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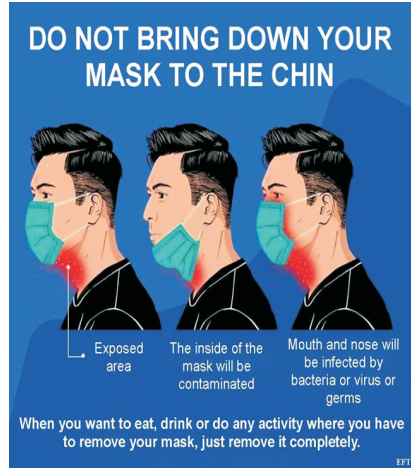
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# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT



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# Meddling in Liberian politics?



## *-Indian Hindu church honor politicians*



Senator Conmany Wesseh

# Unfortunate

## *-Sen. Wesseh terms Dillon's war drum beat*

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# Continental News

## Mali president seized by mutinying soldiers

**M**ali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has been arrested by mutinying soldiers, a government spokesman has confirmed to the BBC.

Prime Minister Boubou Cissé has also been arrested, despite earlier appeals for "brotherly dialogue".

The apparent coup attempt in the West African nation began with gunfire at a key military camp near the capital, Bamako, on Tuesday morning.

In the city young men set a government-owned building on fire.

It comes hours after disgruntled junior officers detained commanders and took control of the Kati camp, about 15km (nine miles) from Bamako.

The mutiny has been condemned by regional group Ecowas, the African Union and former colonial power France. It is led by Col Malick Diaw - deputy head of the Kati camp - and another commander, Gen Sadio Camara, BBC Afrique's Abdoul Ba in Bamako reports.

After taking over the



France, the former colonial power, urged the soldiers to return to barracks

camp, the mutineers marched on the capital.

In the afternoon they stormed Mr Keita's residence and arrested the president and his prime minister - who were both there.

The reason for the move is unclear, as is the number of soldiers taking part in the mutiny. Some reports say it was fuelled by a pay dispute.

Kati camp was also the focus of a mutiny in 2012 by soldiers

angry at the inability of the senior commanders to stop jihadist insurgents taking control of the north.

Footage from AFP news agency showed a building owned by the justice ministry in Bamako ablaze. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita won a second term in elections in 2018, but there is widespread anger over corruption, the mismanagement of the economy and the worsening

security situation with jihadist and communal violence on the increase.

In recent months huge crowds led by populist imam Mahmoud Dicko have been calling on President Keita to step down. Much smaller crowds reportedly gathered in the capital on Tuesday in support of the soldiers. The chairman of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said in a tweet that he "emphatically condemns" the arrests of President Keita and his prime minister.

The Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) urged the mutineers

to return to barracks.

"This mutiny comes at a time when, for several months now, Ecowas has been taking initiatives and conducting mediation efforts with all the Malian parties," its statement said. France's Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian also condemned "in the strongest terms this serious event" and he too urged soldiers to return to barracks.

Earlier the French embassy in Bamako posted a tweet "strongly" advising people to stay at home. France has troops in the West African state to fight militant Islamists. BBC

## Liberian Gospel Artist Top West Africa With A New Single



**M**oses Swaray is a Liberian born singer, songwriter, philanthropist, teacher, motivational speaker, activist and Worship Pastor.

He's a one time winner of Liberia's best singing competition (A star is born) in 2007, and also a recipient of several music awards. He also served as a climate change ambassador to West Africa for Dutch based organizations ICCO. He has committed himself to spreading the gospel to nations around the world over the past years. Moses has

released two studio albums and is set to release his 3rd album in 2021.

With so much to give and bless the world through his music this year, Moses Swaray is set to release his anticipated single "Jehovah Overdo" featuring world renowned gospel recording Nigerian born artist EBEN. This highly addictive Afro Pop song will indeed bless the hearts of listeners all over with its heavenly sound and keep you dancing in praise to the almighty.

## Captain of ship in Mauritius oil spill arrested

**T**he captain of the ship that spilled hundreds of tonnes of oil off the coast of Mauritius has been arrested.

Sunil Kumar Nandeshwar, a 58-year-old Indian man, was charged with endangering

safe navigation, police said. He has not yet commented.

The MV Wakashio ran aground on a coral reef, Pointe d'Esny, on 25 July while carrying 4,000 tonnes of fuel oil, causing an ecological emergency.

Pointe d'Esny is a sanctuary

for rare wildlife. Mr Nandeshwar made an appearance in the district court in the capital Port Louis to hear the charges.

He will be held in a police cell until he returns to court on 25 August.

Police said crew members questioned as part of their investigation informed them there had been a birthday party on the ship the day it ran aground.

Another theory being investigated is that the ship navigated close to the shore in order to pick up WiFi signal, the BBC's Yasmine Mohabuth, in Port Louis, reports.

The Japanese-owned MV Wakashio has already leaked about 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil into the uniquely biodiversity-rich marine ecosystem.

The ship split in half over the weekend and the bow of the ship is being towed away from the reef. But the rear part remains stranded on the reef with about 90 tonnes of the fuel believed to be on



The front of the ship has been towed from the reef - but oil remains in the back of the vessel

board.

Rough seas have made it too risky to remove the remaining oil from the ship, the national crisis committee has said.

"Due to the adverse weather conditions, it is still risky to remove the remaining small amount of residual oil in the engine room", the National Crisis Management Committee

said on Monday evening, adding that "oil pumping operations should resume as soon as the weather permits."

"Mauritius has said it will seek compensation for the leak from "the owner and the insurer" and Japanese firm Nagashiki Shipping has pledged to respond to requests for compensation. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Minister Samuel Tweah is now campaign manager

IT HAS BECOME very glaring that Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah has become campaign manager for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change senatorial aspirant for Montserrado County, Thomas P. Fallah.

WHILE MINISTER TWEAH has all rights to support a candidate of his choice in the impending December 8th midterm senatorial election, but leaving his basic schedules as Ministry of Finance to personally accompany incumbent Representative Thomas Fallah into communities like he has done recently in Amagashie, Chocolate City, Battery Factory, Plank Field community, and other areas is not only despicable, but officially unnecessary for his status.

WE AGREE THAT the governing CDC, which both Tweah and Fallah are members of, is desperate to reclaim the Montserrado County senatorial seat from incumbent Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the opposition Liberty Party. But for the Minister of Finance to present himself as the public face of Rep. Fallah, who has suddenly become a philanthropist, dishing out millions of Liberian dollars to various communities, creates room for suspicions and perceptions.

EVEN WORST, THIS is happening at the time when the National Elections Commission has not officially declared campaign open for the midterm senatorial elections. The Minister of Finance has already begun to make campaign promises to residents of communities visited, pledging development that had never been thought of in the three years of this administration.

WITH THE SUDDEN dishing out of cash to voters, even before the official campaign, it is now glaring that Rep. Thomas Fallah will become the most financially prepared candidate in the race for Montserrado County, given the visible involvement of Minister Samuel Tweah.

THE PUBLIC MAY never get to know how many millions are being budgeted by the ruling establishment just to win in Montserrado County and it would be very difficult, if not impossible to clearly distinguish whether such resources are public money or private strength in an election.

HOWEVER, WHAT IS very clear is that the current Tweah-Fallah collaboration is just a tip of the iceberg of things to expect when official campaign shall have started for the senatorial polls.

THIS IS NO joke, Liberians are on the verge of witnessing one of the politically unfair campaign ever in the nation's history, where the ruling party, armed with national resources is gearing up to go against highly disadvantaged and poorly prepared opponents. This is not the kind of democracy the people envisaged under the CDC-led government that is organizing these elections.

IF OUR FINANCE Minister is leading Fallah's campaign at this early stage, what would be the role of the Inspector General of Police, who has been accused consistently of running a partisan police force? Memories are still fresh on our minds of the recent violence in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, a stronghold of the CDC where stone-throwing and machete-wielding youths chased opposition leader Alexander Cummings and Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah out of the county.

WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING these concerns so that our leaders should realize that they are no longer in opposition, but now control power and they have a duty to exercise power discretely for the peace and confidence of all within the law.

# COMMENTARY

By Rabah Arezki

## Fomenting Intellectual Revolution in the MENA Region

*The countries of the Middle East and North Africa desperately need a new social contract to meet the demands of a growing, increasingly disillusioned youth population. And one crucial prerequisite for that is a new ecosystem for the creation, dissemination, and discussion of ideas.*

WASHINGTON, DC - Many countries across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) remain stuck in the transition from an administered to a market economy. While some have made more progress than others, all continue to face a wide range of economic and political challenges.

The main economic obstacles fall into two general categories: opaque ownership structures and firms' inability to enter or exit markets easily. Politically, the fact that most MENA countries are autocracies - the region is one of the last on Earth with absolute monarchies and military rule - is the principal barrier to economic change.

Nonetheless, social pressure has grown with the rise of a more educated generation whose aspirations often exceed the limited opportunities available in labor markets dominated by public-sector hiring. The private sector in most MENA countries is chronically anemic, and the politicization of employment has effectively disenfranchised many young people, triggering an explosion of angry street protests.

The widespread revolts that started with the "Arab Spring" in 2011 shocked the region's political systems, but the ultimate outcomes varied widely. While some regimes fell, others became even more autocratic, and elites generally remained unpersuaded of the need for deep economic restructuring and labor-market reforms.

The situation in the MENA region resembles that of the Soviet bloc in the 1980s. For a while, those lobbying against reforms - particularly the entrenched nomenklatura - succeeded in preventing the kind of bold and inclusive measures that were needed. But, eventually, elites' failure to adapt led to a full-scale political collapse, finally enabling a transformation of the system.

In a similar fashion, MENA governments today operate with strategic opacity. Many countries disclose only limited amounts of the most basic data needed to conduct informed public-policy debates. Generally, this information flows from government agencies to favored think tanks whose analysis is then discussed in the media.

This process of intermediation allows governments to remain aloof. Local authorities and public administrators routinely avoid accountability, while, behind the scenes, the status quo is maintained by powerful insiders who benefit from rents on, say, oil revenues, or from monopoly positions in key sectors.

One particularly egregious obstacle to reform are those who hold exclusive import licenses for consumer products. Under this arrangement, imports in many countries are effectively subsidized by an overvalued exchange rate, while the domestic financial system lends to the government to finance lucrative import activities for the benefit of a

few elites. Political leaders apparently have been unable to take on these vested interests, even as they have come under increasing pressure from disenfranchised younger generations.

But, despite elites' best efforts to repress pressure for change, a second wave of protests began sweeping the region in 2019, which suggests that most leaders' political capital is running out. In the MENA region, protests are a relatively new way to push for accountability. And now, the dual shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and the collapse in oil prices seems to have dealt a fatal blow to a social contract that was already cracking under the weight of demographic change.

The new demand for accountability once again opens the door for change. There is an opportunity to educate the region's entire population about the deficiencies of the current system, and to chart a course toward a much-needed transformation. This is necessary for building a dynamic but stable constituency in support of deeper, more inclusive reform whenever the opportunity opens up. With the support of a broad-based constituency, political leaders might then find the courage both to initiate change and hold a now-weakened oligarchy at bay.

But the transformation cannot happen incrementally or one project at a time. MENA countries need wholesale reform to rebalance the role of the state and its protected firms and workers with that of a largely informal market. To have even a remote chance of success, the ideas underlying a full-scale transformation must command broad popular support, especially among young people.

A top-down approach to renewing the social contract will not work. The kind of renewal that is needed will require decentralized decision-making, underpinned by a change in social attitudes about individual risk-taking. Political leaders, even when elected democratically, cannot simply instruct the population on these changes; they will need to be embraced by each individual.

With this in mind, the international community should look for ways to expand the capacity for new thinking in the region - among both government officials and individual citizens. A strategy to disseminate ideas about reform could help to create the culture that is needed to support markets and evidence-based policymaking.

Introducing new ideas and models is the kind of soft engagement the region needs before it can undertake the difficult task of transforming itself. Most important, MENA countries need a domain for independent economic-policy debate. The international community thus should focus on cultivating independent think tanks, of which there are few in the region, owing to government policies to discourage or ban them.

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## O-PED

By Jim O'Neill

## South Korea on Top Again

*The latest economic and public-health indicators show that South Korea is far ahead of most others in managing the COVID-19 pandemic and staging a robust economic recovery. The country's success is no accident, and it is time for others to start following its example.*

LONDON - On August 11, the OECD signaled that it would be revising its 2020 real (inflation-adjusted) GDP forecast for South Korea from -1.2% to -0.8%, adding to the confidence that the country is faring better economically than any other OECD member. On average, the group's 37 member states are projected to experience a real GDP contraction of 7.6%. Worse, this news came just a day before the United Kingdom's government reported a record-breaking second-quarter contraction of 20.4%, following previous forecasts that the UK economy was on track to shrink by 11.5% overall this year.

Forecasts are only forecasts, and the OECD's track record is no better (or worse) than other official sources of such data. Based on my own reading of recent high-frequency indicators, I suspect that global output figures in 2020 will turn out to be less grim than many expect.

Still, for the purposes of making cross-country comparisons, the OECD's outlook is reliable. For example, the data clearly show that South Korea stands out from the crowd. The country has long been a role model for other developing economies, and it is now increasingly becoming one for more "advanced" economies like the United States and the UK.

In retrospect, it would not have been unreasonable to assume that South Korea would suffer more than other OECD countries from the pandemic. In late January, it became one of the first countries to report COVID-19 infections outside China, and the risk of a major outbreak was no lower than anywhere else.

But unlike Italy - another early victim - South Korea has prevented a disruptive nationwide epidemic, containing occasional flare-ups as they have arisen. Moreover, insofar as the OECD forecast is correct, South Korea's 2020 contraction is nothing compared to what the country experienced following the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

Back in mid-March, many respected commentators focused on the fact that the UK was just two weeks behind Italy, making almost no mention of South Korea. In the event, both Italy and the UK went on to suffer especially deep crises, relative to other countries. Why did South Korea - a major trading country - manage the novel coronavirus so much better, and what early lessons might have been taken from its experience?

At this point, no one can say with certainty what factors have made the biggest difference. But if I were to speculate, I would point to those features of South Korea's economy that have been serving it especially well for the past few decades. On February 20, I published a commentary entitled "All Eyes on South Korea" in response to this year's Academy Awards, where South Korean director Bong Joon-ho's film *Parasite* won Best Picture. South Korea is often stereotyped as being too wooden and obsessed with education, but here was a South Korean film receiving one of the world's top artistic honors.

To my horror, between the writing and the publication of that commentary, South Korea had begun to experience its first COVID-19 outbreak. I feared that events on the ground would soon refute all my praise for the country. But I shouldn't have worried. Almost six months later, it is clear that South Korea has once again acquitted itself well.

More broadly, South Korea has become a model for other countries for two simple reasons. First, over the past 40 years, it has been the only medium- to large-size (by population) "developing" or "emerging" economy to have increased its per capita income to the level of the advanced economies. When I was entering the workforce in the early 1980s, South Korea was about as wealthy as most African countries, on average. Today, it is as wealthy as Spain.

Second, South Korea has not only grown; it has also climbed the economic ladder by embracing technology. When I was Chief Economist at Goldman Sachs, I presided over the creation of a sustainable development index for more than 180 countries. We found that, in addition to ranking among the top ten on most indicators, South Korea scored especially high on measures of technological adoption and diffusion - higher even than the US.

Crucially, the subcomponents in our index captured not just who was inventing or manufacturing certain technologies - from mainframe computers to mobile telephones - but also who was using them. South Korea today is a technologically intensive society, and that has almost certainly made a difference in the context of the pandemic, particularly when it has come to monitoring localized risks and containing the spread of the virus. By contrast, in the UK, we are still a long way from having a "world-class" testing and tracing system, because the necessary technologies simply are not available to enough of the population.

South Korea is highly open to world trade, and it reports its trade data on the first of each month. The data for July show that its export performance has improved notably (which is to say that it is not declining as sharply as in the preceding months).

This improvement may or may not be a harbinger of what awaits the global economy as it recovers from a historic collapse. But it is clearly another sign that South Korea has managed the crisis well, particularly compared to the ridiculous displays of bravado, denial, and incompetence in some of the world's advanced economies. It is time for everyone to start learning from South Korea.

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## OPINION

By Minxin Pei

## Cultural Decoupling from China Will Hurt the US

*The US government's strategy of cutting cultural, educational, and journalistic ties with China is unwise and counterproductive. Such an approach not only plays into the Chinese government's hands, but also harms vital US interests.*

C LAREMONT, CALIFORNIA - "Decoupling" is central to the geopolitical duel between the United States and China. Conceived and promoted by hawks in US President Donald Trump's administration, this strategy has now become America's principal tool to weaken Chinese power.

The first act of decoupling - the Sino-American trade war that began in 2018 - has substantially reduced bilateral trade. A similar process is now in full swing in the technology sector, with the US pursuing an unrelenting campaign against Chinese tech giants such as Huawei and ByteDance (the owner of the popular video app TikTok). With the Trump administration threatening to have Chinese firms delisted from US stock exchanges if they fail to give US auditors access to their audit records in China, financial decoupling has begun as well.

Although it remains to be seen whether economic decoupling will succeed in containing China, the strategic logic at least sounds compelling. Because China benefits from its economic ties with the US, severing them will inevitably weaken Chinese growth.

Unfortunately, US China hawks are not content to stop there, but also want to cut America's cultural and educational ties with China - as their recent actions show. Earlier this year, pressure from Republican lawmakers forced the Peace Corps, which has sent more than 1,300 Americans to China since 1993, to terminate its program in the country. And in July, Trump suspended America's Fulbright program in mainland China and Hong Kong as part of a package of US sanctions in response to the Chinese government's security crackdown on the city.

Likewise, in late May, two Republican lawmakers proposed a bill to bar Chinese nationals from coming to the US to pursue graduate studies in the so-called STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). And on August 13, the US State Department designated the Confucius Institute US Center, a Chinese government-sponsored entity that provides language programs, as a "foreign mission," which will almost certainly result in the termination of its activities in the US.

Journalism has suffered the fastest decoupling. After the Wall Street Journal published a commentary in early February with a headline that referred to China as "the real sick man of Asia," the Chinese government expelled three journalists working for the newspaper. The US retaliated in early March by forcing 60 Chinese citizens working for Chinese state-owned media outlets in America to leave the country. China then expelled all US citizens working for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post, effectively crippling these publications' newsgathering capabilities in the country.

Cutting cultural, educational, and journalistic ties between the US and China is unwise and counterproductive for America. Instead of advancing long-term US strategic objectives by promoting American values and maintaining the moral high ground, the Trump administration is playing into the hands of the Chinese government, which regards these ties as conduits for American ideological and cultural infiltration.

Without government-sponsored exchange programs such as the Peace Corps and Fulbright schemes, the US will have no direct channels for engaging ordinary Chinese people, especially the young. Through these programs, Americans teach English, American history and literature, and Western social sciences, often in remote areas of China that have limited contact with the outside world.

Such activities help Chinese people to gain a more accurate understanding of the US, and help to neutralize official anti-American propaganda. Scrapping these programs thus amounts to unilateral ideological disarmament by the US.

Some US retaliation against Chinese bullying of American journalists seems reasonable. But the Trump administration's disproportionate expulsion of 60 Chinese journalists gave the Chinese government an excuse to do something it had wanted to do for a long time: throw out the best American reporters.

The mass tit-for-tat expulsions of US and Chinese journalists will hurt America far more than China. Whereas reporters at Chinese state-owned news outlets in the US do little serious independent reporting that could educate the Chinese public, American journalists who cover China - despite constant harassment and surveillance by the Chinese government - provide invaluable information about the country. The loss of these channels will undercut US policymakers' ability to track critical developments in China.

Finally, blocking Chinese graduate students from studying STEM subjects in the US would deprive America of top talent in these fields and help China to advance. Gifted Chinese students will instead go to other developed countries to study - and many of them will then return home, because STEM-related career opportunities outside the US are less plentiful.

While China will benefit from this reverse brain drain, the US will miss out on contributions from tens of thousands of engineers and scientists. Of the 31,052 PhDs awarded in all STEM fields in the US between 2015 and 2017, Chinese students received 16% of the total, including 22% of engineering PhDs and 25% of those in mathematics. Moreover, some 90% of Chinese science and engineering students stay in the US for at least ten years after completing their doctorates - the highest rate of any nationality.

US-China relations are on the brink of collapse. Economic decoupling is already a reality, and US-led cultural separation - an unthinkable prospect not so long ago - may soon be. That would be a tragedy, and America will be the main loser.

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**Invitation for Bid**

For the Renovation of the Monrovia Central Prison within  
Montserrado County

Contract Identification No : IFB NO:LACE/ SP/NCB/001/2020

The Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) has received allotment from the Government of the Republic of Liberia through the core budget 2020/2021 for the procurement of renovation of the Monrovia Central Prison to be implemented in the City of Monrovia in support of LACE Special Project. LACE intends to apply portion of the proceeds of this fund to payments under this contract for the renovation of the Monrovia Central Prison in Montserrado County.

This Bid covers the *entire renovation work of the Monrovia Central Prison in Montserrado County* as indicated in section V – Schedule of Requirements for this Special project. The Works are categorized under **one (1)** procurement package as per the Bill of Quantities (BOQ)

A bidder must bid to cover the full quantities of the entire procurement package bided for in the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). Any incomplete items within the package would be deemed to be nonresponsive and the bid would be rejected.

LACE now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the renovation of this Special Project, as per the specific work indicated above, the bidding process will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** Method procedures specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and are open to all eligible bidders.

Bidders who are interested may obtain bidding document from the address below at the Procurement Department, during working hours (09:00 to 16:00 hours) and contact:

**Procurement Director, Mr. Kornema Y. Mulbah or any Staffs of the  
Procurement Department  
Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE)  
Executive Mansion Ground, Capitol Hills  
Former Ministry of Planning & Economics Affairs Building  
Monrovia, Liberia**

Email: [kornemamulbah@gmail.com](mailto:kornemamulbah@gmail.com)

A complete set of Bidding documents in English will be issued to interested bidders at a cost of **fifty United States Dollars (50 USD)** for each bidding document.

Bidding requirements include the availability of the following:


- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate.
- Bid Securing Declaration
- Current Business Registration Certificate
- Article of Incorporation
- Ministry of Public Works (MPW) Certificate (CCCS)
- Association of Liberian Construction Company (ALCC) Certificate

Bids must be delivered to the address below not later than **11:00 am on Wednesday, August 26, 2020**

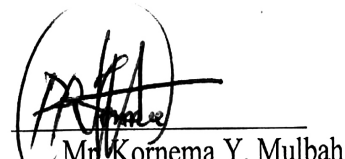
**Procurement Department  
Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE)  
Executive Mansion Ground, Capitol Hills  
Former Ministry of Planning & Economics Affairs Building  
Monrovia, Liberia**

Bids shall be valid for a period of **ninety (90) days** after the deadline of bid Submission. All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below, soon after the close of Bids at **11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 26, 2020**

**Procurement Department  
Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE)  
Executive Mansion Grounds, Capitol Hills  
Former Ministry of Planning & Economics Affairs Building  
Monrovia, Liberia**

  
Mr. Quiwu Yeke  
Executive Director



  
Mr. Kornema Y. Mulbah  
Procurement Director

# Open Letter to President George M. Weah

## The Feminist in Chief must hear this!

At the time that Liberia and the Coalition for Democratic Change mourns the falling of probably the last towering female political figure in the original Congress for Democratic Change, I'm concerned that the tribute to the fallen female lawmaker could not transcend a beautiful and befitting ceremony.

As someone who engaged with Munah, I knew her desire for women's participation and know for a fact that MunahPhelam Youngblood would be ashamed of her party's list for the December 8, 2020 Senatorial Elections.

"Don't be afraid; just put your foot in" (politics) she would say, once confronted in a side conversation on women political participation. Whether or not you were politically aligned, she wanted more women in decision making. She encouraged me to run for office.

Alas, if or when I do, I can only give Munah her flowers posthumously.  
May her soul rest in perfect peace.

While we bury Munah, I hold brief for the President as Feminist in Chief. He chose the title; I don't even know what that means or whether he has earned it just yet, if it's something to go by. He wants to be called so, and so I'll oblige.

I swear, the President as Feminist in Chief, Standard Bearer of the Coalition for Democratic Change and the Political Leader of the Congress for Democratic Change, hasn't seen this list of aspirants, soon to be candidates his party put forward for the 2020 Senatorial Elections. If he does, and if he is in his 'Feminist in Chief' mood, he'll ask them to take it back! It's a slap in the face!

If nothing else, how can the governing party, with a 30% gender quota enshrined in their constitution field a list with 0% female candidates?

And as if that is not enough, endorse a man who leaves his Ministry of Foreign Affairs post to contest against the lone female in the Senate.

Where is the Feminist in Chief when we need to see him in action?

And forgive my ignorance but I'm not sure the Minister of Gender is part of the party Executive that made the decision. Or is it that they are simply not listening to her advice? I say so because for someone who supervised the revision and launch of the revised "Women Manifesto" this is an affront!

It is an affront to the collective work by the women of Liberia and the male counterparts who support women political participation and leadership. The Minister of Gender cannot preside over frameworks for the advancement of women including their enhanced political participation, leadership and representation, yet not raise a finger in objection when her party releases an all-male lineup in what is probably the most crucial post war election for women. \*For a senate with only 1 woman out of 30 seats?\*

If perhaps the party is not heeding her voice as the policy leader for government on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), my plea to her will be, \*Return to the Barracks\*- we need a strong woman in the party leadership! We can't have this gaff in 2023! \*There are currently only 8 women out of 73 seats\* (one vacant tho, due to the passing of Munah). It is scary and it is unthinkable!

CDC can do better than replicate the Unity Party Convention in the dying days of her incumbency that produced only the head of the women's wing as a woman. CDC must not try to outdo the UP's dismal record.

Is it even too late for the Feminist in Chief to reverse this decision?

And there are those who still question why our demand for women in decision making doesn't grow cold.

Here's why:

Having more women in politics contributes to lasting peace, stability, and greater prosperity;  
Governments with greater gender balance see greater investments in health, education, and social services characterized by greater transparency and accountability.

All very important areas of need for our country.

Liberia can't wait for 49% of the population, according to the 2008 census to have a chance in leadership and decision making.

A lot of effort has been made and at this point we cannot overemphasize the for collective will from all political institutions and political leaders.

Our legal frameworks to ensure women participate in our national politics need an overhaul. It will take political will to make it happen.

Until then, other political organizations and parties hold the key to putting women in the Senate, because clearly in the opinion of the CDC for the next 9 years, the Senate should not have a woman.

The Feminist in Chief must hear this.  
Sisters Arise.

In the words of  
I am Facia Boyennoh Harris  
Liberian Woman | Mother | Leader | Feminist | Activist

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Security Hub probes assassination claim in Nimba

The Gbarnga Regional Justice and Security Hub in Nimba County has embarked on investigation into an alleged assassination attempt on the life of a resident of College View Community,

January 3, 2020, group of unknown men forcibly broke into his residence in Ganta City, Nimba in his absence.

“From every observation after the incident, those criminals involved were not seemed interested in material

Ganta due to mechanical problems with the vehicle in which we were to travel”, he explains.

According to him, he and his friend slept in Sanniquellie instead, and travelled to Ganta the next day on an early Saturday morning to continue straight to Monrovia, but upon arrival in Ganta, his nephew similarly called Daniel N. Tokpah informed him that a group of men have broken doors to the unit where he usually sleeps in the compound, entered his bedroom but did not take anything, saying, “Only a knife was placed to the window of my bedroom.”

“I immediately purchased locks, and took it to the house where my sister Matina Dolo and my nephew entered the building along with me and we discovered that in deed nothing was taken from the house. There were PA system, big tiger generator, thirty-two inch Television, two hanging fans, a mattress valued \$275.00, etc. and none was taken away from my room.”

He took the complaint initially to the Crime Services Division of the Ganta Police Station, which arrested two suspects, charged them with Disorderly Conduct and forwarded the case to the

things rather to assassinate me. I should have slept on my compound that night from Sanniquellie to travel to Monrovia with a friend the next day. Fortunately for me and unfortunately for my assassins, I did not travel that day to



Complainant Daniel Nya Tokpah

Sanniquellie City, Nimba County.

Mr. Daniel N. Tokpah, a staff of the Nimba County Community College, filed a written complaint before the Gbarnga Regional Justice and Security Hub, alleging that on

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# Sen. Wesseh calls for peace holiday

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh, who chairs the Senate committee on peace, reconciliation and good governance here is calling for a National Day of Peace to be celebrated on 18th August each year as a working holiday.

He says such day should be commemorated throughout the country characterized by thanksgiving, peace education and festivals, including cultural, sports and other activities emphasizing, “never again to war” based on the causes and lessons of the Liberian civil war.

Addressing a press conference in Monrovia Tuesday, August 18, which marked the 17th Anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) brokered in Accra, Ghana that ended hostility in the country in 2004, Sen. Wesseh also suggested creation of a

special national recognition for peace which could be done in two categories at separate ceremonies - one to be named Legislative Medal for Peace to be awarded annually by the Liberian Legislature to lawmakers whose Legislative leadership may have contributed in special ways to

promotion and maintaining of peace in Liberia; and the other category could be called the State Medal of Peace to be awarded by the President of Liberia to individuals or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



# PFMRU Donates ICT Equipment to CAG

The Comptroller and Accountant General of Liberia, Janga A. Kowo has applauded the African Development Bank, as well as other development partners for their continuous support to the Government of President George M. Weah.

Mr. Kowo spoke on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, when the Comptroller and Accountant General's (CAG) Department, received several ICT items from the Public Financial Management Reform Unit under the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project (IPFMRP) - Phase II/ AfDB at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

The items received included twenty-five laptops, ten desktops computers, three large color printers, and one projector.

especially the AfDB for the items, as well as the World Bank and other development partners that is continually providing support to the Government of Liberia.

“Again, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the entire staff of the Comptroller and Accounting General's Department; we extend thanks to the partners, especially the African Development Bank for these items, and other partners who have stood with Liberia over the years.”

For his part, the Deputy Project Manager of Public Financial Management Unit (PFMU), Momo K. Lombeh, who represented the Project Manager, said the donation would help enhance the work of the CAG Department.

Component One of the PFMU



Mr. Kowo termed the donation as timely, and stated that the items came at a time when the newly created Comptroller and Accountant General's (CAG) Department is faced with logistic challenges. He assured the PFMRU that items donated will enhance the CAG Department productivity, efficiency, and will contribute to timely financial reporting and reconciliation of government accounts.

“I can assure you that these laptops, desktops, printers, and the projector will go a very long way by enhancing the Department's productivity, efficiency, and thereby leading to timely financial reporting and reconciliation of the Government of Liberia accounts” Kowo added.

He thanked partners,

project, according to Mr. Lombeh is drawn to transparency and accountability and is one of the basic components which speak about enhancing timely financial reporting.

“So under the component that supports the CAG Office, the PFMU donated twenty-five pieces of laptops, ten desktops, three big color printers, and one projector for the use of the Comptroller and Accounting General's Department. We are also happy to recognize the newly created CAG Department in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.” Lombeh added.

The Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project (IPFMRP II) is a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# UNFPA, Sweden Embassy sign equivalent US\$4.9 million agreement

The Embassy of Sweden and the United Nations Population Fund have signed an agreement for Sweden's contribution of forty-three million Swedish Krona (SEK 43,000), approximately US\$4.9 million to support

capacity to achieve relevant results significant to the needs and conditions of women and girls in Liberia, especially the poorest women and girls in rural communities," said Swedish Ambassador to Liberia, Ingrid Wetterqvist, during the signing ceremony here Tuesday, 18

realisation of specific human rights including the right to life and the right to health. It will also tackle discrimination, as well as effecting specific change such that women, adolescents and youth especially marginalized and furthest behind, have improved access to quality gender-responsive, comprehensive, and integrated SRHR information and services."

UNFPA Liberia Representative, Dr. BannetNdyanabangi noted that access to quality sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights by all; especially women and girls is the core of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

He said UNFPA will continue its evidence-based advocacy for an enabling policy and programme environment for women and young people to access sexual reproductive health information and services, including family planning; delivery of gender sensitive, age-appropriate and life skills based Comprehensive



UNFPA Country Programme document for Liberia over the next four and half years.

"UNFPA is a strategic partner to Sweden, with

August.

Ambassador Wetterqvist added, "We are of the utmost conviction that the programme will contribute to the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# UN official warns

Starts from back page

are better off. And this tells us best of the name that is popularly known in Liberia, the zogoes," he says.

"They are Liberians. And I would want to say ... former Vice President [Joseph Nyumah Boakai], they are zogoes, not of their making; they are zogoes, not because of their fault, but the inaction on the part of the State," Mr. Emelonye argues.

He questions why in making policies, the State forgets the zogoes, warning that "we" cannot expect a sustainable Liberia when a lot of people are left behind.

"It is a time bomb. It's a time bomb in my country. Ambassador please allow me again to talk about Nigeria. Few years ago my country was bubbling with the same issue that is named zogoes in the northeast," he says.

According to Mr. Emelonye, children at age two were sent into the streets to fend for themselves, indicating that "today, northeast is the epic cent of Boko Haram."

The UN official urges Liberians to look at the zogoes, cautioning here that this is not in the interest of these less privileged folks, but in the interest of all Liberians to look after the zogoes.

"Otherwise and God forbid, they will get to the point where their nascent values will affect all of us and affect the peace in Liberia," Mr. Emelonye warns further.

Additionally he urges the need to respect human rights because equality, accountability, good governance, empowerment and anti - corruption will not work without the respect for human rights which is a right that comes "to us because we are human," and not because you are from a particular family or a taxpayer.

He urges the young diplomats to stand up and speak out against corruption, noting that there is a research

that has shown that the UN produces more results in some countries where it makes very minimum contributions of two to five percent than the other countries that budget was appropriated for.

Earlier at the ceremony, Liberia's former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai told the young diplomats that there are always things that are happening that can contribute to violence, lack of peace, and urges that leaders should take note of those early warnings of violence and conflict in the country.

"We're talking about prevention, but that's where it starts. When you see the wrong things happening and you don't arrest them. Even the diplomats, they have problems. We've seen what our diplomats go through in other countries and sometimes they are tempted to lose your dignity that you are committed to," he says.

Mr. Boakai notes that the responsibility is on the young diplomats and everyone to make sure that the avenue is created for peace, saying he wants to see a Liberia that will prosper and benefit the young generation.

The President of the University of Liberia Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson has instructed Prof. T. Debey Sayndee to recruit the young diplomat graduates who are from UL to have them on standby so that the Office of Students Affairs can enlist them for a wonderful journey of sustaining peace at the state run university.

"And since they are young ambassadors and young diplomats, their first assignment starts this week. After celebrating they are to show up to Professor Sekou Konneh who is right now negotiating a peace settlement [with] the Student Unification Party here at the University of Liberia," Dr. Nelson says.

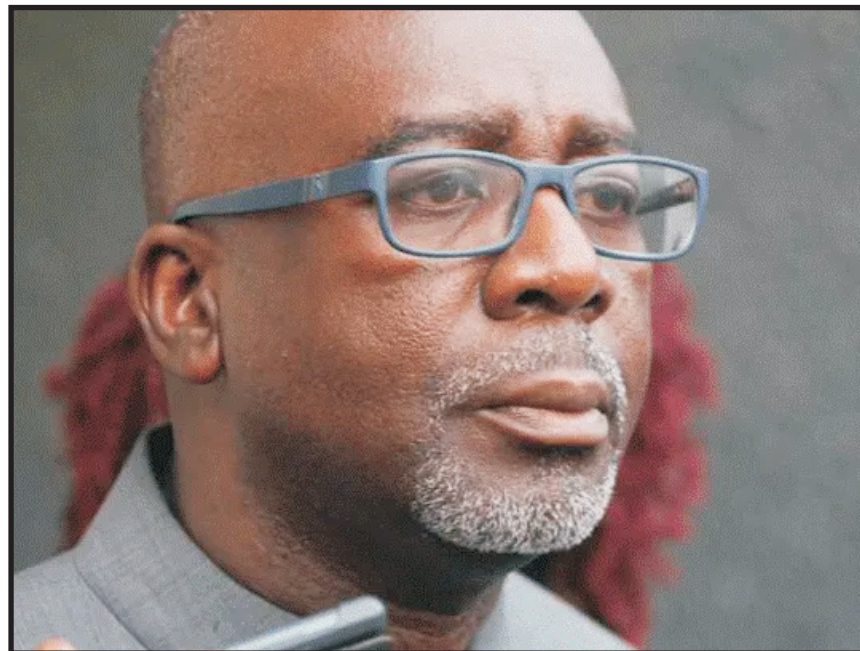
# Make LIBTELCO a GSM operator -Rep. Koffa

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

Following recent amendment by the House of Representatives of the 2007 Act of the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO) the Chairman of the House Statutory Committee on Judiciary, Grand Kru County electoral district # 2 Representative, J. FonatiKoffa, has strongly backed expansion of the operational services of the state operator to, amongst other activities, move into GSM services.

"The clarity is, we did not give them right as a GSM operator, LIBTELCO as a national operator, they already have such right. They can do GSM, infrastructure and other telecommunications services", Cllr. Koffa said.

Speaking recently in Monrovia on an online media platform, "Bridge Radio Africa" he indicated that the



recent amendment was intended to strike a balance with the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) regarding certain privileges they should have as a national operator, adding, "There is this inherence tension between LIBTELCO and LTA, so the amendment was intended to lay to bed the tension."

He added that it is against this backdrop that the Telecommunications Committee in its oversight functions thought it wise to

proffer an amendment to expand the entity's operational services, and at the same time give more value to the money of the Liberian people.

The Grand Kru Lawmaker explained that LIBTELCO expanding to GSM Services will led to more economic benefits for the country.

"The question now is when LIBTELCO goes to LTA, will they pay US\$15million for license that a private operator will pay, that

question is no...because, it means, you are asking the government to pay money to the same government, even if, there will be payment, it has to be done in a way that will bring stability."

He said more importantly, the security sector and the government sector depend on a private operator, recalling that sometimes ago, there were accusations that a private operator shutdown

operations for political reasons, stressing the need to have a national operator, which no private operator can shut down.

Rep. Koffa is optimistic that if the national operator expanded services to GSM, the government can empower the operation to move to certain underserved areas like his native Grand Kru, where citizens currently do not benefit GSM services.

# Français

## Le chef de l'opposition lance un défi au président George Weah

Le chef de l'opposition libérienne M. Alexander B. Cummings préfère ne débattre qu'avec le président Weah des questions d'intérêt national. Le leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) et actuel président de la coalition des

partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP) a indiqué qu'il n'a rien à discuter avec les fonctionnaires du président George Weah.

«La vérité est que ce gouvernement dirigé par Weah est corrompu, incompetent et qu'en conséquence, les Libériens souffrent. Cela est incontestable. Mais s'ils

veulent contester cela, je préfère en discuter avec le Président Weah lui-même », a écrit Cummings sur sa page Facebook.

Les propos de M. Cummings font suite à une déclaration faite par le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## E-learning : Les étudiants réclament la réouverture des campus universitaires

Des étudiants de l'Université du Libéria (UL) et de l'Université épiscopale méthodiste africaine (AMEU) ont organisé une manifestation le lundi 17 août sur la route entre l'Université du Libéria et le Capitole pour dénoncer l'apprentissage en ligne et réclamer l'ouverture des amphis.

La police anti-émeute a dû intervenir sur les lieux pour contenir le mouvement de protestation et assurer la libre circulation qui avait été entravée par les protestataires.

En raison de l'épidémie de coronavirus qui a obligé tous les établissements scolaires et universitaires à fermer, les autorités des diverses universités ont opté pour l'apprentissage en ligne afin de permettre à leurs étudiants de continuer d'apprendre, au lieu de rester à la maison sans rien faire pendant toute la durée du confinement.

Cependant, il y a quelques semaines, le ministère de l'Éducation autorisait l'ouverture des lycées et collèges sur toute l'étendue du territoire national, tandis

que les établissements d'enseignement supérieur sont restés fermés. Les étudiants sont donc descendus dans la rue pour exprimer leur opposition à l'apprentissage en ligne et exiger la reprise des cours sur les campus.

Capitol Hill était noir de monde lundi. Les étudiants des deux universités, munis de pancartes, ont pris d'assaut la voie principale qui mène au centre-ville, obstruant toute la circulation et obligeant la

police à dévier les véhicules vers Jallah Town.

La libre circulation a repris lorsque l'inspecteur général de la police nationale du Libéria (LNP), le colonel Patrick Sudue, est intervenu avec les autorités de l'université et a invité le chef du groupe d'étudiants à une réunion dans l'une des salles de classe de l'Université du Libéria (UL).

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Gestion des entrepôts maliens en Côte d'Ivoire : plus de 2,5 milliards de FCFA d'irrégularités financières

La vérification du bureau du Vérificateur qui date de juin 2020, a porté sur l'examen des opérations de recettes, de trésorerie et de dépenses effectuées par les Entrepôts maliens en Côte d'Ivoire (EMACI) au titre des exercices 2016, 2017, 2018 et 2019 (1er semestre).

Selon le rapport du Vérificateur général publié sur son site, la vérification a fait ressortir que des actes de gestion des EMACI « ne sont pas conformes aux textes législatifs et réglementaires et aux procédures en vigueur. Pour cause, la collecte et le reversement des recettes ne sont pas exhaustifs et toutes les dépenses ne sont pas justifiées. Les dysfonctionnements administratifs constatés portent sur des engagements irréguliers offrant à la CMDT le monopole de la gestion des installations portuaires par l'entreprise Bolloré et le non-respect des procédures de passation des marchés publics ». A ces faiblesses, révèle le rapport s'ajoute « les manquements dans les traitements et enregistrements comptables. La mise en œuvre des recommandations formulées par la mission devrait permettre d'améliorer ces insuffisances ».

S'agissant des irrégularités financières, le rapport souligne qu'elles s'élèvent à un montant total de 2 595 911 144 FCFA. Et sont relatives à l'absence de montants importants dans la collecte, au non reversement et à la non-déclaration des recettes. Et d'ajouter qu'elles portent également sur des dépenses irrégulières, essentiellement constituées d'avantages indus accordés par le Directeur et des décaissements irréguliers.

En plus des dysfonctionnements et irrégularités recensés, les recettes des EMACI ne font pas l'objet d'ordre de recette conformément aux règles de la comptabilité publique, note la vérification. Aussi, « les statistiques servant de base aux rapports d'activités, ne sont pas suivies par le Service Administratif et Financier pour le recouvrement des redevances. Les avantages accordés sur les frais médicaux ne sont pas limités, ouvrant ainsi la porte à des dépenses récurrentes et exorbitantes sur cette rubrique. Le cumul de fonctions du chef du Service administratif et financier en matière d'élaboration du compte de gestion et du compte administratif, constitue une violation des règles de la comptabilité publique et par conséquent une entorse à la séparation des

fonctions d'ordonnateur et de comptable ».

Au regard des dysfonctionnements et des irrégularités constatés, le Végal propose : « l'Etat du Mali gagnerait à mieux éclaircir les missions dévolues aux EMACI, les textes caractérisant les statuts et traitement du personnel, et à adapter le cadre organique conséquent. Aussi une synergie d'actions doit s'établir entre les EMACI et les services des douanes à travers une interconnexion informatique ».

Le dossier sur la table de la justice

Après avoir mis à nu les irrégularités constatées, le Vérificateur général a saisi le président de la section des comptes de la Cour suprême et le Procureur de la république près le tribunal de grande instance de la Commune III du district de Bamako, chargé du Pôle économique et financier. La saisine porte sur : la redevance pour la coordination des activités de transport et de transit non encaissée pour un montant de 605 346 461 FCFA ; la redevance maritime sur des transactions d'importation non encaissée pour un montant de 360 060 333 FCFA ; la redevance maritime sur des transactions d'importation encaissée mais non reversée dans le compte du CMC pour un montant de 82 077 415 FCFA ; aux recettes des EMACI non encaissées mais inscrites sur les certificats de recettes pour un montant de 192 737 842 FCFA ; au non-respect des critères d'attribution du marché de construction pour un montant de 553 102 645 FCFA ; à l'achat d'un véhicule pour le Contrôleur financier immatriculé au nom de l'Ambassade du Mali pour 14 250 000 F C A ; aux rémunérations indues du personnel pour un montant de 521 386 974 FCFA ; aux frais de location indus pour un montant de 7 020 000 FCFA ; aux décaissements irréguliers sur le fonds de la redevance maritime pour un montant de 259 929 474 FCFA

Les Entrepôts maliens en Côte d'Ivoire (EMACI) ont été créés par l'Ordonnance n°77-33/CMLN du 12 mai 1977, sous la forme d'un organisme public à caractère industriel et commercial doté de la personnalité civile et de l'autonomie financière sous l'autorité du ministère chargé des Transports. Les EMACI ont pour mission : d'assurer le suivi de l'application des accords, conventions et protocoles en matière de transport et de transit signés entre le Mali et la Côte d'Ivoire.



# Français

## Le chef de l'opposition

Falo McGill, il y a quelques jours. Le ministre d'Etat défiait le chef de l'opposition sur les médias sociaux concernant les réalisations du président actuel.

« Je veux inviter le chef de l'opposition à un débat. Allons à un débat; soyons très polis, respectons-nous les uns les autres, passons à un débat. C'est un défi ouvert lancé à M. Cummings pour parler des réalisations du président » avait dit McGill.

Mais M. Cummings a déclaré que les propos du ministre d'Etat montrent combien ce gouvernement n'est pas sérieux. « Sous aucun gouvernement sérieux, le directeur de cabinet du président invite le chef de l'opposition à débattre des réalisations de son patron pendant que celui-ci fuit ses responsabilités », a écrit Cummings.

« C'est simplement un coup de publicité et une incompétence démontrée qui caractérisent l'administration Weah. Pourtant hier soir, nous étions sur le même vol hors du pays, et il ne m'a pas demandé en personne de débattre de quoi que ce soit », a poursuivi Cummings.

« La vérité est qu'il est incontestable que ce

gouvernement dirigé par Weah est corrompu, incompétent et qu'en conséquence, les Libériens souffrent ! Mais s'ils sont sérieux au sujet d'un débat, je préfère débattre avec le président Weah lui-même. Je veux que les Libériens qui traversent des moments difficiles sous ce gouvernement apprennent de leur président comment leurs conditions peuvent s'améliorer, et non de son directeur de cabinet qui n'est pas celui à qui les libériens ont confié leur destinée.

J'espère que le président Weah, qui a fui le débat lors des élections présidentielles de 2017, voudra bien maintenant débattre des raisons pour lesquelles son gouvernement appauvrit les Libériens, pourquoi les biens et services deviennent inabondables, pourquoi les entreprises partent et le chômage augmente, pourquoi les Libériens souffrent sous son règne. C'est le débat que le peuple libérien mérite - un débat entre son président actuel et son chef de l'opposition », a ajouté Cummings.

M. McGill, furieux, a invité Cummings à un débat après que celui-ci ait dit il y a à peine deux semaines le président Weah saignait la richesse de la nation.

## E-learning : Les étudiants

Darius S. Toweh, un étudiant de l'UL et de l'AMEU qui préside également l'Association des étudiants a qualifié d'incroyable le fait que le gouvernement du Libéria, plus précisément le ministère de l'Éducation, ait ouvert les lycées, les boîtes de nuit et les terrains de jeux, entre autres, et refusé de rouvrir les universités. « C'est une attaque contre les étudiants ».

L'étudiant Toweha du mal à comprendre pourquoi d'une part le gouvernement permet aux enfants de reprendre le chemin de l'école alors qu'en fait le pays enregistre encore un nombre élevé de cas de coronavirus et d'autre part empêche les universitaires qui sont des hommes et des femmes responsables de reprendre les cours.

« Laissez-moi vous dire que tout le programme e-learning

est un bluff de la part des autorités universitaires. Ils forcent ce programme uniquement pour justifier le financement des donateurs », a-t-il affirmé.

« Mais soyons réalistes ici, le Libéria fait partie des pays dont le système Internet est médiocre et dont les professeurs eux-mêmes n'ont pas assez de connaissances en informatique, alors que l'université n'a pris qu'un mois pour introduire l'e-learning. Sérieusement, c'est risible », a affirmé Toweh.

Selon lui, les étudiants qui se sont inscrits se plaignent maintenant. C'est pour eux un gaspillage car certains enseignants demandent aux étudiants de leur envoyer des données internet afin de mettre en ligne les cours, et parfois, ils ne publient même pas ces cours.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Rabah Arezki

## Fomenter la révolution intellectuelle dans la région MOAN

WASHINGTON, DC - De nombreux pays du Moyen-Orient et d'Afrique du Nord (MOAN) ne parviennent pas à effectuer leur transition depuis une économie administrée vers une économie de marché. Bien que certains de ces pays progressent plus vite que d'autres, ils sont tous confrontés à l'heure actuelle à de nombreux défis économiques et politiques.

On peut classer les principaux obstacles économiques sous deux catégories générales : les structures de propriété peu claires et l'incapacité des entreprises à pénétrer des marchés ou en à sortir. Sur le plan politique, le fait que la plupart des pays de la région MOAN soient des autocraties - la région est l'une des dernières sur Terre qui compte des monarchies absolues et des régimes militaires - est le principal obstacle au changement économique.

Néanmoins, la pression sociale est plus forte suite à l'essor d'une génération plus instruite dont les aspirations dépassent souvent les opportunités limitées à des marchés du travail dominés par l'embauche du secteur public. Le secteur privé dans la plupart des pays de la région MOAN est anémique de manière chronique et la politisation de l'emploi a en fait privé de nombreux jeunes de leurs droits de vote, ce qui a poussé un grand nombre de gens en colère à manifester dans les rues.

Les révoltes de grande ampleur qui ont débuté avec le « Printemps arabe » en 2011 se sont confrontées aux systèmes politiques de la région. Mais en fin de compte, leurs résultats ont été très variables. Si certains régimes se sont effondrés, d'autres sont devenus encore plus autocratiques et les élites n'ont pas été généralement convaincues du besoin de restructuration économique profonde et de réformes du marché du travail.

La situation dans la région MOAN ressemble à celle du bloc soviétique dans les années 1980. Pendant un certain temps, ceux qui ont exercé des pressions contre les réformes - en particulier la nomenklatura bien ancrée - ont réussi à empêcher les mesures audacieuses et inclusives nécessaires qui étaient attendues. Mais en fin de compte, l'échec des élites à s'adapter a conduit à un effondrement politique à grande échelle, ce qui a permis une transformation du système.

De même, les gouvernements de la région MOAN fonctionnent à présent avec une opacité stratégique. De nombreux pays ne divulguent que des quantités limitées de données de base nécessaires en vue de mener des débats éclairés en matière de politique publique. En général, ces informations circulent depuis des organismes gouvernementaux vers des groupes de réflexion privilégiés, dont l'analyse est ensuite discutée dans les médias.

Ce processus d'intermédiation permet aux gouvernements de se tenir à l'écart. Les autorités locales et les administrateurs publics évitent systématiquement de rendre des comptes, tandis que, en coulisses, le statu quo est maintenu par des initiés puissants qui bénéficient de rentes, par exemple, sur les revenus pétroliers, ou de positions monopolistiques dans des secteurs clés.

Un obstacle particulièrement flagrant à la réforme est le fait de ceux qui détiennent des certificats d'importation exclusifs pour les produits de consommation. Dans le cadre de cet arrangement, les importations dans de nombreux pays sont effectivement subventionnées par un taux de change surévalué, tandis que le système financier national prête des fonds au gouvernement pour financer des activités d'importation lucratives au

profit de quelques élites. Il semble que les dirigeants politiques aient été incapables de prendre en charge ces intérêts particuliers, alors même qu'ils sont soumis à la pression croissante de jeunes générations privées de droits.

Mais en dépit des meilleurs efforts des élites pour réprimer les pressions en faveur du changement, une deuxième vague de manifestations a commencé à balayer la région en 2019, ce qui suggère que le capital politique de la plupart des dirigeants est en train de s'épuiser. Dans la région MOAN, les manifestations sont un moyen relativement nouveau de demander des comptes aux institutions. Aujourd'hui, le double choc de la pandémie de COVID-19 et l'effondrement des prix du pétrole semblent avoir porté un coup fatal à un contrat social qui était déjà en train de vaciller sous le poids de l'évolution démographique.

La nouvelle demande de comptes ouvre une nouvelle fois la voie du changement. Il est possible d'éduquer l'ensemble de la population de la région sur les lacunes du système actuel et d'ouvrir un chemin vers les transformations tant attendues. Cela sera nécessaire pour construire un électoral dynamique et stable en faveur de réformes plus profondes et plus inclusives à chaque fois qu'un scrutin se présentera. Avec le soutien d'un large groupe d'électeurs, les dirigeants politiques pourraient alors trouver le courage d'initier le changement, tout en tenant à distance une oligarchie désormais affaiblie.

Mais la transformation ne peut pas se produire de manière progressive ni mettre en œuvre un seul projet à la fois. Les pays de la région MOAN ont besoin de réformes de fond pour rééquilibrer le rôle de l'État et de ses entreprises - et de ses travailleurs protégés par celui d'un marché largement informel. Pour avoir ne serait-ce qu'une faible chance de réussite, les idées qui sous-tendent une transformation à grande échelle doivent obtenir une large adhésion populaire, en particulier de la part des jeunes.

Une approche descendante pour renouveler le contrat social ne pourra pas réussir. Le genre de renouvellement nécessaire exigera une prise de décision décentralisée, étayée par un changement des attitudes sociales à l'égard de la prise de risque individuelle. Les dirigeants politiques, même lorsqu'ils sont élus démocratiquement, ne peuvent pas simplement instruire la population sur ces changements : ils devront être adoptés par chaque individu.

Dans cette optique, la communauté internationale devrait chercher des moyens d'élargir la capacité de nouvelles réflexions dans la région - tant auprès des responsables gouvernementaux que des citoyens individuels. Une stratégie de diffusion des idées de réforme pourrait contribuer à créer la culture nécessaire pour soutenir les marchés et l'élaboration de politiques fondée sur des preuves.

L'introduction de nouvelles idées et de nouveaux modèles est le genre d'engagement souple dont la région a besoin avant d'être à même d'entreprendre la difficile tâche de sa transformation. Plus important encore, les pays de la région MOAN ont besoin d'une sphère consacrée au débat indépendant sur les politiques économiques. La communauté internationale doit donc se concentrer sur la culture de groupes de réflexion indépendants, peu nombreux dans la région, suite à des politiques publiques visant à les décourager ou à les interdire.

Un nouvel écosystème pour la création et la diffusion des idées fournirait aux journalistes et aux autres les informations nécessaires pour demander des comptes aux pouvoirs publics. Sur ce point, la région MOAN a besoin d'encre plus de clarté et d'ensoleillement.

**The New Dawn Newspaper  
is on the Newsstand Daily.**

Starts from page 6

# PFMRU Donates

successor project of IPFMRP, which was approved by the African Development Bank on January 30, 2017, and rectified on February 17, 2017.

The IPFMRP II Project, which received its first disbursement in Designated Accounts in November 2017, is funded by the African Development Bank in the amount of USD 8.70m, and is implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through the Project Management Unit. The project also complements the Public Financial Management

Reform for Institutional Strengthening Project (PFMRISP), supported by the World Bank and the Government of Sweden in the amount of USD 23.5m.

It aims to strengthen transparency and accountability in public financial management and enhance revenue mobilization from the natural resources sector.

The project objectives are being achieved through the i) upgrade of IFMIS infrastructure to better support IFMIS application to track budget implementation, revenue

collection, and government expenditures; ii) Strengthening the capacity of institutions in PFM; iii) Capacity building for Debt Management, Macroeconomic Forecasting and Fiscal reporting; iv) Support to revenue mobilization and Administration; and v) Support to Liberia's integrity and anti-corruption agencies and CSOs involved in promoting accountability through monitoring of PFM processes and Governance in general for more efficient use of national resources.

# Security Hub

Starts from page 6

Ganta Magisterial Court.

However, Ganta City Solicitor Attorney Stephen Quoi, told the New Dawn he returned the case file to the police, with an instruction to conduct thorough investigation because the claim [assassination attempt on my life] made by Mr. Tokpah is grave.

Attorney Quoi emphasized that under the law, it is rather preferable to release hundreds of individuals than to detain one innocent person, so the Police should further investigate the matter, but quickly stressed that the Police investigation may last as long as it is necessary to dig out the truth and identify all possible suspects.

Notwithstanding, Mr. Tokpah expressed frustration that his complaint was being delayed at the Police station, especially after the CSD

deputy commander there, only identified as Arthur, was reassigned to Bahn district, Nimba County.

He the wrote a formal letter of complaint to the head of the Regional Justice and Security Hub in Nimba, (PSO) Adolphus K. Daniels, accompanied by full account of the alleged attempt on his life.

When contacted, Mr. Daniels confirmed receipt of the complaint and disclosed it was being forwarded to the Professional Standard Division of the Hub headed by Elvis Dolo, who will invite Complainant Tokpha for questioning.

He also revealed that the Regional Justice and Security Hub includes the Police Crimes Service Division, the court and other law enforcing bodies in the county. -Story by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

# Sen. Wesseh calls

promotion and maintaining of peace in the country.

"I believe that by taking these legislative actions in remembrance of the CPA, we could be reminding ourselves, the people we represent and those who stood by Liberia especially, those whose blood and sweat made us to be alive today that we made a promise for peace to keep and vow to renew in the best interest of our children and future generations", he adds.

Liberians warring factions and civil society organizations met in the Ghanaian capital, Accra with support of the international community and

signed a peace deal that ended 14 years of bloody civil war and ushered in a National Transition Government and subsequent democratic governance after disarmament of belligerent forces by 15,000-strong UN Peacekeeping forces.

Sen. Wesseh recalls that on August 18, 2003, Liberian leaders made a solemn and strong pledge to end the war by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which was the outcome of three months (June to August) of negotiations.

He says by their signatures, the leaders, in the name of the Liberian people promised the

country and the world at large that Liberia would never go to war with itself again; that Liberians would never allow the use of Liberian territory for war against its neighbors; that they would disarm themselves and remove weapons of destruction from the politics and rebuild, reform and re-create governing institutions such as the legislature, the executive and judiciary necessary for enduring peace, and

use electoral means to choose leaders as provided for in the Constitution, among others.

Starts from page 7

# UNFPA, Sweden

Sexuality Education (CSE) for both in and out of school adolescents and young people.

"We will also ensure the continuous delivery of quality obstetric and newborn health care services and capacity building of institutions and harmonized community structures to deliver quality youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services as well as quality clinical and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual and gender based violence," He added.

According to a press release, the current UNFPA Country Programme for Liberia (2020-2024) is fully aligned with the Government of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018-2023.

It seeks to contribute to the achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHRs) by ensuring that adolescents and youth, including the marginalized, youth with disabilities and those furthest behind, have skills and knowledge to claim

and make informed choices about their SRHR and wellbeing, and that women, adolescents and youth especially marginalized and furthest behind, have improved access to quality gender responsive, comprehensive and integrated SRHRs information and services, including family planning and STIs/HIV.

The release revealed that the United Nations Population Fund is also working toward ensuring that the national capacity is strengthened to advance gender equality, prevent and respond to gender based violence and harmful practices, and promote women and girls' empowerment, including in humanitarian settings; as well as the national statistics system is enhanced to produce and use disaggregated population data to inform policy decision making and development programming. -Press Release



**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR. SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR, ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF DAVE KAHN, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "DAVE KYNEPAWOH."

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME**

The Petitioner by and thru his legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from Dave Kahn to Dave Kynepawoh.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true father's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of February, A.D. 1993, Freetown Town, Republic of Sierra Leone, and that he was born unto the union of Mr. David Jacweley Kynepawoh and Madam Betty Zinnah, all of the City of Monrovia, Montserrat County, Liberia; and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Dave Kahn be changed to Dave Kynepawoh, beginning this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of July, A.D. 2020. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY A.D. 2020.

COURT SEAL:

HIS HONOR SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 07-2020 PAGES(0)DDD05360

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

July 2020 11:00 AM

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR. SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR, ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF WILLIE KAHN, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "WILLIE KYNEPAWOH."

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME**

The Petitioner by and thru her legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from Willie Kahn to Willie Kynepawoh.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true father's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on August 7, 1995 in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, and that he was born unto the union of Mr. David Jacweley Kynepawoh and Madam Betty Zinnah, all of the City of Monrovia, Montserrat County, Liberia; and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Willie Kahn be changed to Willie Kynepawoh, beginning this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of July, A.D. 2020. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty(20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

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HIS HONOR SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 07-2020 PAGES(0)00005359

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO. R.L.

July 2020 11:00 AM

# Meddling in Liberian politics?

At the time the prices of basic commodities are skyrocketing with a major election in just four months, the Hindu Society mostly Indian businessmen have launched a massive honoring program for high profiled government officials here.

The honorees included President George Weah, his vice Jewel Howard Taylor, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate Pro-tempore Albert Chie all of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Among the high profiled guests only House Speaker Bhofal Chambers showed up in person videoed live as he entered the Shree Geeta Ashram Temple as a King, while Vice President Taylor sent a proxy.

The Rector and General Manager of the Hindu Society/Faith, businessman Manoj Kumar Vatwani said it

Hindu Community having such an elaborate ceremony to honor ruling party officials.

Council of Churches

The head of the Liberian Council of Churches Bishop Kortur Brown who appears mindful to speak on the issue could only hope that the ceremony was for non-commercial and political interest.

Liberian law forbid foreigners injecting money into the campaign activities of political parties or individual aspiring for political positions here.

It's an inducement

The political leader of the Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT), Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe described the honoring ceremony by men who are all business people as an inducement. He says it's just a way of showing appreciation to the economy hardship being impose on Liberians by the



was time for the Indian Hindu Community in Liberia to build bridge with Liberian politicians as he introduced the program, which was held on Sunday August 16, 2020.

In a prepared statement which was published in few local dailies, he said "our love and commitment to the President are once more hardened by his show of love and concern for us, and we want to pledge unbinding faith in his leadership and ability to lead the country in a more positive and prosperous direction,".

"We wish to pledge renewed commitment to his Leadership, working along with you for infrastructural development, human capacity building and economic growth," the statement noted.

However, since the ceremony there has been mixed view about the rationale behind the Indian

Weah-led regime.

Dr. Whapoe lamented that it is unthinkable for Liberians to be crying for high commodity prices being charge by business people here and yet some of these very businesses are bold enough to be honoring the very government for a job well done.

Dr. Whapoe noted that it is another form of meddling in the Liberian politics and blame the Weah regime for sanctioning such acts.

A member of the Liberian Bar Association said from a moral stand point and looking at the Liberian environment such honoring program by a foreign group, mostly business people here is tantamount to meddling in the Liberian political affairs especially at such a time.

But the Secretary General of the LNBA, Cllr. Bobby Livingstone said from his point of view, he could not establish any wrong doing due to the information that was made available to him as at the time

of the interview.

However, the Leader of the One People Revolutionary Movement(OPRM), Moncio Robert Wilmot Kpadeh (Sage)

The move by the Hindu Priest cum businessman is saddled by dishonesty and appears to be a cunning attempt to curry favor from the corrupt ruling gang and its officials.

"It marvels me that a man of God, as he claims, will be honouring corrupt and disreputable elements who are famous for subjugating the poor Liberian masses to deeper humiliation and misery," Mr. Kpadeh noted.

"Hindu is a find religion that, models humanity, dignity, probity and justice. It doesn't covet or tolerate corruption, injustice and barbarity. Hence, I am stunned and chilled in my spirit that the man who represents such a fine religion here in Liberia will choose to misrepresent the religion and contradict its grandeur values and teachings," he continues.

I should inform you that I spent some incredibly wonderful time with my Indian-Hindu friends while studying in England. I also prayed with them many times. The religion is very decent and it emphasizes humanity, morality and honesty to the fullest extent. I love and honour religion and I love the people who practice it.

This Hindu priest is merely seeking patronage in a bid to expand and solidify his business interest in Liberia. It is not only a shame and a sham for him to postulate that Liberia is well-governed under the current ruling establishment, and the peace is being sustained, but such statement is a brazen falsehood which has zero reliance in the unfolding socio-economic state of the country.

How can the Hindu Priest cum businessman claim that Liberia is governed well when the misrule of the country is glaring in his very eyes? What lens is he looking through? The lens of vested business interest or the lens of truth and humanity?

I can only say the Hindu Priest cum businessman is only on a fishing expedition to savage his vested business interest, and that is very disconcerting, disdainful, disingenuous, obnoxious and counterproductive to the philosophy of Hinduism. And trust me, I will report him to my good India Hindu friends in England," Mr. Kpadeh concluded.

# Unfortunate

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

River Gee County Senator and Chairman **Reconciliation and Good Governance** at the Liberian Senate Conmany Wesseh terms as unfortunate, recent statement by Montserrado County Senator Darius Dillon that if missiles and rocks are thrown at him in the pending senatorial elections, his supporters would respond adequately.

Addressing a press conference Tuesday, 18 August at the Capitol, Senator Wesseh said it is unfortunate if Senator Dillon said that on grounds that national leaders, even provoked at the highest degree should be moderate in responding to his attackers.

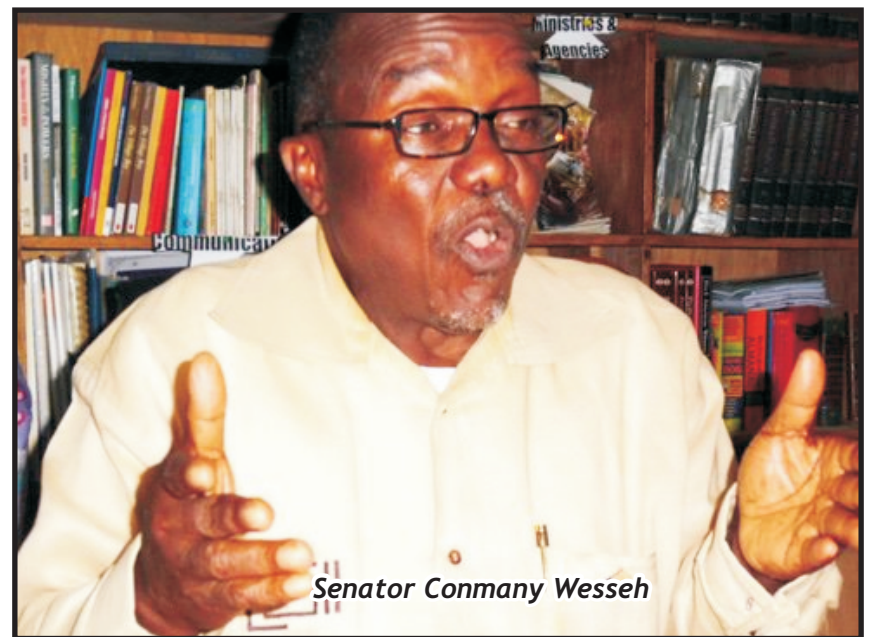
Senator Dillon, who is seeking re-election, increased the volume of his war drum, saying that President George Manneh Weah will not end his tenure if the President tempers with the will of the

there have been series of political violence in the country, ranging from Grand Gedeh County, Montserrado County electoral districts #13 and 17 respectively, but national leaders should always be the ones to calm the situation by handling the matter carefully.

He calls on the Coalition for Democratic Change- led administration to take serious measures to avoid reoccurrence of the bad past, while emphasizing a need to professionalize the security sector to maintain public confidence in the security forces.

He also urges President Weah to investigate the violence or else, some of the incidences have the propensity to derail the peace process.

According to Sen. Wesseh, recent events in Liberia are raising fears and the government should take appropriate actions, pointing



Senator Conmany Wesseh

people on December 8, 2020.

Liberians are expected to head to the poll on December 8 in a midterm senatorial election that will also see the country voting in a referendum.

But members of the opposition are apprehensive that the governing Coalition for Democratic Change allegedly has plans to rig the elections.

"We know what tempering with elections have caused us," Dillon told a group of religious leaders who had gone to seek clarity on the Senator's statement about the President's tenure in office being cut short if the elections were tempered with.

He maintains that if President wants to go against the people's will on elections' day and rig the poll, then Mr. Weah himself, will not end his tenure. The religious leaders have viewed the statement as undermining the peace of Liberia.

Sen. Wesseh, a stalwart of the Unity Party which is member of the Collaborating Political Parties here notes

to growing violent incidents around the midterm senatorial elections, stressing that both the legislature and political actors have a role in sustaining genuine peace.

"To continue the victory of peace over war, we must never allow any of our institutions or individual leaders to be so intolerant as to force our citizens to choose a foreign country to live as refugees fearing for their safety. We must continue to freely organize ourselves to pursue our political, religious and other wishes, ambitions, interests and beliefs; and we must express our views on all matters without fear, but guided by patriotism, truth and civility," he concludes.

Liberians are heading to the poll in December to elect 15 senators and propositions to reduce tenure of the Presidency from six to five years; senators from nine to seven years and representatives from six to five years, including dual citizenship, respectively.

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# UN official warns of security threat

## -Compares Zogoes' threat to Boko Haram's tragic rise in Nigeria



By **Winston W. Parley**

The growing visibility of less fortunate Liberians named here as zogoes has prompted a UN official Mr. Uchenne Emelonye's warning for Liberians, especially decision makers, to look after these folks to prevent them reaching a point where their nascent values will affect "all of us and affect the peace in Liberia."

Mr. Uchenne Emelonye,

the UN's Country Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights based his warning on the tragic experience of his home country Nigeria where according to him, children at age two were sent into the streets to fend for themselves and "today, northeast [Nigeria] is the epicenter of Boko Haram."

However, Mr. Emelonye's warning came strategically at a very important program when

the University of Liberia (UL) was on Tuesday, 18 August graduating 49 predominantly young students as ambassadors from the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT), charging them to avoid leaving anyone behind.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Emelonye observes that there are some Liberians who, on the basis of how they look and dress, would not be permitted by security to access a hall like the UL Auditorium on Capitol Hill where the graduation ceremony was taking place Tuesday, for instance.

"They have committed no crime, but they cannot be granted access on the face value. So how do we look at the people who are farthest behind in our policies? We are not making it for us because somehow competitively we

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



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# PSG see off Leipzig to reach first ever Champions League final

Paris Saint-Germain are through to the final of the Champions League for the first time after goals by Marquinhos, Angel Di Maria and Juan Bernat saw them ease to a 3-0 win over RB Leipzig in a one-sided semi-final in Lisbon on Tuesday.

It was 2-0 at half-time, with the first two goals set up by Neymar, the Brazilian again outstanding at the Estadio da Luz, just as he had been in last week's quarter-

final against Atalanta.

Bernat's goal came in the 55th minute and snuffed out any hopes Leipzig had of a comeback. They could not handle the world's most expensive player, or the many other outstanding performers in the PSG side, who no longer appear overcome by the sense of occasion that surrounds a Champions League knockout tie.

After seeming to invent ever more absurd ways to lose in Europe in recent years -- the 6-1



loss against Barcelona in 2017 and last year's defeat by Manchester United in the last 16 stand out -- despite all the investment by the club's Qatari owners, here they lived up their billing.

Bayern Munich and Lyon meet in the second semi-final on Wednesday for the right to face PSG in Sunday's final. Thomas Tuchel's team are the first French finalists in Europe's elite club competition since Monaco in 2004.

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