky-rocketing prices.

**EVEN THE ORDINARY** man in the street knows that in such condition, this is not the prudent time to reduce wages when prices are inversely shooting up.

**BUT THIS IS** the condition Liberians are forcibly being subjected to under the Weah administration. And the government believes such policy is in their best interest.

**TIME WITHOUT NUMBER**, experienced economists and financial experts have warned that no government had rescued itself out of recession by cutting salaries and increasing taxes. However, President Weah and his government want Liberians to listen to such illusion and live in utopia.

**THE GOVERNMENT IS** deceptively telling civil servants that after their earning powers have been reduced significantly; their standard of life will improve because the economy will boom. Not under this present administration where accountability and transparency are taboo.

**WHEN THE EXECUTIVE** paid lawmakers' salaries in fresh 500 Liberian banknotes last December amid serious shortage of cash in commercial banks, leaving senators to demand the source of such money, you don't need a rocket scientist to point that something is amiss.

**TODAY, CIVIL SERVANTS** going to various commercial banks to receive their monthly pay are returning with frowning faces because their purchasing power is being reduced each month, thus, they cannot plan the family budget because of uncertainty.

**HOW LONG WOULD** they bear such harsh condition, only God knows. One thing however, seems clear: Most ordinary Liberians would become poorer at the end of the first tenure of the government than when it came to power in 2018, for grinding poverty is already written on the faces of the people. This is not a prophecy of doom. It is the unfolding reality in the country.

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# COMMENTARY

By Daoud Kuttab

## Trump's Bogus Middle East Peace Plan

*What US President Donald Trump's administration has put forward is not a courageous plan for permanent peace between Israelis and Palestinians, but a shameless ploy to violate international law, Palestinian human rights, and basic principles of fairness. Palestinians will never accept it.*

**A**MMAN - US President Donald Trump has unveiled a sweeping Middle East peace plan that his administration claims will end decades of Israeli-Palestinian conflict by offering concessions to both sides. But even the optics of the announcement - with Trump standing beside Israel's caretaker prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, and no Palestinian anywhere to be seen - revealed just how disingenuous that claim is.

Effective peace negotiations require a perfectly calibrated interchange between process and content. In the case of Trump's peace plan, the process was clearly a sham. It is not just that no Palestinian leader attended the announcement; none has been invited to the White House since Trump - the leader of the most pro-Israeli US administration in history - moved the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, in May 2018.

By contrast, Netanyahu has made five trips to the United States since Trump took office, including to seize this latest opportunity to gloat. Underscoring his contempt for the group with whom he supposedly wants to make peace, Netanyahu refused so much as to utter the word "Palestinians" during the initial Oval Office meeting.

But Netanyahu does not need to be nearby for the Trump administration to work in his interests and those of his right-wing backers. Within the US, the supposed "peace process" has been directed by Christian Zionists, such as Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Jewish Zionists - most notably Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and, until last September, former Trump Organization lawyer Jason Greenblatt. All of these figures - as well as the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman - publicly support Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank and violations of Palestinian human rights, such as the right to self-determination.

So biased was the process that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejected the deal sight unseen. His instincts were right: the plan's content shamelessly advances Israeli interests and goals at the expense of the Palestinians.

The Trump administration's plan would establish a disjointed Palestinian para-state surrounded largely by Israel, which would be permitted to annex all of the settlements it has built since the June 1967 war, as well as the Jordan Valley - a step for which it is already laying the groundwork. Jerusalem would remain Israel's undivided capital, with the Palestinian capital located in the suburbs east of the city.

Far from the "deal of the century" that Trump has repeatedly promised, this is - in

Abbas's words - the "slap of the century." It ignores decades of negotiations, as well as concerted efforts by Arab neighbors such as Jordan and Egypt, to encourage moderation.

But the Palestinians are not the only losers from Trump's kowtowing to Israel. It is hard to see how this approach benefits the US. Already, the Trump administration has handed one political gift after another to Israel, including moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, ordering the closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington, and declaring that Israel's settlements in the West Bank do not violate international law. It has also defunded the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (dedicated to supporting and advocating for Palestinians displaced by Israel's creation in 1948), and suspended support for hospitals in East Jerusalem that provide critical care to Palestinians.

And what has the US gotten in return for all of this? Absolutely nothing. As the New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman suggested, Trump seems to be little more than Netanyahu's "chump."

The unveiling of the new peace deal was surely intended to consolidate Trump's right-wing Christian Zionist base, giving him a political boost as his impeachment trial unfolds in the Senate. And it will do the same for Netanyahu, who has endured two deadlocked elections and three failed attempts at forming a government in recent months - and was formally indicted on corruption charges just hours before the White House event.

Make no mistake: what the Trump administration has put forward is not a courageous plan for permanent peace but a shameless ploy to violate international law, Palestinian human rights, and basic principles of fairness. Yes, this may deliver a short-term political boost to Trump and Netanyahu. But Palestinians will never accept it.

The plan's supporters will try to portray Palestinians' rejection of Trump's plan as tantamount to a rejection of peace. We must not let them. Palestinians, along with Arab countries, remain committed to a two-state solution along the 1967 borders and a just resolution to the Palestinian refugee problem. That is a viable basis for a just, honestly negotiated, and mutually acceptable peace settlement. Trump's plan is a sham.

Correction, January 30, 2019: A previous version of this commentary stated that no Palestinian leader has been invited to the White House since Trump took office. None has been invited since the US embassy was relocated to Jerusalem in May 2018.

## O-PED

By Kaushik Basu

## The Approaching Debt Wave

*The World Bank has warned that a massive debt wave is building worldwide. There is no telling who will be hit the hardest, but if vulnerable countries, from the United Kingdom to India, do not act soon, they may face severe economic damage.*

**N**EW YORK - Over the last decade, the world economy has experienced a steady build-up of debt, now amounting to 230% of global GDP. The last three waves of debt caused massive downturns in economies across the world.

The first of these happened in the early 1980s. After a decade of low borrowing costs, which enabled governments to expand their balance sheets considerably, interest rates began to rise, making debt-service increasingly unsustainable. Mexico fell first, informing the United States government and the International Monetary Fund in 1982 that it could no longer repay. This had a domino effect, with 16 Latin American countries and 11 least-developed countries outside the region ultimately rescheduling their debts.

In the 1990s, interest rates were again low, and global debt surged once more. The crash came in 1997, when fast-growing but financially vulnerable East Asian economies - including Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, and Thailand - experienced sharp growth slowdowns and plummeting exchange rates. The effects reverberated worldwide.

But it is not only emerging economies that are vulnerable to such crashes, as America's 2008 subprime mortgage crisis proved. By the time people figured out what "subprime" meant, the US investment bank Lehman Brothers had collapsed, triggering the most severe crisis and recession since the Great Depression.

The World Bank has just warned us that a fourth debt wave could dwarf the first three. Emerging economies, which have amassed a record debt-to-GDP ratio of 170%, are particularly vulnerable. As in the previous cases, the debt wave has been facilitated by low interest rates. There is reason for alarm once interest rates begin to rise and premia inevitably spike.

The mechanics of such crises are not well understood. But a 1998 paper by Stephen Morris and Hyun Song Shin on the mysterious origins of currency crises, and how they are transmitted to other economies, shows that a financial tsunami can make landfall far from its source.

How the source of financial trouble can vanish, leaving others stranded, was illustrated in the delightful short story "Rnam Krttva" by the celebrated twentieth-century Indian writer Shibram Chakraborty. In the story - which I translated into English and included in my book *An Economist's Miscellany* - the desperate Shibram asks an old school friend, Harsha, to lend him 500 rupees (\$7) on a Wednesday, to be repaid the following Saturday. But Shibram squanders the money, so on Saturday, he has little choice but to ask another school friend, Gobar, for a loan of 500 rupees, to be repaid the next Wednesday. He uses the money to repay Harsha. But when Wednesday rolls around, he has no way of repaying Gobar. So, reminding Harsha of his excellent repayment record, he borrows from him again.

This becomes a routine, with Shibram repeatedly borrowing from one friend to repay the other. Then Shibram runs into both Harsha and Gobar one day at a crosswalk. After a moment of anxiety, he has an idea: every Wednesday, he suggests, Harsha should give Gobar 500 rupees, and every Saturday, Gobar should give the same amount to Harsha. Shibram assures his former school friends that this will save him a lot of time and change nothing for them, and he vanishes into Kolkata's milling crowds.

So who are the likely Harshas and Gobars in today's debt wave? According to the World Bank, they could be any country with domestic vulnerabilities, a stretched fiscal balance sheet, and a heavily indebted population. <sup>1</sup>

There are several countries that fit this description and run the risk of being the conduit that carries the fourth debt wave to the world economy. Among advanced economies, the United Kingdom is an obvious candidate. In 2019, the UK narrowly avoided a recession, with a growth rate a shade above zero - the weakest growth in a non-recession period since 1945. The country is also about to undertake Brexit. Conservatives in Britain have promised that a "tidal wave" of business investment will follow. This is unlikely: if there is a tidal wave, it will probably be one of debt instead.

Among emerging economies, India is especially vulnerable. In the 1980s, India's economy was fairly sheltered, so the debt wave back then had little impact. At the time of the East Asian crisis in 1997, India had just begun to open up, and it experienced some slowdown in growth. By the time of the debt wave in 2008, the country had become globally integrated and was severely affected. But its economy was strong and growing at nearly 10% annually, and it recovered within a year.

Today, India's economy is facing one of its deepest crises in the last 30 years, with growth slowing sharply, unemployment at a 45-year high, close to zero export growth over the last six years, and per capita consumption in the agricultural sector decreasing over the last five years. Add to this a deeply polarized political environment and it is little wonder that investor confidence is rapidly declining.

It is not too late for countries to build seawalls to protect against debt tsunamis. While India's political problems will take time to solve, the Union budget - to be presented on February 1 - is an opportunity for preemptive action. The fiscal deficit needs to be controlled in the medium term, but the government would be wise to adopt expansionary fiscal policy now, with money channeled into shoring up infrastructure and investment. Managed properly, this can boost demand without increasing inflationary pressures, and strengthen the economy in order to withstand a debt wave.

The country's leaders must seize this opportunity. The alternative is to adopt the brace position.

## OPINION

By Harold James

## The United Kingdom's Paradise Lost

*In imagining a post-Brexit future, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is acting as if it is entering a world of new, attractive alternatives from which to choose. But today's Conservatives seem to have forgotten what their forebear, Margaret Thatcher, always understood: there will be tradeoffs.*

**P**RINCETON - Goodbye, Britain. Brexit is done. It's over. Some Britons are waving Union Jacks, and public buildings are illuminated in red, white, and blue. Having dramatically opened up a new space for political maneuver, the country is now celebrating its achievement.

This uplifting mood comes as a surprise. Following the June 2016 referendum, which "Leave" won by a relatively narrow margin (52% to 48%, with a 72% turnout), Brexit became a deeply polarizing issue. The bid to leave the European Union faced many legal challenges, and left Parliament bitterly divided and incapable of approving an exit deal. The public descended into acrimony. To observers around the world, it looked like the United Kingdom was disintegrating.

But then came the strong showing by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the Conservatives in the December 2019 general election, which many interpreted as a "landslide" - an epic shift in the country's political orientation. Although the Tories actually won only 44% of the vote (with turnout at 67%), we are told that the country has undergone a profound psychological transformation. The sudden emergence of a new consensus, we are told, resolved the issue.

Insofar as there has been a shift in public opinion, it may simply reflect frustration after more than three years of debating Brexit. Appealing to this sense of exhaustion, the Tories campaigned on a straightforward platform: "Get Brexit done." The simplicity of that slogan belies the mind-numbing complexity of the questions that remain unanswered. Will the future trading relationship with the EU include services? Will a doctrine of "equivalence" preserve UK-based financial institutions' access to the continent? And how will the Irish border be managed?

But, of course, the shift in public mood also may reflect a genuine desire to shake off the constraints associated with EU membership. After years of Remainers arguing that leaving the EU would create incalculable economic risks, Johnson held out the promise of finally overcoming "Project Fear."

Since the 1970s, the British debate about Europe has pitted those focused on the economic benefits of integration against those worried about political sovereignty and encroachments by remote supranational authorities. This served to frame the issue as one of economic necessity versus political choice.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, however, managed to stand on both sides of the divide. She had campaigned vigorously for UK membership in the European Economic Community, and her government played a decisive role in pushing through the 1986 Single European Act, which took Europe in a free-market direction. Until German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrived on the scene, Thatcher was the best-known proponent of the view that "there is no alternative" (TINA) to economic integration.

And yet, Thatcher also argued consistently about the need for choice, and increasingly depicted Europe as a "superstate" that threatened to restrict national sovereignty, as exercised through regular parliamentary processes. In a 1988 speech at the College of Europe in Bruges, she rejected "collectivism and corporatism at the European level," even while maintaining the view that Britain's "destiny is in Europe, as part of the Community."

After the 2008 global financial crisis, and especially after the European debt crisis, the problems with TINA came to the fore. Large-scale public expenditures financed by fiscal and current-account deficits had become an obvious source of vulnerability. External funding dried up, and governments pursued austerity, which they presented as necessary to restore business confidence.

Politically, this message failed. Severe cuts to welfare benefits produced many victims and revived the old complaint about a lack of choice. After 2012, a new narrative began to take hold, facilitated in large part by monetary easing, which was making it easier and cheaper to borrow. Under these circumstances, large-scale public expenditures could actually be stabilizing, because governments that issued their own currency would never default. But in the case of the EU, there was no European-level governance mechanism capable of reaping the benefits of cheap money.

Against this backdrop, the Johnson government has recast the economic argument about the absence of choice. Exploiting the destructive and demoralizing effects of "austerity," it has promised massive public investments to galvanize and transform the declining northern industrial areas that voted for Brexit and fueled the Conservatives' victory in December. This increased spending will supposedly lead to social harmony, because it will restore a sense of free choice. Or, as Johnson famously said of Brexit, "We'll have our cake and eat it."

In reimagining itself, the UK is now acting as if it has entered a world of new, attractive alternatives. The freedom to choose means that Britain is indeed free. At some point, though, it will become clear that, as with all choices, there are tradeoffs. To choose one option is to eschew many others, and any choice can have far-reaching implications for the range of future choices.

Brexit may have lifted the national mood for now. But sooner or later, hard economic realities will reassert themselves. John Milton's description of Adam and Eve after their expulsion from the Garden of Eden has seldom seemed more apropos:

"The World was all before them, where to choose

Thir place of rest, and Providence thir guide:

They hand in hand with wandring steps and slow,

Through Eden took thir solitarie way."

## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# A new Book Prescribes Solutions to Africa's Problems

By Kester Kenn Klomegah

A new book titled "Making Africa World's Largest Economy" that inspires Africa to think of implementing generational reforms to becoming world's largest economy is expected to hit African bookstores from January 2020.

Derek Murusuri, author of the much awaited book scheduled for a grand launch in Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanzania located in East Africa, said his 21-year researched book, would definitely be a game changer for Africa's future.

"This book is for Africa. It brings back to

national and international agencies have identified key pitfalls in overall Africa's development, leaving millions of population in abject poverty, economy under-developed and worsening economy.

The African Economic Outlook from the African Development Bank (AfDB) shows that the continent's general economic performance continues to improve. Africa's GDP growth was projected to accelerate to 4.0 percent in 2019 and to increase only slightly to 4.1 percent in 2020.

But, even that growth is not fast enough to

Bank's (WB) sub-Saharan Africa economic outlook for 2019, for example, pointed to the political uncertainty and a concurrent weakening of economic reforms could continue to weigh on the economic outlook in many countries.

Derek Murusuri, who lived and worked previously in the UK, said his book assures Africans to know and believe that they were never created to be followers, neither were they predestined underdogs.

Murusuri said he shares the ideas on solutions to end Africa's centuries of economic bondage and



African minds, the forgotten concept of political and economic liberation. It breathes a fresh air in the struggle for Africa's economic liberation in the World's richest continent yet poor, a paradox indeed" the author explained.

"The young men and women of Africa must now rise to the new helm, as the roads rise to meet them, to rejuvenate the possibilities embalmed in their dreams which will raise new values, norms and beliefs to lead the continent to economic triumphs," he added.

As a well-known fact, Africa's economic development has sparked debates. The AfDB, the WB and the IMF as well as many other

address persistent fiscal and current account deficits and unsustainable debt. Indeed, countries have to move to a higher growth path and increase the efficiency of growth in generating decent jobs.

In addition, Africa's working-age population is projected to increase from 705 million in 2018 to almost 1 billion by 2030. Economic unification was to be the solution to Africa's development dilemma. It also requires political stability in many African countries. But, most leaders in Africa were reluctant to encourage observing limits to their political administration.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) World

hopelessness, sufferings of millions of impoverished population. The post-independence African leaders who came to power in recent years, exhibit the zeal to transform and change the continent, making it increasingly competitive. But these efforts have remained invisible and with little impact in large parts of the continent.

What the book says and whether the continent will truly gamble to skip the hurdles and navigate through becoming the world's leading economy, is a matter for political scientists, academicians, politicians and other analysts who will scan the book, review and implement the author's ideas. The book "Making Africa World's Largest Economy" is available from January 2020.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# MoE announces new measures for senior high schools

The Ministry of Education announced over the weekend that senior high school students must now pass three subjects of the West African Secondary Schools Certificate Examinations (WASSCE) administered exams before being allowed to take part in graduation ceremonies.

The ministry said the new measure is intended to

strengthen and standardize the country's messy educational system.

The ministry also caution senior high school authorities or administrators not to deny WAASSCE candidates from sitting the exam due to tuition arrears or project fees in the school.

"The Government of Liberia will continue to pay all WASSCE fees for all 12th Graders in both public and private schools,

therefore no school administrator should collect WASSCE fee from any student nation-wide, the statement adds.

It further discourages the collection of graduation fees before the release of the WASSCE results saying "No high school, both public and private should have any form of graduation (Thanksgiving, Honoring Program, etc.), before the release of the WASSCE results."

The statement further notes that all public senior high school 12th Graders are urged to attend the Tutorial Classes organized by the Ministry of Education and funded by the Government of Liberia for better performance in the upcoming WASSCE, while encouraging privately run schools students to conduct Tutorial Classes for their 12th Graders.

It also warned against the collection of flexibility fees and camping for the upcoming WASSCE 2019/2020.

Therefore as part of the preparation, the ministry said it will administer Mock Exam for all 12th graders both public and private schools nationwide on April 18, 2020.



# Sen. Saah Joseph breaks ground for school

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Saah H. Joseph has broken grounds for a school project which is expected to run programs for students at kindergarten level to college level.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the project estimated at US\$1million dollars was held in New Georgia, District #13 over the weekend.

According to Mr. Joseph, the school will be free, noting that his parents suffered to have him acquire education so he doesn't want the younger generation to face the same struggle.

He explains that the school will be built to help the less fortunate in the county and the country at large.

"After the zogoes have gone through the rehabilitation center, they can come to this technical school to have some skills," Sen. Joseph notes.

Sen. Joseph continues that Cemenco, Sethi Brothers, and the Steel factory will all contribute towards this project as their social corporate contribution to the county.

The Commissioner for the Wash Commission, Bobby Whitfield thanks the Montserrado County Senator for his work for the people and also says that he will make sure that the mini college will be equipped with wash materials and will follow the Wash standards.

He says three 40ft containers are on the way as their contribution towards this initiative to give free education to the less fortunate.

Meanwhile, the commissioner has declared mandatory hands washing across the country to prevent the Coronavirus.

Lewis Wleh, the District Commissioner says Sen. Joseph has been given another spot on



# Paying loans is Africa's challenge

-Says SEGAL boss

The Chief Executive Officer and founder of the Security Expert Guards Agency of Liberia or SEGAL, Momo T. Cyrus says, the unwillingness or inability of African entrepreneurs to pay back loans acquired is a serious challenge among business people on the continent.

He says Africans should graduate from such behavior and practice a culture of sincerity.

Mr. Cyrus appeals to Africans, particularly Liberians to practice the spirit of sincerity in all that they do, including repayment of loans, lamenting that Africa is rich in natural resources but the continent is underdeveloped due to several factors, among them; insincerity and lack of comprehensive empowerment.

Speaking in Monrovia recently following his return from London, the United Kingdom, where his security firm was awarded for excellent services, the SEGAL CEO notes that Africa has huge potential to develop

once it puts in place necessary practical work to move forward.

He observes that over the years, Africans have received huge contracts from Westerners to do business and for developmental activities but they failed to reap expected dividends due to insecurity and lack of technical know-how.

"We need to re-look at various contracts to ensure [they] benefit directly the

people", he adds.

Mr. Cyrus served as one of the panelists in London, United Kingdom where he participated in the African Leadership Hall of Fame -Class of 2020 and was awarded.

He dedicates the award to his staff for rendering professional security services to the general public.

He says the award speaks volume about what Liberians

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Mr. Momo T. Cyrus

As an initial contribution to the project, he says he commits his one year (2020) salary and gas to the project, telling the gathering a bank has already agreed to give him his one year salary in advance.

Sen. Joseph explains that his one year salary and gas amount to US\$90,000, and he has added US\$10,000 to make US\$100,000 as his initial contribution to the project.

He notes that he has 200 pieces of computer already in his possession, noting that every class must do computer in the school.

The Montserrado Senator adds that the school will take 8,000 students of which 1,000 will be nursing students, 3,500 for the morning session and 3,500 for afternoon session.

He expresses thanks to the Wash Commission for its three containers load of school materials intended to help promote education in the county.

the Battery Factory field in order to build another institution for the children.

He therefore thanks the Montserrado County Senator for the great work, saying that there should always be peace in the county and the district.

The CDC District#13 Coordinator Antoinette Mulbah thanks the Senator for the high school and mini college for the people of district #13 and the county at large.

She praises Sen. Joseph for always being there for them from the time he was representative until he became senator.

The Project Engineer Oliver David says the project is undertaken by the Overseer Development National Group of Companies.

The Engineer says in three months, the mini college will be 95% completed.—Edited by Winston W. Parley

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**NUCFD ends regional dialogue on forest sector law in Maryland County**

By. GareysonNeufville

**P**leebo, Maryland County Jan.30: The National Union of Community Forestry Development Committee (NUCFDC) last week held a one day dialogue with members aimed at boosting the committee's awareness on their role and responsibilities of the Community Forestry

head of the NUCFDC Secretariat and National facilitator told reporters that the dialogue was intended to provide more awareness on the role and responsibilities of the CFDCS, local authorities, youth and women groups on the social agreement negotiation.

Client Earth, Heritage Partners and Associates (HPA) along with other civil society

from most of the capacity building program conducted by Client Earth, particularly in providing the social agreement guide for CFDCS and CFMBS.

The dialogue also highlighted some major upcoming activities in 2020 including election, CFDCS renegotiation of social agreement within the participating counties and the



Development Society (CFDCS).

The dialogue brought together community forestry management bodies, district commissioners and statutory district superintendents of forest affected communities in River Gee, Grand Kruand Maryland Counties.

Mr.Andrew Y.Y.Zelemen

organizations have been providing training for committee forestry management on community forestry reforms law to improve and promote sustainable forestry management across Liberia.

Mr. Zelemen explained that the NUCFDC and other organizations have benefited

submission of comprehensive financial reports covering the three countries-River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland.

According to Mr.Zelemen, since 2015, over 60 community development projects have been implemented by CFDCS across Liberia while 30% of the annual land rental refused in forest community.

**Topor Foundation to produce textbook**

By Gareyson Neufville

**T**opor Foundation, a nongovernmental organization in Pleebo, Maryland County, southeast Liberia, discloses plan to produce textbooks for Early Child Development to be taught in schools across Liberia.

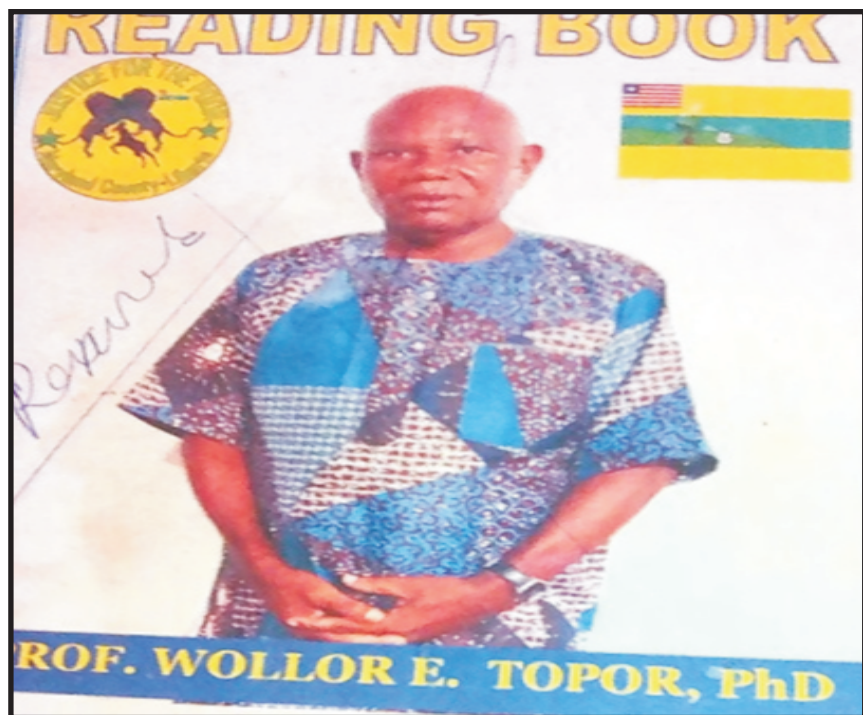
Chief Executive Officer and Dean of Agriculture and Food Sciences at the Williams V. S. Tubman University in Harper, Maryland County, Dr. Wollo E. Topor, says when the books are produced, they will be used in both public and private schools.

He says this would help the government to building a strong early childhood education system in the country.

Dr. Topor highlights some achievements of the Foundation in the county,

including construction and rehabilitation of schools, clinics, hand pumps, bridges, guest houses and donation of medical supplies to health facilities, among others.

He stresses a need for local officials and stakeholders to collaborate with the Foundation to meeting the developmental goal of Maryland County.



**Trump limits entry**

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asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the regulations issued pursuant to the legislation implementing the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, consistent with the laws and regulations of the United States.

The United States says it has confirmed cases of individuals who have a severe acute respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people and others circulate among animals, including camels, cats, and bats. Animal coronaviruses are capable of evolving to infect people and subsequently spreading through human-to-human transmission, the U.S. Embassy here details, noting that this occurred with both Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and SARS.

It says neighboring jurisdictions have taken swift action to protect their citizens by closing off travel between their territories and China, while on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

"Outbreaks of novel viral infections among people are always of public health concern, and older adults and people with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk. Public health experts are

still learning about the severity of 2019-nCoV. An understanding of the key attributes of this novel virus, including its transmission dynamics, incubation period, and severity, is critical to assessing the risk it poses to the American public. Nonetheless, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat."

The CDC is reported to be closely monitoring the situation in the United States, conducting enhanced entry screening at five (50 United States airports where the majority of travelers from Wuhan arrive.

It is also enhancing illness response capacity at the 20 ports of entry where CDC medical screening stations are located, as well as supporting States in conducting contact investigations of confirmed 2019-nCoV cases identified within the United States.

"The CDC has confirmed that the virus has spread between two people in the United States, representing the first instance of person-to-person transmission of the virus within the United States. The CDC, along with state and local health departments, has limited resources and the public health system could be overwhelmed if sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus occurred in the United States. Sustained human-to-human transmission has the potential to have cascading public health, economic, national security, and societal consequences", warns the U.S. government.

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**Paying loans**

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can do once there is determination, focus, professionalism as well as trust and love for Country, among others.

He continues that the recognition of "SEGAL" is just an ice breaker, vowing to do more in projecting Liberia's image abroad.

He calls for training of legal and procurement officers in Africa to ensure they step up their game and become professionals rather than waiting on experts from abroad to do what they can do for themselves, once given the opportunity.

Mr. Cyrus was the only Liberian to be inducted into the African Leadership Hall of Fame -Class of 2020.

Other African countries that received awards include Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe, among others.

In brief remarks, the Administrative Manager of SEGAL, Marcus Kumeh lauds the effort of his boss for bringing pride to the institution and Liberia in general.

He pledges the workforce commitment to delivering professional services to improving the security sector.

# Français

## L'opposition déconstruit le message annuel du Président Weah

Le message annuel du Président George Manneh Weaha fait l'objet d'un décortiquage minutieux de la part de la plateforme des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition qui s'est inscrit en faux concernant plusieurs points dans le discours.

Le Message annuel est une obligation constitutionnelle du Président en vue de faire un rapport complet sur l'état de la République pour l'année terminée et de présenter ses programmes pour la nouvelle année, ce qui se fait le quatrième lundi ouvrable de janvier de chaque année.

Dans son discours, le président Weah a affirmé que l'année 2019 a été marquée par l'incertitude économique mondiale, la reprise de la dynamique économique mondiale étant restée lente, en grande partie en raison des

pays de la région auraient connu des situations économiques similaires, sinon identiques.

La plateforme de l'opposition a fait valoir qu'au contraire les pays de la région connaissent une croissance économique et prévoient une croissance élevée pour 2020 contrairement au président Weah, qui prévoit une croissance de 1,4% pour 2022, soit environ trois ans à partir de maintenant ou cinq ans de leadership, tandis que la Sierra Leone voisine projette 4,20%, la Guinée 6,10% et la Côte d'Ivoire 6,5%, respectivement, pour la même période.

« Ce que cela signifie, c'est que notre pays continuera de prendre du retard sur nos voisins pendant que notre peuple continue de souffrir », a martelé l'opposition dans son communiqué.

Elle a en outre démontré que le commerce et la

en commençant par le programme d'harmonisation des salaires en cours qui consiste à réduire de moitié les salaires des fonctionnaires, y compris les médecins et les infirmières, les enseignants et les agents de la sécurité, sur fond d'une inflation galopante et de la montée des prix des produits de première nécessité.

Ils accusent le gouvernement d'aggraver la souffrance des fonctionnaires qui travaillent dur en réduisant leurs salaires. Réduire les salaires des fonctionnaires de 30 à 50% alors que les prix des produits de base augmentent de 30% n'est pas une harmonisation, surtout que les fonctionnaires n'arrivent même pas à toucher ce maigre salaire à temps, estime l'opposition.

« Il s'agit d'une attaque malveillante et malsaine contre le niveau de vie de notre peuple. Au lieu d'harmoniser les salaires des travailleurs, il est temps que le

## George Weah cherche à renflouer les caisses du Liberia grâce aux hydrocarbures

Le président libérien George Weah annonce un appel d'offres pour de l'exploration pétrolière et gazière. Devant être officiellement lancé en avril, il vise la reprise des opérations de forage au large des côtes du Liberia, après une longue période d'inertie. L'appel d'offres concernera neuf des 33 blocs libériens et permettra « à des compagnies pétrolières et gazières internationales à la compétence reconnue de faire acte de candidature, en espérant une relance des programmes d'exploration après des années d'inaction », a détaillé George Weah lors de son traditionnel discours

potentielles, indiquent des experts.

Défense de son action Dans une vue d'ensemble datée de 2019, l'International Trade Administration soutenant les entreprises américaines à l'international écrivait que l'exploration à la recherche d'hydrocarbures avait commencé dans les eaux territoriales libériennes à la fin des années 1960 et avait cessé pour une série de raisons.

George Weah, confronté à la déception d'une partie de ceux qui ont porté à la présidence l'ancienne star du football, s'est aussi livré à une défense de son action,



tensions commerciales et géopolitiques, y compris des effets spécifiques aux pays, a-t-il dit, des contraintes qui ont nui à la performance de l'économie nationale.

« L'environnement macroéconomique intérieur a été difficile en 2019. Il s'est caractérisé par une faible croissance économique de moins de 1%, une inflation annuelle de plus de 20% et une dépréciation du dollar libérien de plus de 20% », a indiqué le Président Weah.

Mais dans une réaction commune à l'adresse, le Parti de l'unité, le Parti de la liberté, le Congrès alternatif et le Parti de tous les libériens, réunis au sein d'une plateforme de l'opposition, ont rejeté l'attribution des problèmes économiques du pays au commerce et aux facteurs géopolitiques, indiquant que si tel était vraiment le cas, les pays voisins du Libéria et d'autres

géopolitiques ne sont pas responsables des problèmes économiques du Libéria. Elle a plutôt pointé du doigt la corruption massive et le vol pur et simple des responsables gouvernementaux, la mauvaise gestion des ressources publiques, l'incompétence pour mettre en œuvre la croissance économique et la mauvaise politique de création d'emplois couplées avec des dépenses imprudentes. Voilà, selon l'opposition, les causes profondes des problèmes économiques auxquels fait face le pays.

« A titre d'exemple, le président vole dans le monde entier en jet privé alors que le pays ne peut pas se permettre un tel luxe. »

Les partis politiques de l'opposition ont examiné les politiques économiques du président un par un, décortiquant les problèmes,

président harmonise ses nombreux voyages en jet privé, cesse de se construire davantage de duplexes et lutte pour la réduction de la corruption qui occupe désormais le devant de la scène dans son gouvernement.

Le président George Weah n'a pas fait preuve d'honnêteté dans son adresse annuelle à la nation devant une séance conjointe des deux chambres du parlement libérien, a fait observer mardi la plateforme de l'opposition libérienne.

« Il n'a pas du tout été honnête pour avoir déclaré qu'il a tenu sa promesse de la baisse de son salaire de 25% et qu'il a été le premier à harmoniser son salaire. Malheureusement, le président a encore menti pour avoir déclaré que des citoyens ont librement exercé leurs droits sous cette administration et qu'il n'y a eu

annuel devant le Parlement sur l'État de la nation lundi 27 janvier.

Le chef de l'État, à son poste depuis deux ans, a rappelé qu'à sa prise de fonctions il avait promis de favoriser la recherche de pétrole et de gaz, potentielles sources de revenus dans un pays affligé par la pauvreté. Des amendements apportés en 2019 à la loi sur le pétrole permettent à présent de lancer des appels d'offres internationaux, a-t-il dit.

Le bassin dans lequel se trouvent les neuf blocs fait partie des dernières régions au large de l'Afrique de l'Ouest inexplorées pour leurs réserves

plaidant à la fois pour la patience et la confiance des Libériens.

« Beaucoup des problèmes dont mon gouvernement a hérité viennent de l'extérieur » et certains « existent depuis des décennies », a-t-il dit. « Le changement que j'ai promis se fait sentir », a-t-il assuré sans nier l'ampleur des difficultés tout en disant ressentir et comprendre « l'impatience » de ses compatriotes. « Je vous demande d'être indulgents avec moi et, comme nous disons, nous autres Libériens : 'Donnez-moi une petite chance de réparer, ouais' ».

ni arrestation ni coup de feu en réponse aux protestations », a déclaré M. Alexander B. Cummings qui a lu la déclaration des partis de l'opposition mardi.

M. Cummings accuse le gouvernement Weah d'aggraver plutôt les souffrances des Libériens qui travaillent dur. L'opposition a indiqué que la décision du régime de Weah de réduire les salaires des fonctionnaires de 30 à 50%, alors que les prix des produits de première nécessité

- riz, huile, poulet, transports, - ont augmenté de 30% est inacceptable.

« Chers Libériens, il est intéressant de noter qu'après avoir examiné le budget du président, en particulier la composante salariale du budget du président pour 2018-2019 et 2019-2020, il n'y a eu absolument aucune réduction du salaire du président Weah. En fait, notre recherche a révélé que la portion rémunération du budget de ce



# Français

## L'opposition déconstruit

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président actuel, qui était de 381414 USD en 2018-2019, a été portée à 494949 USD en 2019-2020. Pourtant, le Président, dans son message, vous a remercié de votre patience et de votre compréhension durant cette harmonisation qu'il promet de poursuivre, tandis que son budget et sa richesse se multiplient », a ajouté l'opposition.

La plateforme de l'opposition a également dénoncé une érosion de la liberté civile sous l'administration Weah, affirmant que "les opposants et les critiques du président et du gouvernement sont régulièrement intimidés et menacés".

« Malheureusement, le président a de nouveau menti pour avoir déclaré que les citoyens jouissaient de leurs droits sous cette administration et qu'il n'y a eu ni arrestation ni coup de feu en réponse aux protestations. Au contraire, une action civile pacifique, qui est le fondement de la démocratie, a été empêchée comme nous l'avons vu avec la dispersion injustifiable de citoyens pacifiques protestant contre les difficultés économiques actuelles et la corruption gouvernementale, comme l'a noté la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme », a ajouté l'opposition.

« En ce qui concerne la corruption et le manque de reddition des comptes du point de vue gouvernance politique, ils restent les principales caractéristiques de ce gouvernement. Cela est même confirmé par le rapport de l'indice de perception de la corruption 2019 publié la semaine dernière, classant le Libéria comme l'un des pires déclinés dans la lutte contre la corruption dans le monde. La preuve en est la gestion des 25 millions de dollars US pour l'opération de réduction de l'excès de liquidité et la saga de 16 milliards de dollars LD. Un an après ces scandales, le gouvernement n'a pas encore jugé tous les coupables, comme l'indiquent divers rapports. Le président n'a montré aucune intention de ralentir la construction de ses palais et ses duplex, surtout après avoir refusé de publier la déclaration de ses avoirs. Nous n'avons d'autre choix que de considérer que la source de la nouvelle richesse retrouvée du président est douteuse.

POLITIQUE FISCALE ET MONÉTAIRE

Pour la plateforme de l'opposition, la gestion des ressources publiques par cette administration est catastrophique. Elle dénonce une irresponsabilité fiscale rendue évidente par les arriérés de salaires que le gouvernement doit aux travailleurs et par l'augmentation injustifiée de la masse salariale publique à environ 320 millions de dollars contre 297 millions de dollars afin de donner de l'emploi à tout prix à des militants politiques qui n'ont aucune qualification ni compétence.

« Cette irresponsabilité fiscale a attiré la colère des partenaires au développement comme le FMI qui ont insisté sur la réduction de la masse salariale au niveau de 2018. Le gouvernement était tenu de remplir cette condition préalable avant d'obtenir un soutien budgétaire, comme l'a mentionné le président dans son discours annuel », a dit l'opposition.

Elle a néanmoins félicité le président pour avoir exprimé sa volonté de travailler avec les partenaires internationaux pour renforcer le cadre de politique monétaire du pays et pour les mesures visant à rendre la Banque centrale plus autonome.

L'opposition s'est en outre dite alarmée par le rapport du président concernant l'augmentation de la dette du pays qui est passée de 987,8 millions fin 2018 à 1,27 milliard fin 2019, soit une augmentation de 282 millions en un an seulement.

Mais, le président Weah a déclaré que la dette publique a augmenté en grande partie parce que le pays a dû financer de grands projets d'infrastructure au cours des dernières années. Selon le Chef de l'Etat, la dette publique du Libéria s'élève maintenant à 1,27 milliard de dollars américains fin 2019.

### EMPLOI

Le président Weah s'est vanté dans son discours d'avoir employé environ 15 000 personnes en un peu plus de deux (2) ans, mais pour l'opposition, « l'Etat n'est pas le lieu idéal pour créer des emplois et réduire le chômage des partisans politiques et des amis ». Elle appelle l'administration à créer plutôt un environnement propice au développement du secteur privé et à la création d'emplois, accusant le régime de n'avoir pas permis au secteur privé de s'émanciper et de s'affirmer au cours des deux dernières années.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Daoud Kuttab

### Trump présente un simulacre de plan de paix au Moyen-Orient

AMMAN - Le président américain Donald Trump a récemment présenté un plan de paix à l'échelle du Moyen-Orient, qui d'après son administration permettra de mettre un terme à plusieurs décennies de conflit israélo-palestinien, en proposant des concessions de la part des deux camps. Seulement voilà, le simple cadre visuel de cette annonce - Trump se tenant aux côtés du Premier ministre par intérim Benjamin Netanyahu, sans présence d'aucun représentant palestinien - en dit long sur la sincérité de cette démarche.

Des négociations de paix efficaces exigent un échange parfaitement calibré en termes de processus et de contenu. Sur ce point, le plan de paix de Trump est une farce absolue. Car non seulement aucun dirigeant palestinien n'était présent lors de l'annonce, mais aucun n'a tout simplement été invité à la Maison-Blanche depuis que Trump - chef de l'administration américaine la plus pro-israélienne de l'histoire - a délocalisé à Jérusalem l'ambassade américaine en Israël, au mois de mai 2018.

Par opposition, Netanyahu a effectué cinq déplacements aux États-Unis depuis l'arrivée de Trump au pouvoir, notamment pour saisir cette récente opportunité de jubiler. Illustration de son mépris pour la population avec laquelle il prétend vouloir établir la paix, Netanyahu est allé jusqu'à même refuser de prononcer le mot « Palestiniens » lors de sa rencontre initiale dans le Bureau ovale.

Mais il n'a pas fallu attendre que Netanyahu se rende à la Maison-Blanche pour que l'administration Trump défende les intérêts du Premier ministre et de ses soutiens de droite. Aux États-Unis, le prétendu « processus de paix » est négocié par des sionistes chrétiens, tels que le vice-président Mike Pence et le secrétaire d'Etat Mike Pompeo, ainsi que par des sionistes juifs - en premier lieu desquels le gendre de Trump, Jared Kushner, et jusqu'en septembre dernier par l'ancien avocat du groupe Trump Organization, Jason Greenblatt. Tous ces acteurs - de même que l'ambassadeur américain en Israël, David Friedman - soutiennent publiquement les constructions de colonies israéliennes en Cisjordanie occupée, ainsi que les violations des droits de l'homme en Palestine, tels que le droit à l'autodétermination.

Ce processus est si empreint de partialité que le président palestinien Mahmoud Abbas a rejeté l'accord sans même y jeter un œil. Son instinct était le bon : le contenu du plan favorise éhontement les intérêts et objectifs israéliens, au détriment des Palestiniens.

Le plan de l'administration de Trump consisterait à mettre en place un territoire palestinien paraétatique, largement entouré par Israël, ce qui permettrait l'annexion de toutes les colonies construites depuis la guerre de juin 1967, ainsi que de la vallée du Jourdain - une étape pour laquelle œuvre d'ores et déjà Israël. Jérusalem demeurerait la capitale indivise d'Israël, la capitale palestinienne se

situant dans la banlieue Est de la ville.

Bien loin de « l'accord du siècle » promis par Trump à maintes reprises, ce plan s'apparente davantage à la « gifle du siècle », tant il passe à la trappe plusieurs décennies de négociations, tout en ignorant les efforts concertés des pays arabes voisins, tels que la Jordanie et l'Égypte, pour encourager à la modération.

Mais les Palestiniens ne sont pas les seuls perdants dans cette soumission de Trump à Israël. Difficile en effet de déterminer les avantages que tirent les États-Unis de cette démarche. À ce jour, l'administration Trump a offert à Israël bien des cadeaux politiques, par exemple en déplaçant de Tel Aviv à Jérusalem l'ambassade américaine, en ordonnant la fermeture des bureaux de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine à Washington, ou encore en déclarant que les colonies israéliennes en Cisjordanie ne violaient pas le droit international. L'administration Trump a également cessé de financer l'Office de secours et de travaux des Nations unies (chargé de soutenir et défendre les Palestiniens déplacés par la création d'Israël en 1948), et suspendu son aide aux hôpitaux de Jérusalem-Est, qui apportent des soins critiques aux Palestiniens.

Qu'ont obtenu les États-Unis en retour ? Absolument rien. Comme le souligne le chroniqueur du New York Times Thomas Friedman, Trump semble n'être rien d'autre que « l'idiot utile » de Netanyahu.

La présentation du nouveau plan de paix vise très certainement à consolider la base de droite sioniste chrétienne de Trump, pour redonner de l'élan politique à un président sous procédure de destitution devant le Sénat. L'effet escompté est le même pour Netanyahu, qui a essuyé deux impasses électorales et trois tentatives échouées de formation d'un gouvernement ces derniers mois - sans oublier sa mise en examen pour corruption, quelques heures seulement avant l'événement de la Maison-Blanche.

Ne nous y trompons pas : Trump ne défend pas aujourd'hui un plan audacieux sur la voie d'une paix durable, mais bien un stratagème éhonté de violation du droit international, des droits de l'homme en Palestine, et des principes fondamentaux d'équité. Ce plan est susceptible de conférer à court terme un coup de pouce politique à Trump et Netanyahu. Mais il ne sera jamais accepté par les Palestiniens.

Les défenseurs du plan dénonceront certainement le refus palestinien comme un manque de volonté systématique d'aboutir à la paix. Nous ne devons pas les laisser faire. Les Palestiniens, aux côtés des pays arabes, demeurent engagés pour une solution à deux États, conforme aux frontières de 1967, et pour une juste résolution du problème des réfugiés palestiniens. Telle est la base viable d'un accord de paix équitable, négocié dans la sincérité, et mutuellement acceptable. Le plan de Trump est une imposture.

# PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

## RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT WEAH'S THIRD MESSAGE OF THREE PREPOSITIONS: ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.  
January 30, 2020

According to human history (Mills, 1859), (Rousseau, 1913) and other historians and philosophers, there were no rules, regulations, laws, obligations or responsibilities during humankind's existence in the **State of Nature**, but **Might made Rights**, although humankind was endowed with reason by nature to guide human action.

### Citizen and Citizenship

It was during the **Social State**, an organized political community, that humankind developed rules, regulations and laws, obligations or responsibilities to guide, direct and regulate the socio-political activities of humankind, based primarily on **human reason** - with specific terms and conditions binding, both, on the community of the **Social State** and the **citizen**. The history of citizenship is defined by Rousseau's **Social Contract** of changing relationship between the state and the citizen; but the major elements of the Contract remain **immutable**.

Laws are made with the proviso that they (the laws) may be amended or repealed in the event that the prevailing socio-political conditions which gave rise to the enactment of the laws are not, any longer, valid. Therefore, it becomes the reasonable responsibility of the political, ruling **decision-makers** to act consistent with the proviso, **not constitutional amendments, based on Referendums which are planned and diligently-executed, extensive socio-political education of the masses and:**

- a) That the notion of "once a Liberian, always a Liberian" is a historic fallacy, not true because according to:
  - 1) Born or birth in Liberia (*Jus Soli, right of the soil*) one may be born in country A and be naturalized citizen of country B.
  - 2) And similarly, Liberian Blood (*Jus Sanguinis, right of Liberian blood or ancestry*), one whose parents are citizens of country C and, therefore, citizen of country C may be naturalized citizen of country D.
- b) That this notion confuses Birth Rights (natural rights) with Citizenship Rights of the Social State;
- c) That the state shall protect the political and civil rights of the citizen and the state gives and takes away for cause.
- d) That the citizen shall be loyal and patriotic to the state while he/she reserves the right to the choice of citizenship of any foreign country but may not, simultaneously, be citizens of Liberia and a foreign country.

We applaud the President's emphasis of priority, Public Policy Plans

Economists and national development experts define the development of **national transport & communications of all-weather, safe & efficient/effective, modern highways & roads** as the "Premier, Multiplier Effect" in national economic development. In other words, the experts prescribe the analogy of the Biblical teaching/advice, "seek ye, first, the development/implementation kingdom of modern, national transport & communications and all others shall be added unto you".



### Research information

Worldwide research and experience show that successful, **all-weather, modern highways & roads** built between points A & B attract citizens, businesses and investment promoters who locate along the new highways and roads. They buy land and build homes, motels, hotels, restaurants, shops, service stations and rest stops for motorists/travelers.

Modern transport/communications system of highways & roads facilities are not only convenient, efficient and safe modes of mass movement of people, but also facilitate the production, distribution and exchange of goods and services, national/international trade & commerce and, therefore, provides enormous opportunities for investment in people/freight transport equipment and employment of citizens.

Indeed, it is in this respect that transport/communication system constitutes the "Premier multiplier effect" in national economic development. Add to this the rapidly-developing, modern information technology, then one has the recipe for success that will drive Liberia into the 21<sup>st</sup>

### Century economy.

For, in order to locate and build schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, clinics, agro-industrial enterprises, utilities (telephone, internet facilities, electricity, water & sewer) and related, national development projects in remote villages, towns and cities of our developing nation, one must, first, get to those locations expeditiously by safe, efficient, effective, all-weather highways and roads.

Modern, twenty-first century system of transport/communications drives business which, in turn, drives the economy which, also in turn, drives the nation. To this approach, President Weah's Speech was, and is, absolutely dedicated and committed.

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## UL, Fendall residents

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erected on land claimed by the University.

But addressing a joint Council and Senate meeting recently at UL, Dr. Nelson reported that the University had a meeting with the leaders of the Fendall Community, saying it was cordial and additional meetings are anticipated.

"We had a meeting with Mr. John Kollie and the leaders of the Fendall Community. The meeting was cordial and we anticipate additional meetings with our Fendall Community," he says.

The UL president notes that the University is here to stay in Fendall, Montserrado County and it's not possible for [you] to enjoy that relationship without the people at Fendall, Louisiana.

As such, he says the University made the effort to reach out to them and had a wonderful meeting with the residents.

"We were hugging, we were kissing, taking all the necessary photographs and we look forward to

another meeting," Dr. Nelson asserts.

According to him, the residents are inviting him for a dialogue meeting with them which he accepted on one condition that it will not be a meeting to be on the University or leaders of the University from the past because he does not want to be a copy of the past.

He says the University wants to see how the Visitor of the University and President of Liberia George Manneh Weah can reach out to the residents on humanitarian ground, in seeking what can be done as the Fendall Community and the University of Liberia to forge a new partnership for the future.

According to Dr. Nelson, during the meeting, the Representative of the District was present, and very soon it was suggested that the Fendall Community be ready, willing to lead a cleanup campaign with the University of Liberia within Fendall Community as they look forward to the future.

But Dr. Nelson says he suggested that the dialogue should be held first and then before the second semester, there will be a massive cleanup campaign between the Fendall Community and the University Family.

# Major leadership restructure at UL

By Winston W. Parley

In consultation with relevant authorities, major shake-ups within the hierarchy of the University of Liberia (UL's) academic and administrative areas have been announced by UL president Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson as part of efforts to reorganize, realign and readjust the system for the management of the University.

Announcing the decision recently at a joint Council and Senate meeting at the University, Dr. Nelson said performance in the various assigned areas will be very significant, cautioning that there will be evaluations in the future.

Dr. Nelson has asked UL Vice President for Administration Prof. Weade Kobbah - Boley to transition to the position of Vice President for Institutional Development and Planning as of 1 February, while the Vice President for UL Relations Atty. Norris L. Tweah supervises the office of the Vice President for Administration until the transition takes place.

He notes that he needs to find a Vice President for



UL Pres. Nelson

UL VP Kobbah-Boley

Administration from outside while Prof. Boley is transitioning to the Institutional Development to ensure that the concept of getting the University Village becomes the new dimension with UL's work.

Dr. Nelson also asks Prof. Sekou Konneh to serve as UL Vice President and Dean of Students Affairs, further disclosing that following consultations on the situation at the College of Science and

Technology, Prof. James McClain has been asked to be the new Acting Dean of the College of Science and Technology.

"Our consultation continues with lots of other processes, both administrative and academic for the reorganization, realignment and readjustment for the management of the University of Liberia. Let me also indicate that the grandfather or grandmother promotion clause

will be completed very soon," he says.

According to Dr. Nelson, he heard from UL Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Moses Zinnah that the various units have given him the information that UL has been waiting for, saying very soon they will get to the president's office and promotions will be made as a way to climax all of the one-time promotion possibilities.

Beyond that point, Dr. Nelson says promotion will be through the process established by the Faculty Senate at the University of Liberia, expressing joy to present individuals in various areas for the University Family's recognition and transformation of the institution after many consultations and discussions to move the University to the next level.

"Your performance in these various assigned areas will be very significant because there will be evaluations as we go into the future," he says.

"I am depending on you for all the different consultations and different responsibilities I am giving to you. I pray, I trust, I hope that all of us will work together for the upliftment of the University of Liberia," Dr. Nelson adds.

He indicates that there will be others that will come, but the ones named during the meeting are the ones that are completed and most of them will come into effect 1 February.

Pending the blessing of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Nelson indicates that Prof. Dr. Moses Zinnah is serving as UL's Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In other appointments, Dr. Nelson has asked former

Information Minister Mr. Cletus Sieh to serve as an Executive Associate in the office of the University president, responsible for reform and coordination in that office.

Prof. Geegbae A. Geegbae is asked to serve as the Director for the MBA, MPH programs at the Graduate School; while Prof. Dr. Josephus Gray is asked to be the Acting Dean of Liberia College.

Further, Dr. Nelson has asked Mr. Clifford Younge to serve as the Acting Dean in the College of General Studies; Prof. Leroy Singbe to serve as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Forestry and Mr. Flomo Stevens to serve as the Associate Dean of Students, replacing Mr. John Davis who was retired.

Additionally, he asks Mrs. Kula Fofana to serve as the Assistant Dean for Students at the Straz Sinje College in Grand Cape Mount County; Prof. Tom Chea to serve as Dean of the A. Romeo Horton College of Business and Public Administration and Mr. Robert Weah to work closely with Dr. Zinnah in the Academic Affairs office as the Academic Coordinator.

Dr. Nelson announces that Mr. Michael Seator will be given the full right now as chairperson of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, while former Montserrado Rep. Prof. Richmond Anderson has been asked to serve as chairperson in the Department of Political Science.

He says he has asked Coach Kadalac Kromah to come on a consultancy as director of sports at the University of Liberia in preparation to change the way sporting activities are done at the University to make it an income generating activity.

## Trump limits entry to America

President Donald Trump has issued a proclamation, suspending and limiting immigrants and nonimmigrants' entry to the United States of all aliens who were physically present in China, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States, excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

The proclamation is the highest precautionary step by the Government of the United States since the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan,

China.

Liberia is not directly affected by the proclamation, but health authorities here thru the National Public Health Institute of Liberia say vigilant surveillance is in place at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County to screen travelers arriving into the country.

At least six Liberian students studying computer science on partial scholarship unrelated to governments' arrangements in China recently told a live interview with local broadcaster Prime FM in Monrovia they now live in total fear and allegedly being

denied access by Chinese dealers to the only supermarket available to buy food.

The students based in Wuhan, China, include Magretta Tarplah from Matadii; Sheikh from Parker Corner, Brewerville; Saah Hilton Johnson, Jr., from Kebbah, Barnerville; Ambrose John Gbormi, Jr., from Bunja Community in Thinkers' Village, Paynesville; Decontee from New Kru Town; and another male student from Pipeline Road Community in Paynesville. "We are locked up in our dormitory and we [were] told by our school that we are not allowed to get out because of this virus," Sheikh said on Wednesday morning, 29 January.

According to the United States Embassy near Monrovia, the proclamation takes effect as of 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time, Sunday, February 2, 2020.

"I have also determined that the United States should take all necessary and appropriate measures to facilitate orderly medical screening and, where appropriate, quarantine of persons allowed to enter the United States who may have been exposed to this virus", says President Trump.

However, section two (2) of the proclamation says these restrictions shall not apply to,

among others, any lawful permanent resident of the United States; any alien who is the spouse of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; any alien who is the parent or legal guardian of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident is unmarried and under the age of 21; and any alien who is the sibling of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, provided that both are unmarried and under the age of 21.

Other exceptions include any alien who is the child, foster child, or ward of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, or who is a prospective adoptee seeking to enter the United States pursuant to the IR-4 or IH-4 visa classifications; any alien traveling at the invitation of the United States Government for a purpose related to containment or mitigation of

the virus; any alien traveling as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(C) or (D) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(C) or (D), as a crewmember or any alien otherwise traveling to the United States as air or sea crew; any alien seeking entry into or transiting the United States pursuant to an A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3 (as a foreign government official or immediate family member of an official), G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 visa, as well as any alien whose entry to the U.S. would not pose a significant risk of introducing, transmitting, or spreading the virus, as determined by the CDC Director, or his designee.

At the same time, President Trump says nothing in the proclamation shall be construed to affect any individual's eligibility for



# UL, Fendall residents to forge new partnership



By Winston W. Parley

The University of Liberia (UL) under the administration of Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, and the residents of Fendall Community, Louisiana, Montserrado County have held a meeting aimed at forging a new

partnership for the future, following years of Fendall residents' bitterness with UL over land dispute.

Residents of Fendall who were affected by the demolition exercise roughly four years back have had strong feelings against the University, as they challenged

the Institution's claim of the land they had occupied in Fendall.

The land dispute in the past witnessed violence, as residents set roadblocks to vent their anger against the demolition exercise which affected homes and businesses

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# Soccer-Bergwijn enjoys dream debut as Tottenham sink Man City

Steven Bergwijn made an instant impact on his Tottenham Hotspur debut with a stunning opener in his side's 2-0 win over champions Manchester City in an incident-packed Premier League game on Sunday.

The Dutch midfielder, signed this week from PSV Eindhoven, swept home a right-foot volley three minutes after City had been reduced to 10 men when Oleksandr Zinchenko was

shown a second yellow card on the hour.

With City stretched Son Heung-min added a second in the 71st minute with a deflected effort, allowing Spurs manager Jose Mourinho to get the better of his old adversary Pep Guardiola for only the sixth time in 23 clashes.

City remain 22 points behind runaway leaders Liverpool and only had themselves to blame for a sixth defeat of the season as they



wasted several gilt-edged chances and missed yet another penalty when Hugo Lloris saved Ilkay Gundogan's spot kick.

Sergio Aguero was unusually profligate for City, striking the post in the first half and missing two other chances.

While City's pursuit of Liverpool has long run out of steam, a second successive league win revived Tottenham's push for a top-four finish. They moved up to fifth in the table, four points behind London

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