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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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Continental News

Ethiopian cardinal barred from entering Eritrea

The head of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia was barred from leaving the main airport in neighbouring Eritrea to attend an engagement over the weekend.

The church said Cardinal

Berhaneyesus Demerew had been issued with a visa, which Ethiopians now get on arrival following a 2018 peace deal.

But airport officials said their orders had come from "higher up".

The government has been

unhappy with the Catholic Church since bishops called for political reform last year.

In response, the authorities closed down Catholic-run schools and hospitals, saying it was imposing old regulations that

stipulate that religious bodies cannot run such institutions.

The country, led by President Isaias Afwerki, does not have a functioning constitution and has never held a national election.

His Ethiopian counterpart, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for ending a 20-year military stalemate with Eritrea following a 1998-2000 border war. How influential is Cardinal Berhaneyesus?

The cleric is a highly respected figure in Ethiopia, where most Christians are members of the Orthodox Church, and was appointed by Mr Abiy to head the national reconciliation commission.

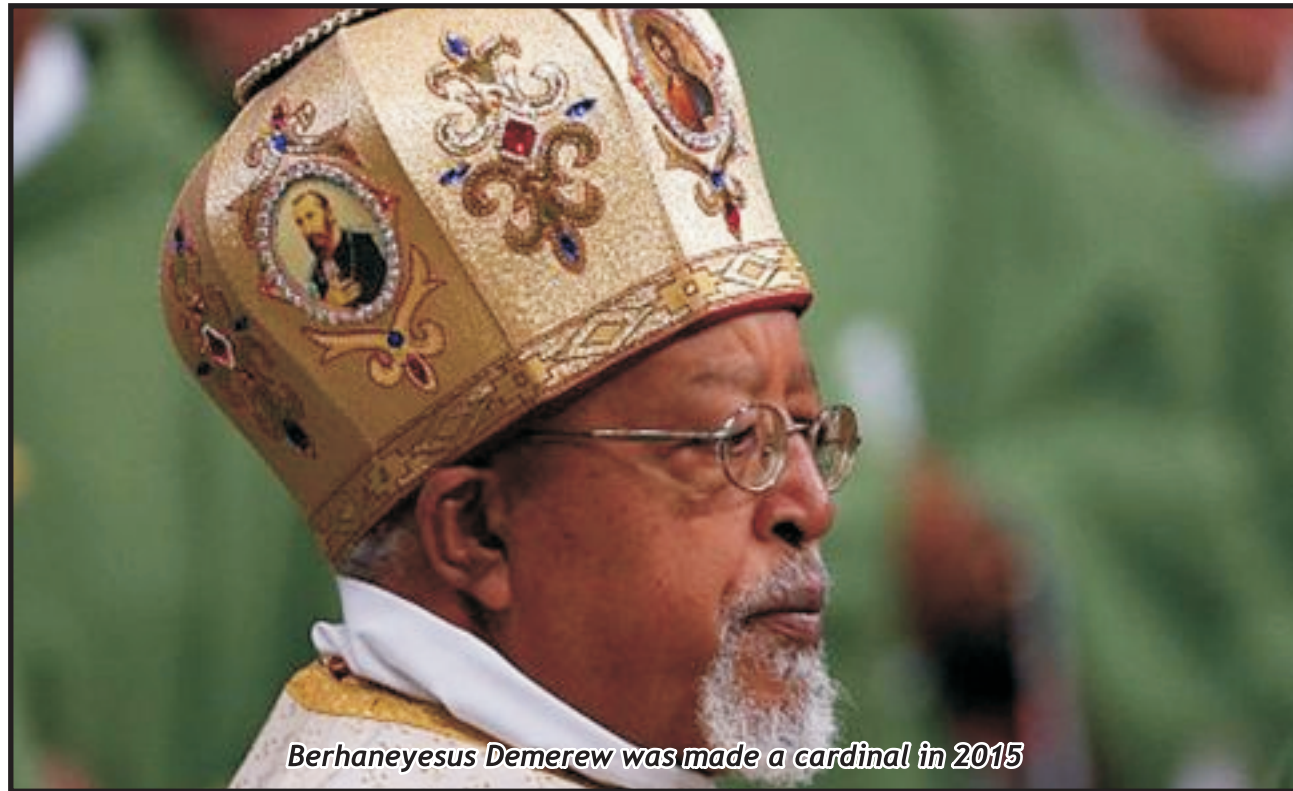
He had been due to attend an event marking the 50th

anniversary of the construction of Kidane Mehret Cathedral in Eritrea's capital, Asmara. He had arrived at Asmara airport on Saturday, but was obliged to return to Ethiopia the next afternoon after fruitless attempts to reach the crowd gathered to welcome him.

The Eritrean government has not commented on the issue. Roman Catholics make up about 4% of Eritrea's population.

The church is one of only four religious groups allowed to operate in Eritrea, along with the Eritrean Orthodox, Evangelical Lutheran and Sunni Islam groups.

The government regards other religious groups as instruments of foreign governments. BBC



Berhaneyesus Demerew was made a cardinal in 2015

Militant behind Kenya attack killed

A U.S. air strike over the weekend in Somalia killed an Islamist militant who helped plan last month's attack on a military base in Kenya in which three Americans died, the U.S. military said on Tuesday.

The military's Africa Command (AFRICOM) said in a statement the strike carried out on Saturday killed a senior member of the Somalia-based

militant group al Shabaab "who was in charge of planning and directing terrorist operations on the Kenya border region, including the recent attack on Manda Bay" and his wife.

The statement described the wife as a "witting and active" al Shabaab member.

In the Jan. 5 attack, three Americans - one U.S. military service member and two contractors - were killed during an attack by al Shabaab on the

Manda Bay military base in Kenya used by both U.S. and Kenyan forces.

After that attack, the U.S. military deployed additional forces to Kenya, which borders Somalia. Africom carried out 63 air strikes in Somalia last year targeting al Shabaab insurgents. It has carried out 18 this year so far.

Al Shabaab, allied to al Qaeda, has been fighting for more than a decade to overthrow the Somali government and impose strict Islamic law. AFP



Rwanda rules out foul play in gospel singer's death

Rwanda's authorities have ruled out foul play in the death of gospel singer Kizito Mihigo, who died in police custody 11 days ago.

The national prosecuting authority said a report by the Rwandan Investigation Bureau showed he had taken his own life by hanging himself with items in his cell.

The police officers on duty that night said no commotion was heard.

organisations and foreign-based Rwandan activists have cast doubt on the official version. Philippe Basabose, a spokesman for 36 genocide survivors living abroad, wrote an open letter to President Paul Kagame, calling for an independent investigation.

He told the BBC that Kizito had shown no signs of planning to take his own life, and before his arrest had spoken about getting married and



The singer, popularly known by his first name Kizito, died three days after he was arrested near the border with Burundi. He had been accused of attempting to flee the country and join rebel groups fighting against the Rwandan government.

Activists in the diaspora said Kizito had no such intention and wanted to get to Belgium where he had lived before. He had been banned from leaving Rwanda because of a previous conviction.

A number of human rights

starting a family.

Five years ago, the singer was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being found guilty of planning to kill President Kagame and inciting hatred against the government. He was pardoned in 2018. Government critics believe he was targeted because of his music.

In one of his songs he had suggested that everyone killed during the 1994 genocide should be remembered, whether they were ethnic Hutus or Tutsis. BBC

EDITORIAL

The CPP quarrel is complete mess

THE CURRENT RIGMAROLE in the four Collaborating Political Parties over who should be or is best suited for standard bearer is nothing but child's play. No one should take seriously a so-called opposition block that should rather be serious planning and conscientizing its followers and sympathizers for the next elections, now bent on tearing one another apart for leadership.

IT IS NOT the prerogative of the CPP Chair to determine who should become flagbearer in the next elections, but the membership or the people at primary. Why now waste precious time on something that is as clear as water in a glass?

Recent comments from Mr. Benoni Urey of ALP that ex-VP Joseph Nyumah Boakai of UP is best suited to become standardbearer for the CPP and reactions from both ANC and LP clearly indicates that something is amiss within the opposition block that needs to be addressed to allow that body puts its acts together as a true government in waiting that the Liberian people can hope on.

THE MAIN CHARACTERS in the CPP - Mr. Benoni Urey, Mr. Alexander Cummings, Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai and Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence should begin to act now in ways that would win and maintain the trust of the people they want to lead.

HOWEVER, UTTERANCES COMING from member parties of the Collaboration of late, do not portray unity. Instead, we see a creeping sign that could turn the entire opposition into a mess.

AND THIS HAS been a fundamental problem in Liberian politics: lack of a cohesive opposition force that can pull strength and give the ruling party a run at the ballot box for their money. Parties that make up the CPP individually contested against the CDC in the 2017 presidential election and failed.

THEY SHOULD KNOW by now the best strategic option in the impending 2023 poll is to galvanize forces and present a united front against the Weah government, if they really want to provide alternative leadership.

WHETHER IT IS Amb. Boakai, or Mr. Cummings; Mr. Urey or a candidate from the LP, no single party or candidate can contest in an election and win definitively the first round, as the past three elections have shown.

IT IS BASED on these realities that we underscore the need that the CPP should remain a unity opposition block with a strong voice, not just in speeches but on the political battle ground to win state power.

THIS CANNOT BE achieved if there are infighting and jostling for the standard bearer position, which should actually be determined at primary than thru words of war in the media.

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COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

The West's Final Countdown?

With the US presidential election approaching, no one can say they didn't foresee the possibility of Donald Trump winning a second term - an event that would pose an existential threat to the very idea of "the West." So why are European leaders spending their time squabbling over agriculture subsidies?

BERLIN - The year is still young, but its historical significance is already clear. At least as far as the West is concerned, foreseeable events in the coming months will have an overwhelming and decisive impact on the future. The moment of truth will come on November 3, 2020, when voters in the United States elect the country's next president.

To be sure, US presidential elections have always been globally important, because they determine who will lead the world's most powerful country for the next four years. But the stakes are much higher this time. The re-election of President Donald Trump could spell the end of the liberal world order and the system of alliances that America has fostered since the 1940s.

Departing from America's tradition of global leadership, Trump favors a narrow-minded nationalism, and has shown little restraint in undermining US democracy itself, not least by challenging the separation of powers and other core institutions. Should Trump win in November, he will have a mandate to wreak havoc for another four years. The result will fit the description he offered in his first inaugural address: American carnage.

Make no mistake: it makes a big difference whether Trump is in office for eight years rather than just four. In addition to Americans, Europeans would be the first to feel the consequences of a second Trump term. The fact is that Europe remains almost existentially dependent on the US, both economically and for its security. This dependence is a legacy of the twentieth century, with its two world wars and its long Cold War. Such deeply rooted historical realities cannot be easily or quickly reversed. Already, Trump has forced Europe to pursue its own sovereignty; but achieving that end will not come easily or cheaply.

When Trump was elected in 2016, almost everyone both inside and outside the US was caught by surprise. In 2020, no one will make the same mistake again. But nor can anyone claim not to know what they are getting with Trump. He may be a stranger to the truth, but he has stayed mostly true to his campaign promises.

That said, it would be wrong to expect merely four more years of the same. If Trump is re-elected, he will most likely behave even more radically and without restraint. He will be fully convinced that he is the "chosen one," having successfully withstood perfidious attacks by the opposition, the old establishment, the media, and the "deep state." Who would be left to stop him, or at least to chasten him?

For all of its disastrous implications, the idea of a "second Trump term" has not shaken the

European Union from its frustrating habit of pursuing business as usual. EU officials are currently negotiating the terms of the bloc's next seven-year €1 trillion (\$1.1 trillion) budget. Part of this involves a new battle over the allocation of regional and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funds following Brexit. The Trump presidency has been a negligible factor in the proceedings. And although a strategy for achieving European sovereignty necessarily would require new financial commitments, that particular issue has scarcely come up.

Instead, within the European Council, short-term national interests have prevailed. It is as if the world has not fundamentally changed over the past three years. One might think European leaders' priorities would adjust to the Trump presidency, the emergence of China as a global power, Russia's bet on military strength and rearmament, and the rise of the digital economy. But no: self-interested haggling dominates the agenda in Brussels and in Europe's national capitals (which have always played a fundamental role in EU governance). Strategic thinking and a sense of historical responsibility are, at best, an afterthought.

Worse, this state of affairs prevails despite the fact that there is no more important issue to Europe than the US presidential election. Europeans should be preparing for the worst. The key question, both for Europe and the West more broadly, is whether NATO could survive a second Trump term. If NATO were to unravel, Europe and the North Atlantic region would suddenly face an enormous security crisis. In fact, without the transatlantic bond that the Alliance provides, one could hardly speak of "the West" at all. And Europe certainly wouldn't be able to manage its own security.

In Brussels, but particularly at the European Council, the top-line agenda should reflect the fact that the strategic groundwork for the twenty-first century is being laid now - at this very moment. There is far more at stake than the outcome of the next national election in any one European country.

This is not to discount the importance of regional and CAP funds. But with all due respect to the frugal net contributors and the poorer recipient countries that depend on EU disbursements, there simply are bigger issues that need to be addressed. Europe's very security and sovereignty are now at risk. The EU must ask itself if it is prepared to do what is necessary to remain an independent player, united in the common interest of all Europeans. Otherwise, Europe's viability as a democratic, sovereign entity in control of its own destiny will be called into question - and therefore tested by adversaries - like never before.



Lord, they identify with the good and dissociate themselves from the bad

Dear Father:

You know, come to think of it since the Country Giant and his people took over this village there has been nothing that has gone wrong I can lay my hands on that they have really taken responsibility for.

Trust me Father, there is not one bad thing the Country Giant and his followers has taken blame for rather they take credit for every good thing that happens to the village, while the bad ones are blamed on the Old Lady who barely spends time in this village (even though she deserves some as well) or her predecessors.

You know, it's like Jude said in the Good Old Book-he said these are "filthy dreamers". And for their followers, they speak evil of dignitaries of those things they know not. As for them what they know naturally like brute beast, in those things they corrupt themselves.

And believe you me Father, this has become the routine in our village-the failure to men up and take responsibility has long disappeared in our village as our meager resources are being plunder while the villagers groan in abject poverty.

Oh, yes Father. When the prices of the village stable goes up, they either blame the Old Lady or the founders of our village; when thieves at the village power house negligently cause power failure, they blamed the Old Lady or her predecessors; when some aggrieved persons get on our dusty roads to complain about the way things are going in the village they blamed people from the Old Lady's camp who are still in their midst as the cause of the problem or undermines.

Oh and don't be an outsider that try to speak the truth to power-soon they will call you an enemy of the state. Where are we really headed as a village, I wonder?

Again you know, it's like the common saying, when you have a problem and refused to acknowledge that you are your own nightmare but rather think other people are the cause of your problem then you have a complex.

My son, where are you going with all of these today? Father, just the other day there was no black gold in our village. I mean, this created a huge problem for all the villagers except for the big, big people.

The first thing instead of taking responsibility, the people began to lie from one end to another trading blames at each other as usual till they roped in the Old Lady-the. Am very certain that when the rainy season starts and everywhere gets flooded, they will start the blame game from the days of the old fray light skin Old Man to the Old Lady. So why are they there?

Father that is a very good question. The thing is the last time I checked, they told us they were coming to change the way things have been done in the past. But trust me, they keep blaming the past till sometimes I wonder when they will ever tackle the present before I even mention the future.

And as if that was not enough, one road design which the Old Lady and her people made few years ago is now being paraded as if they were the ones that made the design-complete hypocrisy-identifying with the good and dissociating with the bad from the same regime. How ironic. I wonder those posting those pictures know the origin-just wondering.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson

Coronavirus and the Global Economy

If developing countries' health systems come under pressure, the US, Europe, and others should step up quickly with technical assistance and essential supplies. Unfortunately, there has so far been a worrying lack of leadership especially by US President Donald Trump's administration.

WASHINGTON, DC - The emergence of COVID-19, a new coronavirus, is a tragic public-health emergency. The disease, one hopes, will be brought under control quickly, but the International Monetary Fund is already warning that economic growth in China may slow. As we watch the situation unfold, three broader risks to the global economy are also becoming more apparent.

The first risk is obviously in China itself. While the precise origins of the disease remain unclear, it is hard to take a definite view on whether outbreaks of this kind could be avoided - for example, by better control over hygiene in food markets. But it is painfully obvious that a lack of transparency in China has contributed to fear and even signs of panic around the world.

As financial markets demonstrated in 2007-2008, when the precise incidence of big risks is not well understood, people tend to assume the worst. Rapidly falling asset prices may not contain much information - except that there is not much information to be had.

What is the exact mortality rate associated with COVID-19? Why does mortality, supposedly, vary significantly across localities? What explains the ease with which this virus seems, sometimes, to travel great distances? What are the precise effects of quarantining people in a building, a makeshift hospital, or a city?

The Chinese authorities surely do not have all the answers at this point, but their inclination to suppress data and interpretation is tremendously unhelpful.

Second, the lack of American leadership is more painfully apparent every day. The United States has the strongest medical-health system in the world, with capacity for research and development (government and private) that is second to none. Yet President Donald Trump's administration seems to be concerned primarily with playing down the risks, while keeping the virus out of the US - a nearly impossible task.

The private sector is working hard on a vaccine, and this is commendable. Unfortunately, over a longer period of time, the lack of a consistent market for such vaccines has undermined investment in this sector. By creating the world's largest market for many drugs, the US effectively supports research across a wide range of ailments - but only those for which there is large and steady demand in the US.

Even the most fervent believer in Trump's "America First" must be willing to concede that it is not in America's interest for the rest of the world to become sick. These are US allies, friends, and customers. Also, like it or not, few diseases will stop at America's borders. Indeed, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that the question is not if, but rather when, COVID-19 spreads domestically.

The third risk is in emerging markets and developing countries. Poorer countries are ill-equipped to deal with this kind of disease, as seen in African countries' refusal to airlift their citizens from China.

The news that the coronavirus has reached Italy has shaken world financial markets, but Italy is a relatively well-organized and rich country. A vibrant democracy ensures that people (inside and outside the country) will quickly understand if containment and treatment measures are working.

We should be much more concerned about other countries, where nutrition is worse, housing standards are weak, and disease transmission can occur much more readily. If these countries' health systems come under pressure, the US, Europe, and others should step up quickly with technical assistance and essential supplies. But here, too, there is so far a worrying lack of leadership.

It seems unlikely that this disease will prove to be as deadly as some of those that our ancestors experienced. Medical practice and public health have advanced a great deal. The CDC is an outstanding organization, and the World Health Organization has a strong track record when the chips are down. Private-sector groups of dedicated doctors and nurses have performed extraordinarily well under the most difficult circumstances, such as dealing with Ebola, when they are given a chance. We are fortunate to live in an age that has so many heroic people.

Still, this coronavirus is a warning. Societies neglect access to health-care systems and reduce investments in R&D at great peril. Diseases are always evolving, and we must continually increase our capacity to understand and fight newly emerging threats.

The best way forward is by strengthening science, training more scientists, and building more labs. Countries that are able to do this - like the US - should share ideas and knowledge as widely as possible.

Investing more in science is an appealing economic proposition. Given very high rates of social return, basic research across a wide range of activities more than pays for itself.

But this is not about the economics. More likely than not, one day a scientist will save your life or the life of a loved one, because his or her previous work produced a drug, treatment, or just an idea that made a critical difference. We should invest in scientists to save ourselves and our neighbors. And we must remember that we have neighbors all over our deeply interconnected world.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Climate change: A major global threat

The climate change, that is, the change of the global climate and in particular the changes in meteorological conditions that extend on a large time scale, is a major global existential threat. The greenhouse effect causes the increase of temperature of the planet primarily due to the tremendous increase in carbon dioxide, which has increased by 35% since the beginning of the industrial revolution. And of course the lion's share in pollution of the atmosphere with 50% of all carbon dioxide have Europe and North America. All other countries together are responsible for the other half, while the poorest countries are the least responsible. However, the people who live in these countries it is they who will suffer more strongly of the consequences.

The causes of climate change are mainly identified in combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gasoline, natural gas, etc.) which account for 50% of total emissions, in the production and use of synthetic chemicals, in disaster of forest areas which contributes to the production of additional gases in the atmosphere and of course to the greenhouse effect by 15% and in conventional agriculture and livestock farming, which account for 15% of emissions.

The expert scientists knock the danger bell and warn that if there is no urgent global coordinated action by political leaders, governments, industries and citizens around the world, the temperature of the planet is likely to rise above 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels by 2060 and the increase could even reach 5°C by the end of the twenty-first century, fact that will make the lives of future generations problematic.

Such an increase in the temperature of our planet will have a devastating impact on nature, bringing about irreversible changes in many ecosystems and consequent loss of biodiversity, that is, all living organisms and species that make up life on the planet, that is, animals, birds, fish and plants (fauna and flora). Many species are expected to disappear from areas that will be directly and severely affected by climate change.

Today, compared to 1850 -from when recording data began- a temperature increase of 1.1°C is observed. So, it is vital importance, the increase not to exceed 1.5°C, because as scientists estimate, beyond this crucial point there will be no way back.

The climate change, however, which is due to human activities, is a tangible ominous reality and is already adversely affecting our planet. The sectors responsible for the production of greenhouse gases are primarily the sector of energy produce (units of production of electrical power, refineries) but also industrial activities, the modern means of transport (cars, airplanes, etc.) and the activities of the primary production sector.

So, the extreme weather events, the uncontrolled fires in forests such as the Amazon that have been characterized as the "lung" of the planet, the heat waves, the heavy rainfall, the prolonged droughts that create serious eating problems in the affected areas of the planet, the very powerful hurricanes, are becoming constantly more often and more intensively, costing tens of thousands of lives every year and causing huge disasters.

The ice at the same time and snow on the poles are melting, with the Arctic being the biggest victim to date, and the world average sea level goes up, as a result to be caused floods and erosion on coasts and lowland coastal areas and to be created environmental refugees. If this unfavorable development continues, areas such as the Netherlands and Venice will be at risk of being



permanently lost under the sea waters as new Atlantis.

The climate change also increases existing diseases worldwide but also creates new ones, and can also lead to premature death. Too many diseases are particularly sensitive to temperature change. To them included communicable diseases such as yellow fever, malaria, encephalitis and dengue fever, but also eating disorders, mental illnesses, cardiovascular diseases as well as respiratory diseases.

The climate change will also have negative impacts on the economies of the countries given the fact that the high temperatures undermine the productivity of most sectors of the economy, from the agricultural sector to processing. Valid scientists predict that by the end of the century, global GDP will have fallen by 7.22% from what it would have been without climate change.

The teenager Swedish activist against climate change, Greta Thunberg, has managed in the most vigorous and loud way to pass the debate over this huge problem, by the heads of state and government and public dialogue, in society and in the friendly discussions, mobilizing millions of people around the world, especially young people, who began to demonstrate demanding by governments the immediate taking of measures for the confrontation of climate change.

So, Swedish MPs rightly suggested her for the Nobel Peace Prize. And of course Greta Thunberg has big right when she says that the measures are being taken to reduce greenhouse gases and, above all, carbon dioxide are not sufficient.

So, what are the appropriate measures to be taken without delay to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and keep the temperature at + 1.5°C? The basic policies for resolutely mitigating of the problem consist in promoting and utilizing renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, etc.), the enhancing energy efficiency, the drastic reduction of the exploitation of oil and gas deposits and the imposition of carbon taxes in order that to limit the use of fossil fuels and thereby to reduce significantly carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and eliminate them by 2050 at

the latest, the rapid reduction of emissions of methane, carbon black and other short-lived pollutants that burden the climate, the restoration and protection of ecosystems and, above all, forests.

The Paris Agreement, the first universal, legally binding agreement for the climate, entered into force in 2016 with great optimism and manifest ambitions, despite the official US departure statement, which are one of the biggest polluters. Four years have passed since then and there are no substantial results, fact which raises serious questions as to whether there is really the political will to tackle this particularly threatening global problem.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the effects of climate change will be so dramatic that human civilization will be in danger to collapse as a paper tower. So, in the face of this extremely dangerous climate crisis, the citizens around the world should increase their mobilization even further and the political leaders to finally stand up at the height of the circumstances and take immediately the necessary drastic measures, before it is too late, to reverse this unsustainable course and save the planet.

Curriculum vitae

Isidoros Karderinis was born in Athens in 1967. He is a novelist, poet and columnist. He has studied economics and has completed postgraduate studies in the tourism economy. His articles have been published in newspapers, magazines and sites worldwide. His poems have been translated into English, French and Spanish and published in poetry anthologies, in literary magazines and literary sections of newspapers. He has published seven poetry books and three novels. His books have been published in USA, Great Britain, Spain and Italy.

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LMHRA outlines challenges

Three senior employees of the Liberia Medicines & Health Products Regulatory Authority (LMHRA) have decried numerous challenges confronting the entity. Appearing on Super

complained of lack of logistic and adequate financial support to the LMHRA.

According to them, the institution seeks to ensure medicines and health products brought into the country are of quality, efficacy and safe for

and open sale of medicines around the country.

The staffs have called on the public to collaborate with the entity to ensure that selling of medicines in the open and from street sellers are curtailed.



Morning Show hosted by state radio ELBC, the Head of Inspectorate Department, TeedohBeyslow, Alexander Momo, Head of Medicines Registration Unit and Samuel Toe, Senior Laboratory Analyst,

the consumption of the general public.

They also indicated that the entity is working assiduously to ensure adequate public awareness is provided to the public to curtail issue of street peddling

“If drug is not safe, it denatures the ingredients of the medicines and health products and caused deterioration in the consumer health of skin,”

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British Parliamentary Delegation Visits Liberia

A high level delegation from the British Parliament is expected to begin a weeklong visit to Liberia beginning Monday, March 2-7.

The delegation will hold discussions with their counterparts at the National Legislature- on issues concerning Liberia and UK towards strengthening democracy through Parliamentary engagements.

Parliament, of a seven member delegation from the House of Representatives.

According to the British Group Inter- Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) - The visit asserts the crucial role of Parliaments in promoting democracy around the world.

The delegation include Greg Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham since 2010, He served as Minister of State for



The team will follow legislative proceedings and gauge with issues shaping Liberia through legislative debates.

Ministerial discussions covering health, education, defense and gender will also be highlighted. The UK Parliamentary visit to Liberia is a follow-up to the 2018 visit to the Westminster

Trade and Investment from 206 - 2018. As Minister he led on high value export and investment campaigns in around smart cities, infrastructure, energy, healthcare, life sciences; leads on cross-Whitehall alignment, business forecasting function, UK

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Liberia reports on ECOWAS Post Visioning



The Government of Liberia has reported on the ECOWAS post visioning and consultation at a sub-regional consultation of MRU countries held recently in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The Assistant Minister for Development Planning at

the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Benedict Kolubah, made the presentation on behalf of the government.

The forum was organized by the ECOWAS Commission under the leadership of the Vice President of the Commission.

Minister Kolubah informed participants from the MRU and ECOWAS Commission that Team Liberia conducted a consultation under the leadership of the Ecowas National Office and the Division of Planning through facilitators and resource

persons to stimulate discussion on the eight thematic areas, including Population and Human Capital, Economic Governance, Peace and Security, the Environment, Technology & Social Innovations, Challenges and Cross-borders Issues.

The consultations according to Minister Kolubah were held in Ganta, Nimba and Grand Cape Mount, from November 21-22, and 13-14 of December 2019, respectively.

He explained that participants, apart from assessing the achievements of 2020 Vision and also providing their aspirations for

the post-2020 Vision, the consultation increased ownership and brought about citizen-led ECOWAS visioning process, provided opportunity for both state and non-state actors to define their roles in maintaining peace and stability in the region, as well to reinforce the need for collaborative early warning system.

As part of the key observation from the consultation, he emphasized that the role of ECOWAS remains the unforgotten interventions of ECOWAS on the minds of Liberians and also indicated that with

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

World Bank on ending

investments go hand in hand with humanitarian aid.”

The World Bank Group now emphasizes working before, during, and after crisis situations to tackle poverty. It emphasizes prevention by proactively addressing the root causes of conflict – such as social and economic exclusion, climate change and demographic shocks – before tensions turn into full-blown crises. During active conflict, it focuses on building institutional resilience and preserving essential services like health and education for the most vulnerable communities.

The strategy also emphasizes long-term support to help countries transition out of fragility, including private sector solutions, such as scaling-up investments in small and medium enterprises that are essential to create jobs and spur economic growth. It addresses the cross-border impacts of FCV, for example by focusing on the development needs of both refugees and host communities.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of the extreme poor live in fragile and conflict-affected countries, and fragility and conflict have a destabilizing effect across borders. In response, the World Bank has been scaling up its support to FCV countries in Africa through the International Development Association (IDA). Over the past three years, IDA commitments to FCV countries in Africa nearly doubled from about \$6bn in IDA17 to \$11bn so far in IDA18. In the next three years, the World Bank will invest over \$7 billion in the Sahel.

In fragile contexts across the region, the focus has been on delivering services and improving the wellbeing of the most vulnerable, particularly women in insecure areas, and addressing the drivers of fragility. In Somalia, mobile money has helped provide cash payments to families affected by drought and provided the government with e-payment solutions to expand service

This institutional shift is backed by increases in financing, both through the World Bank's General Capital Increase and through the recently approved replenishment of IDA, the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries, which included over \$20 billion for FCV. The Bank and IFC will also make key operational changes, such as deploying



delivery. In the Central African Republic, the LONDO program («stand-up» in Sango) is providing temporary employment to the most vulnerable and increasing families' incomes and wellbeing. In Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and other countries, Geo-Enabling for Monitoring and Supervision is helping improve the monitoring and impact of projects.

more staff and resources to countries impacted by FCV and partnering with a range of international and local actors. IFC and MIGA have also committed to significantly increase their support to private sector investments in economies impacted by FCV. Press Release

Liberia reports on ECOWAS Post Visioning

Cont'd from page 6

tangible development initiatives, ECOWAS is remembered more in the region.

He indicated that the impact of the Commission's work is more appreciated when people move and transact across borders

freely.

Despite the success of the Team Liberia consultation, Mr. Kolubah disclosed that participants recommended further consultation should ensure the post-2020 ECOWAS Vision must consider more community engagements and people-centered programs,

while member states should endeavor to increase free movement and ease the cost of cross border trade in the region.

At the end of the two days consultation, the ECOWAS Vice President extended her heartfelt appreciation to all the delegates and resource persons who made practical inputs in shifting the drafting of the post ECOWAS Vision 2020.

She said the policy document will be a milestone, as it incorporates the aspirations of all member states and other professionals. Press Release

LMHRA outlines challenges

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Mr. Beyslow explained.

He said the institution intends to carry on nationwide inspection but logistics poses a challenge. Notwithstanding, he noted that with help from USAID, the LMHRA is expected to in the shortest possible time carry out a nationwide assessment and sensitization.

Commenting further on illegal sale of medicines and health products, the three senior staffs in separate remarks noted that even though there aren't stronger law or punishment on the sales of medicines in the streets, after a pending retreat, the entity will come up with stronger regulation that will rigidly deal with those caught or engage in illegal street peddling as well as those found bringing fake or substandard medicines or health products in the country.

The trios called on the Legislature, especially the Committee on Health in both the Senate and the House to provide more budgetary allotment to the entity for smooth and effective operations.

According to them, there is need for decentralization

and visibility of the entity's work in all 15 sub-divisions of Liberia, but cannot be fully actualized in the absence of logistic, capacity-building and adequate budgetary allocation.

At the same time Beyslow disclosed that the institution which is also clout with the authority to dispose pharmaceutical wastewill shortly dispose or incinerate pharmaceutical waste around the country.

According to him, as it stands, there are several medical institutions around the country that are requesting the LMHRA to dispose their waste, but due to the challenges faced, they are yet to jump-start the process.

For his part, the Senior Analyst of the laboratory said before the lab was gutted by fire, they carried on International Standard Organization (ISO) testing that was guaranteed by the ISO.

For Momo, he disclosed that the registration of drug is to ensure that pharmaceutical products circulating in Liberia is in compliance with the 2010 Act that created the entity.

British Parliamentary

Cont'd from page 6

Export Finance (UKEF). Kate Osamor was elected as a Labour MP to Edmonton, London in 2015. She was Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities 2016 and, in June 2016, she was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for International Development by Jeremy Corbyn. She was a member of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe 2015-16.

The delegation also includes, Lord McConnell, a Scottish politician and a Labour life peer in the House of Lords. His parliamentary interests include peace building, international development, and opportunities and support for vulnerable youngsters.

Lord McConnell was the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Peace building from 2008 to 2010, and Education Adviser to the Clinton Hunter Development Initiative in Malawi and Rwanda.

Lord Hannay, raised to the peerage in 2001, He previously worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth office for over forty years, which included a posting as the UK's Special Representative for Cyprus, Ambassador to the EU and Ambassador to the UN.

Whilst at the UN he was a Member of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.



Français

Politique : Le député Acarous Gray s'en prend au sénateur Dillon

Le législateur du parti au pouvoir, Acarous Moses Gray, s'en est pris au sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon, qui, selon lui, se livre au mensonge pour se faire réélire lors des élections spéciales de mi-mandat d'octobre 2020.

Animant un point de presse dans son bureau au Capitole le mercredi 26 février, le député Gray, a accusé le sénateur Dillon de se livrer au mensonge rien que pour se faire réélire. Dillon a été élu sénateur en juillet 2019 lors d'une élection partielle, face à un candidat soutenu par la coalition pour le changement démocratique, coalition au pouvoir.

Réagissant aux critiques des sénateurs Dillon et Oscar Cooper en ce qui concerne le contrat routier de RIA attribué à East International sans la ratification du pouvoir législatif du Libéria, le député Gray a déclaré que le fait que la plénière du Sénat libérien a mandaté sa direction pour agir signifie

qu'elle est bien au courant.

Selon lui, le sénateur Dillon a été directeur de cabinet de l'ancien président de la Chambre des Représentants, Edwin Melvin Snowe, et de l'ancienne sénatrice du comté de Bong, Jewel Howard Taylor (qui est vice-présidente de la république aujourd'hui) pendant une si longue période qu'il a perdu sa capacité

intellectuelle.

S'agissant du sénateur Cooper, le législateur du parti au pouvoir a indiqué que l'argument de ce dernier sur le projet routier est basé sur un conflit d'intérêts, révélant que le neveu du sénateur Cooper, Samuel B. Cooper, possède une entreprise de

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Rep. Gray



Sen. Dillon

Guinée : les grosses ficelles du pouvoir pour truquer le fichier électoral

A 5 jours du double scrutin législatif et référendaire, l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie a annoncé son retrait du processus électoral, notamment en raison des nombreuses irrégularités du fichier électoral. En analysant la composition du fichier utilisé par la CENI, de graves incohérences apparaissent.

Révélation sur le délit de fraude électorale en cours.

En Guinée, le corps électoral dépasse la population en âge de voter

Première grande incohérence : le nombre d'électeurs enregistrés représente 62% de la population et place, de loin, la Guinée comme le pays de la sous-région ayant le plus grand

corps électoral.

Dans les pays de la sous-région, le corps électoral représente en moyenne 40% de la population : 41.23% au Sénégal, 31% en Côte d'Ivoire, 41.58% au Togo, 40.88% au Bénin, 38.33% au Burkina Faso, 39.50% au Mali et 38.58% au Niger.

En se référant au fichier de l'élection présidentielle de 2015, on constate aussi que ce taux a connu un accroissement moyen de près de 30% entre 2015 et 2019 (en 4 ans) avec de grosses disparités entre les régions du pays.

Au-delà de ce chiffre tout à fait surprenant quand on sait que l'enrôlement sur les listes électorales a été réalisé en 3 semaines (au lieu de deux mois comme le prévoit le Code électoral), le plus ahurissant est le fait qu'en Guinée la catégorie des 0-19 ans représente 52% de la population (selon l'Institut National de la Statistique). La proportion de la population du corps électoral ne peut donc pas excéder 48% de la population totale.

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Éditorial

Les opposants libériens ont-ils du mal à grandir ?

Les querelles internes des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, qui disent collaborer pour une victoire écrasante contre le pouvoir, sur le choix d'un candidat unique n'est rien d'autre qu'un jeu d'enfant. Il serait illusoire de penser qu'il existe un soi-disant bloc d'opposition capable de planifier sérieusement et de conscientiser ses partisans et sympathisants pour les prochaines élections, car ce que l'on constate actuellement, c'est qu'ils sont en train de s'entredéchirer.

Le président de l'alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition n'a pas le droit de déterminer unilatéralement qui doit devenir le porte-drapeau de l'opposition aux prochaines élections. Ce choix relève de la responsabilité des membres de la coalition, lequel choix peut être fait lors des élections primaires. Ceci est une réalité connue de tous, d'où la question : pourquoi maintenant perdre un temps précieux sur quelque chose d'aussi clair que de l'eau dans un verre ?

Tout récemment, M. Benoni Urey a dit que l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai de l'UP est le mieux placé pour devenir le porte-étendard de la plateforme de l'opposition. Et quelques heures plus tard, l'ANC (Alternative National Congress) et le LP (Liberty Party) ont réagi. Tout cela indique clairement que quelque chose ne va pas au sein du bloc d'opposition. Et si cela est vraiment le cas, il est important qu'ils règlent leur problème le plutôt possible afin de mériter la confiance du peuple libérien.

Les principaux acteurs de la plateforme de l'opposition, à savoir M. Benoni Urey, M. Alexander Cummings, l'ambassadeur Joseph N. Boakai et le sénateur Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence n'ont d'autre choix que d'agir maintenant de manière à gagner et à maintenir la confiance des personnes qu'ils veulent diriger.

Les propos qui tiennent les responsables des partis membres de la plateforme ces derniers temps constituent un poison pour l'unité au sein même de ladite plateforme. Nous assistons hélas à une sorte cacophonie qui risque d'affaiblir d'avantage l'opposition face au parti au pouvoir.

De toutes les façons, ce à quoi nous assistons aujourd'hui n'est pas nouveau. C'est l'un des problèmes fondamentaux de la politique libérienne : le manque d'une force d'opposition cohérente capable de tenir tête au parti au pouvoir dans les urnes. Les partis qui composent aujourd'hui la plateforme de l'opposition n'ont individuellement pu tenir face au rouleau compresseur de la Coalition au pouvoir lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2017. Ils ont tous échoué lamentablement.

C'est pourquoi ils ont intérêt de savoir maintenant que la meilleure option stratégique en ce qui concerne les élections de 2023 est de présenter un front uni contre le gouvernement Weah, s'ils veulent vraiment d'une alternance.

Ni Boakai, ni M. Cummings, encore moins M. Urey ou encore un candidat issu du parti de la liberté, ne peut à lui seul - avec son parti - remporter la victoire au premier tour. En tout cas, les dernières élections en sont une preuve.

C'est vu ces réalités que nous interpellons la plateforme de l'opposition sur la nécessité de rester soudée et de parler d'une seule voix, qu'il s'agisse dans les discours ou tout autre occasion, car ce n'est qu'à ce prix que l'opposition d'aujourd'hui peut espérer de prendre un jour les rênes du pouvoir de l'État.

Français

Politique : Le député

construction, Westwood Construction Company, qui était intéressé par le projet routier de l'aéroport international Roberts, mais malheureusement, le contrat a été attribué à East International.

Le président George MannehWeah a attribué le projet routier à East International, un groupe libano-indien dont les performances lors des précédents contrats qu'il

avait passés avec l'administration Sirleaf laissent à désirer.

Mais le groupe serait prêt à préfinancer le projet, évalué à des millions de dollars.

Cependant, Gray dit qu'il est regrettable que le sénateur Cooper, qui cherche à être réélu en octobre, se batte contre le projet de modernisation de la route RIA qui est mis en œuvre dans son comté (Margibi).

Guinée : les grosses

SalifKébé, président de la CENI, pour se défendre du retrait de l'OIF du processus d'observation a affirmé « Il n'y a pas de fichier électoral parfait ». Certes, mais présenter, en toute conscience, des chiffres aussi déconnectés de la réalité et arithmétiquement faux, ne relève pas de l'erreur mais bel et bien d'une manipulation délibérée.

Le corps électoral explose dans les fiefs du pouvoir

En décortiquant le fichier électoral, il est aisé de relever que toutes ces erreurs bénéficient au régime actuel. Pour beaucoup, elles ont vocation à accroître le nombre de faux électeurs dans les fiefs du pouvoir afin d'être apte à justifier des scores hors-normes tout en pénalisant l'opposition.

Les concepteurs de ce fichier ont permis à la seule population électorale de Kankan, fief du régime, d'enregistrer un accroissement de plus de 54% entre 2015 et 2019. Cette même progression est de 30% en moyenne pour l'ensemble du territoire. L'électorat de la région de Kankan est presque égal à la somme de l'électorat des régions de Boké, Mamou et Labé. Alors qu'elle ne représentait que 17% du corps électoral en 2015, elle passe ainsi à 20% en 2019.

La préfecture de Mandiana fait un bon de 10 places dans la répartition par préfecture de la population électorale, passant de la 18ème en 2015 à la 8ème place en 2019. Les

préfectures de Siguiri et de Mandiana ont un accroissement de leur électorat de près de 80%, soit près de 3 fois la moyenne nationale. Sur les 6 préfectures qui font environ 40% d'accroissement, 5 proviennent de la Haute Guinée connue pour être favorable à Alpha Condé (Mandiana, Siguiri, Kankan, Dinguiraye, Kouroussa).

Le boum démographique de cette région comparativement aux autres est statistiquement inexplicable d'autant plus que les 2 régions qui constituent les poumons économiques du pays sont Conakry et Boké.

La Région de Mamou présente, elle, le taux d'accroissement le plus bas de 21,26% alors qu'il s'agit d'un fief de l'opposition.

De manière générale, accroître le nombre d'électeurs permet de répartir les votes après avoir opéré un gonflement des urnes. Par exemples, de nombreuses communes ont un corps électoral supérieur à leur population : Mandiana Centre a un corps électoral qui équivaut à 133,75% de sa population, Doko (Siguiri) : 104,78%, Kouriah (Coyah) : 102,07%.

Rappelons que lors de la période d'enrôlement, au cours d'une tournée en Haute-Guinée, Alpha Condé esquissait déjà ce qu'il attendait du fichier électoral : « Siguiri peut avoir un million d'électeurs. Ratoma et Matoto réunies ne font pas un million d'électeurs. Donc Siguiri seule peut faire plus que Ratoma et Matoto réunies si vous voulez. Mais ça, c'est le recensement. »

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

Le compte à rebours final pour l'Occident ?

BERLIN - L'année débute à peine, mais son importance historique est déjà évidente. En ce qui concerne l'Occident du moins, les événements prévisibles des mois à venir auront des conséquences marquantes et décisives pour l'avenir. Le moment de vérité aura lieu le 3 novembre 2020, lorsque les citoyens américains éliront leur prochain président.

Certes, les élections présidentielles américaines ont toujours revêtu une importance globale, étant donné qu'elles déterminent qui dirigera la première puissance mondiale pour les quatre prochaines années. Mais cette fois-ci, les enjeux sont bien plus élevés. La réélection du président Donald Trump pourrait présager la disparition de l'ordre libéral mondial et du système multilatéral d'alliances instauré par les États-Unis depuis les années 1940.

S'écarter du rôle hégémonique traditionnel des États-Unis, Trump privilégie un nationalisme borné et n'a fait montre que de bien peu de retenue dans ses actions fragilisant le démocratie américaine elle-même, en particulier en mettant en cause la séparation des pouvoirs et la légitimité d'autres institutions fondamentales. S'il est réélu en novembre, Trump aura un nouveau mandat pour donner libre cours à ses pratiques désastreuses pendant quatre ans de plus, avec un résultat qui correspondra à la description faite dans son premier discours d'investiture : un carnage américain.

Ne nous berçons pas d'illusions : que Trump occupe la présidence pendant huit ans au lieu de seulement quatre fera toute la différence. Outre les Américains, les Européens seraient les premiers à subir les conséquences d'un second mandat de Trump. La réalité est que l'Europe reste pour ainsi dire existentiellement dépendante des États-Unis, tant sur le plan économique que pour sa sécurité. Cette dépendance est un héritage des deux guerres mondiales et de la longue guerre froide du XXe siècle. Des réalités historiques aussi profondément enracinées ne peuvent être aisément ou rapidement inversées. Trump a déjà forcé l'Europe à briguer sa propre souveraineté ; mais atteindre cet objectif ne sera ni facile, ni bon marché pour les Européens.

L'élection de Trump en 2016 a pris quasiment tout le monde de court, aux États-Unis comme dans le reste du monde. Personne ne fera la même erreur en 2020. Mais personne ne peut non plus prétendre ne pas savoir à quoi s'attendre de la part de Trump. S'il choisit souvent d'ignorer la vérité, il est pour l'essentiel resté fidèle à ses promesses de campagne.

Cela étant, ce serait une erreur de s'attendre à un nouveau mandat de quatre ans identique au précédent. Il est très probable qu'une fois réélu, Trump agisse de manière encore plus radicale et sans retenue. Il sera persuadé d'être « l'Élu », ayant avec succès surmonté les attaques perfides de l'opposition, de l'establishment politique, des médias et de « l'État profond ». Qui pourrait encore l'arrêter, ou au moins le brider ?

En dépit de ses implications désastreuses, l'hypothèse d'un second mandat Trump n'a pas suffi pour que l'Union européenne rompe avec son habitude frustrante de continuer à agir comme si de rien n'était. Les instances européennes négocient en ce moment les

dispositions du prochain cadre financier pluriannuel de l'UE, qui doit s'élever à un peu plus de 1000 milliards d'euros (1,1 mille milliards de dollars) sur sept ans. Les montants accordés au fonds de cohésion et à la Politique agricole commune (PAC) à la suite du Brexit font en particulier l'objet de vifs débats. La présidence de Trump n'a été qu'un facteur négligeable dans les discussions en cours. Et alors que l'élaboration d'une stratégie visant à concrétiser une véritable souveraineté européenne implique nécessairement de nouveaux engagements financiers, ce sujet crucial n'a pour ainsi dire pas été mentionné.

Ce sont au contraire et une fois de plus les intérêts nationaux à court terme qui ont prévalu au sein du Conseil européen, comme si le monde n'avait pas fondamentalement changé au cours des trois dernières années. L'on pourrait penser que les priorités des dirigeants européens seraient de prendre en considération la présidence de Trump, l'émergence de la Chine en tant que puissance mondiale, le pari qu'a fait la Russie sur la puissance militaire et son réarmement, et l'essor de l'économie numérique. Et pourtant, non : les marchandages mus par des considérations nationales dominent l'ordre du jour à Bruxelles et dans les capitales nationales européennes (qui ont toujours joué un rôle fondamental dans la gouvernance de l'UE). Une vision stratégique et le sens d'une responsabilité historique ne sont, au mieux, que des réflexions accessoires.

Pire, cette situation déplorable prévaut en dépit du fait qu'il n'y a pas de question plus importante pour l'Europe que la prochaine élection présidentielle américaine. Les Européens devraient se préparer au pire. La question fondamentale, tant pour l'Europe que pour l'Occident en général, est de savoir si l'OTAN peut survivre à un deuxième mandat de Trump. Si l'Alliance venait à se disloquer, l'Europe et la région de l'Atlantique Nord seraient soudainement confrontées à une énorme crise de sécurité. En fait, sans le lien transatlantique qu'offre l'OTAN, on ne pourrait plus guère parler de « l'Occident ». Et il est tout à fait évident que l'Europe ne serait pas en mesure d'assurer sa propre sécurité.

À Bruxelles, et surtout au sein du Conseil européen, le premier point de l'ordre du jour devrait être de tenir compte du fait que les orientations stratégiques pour le XXIe siècle sont définies maintenant - en ce moment même. Les enjeux sont bien plus importants que le résultat des prochaines élections nationales dans un pays européen, quel qu'il soit.

Ces propos n'ont pas pour objectif de minimiser l'importance des fonds de cohésion et de la PAC. Mais avec tout le respect dû aux contributions nettes des pays dits « frugaux » et aux pays bénéficiaires les plus pauvres qui dépendent des versements de l'UE, il existe tout simplement des problèmes plus urgents, qui doivent être rapidement résolus. La sécurité et la souveraineté mêmes de l'Europe sont aujourd'hui menacées. L'UE doit se demander si elle est prête à faire le nécessaire pour rester un acteur indépendant, uni dans l'intérêt commun de tous les Européens. Dans le cas contraire, la viabilité de l'Europe en tant qu'entité démocratique et souveraine, maître de son propre destin, sera remise en question - et donc mise à l'épreuve par des adversaires - comme jamais auparavant.

Articles traduits

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INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW

Impact Of African Policies On Development Of Infrastructure Projects, Emergence Of Debt-Trap And Neo-Colonialism

By Kester Kenn Klomegah

In this interview taken by Kester Kenn Klomegah for Eurasia Review, Dr. Frangton Chiyemura, a lecturer in International Development at the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies, The Open University in the United Kingdom, discusses the impact of African policies on development and realization of infrastructure projects, the possible of running into “debt-traps” and the emergence of “neo-colonialism” in Africa. Here are the interview excerpts:

Q: Early December, you held discussions and shared your research on how African leaders influence the modality of engagement and negotiation process with China. What were the key points you discussed with the audience and participants who attended?

FC: First of all, I was invited to share my research findings with Oxford University China-Africa Network (OUCAN). OUCAN engages with researchers, think tanks, policy makers involved in Africa-China relations. My talk was part of this initiative to share research and evidence-based findings and conclusions on Africa-China relations.

My talk was based on my completed PhD research project where I investigated how the Ethiopian government exercised agency - defined as the ability to shape, control and influence, when engaging with the Chinese in the context of wind energy infrastructure. The key point was that the Ethiopian government was able to broker, negotiate, structure, implement and manage Chinese involvement in Adama 1 and Adama 2 wind farms.

The audience was quite engaging and wondered how the Ethiopian government was able to exercise agency as compared to other African governments dealing with the Chinese. There are several factors which make Ethiopia to have such clout when dealing with the Chinese as compared to other African countries. Such factors are not only limited to the governance and leadership model of the government especially under Meles Zenawi and Hailmariam.

Secondly, it relates to the geographic location of Ethiopia, which makes it a stabilising force in volatile East African region. Ethiopia, has a unique advantage, as it is the diplomatic hub of Africa - hosting the African Union (AU) and other international organizations. This adds weight to Ethiopia when negotiating with external powers.

Q: What are the general perceptions and attitudes toward this kind of relations? How do the political and business elites, interpret the benefits of determining concrete directions of investment in Africa?

FC: Both Ethiopian and Chinese governments see the relations as win-win. This comes at the backdrop of strong relations at the political party to party level. In the case of my research I conducted, I can confirm that the Chinese Communist Party has very strong relations with the then Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. In fact, during my research, I found out that the corporate deals are informally negotiated at the party to party level before they are transferred to the government level for formalization. There seems to be a seamless connection between the ruling party and the government, and any decisions reached at the party level are by extension seamlessly binding on the government.

Q: How would you explain neo-colonialism by foreign players in Africa? What is it and what foreign (external) countries are referred to as neo-colonisers, in your view?

FC: Neocolonialism argument is present in Africa-China relations especially proposed so by scholars who come from a neo-Marxian epistemological grounding. Neocolonialism can be seen as a new form of domination, plunder and exploitation using clandestine and economic statecraft. Of course, there could be



some hints or pointers to suggest neocolonial tendencies, but I believe such claims should be levelled on case by case basis, and there has to be concrete evidence to suggest that way. That said, I think we have to be careful to scrutinize where such claims of neocolonialism are coming from, and potentially scrap beyond the surface to establish the motivations and interests for spreading or proposing such claims.

In my opinion, I believe there is no free lunch in the world, African countries should enter into partnerships based on their strategic interests and an understanding of what the partners can provide or deliver. Secondly, every African country should do a comprehensive evaluation of the structure and, the terms and conditions of their engagements with foreign powers. By so doing, this will eliminate the chances for the emergence of claims of neocolonialism. Instead of extending the blame to someone elsewhere, Africa needs to do its homework especially on the implementation and monitoring aspects of the deals. Africa has some of the best regulations and standards, but the problem lies in implementation and monitoring.

Q: Without doubt, Africa needs investment in infrastructure, agriculture and industry, and in many other sectors. Despite negative criticisms, what admirable roles is China playing here, we are talking about working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa?

FC: China is playing a huge role in infrastructure financing and development. For example, available evidence suggests that between 2000 and 2017, China provided about US\$143 billion worthy of loans to African governments. This has come quite handy especially given the shortage of finance to build the much-needed infrastructure targeting the SDGs.

In terms of trade, China became Africa's trading partner in 2009, and two-way trade volume reached its peak in 2014 at the value of US\$215 billion. Further, in 2017, it was estimated to have reached about US\$148 billion. Of course, trade transactions still remain unbalanced in favour of China. In addition, between 2000 and 2017, transport (US\$38.1 billion), power (US\$30.1 billion) and mining (US\$19.1 billion) ranked respectively as top three sectors that have received the lion's share of Chinese loans in Africa.

Q: What is your interpretation of debt-trap most often discussed in various platforms and leveled accusations on China? But, tangible infrastructure have been built with these loans in many African countries

FC: Interestingly, I don't believe in this debt-trap diplomacy. First of all, it does not make any business sense that the Chinese will design a project targeting 'failure' so

that they can control or pull the strings of a particular country. Second, most of the so-called assets that the Chinese are poised to be targeting to run are very complicated, messy and at times quite straining for the Chinese to dirty their hands. Therefore, it doesn't make any sense for me.

That said, I would not refer to it as 'trap' but as merely debt and the consequences associated with that. What that implies is that, for example, in the power sector, Africa requires on average more than 5 billion worth of investment per year for the next 10 years to address this challenge. Inevitably, part of the money will come from debt financing. For me, I am not really worried about 'productive debt' - defined as any money borrowed to invest in a project that has the ability to boost economic growth and at the same time, generate a revenue stream that will pay back the loan. I would be worried about countries that borrow to build, say, a presidential palace, a stadium, or to pay salaries. That type of borrowing for me is bad - its destructive and unproductive borrowing, and that must necessarily stop.

I have to disagree with the assertion that China is debt-trapping Africa. Of course, there are some African countries that are in debt distress situation, others have high risk of being in distress, but the contributions of Chinese finances towards that leave much to be desired. For example, countries such as Chad, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan are in high debt distress but the contributions of the Chinese towards that is very insignificant.

We also have some countries like Ethiopia, Cameroon and Ghana where the Chinese hold a substantial share of the debt, but those countries are not in debt distress, although they are high risk of debt distress. You will be surprised that according to World Bank, Africa's debt to China is less than 23%, compared to what Africa owes to private lenders (32%), and multilateral institutions such as World Bank, IMF etc. (35%). Sometimes, I see the hypocrisy of the West - with whom Africa has substantial debt, demonizing the Chinese on debt-trap diplomacy.

Q: In your expert view, what are the key challenges and problems facing Chinese investors in Africa, what are your suggestions how some aspects of the relations be improved between Africa and China?

FC: Of course, like any other relations, Africa-China engagements have their own challenges which need to be worked on to ensure there is mutual benefit and win-win situation. Some of the challenges relate implementation of regulations and standards by African governments when dealing with the Chinese. The issues lie not in regulations, but for me in the implementation and enforcement. This is the first aspect that needs to be addressed by African governments, especially in the infrastructure sector.

The second challenge relates to peace and security. Some of the African countries are in conflict situation or are, at least, under terrorist threat. This threatens some of the Chinese businesses and enterprises.

Third, the unbalanced nature of trade between China and Africa create room for emergence of neo-colonial arguments and such needs to be addressed immediately. Some of the challenges are minor, these include language barriers, differences in culture and work ethics. These can easily be resolved.

The fourth and final is about in some African countries lack policy certainty and stability which negatively impact on Chinese long-term business planning. Such countries include Zimbabwe where there has been of note currency uncertainty, policy uncertainty and even regulatory uncertainty. This impacts on long-term Chinese business interest.

Gas shortage imminent -MD says current stock lasts for 48 days

By Ethel A. Tweh

The managing director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) Marie-Urey Coleman says, current stock in the country will last for 48 days, risking a return of the recent gasoline crisis here.

However, she discloses a vessel of 15,000 metric tons of gasoline is expected to arrive by 10th March.

Appearing before the Liberian Senate Thursday, Madam Coleman explains that on February 16, 2020, the entity received a vessel of 7,500 metric tons of PMS gasoline, noting that on the same day an additional 10,000 metric ton of gasoline was offloaded from the same vessel at the connex deport.

She adds that on February 26, another 2,900 metric tons of gasoline were brought in by TOTAL, giving a total amount of 20,400 metric tons of gasoline currently here to last for 48 days.

She told senators the



entity lacks financial strength to import petroleum into the country, so it relies on private importers to bring in petroleum for the public.

She discloses that prior to the recent petroleum crisis, she tried to obtain credit from commercial banks so that LPRC can import its own products to be able to store reserve that would address crisis like the

recent shortage that nearly paralyzed the economy.

According to her, the LPRC has not brought in its own products in about 15-20 years.

She says there is a need for government to get LPRC back to normal status to start importing products, noting that by law, the entity should be the importer of petroleum products for the country.

She adds that over the years, the institution gave licenses to importers to bring in petroleum products due to lack of financial ability.

Madam Coleman discloses further that during the gasoline shortage, neighboring Sierra Leone made an intervention, and brought in 318 gallons of gasoline that helped with the situation.

However, she assures that LPRC is doing all it can so that the government and people of Liberia would not experience such crisis again, urging the government to empower the entity financially to import petroleum and create reserve that could avoid future embarrassment.

Meanwhile, the managing director of the National Port Authority, Bill Twehway, who appears before the senate along with his colleague from the LPRC, says dredging process at the NPA is ongoing, widening the breadth at the port from 10cm to 13.5cm, adding the exercise has eight (8) more days to complete that would allow bigger vessels bringing commodities to dock in the Freeport of Monrovia.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

No Coronavirus case in Liberia

-NPHIL dismisses rumors

By Ben P. Wese

As global concerns heightened on rapid spread of the deadly Coronavirus, the National Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) dismisses report of a virus carrier on the run in Liberia.

Addressing a press conference at the NPHIL head office in Congo Town, Acting Director, Doctor Mosoka P. Fallah, notes that rumors of a suspected carrier on the run is not true, after conducting thorough investigation.

However, he asserts such rumors are good to keep the institution ahead of the issues.

Doctor Fallah explains that after receiving call from

FrontpageAfrica editor about a suspect case in the country, NPHIL quickly established links with all contact points across the country, which proved there is no such case here.

He discloses the institution has increased its ability to monitor rumors because of close interactions it has had plus level of awareness with the public.

"We are trying to reverse the adversely quarantine. Every country has to make a decision for the safety for its people. This morning, I was in a meeting with the Minister of Health and the WHO Representative; last night, I was on a call with the USA CDC; we are trying to reverse the adversely to send to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform countries about the

decisions we have made to protect our country," Doctor Fallah discloses.

Doctor Fallah continues that the disease has so many complications, noting that there is a case in the United States that has no link with anyone that has arrived there, causing so much panic now around the world.


United States Federal health authorities said Tuesday they now expect a wider spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. and are preparing for a potential pandemic, though they remain unsure about how severe the health threat could be.

According to the World Street Journal, Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Tuesday the agency expects a sustained transmission of the virus and called for businesses, schools and communities to brace themselves and plan for potential outbreaks.


"We expect we will see community spread in this country," meaning the virus circulating within local communities, said Dr. Messonnier.

He reminded that the first adversary said people from China but they (NPHIL) have to change that to next adversary that will later be announced based on other





KEBBEH KONAH KOLLIE'S OBITUARY



The Kollie family wishes to announce to the general public that home going services for their late mother, Oldma Kebbe Konah Kollie of Chugbor, Old Road, Monrovia, are as follow:

WAKE KEEPING:
 Date: Friday, February 28th, 2020
 Venue: Deceased's residence, Chugbor, Old Road
 Time: 8:00pm

REMOVAL OF BODY:
 Date: Saturday, February 29th, 2020 at 8:00am
 Venue: Samuel Stryker Funeral Service

FUNERAL SERVICE:
 Date: Saturday, February 29th, 2020 at 10:00am
 Venue: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 14th Street, Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor
 Time: 10:00am

INTERMENT:
 Brewerville cemetery, Brewerville, outside Monrovia

REPAST:
 Venue: The Lutheran Compound Hall, 13th Street, Payne Avenue, Sinkor (Beach side) and the Deceased's residence in Chugbor, Old Road simultaneously.

Note: In lieu of floral designs & wreaths, the Kollie family is kindly urging all sympathizers, with the exception of the Family and the Church, to make voluntarily cash donations to be used for the promotion of God's work on earth. The family also wish to express their gratitude to all for the continued prayers, material & financial support and visitations since the homegoing of our dear mother. The late Kebbe Konah Kollie was survived by several children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and a host of relatives hailing from Kpademai and Kparkamai towns in Lofa county, Liberia and the Diaspora.

Signed: Aaron B. Kollie and Esther G. Kollie
 Son and Daughter of the deceased, for the family

cases identified in countries that have confirmed cases.

"This institute has always been proactive in giving information to the media and there will be no reason why we'd not share information to them when there is a suspected case; secondly is that when there is outbreak, it's better for people to be talking than not talking; we learned that from Ebola."

He says if people are not talking in the case of epidemics than they're hiding information, maintaining that rumors are rumors but the key issue is verifying the rumors.

Doctor Fallah, also encourages the public to continue calling hotline 4455, if there is any rumor for the institution to verify, nothing

that if the information published on the local daily's website had truth in it than Africa is in problem, but notes that after all contacts, there is no information leading to the information published.

"After we got the information yesterday, FrontPageAfrica linked us with their sources that claimed she got the information from a Liberian community in China. To admit, since this thing started, we have been in contact with the Chinese Embassy and they're really helping us with information, so when we got the information yesterday, the Chinese Embassy confirms[says] the information is not true," Doctor Fallah clarifies. Editing by Jonathan Browne

World Bank on ending extreme poverty

-in fragile, conflict-affected countries



Urgent action is needed in countries impacted by fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) to end extreme poverty globally, according to the World Bank Group. As crisis situations become increasingly protracted – with dire impacts on people and economies.

The World Bank Group Thursday, released an FCV strategy, which for the first time systematically brings a full suite of financing and


expertise to address these challenges in both low-and-middle income countries.

On the current trajectory, by 2030 up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor will live in fragile and conflict-affected countries, according to a World Bank report also released today. Bucking the overall trend of a global decrease in extreme poverty, these countries are seeing sharp increases, threatening decades of progress in the fight against poverty. Fragile and conflict-affected situations take a huge

toll on human capital, creating vicious cycles that lower people's lifetime productivity and earnings and reduce socioeconomic mobility. One in five people in these countries are deprived of money, education and basic infrastructure simultaneously. And the number of people living in close proximity to conflict has nearly doubled in the past 10 years.

"Addressing humanitarian crises requires immediate support and long-term development approaches," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. "To end extreme poverty and break the cycle of fragility, conflict, and violence, countries need to ensure access to basic services, transparent and accountable government institutions, and economic and social inclusion of the most marginalized communities. These kinds of

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Pogba accused of treating Man Utd

Paul Parker believes it is time to part with a World Cup winner, while he thinks that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer should be given more time

Paul Pogba is "bad for Manchester United" and the Red Devils "need to shift on from him now", says Paul Parker.

Uncertainty continues to shroud the long-term future of a World Cup-winning midfielder at Old Trafford. Transfer talk has

been sparked on a regular basis, with questions asked of the 26-year-old's commitment to the Red Devils cause. Struggles for form and fitness have kept the rumour mill ticking over, with Pogba taking in just eight appearances in what has been an injury-hit 2019-20 campaign.

Parker feels the time has come to move on from a disruptive influence, with United needing to open themselves up to offers in the summer window. The former Red Devils defender told the



Daily Mail of Pogba, who has been linked with a return to Juventus: "At this moment in time, he is bad for Manchester United.

"He's bringing too much negativity to the club. His quality is incredible, but he's averaged about one performance in 10, that's how bad he's been.

"I think they need to shift on from him now, I see any comeback now as being very, very difficult. He's been a bad fit all round.

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