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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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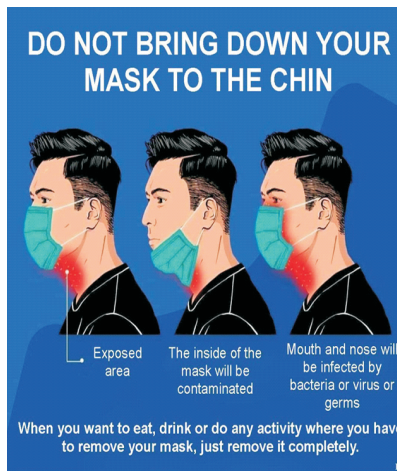
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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



VOL.10 NO. 130

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

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-Attack Cummings, Rep. Kolubah in Grand Gedeh

P11

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Continental News

Killer of rare gorilla Rafiki jailed for 11 years

The killer of one of Uganda's best known mountain gorillas, Rafiki, has been jailed for 11 years.

Felix Byamukama pleaded guilty to illegally entering a protected area and killing a gorilla. Byamukama had said the gorilla attacked him and he killed Rafiki in self defence, according to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

Mountain gorillas are endangered with just over 1,000 in existence and the UWA said "Rafiki has received justice". Byamukama also pleaded guilty to killing a small antelope, known as a duiker, and a bush pig, as well as being in possession of bush pig and duiker meat.

He admitted to the UWA previously that he, and three others, had gone to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park with the intention of hunting smaller animals and that he killed Rafiki in self-defence when he was attacked.

Investigations showed Rafiki was killed by a sharp object that penetrated his internal organs.

The gorilla went missing on 1 June and his body was



Rafiki was thought to be 25 years old when he died

discovered by a search party the following day.

A UWA team tracked Byamukama to a nearby village, where he was found with hunting equipment.

Three others denied the charges and have been remanded in jail, awaiting trial.

Byamukama will serve several sentences concurrently, leading to 11 years in jail which falls far short of the life sentence it was predicted he could have been given. This was

because he was not tried in a special wildlife court, a UWA spokesperson told the BBC. The silverback, believed to be around 25-years-old when he died, was the leader of a group of 17 mountain gorillas.

This group of gorillas was described as habituated, meaning that its members were used to human contact.

Conservationists were worried that the group would be taken over by a wild

silverback who would not want to come into contact with humans, which could have affected tourism.

But UWA has since confirmed that the group is now led by a black-back from within the family and is stable.

The mountain gorillas are a popular draw for visitors to the country and the UWA relies on the tourists for revenue.

Rafiki himself was very popular with people who had come to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

But parks have been closed during the coronavirus pandemic and the UWA said there had been an increase in poaching. It has counted more than 300 incidents during the months of the lockdown,

reports the BBC's Patience Atuhaire. The mountain gorilla species is restricted to protected areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

They can be found in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and a network of parks in the Virunga Massif range of mountains which straddle the borders of the three countries.

In 2018, the mountain gorilla was removed from the list of critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, after intensive conservation efforts, including anti-poaching patrols, paid off. The IUCN now classifies the species as endangered. BBC

UN Calls for Action on Landmine Deaths Among Displaced in Sahel

The U.N. refugee agency is calling for urgent action to stop the killing and maiming of refugees and other forcibly displaced people from landmines and improvised explosive devices in Africa's Sahel and Lake Chad basin regions.

Deaths and injuries from these indiscriminate killing machines are rising at an alarming rate. Security forces reportedly are the intended targets of attacks by various

Chad Basin," he said. "In the most recent incident in a refugee camp in the east of the country on June 24, four refugee children aged from 9 to 12 were killed and three others were seriously injured when they picked up an unexploded device and tried to open it."

Baloch says hundreds of deaths and injuries from landmines and improvised explosive devices have been reported in Northeastern



armed groups operating in Africa's conflict-ridden Sahel and Lake Chad basin. But the U.N. refugee agency says civilians are paying the heaviest price. UNHCR spokesman, Babar Baloch says landmines and unexploded ordnance are posing a growing threat to refugees, internally displaced people and the local communities hosting them. He says many of the victims are children under age 18. "Chad and Nigeria top the most affected countries in the lake

Nigeria. He says UNHCR teams on the ground have witnessed a rising trend in the Sahel in the killing and maiming of civilians from these lethal weapons. The Sahel is facing one of the fastest growing displacement crises in the world. Baloch notes millions of people have fled indiscriminate attacks and widespread violations from armed groups, including summary executions and rape. VOA

Kenya to investigate alleged abuse of Lebanon workers

Kenya is sending a team to Lebanon to investigate the alleged mistreatment of Kenyan citizens at the Beirut consulate.

This comes after a CNN investigative report into allegations that Kenyan

women working in Lebanon as domestic workers had been exploited or assaulted by Kenya's honorary consul and his assistant.

Dozens of women interviewed by the US broadcaster and other non-governmental organisations in

Beirut claim they were beaten, verbally abused, overcharged for consular fees and even told to go into sex work to get money to help with their repatriation.

But the consulate officials, who are both Lebanese, have denied the allegations.

Local reports say a team from the Kenyan embassy in Kuwait,

which oversees the Lebanese consulate, will head to Beirut to establish the facts.

"We are planning to travel to Lebanon for a fact-finding mission in the first week of August,

because our airspace is currently closed," the Kenyan Ambassador to Kuwait Halima Mohamud told the Daily Nation.

Last month, more than 100 Ethiopian migrant workers were dumped outside their embassy in Beirut, amid an ongoing economic crisis in Lebanon, heightened by the coronavirus pandemic. BBC



Dozens of women say they were exploited and abused

EDITORIAL

Fighting divisiveness and injustice

THE ORATOR FOR the 173rd Independence anniversary of Liberia, Rev. Dr. Simeon Dunbar of the Liberty Christian Fellowship Center in Johnsonville provoked a national sense of consciousness in Liberians on Monday, July 27 when he lay bare problems that confront us and how we can, individually and collectively, emancipate ourselves to progress and prosperity.

THE THEME FOR this year's July 27 Independence Day Celebration was **STANDING TOGETHER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**, but Bishop Dunbar looked beyond the COVID-19 crisis and unraveled Liberia's deep-seated lapses, ranging from systemic corruption, nepotism, dependency syndrome, governance deficit, and culture of impunity, among others.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT down to ordinary citizens in the street, everyone has a role to play in transforming the country to the standard we envisage for ourselves. But the government has responsibility to take the lead in line with the social contract signed at the ballot box during elections.

HOWEVER, THE INDEPENDENCE Day Orator stressed, "We cannot and will not stand together to win any battle in a society that condones injustice, rampant corruption, disobedience or non-adherence for the rule of law, nepotism and tribalism, sexual violence and gender-based violence, lack of genuine reconciliation, lack of patriotism, lack of accountability, lack of integrity and with no fear of God..."

WE AGREE WITH Rev. Dr. Simeon that Liberia will not make any serious progress if we continue to nurture these vices as business as usual. We need a national revival that would direct us to doing the right thing.

TO BEGIN WITH, Liberians should roll up their sleeves and get to work, for there is dignity in labour. The Orator, who is a clergyman, reminds us from the Holy Bible specifically in Proverbs 10:4, "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand". He said the only substitute for hard work is hard life.

WE ARE GRADUALLY becoming to be known as a people who wake up in the morning and complain the entire day, blaming government for all of our challenges, without endeavoring to face them head-on in faith that with God above our rights to prove, we can overcome.

THERE ARE PROBLEMS everywhere globally. But what makes some to succeed, while others fail is will power. If we don't elevate our faith and believe in ourselves as Liberians, our country would remain stagnant for long.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADDRESS issues of police brutality against lawful citizens by promptly applying laws of the Land. It is important to uphold the Constitution and enforce it without favoritism to have a stable society. But when officials are silent on gruesome crimes such as rape and murder, the country descends to lawlessness.

PRESIDENT GEORGE WEAH and his government should listen keenly and take actions to bring about remedies to the problems that confront us, for the role of national orators is to do an honest assessment of our national life challenge us to take steps that would allow us to introspect and muster the courage to reform for better living standard.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Ishac Diwan

Lebanon's Dysfunctional Political Economy

Using the prospect of a flood of refugees as a bargaining chip in international negotiations, the government is happy to subsist on foreign-exchange reserves while waiting to collect geopolitical rents. Yet there is reason to hope that this strategy, which has already impoverished half the population, will fail.

PARIS - Lebanon's economy has collapsed. There is little confusion about why or what is needed to save it. The question is why nothing has been done.

For the last two decades, Lebanon had been living off capital inflows, averaging 20% of GDP per year. Thanks to high interest rates, deposits - largely denominated in US dollars - grew to about 400% of Lebanon's GDP, with much of the money being lent to the state to finance large fiscal deficits. Last July, the current-account deficit was over 25% of GDP, and public debt exceeded 150% of GDP. Government securities and deposits at the central bank accounted for 14% and 55% of bank assets, respectively, for a total sovereign exposure of nearly 70% of assets. Meanwhile, GDP growth has been close to zero since 2011.

The house of cards collapsed late last year, when large withdrawals led to a run on deposits, followed by a sudden stop to capital inflows. By the beginning of this year, Lebanon was mired in a triple crisis: both the state and the banks were bankrupt, lacking liquidity and unable to borrow, and the country suffered from a yawning external deficit.

In March, the government announced that it could not meet its debt-repayment obligations. Hoping to stave off a sovereign default, it then worked with international experts to develop an economic-reform plan that would address the economy's weaknesses, including by reducing public debt, shrinking the fiscal deficit, and devaluing the Lebanese pound. A banking-sector restructuring - with a significant share of the immense losses (about \$90 billion) set to be borne by bank owners and large depositors - was also planned.

So far, not a single step has been taken to implement any of these reforms. Lebanon's government did request some \$10 billion from the International Monetary Fund, but negotiations have gone nowhere. In the meantime, the authorities have not even imposed capital controls - the most fundamental response to a financial crisis.

Progress has been made toward shrinking the external deficit, but not in a way that should be welcomed. Imports have collapsed by nearly half since 2018, owing to the currency crisis. This, together with a lack of access to credit and the COVID-19 shock, has caused many firms to shut down. Meanwhile, GDP has declined by double digits, unemployment has soared above 30%, and the poverty rate has skyrocketed to 50%, decimating the middle class. A human-capital exodus has begun.

In this context, the government's failure to act may seem shocking. Yet torpor is in Lebanon's political DNA. The country has a byzantine sectarian power-sharing system, often paralyzed by squabbling and corruption. Lebanon's political elites know that the prospect of a flood of refugees is a powerful bargaining chip in international negotiations,

so they are happy to subsist on foreign-exchange reserves while waiting to collect geopolitical rents.

Worse, Lebanon's political and economic elites - there is considerable overlap between them - may be deliberately seeking to shift the losses resulting from their economic mismanagement onto the population. In May, the Association of Banks in Lebanon proposed its own economic-reform plan, which recommends using state assets to avoid damaging banks. In other words, ordinary people would bear the burden of adjustment.

Moreover, the central bank has fired up the printing press, inflating away its pound-denominated holdings in an effort to bolster its foreign-exchange reserves. The pound has lost 80% of its value in just nine months, with year-on-year inflation having reached 90% in June. At the same time, withdrawals from dollar-denominated bank accounts are being taxed at 50% or more, by converting them at the official exchange rate, rather than the much more advantageous parallel rate.

This approach - essentially an adaptation of Argentina's "Corralito," the deposit freeze that was enacted in 2001 to halt a bank run - pushes losses onto the middle class, whose only option is to live on what remains in their bank accounts. It is also extremely costly economically. Absorbing the losses will take years, during which Lebanon will have to cope with a lack of capital inflows, a monetary anchor, or trust in the currency and banking system.

At that point, Lebanon's elites seem to hope, the country will have created enough fiscal space that they can secure a favorable deal with international creditors and reprise their plundering of the state. This would set the stage for a grim future, in which elites claim an even larger share of a much smaller pie.

Yet there is reason to hope that they won't get their wish. Last October, a national protest movement emerged, fueled by years of pent-up rage. In recent months, that movement has begun to mature, with protesters organizing into groupings that aim to overhaul the country's political system.

Of course, Lebanon's sectarian political system will not be upended easily, not least because sectarianism feeds on fear and insecurity. But the scale of the current crisis has shattered the regime's legitimacy. Even Iran-allied Hezbollah, which has thus far defended a political arrangement that protects its weapons, is fast losing popularity among its constituency.

It helps that the international community is, for once, standing firm in its demands for reform. Though this will probably cause the crisis to worsen in the short term, as Lebanon's elites attempt to wait out their international interlocutors, it could ultimately force the country to enact real change.



Lord, every seed yield fruits after its kind

Dear Father;

Hmm, hayaka, so why are these people disturbing our village time like this? Oh, have they forgotten so soon that every seed has a fruit in it after its own kind?

I mean, who have ever seen a mangrove seed sown come up to bear orange or grape fruits? Nowhere. Absolutely, nowhere in the villages of this planet it has happened. Just as there is a fruit in every seed, so it grows and become that very fruit of the seed you have sown.

Hmm, what a sound word of wisdom my son.

Oh yes Father, it is. No one can sow a bad fruit (words) and expect to reap a good fruit (peace and prosperity) in the end. You must reap what you sow that is the law of the earth. Our people say the same rope that can hang monkey can also hank baboon.

Hmm, this one requires some explanation now oh my son.

Yes Father, I know it does. So let me put it in the context of our village. Today, in our village the people who are now masquerading as our leaders were once on the other side of the river. Pulling every strings that could trigger trouble for this highly forested village of ours.

They vowed to give a certain old lady headache-using all manner of threats that forced our neighbors and other villages afar to tag our village as "fragile"- a nomenclature that in itself has kept sound and serious investors away from our village up to this day. Any thought of doing business here in our village is seen as very risky for the fact that we are "fragile"- meaning we are ever ready to venture in to our most recent ugly past with no apology to the people from the other villages who spent their tax payers money and the lives of their soldiers to help us get this far.

Today, I hear say they are complaining because one little unknown man made popular due to their own ineptitudes now showing up as the seed they once sowed against a certain old lady-what a paradox?

Can you imagine this Father, a farmer rejecting the fruit of the seed he has sown? Didn't they prepare themselves for such a bumper harvest? I mean rather than crying here and there just accept it as the fruit of the seed you have sown-period.

I heard one of them describing this little figure's statement as "reckless." Can you also imagine this Father? The man who now describes this little figure's statement as "reckless" made more "reckless" statement (if I were to borrow his own grammar) that could have plunged our village back into where we came from some 17 years ago-oh yes.

Come to think of it, even the brother who no manages the Footballer's camp rained more insults at a certain old lady at the time more than this Footballer has received. Imagine you insulting you for 12 years and somebody just did it to you for little over two years and you are crying already.

One of the greatest Jamaican singers-Peter Tosh says "if you live in a glass house don't throw stone and if you can't take blow, don't throw blow." Simply-do onto others as you may want them to do to you.

To now hear that they are the ones calling in a certain group of church people is just ludicrous. And for these certain group of church people who could not rebuke them at the time to gown themselves and appear at the Traditional Council the other day under the guise of seeking clarity suggests to me that they, members of that certain group don't even understand the scriptures that they preach every Sunday. May I refer them to the book of Genesis when God spoke of things into being after their kinds or better still the law of sowing time and harvest time.

Now, they have begun plowing the ground sowing another seed that will likely yield ugly fruits that will spew into their faces. Their supporters are now saying which members of our village is allow in certain part of our village and they sit in bemusement.

But the good old Book says do unto others as you may want them to do to you. The time is coming that the very measures they are now using against others will play out right back to them. I hope their partisan preachers are watching and listening.

OPINION

By Vali Nasr &
Ariane Tabatabai

China Plays the Iran Card

A recently announced partnership accord between China and Iran will have far-reaching strategic implications in the Middle East and South Asia. As much as Americans would like to withdraw from these regions once and for all, the fact is that the US rivalry with China will be a global affair.

WASHINGTON, DC - Earlier this month, Iran announced that it is negotiating a 25-year agreement with China encompassing trade, energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, and even military cooperation. For Iran, the prospect of a strategic partnership with China comes at a critical time. The Iranian government has been confronting popular discontent over a sinking domestic economy, which has been battered by American sanctions and, now, COVID-19.

Making matters worse, a recent series of explosions across the country has deepened the sense that the regime is under siege. Damaging at least two sites associated with the Iranian nuclear and missile programs, these incidents appear to be part of a broader strategy by the United States and Israel to cripple Iran's capabilities.

News of a large deal with China is thus a welcome diversion for the Iranian government, and may even buy it time to maintain the status quo until the November 2020 US presidential election. The outcome of that contest will determine the trajectory of US-Iranian relations and the fate of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), while also influencing Iran's own presidential election in June 2021.

To be sure, Iranians historically have been averse to aligning too closely with any great power, and they are even less willing to accept economic tutelage. With Iran's relationship with China already a source of domestic controversy, it is possible that the country's parliament will refuse to ratify the deal unless it is revised to meet certain concerns.

But Iran's economy has been in free-fall since 2018, when the Trump administration withdrew from the JCPOA and launched its "maximum pressure" campaign of heavy sanctions designed to squeeze the regime. Moreover, with the regime as a whole facing a public backlash, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's government has been under tremendous internal pressure. The announcement of a deal with China allows Rouhani's government to demonstrate that it is not putting all its eggs in the Western basket. The message to the Iranian people is they are not isolated, and may even enjoy economic improvements despite US sanctions.

At the international level, Iran has always sought to balance one great power against another. Over the past decade, in response to US diplomatic and economic pressure, its security forces looked to Russia, key economic sectors looked to China, and the Rouhani government reached out to Europe. Now, with Sino-American tensions rising, Iran is looking to China to shore up its economy and balance the US. Closer ties with China would give Iran more leverage in future talks with the US and Europe when it comes to revising or restoring the JCPOA, as well as in its dealings with regional rivals such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

By contrast, a strategic partnership with Iran is a minefield for China. Although China continues to trade with Iran and invest in the country's infrastructure, a deepening of ties could raise America's ire at a critical and increasingly sensitive diplomatic juncture. By potentially exposing itself to US sanctions, China risks losing some access to the US market (which is far larger than that of Iran). Not surprisingly, Chinese officials have been relatively quieter about the negotiations than their Iranian counterparts have been. Likewise, China does not want to upset its regional partnerships with Israel or Saudi Arabia, each of which is currently engaged in proxy wars with and covert operations against Iran.

Nonetheless, China obviously sees some value in forging a comprehensive arrangement with Iran - a large, important regional player whose vast energy resources and tremendous economic potential make it a natural candidate for China's westward-looking Belt and Road Initiative. China already buys discounted oil from Iran - not exactly a negligible benefit for the world's foremost consumer of energy - and has become Iran's key trading partner, including as a principal supplier of heavy machinery and manufacturing goods.

More broadly, China has steadily increased its interest in West Asia over the past decade. It is the chief sponsor of the regional Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and it has invested upwards of \$57 billion in Pakistan. With the US set to leave Afghanistan, a partnership with Iran will give China a near-stranglehold over the strategic corridor stretching from Central Asia to the Arabian Sea.

As part of this expansion, China could even gain control of the Iranian port of Chahbahar, which its main Asian rival, India, has been developing in response to China's development of the nearby Pakistani port of Gwador. The Chahbahar port allows India to circumvent Pakistan - another rival - in its trade with Central Asia. But, despite the port's recognized importance, US sanctions are forcing India out of Chahbahar and frustrating Iran. In fact, Iran is already reportedly forcing India out of a railway project that bypasses Pakistan to connect with Afghanistan and Central Asia. News of that rupture came just after China and Iran announced a preliminary deal.

The recent border skirmishes between China and India show just how seriously China takes its footprint in West Asia. In addition to opening the door for China to control Chahbahar and monopolize trade routes into Central Asia, the deal also appears to offer opportunities for China to develop naval facilities on the Gulf of Oman. Though the US has long wanted to shift away from the Middle East to focus more on China, the emerging Sino-Iranian deal reminds us that the two theaters are by no means separate.

By increasing pressure on both China and Iran, the US has encouraged the two countries to forge a common front. Though the Sino-Iranian relationship is still a long way from becoming a new axis, the recent negotiations show that such an arrangement is possible.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation to Bid for **CARTRIDGES**

DATE: July 30, 2020
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2020/2021

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of **Cartridges**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Cartridges. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. Bid submission begins on **July 30, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **August 28, 2020 @ 1:00**.

Packages: Assorted Cartridges

IFB NO.	LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/005/2020/2021	Lot-1a	Cartridges Assorted	Assorted	US \$308.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified cartridges supplies may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00** for a set of bid documents for Cartridges. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Include Business Activity Code.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday - Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope, including other requested information
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/005/2020/2021 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Cartridges, to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021;

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before **August 28, 2020 @ 1:00 P. M.** However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **Wednesday August 26, 2020 @ 12:30 PM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **August 28, 2020 as follows: @ 1: 00 Pm.** All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation For Bid for **STATIONERY**

DATE: July 30, 2020
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2020/2021

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of **Stationery**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers of Stationery. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the goods described below. The items will be divided into lot. Bid submission begins on **July 30, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**; and the final date of submission is **August 28, 2020 @ 12:00 pm for Stationery supplies**.

Packages: Stationary

IFB NO.	LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/001/2019/2020	Lot-1a	Stationery	Assorted	US \$3,334.08

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Stationary supplies may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$75.00** for a set of bid documents for Stationary. Bidders are required to submit a separate bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Include Business Activity Code.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501-505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday - Friday from 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope, including other requested information
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/001/2020/2021 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Stationary, to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021;

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before **August 28, 2020 @ 12:00 P. M.** However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **August 25, 2020 @ 12:00 PM** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **August 28, 2020 @ 12: 00 Pm.** All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation for Bids for **Generators Repairs**

DATE: July 31, 2020
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/003/2019/2020

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Generators Maintenance & Repairs**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Generators Maintenance & Repairs. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. Bid submission begins on **July 31, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**. The final date of submission is **August 31, 2020 @ 11: 00 AM**.

Packages: Generator Repairs.

IFB NO.	LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/003/2020/2021	Lot-1a	Generators Maintenance & Repairs	Assorted	US \$1,170.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Generators Repairs may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice:
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; and, (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$60.00**, for a set of bid documents for the servicing of Generators Repairs. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501-505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday - Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/003/2020/2021 - (Lot 1-a) CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Generator Repairs Services to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021; and shall be addressed to: DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT, TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501 MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on **August 31, 2020 @ 11:00 AM**. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **Thursday, Aug 27, 2020** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows: **Generator Repairs @ 12:00P.M** seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for Generator maintenance & repairs will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **August 31, 2020 @ 11:00 .AM**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

Vacancy Announcement

The Searchlight Communications Inc., Publishers of the New Dawn newspaper is seeking applications from young females between the ages of 18-28 for an internship placement within the business department of the paper as sales agents.

The internship runs for three months. Interns who demonstrate excellent marketing skills will be hired permanently after the three months.

The applicants must be at least high school graduates and above, have good communication skill, must be able to market the New Dawn to potential advertisers etc.

All interested persons should direct their communications to:
The Management of Searchlight Communications Inc.
P.O. Bo 1266
UN Drive
Monrovia-Liberia

Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com
For further details call: +2317777529/886484201

The NewDawn Newspaper is on the Newsstand Daily.

Grab a copy of today's edition
or visit: <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/>

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia has the chance for a robust recovery

-New World Bank report says

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exact a toll on the global economy, and Liberia is facing its dire human and economic impact, with real GDP projected to contract by

line is expected to increase from 55.5 percent in 2019 to 68.9 percent, which means that an additional 526,000 Liberians are at risk of falling into poverty. The authors also warn that economic growth could

efforts by the Liberia authorities to manage the community spread of COVID-19, building on the lessons from the Ebola experience," said Pierre Laporte, World Bank Country Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. "We recognize that mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Liberian economy poses a complex and evolving challenge. Together with other development partners, we are supporting the government through financing and technical advice to address the crisis and transition to a robust economic recovery".

Liberia's near-term outlook is highly uncertain. Under the baseline scenario, a sharp rebound is expected with real GDP growth projected to rise to an average of 4.1 percent during 2021-22. However, under the downside scenario, real GDP is expected to recover more slowly, growing at an average rate of 3.7 percent in 2021-22. In both scenarios, the medium-term recovery will be underpinned by the post-COVID-19 normalization of economic activity and the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



2.6 percent in 2020, according to the first Liberia Economic Update.

The report shows that the human cost of COVID-19 could be high. The population living below the national poverty

further slowdown if government's policy response is delayed, not well-targeted, or if the external environment does not improve significantly this year.

"The World Bank welcomes

Agriculture Minister describes CARI as corruption center

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong Co.

Agriculture Minister Jennie Cooper has expressed total sadness in the administration at the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) headed by its Officer in Charge, Paulette Findlay.

Following a day-long meeting Wednesday, 29 July in Suakoko, Madam Cooper said CARI under the regime of OIC Findley has lost its integrity amidst a series of media reports branding CARI as a corruption center.

The meeting was convened by the Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture at the House of Representatives Prince O. K. Tokpah and the Agriculture Minister Madam Jennie Cooper.

The duo then reaffirmed the commitment of President George Manneh Weah's government in restoring the



Agriculture Minister Jennie Cooper

integrity of the only research institute in the central region.

Furthermore, the Liberian Agriculture Minister appeals to residents of Bong County including employees of CARI to remain calm as the committee

headed by Nimba County Rep. Prince O. K. Tokpah applies every effort to address their plight.

Meanwhile, a group under the banner 'Concerned Youths of Suakoko District' have

Food distribution hits West Point

The Liberian Government's ongoing food distribution to vulnerable communities across the country continues to gain momentum daily, with the densely populated Township of West Point officially joining the list of areas being served since the process began on May 23, 2020.

On the first day of food delivery to residents of the Township on Wednesday, July 29, at least 255 households received food rations, including rice, vegetable oil and beans.

A Commerce Ministry release says, out of the total number served on day one of the exercise, males accounted

West Point are getting our own of food today," said 58-year old Betty Kumuteh, a widow of more than seven children.

For his part, a 70-year-old resident of the Township, Emmanuel Williams, noted that he was not moved by increasing comments by some elements that the National Steering Committee, headed by Commerce and Industry Minister, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh and the World Food Programme were not going to implement President Weah's promise to supply food to vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 pandemic in Liberia.

He called on Liberians to always appreciate their



Some recipients walking away with food items

for 110, while 145 females were served.

Speaking to reporters during the food distribution, some of the recipients, predominately women and elderly men expressed joy for being remembered by government during the Corona Virus crisis.

The release said the jubilant recipients noted that there was a time when they nearly lost hope, in the midst of what they termed as increasing comments by some elements that the government was not going to give them food.

"Some of us know that the President was not going to forget about us and I thank God that today we who are living in

leaders rather than condemn or politicize everything in the Liberian society.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the National Steering Committee on the Stimulus Package, Prof. Wilson Tarpeh, joined the team on the first day of distribution, as usually done when food is being served.

The Commerce Minister reiterated the importance of active participation by local community leaders in the context of collaboration and mutual respect during the ongoing exercise.

Food delivery to the residents of West Point Township is expected to continue for the next two days.

-Press Release

petitioned the committee on Agriculture at the House of Representatives to investigate Madam Findley amidst the alleged media reports on the looting of the entity's properties.

The aggrieved youth in their letter dated July 29, 2020

brought to the attention of the committee chair Rep. Tokpah, the alleged looting of the institution's assets which allegedly occurred last November.

According to the youth, this was flagged out by one of the

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GOL launches Electronic Document Management System

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah, says the launch of an Electronic Document

Management System or EDMS by the Ministry will eventually become a game-changer for the Government of Liberia relative to handling public financial management system affairs.

"The EDMS is going to be a

game-changer, and this launch is another milestone that shows that the country, and this government are moving in the right direction", he notes and expresses delight that public financial management under the Weah administration is undergoing series of reforms.

Minister Tweah performed the official launch Thursday, July 30th, at Boulevard Palace Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia in partnership with a Liberian consulting group, Mwetana.

The Electronic Document Management System is an online platform that is intended to track and monitor all government ministries and agencies' financial management systems.

Giving an overview of the project, Joseph S. Tarpeh explains the exercise is beginning with six



Minister Samuel D. Tweah

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Traditional Leaders face dismissal threats -for welcoming CPP Chairman Cummings

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland Co.

Following the recent visit by the National Chairman of the Collaboration Political Parties (CPP) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings to Maryland County, southeast Liberia several Traditional Leaders from the county have alarmed of dismissal threats for

motorcyclists, Traditional Leaders, women and youth among others.

Women celebrated and spread lappers on the ground for the CPP Chairman to walk on as they sang.

He toured several parts of the county and attended several colorful programs with citizens, including the July 26

that they are not supporting the agenda of the government, but rather the opposition.

Neleon Neal, Chairman of the Traditional Chiefs of Maryland, explained that the threats came just after they have agreed as Traditional Leaders, to welcome the CPP chairman and party to the county.

Mr. Neal narrated that they



Mr. Cummings being received by women groups

welcoming the CPP Chairman to the county in an elaborate ceremony..

Mr. Cummings and delegation, including Montserrado County District#10 Representative YekehKolubah received rousing from partisans,

Independence Day celebration in Monalu, Maryland.

According to the Traditional Leaders, some local government officials of the County are enraged by their attendance of the arrival of the opposition leader, and calling for their dismissal on grounds

were asked not to welcome or accept invitation from Mr. Cummings for the "26" celebration in Monalu, something, which he said, they considered inappropriate and decided not to give any attention.

He added that they are

Judicial staffers to protest for unpaid salaries

By Ben P. Wesee

Over nine hundred disenchanted staffers at the Judicial Branch of Government have threatened to stage a protest demanding a refund of their salaries that were allegedly cut unknown to them.

The group's spokesman Leroy Archie Ponpon on Wednesday, 29 July threatened a go-slow or hunger strike if their monies are refunded.

The judicial staffers are making claims of their salaries allegedly being cut at a time lawmakers are also probing some of their colleagues over a potential financial scandal in which Senate staffers are

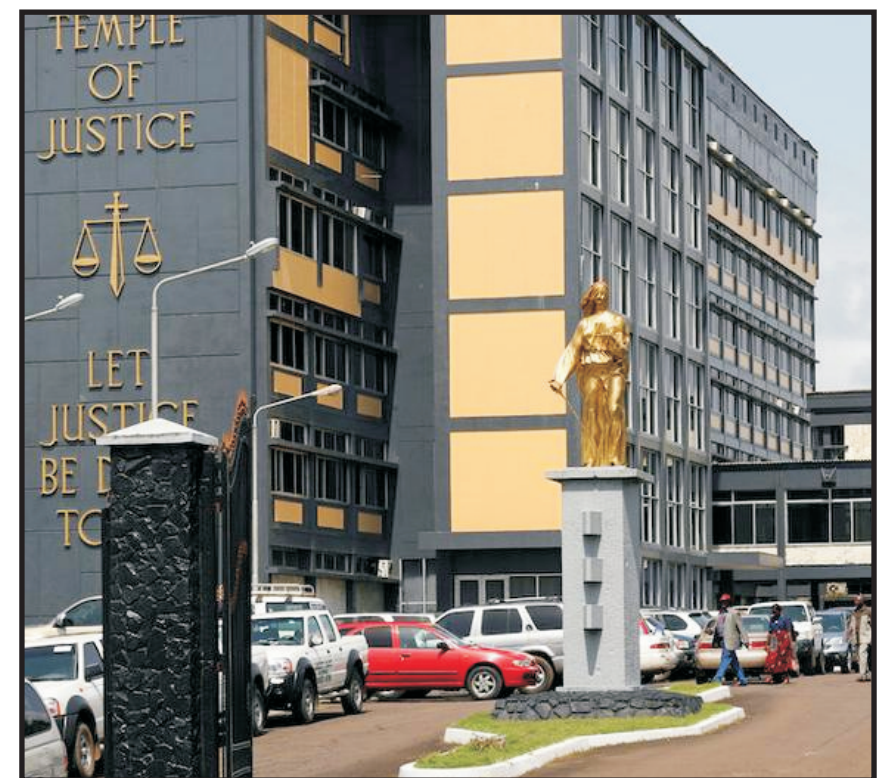
dollars salaries would have been combined as a single spine salary structure which amounted to US\$250 dollars.

Mr. Ponpon recounts that during the month of October 2019, they were informed that the single salary structure was not to be harmonized.

But he says the policy of harmonization is said to have affected judicial staffers' salaries, thereby leaving them with only allowances.

Mr. Ponpon, a controversial Liberian gay rights advocate narrates that their position under the Civil Service Agency is that they believe that they are entitled to salaries and allowances.

He expresses hope that their



demanding authorities to restore about half million Liberian dollars removed from their pay over time.

Recently, staffers from the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate gathered to demand the Liberian dollars component of their salaries.

Their spokesman Charles Brown said it is unlawful for the lawmakers to cut legislative workers' legitimate salaries, insisting that their pay be increased or maintained.

However, the judicial staffers' spokesman Mr. Ponpon, says it has been their understanding that their allowances and Liberian

Liberian dollars salaries will be placed into their accounts before 31 August 2020.

He warns that failure on the part of judicial authorities to meet up with this demand, the affected judicial staffers have decided to act with civility but with protest action such as a go-slow or hunger strike.

He informs Liberia's Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor through a communication that judicial staffers are prepared and waiting on him for a positive reply.

But Mr. Ponpon states that if the Chief Justice fails to address their concerns, they will immediately protest as planned.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

fathers of all and are entitled to welcome anyone - opposition or not. He stressed that they are practicing the tradition that their fore fathers left, not politics.

"Our tradition has being

practiced in the past by our people and we as generation after our forefathers shouldn't be the want misinterpreting the tradition that had love for its people in the past.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Français

Sénatoriales 2020 : Dillon met en garde le régime du président Weah contre toute tentative de fraude

Le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, a augmenté mercredi le volume de son tambour de guerre, avertissant le président George Manneh Weah qu'il ne terminera pas son mandat s'il tentait de s'opposer à la volonté du peuple en tripataillant les

résultats des prochaines sénatoriales prévues pour avoir lieu le 8 décembre 2020.

Les Libériens sont invités à aller voter massivement le 8 décembre lors des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat et du référendum national combinés. Mais l'opposition semble soupçonner le parti au pouvoir d'avoir l'intention de

truquer ces élections.

« Nous savons ce que nous ont causé les fraudes lors des élections », a déclaré Dillon à un groupe de chefs religieux qui étaient allés chercher des éclaircissements sur la déclaration du sénateur selon laquelle le mandat du président serait écourté si le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Présidentielle en Côte d'Ivoire : vers une alliance Bédié-Gbagbo-Soro contre Ouattara ?

À trois mois du scrutin, les annonces de candidature se multiplient, malgré la grande inconnue sur le parti au pouvoir RHDP, suspendu à la décision prochaine d'Alassane Ouattara. Le PDCI, première force d'opposition, a officiellement désigné Henri Konan Bédié comme candidat.

Depuis sa rupture avec le chef de l'État en 2018, le ténor politique s'est rapproché de Laurent Gbagbo et il évoque même une alliance électorale avec le FPI et l'ex-président de l'Assemblée nationale, Guillaume Soro.

Henri Konan Bédié a évoqué ce rapprochement, ce mercredi, lors d'un entretien avec nos confrères de France 24. À la question de savoir si une alliance électorale formelle avait été conclue avec Laurent Gbagbo et Guillaume Soro, Henri Konan Bédié s'est contenté de répondre que cela allait de soi. Pour l'ex-chef d'État ivoirien, le candidat qui resterait dans la course en cas de second tour bénéficierait automatiquement du soutien

des candidats malheureux. Un schéma qui résume parfaitement l'histoire des alliances politiques dans le pays.

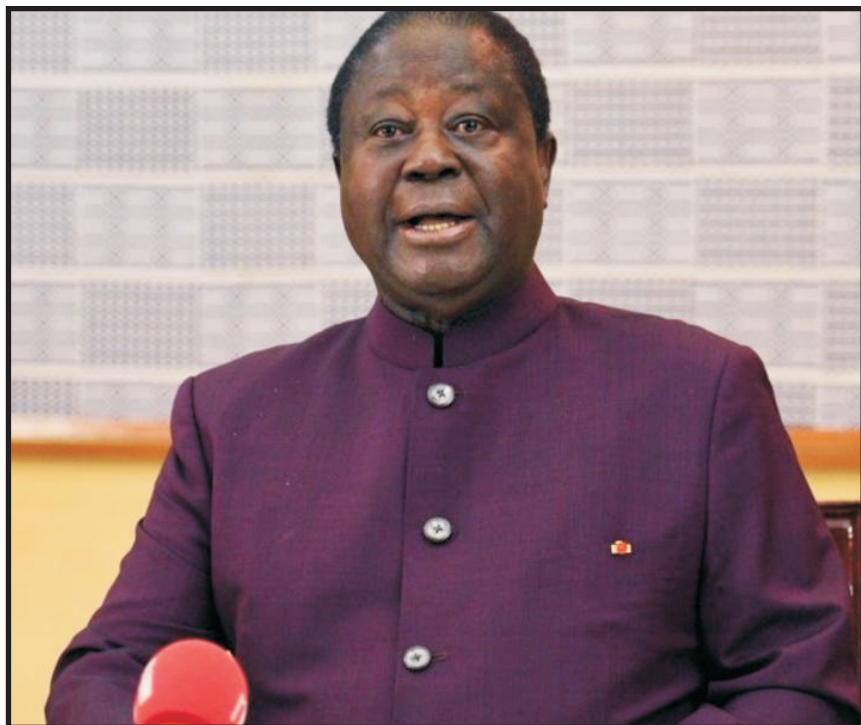
Pour le moment, il y a bien une alliance politique entre les trois hommes, qui affichent un but commun : une réconciliation nationale véritable en Côte d'Ivoire, qui passe nécessairement, selon eux, par un départ du parti au pouvoir RHDP du président sortant Alassane Ouattara.

Mais il n'y a pas encore

d'alliance électorale officiellement et clairement définie.

Objectif commun : le départ du président Ouattara.

Après son acquittement en première instance devant la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), il y a un an et demi, Laurent Gbagbo, toujours à Bruxelles, a reçu la visite d'Henri Konan Bédié. Une visite qualifiée d'historique tant les deux hommes partagent plus de différents que d'accords.



Éditorial

Lutter contre les divisions et l'injustice

L'Orateur national pour le 173^e anniversaire de l'indépendance du Libéria, Mgr Simeon Dunbar, a provoqué un sentiment national de prise de conscience chez les Libériens le lundi 27 juillet lorsqu'il a mis à nu les problèmes auxquels ils sont confrontés et proposé des mesures à prendre individuellement et collectivement pour que l'on s'émancipe et ouvre la porte du progrès et de la prospérité.

Le thème de la célébration de la fête nationale de l'indépendance cette année était « DEBOUT ENSEMBLE EN CES TEMPS DE PANDÉMIE », mais Mgr Dunbar a regardé au-delà de la crise COVID-19 et a égrainé les lacunes profondes du Libéria, allant de la corruption systémique au népotisme, en passant par le syndrome de la dépendance, le déficit de gouvernance et la culture de l'impunité, entre autres.

Du gouvernement aux citoyens ordinaires de la rue, chacun a un rôle à jouer pour transformer le pays et faire de lui un lieu où il fait bon vivre. Mais le gouvernement a la responsabilité de prendre les devants conformément au contrat social qu'il a signé avec le peuple lors des élections.

L'orateur de la fête de l'indépendance a souligné : « Nous ne pouvons pas et ne voulons pas nous unir pour gagner une bataille dans une société qui tolère l'injustice, la corruption endémique, la désobéissance ou le non-respect de l'état de droit, le népotisme et le tribalisme, la violence sexuelle, le manque de réconciliation véritable, de patriotisme, de responsabilité, d'intégrité et de crainte de Dieu... »

Nous sommes totalement d'accord avec Mgr Siméon. Oui, le Libéria ne fera aucun progrès sérieux si nous continuons à nourrir ces vices comme d'habitude. Nous avons besoin d'un renouveau national qui nous inciterait à faire la bonne chose.

Pour commencer, les Libériens devraient retrousser leurs manches et se mettre au travail, car il y a de la dignité dans le travail. L'Orateur, qui est un ecclésiastique, nous rappelle la Sainte Bible spécifiquement dans Proverbes 10 : 4, « Devient pauvre, quiconque a la main molle ». Il a dit que la pauvreté est la seule alternative au travail acharné.

Nous devenons progressivement un peuple qui se réveille le matin pour se plaindre toute la journée, qui ne fait qu'accuser le gouvernement d'être responsable de toutes nos difficultés, sans tenter de chercher nous-mêmes à trouver une solution à nos problèmes comme si nous sommes sans savoir qu'avec Dieu, tout est possible.

Il y a des problèmes partout dans le monde. Mais ce qui fait que certains réussissent, tandis que d'autres échouent, c'est la volonté. Si nous n'élevons pas notre foi et ne croyons pas en nous-mêmes en tant que Libériens, notre pays restera longtemps en stagnation.

Le gouvernement devrait s'attaquer aux problèmes de brutalité policière contre les citoyens en appliquant rapidement les lois. Il est important de respecter la Constitution et de l'appliquer sans favoritisme pour avoir une société stable. Mais lorsque les responsables gardent le silence sur des crimes horribles tels que le viol et le meurtre, le pays sombre dans l'anarchie.

Le président George Weah et son gouvernement devraient écouter attentivement et prendre des mesures pour remédier aux problèmes auxquels nous sommes confrontés, car le rôle des orateurs nationaux est de faire une évaluation honnête de notre vie nationale, nous exhorter à prendre conscience, ce qui nous permettra de jeter un regard introspectif et rassembler le courage de réformer nos habitudes pour une vie meilleure.

Français

Sénatoriales 2020 : Dillon met en garde le régime

pouvoir truquait les élections.

Il a averti que si le Président tentait d'aller contre la volonté du peuple le jour des élections en truquant les résultats du scrutin, alors le président lui-même terminera pas son mandat.

Les chefs religieux ont considéré cette déclaration comme une atteinte à la quiétude et la paix nationale. Pourtant, ils n'ont pas cherché une clarté similaire sous le régime de la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf lorsque l'actuel ministre d'État Nathaniel McGill, le représentant Acrous Gray et l'actuel président du parti au pouvoir ont fait des menaces similaires.

Pendant ce temps, lorsque la délégation du Conseil interreligieux du Libéria a rencontré Dillon mercredi à son bureau du Capitole, il a été franc et a réitéré sa mise en garde.

Le président du Conseil des Églises du Libéria (LCC), Mgr Kortu Brown, a déclaré que le commentaire devait être clarifié pour le bien de la paix et de la stabilité nationale. Le LCC est membre constitutif du Conseil interreligieux du Libéria, qui comprend le Conseil national musulman et d'autres organisations confessionnelles.

Selon le sénateur Dillon, depuis son élection en tant que sénateur de Montserrado, le président George Weah et les membres de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir ont juré de récupérer le siège à tout prix, ce qu'il considère comme problématique.

Depuis 2005, le comté de Montserrado a été le bastion du Congrès pour le changement démocratique de M. Weah, mais la Coalition au pouvoir a perdu ce siège lors des sénatoriales en 2019 au profit de Dillon, un opposant.

Il a indiqué que le ministre d'État Nathaniel McGill a déclaré que le pouvoir ne lui permettrait pas à de remporter une seconde fois ce siège sénatorial.

« Gagner un siège n'est pas un droit en soi, cela dépend de la décision du peuple », a dit Dillon, avant d'ajouter que le surintendant du comté de Maryland George A. Prowdhas a déclaré que le CDC n'est pas qu'un parti,

mais le parti au pouvoir.

Selon Dillon, la déclaration pourrait être interprétée comme quoi le CDC contrôle l'armée, la police et tous les appareils de sécurité de l'État et pourrait les utiliser à son avantage. Il a cité en exemple les violences électorales qui ont eu lieu dans les districts 13 et 15 du comté de Montserrado en 2019, tout en affirmant qu'il n'y a pas un seul rapport de police concernant les personnes jugées responsables.

Il a en outre accusé le président Weah d'avoir enfreint le code de conduite des agents publics juste pour le bouter hors du siège de Montserrado, ajoutant que le président a mis ses ministres dans les rues pour faire campagne en violation des lois électorales.

Selon lui, l'unique siège sénatorial de Montserrado n'est pas la raison pour laquelle le pays rétrograde. Il a fait observer que les enfants sont violés quotidiennement et que la corruption est devenue une norme, mais le président et ses ministres ne se sentent pas concernés.

Il a informé les chefs religieux de ce que la Radio OK FM et d'autres institutions médiatiques ont rapporté que le sénateur Saah Joseph de Montserrado et d'autres ont rencontré des ex-rebelles et qu'il serait le principal sujet à l'ordre du jour lors de ces discussions.

Les membres du Conseil interreligieux qui ont rencontré le sénateur Dillon comprennent Mgr D. Jensen Seyenkulo de l'Église luthérienne du Libéria, qui est également premier vice-président du Conseil des Églises du Libéria, le Dr OluMenjay, président de la Convention baptiste du Libéria et deuxième vice-président du LCC,

et Me Shiek Musa Mohammed Bamah, secrétaire de l'IRC, entre autres.

En réponse, Mgr Seyenkulo a déclaré que la délégation rencontrerait les différents représentants du gouvernement pour donner des conseils sur les bonnes conduites à tenir pour que la paix règne dans le pays.

« Ceux qui pensent que nous nous disputons avec vous se trompent, nous ne nous disputons pas avec vous, nous sommes vos frères et sœurs et nous voulons travailler avec vous. Nous ne vous avons pas choisi, nous allons rencontrer d'autres responsables », a déclaré Mgr Seyenkulo au sénateur Dillon.

COMMENTAIRE

By Ishac Diwan

Les défaillances de l'économie politique du Liban

PARIS - L'économie du Liban est en ruine. La question ne se pose même plus de savoir ce qu'il reste à sauver, et comment. La question est désormais de savoir pourquoi rien n'a été fait.

Ces vingt dernières années, le Liban a vécu sur les flux entrants de capitaux, qui représentaient en moyenne 20 % du PIB chaque année. Grâce à des taux d'intérêt élevés, les dépôts - principalement libellés en dollar américain - ont augmenté jusqu'à représenter 400 % du PIB du Liban, l'essentiel de ces fonds étant prêtés à l'État pour financer d'importants déficits budgétaires. Au mois de juillet, le déficit de la balance courante s'élevait à plus de 25 % du PIB, et la dette publique dépassait 150 % du PIB. Les titres et dépôts publics à la banque centrale représentaient respectivement 14 % et 55 % des actifs bancaires, pour une exposition souveraine totale de près de 70 % des actifs. Dans le même temps, la croissance du PIB est restée proche de zéro, comme c'est le cas depuis 2011.

Le château de cartes s'est effondré en fin d'année dernière, lorsque d'importants retraits ont conduit à une ruée sur les dépôts, suivie d'un arrêt soudain des flux entrants de capitaux. C'est ainsi qu'en début d'année, le Liban se retrouvait plongé dans une triple crise : faillite de l'État et des banques, manque de liquidité et incapacité à emprunter, et difficultés du pays face à un déficit extérieur béant.

Au mois de mars, le gouvernement a annoncé ne plus pouvoir honorer ses obligations de remboursement de la dette. Dans l'espoir d'éviter un défaut souverain, il a ensuite travaillé avec des experts internationaux pour élaborer un plan de réforme économique destiné à remédier aux fragilités de l'économie, notamment en réduisant la dette publique et le déficit budgétaire, ainsi qu'en dévaluant la livre libanaise. Il était également prévu de restructurer le secteur bancaire - une part significative des pertes immenses (environ 90 milliards \$) étant vouée à être supportée par les propriétaires des banques et les déposants majeurs.

À ce jour, aucun pas n'a été franchi dans la mise en œuvre d'une quelconque de ces réformes. Le gouvernement libanais a bel et bien demandé près de 10 milliards \$ au Fonds monétaire international, mais les négociations n'ont abouti nulle part. Dans le même temps, les autorités n'ont pas même imposé de contrôles sur les capitaux - outil pourtant le plus fondamental face à une crise financière.

Certaines évolutions ont eu lieu dans la réduction du déficit extérieur, mais pas dans une direction souhaitable. Les importations se sont effondrées de près de moitié en 2018, en raison de la crise monétaire. Cette chute, associée à un manque d'accès au crédit, ainsi qu'au choc du COVID-19, a conduit à la fermeture de nombreuses entreprises. Dans le même temps, le PIB a connu une diminution à deux chiffres, le taux de chômage a explosé jusqu'à dépasser 30 %, et le taux de pauvreté grimpé en flèche jusqu'à atteindre 50 %, décimant la classe moyenne. Un véritable exode du capital humain a commencé.

Dans ce contexte, l'incapacité du gouvernement à agir peut sembler choquante. Or, la torpeur fait bel et bien partie de l'ADN politique du Liban. Le pays présente un système de partage des pouvoirs sectaire et byzantin, souvent paralysé par les querelles et la corruption. Les élites politiques

libanaises savent que la perspective d'un afflux massif de réfugiés constitue une puissante monnaie d'échange dans les négociations internationales, et subsistent volontiers grâce aux réserves de change tout en attendant de collecter telle ou telle rente géopolitique.

Pire encore, les élites politique et économique du Liban - le chevauchement entre les deux étant considérable - semblent délibérément chercher à reporter sur la population les pertes causées par leur mauvaise gestion économique. Au mois de mai, l'Association des Banques du Liban a proposé son propre plan de réforme économique, qui préconise d'utiliser les actifs de l'État pour limiter les dégâts du côté des banques. Autrement dit, il s'agit de faire supporter à la population ordinaire le poids de l'ajustement.

La banque centrale a par ailleurs lancé la planche à billets, se débarrassant via l'inflation de ses avoirs libellés en livre, dans l'espoir de booster ses réserves de change. La livre a perdu 80 % de sa valeur en seulement neuf mois, avec une inflation en glissement annuel de 90 % au mois de juin. Pendant ce temps, les retraits sur comptes bancaires libellés en dollar sont taxés à 50 % voire plus, en les convertissant au taux de change officiel, plutôt que selon un taux parallèle beaucoup plus avantageux.

S'apparentant pour l'essentiel au « Corralito » observé en Argentine, un gel des dépôts appliqué en 2001 pour stopper les retraits bancaires massifs, cette approche reporte les pertes sur la classe moyenne, qui n'a d'autre choix que de continuer à vivre sur les sommes qu'il lui reste à la banque. C'est également une approche extrêmement coûteuse sur le plan économique. Il faudra au Liban des années pour absorber ces pertes, des années au cours desquelles le pays devra faire face à un manque de flux entrants de capitaux, d'ancrage monétaire, ou de confiance dans le système monétaire et bancaire.

À ce stade, les élites du Liban semblent espérer que le pays aura créé suffisamment de marge budgétaire pour obtenir un accord favorable auprès des créanciers internationaux, et remédier à leur pillage de l'État. Une telle issue poserait les bases d'un avenir sombre, dans lequel ces élites revendiqueraient une part encore plus importante d'un gâteau beaucoup plus réduit.

Mais il est encore possible que leur souhait ne soit pas exaucé. En octobre dernier, un mouvement national de protestation est né, alimenté par des années de colère refoulée. Ces derniers mois, ce mouvement a gagné en maturité, les manifestants s'organisant sous formes de groupements déterminés à réformer le système politique du pays.

Le système politique sectaire du Liban ne sera bien entendu pas facile à bouleverser, notamment parce que le sectarisme se nourrit de la peur et de l'insécurité. Pour autant, l'ampleur de la crise actuelle vient ébranler la légitimité du régime. Le Hezbollah lui-même, allié de l'Iran et défenseur jusqu'à présent d'une entente politique qui préserve ses armes, perd rapidement en popularité parmi son électorat.

Le fait que la communauté internationale fasse pour une fois preuve de fermeté dans ses exigences de réforme est une bonne nouvelle. Car s'il est possible que cette fermeté conduise à une aggravation de la crise à court terme, à mesure que les élites du Liban feront patienter leurs interlocuteurs internationaux, elle pourrait finir par contraindre le pays à opérer un changement réel.

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GOL launches

government ministries, including Ministries of Foreign Affairs, State and Presidential Affairs, Public Works, Health, and Finance and Development Planning, respectively.

Mr. Tarpeh details that by directive of Minister Tweah, a technical working group was constituted, comprising of technicians from the department of accounting and comptroller general and administration, including stakeholders of the six ministries to work along with Mwetana group of consultants for enhancement of the EDMS.

According to him, the decision was based on continuous disclaimer and the Government of Liberia audit process mars by challenges, thus the EDMS would avoid duplication of entries and improve efficiency in government financial management processes.

"EDMS is intended to digitize all financial transactions emanating from the 107 GOL entities; agencies do not have to bring fiscal hard copy document to the Ministry of Finance anymore; all that is required is scan and send all the documents."

Controller General Janga A. Kowo describes the launch of the platform as a testament of government's desire to exposing financial malpractice, saying, "Every problem presents an opportunity, and this launch today is a testament of what commitment does, and we are glad to have this platform

put in place."

He adds that the EDMS is an attempt to correct some of the issues associated with execution of government budget, and public financial process, and that his office and the division of the comptroller general will work with all relevant stakeholders for smooth operation of the process.

"We want to salute our dynamic Minister of Finance for exercising the will to have this platform launched, and making sure that our office gets its independence in the disbursement of public funds."

The CEO of Mwetana Consulting Group, Vivien C. Jones notes the EDMS provides consistency, and efficiency for the government, which means any transaction done in government will be carried out with consistency, and that no official or agency would transact financial matter single-handedly.

Mr. Jones says the platform gives the government an opportunity to check and verify

issues that are unfolding at various entities and ministries. He says it makes no sense for an agency of government to purchase stationery materials on its own, but with the new platform, government can make a decision on how much should be spend on stationery something, he observes, will help government in its purchasing decision.

Commenting on his institution, he explains Mwetana has been around since 2004, providing digital service to government, and the private sector.

However, Mr. Jones warns the notion that Liberians don't have the capacity to do certain work should stop, stressing, Liberians have all the abilities to do whatever it takes.

"This initiative will change that way government operates in a different ways, because minister can just sit and sign checks without going to the office", he adds. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



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Agriculture Minister

employees, Arthur Wenneh whose salaries have been seized and has been illegally driven out of CARI by the current management.

They also named the disappearance of the USAID project fund in March of this year which led to the redundancy of staff from those projects, the recent leaked audio which unearthed massive looting of the entity's assets and the unlawful dismissal of employees.

Additionally, the youth alleged huge salary cuts from employees without clarity on the percentage of how much the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning imposed.

"We all know that CARI was established for the sole purpose of contributing to productivity through

adaptive research and promotion of knowledge and the attainment of food security, job creation and poverty alleviation," the group says.

The group notes that it believes that the essence of the establishment of CARI has not been upheld by the Officer in Charge Madam Paulette Findley and her cohorts, evidenced by the leaked audio.

In the audio believed to contain voices of Madam Findley and David Tokpa who headed the Natural Resource Department at CARI, discussion is heard surrounding the alleged selling of a 50KVA generator and other valuable items donated by the United Nations Mission in Liberia to be used by Bong County through CARI.

The young people argue that this act is not only to scare away international partners from

CARI and is detrimental to the agriculture sector, but also undermines the agriculture component of President Weah's agenda.

They therefore recommended speedy investigation preferably to be conducted by the General Auditing Commission or the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission into this matter and those found responsible be brought to justice and CARI's assets retrieved.

The youths want Madam Findley to be withdrawn from her assignment pending the outcome of the investigation and subsequent report.

Moreover, the aggrieved Suakoko youths want Arthur Wenneh and all those illegally driven out of CARI to be unconditionally given access to the promises of the entity with all emoluments deprived

Referendum untimely

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"We are not ready as a people to remove the clause that is in our Constitution about non-African born or black citizenship. The reason is very clear, we are nobody in our own country. We are at a disadvantage. To be able to remove that clause there needs to be some conditions, some clarifications ...," she says.

Recounting her experience while serving as Commerce Minister, Madam Akerele states that she worked very hard but it was not appreciated, lamenting that many of the Lebanese and Indians in Liberia were against her.

"Our own people do not sufficiently understand this, this issue. It may come eventually, open the citizenship over, but we cannot afford it," she says.

"We are nobody in our own country and therefore it is not timely for us to ... open this thing generally. But dual citizenship, I am supportive of it for Liberians and with certain conditions," she argues.

During the discussion, Mr. Quietteh suggests that when the referendum is pushed to 2023, Liberians will have ample time to discuss it and they will be aware of what they are voting for.

"So I am making appeal to this government as a member of the ruling party - CDC, I am saying to President Weah we know that he wants to reduce the presidential tenure. We agree with you, we know that you are not so ambitious to stay in power and this is true ... and I know that it is true. Please push that, that referendum to 2023," Mr. Quietta says.

According to Mr. Quietteh,

he is not focused on nine years of this country, but its future, urging Liberians not to be in haste at this time to go for referendum and dual citizenship without being given clarity on the referendum.

"Liberia belongs to the African people. And I am making a request to every Liberian to stand with me and say no to the referendum that calls for dual citizenship if clarification is not made by the government that non - Africans will not become [dual citizens]," he pleads with citizens.

Additionally Mr. Quietta fears that even the Chinese will own land here if Liberians vote in the referendum allowing dual citizenship.

Sheikh Quietteh argues that the land in Africa belongs to Africans, and Africans must be the ones to develop their own land.

He believes that Africans can make use of their land to stop importing, instead of giving out vast land for concessions.

"Every Liberian supports dual citizenship. Every Liberian supports that their fellow Africans should become citizens of this country and come back and have ownership of their land. But there is something that ... our leader just spoke on, but it needs some clarity," he adds.

According to Mr. Quietta, Liberia is the only country on the planet that was created for the return of free men and women to Africa, adding that Liberia was chosen as the entry point while Senegal and others were chosen as exit point when people were taken for slavery to America, Europe and other places.

Traditional Leaders face

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He stressed that Maryland County needs unity, rather than division, saying with strife, the county wouldn't achieve its developmental goals.

Mr. Neal cautioned local officials and his colleagues to work together in building Maryland County, adding, "With unity, the county and the country can move forward."

Another traditional leader from the county, Alexander William, said, although they are not against the government's agenda or supporting opposition parties, they have been accused

several times by some local government officials, and even threatened with dismissal for not supporting the administration of President George Manneh Weah.

Mr. William dismissed the claims as false and misleading, and called on local authorities to desist because it has a propensity to undermine future growth of not only Maryland County, the entire Liberia.

Recently, the National Chairman of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change MulbahMorlu, visited the county and issued similar threats at the Pleebo City Hall.

CDC supporters draw first blood

By Jonathan Browne

Hundreds of stone-throwing youths believed to be from the youth league of the governing Congress for Democratic Change chapter in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County Thursday, 30 July besieged a local hotel in the city, preventing the Chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Alexander B. Cummings and Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah from stepping out to address supporters.

Local correspondents on the ground described the situation as very tense, disrupting normal businesses with a bank shutting down.

Mr. Cummings, also leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) and entourage are currently on a tour of southeast Liberia, rallying citizens' support for the CPP in the December 8th midterm senatorial elections.

Chairman Cummings, Representative Kolubah and members of their delegation lodged, threatening to lynch Rep. Kolubah for constantly ranting invectives at President George Manneh Weah.

President Weah commands strong support from the people of Grand Gedeh, and has consistently swept the county in three presidential elections, including the one in 2017 that brought him to power.

According to Spoon FM 107.5, Joint Security forces, including the Police, Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency and the Liberia Immigration Services were overwhelmed by the stone-throwing youths, who reportedly smashed windshields of Rep. Kolubah's Hammer jeep with license plate, Rep6.

Kolubah made several attempts to come out of the hotel, but was forced back by hails of stones from the angry youths, who demanded the

stormed the Superintendent Compound in Zwedru, demanding compensation, including cash and rice for a mission accomplished.

Mixed reactions are said to be among residents of Zwedru City over the incident, with saying it has portrayed a negative of the county.

Some residents caution, that no one knows who may become the next President of Liberia, and that such behavior could hunt the people of Grand Gedeh in the future.

Meanwhile, the National Youth Congress of the ANC says the violence against its leaders Alexander Cummings and Representative Yekeh Kolubah in Grand Gedeh clearly contravenes Article 13(a) of the Constitution of Liberia which states, "Every person lawfully within the Republic shall have the right to move freely throughout Liberia, to reside in any part thereof and to leave therefrom subject however to the safeguarding of public security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others."

In a statement issued here following the incident, the ANC youth congress notes that the woeful, undemocratic, appalling, dreadful and repulsive situation being witnessed in Grand Gedeh County does not only roll back fresh memories of the country's bitter past, but shows to Liberians and the world at large that President Weah is either unwilling or unable to execute the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Office of the Presidency.

"While we (ANC/CPP) conduct ourselves responsibly and lawfully, we want to unequivocally condemn and denounce the distasteful and unacceptable circumstance of lawlessness displayed by the Coalition for Democratic Change hired mobsters. And we call on the Government of Liberia to immediately arrest the situation to avoid setting a very dangerous roadmap that would threaten the peace we have all worked tirelessly to strengthen over the years", the statement continues.

It calls on ECOWAS, the African Union, the United Nations, the United States Embassy near Monrovia and development partners of Liberia to closely monitor the happenings in Grand Gedeh and also prevail on the President to safeguard the peace and security of Liberia by ensuring the rights of every Liberian citizen is protected as enshrined in the Constitution. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



He began the tour over the weekend in his native Maryland County with Rep. Kolubah, where he introduced the CPP senatorial candidate for the pending elections to voters before coming back to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh.

The Collaboration, which unites the Alternative National Congress, former ruling Unity Party, Liberty Party and All Liberian Party has named Eric Wleah Giko, as its candidate for Maryland County.

It is not clear whether Mr. Cummings had gone to similarly introduce a senatorial candidate for Grand Gedeh County.

But the delegation woke up to a nightmare Thursday morning when angry youths, armed with stones, sticks and cutlasses, among others barricaded Hotel B-2 in the heart of Zwedru City, where

lawmaker to leave the county immediately.

Speaking via mobile phone from Zwedru, Rep. Kolubah accused President Weah and the ruing CDC for mobilizing the youths against him.

He insisted as a citizen and lawmaker, it is his right to visit any county in Liberia without prior notice or permission, vowing to call on his people in Lofa County to stop President Weah and officials of his party from entering the county in an apparent tit-for-tat response.

Authorities of Grand Gedeh County led by Superintendent Kai Farley subsequently went on the scene but failed to put the violence under control.

Subsequently, troops of the Armed Forces of Liberia moved in and calmed the situation, which enabled Chairman Cummings, Rep. Kolubah and delegation to leave the county.

Reports say following the violence, group of thugs

Shameful and embarrassing

Starts from back page

its peace loving people.

"It is quite regrettable and disappointing that some residents of Zwedru City, a city commonly called Zulu whisky, known for its hospitality and lawful behavior over the years is now being perceived as a city of disgruntled people which is completely contrary to our culture and values," Rep. Grant expresses.

According to him, the Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus hereby condemns in the strongest terms the attack on Mr. Cummings and the entire delegation of the Collaborating Political Parties that experienced the unfortunate incident.

He stresses that the caucus is calling on the national security apparatus to arrest and bring to justice all those that masterminded and perpetrated the violence.

"The caucus wishes to sound a clear caveat that it will not sit and allow any person or group of persons for whatever reason, to use our county to undermine the peace and tranquility we are enjoying as a result of the efforts and resources committed by our regional and international partners. The caucus reaffirms its commitment to uphold the rule of law in Grand Gedeh County in particular and by extension the country and wishes to reemphasize its condemnation in the strongest

terms of the unpleasant incident that took place yesterday, Thursday July 30, 2020 in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County," the statement concludes.

However, Grand Gedeh County Senator Marshall Dennis, who is a CDC's lawmaker did not sign or attend the press conference.

When this paper tried to contact him via mobile phone, his number rang endlessly without response up to close of official working hours at the Capitol.

Hundreds of stone-throwing youths believed to be from the youth league of the governing Congress for Democratic Change chapter in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County Thursday, 30 July besieged a local hotel in the city, preventing the Chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Alexander B. Cummings and Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah from stepping out to address supporters.

Armed with stones, sticks and cutlasses, among others the protesters barricaded B-2 Hotel in the heart of Zwedru City, where Chairman Cummings, Representative Kolubah and members of their delegation lodged, threatening to lynch Rep. Kolubah for constantly ranting invectives at President George Manneh Weah. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Liberia has the chance

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implementation of structural reforms designed to alleviate constraints on productivity growth and support economic diversification.

"While the medium-term outlook is highly uncertain, there is cause for cautious optimism, said KhwimaNthara, World Bank Country Manager for Liberia. "Successful containment of the outbreak and implementation of the right mix of policies could position Liberia to benefit from an accelerating global recovery. Under such scenario, it will be important to ensure that the benefits of the recovery are widely shared through interventions that target the poor."

The report proposes policy options in four critical areas that can help Liberia lay the foundation for the recovery in the immediate and short-term: (i) scaling up social protection programs; (ii) ensuring continued access to education; (iii) promoting the

continuation of essential trade and market activities; and (iv) supporting financial-sector development to bolster the response to COVID-19.

In addition, the report argues that productivity-driven growth and diversification will be central to Liberia's post-pandemic recovery, and highlights the importance of putting in place fiscal consolidation measures.

"An increase in official development assistance will temporarily bolster the government's resources and provide the liquidity necessary to address urgent spending needs, and to maintain essential government services," said Marina Bakanova, World Bank Senior Economist and the Lead author of the report.

The report also notes the importance of strengthening statistical capacity to promote evidence-based policy making and help monitoring the impact of COVID-19.

Referendum untimely

-CDC stalwart, former Foreign Minister warn government



Madam Olubanke King Akerelle

By Winston W. Parley

Madam Olubanke King Akerelle, Liberia's former Foreign Minister and Commerce Minister, and Mr. Sheikh Quietteh, an opinion leader of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)

are opposed to granting dual citizenship rights to non-negroes, and they want the proposed referendum due this December to be pushed to 2023.

Appearing as a guest on a talk show at Prime FM Thursday morning, 30 July in Monrovia, Mr. Quietteh's arguments were

supported by Madam Akerelle who had phoned in to the program saying Liberians are not ready to remove a clause in their Constitution that prevents non-negroes from acquiring citizenship.

The Liberian former Foreign Minister Madam Olubanke King Akerelle says she agrees that this referendum can be postponed to 2023 because the people need to better understand what this referendum is all about, saying this is a very serious issue.

"What is the rush? Secondly, the issue of dual citizenship on the item needs clarification, we need to hear from the Liberian National Bar Association," she says.

Madam Akerelle notes that it is her understanding that the dual citizenship is for Liberian citizens, insisting that this must be very clear.

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Shameful and embarrassing

-Grand Gedeh Caucus terms violence

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Grand Gedeh County Legislative describes Thursday's violence and subsequent prevention of Montserrado County Representative Yekeh Kolubah and officials of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties delegation headed by its chairman Alexander Cummings as shameful and embarrassing.

At a news conference held at the Capitol in Monrovia yesterday Grand Gedeh County Senator Alphonso Gaye notes that the caucus' attention has been drawn to the incident that occurred in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County where a delegation of the Collaborating Political Parties headed by its chairman Alexander Cummings along with Rep. Yekeh Kolubah were reportedly attacked by a



group of young people claiming to be members of the Congress for Democratic Change, who are against Rep. Kolubah for his usual outburst against the CDC and President George Manneh Weah.

A statement read by caucus chairman, Rep. Alex Grant says the Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus views the incident as unfortunate, embarrassing, shameful and disgraceful to the county and

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