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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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TRULY INDEPENDENT

Public Service Announcement

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

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The evil that men do...



Cllr. Charles Gibson



Deputy Defense Minister-Designate Davis

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-The sad fate of Weah's nominees



Solicitor General Syrenius Cephus

Ex-Solicitor General Betty Lamin Blamo

P11

Retract now, or be sued

-Former Solicitor General fires at Cllr. Cephus



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Continental News

Torture victims on Moi's death

Wachira Waheire was 25 years old when he was thrown into Kenya's notorious torture cells for possessing a poster saying hunger will lead to revolution.

Decades later, the human rights activist sought a meeting with the man he held responsible. It never happened. On Tuesday, former president Daniel Arap Moi died and with him Waheire's hopes for a reckoning. "If he looked at the victims eyeball to eyeball ... we were willing to forgive him," Waheire told Reuters. He declined to face us.... if someone is not willing to own up, I think you cannot go ahead and forgive."

Hours after the 95-year-old former president passed away, coverage of his divisive legacy began to split along familiar lines.

Supporters praised him for keeping Kenya stable when neighbors crumbled into civil war, and for peacefully leaving power in 2002 after 24 years as head of state - a rare occurrence in Africa at that time.

Others criticized him for

the corruption that spread under his watch and recalled how his government set up torture chambers in the basement of Nyayo House, a government building in central Nairobi that now houses the immigration department.

Thousands of activists, students and academics were held without charge in the underground cells, some of them filled with water. Prisoners said they were sometimes denied food and water. Moi never addressed the

rampant human rights abuses under his rule and also refused to engage with the nation's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, established in 2008.

That's the body Waheire represented when he sought in vain to meet with Moi in 2011.

Moi's spokesman Lee Njiru did not return messages seeking comment.

Kenya has never confronted its history, Waheire said - there's no mention of the Nyayo House or Nyati House

torture cells in the curriculum, or the 1984 Wagalla massacre, when the military killed hundreds of men and boys, mostly ethnic Somalis in a purported disarmament operation. After stepping down Moi lived quietly for years on his sprawling estate in the Rift Valley, playing the role of a respected elder statesman. Government promises to turn Nyayo House into a museum have not been honored.

Waheire said he'd toured national monuments to victims of repression in South Africa, Argentina and Germany and had been especially moved by the plaques with people's names. Kenya needs that, he said. "Young people are completely ignorant of that history. The egregious human rights of Moi's time are completely sugar-coated," he

said. The older generation have not forgotten. Paul Amina, now 74, was a young courts reporter covering the case of Mbaraka Karanja, a suspect who disappeared in police custody, when he was arrested in 1987. He was beaten, stripped naked for interrogations and held in solitary confinement before being detained for six months without trial.

"Justice has never been done," Amina said. "It was the saddest moment of this country that such things happened in an independent country."

Mugo Theuri, co-editor of "We Lived to Tell", a collection of tales from survivors of the Nyayo House torture cells, was jailed for three years in 1986 after being held for 49 days in a cell full of water.

"There was a lot of beating and then after seven days, you were taken to the interrogators," Theuri told Reuters.

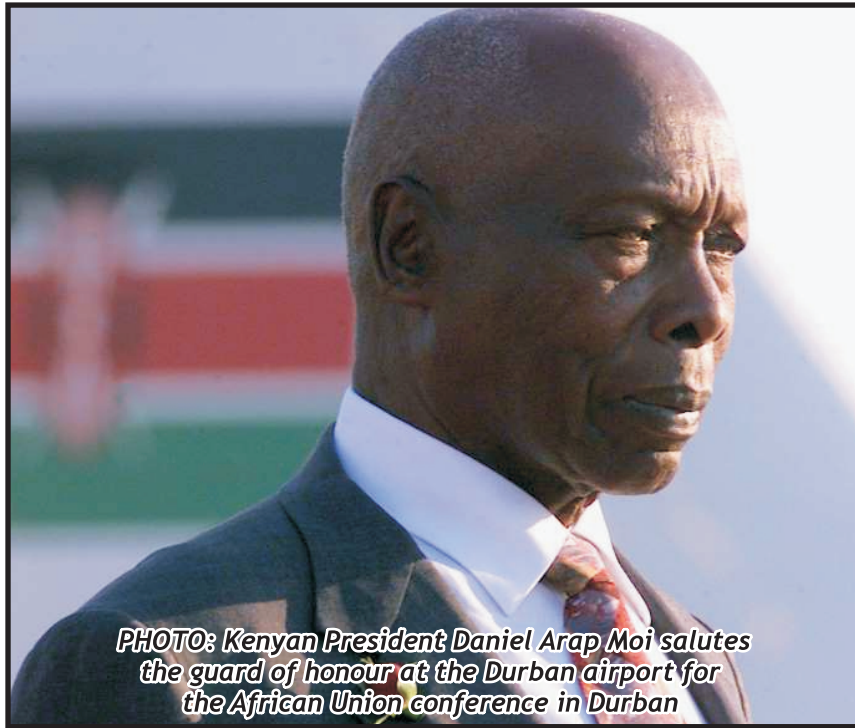


PHOTO: Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi salutes the guard of honour at the Durban airport for the African Union conference in Durban

Malawi leader lambastes 'death of democracy'

Malawi's President Peter Mutharika has accused the country's Constitutional Court of attacking democracy.

On Monday, the court annulled the result of last May's election in which Mr Mutharika was narrowly won

re-election. Judges said there had been vote-tampering and correction fluid was used to alter the results.

Mr Mutharika is to go to the Supreme Court to appeal against the ruling, which he says was "full of errors that

needed to be corrected" and a "serious subversion of justice".

He stressed it only related to procedural issues and not vote rigging.

The BBC's Sammy Awami in the capital, Lilongwe, says it is clear that Mr Mutharika is not going to lose the presidency without a fight.

But the president also sought to recover ground from his opponents, who have claimed the judgement as a triumph of democracy.

Mr Mutharika thanked opposition leaders for bringing their grievance to court, underlining that only a democratic state would allow such a move.

But he attacked the decision by the judges as the beginning of the "death of Malawi's democracy".

Unsurprisingly the opposition disagrees. They have been celebrating Monday's ruling as a new dawn for the country's democracy.

But Wednesday night's address and the upcoming appeal may have dampened that mood. BBC



President Mutharika is going to appeal against the ruling

Africa prepares for virus spread risk

An isolation ward stands ready at a hospital in Khartoum, Sudan. Laboratories in Senegal and Madagascar have the testing equipment they need. Passengers arriving at airports in Gambia, Cameroon and Guinea are being screened for fever and other viral symptoms.

Africa's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention says it

other deadly infectious diseases.

"The key point is to limit transmission from affected countries and the second point is to ensure that we have the capacity to isolate and also to provide appropriate treatment to people that may be infected," said Michel Yao, emergency operations program manager at the World



has activated its emergency operation centre in the face of what global health officials say is a high risk the coronavirus disease epidemic that began in China will spread to its borders.

On a poor continent where healthcare capacity is limited, early detection of any outbreak will be crucial. The fear is great that a spreading epidemic of coronavirus infections will be hard to contain in countries where health systems are already overburdened with cases of Ebola, measles, malaria and

Health Organization's regional office for Africa in Brazzaville, Congo.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is barring its citizens from flying to China. Burkina Faso has asked Chinese citizens to delay travelling to Burkina, and is warning that they face quarantine if they do. Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda have all suspended flights to China.

"What we are emphasizing to all countries is that they should at least have early detection," Yao said.

EDITORIAL

Hailing the Indian gov't for the 5 fire trucks

THE GOVERNMENT OF India in a profound gesture to the Government and people of Liberia on Monday, 3 February donated five (5) fire trucks to the Liberia National Fire Service.

THE DONATION WAS graced by President George Manneh Weah and his Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel F. McGill along with senior officials of the LNFS and other members of the Liberian government.

THE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY & Plenipotentiary of India to Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia, Y. K. SailasThangal, who officiated the formal ceremony, said the donation from his government and people demonstrates that Liberia/India relations is at another level. Accompanied by the Honorary Indian Consul General to Liberia, Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, popularly known as Jeety here, Amb. Thangal appraised the bilateral ties between the two countries, which he notes, is being strengthened by the day.

THE DONATION of the fire trucks comes barely two months after the Government of India similarly donated 45 buses to its counterpart here for public transport to ease transportation services in Liberia.

WE APPLAUD THE Government and warm-loving people of India for the gesture to the people of Liberia. Both donations are not only needed, but timely.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES in Liberia is a serious challenge and the 45 buses would go a long in easing difficulties faced by travelers in commuting from one point to another across the country. More particularly however, the fire trucks to the Liberia National Fire Service are a life-saver, for a country of nearly 5 million people without a public fire truck, which is a serious national security concern.

EVEN HEADQUARTERS OF the Liberia National Fire Service in Monrovia is without a functioning fire truck to cater to the more the 1 million residents. Due to this situation, the capital has lost hundreds of lives and properties estimated millions of dollars to fire disasters.

THIS IS why we call on all ordinary Liberians, including the Government of Liberia to laud the Government and people of India for the donations that will impact lives here significantly.

LIBERIA'S FIRE CHIEF, Alex K. Dickson disclosed at the ceremony that because of the lack of fire trucks, fire fighters had resorted to using buckets to help citizens in putting off fire, lamenting that this is the first time since 1949, the LNFS has received five fire trucks at once.

WE CAN BUT only hope these donations would be utilized wisely to serve the purpose for which they are provided. This would serve as motivation for future gestures from friendly governments and nations.

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COMMENTARY

By Dalia Marin

Europe Needs a DARPA

Germany needs an industrial revival of the sort it experienced in the late nineteenth century, but this will be possible only if the state offers technological backing to German companies. The US government's successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency should serve as a model for Germany and Europe to follow.

MUNICH - The mood in Germany is bleak, and not just because of the country's current economic slowdown. Long famed for its engineering know-how and high-quality industrial products, the German economy is now in danger of falling behind as software and data become increasingly crucial to future prosperity. And the recent news that US technology company Apple is now worth more than the entire DAX index of 30 leading German companies has no doubt deepened the gloom among business leaders and policymakers. If German firms don't adapt quickly, some may struggle to survive.

New digital technologies, including the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence, could profoundly disrupt German companies' traditional business models - especially in sectors such as machine-building, automobiles, and chemicals. Compounding the problem, German firms face increasingly stiff competition from China, which is climbing the ladder of manufacturing value-added.

To develop self-driving cars, for example, German car manufacturers such as Volkswagen will have to collaborate with software companies in Europe. Currently, Volkswagen has to work with Google or a Chinese partner, because there is no software industry of note in Germany. But tomorrow's cars will be super-connected supercomputers on four wheels. If Germany and Europe fail to adapt fast enough, Volkswagen and other German carmakers risk facing the same fate as Nokia, which lost its dominant position in the mobile-phone market to Apple.

In short, Germany needs an industrial revival of the sort it experienced in the late nineteenth century, when companies such as Daimler, Bayer, BASF, and Allianz emerged. But this will be possible only if the state offers technological backing to German firms. Here, the United States government's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), with its successful decades-long track record of high-tech innovations, should serve as a model for Germany and Europe to follow.

As the economist Mariana Mazzucato has pointed out, DARPA and other US government agencies have been instrumental in developing new technologies such as the Internet, GPS navigation, touchscreen displays, and voice-activated assistants such as Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa. Without these state-backed research successes, today's US tech giants would not exist.

DARPA also buys innovations. For example, robotics company Boston Dynamics - which was spun off from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, subsequently acquired by Google, and now owned by Japan's SoftBank Group - won a tender in 2013 to deliver robotic systems for the next DARPA Robotics Challenge. Under this contract, the company will deliver a range of autonomous humanoid Atlas robots that can be used in the event of natural disasters.

The US government thus plays an important role in shaping innovation. China, Israel, and South Korea have similar ecosystems of state-led research support geared toward military and intelligence applications, which helps to explain why they, too, have become world leaders in digital innovation.

A recent study of OECD economies by Enrico Moretti of the University of California, Berkeley, and MIT's Claudia Steinwender and John Van Reenen supports this anecdotal evidence. The authors investigate the impact of government-funded military research spending on privately funded corporate research activity, and its effect on productivity growth. In contrast to the "crowding out" of private investment that usually accompanies increased public investment, they find evidence of a "crowding in" of private research expenditure. Specifically, a 10% increase in publicly funded research spending generates an additional 4.3% increase in privately funded research. They conclude from this that the low level of private research spending observed in some OECD economies is also related to the lack of military-related research in these countries.

The clear implication is that Europe needs a European research agency with a budget similar to that of DARPA in order to keep pace with intensifying global technological competition. The German government should establish it. Doing so would have the further advantage of supporting Germany's recent efforts to pursue a more confident foreign and defense policy. In addition, a DARPA-type agency funded by Germany and other European governments would enable Germany to meet more quickly its obligation as a NATO member to spend 2% of its GDP on defense, as US President Donald Trump constantly urges.

Germany and other European countries urgently need to retool their economies for the twenty-first century. Establishing an agency like DARPA would represent a significant step in the right direction.



Lord, our people just love poverty, plain and simple!

Dear Father:

You know, the other day a friend of mine and I were having a conversation about our village and one thing we both undoubtedly agreed upon was- we as a people of this highly forested village are our own problems. We love poverty and under development so much that we have made it a law to be poor forever regardless.

Yes, Father that is the hard truth. The things we do, the kinds of laws we have on our books simply spelled it out that for us in this village we love poverty. It doesn't matter how well we embellished it in our village law books, you don't need a genius to know that from the day our forefathers came together to form this village, their minds were made up that we their descendants must remain poor as they were.

What do you mean by this my son?

Father do you know that we are the only racist country in the world in this 21st century- only black people can be citizen. And worst of all we are the only country that denies its citizens their citizenships all because they took another village status. But we open our arms to all other foreigners and we even gave them the right to do whatever they want as long as they have black skin.

But besides this one, we say no foreigner can own land in our village, but we want them to lease it. Now, tell me who will want to develop a property that their children will not be the owner long after they transitioned to another world nonsense!

This brings me to the main point. You know, the other day we heard the people who came to do the palm oil farm here have left. They have been having problems with the local people after our government signed agreements with them. In fact, all the farming companies that came here are having similar problems and they are all folding up to leave, all because of the same problems and yet we say we want development and we want companies.

The other day, I was talking to a friend to invest in farming here, he said no. I said why not, he said I don't want headache. "Yor government will promise land that they will not be able to give and I don't want problem with my investment like other people.

Father, he is right though. The examples are all before us. As soon as a company knock on our doors especially in the agriculture sector, it's when some useless so called human rights group will jump up and say land grab. When those little white boys and girls collect their huge sum of money and try to justify it, they come here and get in touch with some hungry brother of ours and they push the investors out.

And the only reason these little white boys and girls and our hungry brothers are able to drive these investors in the agriculture sector away is because of our land ownership system- we say no foreigner must own land, yet we are buying lands and owning properties in foreign countries developing them too. But for ours should remain undeveloped and highly forested.

Now, next to these little white boys and their surrogates who scare away investors in our agriculture sectors are those so-called politicians who ride on the ignorance of the people to gain popularity for their own political gains- yet, we try to compare ourselves with our neighbors where their agriculture sectors are doing pretty well. But we forget that those people were able to sell lands to foreigners (including our people who barred others here) to develop them.

Funny enough, when these companies fold up, leave these villages and our people are put out of jobs, the so-called anti land grabs group plus our hungry brother here disappeared from the scene and provide no alternative means of livelihood for our people, leaving them with no other option but to flood the offices of relatives and friends in the city daily begging for help.

Father, me I have told relatives and friends in those areas where companies have been forced to fold up because of some stupid propaganda that they should not ask me for a dime. They don't deserve it period. They should know that the presence of those companies provide the opportunity for a better living condition for them. To be continue.



February 4, 2020

Funeral Announcement

The remains of William Tamba Sahr commonly called "TM" will be removed from the Samuel Stryker Funeral Service on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 8:30am and taken to the Mount Nebo Baptist Church on Airfield New Road for funeral service. After the funeral service, burial takes place at the Kingsville Number 7 Cemetery, Careysburg District, Montserrado County.

William Tamba Sahr died on January 25th at the ELWA Hospital. He was a former employee of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

He is survived by the following siblings: Julius Sahr, Mildred Sahr Munyeneh, Kumba Sahr Herron, Benjamin Sahr and Michael Sahr. The late TM is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends at home and abroad.

This announcement was brought in by Michael Sahr, Julius Sahr and Benjamin Sahr, brothers of the deceased on behalf of the family.

Change of Name



I, Morris David, have officially changed my name from Morris David Kekula to Morris David, as of the date of this publication. Hence, I am thru this medium informing the general public that in line with the Liberia National Police regulation regarding change of name, my name is now changed from Morris David Kekula to Morris David.

NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!

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- 0777935495
- 0776028691

Thank you

February 6, 2020

C/O Lex Group Liberia, LLC
Congo Town
Opposite Dominion Christian Fellowship Church
Monrovia, Liberia

Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus
Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
Republic of Liberia

Dear Mr. Solicitor General:

Re: **The Matter of Dismissal of the Case against Ellen Cockrum and the Award of the Contract to Fox Rothschild**

I present professional compliments and wish to advise that my attention has been drawn to a letter under your signature dated February 3, 2020, addressed to the Chairman of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), and published in the Monday, February 3, 2020, edition of the Frontpage Africa newspaper in which you justified dismissal of the criminal case against Ellen Cockrum by asserting, among other things, that:

1. "A careful review of the records of the case shows that the previous government entered a Nolle Prosequi in favour of a number of defendants involved in this matter prior to our ascendancy, and we in recent times did the same due to the absence of Madam Cockrum and to avoid being seen as pursuing a selective prosecution";
2. "We also noticed that a sole source recommendation was made by our predecessor Cllr. Betty Lamin Blamo to hire a US-based firm, Fox Rothschild to which US\$200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) was alleged paid to Fox Rothschild to have Madam Cockrum brought back to Liberia"; and
3. "That the investigation should take into consideration the legal basis for the former Solicitor General Betty Lamin-Blamo recommending the sole source bid or selection of Fox Rothschild, "what became of the extradition proceedings, *if any* [emphasis supplied] among them".

The above-mentioned edition of the Front Page Africa newspaper also attributed to you the allegation that "the decision to dismiss the case was recommended by former Solicitor General Betty Lamin-Blamo."

I am shocked by the above-quoted allegations made and reported to have been made by you against me, since none has any basis in fact and you personally know and ought to know their falsity.

While I would have ordinarily ignored these patently false allegations trumped up apparently for some sinister objective, I am however constrained to respond for the record and the benefit of the public that is sought to be misled. For clarity, I will respond to the allegations individually.

I. The Allegation that the "previous Government Entered a Nolle Prosequi in favour of a number of defendants involved in this matter prior to our ascendancy"

This allegation is false and misleading, and you are the least person to make such allegation as you are personally aware of the one and ONLY proceeding where we entered a Nolle Prosequi in favour of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) and you were one of counsels for LBDI.

Here is a summary of the facts that you are quite aware:

1. The case was brought against Ellen Cockrum, Melvin Johnson, Momar Dieng, Diaspora Consulting, Musa Bility and two banks- LBDI and First International Bank (FIB), with the bank's complicity being principally in the content of the provision of services related to facilitating deposit and withdrawal of the stolen funds.
2. Co-Defendant FIB confessed judgment, and restituted the amount of \$56,750.00 that it had transferred to Melvin Johnson's United States account at the instance of Ellen Cockrum, and the court accordingly issued a suspended sentence in favour of the co-defendant First International Bank (FIB);
3. LBDI pleaded not guilty, but later accepted to cooperate with the Government and serve as a witness in the case;
4. In consideration of and ONLY on the basis that LBDI will cooperate and serve as witness in the case, the Government decided to enter nolle Prosequi in favor of LBDI.
5. You, Cllr. Cephus, served as one of several counsels for co-defendant LBDI at the time, and thus certainly know the consideration, purpose and object for which charges were dropped against LBDI; the object and purpose being far removed from that of a "selective prosecution".
6. The charges were dropped against LBDI specifically without prejudice to the Government. Dismissal without prejudice means, if LBDI did not cooperate, the Government reserved the right to re-file charges.
7. No Nolle Prosequi was entered in favor of Musa Bility. Instead, the charges against Musa were dropped by the Court based on a motion filed by Musa Bility.
8. You are aware and are also in notice of the court records available in your office that Bility filed a motion to dismiss the indictment for the Government's failure to prosecute the case within two terms after indictment as is provided for under Section 18.2 of the Criminal Procedure Law. The Government vigorously resisted Bility's motion, but the court granted Bility's motion over the objection of the Government.
9. You are aware and are also in notice of the court records available in your office, that the indictment against Co-defendant Melvin Johnson was never dropped/dropped by the former Government. As a matter of fact, we filed a formal complaint against Melvin Johnson before the Georgia Bar of which he was a member and requested his extradition along with Cockrum.
10. You are aware and are also in notice of the court records available in your office, that the indictment against Co-defendant Diaspora Consulting, LLC and Momar Dieng was never dropped/dropped by the former Government.

II. Allegation attributed to you, that I recommended that Charges be dropped against Ellen Cockrum

Again, this allegation is false and misleading, and you are the least person to make such allegation, as you are personally aware and are possessed of court records that we vigorously challenged the Motion Dismiss the indictment filed by Ellen Cockrum. Here is a summary of the facts that you are quite aware:

1. That Ellen Cockrum who was out of the bailiwick of the Republic of Liberia, filed a Motion to dismiss the indictment against her before the Criminal Court C, where the matter was venue. We vigorously challenged the motion, argued same, and the court ruled denying Cockrum's motion to dismiss the indictment.

2. That subsequently, on September 22, 2016, Cockrum proceeded to the ECOWAS Court and filed a case against the Government of Liberia. Cockrum had requested the ECOWAS court to declare that her human rights had been violated by the issuance of an indictment against her, which she claims, was baseless and unfounded, and that the Government had failed to have her tried. She also requested the court to enjoin the Government of Liberia from arresting her and that she be allowed to freely travel in and out of Liberia. You are aware that during my tenure, we filed a defense on behalf of the Government challenging the allegations made by Cockrum.

3. You are also aware that I was hired as a Consultant in 2018 to assist the Ministry of Justice with some matters including that of Cockrum, and I personally appeared before the ECOWAS court and argued the Cockrum case in favour of the Government of Liberia, and won the case for the Government; that at no time before or thereafter did I recommend that charges be dropped against Cockrum.

III. Allegation that I recommended sole-sourcing of "a US-based firm, Fox Rothschild to which US\$200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) was alleged paid".

I categorically deny knowing Fox Rothschild or any partner or associate of the firm before it was hired or making any recommendation or even an informal suggestion for it to be hired. Even assuming that I did recommend the hiring (which I maintain I never did), there is still nothing criminal or wrong about that if the sole-sourcing was justified by reason sufficient in law and the requisite no objection was granted by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission.

You are aware that as a matter of course, procurement matters in the Ministry of Justice as in all Ministries and Agencies of Government are handled by the Department of Administration and not by the Solicitor General. In the case of the Fox Rothschild contract as the records show, it was the then Deputy Minister for Administration who wrote the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) to request "No Objection" for the use of the sole source method of procurement. The request was granted by the PPCC and the Ministers of Finance & Justice subsequently entered into the contract with Fox Rothschild on behalf of the Government of Liberia. Your statement that I was responsible for that decision, or requesting it of the PPCC, are thus clearly false.

You are also aware, as the records show, that the contract with Fox Rothschild was *capped* [emphasis supplied] at US\$200,000. The former Administration did not pay Fox Rothschild US\$ 200,000 at all. The agreement provides that Fox Rothschild would be paid at an hourly rate provided that the firm will bill no more than US\$200,000 in aggregate for the services to be provided, and to the best of my recollection, the invoices submitted by Steven M. Schneebaum (the assigned lawyer) which was paid by the Government of Liberia, did not exceed US\$100,000.

IV. Allegation that you do not know "what became of the extradition proceedings, "if any"

You are possessed of access to the records which contain evidence of the request made by the Government of Liberia to the Government of the United States for the extradition of Cockrum, yet you assert "that the investigation should take into consideration "what became of the extradition proceedings, *if any* [emphasis supplied] among them." We are struck by the "if any" language because the records left behind at the Ministry of Justice, to which you have access, are replete with information as to the existence of a request to the Government of the United States for the extradition of Cockrum. The records are also clear as to the follow-up work done by Steve Schneebaum including steps taken against Melvin Johnson to the extent that the Georgia Bar Association upon complaint filed on


behalf of the Government by Steven Schneebaum disbarred him. The "if any" language thus falsely implies that we may not have even requested the extradition of Cockrum at all. Assuming you did not know of "what became of the extradition proceedings", wouldn't it have been prudent for you to have simply asked me? Don't you think I deserved the professional courtesy?

I am thus mystified by your plainly false and misleading assertions, categorically deny them, and hereby demand that you retract same. There is no basis for the false statements you have made because the Office of the Solicitor General in the Ministry of Justice is the custodian of the records in this matter. These efforts are clearly designed to evade your own responsibility to divert the attention of the public from responsibility for the decision just made to drop charges against Ms. Cockrum even though as Solicitor General you had responsibility for such matters. You have instead intentionally elected to unjustly injure my reputation. I thus have no choice except to reject them and to seek by this letter to clarify the public record.

The foregoing shows that your numerous allegations against me are totally baseless and that you are aware of their falsity. Making false statement against another constitutes defamation as a matter of law where it damages the other. There is no doubt that your allegations are defamatory as a matter of law.

In view of the above, I request that you do the honorable thing to retract the allegations. I request that you kindly have this done upon receipt of this my letter, otherwise I will be constrained to take such actions and measures as would be necessary including the filing of an ethics complaint against you, to protect my hard-earned reputation.

Kind regards,


Betty Lamin Blamo (Cllr.)

cc: Cllr. F. Musah Dean
Minister of Justice & Attorney General
Ministry of Justice
Republic of Liberia

Heritage Partners & Associates
1 Heritage Drive, Old Road Junction
Monrovia, Liberia

J. Johnny Momoh & Associates
8th Street, Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia

The Liberian National Bar Association
Law Library Building
Ashmun Street
Monrovia, Liberia

The evil that men do...

-The sad fate of 3 Weah's nominees

By Jonathan Browne

When the English literary icon William Shakespeare, several centuries ago, coined the phrase, "The evil that men do lives after them, but the good is often interred with their bones" in Act 3, scene II of his renowned drama, Julius Caesar, little did he know the sagacious assertion would later have profound meanings on the

by Lofa County Senator George Tengbeh, also a stalwart of the former ruling Unity Party, voted overwhelmingly against the two nominees for their past evil deeds that have come to haunt them right in their faces.

Cllr. Gibson was President Weah's first nominee to the Ministry of Justice, immediately after his inauguration in 2018. But

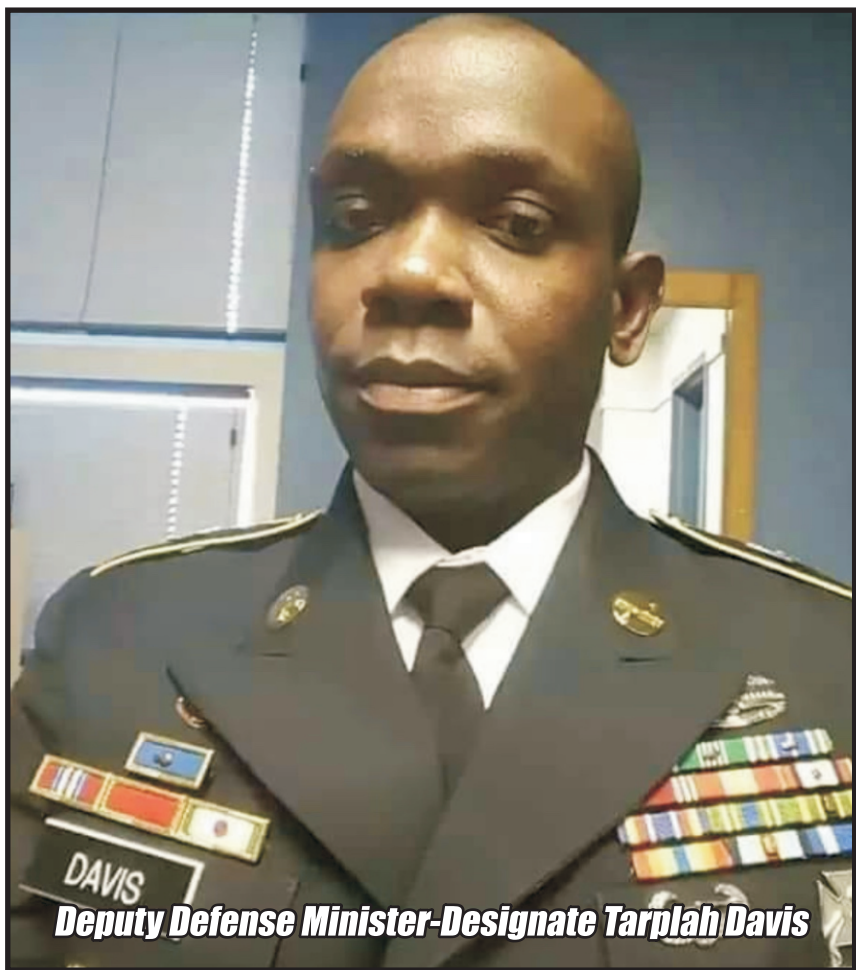
Challenge Account where he served previously.

Due to his past deeds at the MCA, Uncle Sam or the Government of the United States expresses lack of confidence in his integrity and pressurizes the Weah administration not to recycle Attorney Nimely back in government.

So it was obvious that his nomination by President Weah to the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission was already dead before reaching the Liberian Senate for confirmation hearing.

According to research, the Government of the United States of America in October 2015 provided a grant of \$257M to Liberia through its development agency, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to address the lack of access to reliable and affordable electricity and inadequate road infrastructure.

The MCC compact is a



Deputy Defense Minister-Designate Tarplah Davis

deeds of mankind, even up to today.

Said assertion had a replay here during the week when three of President George Manneh Weah's nominees who appeared for confirmation hearings before the Liberian Senate were rejected virtually for their past deeds, which were obviously, far from good.

Nominees Cllr. Charles Gibson, chairman-designate for the Liberia Electricity Corporation, and Atty. Anthony Toga Nimely, chairman-designate, the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission were overwhelmingly denounced and rejected by the Senate statutory Committee on Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources and Environment on Tuesday, February 04.

The committee, headed

the President withdrew the nomination under mounted public pressure due to integrity issues. While



Cllr. Charles Gibson

Gibson was poised to go for confirmation hearing, news about his past evil deeds surfaced in the media with unimpeachable pieces of evidence, convincing enough to overturn his preferment by President Weah in favor of Cllr. Musa F. Dean, the current Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Liberia.

President Weah and Cllr. Gibson are said to be friends from their youth, and the President is committed to rewarding his good friend with a job in his

government, but Gibson's dirty deeds from his past won't go away even after he leaves dear earth, as Shakespeare had written in



Atty. Anthony Toga Nimley

Julius Caesar.

For two consecutive times, The President has failed in awarding his youth time friend a job in solidarity for the ties that bind them. It is quite unfortunate.

Then comes nominee Attorney Toga Nimely, who faces serious accountability questions at the American-sponsored Millennium

Liberia-U.S. partnership to reduce poverty and promote economic growth. MCC awards compact grants to countries that pass at least 10 of its 20 governance indicators, including control of corruption. The Millennium Challenge Account Liberia is an independent, legal, and autonomous agency of the Government of Liberia created by the legislature to



Sen. George Tengbeh

administer the compact projects

The rejection of both individuals raises question about President Weah's choice of nominees for public offices, amid widespread corruption in his government.

The full plenary of the Senate voted behind closed doors this week, endorsing the nominees' rejection.

"The committee having thoroughly examined the nominees in persons of Cllr. Charles H. Gibson and Atty. Anthony Toga Nimely through their

to the plenary of the Liberian Senate to decline the request for the confirmation of the two individuals.

As if they were not enough, Senator Conmany Wesseh of River Gee County on Wednesday, 05 February told Deputy Defense Minister for Operations-designate Tarpleh Davis, who had appeared for hearing, to go for detraumatization first before appearing before the Liberian Senate for confirmation.

The chambers of the Senate turned dramatic Wednesday when senators,

Liberia, without mentioning the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency or the Liberia Immigration Service.

Wesseh quoted Davis as saying the three security institutions -AFL, NSA and LNP are a risk to Liberia's security because they have tentacles of influence over the regime and do not support President Weah.

He further quoted the deputy minister-designate as saying, the change within these organizations are slow! Too slow, a post Davis allegedly made a week to his nomination by President

assigned at the Capitol to calm the situation.

Davis may not have committed physical harm against any fellow Liberian here, but his persistent threats against would-be protestors seem good reason for concern, as being expressed by members of the Senate

Bomi County Senator Sando Johnson, also asked Mr. Davis to appeal to President Weah to revoke his nomination, as members of the Liberian Senate are not willing to confirm him because of his 'terrible' utterances.

In their statement to Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, they said, "We believe [that] if Mr. Davis could make such a statement when he was not in an official position, he would, if confirmed, believe that he has full authority to execute his plan against peaceful citizens."

"Mr. Pro-Tempore and members of the Senate, we, the Independent Legislative Caucus within the Unity Party, pray your indulgence not to confirm Mr. Davis. Such confirmation," they warned, "would be to the detriment of the Liberian



presentations, curriculum vitae, and other credentials; and in its wisdom further examined international efforts to increase efficiency and opportunities to advance energy efficiency in Liberia, while in committee room carefully scrutinized the nominees and unanimously did not see the nominees eligible and qualified to serve those positions as slated," plenary reports.

The committee further notes it is against these backdrops it deems it necessary to recommend

including Montserrado County's Darius Dillon and River Gee County's Wesseh quizzed the nominee about his social media post on Facebook, in which he threatened to kill protesters, who will temper with his properties during planning for the June 07, 2019 protest organized by the Council of Patriots.

Sen. Wesseh recalls that Mr. Davis posted on his Facebook page, the pledge to 'restructure' security sector- focuses on the National Security Agency, the Liberia National Police and the Armed Forces of

Weah.

But Davis explains that he served in the United States army and suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD, due to his involvement in combat while serving in the U.S. army, something, that led Sen. Wesseh to say he should seek treatment before facing the senate for confirmation.

Senator Wesseh's assertion created tension and led to fistfight between supporters of Mr. Davis and staffers of the Liberian Senate. It took the intervention of police

Last December, several members of the House of Representatives wrote the Senate, urging that august body not to confirm Mr. Davis, as doing so could result to killing of Liberians, on his orders.

The lawmakers, led by Montserrado County Representative Henson Kaizolu noted that "David Tarplah sometime in May and June 2019, promised to kill any of his fellow Liberians, should any of them, in a protest, damage or cause to damage his property during such peaceful protest."

people."

Mr. Davis' revelation of having suffered PTSD while serving in the U.S. Army, coupled with his persistent threats to shoot and kill unarmed civilians who venture around his premises, is enough basis to send him for detraumatization.

His past utterances are beginning to haunt him, which could adversely impact his future' as it now seems to indicate.

Français

Un candidat à la confirmation du sénat demandé de consulter un psychiatre

Le vice-ministre libérien désigné de la Défense chargé des opérations, Tarpleh Davis, doit consulter un psychiatre avant de comparaître devant le Sénat libérien pour être confirmé, exige le sénateur Conmany Wesseh, sénateur du comté de River Gee.

L'audience de confirmation de M. Davis le mercredi 05 février dans les

chambres du Sénat a pris une tournure chaotique lorsque des sénateurs, dont les sénateurs Darius Dillon et Wesseh, ont demandé au candidat de donner des explications sur sa publication sur les réseaux sociaux, publication dans laquelle il menaçait de tuer des manifestants qui détruiraient ses biens. A noter que le candidat à la confirmation du

sénat avait proféré ces menaces avant la manifestation du 06 janvier 2020 organisée par le Conseil des Patriotes.

Selon le sénateur Wesseh, M. Davis avait dit sur Facebook, qu'il restructurerait le secteur de la sécurité, qu'il se concentrerait sur l'Agence de sécurité nationale, la police nationale du Libéria et les Forces armées du Libéria. Il n'aurait pas fait mention de la National Drugs Agency ou encore du Service d'immigration du Libéria.

Toujours selon le sénateur Wesseh, Davis aurait dit que ces trois corps seraient un risque pour la sécurité du Libéria car ils auraient des tentacules d'influence sur le régime et ne soutiendraient pas le président Weah. Davis aurait dénoncé une lenteur de changement au sein de ces corps.

Mais Davis a répondu, expliquant qu'il a servi dans l'armée des États-Unis et qu'il souffrait d'un trouble de stress post-traumatique en raison de sa participation au combat alors qu'il servait dans l'armée

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Afrique : pollution et médias, vers un vertigineux dérèglement climatique du continent

Les experts s'accordent à dire depuis un moment, que d'ici à 2050, l'Afrique pourrait connaître une baisse de 20% de ses productivités agricoles, à cause de la dégradation de ses sols et la désertification provoquées par des inondations et la sécheresse. Mais quel rôle les médias doivent-ils jouer, pour accompagner les actions de sensibilisation et de

prévention ?

L'Afrique représente 17 % de la population mondiale et est responsable d'à peine 4 % des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, à l'échelle de la planète. C'est aussi le continent qui souffre le plus des conséquences du réchauffement climatique. Et si rien n'est fait, l'Afrique pourrait représenter la moitié des émissions de pollution dans

le monde, d'ici à 2030. Une urgence à agir, qui devrait pousser les hommes et femmes de médias, à jouer un rôle plus important, en matière de sensibilisation, d'information et de communication sur le climat.

Un ancien président de la république française, décédé l'année dernière, avait déclaré lors du Sommet de la Terre, en 2002, que : « Notre maison brûle et nous regardons ailleurs ». Pour le paraphraser, on pourrait s'interroger : l'Afrique se dégrade et ses médias regardent ailleurs ? Du nord au sud, l'Afrique est aujourd'hui victime de chocs climatiques répétés ; cette assertion est régulièrement martelée dans toutes les conférences internationales sur le climat à travers le monde, par les pays et africains eux-mêmes, sans pour autant qu'ils définissent un véritablement programme pour éradiquer le mal. Mis à part le grand travail pédagogique des experts, on observe avec beaucoup de surprises ce mutisme des

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Éditorial

Nous saluons le gouvernement indien pour le don de 5 camions de pompiers

Le gouvernement indien a fait don, lundi 5 février, de cinq (5) camions aux sapeurs-pompiers du Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS), un geste magnanime profondément salutaire à l'endroit du gouvernement et du peuple du Liberia.

Le don a été reçu par le président George Manneh Weah et son ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel F. McGill, en présence de la haute hiérarchie du LNFS et d'autres membres du gouvernement libérien.

L'ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de l'Inde en Côte d'Ivoire et au Libéria, SM Y. K. Sailas Thangal, qui a présidé la cérémonie officielle, a déclaré que le don de son gouvernement et de son peuple est la preuve des bonnes relations qu'entretiennent le Libéria et l'Inde. Accompagné du Consul général honoraire des Indiens au Libéria, M. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, populairement connu sous le nom de Jeety ici, l'Ambassadeur Thangal a évalué les relations bilatérales entre les deux pays, qui, selon lui, se renforcent de jour en jour.

Le don des camions pompiers intervient à peine deux mois après que le gouvernement indien a également fait don de 45 bus à son homologue afin de faciliter les services de transport au Libéria. Nous saluons le Gouvernement et le peuple indien pour ce geste chaleureux à l'endroit du peuple libérien. Les deux dons sont non seulement nécessaires, mais opportuns.

Les services de transport public au Libéria sont un défi sérieux et les 45 bus permettront pendant longtemps d'atténuer un petit peu les difficultés auxquelles sont confrontés les voyageurs en se déplaçant d'une localité à l'autre à travers le pays.

Plus particulièrement, les camions de pompiers sont une bouffée d'oxygène pour le Libéria, un pays de près de 5 millions d'habitants qui ne disposait d'aucun camion de pompiers, ce qui constituait un grave problème de sécurité nationale.

Même le siège du Service national des incendies du Libéria à Monrovia est dépourvu de camion de pompiers en état fonctionnel pouvant desservir plus d'un million d'habitants. Conséquence : plusieurs centaines de pertes en vie humaine ont été enregistrées dans la capitale et des biens estimés à des millions de dollars américains ont été détruits par des incendies.

C'est pourquoi nous appelons tous les Libériens ordinaires et le gouvernement du Libéria à féliciter le gouvernement et le peuple de l'Inde pour les dons qui auront un impact significatif sur nos conditions de vie.

Le chef des pompiers du Libéria, Alex K. Dickson, a révélé lors de la cérémonie qu'en raison du manque de camions de pompiers, les sapeurs-pompiers avaient souvent eu recours à des seaux pour aider les habitants à éteindre le feu. D'après lui, c'est la première fois depuis 1949 que le LNFS reçoit cinq camions de pompiers.

Nous espérons cependant que ces dons seront utilisés à bon escient pour servir le but pour lequel ils sont fournis. Cela servirait de motivation aux futurs gestes des gouvernements et des nations amis.

Français

Un candidat à la confirmation

américaine. A cela, le sénateur Wesseha demandé qu'il se fasse soigner avant de comparaître devant le Sénat pour être confirmé.

Les propos du sénateur Wessehont provoqué la colère de certains. Il s'en est suivi une bagarre rangée entre les partisans de M. Davis d'une part et des employés du Sénat libérien d'autre part. Il a fallu l'intervention des agents de sécurité pour calmer la situation.

Pour sa part, le sénateur du comté de Bomi, Sando Johnson, a demandé à M. Davis de faire appel au président Weah pour qu'il révoque sa nomination, car les membres du Sénat libérien ne sont pas disposés à le confirmer en raison de ses propos « terribles ».

En décembre dernier, certains membres de la Chambre des représentants ont écrit au Sénat, exhortant cet auguste organe à ne pas confirmer M. Davis, car cela pourrait entraîner le meurtre de Libériens sur son ordre.

Le groupe de législateurs, dirigé par le représentant du comté de Montserrado, Henson Kaizolu, a indiqué que David Tarplah, en mai et juin 2019, avait menacé de tuer quiconque tenterait de détruire ses biens.

Les représentants, dans un courrier adressé au président temporaire du Sénat, M. Albert Chie, avaient déclaré : "Nous pensons que si M. Davis a le courage de tenir de tels propos alors qu'il n'occupait aucun poste de responsabilité, et s'il était confirmé, il pourrait croire avoir l'aplomb d'exécuter des citoyens pacifiques.

"Monsieur le président temporaire du sénat et Messieurs les membres du Sénat, nous, le Caucus législatif indépendant au sein du Parti de l'unité, prions votre indulgence de ne pas confirmer M. Davis, car sa confirmation," ont-ils prévenu, "serait au détriment du peuple libérien."

Pour rappel, le mardi 04 février, le Sénat libérien avait rejeté deux autres candidats nommés par le président.

Le comité statutaire du Sénat sur les terres, les mines, l'énergie, les ressources naturelles et l'environnement avait voté à une écrasante majorité contre les candidats Gibson et Nimely. Ce comité est dirigé par le sénateur George Tengbeh du comté de Lofa, membre du Parti de l'Unité, ancien parti au pouvoir.

Les sénateurs semblaient douter de la crédibilité de l'avocat Toga Nimely dont la gestion calamiteuse du Millennium Challenge Account, parrainé par les États-Unis, avait laissé un goût amer.

«Le comité soigneusement examiné les candidats Me Charles H. Gibson et l'avocat Anthony Toga Nimely à travers leur exposé, leur curriculum vitae et les autres titres de compétences qu'ils ont présentés. Dans sa sagesse, le comité a pris en compte les efforts déployés par les partenaires internationaux pour accroître l'efficacité et les possibilités de faire progresser l'efficacité énergétique au Libéria. Le comité a conclu à l'unanimité que les candidats n'étaient pas éligibles et qualifiés pour occuper les postes auxquels ils ont été nommés », indique le rapport.

Le comité avait dit juger nécessaire de recommander à l'assemblée plénière du Sénat libérien de rejeter la demande de confirmation des deux individus.

Ces rejets en trombe soulèvent des questions quant à la fiabilité des choix du président Weah pour occuper des postes de responsabilité au sein de la fonction publique, sur fond de rumeurs de corruption généralisée au sommet de l'Etat.

Par contre, le Sénat libérien avait confirmé le candidat Michael Kporkpor comme commissaire de la Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Afrique : pollution et médias,

décideurs et médias, mis à part la forte mobilisation de novembre et décembre 2015, pour la COP21 à Paris. Jusqu'ici, nombre de pays africains (Angola, Érythrée, Sud-Soudan...) n'ont pas adhéré à l'accord historique à Paris, entré en vigueur depuis le mois de novembre 2016. Un engagement collectif à limiter la hausse de température à moins de 2 °C.

Pourtant, face à

l'assombrissement de l'avenir du continent en matière climatique, les médias en Afrique ne devraient plus rester seulement sur leur rôle classique d'observateur impartial, mais plutôt, ils doivent plus qu'avant, se réinventer une mission de médiateurs de la citoyenneté continentale, en déployant leur aptitudes à faire dialoguer les savoirs, à interpeller les forces en présence.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Dalia Marin

L'Europe doit créer sa propre agence de recherche avancée

MUNICH - L'humeur n'est pas au beau fixe en Allemagne actuellement, et pas seulement en raison du ralentissement économique du pays. Longtemps louée pour son savoir-faire et ses produits industriels de qualité élevée, l'économie allemande risque aujourd'hui de se retrouver à la traîne, à l'heure où les logiciels et les données deviennent de plus en plus essentiels à la prospérité future. L'annonce récente selon laquelle la société technologique américaine Apple vaut désormais davantage que l'ensemble des 30 sociétés allemandes majeures de l'indice DAX accentue par ailleurs la morosité des dirigeants d'affaires et responsables politiques. Si les entreprises allemandes ne s'adaptent pas rapidement, certaines d'entre elles pourraient avoir des difficultés à survivre.

Les nouvelles technologies digitales, dont l'Internet des objets et l'intelligence artificielle, pourraient profondément perturber les business models traditionnels des entreprises allemandes - notamment dans des secteurs tels que la construction de machines, l'automobile, et les produits chimiques. Le problème est d'autant plus sérieux que les sociétés allemandes rencontrent une concurrence de plus en plus rude de la part de la Chine, qui gravit progressivement l'échelle de la fabrication à valeur ajoutée.

Pour concevoir par exemple des voitures à conduite autonome, les constructeurs automobiles allemands tels que Volkswagen vont devoir collaborer avec des sociétés de logiciels en Europe. Actuellement, Volkswagen doit travailler avec Google ou avec un partenaire chinois, en l'absence d'un secteur des logiciels en Allemagne. Or, les automobiles de demain seront des superordinateurs ultra-connectés sur quatre roues. Si l'Allemagne et l'Europe ne s'adaptent pas suffisamment rapidement, Volkswagen et d'autres constructeurs automobiles allemands risquent de connaître le même sort que Nokia, qui a perdu sa position dominante sur le marché des téléphones mobiles, au profit d'Apple.

En somme, l'Allemagne a besoin d'un nouveau industriel du type de celui observé à la fin de XIXe siècle, époque à laquelle sont apparues des sociétés comme Daimler, Bayer, BASF et Allianz. Mais cela ne sera possible que si l'État apporte suffisamment de soutien technologique aux entreprises allemandes. C'est ici que l'agence du gouvernement des États-Unis pour les projets de recherche avancée de défense (la DARPA), forte de plusieurs décennies de réussite dans les innovations de haute technologie, doit faire office de modèle à suivre pour l'Allemagne et l'Europe.

Comme le souligne l'économiste Mariana Mazzucato, la DARPA et d'autres agences gouvernementales américaines ont joué un rôle déterminant dans le développement de nouvelles technologies comme Internet, la navigation GPS, les écrans tactiles, ou encore les assistants à commande vocale tels que Siri chez Apple ou Alexa chez Amazon. Sans ces réussites de recherche soutenues par l'État, les géants technologiques américains

n'existeraient pas aujourd'hui.

La DARPA achète également certaines innovations. L'entreprise de robotique Boston Dynamics, par exemple - qui est née du Massachusetts Institute of Technology, qui a ensuite été acquise par Google, et qui appartient désormais au géant japonais SoftBank Group - a remporté en 2013 un appel d'offres pour la livraison de systèmes robotiques dans le cadre du prochain DARPA Robotics Challenge. En vertu de ce contrat, la société livrera une gamme de robots autonomes humanoïdes Atlas, qui pourront être utilisés en situations de catastrophe naturelle.

Le gouvernement américain joue ainsi un rôle majeur dans le façonnement des innovations. La Chine, Israël et la Corée du Sud disposent d'écosystèmes similaires de soutien de l'État à la recherche, axés sur les applications militaires et de renseignement, ce qui explique notamment pourquoi ces pays sont eux aussi devenus des leaders mondiaux de l'innovation digitale.

Une étude récemment menée autour des économies de l'OCDE par Enrico Moretti de l'Université de Californie, ainsi que par Claudia Steinwender et John Van Reenen du MIT, confirme ces preuves empiriques. Les auteurs se sont intéressés à l'impact des dépenses de recherche militaire financées par l'État sur l'activité de recherche des sociétés à financement privé, ainsi qu'à leur effet sur la croissance de la productivité. Par opposition à l'éviction de l'investissement privé qui caractérise habituellement les investissements publics accrus, les auteurs ont constaté une véritable intégration de dépenses de recherche privées. Ils ont en effet observé qu'une augmentation de 10 % des dépenses de recherche publiquement financées générerait une augmentation supplémentaire de 4,3 % des recherches financées de manière privée. Les auteurs en concluent que le faible niveau de dépenses publiques dans la recherche, observé dans certaines économies de l'OCDE, est également synonyme d'un manque de recherche liée au domaine militaire dans ces pays.

Conclusion évidente, l'Europe a besoin de sa propre agence de recherche européenne, d'un budget comparable à celui de la DARPA, si elle entend suivre la cadence d'une concurrence technologique mondiale croissante. Le gouvernement allemand doit œuvrer pour cette création, qui aurait pour avantage supplémentaire d'appuyer les récents efforts de l'Allemagne dans la poursuite d'une politique étrangère et de défense plus confiante. Par ailleurs, une agence de type DARPA, financée par l'État allemand et par d'autres gouvernements européens, permettrait à l'Allemagne de satisfaire plus rapidement à son obligation consistant, en tant que membre de l'OTAN, à dépenser 2 % de son PIB dans la défense, ce que réclame régulièrement le président américain Donald Trump.

Il est urgent que l'Allemagne et les autres pays européens réoutillent leur économie, en phase avec le XXIe siècle. La création d'une agence sur le modèle de la DARPA constituerait une étape majeure dans la bonne direction.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UNDP powers 12 Health Facilities under its Solar for Health Project



By Bridgett Milton

A Solar for Health Project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has targeted about 12 health centers in seven Counties, expected to benefit.

Solar power facilities are to be installed in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Bong, Gbarpolu, Montserrado, Lofa and Bomi Counties.

At a technical handover of solar power at the Duport Road Health Center in Monrovia 05 February 2019, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Operations Mulugeta Abebe, emphasized that the intervention aligns to UNDP's role in identifying and testing innovative financing instruments and integrated solutions that achieve development targets and results.

He said the initiative will increase access to health services by vulnerable populations, reduce carbon emissions as Liberia struggles with climate change issues and improve the overall power supply of health facilities.

"UNDP is exploring innovative and sustainable options for increasing access to health services," said Abebe.

The Liberian Government under its National Development Framework- Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) highlights the energy sector as a part of the infrastructure transformation strategies in its new plan.

Hence, UNDP believes that the Health sector could be a pioneer for promoting the creation of a local market for renewable energy.

Abebe noted that this initiative provides another opportunity for UNDP to support the country in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by helping to respond to complex development challenges that the country faces.

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NBC graduates

Cont'd from page 11

capacity development for a more robust, transparent and accountable implementation of government and donor funded projects.

The UNDP Deputy Resident Representative commended the Liberia Institute for Public Administration (LIPA) for the unflinching support in conducting the training for the staff of the National Bureau of Concessions, reaffirming partnership and commitment to working together.

NBC's Deputy Director General for Administration Diana Harris applauded UNDP for the enormous support to

Liberia especially in strengthening institutional and human capacity, and urged graduates to live up to their commitment to make a difference, stand up for change and let their footprints be seen.

"Nothing must go to waste," Harris emphasized.

LIPA's Mission is to contribute quality service delivery through research, training and consultancy.

Its Director General Alexander Yonly reiterated that LIPA's vision is to promote transparency, accountability and professionalism.

Wilmot Paye withdraws complaint from S/Court

By Winston W. Parley

Suspended Unity Party (UP) National Chairman Wilmot Paye has withdrawn his petition filed against the UP before Justice in Chambers at the Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba.

Dated 4 February, the notice signed by his lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson with the right to refile, requests the Clerk of the Supreme Court Atty. Sam Mamulu to spread on the minutes of the Court Mr. Paye's withdrawal of the petition.

"Please spread on the minutes of Court that the Petitioner in the above cause of action most respectfully withdraws the Petitioner's Petition for the Writ of Prohibition which was filed in this Honorable Court before the Chambers Justice, His Honor Yussif D. Kaba, with the right to re-file, if the need arises," Cllr. Johnson writes.

The former ruling party chairman filed his case before the Justice in Chambers at the Supreme Court following his suspension on 21 January by UP's Executive Committee to face investigation internally for party-related



matters.

His suspension followed accusation by the UP that Mr. Paye allegedly took a unilateral decision in telling UP partisans and supporters to stay away from a protest organized by the Council of Patriots (COP) which was held on 6 January 2020.

The UP's Executive Committee had said Mr. Paye's pronouncement was a gross insubordination to both the Executive Committee and the entire party.

Uncertainty was high here

over the fate of COP's second biggest protest due on 6 January following numerous efforts by international partners to mediate between the COP and the government which ended with the protesters finally choosing their own date instead of a suggested date of Sunday, 5 January.

Mr. Paye's reported call for UP partisans and supporters to stay away from the protest came at about this time of uncertainty, as rhetoric

between the government and the COP got intensified and fears grew here that the protest could have ended in chaos.

The joint security here did use tear gas against the protesters on 6 January, but this incident came when the protesters and the securities could not resolve their disagreements over COP's demand to cook, eat and sleep at the protest site on Capitol Hill between the Executive Mansion and the Legislature.

But in his petition to the Court, Mr. Paye challenged the move by UP's Executive

Committee as illegal and unlawful by announcing his suspension and subjecting him to investigation for making public pronouncements in his capacity as UP Chair.

He insisted that he did not violate any policy, rule or provision of the party's constitution by exercising his power as chairman.

Prior to withdrawing the case on 4 February, the Justice in Chambers, Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba, had cited Mr. Paye's lawyers and the party's leadership to a conference on Monday, 3 February.

Retract now, or be sued



Former Solicitor General Betty LaminBlamo has written a strong worded letter to Solicitor General SaymaCyreniusCephus, formerly a defense counsel in one or more of the cases he now pursues under the government assets recovery program to retract allegations he made against her or be sued.

Cllr. Cephus who is on a storm in the government much trumpeted assets recovery fight was recently quoted by the Frontpage Africa newspaper giving reasons why he dropped charges against Ms. Ellen Cockrum, a onetime fugitive of the Liberian government, saying that the previous government entered a NolleProsequi in favor of a number of defendants so this government saw the need to do same to avoid selective

prosecution.

He also indicated that among other things that any further investigation into Ms.Cockrum case should consider“the legal basis for the former Solicitor General Betty Lamin-Blamo recommending the sole source bid or selection of Fox Rothschild, "what became of the extradition proceedings, if any [emphasis supplied] among them".

He alleges that Cllr. Betty LaminBlamo dished out USD 200,000 to Fox Rothschild after she picked the US based law firm through a single sourcing process.

But it appears like Cllr. Cephus has gotten his facts wrong here-at least according to former Solicitor General Blamo.

“... your numerous allegations against me are totally baseless and that you are aware of their falsity. Making false statement against

another constitutes defamation as a matter of law where it damages the other. There is no doubt that your allegations are defamatory as a matter of law,” Cllr. Betty Lamin-Blamo warned.

“I am thus mystified by your plainly false and misleading assertions, categorically deny them, and hereby demand that you retract same.” She fumed.

“There is no basis for the false statements you have made because the Office of the Solicitor General in the Ministry of Justice is the custodian of the records in this matter. These efforts are clearly designed to evade your own responsibility to divert the attention of the public from responsibility for the decision just made to drop charges against Ms. Cockrum even though as Solicitor General you had responsibility for such matters. You have instead intentionally elected to unjustly injure my reputation.

“In view of the above, I request that you do the honorable thing to retract the allegations,” she told Cllr. Cephus in a much detail letter that explains the circumstances surrounding most of the cases he now pursues and the ones in which he served as defense counsel.

“I request that you kindly have this done upon receipt of this my letter, otherwise I will be constrained to take such actions and measures as would be necessary including the filing of an ethics complaint against you, to protect my hard-earned reputation,” she added. *See full letter on page 5.*

NBC graduates 41 following 21 days intensive training

At least 41 staff of the National Bureau of Concession receive certificates in various discipline following a 21-days intensive training funded by UNDP Liberia in partnership with the National Bureau of Concession (NBC) and the Liberia Institute of Public Administration(LIPA).

Beneficiaries received certificates in Public Financial Management, Procurement, Human Resource Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

UNDP Liberia Deputy Resident Representative for Programme Violet Baffour speaking at the graduation ceremony held at LIPA's Office Wednesday 05 February 2020, urged the graduates to be mentors and the agents of change for their institution.

“You have acquired new skills and talents, use it wisely and promote the Liberia Bureau of Concessions' image and transfer knowledge to your colleagues,” Baffour

encouraged beneficiaries.

She reminded them that the knowledge acquired should be used for an effective service delivery in order to mitigate unnecessary bureaucracy/delays and to strengthen institutional

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MCA-L Begins Major

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response on the field.

Customers visiting the center or calling to the improved hotline will experience improved response time, a more comfortable waiting area, shorter waiting times, and more professional assistance. They will also see better tracking of service orders due to an improved link between customer service management and technical staff through a new integrated management system to which the service center will connect.

SeneseeHemoh, MCA-L's Project Controls Manager, said the revamped center would be crucial to improving how LEC serves its customers.

“Customer service is the face of a company to the public - if the customer service of a company is very subpar, customers will view the organization in a bad light,” he said.

“For LEC, if customer service must be improved, then the working environment, the technological tools being used, and all aspects of the office setting, must also be revamped. When we complete the renovation of this customer service center, it will not only be a renewed and more welcoming space, but the staff will also be better trained and empowered to deliver better service to customers.”

While the Waterside site is under construction, LEC's

customer service staff have temporarily relocated to a leased office facility provided by MCA-L along VP Road in Congo Town, not far from Catholic Junction. The project is expected to be completed by August 2020.

The reconstruction of the customer service center is part of MCA-L's continual effort to support LEC in becoming a more sustainable and viable public utility. Over the past seven months, MCA-L has provided US\$1.78 million in spare parts, utility poles, meters, and heavy-duty trucks to LEC.

In addition to funding 40 percent of the cost of rebuilding the Mount Coffee Hydro Power Plant, MCA-L has also paid for a three-year management services contractor to manage LEC and turn it into a more efficient and profitable company.

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

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At the same time, the Director of Health Services, Dr. Lorraine Cooper, responding on behalf of the Ministry of Health and the Montserrado County Health Team, conveyed the government's appreciation to UNDP for the gesture.

Dr. Cooper stressed that such intervention has come at a time that Liberia like other countries around the world, is facing numerous challenges ranging from environmental degradation, fuel shortages on the global market, hike in prices to high maternal mortality.

“The quality of services at health centers is key to alleviating maternal deaths and there is no question that

adequate lighting facilities play an important role,” Dr. Cooper noted. She urged authorities to develop sustainable strategies that would help make durable, the lifespan of the intervention.

The technical and operational installation is being led by a Liberian owned Company called Eco-Power.

Some of the facilities to benefit include: Sinje Clinic, Cape Mount County; Palala Health Center, Bong County;Konia Health Center, Telewoyan Hospital, Vahun Health Centre, and Kolahun health center all in Lofa County, as well as, St Timothy Hospital in Robertsport and the Buchanan Health Facility among others.

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MCA-L Begins Major Push to Revamp LEC Customer Service Center



The Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA-L) has begun reconstruction and remodeling works on the Customer Service Center at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) in a bid to improve customer satisfaction levels.

The renovation at the Waterside facility commenced on February 5 and will increase the seating

capacity of the Customer Service Center to over 100 customers from a current maximum of 25. The current center is plagued with many issues, including inadequate seating capacity, poor sanitation facilities, inadequate ventilation, and a lack of efficient technologies to meet customers' needs.

When construction is complete, the newly refurbished facility will feature

improved bathrooms, better technological tools, and well-trained staff to handle an influx of customers.

The US\$450,000 project also includes three vehicles and the installation of new furniture and IT infrastructure for LEC's Customer Service Center. LEC will use the new vehicles to deliver a more effective customer service

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Ancelotti hopes Liverpool don't win the title at Goodison Park

Carlo Ancelotti has admitted that he hopes Liverpool don't win the Premier League title at Goodison Park.

The Reds are closing in on a first league title since 1990, sitting 22 points clear of nearest challenger Manchester City.

There is now a genuine possibility that Jurgen Klopp's men could be crowned champions at Goodison on March 16th, depending on results between now and

then.

Eighteen points are required to guarantee title glory, but if City drop points before the Merseyside Derby, and Liverpool keep winning, it could mean a victory in that game seals the deal.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Ancelotti was honest about the prospect of the unthinkable happening, from an Everton perspective.

I think it would be hilarious for Liverpool to win the title at Goodison, simply because of the



meltdown it could cause among Everton fans.

If the Reds haven't caused the Blues enough misery of late - Divock Origi's late header, a 5-2 thrashing at Anfield and Liverpool's youngsters knocking them out of the FA Cup - winning the league on their turf would be on another level.

I would actually prefer Klopp's men to be crowned champions at Anfield, however, considering the joyous scenes

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