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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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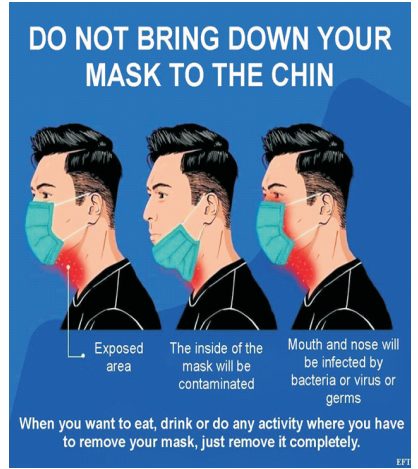
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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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Yekeh vows Grand Gedeh return



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah



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Continental News

Cameroon Government Undermines War Against Boko Haram

There are growing concerns among Cameroonians that their government and military are undermining the war against Boko Haram terrorists in the northern part of the country.

Civilians and experts have criticized authorities' handling of the threat after a suspected Boko Haram militant attack on Sunday killed 17 people and wounded six others in a camp for displaced people. Cameroon's military rejects the criticism but admits that the Nigeria-based terrorist group is increasing the frequency of its attacks.

Ousmanou Sani, head of the Nguetchewe village community near Cameroon's northern town of Mozogo says they have been counting on community militias for protection from Boko Haram. The 62-year-old says the military presence in their locality has been reduced significantly and their porous border with Nigerian villages is no longer controlled regularly. He spoke via a messaging application from Mozogo.

Sani says the population

can bear him witness that only poorly equipped vigilantes are seen most of the time carrying out patrols to protect civilians. He says if the military is stretched, the government should recruit and train vigilante groups members who are ready to protect their communities.

Sani said the absence of the military from 5 of the 6 border control posts may have encouraged suspected Boko

Haram militants to attack their locality over the weekend.

Cameroon military acknowledged that several Boko Haram fighters including women crossed over from Nigeria and attacked an IDP camp at Nguetchewe village. The military in a statement said several people either died or were wounded in the attack, but did not give figures.



Members of the Cameroon Rapid Intervention Force patrol

Sani said 15 villagers died on the spot and one in a local hospital. He said six others were wounded in the grenade attack and more than 70 had fled for safety in neighboring bushes. The fresh attack took place less than a month after Cameroon Chief of Defense staff Lieutenant General Rene Claude Meka visited northern Cameroon. He says he went to galvanize his troops fighting Boko Haram terrorism. He refuses claims that the military has withdrawn from many of its positions on Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria.

Meka says the Cameroon military is effectively at work protecting all citizens, their properties and public edifices from the terror group.

He says he visits the troops regularly to see if there are adjustments to be done for the military to be more professional in its strategies against Boko Haram.

Conflict resolution specialist Joseph-Vincent Ntouda Ebode of the University of Yaounde 1 says Cameroon military should not

think that it has defeated Boko Haram. He says although the terrorist group is weakened, it is still very much present in northern Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad.

He says to reduce renewed attacks, the Cameroon military must take into consideration that poor, hungry and disgruntled people are being used as informants by Boko Haram fighters. He says it is imperative for the Cameroon military to take appropriate measures and secure all civilians and infrastructure that can be targets of the terrorist group. He says Boko Haram is already weak and may resort to attacking civilians, refugees and humanitarian workers to send a message that it has not been completely eradicated.

Cameroon reports that since January this year, it has recorded 87 Boko Haram attacks on its northern border with Nigeria. Twenty-two of them were in the northern district of Mozogo alone.

The United Nations reports that Boko Haram violence has cost the lives of 30,000 people and displaced about 2 million in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. VOA

Five soldiers killed in Mali twin attacks

Five soldiers have been killed in central Mali after twin attacks by suspected Islamist militants.

Mali's army tweeted that a military convoy was attacked between Gomacoura and Diabaly, while a second attack

staged at the military camp in Gamacoura.

Heavy weapons were used by the attackers, it said.

Five other soldiers were wounded and vehicles destroyed.

Reinforcements have been dispatched to the area, the

army said.

It is still unclear who staged the attack.

Mali has faced a series of attacks from militant jihadists in recent months, with 24 soldiers killed in June.

The attacks have spread to neighbouring Burkina Faso and Niger. The country is also facing a political crisis - the opposition has been calling for the resignation of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita for failing to stop the attacks and corruption allegations.

The opposition has rejected proposals made last month by five heads of state from the West African regional block Ecowas to form a unity government to resolve the crisis. President Keita last week appointed a slimmed down cabinet to work towards a government of national unity, and Prime Minister Boubou Cissé has reached out to a popular imam Mahmoud Dicko who is leading the protest movement. BBC



Malian soldiers have been the target of attacks by Islamist insurgents

Boko Haram battle being sabotaged - governor



A governor in north-east Nigeria has suggested efforts to defeat jihadist group Boko Haram are being undermined by elements of the security apparatus.

Borno State's Babagana Zulum said President Muhammadu Buhari needed to know sabotage within the system was frustrating work to end the insurgency.

Babagana Zulum was speaking bluntly days after his heavily armed convoy suddenly had to flee a town near Lake Chad because of sustained gunfire.

The army blamed Boko Haram.

The governor suggested soldiers were behind it and once again used the word sabotage. Babagana Zulum also questioned why the Nigerian army was stopping thousands of displaced people from returning home to their fields whilst soldiers were instead cultivating the land. Governor Zulum is not the first person to essentially suggest that corruption within the military is prolonging the people's suffering in north-east Nigeria. BBC

EDITORIAL

Political violence is not the answer

LAST WEEK THURSDAY'S (July 30) violence in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, southeast Liberia by stone-throwing youths against opposition leader Alexander B. Cummings of the Collaborating Political Parties/Alternative National Congress, Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah and delegation, forcing them to hurriedly depart the county threatens peace and democracy in Liberia.

NOT ONLY THAT, it sets a very bad tone for the pending midterm senatorial elections across the country in December. It shows clearly that critical voices against the government or President George Manneh Weah would not be tolerated in areas considered stronghold of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC.

FOR MORE THAN four hours, thugs, including youths throwing stones and wielding machetes and sticks laid siege on a local entertainment center, B-2 Guest House in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh where the opposition leader and his entourage, including Representative Kolubah had spent the night, specifically threatening to mob the Montserrado District#10 lawmaker, if he came out of the premises.

THEY TOOK THE action on grounds that Rep. Kolubah is in the habit of publicly insulting President Weah, so Grand Gedeh County is a no-go area for him. However, the Joint Security led by troops of the Armed Forces of Liberia subsequently moved in and bundled the opposition politicians out of the county for safety of their lives.

THE VIOLENCE RECEIVED widespread condemnation from Liberians, including members of the Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus and the Indomitable National Youth League of the Alternative National Congress headed by Mr. Cummings. The caucus described the action as "shameful and embarrassing", while the ANC youth league notes that the woeful, undemocratic, appalling, dreadful and repulsive situation 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.

ALTHOUGH MR. WEAH, four days after the incident commented for the first time on Sunday, 2 August while worshipping at his Forky Kloh Jlah Family Fellowship Inc. along the Robertsfield Highway, telling supporters and Grand Gedeans: "If you love me, if you support me, please be peaceful and developmental," but the government's rather lukewarm response indicates complacency.

BARELY THREE MONTHS to the senatorial elections, the ruling CDC has vowed to retake Montserrado County from opposition Senator Abraham Darius Dillon at all cost, and already begun dishing out millions of Liberian Dollars to voters across the county for its candidate, incumbent Representative Thomas Fallah.

NOT ONLY SO, the administration is threatening employees in government who do not vote Coalition candidates with dismissal, including Traditional Leaders in Maryland County for recently welcoming the CPP Chairman Alexander B. Cummings to the county.

CDC CHAIRMAN MULBAH Morlu, speaking recently at the Pleebo City Hall in Maryland County, threatened to recommend dismissal of government employees who would not support the ruling party. "This government under his excellence George Manneh Weah will not allow any official who is working in government and not supporting the government. We will recommend the dismissal of anyone who will be in this government and then he/she is not supporting the agenda of government; we can't have people in government then they are fighting the government", Morlu threatened.

WE BELIEVE SUCH utterance might have contributed to the July 30th violence in Zwedru, and set a tone for what to expect as the nation prepares to go to the poll, creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, particularly when previous electoral violence had gone uninvestigated.

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

COMMENTARY

By Thomas R. Pickering,
Malcolm Rifkind, Norbert Röttgen,
Yang Guang & Andrey Kortunov

Peace at Last for Yemen?

Ending Yemen's bloody civil war is critical first and foremost for the country's long-suffering people. But a peace deal would also serve as a confidence-building step toward stability in the Middle East, and would send a positive signal at a time of increasing international friction and polarization.

PARIS - The long-running conflict in Yemen is riper for resolution than ever before. Yemenis on all sides are exhausted by the fighting and were quick to embrace the appeal issued in March by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for a global ceasefire amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The following month, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen announced a two-week unilateral ceasefire, which it subsequently extended.

The warring parties have already made significant progress toward a ceasefire agreement, in negotiations brokered by the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths. Furthermore, the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC), which is backed by the United Arab Emirates, agreed in June to resume talks with Yemen's Saudi-backed government, thereby ending the fighting in Abyan, Shabwa, and Socotra provinces.

Iran, which supports the rebel Houthi movement (formally known as Ansar Allah, or Supporters of God), has no strategic reason to stand in the way of an agreement. Critically, although international powers including the United States, Russia, China, India, and leading European states are struggling to cooperate over Yemen, they are unlikely to obstruct progress toward ending the fighting.

From the Kremlin to Whitehall to the White House, the desirability of ending the suffering in Yemen is widely recognized. Our countries have nothing to gain from the civil war continuing. Indeed, on July 1, the UN Security Council passed a resolution supporting Guterres's appeal for a global ceasefire, a decision that can be leveraged to help Yemen.

There is much to build on, but the opportunity must be seized. The current window to end the civil war will not remain open for long, and recent advances are now in jeopardy. If the window closes without the warring parties reaching a peace deal, Yemen risks descending into further chaos and conflict, raising the specter of a continuing catastrophe on the strategic Bab el-Mandab Strait.

The tragic conflicts in Libya and Syria have devolved into complicated proxy wars that are not amenable to international mediation. Yemen is still some distance from that point, partly because fewer outside players are directly engaged in the conflict. But time is not on its side. Missing the current opportunity for peace would be unconscionable, given Yemen's rapidly rising number of COVID-19 infections and its inability to respond to the pandemic.

The remaining obstacles to a permanent ceasefire and a political deal include the conditions for opening the Sana'a airport and Hodeida port. The STC's declaration of self-rule in April and the violence that followed have also complicated the peace process. And Ansar Allah's June 23 attack on Riyadh underscores the risk of further escalation of fighting between the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition. But none of these stumbling blocks is insurmountable.

Yemen's looming humanitarian disaster and its people's pleas for peace require action on three levels. First, the warring parties should accept and immediately implement the UN-brokered ceasefire proposal, building on the Saudi-led coalition's unilateral pause.

Second, President Abd-Rabbuh Mansour Hadi's Saudi-backed government and the STC should continue talks regarding the implementation of the November 2019 Riyadh Agreement signed by the two sides. The STC's July 29 announcement that it would abandon its aspirations for self-rule marks a significant step forward that one hopes will further de-escalate tensions.

Third, the international community must encourage all parties to the conflict to turn recent positive momentum into a comprehensive, durable, and just political settlement. A solution based on power sharing would allow Yemen to rebuild, prosper, and restore good relations with its neighbors. A Gulf Cooperation Council-led reconstruction effort in Yemen and a revitalization of regional trade would support this process and herald a new era of cooperation in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Although the warring parties must take the first steps forward, regional and global actors have an important role to play in ending the conflict now.

This November's G20 summit in Riyadh gives Saudi Arabia an opportunity to display international leadership and demonstrate progress on Yemen. Greater support for a deal from the international community, and especially the global powers, can tip the balance in favor of a lasting agreement.

Peace is critical first and foremost for the long-suffering Yemeni people. But a lasting settlement would also serve as a confidence-building step toward stability in the Middle East, and would send a broader positive signal at a time of increasing international friction and polarization.

Opportunities to resolve a prolonged civil war are rare. Ending the conflict in Yemen would save lives, bring hope to a failing region, and perhaps provide some inspiration for a tottering world.

O-PED

By Yanis Varoufakis

Solidarity with the Germans

No sooner had the European Union's pandemic recovery fund, dubbed Next Generation EU, been approved than it was hailed as Europe's first move toward fiscal union. If anything, the way debt mutualization was snuck into the financing of the scheme will probably turn out to have been a mortal blow to a proper fiscal union.

ATHENS - During the worst clashes between the Greek and German governments amid the euro crisis, a German official attempted to dissuade me from insisting on debt relief for Greece with the argument that Germany may be rich, but a majority of its people are poor. On this last point, he was right.

A recent study has confirmed that half of Germany's population owns just 1.5% of the country's wealth, while the top 0.1% own 20%. And inequality is getting worse. During the last two decades, the real disposable income of the poorest 50% has been falling while that of the top 1% has been rising fast, along with house and share prices.

It is against this background of high and rising inequality that the mood of the German public must be understood, in particular popular resistance to the idea of a eurozone fiscal union.

German workers, who are increasingly struggling to make ends meet, understandably refuse to endorse the idea of huge amounts of money being constantly channeled to citizens of other countries. The fact that Germany is getting richer overall is irrelevant to them. From experience, they know that any money sent to Italy or Greece will probably come from them, not the top 0.1% - not to mention that it will probably end up in the pockets of vile Greek oligarchs, or of private German companies that have purchased Greek assets for next to nothing.

As a result, the European Union's recently agreed €750 billion (\$880 billion) pandemic recovery fund, dubbed Next Generation EU, threatens to deepen divisions across Europe, rather than being the unifying balm of many commentators' dreams. Setting aside the scheme's macroeconomic insignificance, it is important to take a fresh look at it from the perspective of a typical German worker languishing among the bottom 50% of the country's wealth distribution.

Her government, a typical German worker is told, will be liable for €100 billion of new debt that the EU will use to help foreigners recover from the pandemic's economic fallout. "Italians will receive €80 billion from Europe's Recovery Fund," she hears. "Spaniards will collect €78 billion, and even the Greeks will pocket €23 billion."

And what will she get? Less than nothing. Because her government is already in fiscal consolidation mode, trying to return its budget to a small surplus by 2021, she can expect only stagnant wages and more austerity for her local hospitals, schools, roads, and other infrastructure.

While she may well feel compassion to the Italians and Spaniards, who lost so many people to COVID-19, she will never accept repeating this exercise in debt mutualization on behalf of southern or East Europeans. The solidarity of German workers, toward whom no one shows any solidarity, has its limits - as it should.

And yet, no sooner had Next Generation EU been approved than it was hailed as Europe's first move toward fiscal union. Boosters failed to take the pulse of Germany's majority, a mistake that neither German Chancellor Angela Merkel nor her successor is likely to make. If anything, the way debt mutualization was snuck into the financing of Next Generation EU will probably turn out to have been a mortal blow to a proper fiscal union.

It's not hard to understand why. Debt mutualization is, undoubtedly, a necessary (though not sufficient) condition for turning the eurozone into a zone of shared prosperity, in the interests also of German workers. But it needs to be executed properly and to be communicated persuasively. Consider the fiscal union that is the Federal Republic of Germany, before contrasting it to what the European Council just created.

When German capitalism goes into crisis, for whatever reason, the federal government's budget deficit rises automatically as benefits flow disproportionately toward the states affected by the greatest rise in unemployment and the steepest drop in state revenues. The beauty of this proper fiscal union is that no German politician must decide which German state gets which transfer.

Imagine the horror if Germany's Bundestag, or a forum of state minister presidents, had to negotiate how much money each of the richer states, like Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Baden-Württemberg would transfer to each of the poorer states, like Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. And imagine if, just before the monies were disbursed, the minister president of Bavaria could block the money for Thuringia for up to three months in order to scrutinize Thuringia's public accounts. German unity would be shattered, and the country would be paralyzed.

I have just described the fatal divisiveness that has been baked into Next Generation EU. As I have written elsewhere, it is almost as if the whole thing were designed by a cunning Euroskeptic.

Over the next years, as Next Generation EU is activated, Germany's elites will scrutinize Italy's, Spain's, and Greece's accounts. That will help divert German workers' anger at the austerity they (along with Italian, Greek, and Spanish workers) are suffering toward their Italian, Spanish, and Greek counterparts - who, naturally, will return the animosity. This is no recipe for unifying Europe. It is a blueprint for dividing people whose interests are, in fact, aligned.

Those of us who truly want to unify Europe have a duty to begin by showing solidarity with the half of Germany that owns 1.5% of its wealth. Before we even mention Eurobonds, we must first campaign for higher German wages, a ban on share buybacks, and sharply curtailed corporate bonuses.

Next, we must demonstrate to our German friends that current EU policies fuel Germany's wealth inequality, adding to the riches of the 0.1% and to the difficulties of the majority. Finally, we must explain to them what a genuine fiscal union means: A transfer of wealth, not from Germany to Greece or from the Netherlands to Italy, but from Hamburg, Lombardy, and North Athens to Thuringia, Calabria, and Thrace.

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OPINION

By Tawanda Mutasah

Zimbabwe's Outlaw Regime

By arresting a prominent corruption-busting reporter, the Zimbabwean government has once again demonstrated its intention to use the law as a political weapon to criminalize journalism. Finally, the international community is seeing behind President Emmerson Mnangagwa's lofty rhetoric and recognizing the true nature of his regime.

PARIS - On July 20, the Zimbabwean authorities arrested the internationally renowned investigative journalist Hopewell Chin'ono and charged him with "incitement to participate in public violence." But Chin'ono's real crime was to expose - in collaboration with Mduduzi Mathuthu, another journalist now facing arrest - alleged procurement fraud at the health ministry involving COVID-19 medical supplies.

Chin'ono's revelations led a reluctant Emmerson Mnangagwa, the country's president, to eventually fire health minister Obadiah Moyo. But whereas Moyo was granted bail following his arrest, Chin'ono remains in detention awaiting trial.

After Chin'ono was arrested, Magistrate Judith Tarvinga signed an overly broad warrant allowing the authorities to search his home for "illegal documents and other articles kept at the house." About 30 armed police, brandishing an additional warrant, later raided Chin'ono's home and seized his camera. By contrast, Moyo was subject to no such raids or searches.

By arresting a prominent corruption-busting reporter, the Zimbabwean government has once again demonstrated its intention to use the law as a political weapon to criminalize journalism. Finally, the international community is seeing behind Mnangagwa's lofty rhetoric and recognizing the true nature of his regime.

For all his attempts to burnish his government's international image, Mnangagwa is simply following the authoritarian playbook of his longtime predecessor, Robert Mugabe. This should come as no surprise: Mnangagwa had been Mugabe's special security assistant for 40 years before becoming president following the 2017 military coup that deposed his mentor.

When Mnangagwa began what he unabashedly calls his "reign," an international community exhausted by Mugabe's villainy was hankering for rapprochement and partnership. Investors envisaged a new era in which the authorities would implement predictable rules, clean up pervasive corruption, and rein in rent-seeking officialdom. Mnangagwa played along, declaring that Zimbabwe was "open for business."

Just over two years later, however, Mnangagwa's pretense has fallen apart. Matching Mugabe's cruelty and entitlement, but lacking his erstwhile patron's eloquence and intelligence, Mnangagwa has revealed himself to be a clueless buffoon with a cartoonish sense of his own invincibility.

The world can now see clearly what was always obvious to discerning Zimbabweans: the 2017 coup was no act of self-renewal by the ruling ZANU-PF party, but rather stemmed from the impatience of a political heir eager for his own turn to maim, steal, and kill.

After all, how can the regime claim to be open for business following its treatment of Chin'ono, whose exposé alleged that Mnangagwa's son was connected to the procurement scandal? What "second republic" and "new dispensation" bombast can still sound meaningful after government security agents' recent abduction and sexual assault of three young female opposition leaders, who were then arrested for supposedly faking the episode? What posturing about political reforms can be sustained when the regime, continuing where Mugabe left off, has gunned down peaceful demonstrators, manipulated elections, and committed torture and other crimes under international law?

The regime knows that charging Chin'ono with inciting public violence is legal hot air, so it is punishing him through pretrial travesties. As Amnesty International's Deprose Muchena has observed, Chin'ono's arrest and detention are part of a broader attempt by the Zimbabwean authorities to persecute the regime's critics.

Recently, for example, Zimbabwe's chief justice issued judges with a directive requiring that their judgments be "seen and approved" by their superiors before being issued - a patently unconstitutional instruction, given that judges must be independent. Although the chief justice dropped the word "approved" the following day, and later, following an outcry, seemed to withdraw the entire directive, the purpose remains clear. In addition, human-rights lawyers have recently been arrested on spurious charges.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's woes continue to multiply. Alex Magaisa, a lawyer, recently described how extensive official looting of a state-run agricultural support scheme had resulted in massive public debt. This followed earlier revelations by the opposition MP Tendai Biti that billions of dollars had been diverted from a separate "command agriculture" program. With nurses striking in a collapsed health-care system, and parts of the country's hungry population calling for mass protests, the regime is in full panic mode.

The arrest on July 31 of several peaceful protesters, including internationally renowned writer Tsitsi Dangaremba and student Panashe Sivindani, rounded off a month of citizen discontent, during which Mnangagwa also announced stricter COVID-19 lockdown measures for an indefinite period. Even in a context of rising infections, the draconian rules prompted the United Nations to express concern about a possible authoritarian clampdown. The new directives impose a curfew from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., and require all "non-working" Zimbabweans to stay at home during the day - at a time when formal unemployment is above 90%.

The Zimbabwean regime thrives on graft and lies. Mnangagwa uses the law and institutions of justice not as the testaments they should be to the ideals of belonging, fairness and dignity, but as carrots and knobkerries to wield as he sees fit.

Such behavior has now created an environment of lawlessness and injustice that is causing responsible investors to think twice about putting their money in Zimbabwe. When a regime shoots itself in the foot, as the one in Harare is doing, the foreign investment that comes to the country is typically crudely extractive: blood contracts calculated to hollow out its natural resources in exchange for supporting its rulers with tanks, guns, and ammunition, other tools of political and social repression, and fat personal bank accounts.

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July 21, 2020
PSA/LRA-04/FY-20/21

REVENUE NOTICE

Attention : Taxpayers Medium Category & General Public
Subject : Online Tax Clearance Certificate Request

The Liberia Revenue Authority wishes to announce that all medium taxpayers are required to be enrolled to its online E-filing platform. This will afford the opportunity for the LRA to offer e-services to medium taxpayers and facilitate the movement from manual filing of returns to mandatory e-filing of returns. Once enrolled, taxpayers can file electronically from the comfort of their offices, homes or just anywhere with internet connectivity.

All medium taxpayers are required to enroll between now and December 31, 2020 for use of the E-filing platform. After December 31, 2020, manual filing process for medium taxpayers will be halted. All medium taxpayers will be required to use the platform to file and no manual return will be accepted after this date.

Training on the use of the E-filing platform for all taxpayer representatives/tax practitioners will run August 10 to 14, 2020 in the LRA Training Center at the University of Liberia's Capitol Hill Campus, beneath the FQ Building. Trainings will be conducted in five (5) days with two sessions per day, taking into account the Ministry of Health pronouncement on social distancing.

Taxpayers are strongly encouraged to bring their laptop computers to the training in order to do practical examples on their own computers and to be enrolled immediately after the training.

The e-filing platform is available on the LRA website at www.lra.gov.lr. The LRA is also encouraging taxpayers to use the e-filing training video to self-enroll and train themselves on the use of the platform. Training video is available on the LRA website.

You can call the LRA toll free number 0888572572 or 0770572572 and we will guide you through the installation, enrollment, and filing process. Please take advantage of the process and enroll and begin to file your taxes electronically. Remember: NO MEDIUM TAXPAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO FILE MANUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021.

Signed: 
Darlingston Y. Talery
Commissioner
Domestic Tax Department, Liberia Revenue Authority

ARTICLE

The Poverty Pandemic Two

By: Togba-Nah Tipoteh

In Poverty Pandemic One, the main point made is that perennial and pervasive poverty remains the principal threat to life. This point was made in June 2020, when 15 per cent of the world's population lived in poverty while seven million corona virus cases existed globally, constituting 10 per cent of the world's population (UNDP Multi-dimensional Poverty Index; WHO). A month later, WHO reports that the total number of corona virus cases has reached the sixteen million persons figure, more than double the figure a month ago.

Given the forgoing WHO Report about the current number of corona virus cases globally, some persons are concluding that the corona pandemic is the most important pandemic to be given attention.

Isn't it true that were global poverty to have been given top priority in the alleviation of pandemics, the world would be better prepared to handle any public health pandemic? Certainly, with the poor population being given highest poverty alleviation priority, notably with better public health conditions, the world would be better prepared to handle any other pandemic.

In the industrialized or developed countries, like the United States of America (USA), with the world's largest economy, there continues to be life-threatening inadequacies related to corona virus testing, mask wearing, ventilators and social distancing (CDC; Johns Hopkins University Health Center).



Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh

With these inadequacies in the developed countries, the public health inadequacies in the developing countries would be even greater, as they are shown to be currently. In fact, the best evidence to make the point about the Poverty Pandemic is seen in the current surge of corona virus case in the USA and Brazil.

There are typical cases of the bad public health situation in the developing countries. First, there is the irrelevant curative system rather the relevant preventive system. Second, many patients get to a public health facility and there is no public health personnel to attend to them and they end up dying because of this lack of attention.

Third, many patients die because of the attention given to them by unqualified and incompetent public health personnel, including medical doctors. Fourth, many patients die because of the lack of medicines, which get stolen by medical practitioners who run their respective private businesses with impunity, and fifth, many patients die because of the lack of electricity.

The corona virus pandemic is yet another Wake-up Call to the Global Community for top priority attention to be given to solving the perennial and pervasive problem of poverty.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Printing Materials

DATE: August 4, 2020
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2020/2021

- 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 printing Materials. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Printing Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service. As stated in this document.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Liberian bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one (1) package. Bid submission begins on August 4, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is September 4, 22, 2020 @ 1:00 pm.

Package: Printing Materials.

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Printing Materials.	Assorted	US \$360.00

- 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 Printing Materials may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
 - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Printing Materials.
 Bidders are required to submit the 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);
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
 - 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,
 - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate.
 - 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 during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 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/SBA/NCB/001/2020/2021 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Printing Materials; 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 or before September 4, 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 September 1, 2020 @ 11:00 P. M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for printing materials will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on September 4 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. 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

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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Fire Service reopens Gardnersville station

By Ben P. Wese

The Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) over the weekend reopened its Gardnersville station to the public, naming it in honor of the late Sergeant Francis Sewon who lost his life some years back

praised the Fire Chief Col. Alex Dickson for his timely intervention in reopening the fire service station in their area. Giving a reflection on the incident involving Sgt. Sewon, Col. Dickson says in 2012, they were on the football field when a call was made to report a fire

story building fell on five of the fire fighters, three of whom he says were recused while two victims in persons of Col. Wesley and Sergeant Francis Sewon left in the fire,

"For all those years I been in the fire service, I say to myself those names can never be forgotten about. And to the family of Francis, we have come to tell you today that your child worked for the Government of Liberia and his name will forever remain as long as Fire Service is in the country," says Col. Dickson.

In addition to reopening the fire station, Col. Dickson says they are also introducing a new program that residents within Somalia Drive can start to follow in order to get easy access to the fire station in times of fire disaster.

The Chief Executive Officer of the RoviaGate Technology Oliver W. Klark says he met Col. Dickson some years back and they had a discussion on how to partner with LNFS in terms of giving easy access to the people of Liberia in times of disaster.

"One of the things we talked about - and that has been a major challenge they have had, is being able to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



while on duty at the Waterside fire incident.

The reopening ceremony was a moment of joy as residents of the Stephen Tolbert Estate, Chicken Soup Factory and LPRC communities, among others,

incident. Col. Dickson recalls that Sgt. Sewon was part of the men that were taken to the Waterside fire scene, saying the building collapsed at about 8:00 PM while the fire fighters were trying to extinguish the fire.

He recalls that the three

Learning Square Liberia identifies with 12 teenaged mothers in Cape Mount

By Lewis S. Teh

Smiles were seen on the faces of 12 teenaged babies mothers when a non-governmental and nonprofit organization under the banner Learning Square Liberia presented two carton of babies' clothes to them.

The teenaged mothers dropped from the Konjah Community School in Sinje District, Grand Cape Mount County.

Learning Square Liberia is operating in the United States and Liberia, with a vision of providing access to education for every youth across Liberia.

Presenting the clothes to

received by the teenaged mothers comes from donors, telling them that the more his organization gets, the more the girls will receive from his organization.

The organization also uses the occasion to present \$23,000 Liberian dollars to the administration at the Konjah Community School after heavy storm broke down parts of the school building.

Mr. Freeman states that Learning Square Liberia is troubled by the disaster caused by the storm, noting that his organization has students there on its scholarship, adding that it can't sit and watch the



the teenaged mothers in Cape Mount recently, Learning Square Liberia Country Manager Alvin Freeman said the donation of the clothes is in line with his organization's vision of making sure that every youth has access to education.

"We are committed to preparing youth to succeed personally and professionally. We envision a Liberia where all citizens are active, empowered and engaged in collectively contributing to a vibrant democracy," says Mr. Freeman.

According to him, Learning Square Liberia is cognizant of the constraints and difficulties the girls are undergoing as a result of teenage pregnancy, saying Learning Square Liberia has come to help them.

He notes that the donation

school to go down.

According to him, Learning Square Liberia has undertaken a series of projects including the Educational Support Initiative that provides educational and professional development opportunities for youth.

In 2019, Learning Square Liberia implemented programs in five counties in Liberia, and the organization says it is sponsoring 261 students in 11 schools.

Learning Square Liberia was founded as Initiative for Democratic Alternative (IDA) Liberia in 2016 by its President Mr. Anthony S. Kolaco who is currently residing in the United States. The organization was later launched as Learning Square Liberia in July 2019.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money customers can now receive international remittances

Mobile Money customers can now receive international remittances straight to their Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money accounts

Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's leading GSM and Mobile Financial Services Company, announces that from August 3, 2020, Mobile Money customers can receive money from their family and friends anywhere in the world directly to the MoMo accounts, free of charge with the launch of International Remittances.

Christopher Ssali, Acting General Manager of Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money, said, "Many Liberians rely on international financial remittances from abroad. Most people endure long lines in packed banking halls to receive the cash sent to them by their loved ones. Now, with MTN MoMo Remittances, they can avoid the stress and the risks by receiving their remittances directly to their



Mobile Money accounts. And we are growing the MoMo family so that our customers can enjoy a truly digital financial lifestyle where they can use the money they receive to pay bills, buy goods and pay for services they need with Mobile Money on *156#.

We are excited about this

because it makes our customers lives easier and better and we are supporting the government's aim for a cashless digital economy. This is our promise to our customers: when it comes to safe, secure and convenient digital payments, with MoMo, we've got you."

The standard Mobile Money fees will apply if customers cash out the remittance or perform any other MoMo transactions.

Customers who are not on MTN Mobile Money can join

easily. Sign up is free. All they need to do is visit any Lonestar Cell MTN service center or registered MoMo agent with a valid identification card and fill out an application form.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Bike accident leaves 2 dead

-One in critical condition

By Patrick Mensah, Maryland

Commercial motorcyclists in Pleebo City, Maryland County are demanding speedy investigation into a tragic accident, resulting to the death of two persons instantly, including a rider and another victim currently

in critical condition at the J.J. DossenReferral Hospital in Harper City.

Angry motorcyclists threw stones early Sunday morning in demand of speedy investigation.

The victims include 17-year-old Susannah Gbwah, and Martin Toe, Jr., 26, who both died instantly in the accident

and Beatrice Bohlen, 25, currently admitted at the J.J. Dossen Hospital.

The accident occurred on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at about 11:00mp when the bike on which they were riding, ran into a truck parked by the road side near a cold storage.

Eyewitnesses narrated to the New Dawn that the late Martin Toe, Jr. and the two others were riding on a TVS Star motorbike from the Pleebo main parking station heading to the City Hall with heavy speedy, and collided with the parked truck near a cold storage operated by a fishing company.

They detailed that the bike rider was on speed, using one hand to operate the bike while the other hand was serving as a shield to prevent rain from flashing in his face when he ran into the parked truck.

All three victims are said to hail from Karluway, Electoral District#3, Maryland County.

The site of the accident had reportedly suffered

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



NPHIL boss to join others in international forum

The Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Dr. Mosoka Fallah, along with other health experts from around the world, has been invited by The Rockefeller Foundation and Brookings Institution for a video conference on global health pandemics.

The Rockefeller Foundation's mission—unchanged since 1913—is to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Currently, the Foundation advances new frontiers of science, data, policy, and innovation to solve global challenges related to health, food, power, and economic mobility.

As a science-driven philanthropy focused on building collaborative relationships with partners and grantees, it seeks to inspire and foster large-scale human impact that promotes the well-being of humanity by identifying and accelerating breakthrough solutions, ideas and conversations.

On the other hand, Brookings Institution, often



refers to simply as Brookings, is an American research group founded in 1916 on Think Tank Row in Washington, D.C. It conducts research and education in the social sciences, primarily in economics (and tax policy), metropolitan policy, governance, foreign policy, global economy, and economic development.

Accordingly, the meeting of the global health experts, which will be done through a

live video conference, is intended to better prepare for future outbreaks and pandemics, as the world needs robust data and information regarding the early detection and rapid response to emerging infectious diseases.

It is intended to ensure that capacity exists in all countries for true global health security from epidemic and pandemic disease.

“As the COVID-19

Liberia's education

Starts from back page

end on August 14, 2020. The West African Senior Secondary Certification Examination is scheduled to start in Liberia on August 17, 2020, and end on September 2, 2020, which marks the full closure of the academic calendar for 12th graders for 2019/2020.

Schools are urged to complete internal assessment by August 3, to 7, 2020, and finalize report cards for distribution from October 26 to 30, 2020.

Except otherwise advised by the Ministry of Health, there shall be no assemblies for graduation ceremonies for all levels. The status of the health risk shall dictate the

and homework, projects, and quizzes to obtain report for 4th marking period in the case of those schools that did not complete the test before the COVID-19 disrupted school and 5th and 6th marking periods, respectively.

Tenth and 11th graders are expected to resume classes on October 5, 2020, and end on November 4, 2020, focusing on the four core subjects.

Professor Sonii stresses that all final assessment report cards for grades 1th to 11th shall be completed and distributed by November 16, to 25, 2020, while 12th graders' report cards should be completed and distributed by

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course of action, while options shall be announced as the time approaches.

At the same time Prof. Sonii added that 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders will begin classes effective August 10, 2020, and end on October 3, 2020, while schools are required to focus on four core subjects - Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies to complete the academic calendar 2019/2020.

The Minister adds that schools are also encouraged to conduct a continuous assessment based on the content covered during the catch-up classes through class

October 26 to 30, 2020.

The Ministry of Education further emphasizes that while the enforcement of hygiene rules and practices for a safe school environment is school administrators' responsibility, students, families, and communities also have an important role to play in ensuring compliance hence, parents are required to continuously observe their children and restrict any child that shows symptoms of COVID19 from attending classes as well as contact the health team immediately. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

pandemic clearly demonstrates, inequities in data exist across the spectrum of modelling and forecasting to early detection and precision response,” said the groups.

The meeting is to encourage investment in capacity to collect and analyse reliable and consistent data across all regions of the globe to transform national and global epidemic intelligence systems through three key complementary, catalytic mechanisms.

The first mechanism is to advance solutions to generate and improve access to critical, real-time data in a safe and secure way, with an emphasis

on timeliness and transparency.

Also, the meeting of the global health experts will provide way forward to accelerate an investment fund that leverages cutting-edge technology from the private sector, a range of new data sources, and insights from academia and public health decision makers to develop, test, scale and integrate new tools for enhanced decision making.

It is also intended to create National Infectious Disease Forecasting Centers to rapidly advance surveillance, modelling and forecasting capabilities.

Français

Les élections sénatoriales de 2020 s'annoncent très difficiles

Alors que les Libériens se préparent pour les élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020 dans les 15 sous-divisions politiques du pays, ce quotidien a identifié quatre comtés susceptibles de devenir des champs de bataille féroces. Il s'agit des Comtés de Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Maryland et Bomi.

Ici, à Montserrado, le siège du sénateur est actuellement occupé par le sénateur de l'opposition Abraham Darius Dillon du Parti de la Liberté, un parti membre de l'alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition dirigée par M. Alexander Cummings.

Le Congrès pour le changement démocratique du président George Manneh Weah a toujours remporté le comté

de Montserrado. Mais il a perdu le siège au profit de M. Dillon l'année dernière lors de l'élection partielle, une défaite dont le parti n'a pas encore récupéré.

Lors des élections présidentielles de 2005, 2011 et 2017, le Congrès pour le changement démocratique a battu tous les partis politiques qui ont participé. C'est seulement en 2019 qu'il a été battu par Dillon.

À la suite des primaires organisées dans le comté de Montserrado récemment, la coalition au pouvoir a choisi le représentant Thomas Fallah, qui jouit actuellement de son troisième mandat à la Chambre des représentants, comme son candidat aux Sénatoriales.

Fallah préside le Comité parlementaire sur des voies, les moyens, les finances et le budget. Il est vice-président du parti au pouvoir. Selon certaines informations, le président Weah a demandé à tous les fonctionnaires du gouvernement de veiller à ce



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Côte d'Ivoire : le camp Gbagbo devant la Commission électorale pour contester sa radiation

En Côte d'Ivoire, certains des partisans de Laurent Gbagbo se mobilisent pour contester la décision de la Commission électorale (CEI) de rayer l'ancien président des nouvelles listes électorales. Une décision qui pourrait empêcher l'ex-chef de l'État de voter à la présidentielle d'octobre prochain.

Trois membres d'Ensemble et la souveraineté (EDS) sont venus remettre une lettre au président de la CEI. C'est un groupe citoyen soutenant l'ex-président Gbagbo et son retour au pays. Dans leur lettre, ils demandent en fait des explications à la CEI et notamment sur les raisons qui ont conduit au retrait de Laurent Gbagbo des listes électorales.

L'ancien chef de l'État est à Bruxelles, il cherche à revenir à Abidjan. Or il s'est aperçu que son nom n'était plus sur les nouvelles listes. Son avocate et son parti s'interrogent sur l'indépendance de la CEI et la Commission répond que, comme Laurent Gbagbo a été condamné à 20 ans de prison dans son pays, l'affaire dite

du « braquage de la BCEAO », il perd le droit de vote.

Il n'empêche que le président de la CEI, Ibrahim Coulibaly Kuibiart, a reçu personnellement la délégation et leur a dit que rien n'était perdu, que le parti devait déposer un recours à la branche locale de la CEI où Laurent Gbagbo doit être rattaché. Il leur a conseillé de saisir, de demander des explications, de présenter des justificatifs. Et la délégation des pro Gbagbo a dit qu'elle le ferait. Le

contentieux s'ouvrira du 5 au 7 août

Que se passera-t-il s'il rentre au pays? On ne sait pas. En tout cas, il veut rentrer quoi qu'il arrive. Sauf que pour revenir à Abidjan, il faut un passeport. Laurent Gbagbo avait demandé un passeport diplomatique début juillet, dossier resté sans réponse, selon son avocate. Une demande de passeport ordinaire a donc été introduite. C'est dans l'attente.



Davantage de troupes libériennes partent pour le Mali

Le chef d'état-major des forces armées du Libéria, le général de division Prince Charles Johnson III, a révélé que les Nations Unies ont demandé au gouvernement libérien d'augmenter de 45% sa force militaire au Mali, un pays déchiré par la guerre. Le général Johnson a refusé d'indiquer clairement le nombre réel de soldats que représentent les 45% par mesure de sécurité.

« Les soldats vont bien. À l'heure actuelle, au moment où je vous parle, les Nations Unies nous ont demandé d'augmenter de 45% ce que nous avons là-bas. Les 45% seront une entreprise de taille. « Je ne peux pas dire maintenant le nombre de soldats que représentent les 45%. Le fait d'indiquer le nombre exact pourrait compromettre la sécurité des soldats que nous avons actuellement en mission à Tombouctou, au Mali. » a-t-il dit.

tous les crédits vont d'abord au peuple libérien, au gouvernement sous Mme Sirleaf et au gouvernement actuel sous le président George Manneh Weah pour avoir toujours fourni tout le soutien nécessaire pour que nous soyons dans ces pays. L'armée nationale avait été dissoute et restructurée en raison des activités qui se sont déroulées pendant notre guerre civile. Si vous lisez le rapport de la Commission vérité et réconciliation (CVR), notre institution a été classée septième pour les pires atrocités commises pendant la guerre civile parmi 27 factions en guerre et imaginez de 2006 à 2013 pour lancer l'armée dans le maintien de la paix, je suis fier », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, les progrès réalisés par les soldats au Mali, au Soudan et au Soudan du Sud montrent à quel point le Libéria est déterminé à maintenir la paix dans toute l'Afrique.



Selon le général Jonson, les troupes libériennes partiront pour Tombouctou au Mali à la mi-août pour aider à faire appliquer la Mission de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

S'exprimant au cours du week-end dans une interview, il a ajouté que le gouvernement libérien dispose des officiers d'état-major qui travaillent avec les Nations Unies au Soudan et au Sud-Soudan, le dernier pays indépendant d'Afrique.

Le général Johnson a fait savoir que la dernière mission de maintien de la paix du Libéria remonte aux années 1960 au Zaïre, maintenant République démocratique du Congo. C'est après tant d'années qu'en 2013, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a décidé de mettre des soldats libériens à la disposition de l'ONU pour prendre part à la mission de maintien de la paix au Mali.

« Je pense que nous dirons que

Il a félicité les Nations Unies pour avoir toujours donné la priorité à l'autonomisation des soldats libériens et s'est dit heureux de s'associer avec l'ONU au Mali.

« Nous tirons beaucoup d'avantages auprès des Nations Unies.

Pour l'instant, les soldats au Mali reçoivent 80% des allocations de l'ONU tandis que les 20% sont destinés aux coûts opérationnels », a-t-il révélé.

Pendant ce temps, le général Johnson appelle le gouvernement du Libéria à inclure le soutien au maintien de la paix dans le budget national.

« Pour l'instant, ce n'est pas là, tout le temps les soldats sont dehors. Ce sont les 20% que nous utilisons pour les coûts opérationnels, y compris l'obtention de passeports, les frais d'urgence - tous proviennent des mêmes 20% », a révélé le chef d'état-major.

Français

Les élections sénatoriales

que le parti au pouvoir prenne le contrôle du comté de Montserrado à tout prix.

La Coalition au pouvoir, sous la direction du président Mulbah Morlu, met tout en œuvre pour faire un retour triomphant dans le comté. L'équipe de gestion politique de la Coalition ne ménage actuellement aucun effort pour récupérer le comté en décembre avant l'élection présidentielle de 2023.

D'autre part le sénateur Dillon bénéficie actuellement du soutien de la coalition des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, à savoir le Parti de l'unité, le Parti de la liberté, le Congrès national alternatif et le Parti de tous les libériens.

Dillon, qui se fait passer pour « la lumière » au Sénat libérien, a semble-t-il plus de chances de conserver le siège de Montserrado. Sa popularité s'est gonflée lorsqu'il a déclaré publiquement son salaire, son allocation et ses autres avantages, une première dans l'histoire parlementaire du Libéria. Il a également révélé que les sénateurs avaient reçu chacun 6 500 \$ US à titre de fonds opérationnels immédiatement après avoir approuvé l'état d'urgence déclaré par le président Weah en avril.

Pour ce qui concerne le comté de Grand Bassa, le deuxième comté le plus ancien de la République, le leader politique du Parti de la Liberté, la sénatrice Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, se retrouvera face à face avec l'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères Gbehzohngar Milton Findley qui est actuellement membre du CDC.

Findley fut président temporaire du Sénat libérien en tant que membre du parti de l'unité (ancien parti au pouvoir) de 2008 à 2014 avant d'être battu par l'actuel sénateur Jonathan Kaipee.

Il a récemment démissionné de son poste ministériel pour affronter la sénatrice Karnga Lawrence aux élections sénatoriales. On pense que Findley a une base de soutien solide parmi les jeunes.

M. Findley, qui entretenait des relations cordiales avec l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pendant son administration, aurait utilisé son influence et permis aux compagnies Equatorial Palm Oil et ArcelorMittal de s'installer dans le comté de Bassa, y augmentant le taux

d'emploi. Aujourd'hui, il est proche du président Weah.

La sénatrice Karnga Lawrence est la fille du révérend Dr. Karnga Lawrence, fondateur de Worldwide Church et du groupe de chant JCCA Bassa. Les deux groupes religieux sont les plus populaires du comté. Les habitants de Bassa sont majoritairement chrétiens et adhèrent aux conseils des anciens.

Le comté de Grand Bassa est connu pour être le bastion du Liberty Party fondé par le feu Charles Walker Brumskine, qui était également originaire de Bassa. La sénatrice Karnga Lawrence étant le visage actuel du Parti de la liberté, bénéficie du soutien du peuple Bassa.

Quant au comté du Maryland, deux ses fils qui sont tous membres du Parti patriotique national se battent dans les urnes. Le sénateur H. Dan Morais et l'ancien représentant James Biney se préparent actuellement pour s'affronter pour le contrôle du siège sénatorial du comté.

M. Morais, qui fut élu sur le ticket du NPP, a été expulsé du parti pour avoir refusé de prendre part aux primaires de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (mouvance au pouvoir) dont le NPP est membre.

Mais l'on pense que Biney a le soutien des jeunes du Maryland, tandis que Morais a la faveur des adultes et des anciens du comté. Les deux sont des intellectuels forts et disposent de liquidités qui pourraient être utilisées pour gagner les cœurs des électeurs.

En ce qui concerne le comté de Bomi, l'on assiste à une tension politique sans précédent. Deux anciens présidents de la Chambre des représentants se battent pour le siège sénatorial de ce comté.

Le représentant Edwin Melvin Snowe et Alex Tyler, leader politique du Parti du peuple libérien et ancien président de la chambre des représentants, s'affronteront. Actuellement, ils tentent de persuader l'électorat.

L'ancien président Tyler est soutenu par la coalition au pouvoir. Il est en plus originaire du comté contrairement à Snowe, qui a abandonné la circonscription électorale n° 6 du comté de Montserrado après deux mandats pour rallier Bomi où il a été victorieux lors des élections de 2017.

Le député Snowe est considéré comme un poids lourd du fait de son immense plantation de palmiers, qui produit actuellement de l'huile

COMMENTAIRE

Par Thomas R. Pickering, malcolm

Rifkind, norbert Röttgen, yang Guang & Andrey Kortunov

La paix au Yémen, enfin ?

PARIS - Le conflit au Yémen, déjà ancien, est plus près qu'il ne l'a jamais été de se résoudre. Les Yéménites, quelle que soit la partie qu'ils appuient, épuisés par les combats, n'ont pas tardé à reprendre pour eux-mêmes l'appel lancé au mois de mars par le secrétaire général des Nations Unies, António Guterres en faveur d'un cessez-le-feu partout dans le monde pendant la pandémie de Covid-19. Le mois suivant, la coalition conduite au Yémen par les Saoudiens annonçait unilatéralement une pause de deux semaines dans les hostilités, qu'elle a par la suite allongée.

Les parties belligérantes ont déjà réalisé d'importants progrès vers un accord de cessez-le-feu, dans les négociations menées grâce aux bons offices de l'émissaire spécial de l'ONU pour le Yémen, Martin Griffiths. En outre, le Conseil de transition du Sud (CTS), séparatiste, soutenu par les Émirats arabes unis, a accepté en juin de reprendre les pourparlers avec le gouvernement yéménite soutenu par les Saoudiens, et à mettre ainsi un terme aux combats dans les gouvernorats d'Abyan, de Shabwah et de Socotra.

L'Iran, qui soutient le mouvement rebelle houthiste (en l'occurrence le groupe Ansar Allah, les « partisans de Dieu ») n'a aucune raison stratégique de s'opposer à un accord. Et, quoique les puissances internationales, dont les États-Unis, la Russie, la Chine, l'Inde et les principaux États européens, aient quelques difficultés à coopérer au sujet du Yémen, il est peu probable qu'ils fassent obstacle à des progrès qui déboucheraient sur la fin du conflit ; c'est un point essentiel.

Du Kremlin à Whitehall et à la Maison Blanche, on reconnaît volontiers qu'il serait préférable que cessent les souffrances du Yémen. Nos pays n'ont rien à gagner de la poursuite de la guerre civile. De fait, le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies a voté le 1er juillet une résolution de soutien à l'appel de Guterres pour un cessez-le-feu mondial, une décision qui pourrait contribuer à aider le Yémen.

Si les bases existent, l'occasion doit néanmoins être saisie. L'opportunité qui s'offre actuellement de mettre un terme à la guerre civile ne sera que de courte durée, et les avancées récentes sont désormais menacées. Si la séquence se clôt sans que les parties au conflit parviennent à un accord de paix, le Yémen risque de basculer plus avant dans le chaos et la guerre, et l'on verrait surgir le spectre d'un désastre persistant en ce point stratégique qu'est le détroit de Bab el-Mandeb.

Les conflits tragiques de Syrie et de Libye se sont transformés en guerres par procuration compliquées, offrant peu de prise à la médiation internationale. Le Yémen n'en est pas encore là, notamment parce que les acteurs extérieurs directement engagés dans le conflit sont moins nombreux. Mais le temps est compté. Il serait tout à fait déraisonnable de ne pas saisir l'occasion actuellement

offerte de parvenir à la paix, étant donné la multiplication rapide des cas de Covid-19 au Yémen et l'incapacité du pays à organiser sa réponse à la pandémie.

Il reste des obstacles à la conclusion d'un cessez-le-feu permanent et à un accord politique, notamment les conditions de la réouverture de l'aéroport de Sanaa et du port d'Hodeïda. La déclaration d'autonomie du CTS en avril et les violences qui se sont ensuivies ont encore compliqué le processus de paix. Et l'attaque d'Ansar Allah [tentée] contre Riyad, le 23 juin, souligne les risques d'escalade du conflit entre les houthistes et la coalition menée par l'Arabie saoudite.

La perspective d'un désastre humanitaire au Yémen et les appels à la paix lancés par la population requièrent une action sur trois registres. Premièrement, les parties au conflit doivent accepter immédiatement l'application de la proposition de cessez-le-feu sous les bons offices de l'ONU, qui prolonge la pause unilatérale de la coalition conduite par l'Arabie saoudite.

Deuxièmement, le gouvernement du président Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi soutenu par les Saoudiens et le CTS doivent continuer les pourparlers concernant l'application de l'accord de Riyad, signé des deux parties. La déclaration du 29 juillet, par laquelle le CTS affirme renoncer à ses aspirations autonomistes, marque un véritable pas en avant, dont on peut espérer qu'il contribuera à la désescalade.

Troisièmement, la communauté internationale doit encourager toutes les parties au conflit à concrétiser la dynamique positive qui s'affirme depuis peu par un accord politique global, durable et juste. Une solution fondée sur le partage du pouvoir permettrait au Yémen de se reconstruire, de se développer et de rétablir avec ses voisins de bonnes relations. Un programme de reconstruction du Yémen sous la houlette du Conseil de coopération du Golfe et une relance du commerce régional soutiendraient ce processus et marqueraient une nouvelle ère de coopération dans le Golfe et la péninsule Arabique. Si c'est aux parties belligérantes d'effectuer les premiers pas, les acteurs régionaux et mondiaux ont un important rôle à jouer pour que cesse dès maintenant ce conflit.

Le sommet du G20 de novembre, qui se tient à Riyad, offre à l'Arabie saoudite l'occasion d'ouvrir la voie sur la scène internationale en attestant des progrès réalisés sur la question yéménite. Un soutien sans ambages de la communauté internationale et tout particulièrement des grandes puissances à un compromis, pourrait faire pencher la balance en faveur d'un accord durable.

Les occasions d'éteindre une guerre civile qui se prolonge ne surviennent pas souvent. Mettre un terme au conflit yéménite sauverait des vies, ramènerait l'espoir dans une région naufragée et servirait peut-être d'exemple à un monde qui avance en titubant.

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Moment of Truth for BRICS: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward

As already known, BRICS is an association of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa joined the association in 2010. The BRICS has a significant influence on regional affairs and very active on the global stage. All of them are members of the G20. While the group has received both praise and criticism from different corners of the world, BRICS is steadily working towards realizing its set goals, bilateral relations among them are conducted on the basis of non-interference, equality and mutual benefits.

In this exclusive interview, Dr Byelongo Elisee Isheloke, who is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town and has scholarly researched some aspects of BRICS for the past ten years, spoke with Kester Kenn Klomegah about his observations, the existing challenges, opportunities and the future perspectives of BRICS. Here are the interview excerpts;

South Africa joined BRICS in 2010, a decade ago, and so how do you assess South Africa in BRICS these years? What are its greatest contributions to the development of the group?

I would say South Africa is strongly committed to its engagement in the BRICS. It has hosted two of its summits. As an active member, it has what it takes to deliver despite the internal economic crises in South Africa. I think over the years, South Africa grew in confidence within the partnership, particularly when the first BRICS summit took place in Durban South Africa.

In the Durban 2013 BRICS summit, African presidents were invited to join leaders of BRICS and the theme evolved around Africa. In this context, South Africa regained its muscles as a BRICS member. South Africa therefore represents Africa well in the BRICS, in a way, and I think the African countries should support it. The only thing I think people want is to be more involved. While the BRICS started as a partnership of political nature, now that it has embraced economic development, the voice of the people must be heard.

The major problem of South Africa is that it is not robust economically compared to its BRICS counterparts, and its economy has been performing badly since the 2008/2009 world's economic crisis. It has been a zero growth economy ever since. If any growth, then it has been below 1%. South Africa has struggled to stabilize its economy during the past few years, and now the COVID-19 has exacerbated this but it is common to many countries around the world.

In your previous discussion, you talk about a transition from politics to economy. How do you see BRICS influence on international issues, its collective position on the global arena?

BRICS did not transit from politics to economy as such but put emphasis on economic projects. BRICS leaders still talk global politics while experts guide the leaders on foreign policy issues. For me, I think it is a very good approach going forward. BRICS must deliver on capital-intensive infrastructure development, and the funding from the New Development Bank (BRICS) is critical in this regard. With good policies in place, this will help the SADC



Dr. Byelongo Elisee Isheloke

region and the rest of Africa. It is great that the branch of this bank operates from Johannesburg in South Africa.

Furthermore, I must say that BRICS influence on international scale is dented by minor problems in the organization. For example, the diplomatic conflict between India and China, the fact that both Russia and China wants to be in a position of favor with the United States on diplomatic ground, this is not helping its influence globally. I think BRICS must clean its home, or clean before its door, if it wants to be the balancing power in international affairs. The other problem is the capital issue. At the moment, the BRICS do not have the muscles to outcompete the Bretton Wood Institutions, the World Bank and IMF. More investment, more capital is needed in the BRICS Bank.

In the past, there was the lack of synergy in diplomatic position as far as the BRICS is concerned. In the UN Security Council, for instance, the BRICS have to consult in order to accommodate views on issues of global importance. We know that South Africa is a member of the SADC and there is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), another SADC country, which has a plethora of problems of security and economic nature.

I think that any assistance from such an organization (BRICS) would be appreciated. Quite recently, more than 200 civilians known as the Bembe people were massacred in the eastern DRC by Ngumino and Twagineho militias. These militias are of foreign origin to the DRC. This news is not broadcasted in South Africa, if the BRICS could invest more in peace-keeping mission, maybe help the current government, perhaps it could help the failing Monusco, a UN mission in the DRC. It is such engagement that can make the BRICS shine internationally. They need a collective position on global issues. This is just one example.

In relation to economy and trade, what are your arguments about collaboration among BRICS? Do you also see China and India racing for global dominance, and Russia steadily raising its business profile on global stage?

With regard to this question, this is what I have to say. In fact, trade protectionism is only good temporarily and it works only in the short run. It is not sustainable as a policy in the long term. We know in the 17th century it was promoted in European countries but there was a

time when the Laissez-faire ideology took precedence on economic isolationism. We also know that a couple of BRICS countries have a communist background (Russia and China). What I can say is that China opened up its economy to trade, and for more than 30 years, it manage to build a robust economy (now considered the 2nd largest after the United States) with potential prospects of outperforming the United States. I think we can learn from the Chinese economic success.

The COVID-19 situation may help change the forecasts but free trade has proven over the years to be highly supportive to the economy of nations. This does not mean one needs "to throw away the baby with the water" when it comes to the gain obtained during the socialist approach to economic development. The BRICS countries should find a way of striking a balance between the two economic systems. But frankly speaking, an open economy leaning more towards free trade is what I would recommend for an emerging economy. Now even countries where the economy is freer like South Africa and India, we see that the major hindrance is corruption and bad governance in certain instances. If the BRICS can address these obstacles or hurdles, they will have a better chance of winning. In China, human rights abuses shouldn't be covered up. Doing-Business with countries where dictatorship and abuses are evident should it be alright.

In addition, there will be areas where BRICS will compete, and this is healthy to any economy, but there must be more focus on what BRICS can do together to address abject poverty, growing unemployment and human rights abuses. China and India need to talk more to address their differences. The future of BRICS depends, to some considerable extent, on their good relations. The race for dominance if military is dangerous. I think they need to talk as friends and partners. The rest of the BRICS should mediate in this regard.

Many experts still question the role of BRICS members in Africa. It is important here to recall that Russia was involved in helping African countries during their struggle for independence and that was the Cold War. It lost its influence after the split of the USSR. Currently Russia's foreign policy largely seeks to regain what it lost to the United States and China and other foreign players in Africa. But for our Russian partners, Africa needs sustainable development, and not military weapons and equipment. Africa is looking for foreign players to invest in infrastructure and play large part economically.

In your post-doctoral research on BRICS, and in your article to The Conversation, you mentioned what South Africa can offer or shared with other members. Is it possible to restate explicitly the kind of "beneficiation" here?

I would make known, first, that as a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Cape Town, my academic investigation deals with the impact of and the challenges towards mineral beneficiation policy interventions in the SADC region. This has some importance for foreign players looking opportunities to invest in mineral resources in the SADC.

Yekeh vows Grand Gedeh return

By Winston W. Parley

Days after surviving a ruthless attack by ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) supporters in Grand Gedeh County, opposition lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah says he has been charged with the responsibility to carry out the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP's) primaries due next week in the same county - Grand Gedeh.

"I have been charged with the responsibility to carry on the primary. We got three candidates in Grand Gedeh that want to run on the CPP ticket so I will be picking up next week for Grand Gedeh to carry on the primary," Mr. Kolubah told a live talk show on Sky FM Monday, 3 August.

Mr. Kolubah and CPP chairman Mr. Alexander Cummings were attacked last week by CDC supporters in their hundreds in the county,

being attacked by government officials and supporters of Mr. Weah.

Announcing his planned return to Grand Gedeh while the violent incident of last week still remains the top discussion here, Rep. Kolubah says the CPP initially did not have a candidate in the county, but he is returning there because the Collaboration has received three names from its county leadership.

Kolubah says he is trying to service his vehicles and adjust to the small body pains he is undergoing for having driven himself throughout the tour of the southeastern counties last week, but he will pick up for Grand Gedeh next week.

"I will be in Grand Gedeh hopefully next week Wednesday or latest Thursday because I will be making a stop to Tappita, Nimba County. The people say I should stop there. I will be making one night in Tappita before I leave for Grand

gather the Muslim community there to prove the CPP's strength within the Muslim community.

Kolubah claims that the opposition has gotten the weakness of the CDC government, saying, the government's weakness is for people to celebrate the opposition "and we have been celebrated."

Speaking earlier on the talk show, opposition Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon alleged that Grand Gedeh Supt. Kai Farley ordered Mr. Cummings to leave the county on grounds that he was not informed by Cummings before entering the county.

Dillon believes that in order for President Weah to prove that he takes the violence in Grand Gedeh seriously, he is supposed to announce Farley's indefinite suspension while investigation is ongoing.

Additionally, Dillon suggests that the Superintendent of Maryland County should be fired immediately for his recent statement that prompted a serious rebuttal from the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Dillon criticizes President Weah for putting up a cosmetic attitude by waiting for several days after the incident in Grand Gedeh before going to his church to tell his base that if they loved him, they should refrain from violence.

"A leader will speak to the country, calling for calm and taking action over those he has authority, so that it can send the message to the rest of the country," he says.

The opposition senator claims that President Weah supports these things being carried out by his people, but only pretends being against them when he faces criticisms.

But Dillon repeats his warning to the government that if it brings chaos, the opposition will return it.

"We will take part in the election the same way the president been taking part in the election. Let me repeat, you chunk rock, we will chunk rock. If you use two - by four - plank, we will use eight - by four - plank. If you throw six - inch block, we will throw eight - inch block, then the people who supposed to come calm the situation will come," Dillon warns.

He further warns that "if on the insistence of President Weah and his people ..." will want to thwart the decision of the people to retain him (Dillon) at the Senate this

Fire Service reopens

Cont'd from page 6

decentralize. They have some logistics as challenged as they are, but they are all saturated at the central location in Monrovia," Mr. Klark says.

Through the vision of Col. Dickson, Mr. Klark notes that his company has partnered with the Fire Service to help empower them financially and give technological assistance aimed at decentralizing fire services across the country.

Mr. Klark discloses that his company named "My Watchman" has committed to the fire service over the next months, US\$27,000 dollars that will be given in cash and technology.

He explains that they have developed an application which those who have access to it can give notification to the company's commend center regarding critical issues like fire, medical, domestic violence or rape by just checking on the app.

Once they confirm that there is an incident, Mr. Klark discloses that they will push that emergency electronically

to the nearby fire service station, police station or the nearest ambulance.

Speaking on behalf of the late Sgt. Francis Sewon's family, the elder brother Theophilus Sewon extends the family's thanks and appreciation to the Government of Liberia through the LNFS and notes that they will forever remain grateful for the level of honor given their late brother and son.

Representing the elders of District #12 in Montserrado County, Oldman Fallah thanks the Director of LNFS and his team, assuring that those assigned at the Francis Sewon Memorial Fire Service Station will not regret being in Gardnersville.

He notes that growing up in his home town in Lofa county, they were thought how to treat government officials in order to make them feel comfortable and flexible in carrying out their duties. -**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



demanding the opposition officials to leave the county immediately as a way of venting their anger at the lawmaker for insulting and criticizing President George Manneh Weah.

Last week thugs invaded Mr. Cummings and Mr. Kolubah's lodging place in Zwedru city, Grand County, stoning the B-2 Guest House that hosted the opposition officials and their vehicles, demanding that they leave the county.

Joint State Security forces failed to make any arrest for the violence that occurred in the county, and it took the intervention of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to disperse the disgruntled folks.

Kolubah is a staunch critic of President Weah and the CDC regime, and has vowed to extend his responses to the presidency in retaliation for

Gedeh," he says.

Mr. Kolubah claims that those who carried out the attack last week are zogoos, a Liberian way of referring to wayward folks, adding that he has no problem with the people of Grand Gedeh because they are peaceful people.

"The Grand Gedehans are peaceful set of people. I got six children from Grand Gedeh. Six, not one. No, no, it was not the Grand Gedehans that chased me out. It was those criminals they took from the prison compound you know, that they brought," Mr. Kolubah alleges.

He accuses Grand Gedeh County Superintendent Kai Farley and Representative Zoe Pennoh of allegedly bringing the criminals out to carry on the rude attitude.

Before leaving Montserrado County net week, Mr. Kolubah discloses he will commence a tour from 72nd Junction through Iron Factory Field to

Bike accident

Cont'd from page 7

several incidents in the past that led to death and injuries of several persons due to narrowness of the road.

According to the angry motorcyclists, several calls had been placed to the city authority in the past to advice truck drivers to avoid packing cars in such location but the authorities allegedly continue to pay deaf ears.

"See what the deaf ears being paid by the authorities of this city has caused us, this place is not a parking station for cars because the place is very small; it is even difficult for two big cars to pass by each other here, so why have they decided to park car here?" the cyclists asked in frustration.

The district coordinator for the motorcyclists union, Edin Papa Sieh Wilson lamented that motorcyclists are usually victimized in the county.

He claimed that on a daily basis, the Pleebo City Corporation is in the constant

habit of penalizing bike riders whenever they parked along the road, but ignore vehicles that park there, something, he described as unfair.

Wilson said though they are civil in their engagements, the Police, local authorities and the government should speed up investigation.

However, addressing the angry cyclists, Maryland County Youth President, Thomas Kumah said the tragic death of the two young people is regrettable, but it is not prudent that they should take the case in their own hands.

Thomas also joined the cyclists in calling for speedy investigation into the accident.

Meanwhile, operators of the coal storage where the truck was parked that led to the accident have promised to bury the two victims, while investigation is ongoing. -**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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December, then he will thwart the president's tenure.

He tells the government that President Weah will have the likes of Dillon and Henry Costa to keep him in check just as former President Ellen

Johnson Sirleaf had George Weah and Acarus Gray while imprisoned former President Charles Taylor had Catholic Bishop Michael Francis checkmating them.

Liberia's education under attack

-Minister Sonii



By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia's Minister of Education, Professor Ansu Sonii says the global Coronavirus pandemic has placed the country's education system under attack.

"As you may be aware the development of young people, and our education

system is under serious attack and we all must join hands", he says.

Minister Sonii blew the alarm while addressing a news conference here Monday, August 3, 2020 in the Charles Gbeyon Conference Hall at the Ministry of Information on Capitol Hill.

He explains that the decision

to reopen schools is a result of tremendous progress made in the COVID-19 fight, and following series of consultations with health authorities, including President George Weah, who thought that it was important to allow grade school students return to class especially, 12th graders who are to sit the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASCE).

Professor Sonii notes that the Early Childhood Education or nursery level to 5th grade will not enroll in physical activities to complete the 2019/2020 academic year, as more review is conducted to adequately plan for the opening of the ECE level for the next academic year.

However, schools are urged to package lessons as homework for the ECE to 5th-grade students and plan for a one-time assessment.

The 12th graders' classes which began on June 29, will

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



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Ronaldo hints at Juventus stay

Cristiano Ronaldo appears committed to at least another season with Juventus as he wants to win a third Scudetto with the club.

Ronaldo joined Juve from Real Madrid in a shock €100 million (£88m/\$115m) transfer two years ago and has maintained strong form despite seemingly entering the twilight years of his career.

The 35-year-old scored 21 Serie A goals in 2018-19,

before bettering that by 10 this term as Juve clinched a ninth successive league crown.

In doing so, he set club history as he became just the third player to notch more than 30 strikes in a single season, following in the footsteps of Felice Borel (31 in 1933/34) and John Hansen (30 in 1951/52).

Indeed, his exploits in front of goal have been eclipsed only by Lazio's Ciro Immobile and Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski in European football this season, with the



Rome-based striker denying the pair the Golden Shoe by registering on 36 occasions.

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:

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