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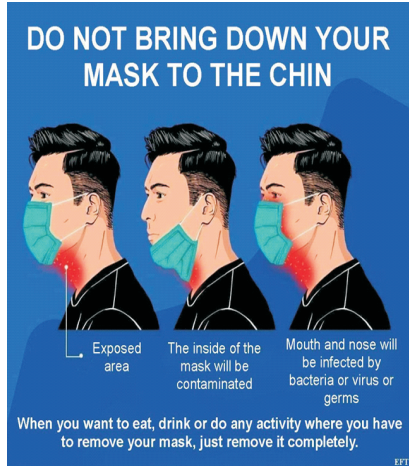
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# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT



VOL.10 NO. 147

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# Dillon stoned



Anti rape protester

## -As anti-rape protest turns violent



Madam Elsie Dossen Bardio

Ex-GBL Governor Weeks

Mr. Kollie Tamba

# Acquitted

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# Continental News

## Mike Pompeo lands in Sudan after 'historic' flight

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has arrived in Sudan on a flight from Israel on the first visit of such a high-ranking US official for 15 years.

It comes as there is an increasing thaw in relations between the US and Sudan.

Sudan wants to be removed from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, while Mr Pompeo is promoting closer ties between Israel and Arab countries.

Relations between the US and Sudan have eased since last year's overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir. Earlier, Mr Pompeo had said he was on the first official direct flight from Tel Aviv to Khartoum, which was described as "historic" by the US embassy in Jerusalem.

The Sudan visit comes after he urged more Arab states to make a peace deal with Israel and follows the deal with the United Arab Emirates.

Mr Pompeo will meet Sudan's leaders - a mix of civilian and military figures - to "support for the... transitional government and express support for deepening the Sudan-Israel relationship", a State

Department statement said. Sudan is on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism along with North Korea, Iran and Syria and wants to be removed so sanctions are lifted. Sudan's leaders are desperate to end the country's economic isolation and gain access to the dollar-based international financial system to attract loans and

investment.

They were put on the list in 1993 as al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden lived in Sudan for five years in the 1990s as a guest of Mr Bashir's government. One of the key conditions set by the US for Sudan to be removed from the list was to compensate the families of 17 US sailors who died when their ship, the

USS Cole, was bombed by al-Qaeda at a port in Yemen in 2000.

Sudan agreed to this in February.

On Mr Pompeo's stop in Israel he spoke about how he wanted stronger diplomatic ties between Arab nations and Israel - referring to the agreement UAE and Israel brokered by US President Donald Trump earlier this month.

We are "very hopeful we will see other Arab nations join in this", he said.

It is only the third peace treaty between Israel and an Arab country.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said the agreement heralded a new era, adding: "I hope we'll have good news in the future, maybe in the near future."

Israeli and US officials believe Bahrain, Oman and Sudan could be next.

However, Sudan's foreign ministry sacked its spokesman last week after he praised the UAE's peace treaty as "a brave and bold step".

In February Mr Netanyahu met with the head of Sudan's sovereign council Abdel Fattah al-Burhan in Uganda, after which Israel said the two countries had agreed to move towards forging normal relations. BBC



Mike Pompeo has taken to wearing a stars and stripes face mask on his diplomatic visits

## Tunisia's prime minister-designate names new government



Tunisia's Prime Minister-designate, Hichem Mechichi, has unveiled a new government made up of technocrats rather than members of political parties.

This is the second cabinet to be named in six months in Tunisia.

Mr Mechichi had previously said he wanted a cabinet made up of independent technocrats to "present urgent solutions" to the country.

Mr Mechichi is an independent who was appointed by President Kais Saied last month.

Before his appointment he was the interior minister in former Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh's government. Mr Fakhfakh resigned over an alleged financial scandal.

The powerful Islamist party Ennahdha said it was not consulted in the naming of the new government and wants a political government that reflects the parties in parliament.

But the party has also said there's need to approve the new government to prevent an early disruptive early elections. BBC

## Mali Military Leaders and West African Mediators Fail to Reach Agreement on Transitional Government

Mali remains without a blueprint forward after three days of talks between military coup leaders and West African

mediators yielded no decision on the make-up of a transitional government.

The leader of the West Africa's regional bloc, former

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said Monday, they were permitted to speak with President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who has been held by the junta since he resigned last week.

Jonathan said, Keita said, he was not forced from office and does not want to return to office but wants a speedy return to a democratically elected government.

Jonathan said, the Economic Community of West African States delegation and the junta, known as National Committee for the Salvation of the People, agreed on a number of issues and they asked the military officers to look over some of the issues they did not agree on.

Junta spokesman, Maj. Col. Ismael Wague said, ECOWAS leaders gave their view on the makeup of a transition government, but he said the final architecture of the transition will be decided by Malians. BBC



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# EDITORIAL

## Pres. Weah must release NPHIL Probe Committee findings

IT'S NEARLY TWO weeks since the special investigative committee established to probe breaches in the health and administrative protocols governing the issuance of Covid-19 test results by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia submitted findings and recommendations to President George Manneh Weah.

**THE PRESIDENT OF** the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, Dr. Linda Birch headed the committee, which presented its findings to President Weah on August 14, 2020 in Monrovia, accompanied by pieces of evidence.

**PRESIDENT WEAH ON** Monday, August 10, 2020 suspended the Acting Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Dr. Masoka Fallah, for alleged fraud and ethical breach, which came after three officials of NPHIL issued a negative COVID-19 traveler's certificate to a Liberian born American Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson, who was bundled out of an airplane on Sunday August 2, 2020, by Liberian Immigration Service officials after authorities discovered that the certificate issued was forged.

**MS. WILSON HAD** earlier tested Covid-19 positive and through the Incident Management System (IMS) treatment protocol was informed about her positive results and placed under treatment, but less than a week, a certificate under the signature of Dr. Masoka Fallah was issued to the patient, declaring her negative of the virus hence, qualifying her to travel abroad only to be asked out of a flight at the Roberts International Airport for being in possession of forged clearance or certificate.

**DR. FALLAH CLAIMED** his chief of office staff Jonathan G. Ender affixed his (Dr. Fallah's) electronic signature on the document without his knowledge, saying, "I never even knew that this was happening under my nose."

**SIMILAR SCENARIO OCCURRED** with University of Liberia Professor Alaric Tokpah, whom the NPHIL certificated Covid-19 negative and was subsequently on his way to the airport to visit his wife in the United States when authorities at the Health Institute called and informed him that he was issued wrong certificate, as his health status had not been certified.

**PRESIDENT WEAH DID** the right thing by suspending the NPHIL boss and instituting a probe to get to the roots of the matter. But since the Dr. Birch-led committee submitted findings, nothing has been heard about accountability and responsibility at the health entity, which is drawing anxiety among the public on a critical matter such as health.

**WE ARE FULLY** aware that government initially suspended three officials of NPHIL, including the deputy director for environmental and occupational health, Amos F. Gborie, the deputy director for national public health and reference laboratory, Fahn Taweh and Jonathan G. Ender, chief of office staff of Dr. Masoka Fallah, respectively.

**IT IS IMPORTANT** that President Weah release findings from the probe to the public as quickly as possible in order to re-establish public confidence in the entire Covid-19 fight, especially test results of suspected cases so as to allay all doubts, fears, suspicions and disbeliefs about the government's handling of the health pandemic.

# COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

## The End of Western Opportunism

*For the past 50 years, the West has clung to the hope that modernization would automatically transform China into a capitalist liberal democracy. For decades, maintaining this illusion was good for the bottom line, but now the implications of China's ascendancy have become disturbingly clear.*

**B**ERLIN - The confrontation between China and the West is escalating almost daily. The conflict is about technology, trade, global market share, and supply chains, but also about fundamental values. Underpinning this economic and ideological competition is the goal of global predominance in the twenty-first century.

But why is the current escalation happening now? It is not as though the West suddenly had some epiphany about the implications of China's rise. The fact that China is a Leninist one-party dictatorship is not news, and it did not stop Western countries - led by the United States - from steadily deepening their trade and economic ties with China since the 1970s.

Likewise, China's leaders have long dismissed outside criticism of their human-rights record and oppression of minorities. Rampant industrial espionage and theft of Western technology and intellectual property are other well-known problems that the West has more or less tolerated for decades in exchange for access to China's vast market and low-cost labor. Western governments and investors remained sanguine even after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing. No sooner had the dust settled than Western businesses poured into the country like never before.

Through it all, Western leaders assumed that modernization and economic development would lead China eventually to adopt democracy, embrace human rights, and the rule of law. They were wrong. The Communist Party of China has evolved a novel hybrid development model consisting of a one-party dictatorship, a highly competitive economy, and a consumer society.

So far, this approach has been extremely successful. While political power has remained squarely in communist hands, almost everything else has been turned over to the forces of high-tech consumer capitalism. The Soviet Union could not have dreamed of such an innovation in political economy.

The results have been impressive - and, in many ways, unprecedented. Hundreds of millions of people have escaped absolute poverty and joined an ascendant middle class. Just one generation ago, China was a technological and scientific backwater. Today, it is a global leader in many of the critical sectors that will define the twenty-first century - digitalization, artificial intelligence, and quantum and super computers. With China now poised to leave the US behind in many of these domains, it is only a matter of time before it becomes the world's leading economy across all the metrics that matter.

The reason why the Sino-American confrontation is escalating only now is relatively simple: the end is in sight for the West. Ever since the beginning of industrialization, the West has held an effective monopoly on global power. But now an Asian great power will soon bring an end to Western hegemony as we know it. This is not just about US President Donald Trump's administration. The growing challenge to Western power will remain long after Trump is gone, and regardless of whether he is gone this November.

After all, while China has grown stronger, the leading Western power has become relatively weaker. The 2008 global financial crisis played a crucial role in altering both Chinese and global perceptions of the US model. Suddenly, the West's vulnerabilities were laid bare for everyone to see. And now, the COVID-19 crisis is further exposing America's weaknesses and domestic fault lines. The floundering US response to the pandemic will powerfully reinforce the global impression conveyed by the 2008 meltdown, as will its confused approach to China.

US policymakers have yet to reach a consensus on the role they would like to see China play internationally. Many in the US foreign-policy establishment want to prevent or delay China's rise to economic and technological leadership. Yet it is too late for that. What would a containment strategy against a world-leading economy of 1.4 billion people even look like? It could not possibly succeed without inflicting serious damage on everyone else.

That said, it is equally clear that the Western strategy of adaptation, accommodation, and economic opportunism - an approach that has often bordered on naiveté - cannot continue. So, what is to be done?

For starters, the West must shed its illusions about China - both those based on strategic ingenuousness and those grounded in the power politics of a bygone era. The West will have to find a way to live with China as it actually is. That means finding a path between kowtowing and confrontation, with Western values and interests serving as the guide.

For example, trade with China must continue, but under new conditions. China's ascendancy is forcing Western countries to pursue their own industrial policies. Crafting them will require deciding which technologies to share and which direct investments from China to accept.

The fundamental difference in values between the West and China will remain indefinitely, and it is here that the West must draw the line. Any concession that entails a sacrifice of fundamental principles, for example in cultural matters, must be rejected. If this values-based approach results in economic disadvantages, so be it. By the same token, the West should abandon the conceit that it can push, force, or cajole China to become a democracy wrought in its own image.

The shared values between Western countries necessarily should limit the scope of geopolitical cooperation with China, as will China's expansionist behavior in its own neighborhood, especially in the South China Sea and regarding Taiwan. But on global issues such as climate change and pandemic prevention, cooperation will remain indispensable.

At the end of the day, the Sino-Western confrontation is about fundamental values that must not be negotiated away. To preserve its own interests and peaceful coexistence in the twenty-first century, the West will have to acknowledge and defend the genuine sources of its staying power.

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



## O-PED

By Andrés Velasco

## Are We All Keynesians Again?

A common refrain nowadays is that after COVID-19, Milton Friedman is out and John Maynard Keynes is in. But if, as the famous quote often attributed to Richard Nixon puts it, "we are all Keynesians now," we must remember what Keynes taught: fiscal policy should be tightened during good times, precisely so that it can be expansionary during bad times.

LONDON - Among the pieties repeated at every online COVID-19 conference, one is universally acknowledged: the pandemic has ushered in an era of larger, more robust state intervention in the economy. But what does this mean for the future? In what areas of economic life should and can the state do more?

Many believe that governments should address inequities and redistribute more income, or that they should fight climate change more aggressively. Those are two urgent priorities. But, given that COVID-19 is a shock that caught almost every country unprepared, the natural starting point is to prod governments to provide more and better social insurance against shocks.

Walter Bagehot, one of the earliest editors of *The Economist*, called on governments and central banks to be lenders of last resort. The current crisis has confirmed that when confronted with a shock this large, governments are also to be insurers of last resort. No private entity could simultaneously provide and finance the indispensable public-health response, pay furloughed workers' wages, save jobs by lending to cash-strapped firms, and make emergency transfers to vulnerable families. Only states can do that.

Statisticians and economists distinguish between idiosyncratic shocks (affecting some people some of the time) and aggregate shocks (affecting everyone simultaneously). This helps fix priorities for what government should do in the future.

Private insurance markets can work reasonably well if shocks are idiosyncratic. Your car insurer pays to repair your scraped fender, without government help, because most other insured people did not have a collision at the same time. So, part of the premia they pay goes to you.

But private insurance is not foolproof. It works poorly in health care, for example, if insurance causes complacency about risky behavior like alcohol consumption or overeating, or leads physicians to prescribe expensive tests that are not strictly necessary. Such behavior drives up insurance premia and leaves the poor with no coverage. That is why well-designed plans like the US Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") both compel everyone to get insurance and provide a subsidy for low-income families.

In rich countries, varying combinations of private and public insurance protect most citizens against idiosyncratic risks - whether of illness, unemployment, or insufficient income in old age. The same cannot be said of emerging and developing countries, where social insurance systems are weak or limited to the formally employed.

Too many families can lose the fruits of decades of hard work if a family member becomes ill or suffers an accident. A recent World Bank white paper on the subject concludes that "many social protection systems currently lack protection against catastrophic losses for those without a history of contributing to traditional social insurance plans."

Filling this gap, precisely because private insurance cannot do it all, will require mobilizing more state resources. But there is no obvious reason why countries like Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia or the Philippines cannot afford to do it: until the current crisis, these countries' central government expenditure was below one-fifth of GDP.

Yet a caveat is in order. More government financing of social insurance does not imply that government should provide the services paid for by that insurance. The British NHS treats patients at state hospitals and foots the bill; under the Canadian single-payer system, government pays for services that are provided mostly by private hospitals and clinics. Emerging economies should be able to choose between the British and Canadian systems, or opt for some other formula. And their choice should be based on effectiveness, not ideology.

Aggregate shocks are a different story, because there is no subset of unaffected citizens that can bail out the victims. And if, as with COVID-19, there is no subset of lucky countries untouched by the disease, help from abroad will be limited at best. So countries are forced largely to self-insure, making government the insurer of last resort.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that governments have spent an additional \$11 trillion in response to the pandemic - in many cases one-tenth of GDP or more. To paraphrase former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, rich countries are spending whatever it takes. Emerging and developing countries, with less ability to borrow, are spending whatever they can.

In a global environment of extraordinarily low interest rates, rich-country governments can comfortably borrow far more than fiscal prudes once thought possible. In the United States, the United Kingdom, and much of the European Union, gross public debt now exceeds annual GDP, and markets have yet to bat an eyelash. And when the nominal interest rate is at or near zero, currency and short-term public debt become close substitutes, so savers are happy to hold the dollars, pounds, and euros central banks are printing with abandon. Inflation is nowhere on the horizon.

There are issues of intergenerational equity as well. If higher taxes in the future are needed to repay at least some of that debt, it is our children and grandchildren who will pay. Saddling them with a huge debt burden seems unfair, given that, in developed economies, they may not be better off, in part because we are already leaving them a massive climate debt.

Governments can and should serve as the insurer of last resort in the face of a catastrophic aggregate shock. But they can perform that crucial function only if we ensure that they have the necessary resources today. This is especially true in emerging and developing economies, where limits on public borrowing are anything but loose.

A common refrain nowadays is that after COVID-19, Milton Friedman is out and John Maynard Keynes is in. But if, as the famous quote often attributed to Richard Nixon puts it, "we are all Keynesians now," we must remember what Keynes taught: fiscal policy should be tightened during good times, precisely so that it can be expansionary during bad times.

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## OPINION

By Sławomir Sierakowski

## Lukashenko in His Bunker

After two weeks of nationwide protests following a fraudulent election on August 9, Belarus remains in a state of political upheaval and uncertainty. But one thing is clear: while the opposition has continued to gain momentum, President Aleksandr Lukashenko has increasingly lost touch with reality.

MINSK - After weeks of nationwide protests over a fraudulent election on August 9, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko seems to have realized that he has lost popular support for good. His last resort is to radicalize his core base and try to terrorize everyone else into submission.

After being publicly booed by Minsk factory workers last week, Lukashenko has been desperate to regain his standing. The regime has staged "astroturf" rallies, furnishing bused-in lackeys with prefabricated posters to create the impression of a grassroots mobilization.

I attended one such rally in Grodno, a city that has almost completely liberated itself from Lukashenko's rule. The state media has joined the protesters, the jails have been emptied out, and the authorities have begun to give in to the opposition. In response, Lukashenko has announced that the army will be deployed to bring the city back into line.

On August 22, the regime orchestrated a rally in the city featuring carefully selected speakers, including a worker who rejected the idea of striking, a border guardsman pleading for order to be restored, a representative from the Union of Belarusian Women disapproving of women-led protests, and a child who recited a poem. After these performances, Lukashenko and his entourage, as if in a scene from a Hollywood movie, stepped out of black limousines and moved toward the stage.

Lukashenko is undeniably a good speaker, especially when he is among his supporters. He reminded listeners that his rise to power began in Grodno in the 1990s, when the country was a mess. He referred to the Great Patriotic War - also known as World War II - as if to compare the democratic opposition to fascism. Then he welcomed the new governor (the former health minister), whose predecessor he had just removed. Striking workers, he argued, should be treated the same way.

According to Lukashenko, the interior ministry and the state security committee (KGB) have been tasked with ending the demonstrations. "From Monday," he promised, "the authorities will be the authorities!" He thanked the riot police (OMON) for their commitment and sacrifices, received a big round of applause, and then left.

The counter-demonstration in Grodno was small, and occurred not next to the Lukashenko rally but near the detention center where striking workers and protesters are being held. The smaller turnout suggests that the regime's threats are working, at least in Grodno. Belarusian women, however, still refuse to surrender, gathering by the thousands in Minsk, where they demonstrated in front of the KGB headquarters this weekend.

Compared to the earlier demonstrations, this one provoked a slightly different response from the authorities. Warnings and calls to disperse could be heard from loudspeakers, but these were mixed with a selection of Soviet-era songs, over which the protesters shouted. The choice of music was ironic, given that the protesters themselves have started to wave the green-red Soviet Belarusian flag alongside the white-red-white flag of the opposition. The message was that, "We do not want conflict, we are holding our hands out to you."

Yuri Karayev, the interior minister, had warned beforehand that the military would be deployed against any further demonstrations. People anxiously waited to see what would happen. Not surprisingly, the Internet was shut off again. But, by now, everyone has learned to rely on text messages. That is how the demonstrations have continued to grow, with at least 200,000 people gathering around the Minsk Hero City Obelisk two weeks after the falsified election.

The obelisk has since been surrounded by soldiers (and barbed wire). But, up close, one can see that most are young conscripts who look more scared than the demonstrators do. Cars honked all over the city to show solidarity with the protesters; doctors flashed the "V" (peace) sign from ambulances; post-Soviet protest songs like Kino's "I Want Changes" and Jacek Kaczmarski's "Mury" could be heard playing in the background. Everyone was as united and enthusiastic as they had been a week earlier, when Lukashenko was on the ropes and the country was slipping from his grasp.

Once again, Lukashenko's threats could not help him. The column of demonstrators decided to walk toward the dictator's kitschy residence, the Palace of Independence, which OMON has cordoned off with everything left at its disposal. The situation seemed ripe for police violence similar to the episode at the Pushkinskaya metro station after the election. But after approaching the armed riot police and looking them in the eyes, the protesters quietly marched on, demonstrating what Václav Havel once called the "power of the powerless."

As the marchers receded, one could see a helicopter overhead. It was ferrying Lukashenko, who has taken to wearing body armor and carrying a Kalashnikov. Lukashenko is clearly desperate to show that he is in control, but the martial trappings are having the opposite effect. The fact that he has also armed his teenage son suggests that he cannot trust anyone around him and fears sharing the same fate as deposed leaders like Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, Libya's Muammar el-Qaddafi, or Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

After the demonstrators had voluntarily marched on, Lukashenko approached the front gate and asked the young policemen there if the protest had ended. It was reminiscent of early 1945, when the leader of the Third Reich tried to act as if nothing was wrong even as Berlin burned. Of course, Lukashenko is not Hitler, and his armed forces have not been crushed by outside powers. But the image of a dictator who has lost both power and a sense of reality is striking nonetheless.

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JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



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

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

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

Packages: Assorted Cartridges

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

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

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

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



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

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

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

Packages: Stationery

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

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

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

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



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

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

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

Packages: Generator Repairs.

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

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

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Dillon stoned

By Ethel A Tweh

Montserrado Senator Abraham Darius Dillon was a target for stone throwing youths as he joined group of anti-rape marchers, the group headed for the Capitol.

The incident turned nasty as violent erupted during what was initially a peaceful protest on Tuesday August 25.

gain, but Dillon's supporters apparently in the crowd responded with stones.

The violent was mainly between youths supporting the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and loyalists of the senator with the latter saying Dillon as a politician shouldn't join protesters, noting that his presence there was clearly to gain political sentiments.

house, so he has no right being there.

A CDC supporter Christmas Saydee said, Dillon is bent on playing game, noting that each there is protest, the senator shows up to demonstrate solidarity.

Protesters comprised of men, women, girls and boys from diverse political backgrounds, including religious and youth groups, civil society organizations marched from Vomoma House on 26th Street in Sinkor, protesting against increased rape cases in Liberia.

The march has been planned as a three-day campaign against sexually violence against women and girls that permeated the society. Day one of the exercise was intended for the Office of the President at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but unfortunately, President Weah didn't receive the petition, as the protesters rejected the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Williamena Piso Tarr, who had gone to receive the petition on behalf of the President.

The protesters disclosed that they was a special petition for the Gender Minister herself, so she was not to receive the one intended for President Weah, as they proceeded to the grounds of the Capitol. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Dillon joined the marchers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Capitol to petition lawmakers against current wave of rape across the country with some of the victims as young as infants.

The group of youths threw stones at Senator Dillon, accusing him of using the anti-rape protest to score political

But loyalists from Senator Dillon camp said just as ruling CDC supporters are ready to die for President Weah, they too are prepared to protect Dillon anytime, threatening, "Anybody that attacks Dillon, we will attack them."

Protesters from the ruling party insisted that the Foreign Ministry isn't Senator Dillon's

# AfDB 2020 Annual meetings: Building Africa back better after the COVID-19 pandemic

The African Development Bank has announced that its Annual Meetings this year will be held virtually to comply with the COVID-19 pandemic-related social-distancing guidelines.

The Governors' Dialogue and the election of a president will be top of the agenda of the upcoming Meetings scheduled for 26-27 August 2020, a press statement issued in Abidjan over the weekend said.

This year, which marks the 55th meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors and the 46th Annual Meeting of the African Development Fund, the Bank's concessional arm, has the added significance of being an election year for the Bank's president. The incumbent, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, is running as the sole candidate for a new five-year term.

countries.

A further \$1.186 billion has been disbursed to ADF member countries, with approvals ongoing.

In March, the Bank also raised a record \$3 billion with a COVID-19 social bond floated on the London Stock Exchange.

The institution reached some major milestones during the trying times of lockdown with both Fitch and Standard & Poor credit rating agencies reaffirming the Bank's AAA rating with a stable outlook.

During the meetings, Governors are expected to receive updates on a range of Bank developments since the previous Annual Meetings held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2019. This will include the Bank's seventh General Capital increase, which the Board of Governors approved in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire on October 31, 2019, and which



Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the continent's shores in early March, over 1,000,000 confirmed cases of the virus have been recorded in Africa. The pandemic has hit the region's economies hard in the wake of falling commodity prices and containment measures by governments that have led to country lockdowns.

For several months, the Bank has been extending support to regional member countries in cushioning their economies, health systems, and citizens' livelihoods from parallel health and economic impacts from COVID-19.

In April 2020, The Bank established a COVID-19 Response Facility of up to \$10 billion to extend flexible support to African sovereign and non-sovereign operations. As of August 20, \$2.29 billion in CRF funding had been approved for ADB member

increased the Bank's capital base by a historic \$115 billion to \$208 billion.

In December 2019, African Development Fund Donors pledged \$7.6 billion, the fifteenth such replenishment, to help Africa's poorest countries.

The Governors will vote on August 27 to elect the eighth president of the Bank. Dr. Adesina, the first Nigerian to hold the post, was elected for a five-year term on May 28, 2015, by the Bank's Board of Governors during that year's Annual Meetings held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Bank Governors are typically the finance and economy ministers or Central Bank Governors of the 54 African regional member countries and 27 non-regional member countries.

# Women group petitions 54th Legislature -over alarming rape cases

By Bridgett Milton

Group of women under the banner Affiliation of Women and Child Rights Advocates has petitioned the 54th National Legislature over alarming rape cases in the country.

Reading the petition Tuesday, 25 August at the Capitol on behalf of the group, Miss Iren Smith, a teenager, lamented that there have been hundreds of rape cases across the country and the number keeps climbing exponentially.

She noted that mothers and daughters of the Land are under serious attack daily by predators, who have no fear for the law of Liberia.

Little Iren said these outrageous acts are only persisting because the justice

system has been so weak that perpetrators commit these atrocities and go with impunity, as the laws are filled with loopholes that criminals continue to exploit.

In their petition, they recommended that the Legislature increase budgetary allocation in the FY 2020/2021 national budget and subsequent budgets for Criminal Court 'E' that is responsible for rape cases and to strengthening the entire judicial system to ensure speedy trial of rape and other sexual and gender based violence cases, including hiring of more judges to hear and determine rape and SGBV cases in a speedy and expeditious manner.

The petition also recommends increase budgetary allotment for

healthcare delivery and to ensure that all counties have functional safe homes to accommodate rape and SGBV survivors.

At the same time, the protesters called for establishment of specialized criminal courts specifically, for the purpose of prosecuting and facilitating speedy trial of rape, increasing the capacity of women and children protection division of the Liberia National Police with funding, training, logistics, among others.

Receiving the petition on behalf of the Legislature, Lofa County electoral district #2 Representative Julie F. Wiah, who chairs the House's committee on Gender and Protection, assures the petitioners that their requests will be taken very

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**CBL retains monetary policy rate @25.0%**

The Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has agreed to maintain its monetary policy rate of 25.0% based on a projected headline inflation of approximately 17.0% for quarter three of 2020. The decision was taken

on the evolving global economic dynamics, which has transmitted adverse effects to domestic economic developments. In May this year, the Central Bank lowered its monetary policy rate from 30.0% to 25.0%. The CBL Board of Governors also decided to continue the

for greater sterilization effect. Global Developments On the global front, two critical economic situations further motivated the CBL's monetary policy decisions at the recent Board meeting, namely:

- COVID-19. The lockdowns, arising from COVID-19, triggered cutbacks in investments, supply chain disruptions and uncertainty, resulting to revision of global economic growth projections to negative 4.9% from negative 3.0% in 2020. In addition, inflation projections are put at 0.4% and 1.2% in advanced and emerging markets economies, respectively.

- Monetary Policy Rates. In June 2020, monetary policy rates stabilized at 0.25% and 0.10% in the United States and United Kingdom, respectively and negative 0.50% in the European Union. In West Africa, some rates were eased, while others remained stable. For example, in The Gambia and Nigeria, monetary policy rates eased by 200 basis points to 10.0%, and 100 basis points to 12.5%, respectively; while Ghana and Sierra Leone maintained their monetary policy rates at 14.5% and 15.0%, respectively.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



during its 19 August 2020 sitting on Monetary Policy's decision. The CBL reported that price indices of energy and non-energy commodities in low and middle income countries fell in quarter two.

The announcement to maintain the current monetary policy rate is partly predicated

suspension of the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and the Remittance Split Policy to enhance stability of the financial sector.

The bank noted that henceforth, commercial banks will only be restricted to purchase the CBL Bill on a one to three-month period to allow

**2 arrested for Covid-19 food theft**

Two suspects have been arrested and turned over to the Liberia National Police for investigation for alleged involvement in dubiously acquiring food ration tickets during the Liberian government's ongoing COVID-19 Household Food distribution in the country.

Ashmun Street, Monrovia where residents of the Front Street Community, particularly Block-A, were served during the COHFSP food distribution.

The Ministry quotes police preliminary investigation as saying Mr. Denny arrived on the scene and reportedly presented a food ration ticket to be served.



According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the two individuals have been identified as Eric Denny and 32-year-old Thomas Wehyen.

Suspect Denny was reportedly caught in the dubious act on August 11, 2020, at about 2:00 PM, on the campus of the United Methodist University on

However, the ticket verification team at the center informed the Police that Denny was not the proper owner of the ticket, a situation that prompted the food distribution team turning him over to LNP officers at the distribution site for probe after intercepting

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**Government to roll out National Aid and NGO Policy**

The Government of Liberia will next week officially roll out the National Aid and NGO Policy of Liberia (NAPL) to the public with a unique reporting tool - the Liberia Project Dashboard (LPD).

The LPD is an aid information management system used to collect, analyze, and report information about external assistance programs and projects. It is a flagship indicator of a new era of aid management in Liberia.

Aid Management and Coordination have been a challenge over the years where most external assistance programs and projects have been managed and coordinated fairly on an ad-hoc basis with roles and responsibilities loosely carried out by other government ministries and agencies leaving

the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning with very limited information and also limited consolidated data on aid flow in Liberia.

It has also been established that limited coordination and management framework of aid has had a little or negative impact on the full realization of aid objectives in meeting the results of the national development agenda of Liberia.

The absence of a National Aid and NGO Policy over the years has a limited alignment of most external assistance programs and projects with the strategic objectives and application of aid to interventions as would be needed based on the national development strategy.

However, the aid information management system utilization will promote transparency and

accountability in the development and implementation of aid programs/projects.

The government believes that the absence of an aid policy has had even far more implications for aid management and coordination. It has also been observed that limited internal coordination among government agencies has created huge information asymmetry in engaging with development partners for adequate alignment with the National Development Plan.

Without a clearly defined policy, procedures, and processes, appropriate results will not be derived thereby leading to fewer results out of the use of donor money.

The National Aid Policy of Liberia is designed to establish an internal

coordination mechanism to curtail waste or limited coordination and alignment in programs and projects.

The policy also establishes a national coordination framework for collective engagement with Development Partners at the technical and policy level. In addition to defining the types of assistance and the preference of aid modalities, mostly in accordance with international consensus on aid delivery, the policy also clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of government institutions and development partners in the management of external assistance.

These roles and responsibilities are structured around the aid management

cycle from initiation of aid to the monitoring and evaluation stage.

All proposals for aid shall be channeled through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for proper vetting, while ministries, agencies, and commissions and MFDP shall jointly establish GoL's position and participate in negotiations or program development.

Moreover, a joint collaboration of GoL-Development Partners monitoring and evaluation shall be instituted. Aid information shall be inputted and stored directly into the Liberia Project Dashboard by Development Partners, MACs and will be verified by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

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# Français

## L'enjeu politique pour les élections sénatoriales de 2020 est plus grand qu'on ne pense

Le climat politique du Libéria se montre de plus en plus tendu alors que la date des élections sénatoriales prévues pour décembre cette année approchent inéluctablement. Une seule chose intéresse en ce moment les acteurs politiques et les partis politiques : faire en sorte qu'ils soient en meilleure position pour les élections

présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Bien que la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) n'ait pas encore annoncé l'ouverture de la campagne électorale, les politiciens et leurs militants ont commencé à s'affairer au quotidien dans tous les coins et recoins du territoire national en vue de séduire l'électorat.

Les routes menant aux 15 sous-divisions politiques du pays impraticables en temps

normal sont soudains devenues fréquentables et fréquentées, les communautés et les terrains communautaires de football de même. Les aspirants diffusent leurs messages pour attirer les électeurs potentiels dans leur camp.

La Coalition au pouvoir a toujours en mémoire sa grande défaite à l'élection

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Le président Weah appelle à l'unité nationale

Placer l'intérêt national au-dessus de l'intérêt personnel et partisan, c'est l'appel qu'a lancé le Chef de l'Etat George Manneh Weah à ces compatriotes alors que son pays est en proie ces derniers temps à une tension politique persistante qui oppose les partisans du pouvoir et ceux de l'opposition.

Dans un discours qu'il a livré lundi à l'occasion de la fête du drapeau célébrée le 24 août de chaque année, M. Weah a déclaré que ce jour offrait une nouvelle occasion aux Libériens, en tant que peuple, de réfléchir à une action collective qui puisse contribuer à l'amélioration continue de la nation.

«Par conséquent, alors que nous célébrons le Jour du drapeau comme un symbole de patriotisme et d'unité nationale, mettons de côté nos différences et unissons-nous comme un seul peuple, plaçant l'intérêt national au-dessus de l'intérêt personnel et partisan», a-t-il dit.

Le Libéria a été secoué pendant des années par une vague de tensions politiques, mais les récents développements relatifs à

l'élection sénatoriale du 8 décembre 2020 montrent davantage à quel point la nation fragile est au bord du chaos si les affrontements à coup de pierre entre groupes opposés lors d'événements politiques ne sont pas évités rapidement.

Dans son message du Jour du drapeau, M. Weah a plaidé auprès des Libériens en faveur de la paix et du travail collectif pour « le bien collectif ».

Selon M. Weah, la bannière Lonestar est le symbole des actes et de la valeur des ancêtres de cette nation à qui les Libériens restent constamment redevables. C'est aussi le signe de la fierté et de la dignité du peuple libérien. Elle symbolise les espoirs et les aspirations de tous les Libériens.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Cummings rend hommage aux femmes libériennes et appelle à changer les symboles nationaux

Le chef de l'opposition M. Alexander B. Cummings a rendu hommage aux femmes libériennes pour leurs rôles dans la fondation de la nation.

« Je souhaite à tous les Libériens une journée commémorative du drapeau. Alors que nous observons un autre Jour du drapeau, puissions-nous profiter de ce moment pour réfléchir aux nombreuses contributions des femmes libériennes à notre société », a-t-il écrit, ajoutant : « La fabrication du drapeau par un comité composé exclusivement de femmes, dirigé par Susannah Lewis, est juste l'une des nombreuses contributions majeures des femmes libériennes à l'histoire et à la fondation de notre pays malgré les nombreux obstacles sociétaux auxquels

notre histoire et à la façon dont elle a été racontée de manière partielle par nos symboles nationaux: le sceau, le drapeau et la devise, qui ne racontent que l'histoire de l'héritage de nos colons, en omettant l'existence de notre héritage indigène. Il est temps de veiller enfin à ce que nos symboles nationaux reflètent les deux côtés de notre histoire en tant que peuple et en tant que nation, que nous puissions tous nous voir et voir les contributions de nos ancêtres dans nos symboles nationaux. Cet appel a commencé dans les années 70, à l'époque d'avant conflit lorsque Président Tolbert a institué un comité de 51 personnes qui a recommandé des changements dans nos symboles. Cela s'est poursuivi jusqu'à l'administration



elles sont confrontées. » Le 24 août est célébré chaque année comme le jour du drapeau national.

Le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif et de la plateforme de l'opposition a également fait écho aux appels visant à modifier les symboles nationaux du pays pour refléter la diversité de tous les Libériens.

Cummings a poursuivi en déclarant qu'il est malheureux que 173 ans plus tard, la participation des femmes à la politique et à la gouvernance de l'Etat soit lamentable. « Nous devons avoir l'intention de changer cela et soutenir le leadership des femmes, notamment pour les postes électoraux », a-t-il ajouté.

«En ce jour du drapeau, nous devons également réfléchir à

d'après-conflit de Mme Sirleaf, où plusieurs suggestions similaires ont également été faites. En 2012, notre orateur du jour du drapeau national, l'ambassadeur Elwood Dunn a appelé la nation dans son discours à repenser nos symboles nationaux car ils ne reflètent pas notre unité en tant que Libériens. Je suis d'accord, et aujourd'hui, j'appelle tous les Libériens, qu'il s'agisse du patrimoine des colons, du patrimoine autochtone ou des deux, à soutenir un changement des symboles nationaux pour refléter notre unité.

C'est ainsi que nous nous unissons. Voilà comment nous gouvernons. C'est ainsi que nous construisons et faisons voler le drapeau de notre pays plus haut. Ensemble, comme un », a-t-il conclu.

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# Français

## L'enjeu politique pour les élections sénatoriales

sénatoriale partielle, dans son propre fief, le comté de Montserrado, remportée par l'opposant farouche Abraham Darius Dillon. C'était en 2019.

A rappeler que le parti au pouvoir a enregistré cette défaite historique l'année dernière dans son propre bastion sous le regard impuissant du président George Manneh Weah et de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard - Taylor qui n'avaient pourtant ménagé aucun effort pour battre campagne. Ainsi, la hiérarchie n'a d'autres choix que de battre campagne vigoureusement pour regagner une popularité en baisse avant l'élection présidentielle cruciale de 2023.

Le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) ne peut se permettre de perdre pour de bon le contrôle des comtés de Montserrado, de Grand Bassa et de Nimba au cours de ces élections sénatoriales s'il veut espérer conserver le pouvoir à l'issue de la présidentielle de 2023.

Selon certaines informations, le président George Manneh Weah tient fortement à ce que le CDC remporte les comtés de Montserrado et de Grand Bassa. Pour y parvenir, M. Weah et son CDC se prépareraient et seraient sur le point de mettre en place des tactiques de campagne.

Mais c'est mal connaître le CPP, l'alliance des principaux partis au pouvoir, dont le parti de la liberté (LP), le Parti de l'unité (UP), le Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et le Parti de tous les libériens (ALP). Cette plateforme de l'opposition ne veut pas se laisser faire. C'est l'heure, pour elle, de se faire respecter et de montrer au peuple libérien combien il va falloir compter avec elle.

Aujourd'hui encore, M. Dillon est candidat sur le

ticket du Parti de la liberté (LP) et de l'alliance des Partis politiques de l'opposition, le même ticket qui lui avait permis de remporter la victoire et d'infliger une défaite cuisante au parti au pouvoir.

Ayant perdu son père fondateur Me Charles Brumskine, le Parti de la Liberté est maintenant sous la direction politique de la sénatrice Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence du comté de Grand Bassa, qui cherche à être réélue en décembre.

La sénatrice Karnga Lawrence sera face à face dans le comté de Grand Bassa avec l'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères et ancien président temporaire du sénat, Gbehzohngar Milton Findley, qui a une fois été rejeté par les habitants de Bassa.

L'enjeu politique pour la sénatrice Karnga Lawrence va au-delà d'un simple siège sénatorial, car pour qu'elle conserve son influence au sein de la plateforme de l'opposition et sa main mise sur le Parti de la Liberté, il faut qu'elle gagne la sénatoriale du 8 décembre, ou alors c'est son deuil politique.

En plus, pour que l'opposition continue d'être perçue comme un espoir pour un changement au sommet de l'Etat, il faut qu'elle veille à ce que le sénateur Dillon conserve son siège au Sénat.

Ainsi, le CPP n'a non plus d'autres choix que de remporter les comtés de Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Grand Bassa et Montserrado pour espérer se positionner pour les élections générales de 2023.

Ni l'opposition encore moins le pouvoir ne peut se permettre de perdre ces comtés riches en votes, d'où la nature critique et pertinente des prochaines sénatoriales dont l'enjeu politique est plus grand qu'on ne croit.

## Le président Weah

Avec ses couleurs patriotiques et ses rayures rouges et blanches et une étoile blanche sur une bannière bleue, le drapeau est plus qu'un simple morceau de tissu, un dessin, un ensemble de couleurs. C'est un emblème qui représente tout un peuple et toute une nation sur l'échiquier mondial. « Aussi

diversifiés que nous sommes, nous sommes tous liés par les valeurs que représente la bannière Lonestar », a-t-il martelé. « Mes chers compatriotes libériens, lorsque nous saluons notre drapeau, nous lui prêtons notre allégeance, nous honorons ce que le Libéria représente en tant que nation », a-t-il ajouté.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

## La fin de l'opportunisme occidental

**B**ERLIN - La confrontation entre la Chine et l'Occident s'exacerbe presque quotidiennement. Les désaccords touchent la technologie, le commerce, la part du marché mondial et les chaînes d'approvisionnement, mais concernent aussi les valeurs fondamentales. La prédominance mondiale au XXIe siècle est l'enjeu et la raison de cette compétition.

Mais pourquoi est-ce aujourd'hui que les choses s'enveniment ? Ce n'est pas comme si l'Occident avait soudain une révélation quant aux conséquences de l'essor chinois. Que la Chine soit une dictature à parti unique de type léniniste n'a rien de nouveau, et n'a pas dissuadé les pays occidentaux - conduits par les États-Unis - de renforcer régulièrement, depuis les années 1970, leurs liens commerciaux et économiques avec Pékin.

De même, les dirigeants chinois n'ont jamais fait grand cas des critiques de l'extérieur considérant les droits de l'homme ou l'oppression des minorités. L'espionnage industriel endémique, le vol de technologie ou le non-respect de la propriété intellectuelle sont par ailleurs des problèmes connus, que l'Occident tolère depuis des décennies en échange d'un accès à l'immense marché chinois et à une main-d'œuvre peu onéreuse. Le massacre de la place Tiananmen, à Pékin, en 1989, n'a guère réfréné l'enthousiasme des gouvernements et des investisseurs occidentaux. La poussière n'avait pas fini de retomber que les entreprises occidentales affluaient comme jamais dans le pays.

Les dirigeants occidentaux continuaient de penser que la modernisation et le développement économique conduiraient finalement la Chine à choisir la démocratie, à embrasser les droits de l'homme et à épouser l'État de droit. Ils avaient tort. Le parti communiste chinois a évolué en un nouveau modèle de développement hybride qui mêle dictature à parti unique, économie hautement compétitive et société de consommation.

Jusqu'à présent, la stratégie a été couronnée de succès. Si le pouvoir politique demeurerait sans ambages aux mains du parti, presque tout le reste se retrouvait confié aux forces d'un capitalisme consumériste high-tech. L'économie politique soviétique n'aurait pu rêver d'une telle innovation.

Les résultats sont impressionnants - et, à bien des égards, sans précédents. Des centaines de millions de personnes sont sorties de la pauvreté absolue et ont rejoint une classe moyenne montante. Voici seulement une génération, la Chine était un désert technologique et scientifique. Elle est aujourd'hui en pointe au niveau mondial dans nombre de secteurs qui définiront le XXIe siècle - numérisation, intelligence artificielle, superordinateurs et ordinateurs quantiques. La Chine étant désormais sur le point de devancer les États-Unis dans beaucoup de ces domaines, elle deviendra, selon tous les indicateurs qui comptent, la première économie mondiale ; ce n'est qu'une question de temps.

La raison pour laquelle la confrontation sino-américaine ne s'aggrave qu'aujourd'hui est relativement simple : la fin est en vue pour l'Occident. Depuis le début de l'industrialisation, l'Occident a maintenu un monopole efficace sur la puissance mondiale. Mais une grande puissance asiatique mettra bientôt un terme à l'hégémonie occidentale telle que nous la connaissons. L'administration du président des États-Unis Donald Trump n'en est pas la seule responsable. Le défi de plus en plus net lancé à la puissance occidentale demeurera, longtemps après que Trump aura quitté

le pouvoir, qu'il s'en aille ou pas en novembre.

Car si la Chine n'a cessé de se renforcer, la première puissance occidentale s'est affaiblie relativement. La crise financière mondiale de 2008 a joué un rôle crucial, en modifiant tant la perception que la Chine avait du modèle américain que celle du reste du monde. Soudain, les fragilités de l'Occident sont apparues au grand jour aux yeux de tous. Aujourd'hui, la crise du Covid-19 révèle plus encore les faiblesses et les fractures intérieures de l'Amérique. La réaction cahotante des États-Unis à la pandémie va puissamment renforcer l'impression globale répandue par la dégringolade de 2008, tout comme leur attitude confuse à l'égard de la Chine.

Encore faut-il que les responsables politiques américains parviennent à un consensus quant au rôle qu'ils aimeraient voir jouer à la Chine sur la scène internationale. Dans les milieux autorisés de la politique étrangère, nombreux sont ceux qui souhaitent éviter ou retarder l'essor économique de la Chine et sa suprématie technologique. Mais il est trop tard pour cela. À quoi ressemblerait une stratégie d'endiguement contre une des premières économies du monde, sinon la première, rassemblant 1,4 milliard d'acteurs ? Elle n'aurait de chances de réussir qu'en infligeant des dommages à tout le monde.

Cela dit, il est également évident que la stratégie d'adaptation, d'accommodements et d'opportunisme économique privilégiée jusqu'à présent par l'Occident - une démarche qui a souvent frisé la naïveté - n'est plus tenable. Que faire alors ?

L'Occident doit pour commencer se débarrasser des illusions qu'il a entretenues sur la Chine - qu'elles se fondent sur son ingénuité stratégique ou sur les politiques de puissance d'une ère révolue. Il devra trouver une façon de vivre avec la Chine telle qu'elle est. Cela signifie emprunter la voie moyenne entre la souplesse servile et la confrontation, les intérêts et les valeurs occidentales montrant alors le cap à suivre.

Les échanges avec la Chine doivent par exemple se poursuivre, mais à de nouvelles conditions. La domination chinoise contraindrait les pays occidentaux à mener leur propre politique industrielle. Pour la concevoir, il faudra décider quelles technologies seront partagées et quels investissements directs chinois acceptés.

Jusqu'à nouvel ordre, la différence fondamentale entre la Chine et l'Occident demeurera celle des valeurs, et c'est à l'Occident de marquer les limites. La moindre concession entraînant le sacrifice de principes fondamentaux, par exemple en matière culturelle, doit être rejetée. Il importe peu, à cet égard, que cette approche fondée sur les valeurs ait des inconvénients économiques. Pour les mêmes raisons, l'Occident devrait renoncer à l'idée qu'il peut inciter, contraindre ou persuader la Chine à devenir une démocratie modelée sur son image.

Les valeurs partagées par les pays occidentaux limiteront nécessairement l'étendue de la coopération géopolitique avec la Chine, tout comme le comportement expansionniste de celle-ci dans son voisinage, notamment en mer de Chine du Sud et concernant Taïwan. Mais sur les questions globales, comme le changement climatique ou la prévention des pandémies, la coopération demeurera indispensable.

En définitive, la confrontation sino-occidentale concerne des valeurs fondamentales, qui ne sauraient être négociées. Afin de préserver ses intérêts et une coexistence pacifique au XXIe siècle, l'Occident devra comprendre quelles sont les sources authentiques de sa pérennité et les défendre.





## PRESS UNION OF LIBERIA (PUL)

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### Open Letter to Her Honor, Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia

August 21, 2020

Her Honor Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie  
Associate Justice  
Supreme Court of Liberia  
Temple of Justice  
Capitol Hill, Monrovia

Your Honor:

The leadership of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL), the representative body of journalists and media institutions in Liberia extends heartfelt greetings to you and the Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Liberia and the Judiciary Branch of the Government of Liberia.

Since 1964, when the PUL was founded, it remains the corner stone and fulcrum for the protection of journalists, free speech and freedom of expression generally. On the basis of our founding mandate, we are well placed and under instruction from our membership to address any potential or actual threats, be it physical force or comments that have impact on the work of journalists and media workers in and out of Liberia.

Your Honor, your comments of Monday, August 10, 2020 during the opening of the August Term of Court in which you were categorical that journalists were defaming the Judiciary is of concern and has cast aspersion on the work of our members assigned or not assigned at the Judiciary. This is what you said, "This goes to the media people who, for some reason, are going out there defaming the judiciary without any evidence".

Your Honor, we submit that the allegation and perception of corruption in the judiciary are rampant in the reports of local and international corruption watchdog groups. Before addressing the disturbing implications of your comments, we have had time to gather some of the reports for your information.

In 2018, the US State Department reported that, 'corruption persisted in the legal system. Some judges, the report indicated 'accepted bribes to award damages in civil cases'. The graphic details presented the story of how jurists 'sometimes solicited bribes to try cases, grant bail to detainees, or acquit defendants in criminal cases'. To put all in a nutshell, the United States Government claimed 'defense attorneys and prosecutors sometimes suggested defendants pay bribes to secure favorable decisions from judges, prosecutors, and jurors, or to have court staff place cases on the docket for trial'. This is the link to the report for your information. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/liberia/>

In August 2019, the State Department reported on the suspension of one of the Commercial Court's Judges, Richard Klah for one year by the Supreme Court. Mr. Klah was found guilty for "gross impropriety and irregularity" for what the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia adjudged as solicitation of a bribe from a complainant. This case was forwarded to the legislature for impeachment proceeding, but Klah resigned in September 2019 and did not face additional charges.

The report also claimed, "Some judicial officials and prosecutors appeared subject to pressure, and the outcomes of some trials appeared to be predetermined. On July 5, in the midst of a widely publicized corruption and bribery trial, Supreme Court justice Joseph Nagbe visited Criminal Court C during the testimony of the defendant, Senator Varney Sherman, causing Judge Peter Gbeneweleh to pause proceedings while Nagbe and Gbeneweleh held a private meeting in chambers. Justice Nagbe, a former senator, had previously co-chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee with defendant Sherman before being confirmed as a Supreme Court justice by the same committee. Many observers saw Nagbe's visit as an attempt to influence the decision", the State Department held. This is the link to the report for your information. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/liberia/>

Your Honor, as you can see, what the media has done and will continue to do is to simply highlight these reports and the coverage in no way represent accusations coming from the media itself. The rules of journalism require that we elevate these local and international reports as a way of calling attention to the vestiges that erode the pure stream of justice and corrode the cornerstone for the rule of law. We hope to help bring to your desk what local and international organizations and foreign governments are saying about the work of the judiciary and how they perceive Liberia's justice system. Justice Wolokollie, you interestingly disclosed that corruption exist, but at a minimal level in the judiciary in stack contracts to many international reports from respected corruption watchdogs and country setups like the US States Department Annual Report on Human Rights and different Amnesty International works.

These works contributed to by the Media in Liberia are based on factual events involving once respected lawyering colleagues of yours and some are still active; this is no makeup by the journalists whose honorable duty remains the gathering and dissemination of factual news and information for the good of the public.

Madam Justice, to admit that there is corruption in the judiciary is courageous and we are sure it amuses many when being rank as petit. In recognition of this national scourge being in the judiciary, you were economical of the facts on the prevalence rate of corruption in the judiciary. Corruption starts the day with the sheriffs, clerks, magistrates, judges and other judiciary workers and ends even in home service after the close of business day, according to international reports as already cited. There was no point warning judicial workers that the system's waiting axe may fall on any of them for their transgressions.

The next point we want to address is the far-reaching implication of your comments. If a journalist was sued today for libel, he/she had already been declared guilty because you declare the verdict already. Which other judge would vindicate a journalist accused of libel when one of the chief judges in the Republic already declare a guilty verdict? Your comments did not only impinge the reputation of journalists, they expose them to more libel suits—frivolous with the intent to create fear and impose self-censorship. Your comments were broad and have endangered the reputation of an entire profession with varying outstanding achievements. Specifics are lacking in this generalized comment.

We will appreciate members of the Judiciary taking up issues on situational basis and attaching faces to claims against media practitioners for proper investigation by the National Media Council, a functioning version of self regulatory regime. Recently, the Leadership of the Press Union of Liberia amicably mediated complaint filed against Abraham Godsend Wheon of Truth FM by Criminal Court C Judge YamieQuiquiGbeisay. This is the way to correct the wrongs and not the continuation of the faceless comments which have no bearing on institutional building.

The PUL insists that to ignore all acceptable media self-regulatory norms recognized by Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor is an upright intimidation of the media intending to coward well meaning news men and women into self-censorship and undermine democratic tenants.

Thank you,  
Charles B. Coffey, Jr.  
President  
[pressunionofliberia@yahoo.com](mailto:pressunionofliberia@yahoo.com) / [nyakonah@gmail.com](mailto:nyakonah@gmail.com)

# Protesters chase Gender

Started from back page

under her leadership there are numerous efforts being put into place to address issues of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and children.

Her remarks to the protesters were aimed calming tension that nearly resulted to stone battle between riot officers of the Liberia National Police and the angry protesters.

Tarr continued that her ministry has been conducting series of engagement with relevant authorities, including civil society organizations to address rape issues which she says pose serious threat to survival of innocent children.

Speaking to this paper in an exclusive interview from the protest scene on the grounds of the Executive Mansion on Capitol Hill, a representative from a civil society group under the banner, Youth Action Movement, Ms. KuluboKoquoi stressed a need for national government to find solution to the constant abuse of women and girls in the country.

"This is alarming and it has claimed our attention that we can no longer sit and wait for government to take action; we need to hold their feet to the fire", she said.

Madam Koquoi said she believes strongly that if government castrate perpetrators, such punishment would serve as deterrence to would-be rapists.

She warns that if nothing were done in addressing the alarming situation, perpetrators will continue to find pleasure in abusing innocent children, urging, "Now is the time for us to tell our government that we the women of this country are tired."

Meanwhile, a representative from Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa or YALDA, Ms. Lisa T. Cooper, is optimistic that following their three days nationwide protest, government will do something in curbing systemic rape and sexual violence across Liberia.

"I'm here today in solidarity with our women and girls to put an end to the devilish act of rape", Miss Cooper said.

More than one hundred protesters converged early Tuesday before the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Capitol Hill to present a petition to President George M. Weah, seeking drastic action against increase wave of rape cases in the country.

The protesters carried placards reading, "Say No to Rape" and "GOL Must Take Action", among others.

The Government of Liberia enacted legislation to amend the new Penal Code of June 1976 Chapter 14, Section 14.70 and 14.71 title the Rape Law which states that a person who has sexual intercourse with another person (male or female) without his/her consent has committed rape that is punishable by ten (10) years or lifetime imprisonment depending on the degree of the rape (rape of a minor, rape resulting I serious bodily harm, rape using a weapon, and gang rape).

The new rape law came to effect in January 2006. The Act also requires in-camera hearings of all rape cases with a special court (Criminal Court E) set up at the Temple of Justices to fast track cases. Despite these measures, the crime continues unabated, becoming a societal challenge. -  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## Women group petitions

Cont'd from page 6

seriously because the issue of rape is everybody's business and the Legislature would respond very soon.

The new Rape Law of 2006 states, among others that a person who has sexual intercourse with another person (male or female) without his/her consent has committed rape that is punishable by ten (10) years or lifetime imprisonment depending on the degree of the rape (rape of a minor, rape resulting I serious bodily

harm, rape using a weapon, and gang rape).

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*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## 2 arrested for

Cont'd from page 7

the ticket.

While undergoing preliminary inquiry, the Police allegedly uncovered another ticket with Mr. Denny, thereby sparking increasing concerns and the need for further questioning.

He is said to have told the Police that indeed he was not the legitimate owner of the tickets and allegedly admitted that he purchased the tickets from Mr. Amos L. Johnson, who works with the Christian Humanitarian Services (CHS).

CHS is one of the partnering NGOs contracted by the World Food Program (WFP), to undertake the distribution of

food ration tickets in the ongoing COVID-19 Household Food Support Program (COHFSP) in Liberia, in the wake of the current health crisis.

For his part, 32-year-old Thomas Wehyen, who is said to be a resident of West Point Township was reportedly arrested with ten (10) bags of rice, one (1) bag of beans and four (4) gallons of oil.

Suspect Wehyen was turned over to the Crime Services Unit of the Zone Two Base Police Sub Station near the Gabriel Tucker Bridge on Johnson Street in Monrovia.



# Acquitted

By Winston W. Parley

Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay has set free four former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials held to account for alleged excess LD\$2 billion plus because there is no scintilla of evidence that it ended up in their pockets, but he says they are guilty of unauthorized printing of LD\$10 Billion.

“Addressing the first part of this question, that is to say whether or not the State established and [proved] that the defendants therein are guilty of unauthorized printing of 10 Billion Liberian Dollars? The Court [answers] yes,” Judge Gbeisay ruled Tuesday, 25 August in Monrovia.

Judge Gbeisay sets free all four defendants in persons of former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, former CBL Board Members David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio and Kollie Tamba, saying there is no scintilla of evidence that the

favor of the accused, but the state lawyers, mainly Solicitor General Saymah Syrenius Cephus could not see comfort any longer in his seat.

Cheers are not permitted in the courtroom during hearing and court officers try to maintain silence as the judge reads on, but this is what happens sometimes here in cases of high profile interest to the public.

In his ruling, Judge Gbeisay says the government itself has acquiesced in the wrongful printing of the enhanced notes and benefited substantially, the fact that the banknotes were printed, shipped to Liberia and ... infused into the economy openly and notoriously and are being used by the Government of Liberia.

“Under the principle of acquiesce, when one benefit from an illegal act, he or she is estopped from repudiating his own act. The government of

without authorization, and allegedly understating the printed amount as L\$10,359,750,000.00, giving a variance of L\$2,645,000,000.00.

Mr. Charles E. Sirleaf, the son of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, was initially among several CBL officials indicted by the government here in 2019 for their alleged roles in the misapplication of billions of Liberian Dollars printed and shipped to Liberia to replace old local currency.

Their indictment in 2019 followed a series of mass protests that led local and international institutions to investigate a claim that the money had gone missing.

However, when prosecution drew its last version of the indictment based on which this case has now ended, Mr. Sirleaf who served as Deputy CBL Governor for Operations when the financial scandal emerged at the bank was not included because he was nolleprosequi 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.

However the court rules that from the analysis of these quantum of evidence, it is of the considered and informed opinion that the presidential investigative team’s (PIT’s) report was in error with reference to the mathematical calculation and its limitation to the parking list only.

Judge Gbeisay says when the variance or shortfall in the LD\$20 banknotes representing a face value of LD\$15,000,000.00 is deducted from the overproduction of LD\$374,750,000,000.00 in denominations of LD\$5, 10, 50, 100 and 500, you will derive at the actual amount printed in excess of the LD\$10 billion, which is LD\$359,750,000.00.

He continues that when you add the amount printed in the tune of LD\$9,985,000,000 plus, the overproduction of LD\$374,750,000,000, you will derive at the total amount printed by Crane Currency and delivered to the CBL which is LD\$10,359,750,000.00.

He answers in the negative to questions whether or not the prosecution established and proved beyond a reasonable doubt that LD\$13 Billion plus was printed by Crane Currency, shipped to

# CBL retains monetary

Cont'd from page 7

The Domestic Economy Consistent with developments in the global economy, economic activity in Liberia is projected to contract by 2.5% in 2020, reflecting subdued activities in the secondary and tertiary sectors, despite forecast of modest economic improvement in the last quarter of the year.

At the quarter ended-June 2020, inflation moderated to 18.0%, a reduction by 5.7 percentage points in the previous quarter and projected to further moderate

to 17.0% in quarter three. Net remittance inflow was US\$48.4 million in the second quarter of 2020 and expected to rise beyond quarter three.

These developments, in addition to decisions of heightening financial education for increased retail subscriptions for the instruments and strengthening policy coordination with the fiscal authority on liquidity management to sustain the downward inflation spiral, prompted the CBL’s Board to keep the monetary policy rate unchanged at 25%.



Ex-CBL Governor Weeks

Madam Elsie Dossen Bardio

Mr. Kollie Tamba

money printed ended up in any of the defendants’ pockets.

He reiterates that the defendants collectively ignored and disobeyed the caveat of the legislature, abrogated onto themselves legislative duty/ function and wrongfully printed 10 Billion including the excess of 359,759,000.00 and shipped it to Liberia, received by the CBL and logged it into the various vaults of the CBL.

But on the question as to whether or not the unauthorized printing of the LD\$10bn by the CBL is a criminal offense, Judge Gbeisay rules that “The obvious answer is NO.”

At some points of this ruling the court was interrupted with cheers and claps from the audience mixed with families, friends, supporters and sympathizers of the defendants as they saw the ruling heading positively in

Liberia is no exception to this rule, because in the court of justice, the government and any [individual] citizen are equal,” the court says.

In other words, the judge says, the action of the government in receiving the money and infusing same in the economy, it ratified the wrongful act of the central bank Executive Governor and the Board of Governors, thereby erasing criminality, if any.

“To constitute sabotage there must be a negative impact. On the contrary, the economy was [saved] by the printing of the 10 billion LRD. The burden [remains] on the State to prove that the printing has negative impact on the Liberian Economy,” he rules.

The government here indicted the former CBL officials including the bank’s Board of Governors, accusing them of printing and shipping to Liberia L\$13,004,750,000.00



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Liberia and that LD\$2.6 Billion is missing or not accounted for.

This answer dismisses prosecution’s assertions in the indictment that the defendants claimed to have printed 10,359,750, 000.00, but in actuality they printed 13,004,750,000.00 and criminally conceded 2.6 Billion, thereby committing the crimes of illegal disbursement of public money, criminal conspiracy and theft of property.

Reacting to the ruling outside the Criminal Court “C”, prosecution lawyer Cllr. Jerry D. K. Garlawolo says the fact that the judge has ruled against “us,” whatever way he rules, the State’s intent is to ensure that the facts come out.

Cllr. Garlawolo insists that the prosecution did establish the fact that there was a variance in terms of the amount of money brought into the country, but it’s the judge’s decision that the prosecution didn’t prove this.

Mr. Milton Weeks for his part says, his vindication by the court proves that Liberia’s judicial system, “despite

whatever political pressures there may be,” can still stand up and do the right thing.

“I was not sad, I have always been serious. If somebody kept you for two years, harass you, put you in jail two times in handcuffs, what you think you will, how you think you will feel? How you think you will feel? Two years of my life, two years of my life after giving service to the country, two years. How you think I will feel?” he says in response to this writer’s question.

Weeks says, he is happy that he has been vindicated, and he intends to work in the private sector but he has no planned action against the government for this case.

Mr. Weeks laments that so many false allegations have been made against him, and that two years of his life have been spent trying to prove his innocence.

“But God is in control and he has proven and vindicated me,” he says, adding that his purpose was not to get involved into politics but to prove his innocence and he has done. -*Edited by Othello B. Garblah*





# Protesters chase Gender Minister Tarr



By **Lweis Teh**

Liberia's Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection experienced a bad Tuesday here when she was publicly shunned and chased away by anti rape protesters before the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia where she had gone to proxy for President George Manneh Weah.

Minister Whillimena Saydee

Tarr, accompanied by her Assistant Minister, had gone to receive a petition from the protesters on behalf of President Weah when she was shunned with angry marchers saying nothing good would come out of their petition if it landed in the hands of the Ministers.

According to them, the decision to reject Minister Tarr is due to her lackadaisical

posture to the alarming rape cases across the country, especially where she heads the government ministry that is responsible for handling such gross abuses and clear violation of women's dignity.

"We Don't want you and your officials here; we have come to deliver our petition to President George M. Weah and not any so-called Minister!", the petitioners resisted.

According to them, too often government officials have received petitions and promised to deliver same to the President, but such promises have yielded no results, noting that it was unfortunate to see increase in rape cases and other sexual harassment especially with a woman heading the government's arm that is responsible to handle women and children's affairs.

However, speaking to protesters subsequently, Minister Tarr defended that

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7**

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# Lionel Messi hands in Barcelona transfer request

Legendary Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has asked to leave this summer.

The Argentina international, 33, sent a fax to the club on Tuesday saying he wishes to exercise a clause in his contract, allowing him to leave for free with immediate effect.

Barca were beaten 8-2 by Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarter-finals on 16 August.

The six-time Ballon d'Or

winner made his debut for Barca in 2004 and has won the Champions League four times.

Barcelona, though, believe the clause has now expired and Messi is contracted to the club until 2021 with a 700m euro buy-out clause.

The board will meet soon and some consider the only thing that could placate Messi is the resignation of the president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, and early elections. But Messi seems determined to leave the club no



matter what.

A legal battle is now set to follow between the club and the player. Messi had a clause in his contract which allowed him to leave for free, if he informed the club of his desire before 10 June.

That date has now passed so Barca believe the clause has expired, but Messi and his team feel it should be extended to cover the prolonged season - which ran until August due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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