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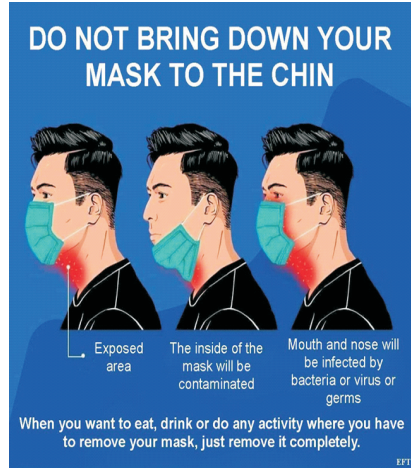
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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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Weah wastefully bleeds Liberia



Pres. George M. Weah

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Continental News

UN pledges to help Mali restore damaged heritage

The UN's cultural organisation, Unesco, is backing a \$1m (£767,000) plan to help restore the heritage of central Mali damaged by recent armed conflict.

The Cliff of Bandiagara is famous for its homes carved into the rock as well as the traditional way of life.

Unesco says inter-communal fighting has destroyed a number of villages in the area - also known as the Land of the Dogon - as well as artefacts.

It was declared a World Heritage Site in 1989.

Unesco has teamed up with the Switzerland-based International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas, which is providing the money. Both buildings and cultural objects have been lost resulting in the "deterioration of cultural practices and traditions of the Dogon, Peuls, Bozo, Bambara and Sonrhai groups", Unesco said in a statement. It estimates that of 15 of the area's 289 villages have either been totally or partially ruined. Fifteen others have been affected close to the Cliff of Bandiagara.

While historically there had often been conflict between the more settled communities, such as the Dogon, and the pastoralists in the Mopti region, this began to become more violent after the militant jihadist uprising in northern Mali in 2012.

It spread to central areas by 2015 and brought more instability, weapons and a lack

of government control into Mopti. Unesco also argues that the disappearance of certain traditions has fuelled inter-communal conflict.

"Culture is not only all too often a victim of protracted armed conflicts - it is also a critical source of resilience and an important foundation for peacebuilding," Unesco Director-General Audrey

Azoulay said in a statement.

The \$1m will be spent over the next three years on restoring the damaged architectural heritage "notably housing, granaries and sites dedicated to traditional culture, as well as to restore the production of cultural objects, and safeguard ceremonial objects in a memorial collection", Unesco says.

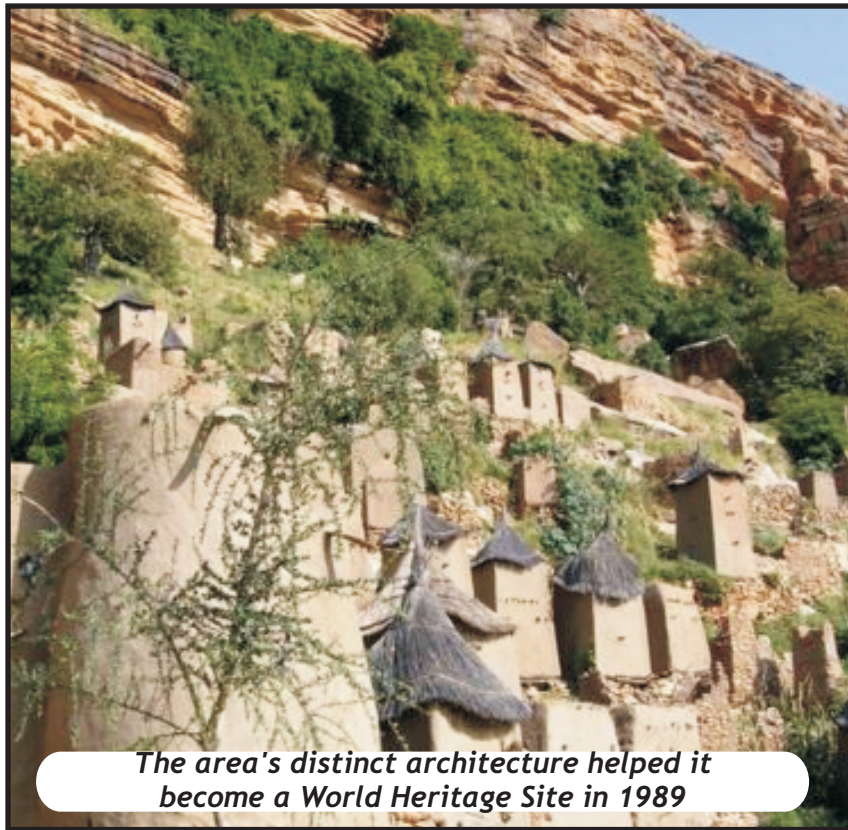
UN experts will work with the Malian government.

The continued insecurity in the country has sparked mass

protests with people calling for the resignation of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Cultural sites have also been targeted in the conflict in the north of the country.

At the International Criminal Court in 2016, Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi pleaded guilty to destroying nine mausoleums and a mosque in Timbuktu.

As head of jihadist group Ansar Dine's moral "accountability" enforcers, known as the the Hisbah, he led the destruction of key shrines in 2012. BBC



The area's distinct architecture helped it become a World Heritage Site in 1989

Zimbabwe VP named health minister after Covid-19 scandal

Zimbabwe's Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga has been appointed as health minister, about a month after the ministry was rocked by a scandal surrounding the procurement of coronavirus tests and equipment.

Mr Chimwenga is a former

without going through proper processes.

He was granted bail.

"President Mnangagwa has noted the urgency needed to stabilise the health delivery system in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic where the country has registered an acute surge of cases," a



Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga is expected to stabilise the health delivery

head of the army who led the military takeover from former President Robert Mugabe.

His predecessor at the health ministry, Obadiah Moyo, appeared in court in June over corruption charges related to a \$20m (£16m) contract awarded to a Hungary-registered firm, allegedly

statement from the presidency on Tuesday said.

Zimbabwe has confirmed nearly 4,200 coronavirus cases, including 81 deaths, but the actual number of cases is thought to be higher. BBC

Ethiopia receives ventilators from the US

The US government has donated 250 ventilators to Ethiopia to help in its response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The donation came after a promise made during a phone

conversation between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in April.

The US Ambassador Michael Raynor said the donation "reinforces its unwavering commitment to the Ethiopian

people".

"This donation is a critical addition to the billions of dollars in resources and expertise that the American people have invested in Ethiopia's health system in recent years. I am honoured to join Minister Dr Lia Tadesse to hand over this new equipment and to continue our work together, mitigating the impact of Covid-19 and helping Ethiopia save lives," said Mr Raynor at the handover event.

Ethiopian Health minister Dr Tadesse thanked the US for the donation.

"Ethiopia appreciates President Donald Trump's generous contribution, and that of the American people to our citizens. The United States and Ethiopia share a long history of cooperation, and the support of the United States Government over the years has helped strengthen and enhance the Ethiopian health system," she said.

The US in a statement said it would provide warranty and service plans, and training for Ethiopian medical professionals. BBC



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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.

COMMENTARY

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

SPECIAL NATION-WIDE ADDRESS**BY****ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS****POLITICAL LEADER****ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)****CHAIRMAN****COLLABORATING POLITICAL PARTIES (CPP)****August 5, 2020****MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:**

173 years ago, we declared ourselves a new and independent nation. Our declaration was a statement to the world, and to ourselves. To the world, we announced that we were free, equal to all nations, and not the subject of any nation. To ourselves, we pledged that we would strive to build a vibrant society - that out of our differences and experiences, we would strive to be united, building a democratic nation dedicated to freedom, justice and equal opportunity for all.

Our Declaration of Independence offered inspiration and hope for many seeking freedom and the right to self-governance. It was not a promise to be perfect, or without failings. It was a guarantee that from each failure - from each bad experience in self-governance - we would learn to be better, and will be more committed to building a future of peace, unity and shared prosperity.

Prior to my journey home to Harper, Maryland County for the 26, I undertook the tradition of wishing our people a "HAPPY" Independence Day Celebrations. Days later, as I travelled across perennially impassable roads - roads which restrict the flow of people, goods and services, and even worse, threaten to cut our people off from the Capital of the country; as I travelled the route from Montserrado to Margibi, Grand Bassa to Rivercess, Sinoe to Grand Kru, Maryland to Rivergee, Grand Gedeh to Nimba, Bong to Margibi and Margibi back to Monsterrado, and again saw their living conditions - it struck me as a cruel jest to have wished our people HAPPY Independence.

For many Liberian families, there is nothing to celebrate, especially when many homes are still without the basic necessities of life, like food, light, or safe and clean drinking water.

173 years later, rather than being independent, we are increasingly dependent on other nations for the most basic things, including to feed ourselves, and to pay the meager, and now harmonized salaries of civil servants. How can anyone really celebrate when we have managed ourselves so poorly? Why should anyone celebrate seeing that the hope we once inspired is now fading, the lone shining star is dimmed, and the dream is becoming a nightmare?

173 years later, our country ranks amongst the poorest and most corrupt in the world. By every socio-economic and development indicator, many of the countries whose independence we helped to inspire, or which experienced conflicts like we did, have left us behind. While these countries are speeding up ahead with their developments shamelessly, our leaders are continuing to show more interests in doing the wrong things for short-term personal gains rather than doing the right things for long term national benefits.

173 years later, where we should be an example of a thriving democracy, politically stable and economically prosperous, our government is still holding out its hands begging for crumbs, celebrating mediocrity, and basking in incompetence. Where the leadership of our nation should unite, it divides. Where it should see, it is blind. Where it should take responsibility, it is irresponsible. Where its perspective should be national, it settles for the personal. And where it should care, it cares less.

173 years later, the quality of education offered to our children and the healthcare we provide to our people are unacceptably poor. Our budgetary investments in basic social services such as education and health undercut our need for human capacity development. Our children, the future of our nation, are failing and falling behind other children in the region, and the world. Pregnant women, especially in rural communities, are without easy access to the medical help they need as maternal and infant mortality are increasing unconscionably, including in urban areas.

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:

The CPP cannot suggest that all of the problems we face today are the making of this administration. However, by their incompetence, lack of vision, extortion, and appeals to division and lawlessness - by the overwhelming evidence of their lack of leadership and duty to care - in only three years, this George Weah-led Administration has quadrupled the problems they inherited. Where it was bad, they have succeeded to make worse, and where it was good, they have effectively destroyed. They have reversed the gains our country struggled to make, and for which we were recently considered a good example of a developing post-conflict nation.

Like many before him who our people honored with the duty to lead our country, President George Weah has carelessly and selfishly abandoned Liberians, and Liberia. Wastefully bleeding the country, by his bad examples, President Weah is encouraging a few of his friends to generate and display wealth they did not have, and were not able to declare, before assuming public offices.

Rather than investing in making our young people productive and ready to lead our country into a better and brighter future, this government is investing in militarizing them, inciting them to violence, and teaching them that it is acceptable to lie, steal, cheat, be dishonest, and intolerant of others. Our young people, desperate to improve their lives, are being misled into thinking that such despicable acts are formulas for success, and a measure of successful leadership.

In the CPP, we are worried about our young people, and deeply concerned about the future of our country. Thanks to the lack of leadership of Mr. Weah, our young people, who are the future of our country, are being wrongly impressed that education is not important; that without taking personal responsibility, and making sacrifices for a greater cause, somehow their circumstances, and the conditions of our country, will miraculously improve.

We are also worried about women political participation under this government. In this age of inclusion, any government, political party or coalition which marginalizes women and does not value their participation enough to include them for consideration in the electoral process, is a joke. That party needs to re-examine their commitment to women inclusion and participation. The current all-male candidates slate of the Weah-led ruling party is an insult to Liberian women! I promise you that the CPP will not only include women in leadership as it already has, but will also support them for elected offices on CPP tickets for all elections!

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:

The leadership of our country is rudderless and the state of our nation is WEAK. The future of our nation under Mr. Weah is anything but bright; our international image is once again soiled; and our reputation is tarnished. Rather than being respected in the region and the world, in just under three years of this administration, our country is being ridiculed and humiliated.

Our ship is sinking. Too many of our people are suffering. We are increasingly seeing a culture of moral bankruptcy being promoted with a determination to destroy the last piece of the moral fabric of our society. This is wicked. It is immoral, and it threatens our longterm peace and security.

Rather than deliver basic services, foster a unified and productive nation, and care for our people, those given the mantle of national leadership are busying themselves with dividing Liberians. They are too busy enriching themselves that they have either forgotten, do not know how, or just do not care, about the most important duties for which they were elected.

And so, while countries of the world are struggling with one pandemic, in Liberia, we are confronted with three (3): The Poverty Pandemic, The Rape Pandemic and the COVID 19 Pandemic.

According to the 2020 Report of the World Bank, under this administration, over half a million Liberians are expected to drop below the poverty line this year! The actual number is 526,000. 526,000 Liberians - friends, relatives, neighbors, people we know, and some we may not know; people we went to school with, or pass by in the streets every day will live on less than one dollar and ninety cents or less than 380 Liberian Dollar a day. This will put our poverty rate at 65% up from 54% in 2016. The Pro-Poor Agenda is now officially the **Make Liberians Poorer Agenda**.

Who could have imagined that only three years on, the Pro-Poor Agenda would be a code to keep our people poor rather than lift them out of poverty? As an opposition community, the CPP is troubled by this. In fact, we are deeply troubled by it. It is in

response to the suffering of our people that we have come together. For me, and all of us, the suffering we see has compelled us to try to do something different to change it. We have come together because we know that we cannot continue like this.

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:

We know that the root cause of poverty is corruption. Where corruption thrives, as it is currently, poverty will rise. This government is very corrupt. In fact, it is the most corrupt we have had. This is not only the opinion of the Liberian opposition. It is the result of a global assessment. As a result, despite being blessed with many natural resources and endowments, our people are becoming poorer and even more destitute.

Additionally, we see the government systematically breakdown and destroy the integrity institutions created to fight corruption by either underfunding them or staffing them with incompetent loyalists. Integrity institutions are receiving far less resources now than they were when this government took over. Comparing the approved budget of FY2017/18 to the draft appropriations for FY 2020/21, we see that PPCC draft budget has been reduced from US\$1.4 Million to US\$752,754; LEITI from US\$553,356 to US\$220,849; General Auditing Commission from US\$5.3 Million to US\$4.5 Million; LACC from US\$2.3 Million to US\$1.3 Million, and the Governance Commission from US\$1.9 Million to US\$1.1 Million.

Similarly, allocations for basic services like health and education, for example, have also seen drastic cuts. While the actual budget performance reports tell an even more alarming tale of underperformance, these cuts expectedly leading to lesser quality of services provided by government-run educational and health institutions. Under this government, not only are we not moving forward, we are actually sliding backward.

As the quality of the education and health services of the government have gotten poorer, the costs of private services have become even more expensive. This makes it difficult to access, thus leading to the overall increase in the cost of living. In the face of the increase in the cost of living, civil servants have undergone huge cuts in their salaries under the government's so-called Harmonization Policy.

As if people are not suffering enough, the prices of goods and services are increasing daily. According to the World Food Program Monthly Market Price Index Report, from February 2017 to Sept 2019, the price of a 50kg bag of rice bought in the Redlight Market has increased from LD \$3,700 to \$5400; a bag of cassava has gone up from \$1300 to \$1650; so too is a gallon of palm oil from \$413 to \$685, and a gallon of gas from \$345 to \$600. These are not even 2020 prices!

At the same time, the exchange rate of Liberian to US dollar which was LD125 to 1USD in Jan 2018, is now LD200 in July 2020. Any serious government will recognize this and look to improve fiscal discipline, eliminate waste, and minimize corruption. This government is too irresponsible to even care.

Today, on behalf of the Collaborating Political Parties, I have come to offer a simple message to our country: We hear you. We see you. We feel your disappointment. We know our country deserves better. Our people deserve better. This is why we will make this failed Weah Administration a one-term presidency!

We know they will try to cheat, and as they have already begun, will try to use fear and intimidations to keep themselves in power. We promise you: None of this will work! We are not easily frightened. We will not be provoked into violence. We do not have to be violent because our cause is just. We stand not for ourselves but for our people who have suffered too much. Mr. Weah has failed the country. He has failed our people. He knows it, and the Liberian people know it.

The CPP desires to build up our country, and lift up our people. We are not interested in destroying our country. We will democratically defeat you because our people deserve better!

While you are trying to be violent, too many Liberians cannot afford to buy food, or pay school fees; too many cannot pay their rents, or pay their medical bills. While you are trying to be violent and display ill-gotten wealth, homes are being washed away in West Point and the Borough of New Kru Town, and in many other places, families cannot sleep when it rains. While you are trying to be violent, mortuaries are overflowing with unclaimed bodies because families cannot afford to pay to take possession of their dead loved ones. It is a shame that our country has become a dog-eat-dog zone with everyone trying to hustle on each other.

In just three years, President George Weah and his administration have shown that they lack the ability to lead us to peace, prosperity and development. All they have succeeded in doing is leading our people into abject poverty and destitution. More children are now crowding the streets and risking their lives to provide for themselves and their elderly parents. At street corners, the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable Liberians are queuing up in increasing numbers to beg for help. All across the country, our people are losing their dignity as they struggle to take care of themselves and their families.

How can anyone claim to love our country and pillage, destroy and disrespect it like this? How can a leader claim to love his people and suffer them like this? How can "Change for Hope" create no positive change, and engender such hopelessness?

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:

Perhaps nowhere is the moral bankruptcy and hopelessness felt more than in this government's nonchalant approach to the Rape Pandemic- the astronomical rise in cases of rape, sexual abuse and violence perpetrated against our babies, children and women. We know that due to stigma and other pressures, the cases are being grossly underreported. Even where a few bravely offer their heart-wrenching stories and experiences to the authorities for redress, they are often greeted with growing impunity and deafening silence. Under this government, RAPE has become a PANDEMIC. Unfortunately, the administration of justice appears to weigh favorably for accused persons than it does in support of victims and survivors. This imbalance is so bad that it is actually more difficult to report and investigate cases of rape and sexual abuse. As a result, many victims and survivors opt to endure in life-long silence and mental agony.

The underfunding of our judicial sector, and the flagrant efforts to politically influence and undermine justice is clearly destroying the lives of far too many of our citizens. It is also weaning public confidence in the justice system. A prime example is the case of a CDC lawmaker and executive of the ruling coalition, who continues to use his political influence, proximity to the President and affluence to imprison and try a young woman who is alleging that he had sexually harassed her. This is the height of silencing. Where officials of this government should give voices to alleged victims and survivors of these crimes, they are effectively silencing them.

Today, the statistics are grim. Not since the civil war has there been such a massive number of cases reported. It must be said that this government is credited for passing the Domestic Violence Law. But it can also be credited for shelving the law after passing it because cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) continue to rise. By their own numbers, the total number of SGBV cases for 2018 was 2,145 but increased in 2019 to 2,590 cases. So far this year, about 600 cases were reported from Jan-March with only 32 cases prosecuted. This is unacceptable!

Also unacceptable is the reported statistics that of these numbers, over 90% are of men as alleged perpetrators. Shame on us, Liberian men! Recently, the stepfather who raped his 15-year-old stepchild, was apprehended and is under investigation. Similarly, a male officer of the Liberian National Police, (LNP) allegedly raped a 15-year-old girl in the King Gray Community. The young girl had gone to the Police Station to report an attempted rape! There is also the case of the young girl allegedly raped by a Pastor. The list is endless.

We cannot continue to sit idly, and fail these innocent victims many of whom are being deprived of their adolescence. We must end rape, and sexual abuse and violence. To do this, we must fix the justice system. We can do this by repairing the prevailing institutional weaknesses to include: providing psycho-social support to survivors, as well as logistical, financial and other technical support to our health and legal systems to improve their investigatory and prosecutorial capacities.

We must also end this sense of male entitlement. A woman is not to be owned, nor is a man right to feel entitled to the body of a woman. A woman is a partner who, like a man, is entitled to the protection and preservation of her body. It is therefore time to teach our young men that respecting a woman for the totality of her worth is not only a good thing but it makes for a better man.

Men, as the primary perpetrators of rape, we can stop the scourge. It is time we did. The survivors of SGBV crimes, especially rape, need justice, and the perpetrators need just punishments. Our society needs confidence that the rights of the least and the greatest will ALWAYS be equally and fiercely protected and defended in our society.

FELLOW LIBERIANS:

The third pandemic is the Coronavirus Pandemic. Here, again, the George Weah-led administration's inability to lead is also obvious. Other than the scattered selfish schemes to line a few pockets, appeal to partisan sentiments, and bolster attempts to pervert the electoral system, the national health response is haphazard and politicized. From declaring a State of Emergency instead of using the Public Health Law, to illegal extensions of the SOE, to announcing a food distribution plan that many of our people are yet to see or benefit from, to not paying our front liners and government employees their already harmonized salary, to shutting down businesses for an extended period thus further crippling the economy, to politicizing the quarantine protocols - here again, the missteps are endless - this President and his government has poorly handled the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If not for the passion, gallantry and commitment of our medical personnel, working against all odds while the president and his men siphon funds intended for COVID-19 response, we would be dealing with worse.

We want to thank our doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers, for their individual and collective daily sacrifice. While the system in which they continue to work have failed them, our healthcare workers have continued to demonstrate the selflessness we need from our national leaders. We join in prayers for their continued safety, as they fight this deadly health pandemic at risks to their own lives and those of their families, and often without the implements they need, or the pay their services deserve.

FELLOW LIBERIANS:

It is clear that the Weah-led government is not concerned about the burning issues with which our country is faced. Instead, they are concerned with interfering to undermine the independence of the Supreme Court including the political and unconstitutional impeachment of an Associate Justice. They are concerned with further weakening the Judicial Branch of government with cuts to its budgetary allocation, as well as risking the integrity and credibility of the National Elections Commission. As a result, the rule of law, and our young democracy, are under severe stress and grave threat.

The CPP is concerned about the current conditions and the future of our nation, and our hard-won democracy. The tomorrow we see through the eyes of today's reality does not inspire confidence that the poverty in which too many are trapped today will not extend to their children tomorrow, or that the integrity of our democracy will be preserved.

The bottom line is WE DESERVE BETTER. Our country deserves better. To get better, we must do things differently.

First, we must lead selflessly. Selfless leadership is a calling to help others - to provide opportunities so that others may climb out of poverty. It means putting your country first. It is not choosing to build political parties over the nation; employing based on partisanship rather than citizenship, or threatening and excluding others who disagree with you or criticize you;

Selfless leadership means using the authority and influence of the offices we hold to advance the lives of others with humility and accountability for the resources used in the public's interest. It means, regardless of our differences in tribe, age, gender, political affiliation or religion, all Liberians must have equal opportunities, as well as a share in the wealth that Liberia is blessed to possess.

Selfless leadership also means ensuring that the law is blind and there is equal opportunity to justice; that justice is not only for the rich and powerful but that it is also available for all who come seeking it. Our courts must be courageous, independent and outside of the reach of the influence of a president, and the ebbs and flows of politics. It must be concerned with justice and the preservation of the integrity of the law.

SECONDLY, to be better, we must reconcile. As yet, we are a country trapped by too much anger, pain, and division. No nation can be built on foundations of unresolved anger and division. We must pull ourselves together through processes of reconciliation and healing. Difficult as it is, we cannot continue to pretend that the body politic is healed and whole when it is not. By reconciling also, we improve our chances to be united. A united people have a better chance of preserving and protecting their independence and aspirations than a people burdened by divisions.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Joint Resolution not specified in CBL Act

-Milton Weeks tells prosecutors

By Winston W. Parley

Former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks says he does not know if there was joint resolution passed by the Legislature empowering the CBL to print 10 billion Liberian Dollars, arguing that the CBL Act does not specify a joint resolution, but simply states legislative approval.

On cross examination with prosecutors Wednesday, 5 August at Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia, Mr. Weeks also testified that he cannot recall if the CBL ever reverted to the Legislature, despite being instructed to furnish the Legislature with the appropriate details "prior to the printing and the minting of coins."

"I do not know if there was a joint resolution. The CBL Act simply states that the

prompting prosecution to announce that it will produce a rebuttal.

Earlier on Monday, 3 August, Mr. Weeks testified that a number of issues necessitated the printing of the LD\$10 billion, saying in late 2016, the government through the Finance Ministry informed the CBL it would be unable to continue to sell USD to CBL due to acute foreign exchange constraints.

Defendant Weeks informed the court that all foreign exchange that the CBL utilized came from the foreign exchange that was sold to the CBL by the government, but the government had said it would be unable to continue to sell USD to CBL due to acute foreign exchange constraints.

Following this decision of the government, defendant Weeks explains that the CBL introduced "25% surrender on

USD, the Old or Legacy notes and the Newly Printed Enhanced Banknotes.

Weeks says the CBL wrote the Senate President Pro-tempore in May 2017 and similarly informed the House Speaker that LD\$10 billion should be printed at the estimated cost of US\$10.4m following the Senate's request for the bank to advise the Senate on how much LD would be printed to replace all the legacy notes.

He adds that the CBL received assurances that its advocacy would be considered, adding that by July 19, 2017, the CBL received a letter from the Legislature signed by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate, instructing the CBL to maintain the USD, replace all legacy banknotes and introduce coins.

Mr. Weeks says the CBL received 10.359bn, arguing that the assertion by prosecution's witness Baba M. Boakai that the CBL received 13bn plus is not backed by the document he submitted as exhibited in the Presidential Investigative Team (PIT) report which according to the defendant shows that CBL received 10.359bn.

Mr. Weeks who boasts of working in the banking sector for 26 years in top positions in Liberia, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa and Nigeria, recounts that when he assumed the position of CBL's Executive Governor in 2016, the first contract to print LD\$5 billion had already been executed by CBL management headed by Mr. Charles E. Sirleaf, ex-President Ellen Johnson-

Sirleaf's son.

Weeks and other CBL board members David Fahart, Elsie DossenBardio and KollieTamba are on trial for theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

The government indicted the officials for allegedly printing and shipping to Liberia L\$13,004,750,000.00 without authorization between 2016 and 2018 and allegedly understating the printed amount as L\$10,359,750,000.00, giving a

variance of L\$2,645,000,000.00.

The four defendants on trial have pleaded not guilty for the charges levied against them, but the fifth defendant Melisa A. Emeh is said to be out of the bailiwick of Liberia and has not been brought to court.

Charles Sirleaf was included in the previous two indictments for this same case, but prosecutors did not include him in this third indictment after they nolleprosequi the former Deputy CBL Governor for Operations with prejudice in May this year.

Besides Mr. Sirleaf, the prosecution here also entered a nolleprosequi (dropped charges) in favor of defendants Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba and Joseph Dennis.



Legislature shall give approval and does not specify a joint resolution," Mr. Weeks says in response to a prosecution's question if there was joint resolution passed by the Legislature to empower the CBL to print the 10 billion Liberian Dollars.

Also prosecutors say the Legislature instructed CBL through a communication of 19 July 2017 for the bank to furnish the Legislature "with the appropriate details of the volume and the denomination of the replacing banknotes prior to the printing and the minting of coins," but Mr. Weeks says he cannot recall if CBL ever reverted to the Legislature.

"As I stated in my earlier testimony, I cannot recall if the CBL ever reverted to the Legislature," he says,



inward remittance," a category of money that he says is transferred into Liberia that are related to individuals through the banking system but use international money transfer companies such as Western Union, MoneyGram and Nobel, among others.

According to him, total inward remittances were averaging about US\$240m per annum, and the 25% surrender translated into roughly US\$60M or US\$5m per month which had to be paid to individuals receiving inward remittances by the commercial banks.

He says the commercial banks here were constantly agitating for the CBL to [make] currency available, adding that the CBL also had significant agitation from the public and the Legislature, complaining about the use of three currencies in reference to the

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LIBERIA REVENUE AUTHORITY
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

Français

La mouvance présidentielle qualifie les menaces de l'opposition de « paroles vides »

La Coalition pour le changement démocratique (mouvance présidentielle) a qualifié d'insensés les propos du sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, qui a mis en garde le président George Manneh Weah contre toute tentative de tripoter les élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat en décembre, au

risque de perdre son fauteuil présidentiel sous la pression de la rue.

« C'est une propagande bon marché et vide de sens », a martelé la coalition au pouvoir.

Animant un point de presse à Monrovia le 4 août au siège du Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (Parti au pouvoir) à Congo Town, le président national de la majorité présidentielle,

MulbahMorlu, a déclaré que les propos du sénateur du comté de Montserrado sont un signe clair de défaite bien avant les élections sénatoriales spéciales de décembre 2020.

« Le sénateur Dillon sent la défaite et la seule option qu'il a est de répandre le mensonge, d'induire le peuple en erreur par une propagande bon marché », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, le sénateur du Parti de la Liberté n'a pas la capacité de perturber la paix du pays car le CDC est prêt à le déloger dans les urnes le 08 décembre.

Le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon, la semaine dernière, a mis en garde le président George Manneh Weah contre toute tentative de tricoter les résultats des prochaines élections sénatoriales qui auront lieu le 08 décembre 2020 sous peine d'être chassé du pouvoir.

L'opposition craint que le parti au pouvoir ne truque les élections. « Nous savons ce

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



La NEC annonce la révision de la liste électorale en vue des prochaines élections sénatoriales

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a dévoilé le chronogramme des activités électorales, dont la révision de la liste électorale, en vue des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat prévues pour avoir lieu le 8 décembre 2020.

La présidente de la NEC, Mme Davidetta Brown-Lassanah, a déclaré mardi 4 août que la révision de la liste électorale de 2017 est conforme à la résolution conjointe du parlement en vue de garantir l'authenticité des prochaines élections.

« Dans le cadre de la résolution conjointe signée par le parlement libérien relative à l'organisation du referendum et des élections sénatoriales le 8 décembre 2020, la commission électorale a été demandée de mettre en place un mécanisme permettant aux principales parties prenantes d'examiner la liste électorale », a déclaré Mme Brown-Lassanah.

Pour garantir l'authenticité et la crédibilité des élections de 2020, dont le referendum, et des élections à venir, la liste électorale de 2017 doit être

révisée et la NEC doit faire participer les techniciens des partis politiques et des parties prenantes, a indiqué le numéro un de la commission électorale.

« Aujourd'hui, nous sommes très heureux d'avoir atteint cet objectif. Sur cette note, le conseil d'administration de la NEC et le personnel lancent aujourd'hui cette revue de la mise à jour de la liste électorale », s'est-elle réjouie.

Le commissaire Brown-Lassanah a également indiqué que la mise à jour de la liste

électorale est une injonction de la Cour suprême du Libéria.

La Commission électorale a ainsi demandé à chaque parti politique de soumettre le nom de ses techniciens pour faire partie du processus qui devrait durer deux semaines.

A rappeler que la liste électorale fut le sujet du contentieux lors des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2017. L'ancien porte-étendard du Liberty Party, feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Présidentielle en Guinée : le parti d'Alpha Condé réuni pour désigner son candidat

Le Premier ministre de Guinée, Kassory Fofana, a ouvert mercredi la convention électorale du parti au pouvoir chargée de désigner son candidat à la présidentielle, plaidant en faveur du président Alpha Condé dont l'éventuelle candidature à un troisième mandat est vivement contestée par l'opposition.

"Cette convention se tient à un moment particulier où le monde est confronté à la pandémie du Covid-19 et où les violences sont récurrentes. L'adversité est menaçante mais je suis sûr que nous sortirons victorieux sous le leadership du président Alpha Condé", a déclaré M. Fofana devant quelque 350 délégués du

début d'année d'une nouvelle loi fondamentale lors d'un référendum boycotté par l'opposition, permet selon ses partisans à M. Condé, 82 ans, élu en 2010 et réélu en 2015, de remettre les compteurs à zéro. M. Condé, qui n'était pas présent à l'ouverture de la convention, a jusqu'à présent entretenu l'ambiguïté sur ses intentions, répétant que "c'est (son) parti qui décidera".

L'opposition guinéenne, qui est persuadée qu'Alpha Condé briguera un troisième mandat, avait d'abord appelé à manifester jeudi, avant de reporter le rassemblement "en raison des examens scolaires".

Lancée mi-octobre par le Front national pour la défense



Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée (RPG) réunis au Palais du peuple, siège de l'Assemblée nationale à Conakry. La convention doit durer jusqu'à jeudi. La date du 18 octobre proposée par la commission électorale pour le premier tour de la présidentielle, n'a pas encore été validée par le chef de l'État.

"C'est la convention pour la consécration du professeur Alpha Condé. Nous voulons qu'il soit notre candidat", a déclaré à l'AFP une déléguée de Kouroussa, en Haute-Guinée (centre), Fantamady Diakité.

La Constitution guinéenne limite le nombre de mandats à deux, mais l'adoption en

de la Constitution (FNDC), formé des principaux partis d'opposition et d'organisations de la société civile, la mobilisation anti-Condé, plusieurs fois réprimée, a fait des dizaines de morts parmi les manifestants.

Alpha Condé, ancien opposant historique, est devenu en 2010 le premier président démocratiquement élu après des décennies de régimes autoritaires dans cette ancienne colonie française d'Afrique de l'Ouest où plus de la moitié de la population vit dans la pauvreté malgré la richesse de son sous-sol.

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Français

La mouvance présidentielle

que nous ont causé le trucage des élections », a déclaré Dillon à un groupe de chefs religieux qui s'étaient rendus à son bureau pour s'enquérir du sens de sa déclaration selon laquelle le mandat du président sera écourté s'il truque les élections.

Le président Morlua dit comprendre le sénateur Dillon, car « s'il continue de battre le tambour de guerre, c'est parce qu'il a peur et se sent déjà battu bien avant le début la bataille électorale ».

« Mais aucune menace ne peut sauver Dillon maintenant, car il est loin derrière les lignes de bataille. Il ressentira la colère des militants du CDC et de tous les Libériens dont l'esprit est éclairé et qui savent qu'il n'a rien fait depuis qu'il a été élu sénateur, à part l'organisation des violentes manifestations et les menaces », a dit le président national du parti au pouvoir.

« Quoiqu'il ne soit capable de renverser ce régime, nous ne prenons pas ses menaces à la légère car lui et ses cohortes sont capables de provoquer des troubles majeurs qui risquent de causer des pertes vies humaines et la destruction des biens publics et privés. Néanmoins, les militants du CDC doivent continuer à rester pacifiques et concentrés. Il ne faut pas qu'ils suivent le chemin destructeur de la violence. Comme je l'ai souvent dit, si quelqu'un vous gifle sur l'oreille droite, tendez-lui l'oreille gauche, rien ne justifie la violence », a-t-il déclaré.

Parlant des récentes violences qui ont eu lieu dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, où le chef de l'opposition Alexander Cummings et le représentant Kekeh Kolubah ont été attaqués par des jeunes qui seraient membres de la ligue des jeunes du parti au pouvoir, Morlu a déclaré que l'état de droit doit à tout moment rester le seul recours pour résoudre les différends politiques et

autres, car rien ne justifie la violence.

« Si l'arc de l'univers moral se pliait vers la justice dans toutes les situations relatives à l'expression de griefs dans le pays, alors cela devait être fait par l'État de droit et non par la violence », a-t-il ajouté.

« La violence est antithétique du CDC ; nous devons tous embrasser la tolérance et la liberté d'expression. Cependant, les insultes et l'indiscipline flagrante contre le président et les dirigeants de notre pays, les chefs, les anciens et les fonctionnaires ne relèvent pas du contexte et de la définition de la liberté d'expression. Insulter les dirigeants nationaux est non seulement contre la paix, mais aussi anti-culturel et viole toutes les normes et tabous sociaux. Ce modèle de comportement irresponsable est appelé déviance et doit être condamné et stoppé. Ainsi, alors que nous nous hâtons tous de condamner la violence, nous sommes tous sous la contrainte morale de condamner également la déviance, des actions qui vont à l'encontre des normes et standards sociaux, menant des réactions négatives du public », a-t-il déclaré lors de la conférence de presse.

Il a indiqué que dans ce contexte, les militants du CDC conviennent tous clairement que si la situation qui s'est produite dans le sud-est ne peut être justifiée, il s'agit pourtant le résultat d'un acte de provocation exagérée, en particulier lorsque l'on commence à appeler les populations du sud-est des « poulets à abattre », en présence du chef de l'opposition, Alexander Cummings, qui aurait donné son approbation tacite.

Les violences qui se sont produites jeudi dernier à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, ont été largement condamnées par les Libériens tant dans le pays qu'à l'étranger, ainsi que par le groupe parlementaire de Grand Gedeh qui a qualifié cet acte de « honteux et embarrassant ».

La NEC annonce la révision

et le Parti de l'unité l'avaient qualifiée de source de fraude électorales.

Pour sa part, Ciapha Gbolie, vice-présidente des affaires politiques de la Coalition nationale démocratique, S'exprimant au nom des partis politiques, a applaudi la commission électorale

indépendante pour ce qu'il a qualifié de bon début du processus.

« Comme nous nous sommes plaints du nettoyage de la liste électorale, nous voulons dire que vous avez obtenu notre soutien le plus complet. Nous allons envoyer nos représentants pour nous assurer que la liste électorale est en

COMMENTAIRE

Par Tawanda Mutasah

Le régime hors-la-loi du Zimbabwe

PARIS - Le 20 juillet dernier, les autorités zimbabwéennes ont arrêté Hopewell Chin'ono, un journaliste d'investigation internationalement reconnu, et l'ont inculpé « d'incitation publique à la violence ». Mais le véritable crime de Chin'ono est d'avoir révélé - en collaboration avec Mduzuzi Mathuthu, un autre journaliste qui court aujourd'hui le risque d'être arrêté - un vaste scandale de corruption dans le cadre de l'achat par le ministère de la Santé de fournitures médicales destinées à la lutte contre le Covid-19.

Les révélations de Chin'ono ont obligé le président Emmerson Mnangagwa, malgré ses réticences, à limoger le ministre de la Santé, Obadiah Moyo. Mais alors que ce dernier a bénéficié d'une libération sous caution après son arrestation, Chin'ono reste détenu dans l'attente de son procès.

Après l'interpellation de Chin'ono, la juge Judith Taruvinga a signé un mandat de portée très générale autorisant les autorités à perquisitionner son domicile pour « des documents illégaux et autres objets conservés à son domicile ». Une trentaine de policiers armés, brandissant un nouveau mandat, ont ensuite fait une descente au domicile de Chin'ono et ont saisi son appareil photo. Le ministre Moyo n'a en revanche fait l'objet d'aucune descente ou perquisition de ce genre.

En arrêtant un journaliste influent dénonçant la corruption, le gouvernement zimbabwéen a une fois de plus montré qu'il entend utiliser la loi comme arme politique pour criminaliser le journalisme. La communauté internationale a enfin pris conscience de ce qui se cache derrière les belles paroles de Mnangagwa et de la nature véritable de son régime.

En dépit de toutes les tentatives faites pour redorer l'image de son gouvernement à l'étranger, Mnangagwa applique simplement les mêmes stratégies autoritaires que son prédécesseur de longue date, Robert Mugabe. Cela ne devrait surprendre personne : Mnangagwa a été le conseiller spécial pour la sécurité de Mugabe pendant 40 ans avant de devenir président après le coup d'État militaire qui a déposé son mentor.

Lorsque Mnangagwa a entamé ce qu'il appelle sans vergogne son « règne », la communauté internationale, lassée de l'infamie de Mugabe, souhaitait vivement voir un rapprochement et l'établissement de partenariats avec le Zimbabwe. Les investisseurs appelaient de leurs vœux une nouvelle ère dans laquelle les autorités appliqueraient des règles établies, mettraient fin à une corruption endémique et limiteraient les pouvoirs d'une bureaucratie axée sur la recherche de rente. Mnangagwa a joué le jeu et déclaré que le Zimbabwe était « ouvert aux affaires ».

Mais à peine plus de deux ans plus tard, les faux-semblants de Mnangagwa ont volé en éclats. Calquant la cruauté de Mugabe et affichant la même conviction que tout lui est dû, mais sans l'éloquence et l'intelligence de son prédécesseur, Mnangagwa s'est révélé être un bouffon incompetent avec une appréciation caricaturale de son invincibilité.

Le monde peut aujourd'hui voir clairement ce qui toujours été évident pour les Zimbabwéens avertis : le coup d'État de 2017 n'a pas été un acte d'auto-régénération du parti au pouvoir, la ZANU-PF, mais plutôt le résultat de l'impatience d'un héritier politique désireux de pouvoir mutiler, voler et tuer à son tour.

Après tout, comment le régime peut-il prétendre être ouvert aux affaires après le traitement réservé à Chin'ono, dont les allégations impliquent l'un des fils de Mnangagwa dans le scandale de passation des marchés publics ? Quels propos grandiloquents sur « l'aube d'une deuxième république » et le « nouveau

Zimbabwe » peuvent encore avoir la moindre signification lorsque trois jeunes femmes membres de l'opposition sont enlevées et violées par les forces de sécurité du gouvernement, et ensuite arrêtées pour avoir soi-disant simulé cet épisode ? Comment continuer à prétendre mettre en œuvre des réformes politiques quand le régime, poursuivant là où Mugabe s'est arrêté, abat des manifestants pacifiques, manipule les élections et commet des actes de torture et d'autres crimes sanctionnés par le droit international ?

Le régime sait bien qu'inculper Chin'ono d'incitation à la violence est un bluff juridique, aussi le punit-il au moyen de parodies procédurales. Comme l'a relevé Deprose Muchena d'Amnesty International, l'arrestation et la détention de Chin'ono s'inscrivent dans la tentative plus générale du gouvernement zimbabwéen de persécuter les critiques du régime.

Le président de la Cour suprême du Zimbabwe a par exemple récemment émis une directive à l'attention des juges exigeant que leurs jugements soient « vus et approuvés » par leurs supérieurs avant d'être rendus - une instruction manifestement anticonstitutionnelle, étant donné la nécessaire indépendance de la justice. Bien que le président de la Cour suprême ait supprimé le mot « approuvé » le jour suivant, et qu'il ait ensuite semblé, à la suite d'un tollé, retirer l'ensemble de la directive, son objectif reste clair. En outre, des avocats spécialisés dans les droits de l'homme ont récemment été arrêtés sur la base d'accusations fallacieuses.

Pendant ce temps, les difficultés du Zimbabwe vont croissant. L'avocat Alex Magaisa a récemment décrit comment l'argent officiellement détourné d'un régime d'aide à l'agriculture commerciale s'est traduit par une dette publique massive. Une commission parlementaire du député de l'opposition Tendai Biti avait auparavant révélé le détournement de milliards de dollars d'un autre programme d'agriculture planifiée. Dans une conjoncture où les infirmières sont en grève pour dénoncer un système de santé défaillant et où une population affamée appelle à tenir des manifestations massives dans certaines parties du pays, le régime est gagné par la panique.

L'arrestation le 31 juillet de manifestants pacifiques, dont l'écrivaine de renommée internationale Tsitsi Dangaremba et l'étudiante Panashe Sivindani, a conclu un mois de fort mécontentement populaire, durant lequel Mnangagwa a également annoncé des mesures de confinement plus strictes face au Covid-19, pour une période indéterminée. Même dans un contexte de multiplication des cas, ces nouvelles règles draconiennes ont incité les Nations unies à faire part de leur inquiétude quant à une éventuelle répression autoritaire sous couvert de lutte contre le coronavirus. Ces mesures imposent un couvre-feu de 18h à 6h du matin et contraignent tous les Zimbabwéens « qui ne travaillent pas » à rester chez eux durant la journée - dans un pays où le taux de chômage réel est proche de 90 pour cent.

Le régime zimbabwéen vit de la corruption et du mensonge. Mnangagwa n'utilise pas la loi et les institutions judiciaires comme les représentantes qu'elles devraient être des idéaux que sont l'appartenance, l'équité et la dignité, mais comme des carottes et des bâtons qu'il peut utiliser à sa guise.

Cette attitude a créé un environnement de non-droit et d'injustice qui oblige les investisseurs responsables à réfléchir à deux fois avant de placer leur argent au Zimbabwe. Quand un régime se tire dans le pied, comme celui de Harare, les investissements étrangers réalisés dans le pays le sont généralement dans les industries extractives, avec des contrats au prix du sang versé, destinés à piller les ressources naturelles en échange d'un soutien à ses dirigeants, sous forme de tanks, d'armes et de munitions, d'autres moyens de répression politique et sociale, et de comptes bancaires personnels bien alimentés.

The CPP knows we need serious leadership to reconcile our nation, and that this current leadership has failed in that responsibility. A president who calls the opposition, hate-position, who is yet to reconcile with some of his former national team members, and who ostracizes his friends who dare to criticize him, does not have the ability to reconcile us. As such, we cannot wait for him to do so. It is time to take our reconciliation matters into our own hands, and put an end to the hatred and bitterness toward each other. We, truly, are ONE PEOPLE.

All Liberians own Liberia. We rise or we fall, together. No tribe is better than another. We cannot let ourselves believe differently, or act contrarily. This is why we must reject tribalism. We must not accept religious sentiments and partisan politics intended to divide us. We are stronger and better not just together but also united under the umbrella of our Liberianism - the umbilical cord which binds all of us in mutual ownership of a country we dearly love. Only in the spirit of unity and wholeness can we truly achieve the values of our declaration of independence, and realize our destiny of nation-building.

Therefore, from blackboards in classrooms to the court dockets, to pulpits in churches to praying mats in mosques; from the villages to the cities, today I urge a renewed commitment to reconcile ourselves with each other; to inspire the next generation - our children, and their children - with the virtues of peace, justice, security, tolerance, honesty, service to country, responsibility for self and others, truth-telling, and genuine healing. We must do this so that even when we disagree, now and in the future, we can do so without resorting to the need to break ourselves down, or to destroy our country.

THIRDLY to be better, we must reclaim our destiny. Liberia will only be developed by Liberians. Therefore, we must own our development - own the problems we have created, and begin to seriously rethink the solutions. It means, as Einstein said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them."

It means we cannot continue to sacrifice and undermine Liberian businesses and entrepreneurial spirits in preferences for others. If anyone deserves to make it in Liberia, Liberians do. All Liberians do.

For too long, and throughout our history, we have restricted opportunities to one group of Liberians over the other, and in some harsher cases, we have even excluded Liberians from fully participating in their own economy. This exclusion has been true in the settlers versus indigenous divide, the Congo versus Native divide, and now it is true for the CDC versus Opposition divide. This has to end! Liberia loses every time we divide ourselves. There are no real winners in "Us versus Them" - all become losers in the end.

Every single Liberian regardless of age, gender, tribe, religion, and politics, must have access to all opportunities, rights and privileges afforded by their citizenship. We must put an end to the oppression of any Liberian and ensure that the pot of opportunities which I like to call the "Bowl of Rice" is big enough for every Liberian to benefit from provided they are willing to work hard and follow the rules like everyone else. The simple truth is that when everyone has a fair chance to make progress, the nation wins.

The progress of a nation is not measured in buildings and roads. It is always measured in human capacities and conditions. It is found in the levels of enterprising and entrepreneurial spirits that drive people to dream big dreams and to try to transform their dreams into reality. Progress is found in the prevailing sense of freedom, access to justice and attitude of hopefulness that is felt across the society. A nation's progress is measured in how we care for our poor, the weak, the vulnerable and the disabled, and how we prepare our young to live better and more prosperous lives. This type of progress cleanses a nation's soul, improves a sense of shared citizenship despite differences, and makes for more inclusive growth, enduring peace and sustainable development.

This, too, after all, is the real meaning of independence. And this defines the values by which a CPP leadership will measure the progress of our nation.

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:

I know we can do this. What is holding our country back, and has held us back in many cases, is the lack of leadership - the leadership to inspire a sense of real human progress, and to inspire unity and collective responsibility for our development.

This is where you come in, Mr. President.

Your party may have elected you as standard bearer, but the Liberian people elected you to lead the country. It is time you understood the difference. Leadership of our

country is not for the trappings and fanfare of sirens, Mr. President. It is not just to wear a title like a new suit, and bask in the finer things of life, while the people who elected you wither in poverty and hopelessness.

Mr. President, leadership is visioning. It is hard work. It is planning, dedication, discipline and commitment to achieve the objectives of the plan. Leadership is not asking others to sacrifice while you party away, enjoying the fruits of their sacrifices. It is not asking others to go where you are afraid to step. Leadership is not refusing to take responsibility when mistakes are made. It certainly is not hiding away in the face of a crisis and passing on your responsibility to subordinates.

Mr. President, leadership is about setting good examples so that when you say you are fighting corruption, waste and abuse, you and your associates are not suddenly swimming in unexplained and unaccountable wealth. Mr. President, Lead!

TO YOU MY FELLOW LIBERIANS:

We have had many false starts and failed promises. But the truth also is that nothing will come to us easily or for free. Our conditions will not change for the better if we are not ready to work hard enough to change it. To cure our sick, we must take them to the best hospitals. We must offer them into the care of the best doctors. It means to change the Legislature into one that will not enable a President to do the wrong thing. We must not simply vote for who we like but who has principles to stand for what is right, and to fight for not themselves but for their constituencies. We just cannot keep doing the same things, accepting false promises, and expect a different result. It is time we took our destinies into our own hands.

It is time to do things differently for the result we seek - to become the country we know we can become and to fulfill the promises we make to our children -the promise that we will make a better Liberia for them to inherit. This is why, in the CPP, we believe it is time to work honestly, determinedly and diligently for the future we seek, or our children will inherit the hopelessness and lack of independence we now have.

Finally, notwithstanding the difficulties we face today, I am optimistic. In the CPP, we are optimistic. We know that although some of our leaders, including our current President, have been wanting, Liberians have never wavered in their resilience. We have not faltered in our aspirations for a better and more united country. Through many tribal wars, and our most recent tragic implosion, we have always returned with renewed dedication to continue to forge ahead toward building a just, more united and prosperous nation.

The truth is that our nation has survived many disappointments. We have overcome many failed leaderships. We are a persevering people. And so, even in this moment of difficulty and hopelessness, I call on all of our people not to lose hope. We cannot fall into the temptation of hate and violence which are nursed by hopelessness.

Today, I stand on the foundation of our history of resilience - that which lighted the paths of our checkered 173-year journey - to boldly promise Liberians everywhere that we will also survive this current failed, corrupt and incompetent leadership. We will overcome the pandemics of poverty, rape and diseases. We will forge ahead. We will thrive. We will rebuild. We will unite. In the true character of our nation, we will overcome Mr. Weah's broken promises, failures and disappointments.

And when we do, across our differences in tribes, gender, religions, and political associations, together, we will reset our course toward inclusive growth and sustainable development. We will reset toward meeting our aspirations to build a nation that is free, truly independent, deeply committed to democratic governance, and dedicated to unity, reconciliation, and equal opportunity, for all of our people.

Remember, the night may be long, the journey maybe hard, but I promise you, joy will come in the morning.

God bless you, and God bless Liberia!

Weah wastefully bleeds Liberia

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

The political leader of opposition Alternative National Congress and chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Mr. Alexander Cummings, accuses the George Manneh Weah-led administration of wastefully bleeding the country.

He says President George Weah has carelessly and selfishly abandoned Liberians, and left the country wastefully bleeding by bad examples, while encouraging few of his friends to generate and display wealth they never had before, and were not able to declare, prior to assuming public offices. Addressing a live news conference, Wednesday August 05, at his ANC national headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia, Mr. Cummings, who also chairs a collaboration of four opposition political parties under the banner, CPP, points out that rather than investing in the youth of Liberia by making them productive and ready to lead the country into a better and brighter future, the government is investing in militarizing and inciting them to violence, and teaching them that it is acceptable to lie, steal, cheat, be dishonest, and intolerant of others.

He notes that the youth of Liberia are desperate to improve their lives, but are being misled into thinking that such despicable acts are formulas for success, and a measure of successful leadership.

"In the CPP, we are worried about our young people, and deeply concerned about the future of our country. Thanks to the lack of leadership of Mr. Weah, our young people, who are the future of our country, are being wrongly impressed that education is not important; that without taking personal responsibility and making sacrifices for a greater cause, somehow their circumstances, and the conditions of our country, will miraculously improve", he



expresses.

According to him, the CPP is also worried about women's participation in politics under the Weah administration, cautioning that in this age of inclusion, any government, political party or coalition which marginalizes women and does not value their participation enough to include them for consideration in an electoral process, is a joke. "That party needs to re-examine its commitment to women inclusion and participation. The current all-male candidates' slate of the Weah-led ruling party is an insult to Liberian women!"

Mr. Cummings: "Our ship is sinking. Too many of our people are suffering. We are increasingly seeing a culture of moral bankruptcy being promoted with a determination to destroy the last piece of the moral fabric of our society. This is wicked. It is immoral, and it threatens our long term peace and security. Rather than deliver basic services, foster a unified and productive nation, and care for our people, those given the mantle of national leadership are busying themselves with dividing Liberians. They are too busy enriching themselves that they have either forgotten, do not know how, or just do not care, about the most important duties for which they were elected."

He wonders who could have imagined that only three years

on, the Pro-Poor Agenda of Mr. Weah would be a code to keep Liberians poor rather than lift them out of poverty, saying, as an opposition community, the CPP is deeply troubled by this, which has inspired its birth as an alternative government in waiting.

"For me, and all of us, the suffering we see has compelled us to try to do something different to change it. We have come together because we know that we cannot continue like this. We know that the root cause of poverty is corruption. Where corruption thrives, as it is currently, poverty will rise. This government is very corrupt. In fact, it is the most corrupt we have had. This is not only the opinion of the Liberian opposition. It is the result of a global assessment. As a result, despite being blessed with many natural resources and endowments, our people are becoming

poorer and even more destitute," the ANC political leader laments.

He adds that the CPP sees the government systematically breaking down and destroying integrity institutions created to fight corruption by either underfunding them or staffing them with incompetent loyalists, noting integrity institutions of government are receiving far less resources now than they were when the Weah administration came to office about three years ago.

He says a comparative analysis of the approved budget of Fiscal Year 2017/18 to the draft appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020/21 shows clearly that the Public Procurement Concession Commission draft budget has been reduced from US\$1.4 Million to US\$752,754; LEITI from US\$553,356 to US\$220,849; General Auditing Commission from US\$5.3 Million to US\$4.5 Million; LACC from US\$2.3 Million to US\$1.3 Million, and the Governance Commission from US\$1.9 Million to US\$1.1 Million.

"Similarly, allocations for basic services like health and education, for example, have also seen drastic cuts. While

the actual budget performance reports tell an even more alarming tale of underperformance, these cuts expectedly [are] leading to lesser quality of services provided by government-run educational and health institutions. Under this government, not only are we not moving forward, we are actually sliding backward," he argues.

The comments from Mr. Cummings come nearly a week after he and Montserrado County District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah were violently chased out of Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County by stone-throwing and machete brandishing thugs believed to have been mobilized by the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

The opposition leader and party had on Thursday, 30 July spent a night in Grand Gedeh, an indisputably stronghold of President Weah while returning to Monrovia from his native Maryland County where he had gone to present a CPP senatorial candidate to voters when he was forced to leave that county, an action that has been publicly condemned with calls for full scale investigation. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Starts from back page

Diplomatic Missions

among others barricaded a local entertainment center, Hotel B-2 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, but Joint Security forces, led by troops of the Armed Forces of Liberia intervened, providing corridor for the opposition politicians to leave the county, known for its strong support for President Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

Liberia had suffered 14 years of civil war during which the country's political institutions were broken down and governance system collapsed amid the death of over 400,000 persons, including women and children. *-Story by Jonathan Browne*

**JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA**

**OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

Invitation for Bids for Assorted Food Items

DATE: August 6, 2020

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/004/2020/2021

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government Received funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to Assorted Food Items, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to the Sale of Assorted Food Items. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The Bid submission begins on August 6, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission September 8, 2020 @ 11:30 AM.

Package: Assorted Food Items

Lot-1	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
	Assorted Food Items	Assorted	US \$530.00

3. 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.
4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Assorted Food Items may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00. Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with their Bid.
5. Qualification requirements include the following:
 - (a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
 - (b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - (c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - (d) Financial Records of Performance for the past one (1) year with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - (e) Availability of products at all times; and,
 - (f) PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - (g) Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - (i) Should be Capable of transporting goods to the designated areas authorized by the Judiciary
 - (j) Due diligent exercise will be done after the opening of bid documents
6. 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 during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.
7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other information.
 - (1) IFB NO. JUD/NCB/004/2020/2021 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Assorted Food Items; 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
8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before August 6, 2020 @ 11:30 A. M. However, No Electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on September 4, 2020 @ 12:30 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.
10. Sealed bids for Assorted Food Items will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on September 8, 2020 @ 11:30 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.
11. 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

Diplomatic Missions call for objectivity

-In Zwedru's violence probe



Representative Yekeh Kolubah

Foreign Missions in Liberia are calling on the Weah administration to swiftly investigate the July 30 political violence in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County in an objective and non-partisan manner to bring all those culpable to justice.

They underscored that such action will send a clear signal that threats and violence have no place in the democratic dispensation the people of Liberia have established for their country.

In a joint statement issued in Monrovia, the United Nations, ECOWAS, United States Embassy and the European Union expressed support concern expressed by several Liberian groups, including the Inter-Religious Council, the Catholic Diocese of Cape Palmas, the Providence Baptist Church, the Grand Gedeh Legislative Caucus and other religious and political stakeholders, including President George Manneh Weah and his

Government, over use of hate speech and mob violence, particularly recent violent attack against opposition politicians in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

They welcome President Weah's statement denouncing and repudiating the attack and urge Liberian authorities to swiftly investigate the incident - in an objective and non-partisan manner.

"We call on all parties to refrain from undue provocation and incendiary language, promotion of misinformation, falsehood and mistrust that has the propensity to fuel political tensions, divisiveness and violence", the joint statement reads.

The Foreign Missions note that most Liberians from all walks of life have demonstrated their commitment to peace and are resolved to learn lessons from their past to embrace a culture of peaceful competition for political leadership and responsibility.

"As Liberia works towards the preparation of inclusive,

free, fair, transparent, credible and peaceful senatorial elections as well as a referendum in December 2020, we pledge our support to increased opportunities for genuine dialogue and constructive engagement on issues that will advance Liberia's democracy and development", they promised.

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, forcing banks to shut down.

Mr. Cummings, chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties and also leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) and entourage were returning from a tour of southeast Liberia, particularly Maryland County where they have rallied citizens' support for the CPP in the December 8th midterm senatorial elections.

angry youths, armed with stones, sticks and cutlasses,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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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

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