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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# Bad day for Thomas Fallah



*-as legislative staffers halt endorsement program*



# S/Court slaps Orange in the face

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# Continental News

## US cuts aid to Ethiopia over Nile dam row

The US is cutting aid to Ethiopia over a controversial mega dam being built on a tributary of the River Nile.

The move was triggered by Ethiopia's move to start filling the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam before reaching agreement with Egypt and Sudan.

Egypt has long been opposed to any development on the Nile that could reduce the amount of water it receives.

Ethiopia says it needs the dam to provide a reliable electricity supply.

Once fully operational, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (Gerd) will be the largest hydro-electric plant in Africa and provide power to up to 65 million Ethiopians.

While the US has not said openly how much aid will be cut, a US congressional source told Reuters news agency that "up to \$100m or so will be affected, of which \$26m is funding that expires at the end of the [financial year]".

The funding affected is

linked to nutrition, regional or border security, political competition and consensus-building, the official said. Funding for projects connected to HIV/Aids, migration and refugee assistance and the food for peace programme would be unaffected.

A US state department

official told Reuters Ethiopia's decision to start filling the dam while negotiations with Egypt and Sudan were under way had undermined confidence in the talks and was inconsistent with commitments Ethiopia had made.

"The United States

previously and repeatedly expressed its concern that commencing the filling of the Gerd before all necessary dam safety measures were implemented created serious risks,"

the official said. Ethiopia's ambassador to the US told the Financial Times he hoped the US would change its mind over the aid cut.

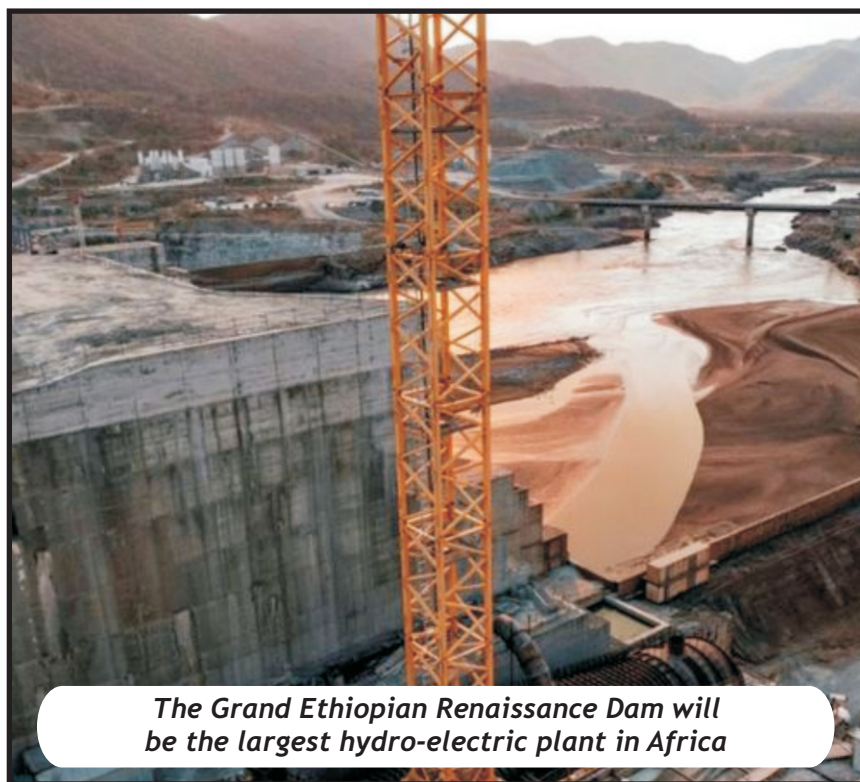
"We've asked them to reconsider and we're waiting. We hope 117 years of diplomatic relations will not be damaged because of an issue not related to the two countries," Fitsum Arega said.

Correspondents say the

move is likely to be seen as US President Donald Trump punishing Ethiopia after the country rejected US-led mediation with Egypt and Sudan.

The talks have stalled over various issues including demands by Egypt and Sudan that any deal should be legally binding and how to manage the dam during periods of drought.

The Gerd sits on the Blue Nile upstream of Egypt and has the potential to control the flow of water that the country receives. The Nile is Egypt's primary source of water for both drinking and agriculture. BBC



*The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will be the largest hydro-electric plant in Africa*

## Civilians Accuse Military of Brutality in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions

Cameroon's military has detained hundreds of people in the country's troubled northwest as they search for separatists following the killing of a police officer this week. Locals accuse the military of carrying out revenge attacks, including looting and burning shops, in

the English-speaking region — a charge the military denies.

Thirty-four-year old fish seller Ernestine Sahmo says she has decided to temporarily leave the English-speaking northwestern town of Bamenda due to what she says is military brutality.

Sahmo says she was forced out of her shop by armed

soldiers who detained 80 other women at a police station for three days.

"The military entered the whole market and was removing everybody," she said. "They will break into your store and then start brutalizing you, asking you to go out. They succeeded to remove everybody from the food market to the mobile police station. We were being asked to sit on the ground. Some women were collapsing. The way they terrorized us, we never knew we would come back alive." Sahmo says store owners' goods were either looted or torched by the military.

Last Monday, the government said separatist fighters in Bamenda killed a policeman in active service. The military was then deployed to hunt for the killers.

Residents said troops started arresting people indiscriminately, forcing some either to undress or to sit on the floor for several hours. Scared civilians escaped to neighboring villages and French-speaking towns including Mbouda and

## US asks for 'humane treatment' of Hotel Rwanda hero

The US assistant secretary for African affairs, Tibor Nagy, has held talks with Rwandan ambassador to the US over the arrest of Paul Rusesabagina, who was portrayed in a Hollywood film about the Rwandan genocide.

Rwandan officials said Mr Rusesabagina, 66, was arrested under an

treatment, adhere to the rule of law, and provide a fair and transparent legal process for Mr Rusesabagina".

Mr Rusesabagina, who is also a Belgian citizen and a US green card holder, left his home in San Antonio, Texas, and landed in Dubai last Thursday, his family told the BBC.



international warrant for leading "terrorist movements".

But his daughter told the BBC the allegation was false.

Mr Nagy tweeted after the meeting with Ambassador Matilde Mukantabana that the US government expects Rwanda "to provide humane

"We believe he was kidnapped because he would never go to Rwanda on his own will," his daughter told BBC. The Rwandan government hasn't commented on allegations that Mr Rusesabagina was kidnapped. BBC



Bafoussam. The government said at least two civilians were killed but did not say if separatists or troops were responsible.

General Valere Nka, the commander of government troops fighting the separatists in the English-speaking northwest regions, says the military has not committed any atrocities. He says his

troops have remained professional. He says his troops fully obey instructions given by the military hierarchy for civilians to be protected and their human rights respected. Nka says he expects civilians who have been assured of total protection by the military to denounce all suspected separatist fighters in their localities. VOA



# EDITORIAL

## Now we know the real chief feminist

**LAST WEEK'S STONE** throwing and running battle between anti-rape protesters and riot officers of the Liberia National Police that led to the coming into the street of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to join protesters in solidarity over the increasing wave of rape across the country when in fact, President George Manneh Weah out-rightly refused to meet with the protesters despite their demand clearly indicates who is the real chief feminist for Liberia.

**FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE** days last week protesters, including little girls as old as five, six and seven years marched from the Monrovia suburb of Vamoma House to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present a petition to President Weah against endemic rape in the country. They had insisted to give the petition to the President himself, but Mr. Weah did not come out in spite of their demand.

**AND SO WHEN** it became very obvious that they won't see President Weah at his official office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the protesters decided on the last day of their campaign to instead, go to Mr. Weah's residence in Rehab community along the Robertsfield highway outside Monrovia, but armed riot police brutally prevented them, save the appearance of former President Sirleaf, who met with the crowd predominantly women and young girls and expressed solidarity.

**HOW DISAPPOINTING IT** has been that President George Weah, who some time ago, declared himself as Liberia's chief feminist, could not come out to meet women with bleeding hearts, lamenting over the wave of brutal abuse of their babies, daughters and sons sexually by evil men whose ages range from 20 to 50 and above.

**BEING A WOMAN**, mother and grandmother herself, MsSirleaf heard the wailing of protesters in the street and she came out to identify with them in their grievance over an act that is rapidly destroying future wives, mothers and husbands of the land, while the self-declared chief feminist [President Weah] sent emissaries upon emissaries with excuses that the President couldn't be there himself over a situation that has become very alarming in the country.

**LIBERIANS NEED NOT** to look any farther to know who the true chief feminist is for the country. We know that President Weah is a very busy leader or so he ought to be. But taking out at least 10 or 15 minutes of his busy schedules to have come to receive protesters' petition, especially when they had insisted so, would have worth the effort and demonstrated that the 'Father' and "Chief Feminist" of the Land is in empathy with their struggle to seek justice.

**INSTEAD, WHAT THEY** got were bruises, scars and allegedly broke limbs as a result of Police heavy-handedness to stifle and quiet their voices. What a paradox in a land that is supposedly presided over by a leader who presides himself as chief feminist! Is it mere title or does President Weah really care about issues that confront women of Liberia?

**BETWEEN EX-PRESIDENT SIRLEAF** and President George Weah we can clearly see that it is not about self-title but demonstrated actions to match the title, for actions speak louder than words. By Thursday evening last week, Madam Sirleaf was on the BBC, acknowledging the endemic rape in the country and suggesting what could be or needs to be done to addressing the problem. That's the mark of a true leader.

**ON THE CONTRARY**, the current administration is politicizing everything and suspicious of everybody, even grieving women and girls protesting for their own lives in the streets. Who should provide them security, if not the government they elected at the ballot box? President Weah should know that he has a duty to ensure the peace, security and happiness of the people at all times.

**MR. WEAH MISSED** a great opportunity to demonstrate political leadership by his refusal to meet with protesting women and girls and receive their petition over a situation that is portraying Liberia negatively under his watch. We wonder whether the President understands the consequences of his reluctance or sheer inaction over a cruel crime such as rape and abuse of women and girls.

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# COMMENTARY

By Jan-werner Mueller

## The Parties Must Go On

*Amid the tawdry spectacle of the Republican Party behaving like a subsidiary of the Trump Organization, one shocking aspect stands out: the party has no platform. The GOP's transformation into an ideas-free cult of personality is bad news not just for US conservatives, but also for the American political system.*

**B**ERLIN - The recent Republican National Convention was scandalous for many reasons - from the misuse of the White House as a campaign prop (in violation of the Hatch Act and longstanding norms) and the brazen mendacity of its speakers, to the parade of Trump family members. Amid the tawdry spectacle of the GOP being transformed into a subsidiary of the Trump Organization, one shocking aspect stood out: the party offered no platform. The Republicans' only purpose, apparently, is "to enthusiastically support the President's America-first agenda."

On one level, eschewing a policy platform can be read as a smart strategy to insulate the party from Donald Trump the person. In the event that Trump is defeated in November, members of the GOP establishment can wash their hands of it, claiming that it was only an unpopular leader who lost; the party's long-standing principles remain sound.

But a more plausible interpretation is that the toxic mix of polarization and hyper-partisanship in America has reached a new level of concentration. Having been completely hollowed out, at least one of the country's main political parties no longer fulfills its basic democratic function.

That function requires parties not only to offer the electorate a choice, but also to determine how political battles will be waged. By appealing to some groups more than others, parties draw lines in the sand; and by focusing on some political fault lines over others, parties assemble coalitions that could have looked quite different had the emphasis been placed on various other equally salient issues.

The point of democracy is not to forge consensus on every issue, but rather to manage conflicting interests and commitments. But democracy can break down when parties or politicians openly demonize or deny the legitimacy of other contenders for power. Such tactics have long been the specialty of right-wing populists, who wage culture wars in an effort to reduce all political conflict to questions of belonging. Hence, rather than engage with his opponents' arguments, Trump simply smears all critics as "un-American."

As the political scientists Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson have shown, the GOP's propensity for culture warfare owes much to the fact that its economic-policy agenda is profoundly unpopular. Having cut taxes for the rich and failed utterly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump and his party need to distract potential voters from material concerns.

This "plutocratic populism," Hacker and Pierson show, is the result of the GOP's complete inability to generate new policy ideas. Republicans have simply doubled down on tax cuts and mindless deregulation, while proving incapable of offering any coherent alternative to the 2010 Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), which they are always just

about to replace with "something terrific."

Just as the GOP has outsourced its identity to culture warriors on far-right television networks and websites, so has it handed off intellectual work to think tanks, most of which are more committed to their donors than to crafting broadly popular and effective policy proposals.

These are not just American problems, of course. Across the West, traditional parties have been challenged by upstarts that tend to hold no serious internal debates, let alone embrace democratic decision-making. In the Netherlands, the far-right populist Geert Wilders' party has just two official members: Wilders and a foundation of which he is the only member. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the Brexit Party boasts more than 110,000 "paying supporters," but is in fact a limited liability company with four officers and just one registered "person with significant control": the ubiquitous Brexiteer and serial polarization entrepreneur Nigel Farage.

To be sure, political parties aren't debating societies. But they are supposed to produce new ideas and policy plans, which a one-man show or a family enterprise is unlikely to do. While parties need to represent certain principles that their members share, deciding on such principles will always be contentious, and upholding them does not happen automatically.

US President Lyndon Johnson once observed that, "What the man on the street wants is not a big debate on fundamental issues; he wants a little medical care, a rug on the floor, a picture on the wall." But as Johnson's Democratic Party learned the hard way, even "a little medical care" can become a matter of principled conflict.

Such contests are best hashed out not just with one's partisan adversaries but also in open, pluralistic internal debate. When disputes are settled in this fashion, the losers are more likely to accept defeat and remain loyal to the party. By contrast, mass acclamations of the kind the GOP staged for Trump often send some party members heading toward the exits.

The hallmark of a well-functioning party is its ability to attract people with stable partisan commitments over time. Paradoxically, the party that allows members to offer criticism without being tarred as traitors ultimately instills deeper loyalty.

The point is not to idealize intra-party participatory democracy. Yet there is a reason why the constitutions of Germany, Spain, and Portugal, for instance, prescribe internal party pluralism. By habituating people to democratic debate and forcing them to consider that the other side might have a valid point, this model embodies what has been lost in an age of polarization.





## Lord, is this Footballer that politically green?

Dear Father,

You know, this guy never ceases to disappoint. I mean, when you think the occasion is ripe for him to redeem himself, it's when he sinks deeper. Come to think of it, which politician would choose to crawl in a hole with his or her tale between the legs when such an opportunity to address a diverse crowd shows up?

Like seriously Father? Just imagine you are less than four month to an election that your future hinges on, is it not a perfect opportunity to show up and win the minds of some doubters?

That is called seizing the moment son.

Yes, Father, exactly. Every situation presents its own opportunity depending on how one seizes it and make the best or worse of it.

Hmmm, my son it comes with maturity and experience too oo.

Indeed, Father and I could not agree with you more on this one. And this is where I think our man has the problem-a serious one too.

But for a second there Father, this kind of display of political naivety could only be as a result of being surrounding by inexperienced chaps in politics who only cares about their belly as advisors or you the individual just careless or misplaced.

When the Old Lady emerged from her palaver hut the other day to join those group of people who have taken our village by storm for three days, it defined a true a mature leader. And this is not her first time though. When she was in charge of spear heading our village affairs like the footballer is doing now, she joined more dangerous demonstrators to calm them down and gave them her ears.

Staying away from your people on the advices of people who lack the knowledge of people oriented politics only prepared you for failure-bigly too.

A leader demonstrates care and concern for his or her people. By so doing you meet their needs and provide direction to remedy their pains. But to ignore them like the way the Footballer has done speaks volumes.

Now, how do you face them tomorrow when you are canvassing for their votes? Or is it that they have been classified as people belonging to the other side of the river. The truth is when the voting finish, you are the leader of all but you can't please all. So to crawl yourself in a corner ignoring the concern of your people is a big political risk.

There is a saying in the good old Book that says "go to the ant, you sluggard" let it teaches you. It knows when to play around and when to gather its food. The ant never works during the rainy season, it uses the time to chill.

As a leader, you summer is after the election, it's when you work harder, while the fruits that you gather during the summer takes you thru the next election.

Such massive gathering of people with pain in their hearts, is when you show up as a leader. It not time to cuddle and hide behind huge fence walls.



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## "Don't be 'Smart', be 'Wise' President Weah"

**H**.E Dr. George MannehOppong Weah is the 25th President, Republic of Liberia, Head of State, and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The 53-year old Head-of-State is married to Madam Clar Weah, a Jamaican native. They are blessed with three children including George Weah Jr. Timothy Tarpeh Weah both are residence abroad. President Weah began a professional football career with a local football the soccer team called 'Young Survivors Clara town in 1981 and completed his football career in 20013 with the football team Al Jazira FC, a football club (the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi in the UAE Arabian Gul). The climaxed of president Weah's football career prepared him for the nation's (Liberia) highest office which he took on January 22nd, 2018. Political Hot-Fire analysis some of President Weah's wise and smart decision-making mode.

Most presidents the world over, are running into crises because they take multiple smart decisions when they should make wise decisions on numerous issues that often than none lead to their sudden death, or removal from office in disgrace or thrown behind bars for their lifetime. This is the reason why most presidents are often overshadowed with enormous power to the extent that they make multiple smart decisions when they should be making wise decisions for the sake of the citizens, they lord over and protect.

For example, President Weah was very wise when waited very patiently for former president Sirleaf's tenure to have ended for him to succeed her. He would be smart if he had been very impatient and rest into a bush war to seek power in Liberia. He would have been very smart had he orchestrated the overthrow of former President Sirleaf while she was in office, but he was wise not to entertain or encourage ay such development during the waiting moment.

Since President Weah resumes the presidency on January 22, 2018, he has become smarter and smarter than being wiser in some decisions some of which may cause problems for him during his presidency. For example, President Weah's building of house so soon after his inauguration was not a wise decision it was a very smart decision that is not in his best interest.

A very wise decision would have been to wait at least three years into his presidency before embarking on his housing project. Second, the building of roads is not a bad idea is also in the interest of development, but such a decision was a smart decision and not a wise one. A wise decision would have been for President Weah to have focused initially on some basic kitchen table development that would have directly benefited the citizens and attractive to international donors.

For example, the president certain ways and means through achievable strategies that will lead to the citizenry benefitting from basic clean drinking water, reduction in the hard cost of living, affordable health care, affordable electricity, and the enforcement of Liberian local businesses that will prevent foreigners from encroaching on such domestic businesses directly and indirectly. A wise President cannot satisfy 4 million inhabitants, but a plan can be put in place that will prevent foreigners from creating additional poverty for Liberians. President Weah also made another smart decision, when he disallowed then President Sirleaf administration to go scout free without any auditing to retrieve some of the nation's wealth that was either misappropriated and or stolen and a wise decision would have been for him to audit the outgoing government since according to him he didn't see any reserve up to the time he resumed office as president.

Former President Doe took a smart decision to overthrow a one-party system in Liberia and killed 17th former government officials which cost him his life and the life of over 150000 innocent people. Killed in separate civil wars. A wise decision would be to give the seventh men and longer jail sentenced rather than killed them. Taylor is today being jailed for 50-years for being smart and not being wise. If he were wise, he would have been living in peace today. Prince Johnson took a smart decision by killing. A wise decision would have been for him to have turned Doe over to the international communities for Justice.

Recommendations: President Weah will need to be wise and not smart when handling the affairs of Liberia. Being smart can always cause more and more catastrophe in the long run.





JUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIAOFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIAInvitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & ServicesDATE: August 10, 2020  
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/002/2020/2021

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Cleaning Materials & Services**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers in the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service which appeared in two dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one. Bid submission begins on **August 10, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**. The final date of submission is **August September 10, 2020 @ 1:00 pm**.

Package: **Cleaning Materials & Services.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Cleaning Materials & Services.	Assorted	US \$266.00

- 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 Cleaning Materials & Services may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
  - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
  - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$ 50.00** for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Cleaning Materials & Services.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.

- Qualification requirements include the following:
  - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
  - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
  - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
  - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
  - Availability of products at all times; and,
  - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
  - Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.**
  - PPCC Vendor registry**
  - 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 during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M. daily.
- 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/SBA/002/2020/2021- **CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the provision of Cleaning Materials & 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 or before September 10, 2020 @ 1:00 PM. However, No Electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on September 1, 2020 @ 1:00 P. M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for Cleaning Materials & Services will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **September 10, 2020 @ 1:00pm**. 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 ProcurementApproved:   
Court AdministratorJUDICIAL BRANCH  
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIAOFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIAInvitation for Bids for Air TicketDATE: August 10, 2020  
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2020/2021

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Air Ticket**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Air Ticket. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service. As stated in this document.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Liberian bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one (1) package. Bid submission begins on **August 10, 2020 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM daily**. The final date of submission is **September 10, 2020, @ 12:00 pm**.

Package: **Air Ticket.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Air Ticket	Assorted	US \$660.00

- 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 Air Ticket may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
  - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
  - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$ 50.00** for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Air Ticket.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of **Bank Guarantee** along with the Bid Documents.

- Qualification requirements include the following:
  - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
  - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
  - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
  - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
  - Availability of Space and Accommodation at all time.
  - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
  - Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.**
  - PPCC Vendor registry certificate.**
  - Business Activity Code**
  - Due diligent exercise will be done after the opening of bid 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 3:00 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicate copies all in one envelope and sealed.
  - IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2020/2021 - **CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the provision of Air Ticket; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021; and shall be addressed to:

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING  
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before September 10, 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 September 1, 2020 @ 12:00 P. M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.
- Sealed bids for **Air Ticket** will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **September 10, 2020 @ 12:00 P. M.** All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed:   
Director of ProcurementApproved:   
Court Administrator

# Grand Gedeh Bar wants review of Putu Mines agreement

## -Petitions county's legislators

The Grand Gedeh Bar Association (GGBA) Thursday petitioned members of the county's legislators to push for the review of the Putu Iron Ore Mineral Development Agreement, which was signed some 10-years ago.

The Bar's petition for a review is based on "Sections 31 Periodic Review" and "31.1 Profound Change in Circumstances" of the Agreement which state, "the Government on the one hand and the company on the other hand, shall meet once every five (5) years after the date hereof or earlier, if one party reasonably considers a Profound Change in Circumstances to have occurred, to establish whether or not a Profound Change in Circumstances has occurred. To the

of a 25-year contract to be left in suspense with the state of clearly outlined social development projects and contributions to project affected counties and mandated environmental assessments uncertain," said Bar President P. Alphonsus Zeon, in a letter addressed to the Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus Chairman, Representative Alex Chersia Grant on August 31, 2020.

Under the Agreement, Putu obligates to pay US\$3,000,000 (three million United States dollars) to the people of Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Sinoe counties each year as social development contributions. The company now owes US\$21M since 2014 and nearly a quarter of a million in education and scientific research funding stipulated in the agreement to



extent that a Profound Change in Circumstances has occurred, the parties shall enter into good faith discussions to consider such modifications to this agreement as they may in good faith agree are necessary. The parties shall effect such modifications to this agreement that the parties agree are necessary."

After seven years since Putu ceased operations, it is important to determine (1) whether the Agreement is still practically and legally effective; (a) that the company still holds a valid Class "A" Mining license and exploration rights over the designated production area in Grand Gedeh County and is (2) prepared to resume operations.

"Seven years is a substantial period

be paid annually (Section 8.2 a, b &c: Community funding Obligation).

Putu Iron Ore also contracted to build a two-lane paved all-weather road between Greenville and Zwedru, (6.6 Concerning Road Renovation) a railroad for both private and commercial operations and a general port with a capacity of 1 million metric tons of traffic per year (6.7 a, f Concerning Railroad and Port Construction and Operations).

The Agreement obligates the Company to construct a hospital facility, providing a wide range of curative and preventive services supported by a small laboratory (Section 10 Medical Care).

The Agreement additionally provides

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JUDICIAL BRANCH  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SITTING IN ITS JUNE TERM A.D. 2020

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: **J. KENEDY PEABODY**

ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF FRANKLINE M. BOWEH OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PRAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED, AS "FRANKLIN M. THOMAS"

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

FRANKLINE M. BOWEH filed a Petition through her legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of her name to "FRANKLIN M. THOMAS"

During the hearing, the Petitioner's testified that the change of her name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of her name proposed by her is therefore, it is adjudged as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on MAY 11, 1992 in MONTERRADO COUNTY unto MR. FRANKLIN K. THOMAS AND MISS. JOANNA W. DINGWALL and that the Change of name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being Satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore **DECREEED** as follows:That the **PETITION** having been heard be and same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name FRANKLINE M. BOWEH be changed to "FRANKLIN M. THOMAS" Beginning this 28<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST A.D. 2020.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY OF AUGUST A.D. 2020

COURT SEAL:

  
J. KENEDY PEABODY  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Weah nominates Amb. Kemayah as Minister of Foreign Affairs

President George Manneh Weah has nominated Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia.

The nomination made on Thursday, 3 September is subject to confirmation by the

Development Studies (MADS); with credit, Diploma in Microfinance and Community Economic Development; with First Class Honor (Suma Cum Laude); and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in Microfinance and Community Economic Development; with Second

1989).

Ambassador Kemayah has many years of High-Level work experience; spanning multiple institutions in the Non-Governmental Organization/Civil Society, Private and Public Sectors; with a focus on Public Policy Administration, Diplomacy, Governance, Development, and Humanity. His Leadership has led to improved competencies in policy formulation and strategic planning and implementation across diverse institutions; including the Public, Private, Non-Governmental/Civil Society arena; and the Church.

The Foreign Minister - designate previously served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Administration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he was directly responsible to ensure, and did ensure effective and efficient functioning of the Home Office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Foreign Service of the Republic of Liberia, among others.

Once confirmed, appointed and commissioned, Amb. Kemayah will replace Gbehzohngar M. Findley, who resigned recently.--**Press release**



Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr

Liberian Senate.

Amb. Kemayah currently serves as Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and all its organs.

Ambassador Kemayah holds a Master of Arts Degree in

Class Honor - Upper Division (Magna Cum Laude), all of from the Catholic Owned and Run Uganda Martyrs University in Nkozi, Uganda, East Africa.

He also holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Mathematics from the University of Liberia (Class of

## Maryland students laud govt. for USAID cash package

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Just days after they drop their pens and papers after writing the 2019-2020 West African Senior School Certificate Examination or WASSCE, several students in Pleebo, Maryland County electoral district #2 have commended the Government of Liberia for special packages received from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Speaking to this paper on Wednesday, 02 September a cross section of students in a joyous mood at the government-run secondary high school in Pleebo, said they feel proud to have benefited such huge package from USAID.

Margaret G. Hoto, a senior student of the Pleebo High School said, the package received in the tune of Ten



thousand Liberian Dollars (\$10,000LRD) from USAID through the Ministry of Education was a blessing in her academic sojourn.

She noted that though the money was intended for their transportation and feeling, she also used it to solve some of her financial problems on

## Bad day for Thomas Fallah

By Bridgett Milton

A group believed to be supporters of Montserrado County District#5 Representative and senatorial candidate Thomas Fallah has been chased out of the Capitol.

Aggrieved legislative staffers demanding unpaid salaries and benefits ran supporters of the Coalition for Democratic Change candidate for the December 8, 2020 senatorial elections out of the premises of the Legislature Thursday on grounds that they want their demands addressed immediately.

deducted are restored.

He says anyone wanting to endorse Rep. Fallah is free to do so but not on the grounds of the Capitol.

Charles alleges that Fallah has committed mayhem on staffers, so anybody coming to endorse his candidacy at the Capitol should tell him that since the 2020/2021 draft national budget is currently before him as Chairman on Ways, Means and Finance, the senatorial candidate must ensure their arrears and benefits are paid.

Rep. Fallah, backed senior



The supporters had gone to the Capitol to endorse the senatorial bid of Rep. Fallah when they met resistance from the aggrieved staffers.

Rep. Thomas Fallah chairs the House Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance.

Speaking to reporters assigned at the Capitol, the spokesperson for the aggrieved legislative staffers Charles S. Brown insists that they will not allow any group to endorse Fallah's candidacy at the Capitol until their Liberian dollar salary component and gasoline allotment that were

officials of the ruling establishment, including the Minister of Finance Samuel Tweah, has been dishing out thousands of dollars to various communities in Montserrado County to boost his senatorial bid in the county.

"We saw people dressed in Thomas Fallah's T-shirts who do not work here and we have decided that nobody will endorse anybody here, not just Thomas Fallah but anyone until we get our money", Brown maintains. -**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

campus.

Margaret disclosed that prior to receiving the L\$10,000, she had financial challenges, including class night fees and class project fees with her institution, noting that the said amount has covered these obligations and relieved her worries as well as fed and transported her during the exams.

She recalled at the start of

the academic year things were so difficult for her and was at the verge of dropping out of school before the Corona virus pandemic break.

Student Margaret stressed that though it is good for a girl child to be educated but education without support from parents or relatives is difficult especially, for a girl to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## House committee calls for salary review -amid protests at Capitol

By Bridgett Milton

The House Committee on Ways, Means and Finance, and co-opt resourced members probing staffers' salary harmonization claims has recommended to plenary that each Representative of the House should meet with his or her staff and establish the actual

net effect on staffers.

The committee also recommended that payroll of the Legislature be vetted, harmonized and standardized across both the House and the Liberian Senate, including central administration.

It additionally suggests that upon passage of the budget, each employee of the

with a six percent (6%) cut across government except for non-clerical health workers, teachers, security personnel, and individuals earning below US\$500 per month after benefits harmonization.

The committee set up by plenary to investigate staffers salary headed by Nimba County district #1 Representative Jeremiah Koon said, based on documents and testimonies from the comptroller department, the standardization Act of 2019 calls for standardization and harmonization of remuneration across the three branches of government as a way of addressing vertical and horizontal disparities within the public service.

It said staffers of the House of Representatives earning remuneration below US\$500.00 per month did not experience 6% cut, however, they are experiencing reduction in take-home-pay as a result of the exchange rate fluctuation and upward tax band adjustment due to collapsing of all benefits, including allowances and basic civil service Liberian dollar salary, and on account of fuel benefit, which not all staffers are entitled.

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, also ruling Coalition for Democratic Change lawmaker from Maryland County faced his

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



take home pay per month as a way of validating report from the comptroller section.

Plenary mandated the committee on Tuesday to conduct an investigation of the House of Representatives payroll and benefits before the Government of Liberia harmonization exercise and its

Legislature should be issued a pay slip, indicating gross monthly salary, tax, and other deductions besides benefits.

According to the committee, the budget laws of FY 2019/2020 acknowledges salary harmonization and benefit cut across all branches of government at different levels

## Rep. Cole claims glory for VP Taylor's project?

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Reports reaching this paper suggest that Bong County Representative Marvin Cole may be taking undue glory for a library project in the county which is reported to actually belong to Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor.

In recent time Representative Cole made several public comments, claiming that he owns the library project, and not Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor.

But an investigation conducted by our correspondent, it is unearthed that in 2019, Vice President Taylor made a special appeal to the Bong County Legislative Caucus and the local county administration seeking financial support for the construction of a public library in Bong County, which will be replicated in other counties.

After a series of consultations, our investigation gathers that an amount of US\$75,000 was later allotted for the project during the county council sitting.

But Representative Cole has been demanding the county administration to give him the money for the library on grounds that the vice president has allegedly mandated him to proceed with the project.

But a communication from the Office of the Vice President to the Project Management Committee (PMC) Chair of Bong County Stephen Mulbah dated 18 August 2020 clearly indicates that the vice president has at no time authorized Rep. Cole to proceed with the library project in Bong.

Copies of the communication which were also sent to Superintendent Esther Walker and the Bong Legislative Caucus asked the PMC to put hold on all processes leading to the library project until Vice President Taylor returns to the country.

VP Howard-Taylor is currently seeking medication in Ghana after being tested

positive for coronavirus.

Our correspondent further gathers that after several failed attempts by Rep. Cole to arm-twist the county administration to release the US\$75,000 to him, the lawmaker has complained Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker to the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill to compel her and the PMC to release the money to Rep. Cole.

Our source furthers that after some conversations with Superintendent Walker, Minister McGill allegedly instructed that the funds allocated for the vice president's library project in Bong be given to Rep. Cole with immediate effect.

But reports reaching this paper indicate that Bong County Project Management Committee Chairman Stephen Mulbah has refused to sign the cheque to release the money to Rep. Cole because such an act is a violation of the Budget Law.

Mr. Mulbah has not spoken to the media on the issue but Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker has told newsmen that she doesn't have the energy to speak to the issue.

Several Bong County citizens have also termed Representative Cole's action as dubious and they are calling on the county administration and the legislative caucus not to release the money to him.

The citizens say since the allocation was made to help the vice president in constructing a public library for the county, the county administration should ensure all the rightful procedures are followed and that the amount be disbursed to a creditable contractor to do the project.

They urge Minister Nathaniel McGill to respect the laws governing the usage of the County Development Funds and should desist from acts that would undermine transparency and accountability.--Edited by

Winston W. Parley

## LRA kicks off tax payment receipts verification awareness

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has commenced an awareness campaign on usage of the "LRA Mobile App" for tax payment receipt verification in Montserrado County.

The awareness initiated by the Government and Not-For Profit Division in collaboration with Taxpayer Service Division also covers education about transport related business processes including vehicle registration and driver license eligibility, according to the Authority.

Speaking at the start of the campaign on Thursday September 3, 2020, LRA Assistant Commissioner for Government and Not-For Profit Division, Eddie Howe said the initiative is aimed at educating vehicle owners and operators

on how to use the LRA Mobile App to verify tax payment receipts including vehicle registration documents, driver

licenses and other tax kinds.

He encouraged taxpayers especially drivers and vehicle owners to always use the LRA Mobile App which is available in the Goggle-Play-Store to



verify tax payment receipts.

Assistant Commissioner Howe said the LRA Mobile App is the easiest way to identify fake tax payment receipts issued by unscrupulous individuals defrauding the government of Liberia of

needed revenues.

The LRA Mobile App launched in 2019 is used to verify tax payment receipts, obtain Tax Identification Number, and pay real property tax among others. -Press Release



# Français

## Sénatoriales 2020 : La Coalition au pouvoir lance un défi ouvert à la commission électorale

La Coalition au pouvoir demande à ses partisans de rester concentrés et pleinement engagés dans toutes les tâches et obligations qui leur sont déléguées conformément au « programme victorieux » du parti aux élections de décembre.

« Nous appelons tous nos partisans à poursuivre le travail sur le terrain à travers

le pays pour soutenir tous les candidats de la Coalition dûment certifiés à la suite des primaires de la Coalition », insiste Mulbah Morlu, président de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), qui défie ainsi la Commission électorale nationale qui avait jugé illégales les primaires de la coalition dans le comté du Maryland au cours desquelles M. James Biney avait été choisi

comme son candidat aux prochaines élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat.

M. Morlu maintient que seuls les membres de la Coalition sont éligibles pour le ticket de la Coalition lors des élections sénatoriales.

« Alors que la Commission électorale n'a pas spécifiquement désigné un individu comme ayant droit au siège, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique a fait exception à la décision au motif que ladite décision contredit l'accord-cadre qui lie les trois parties et les décisions antérieures de la Commission électorale. La Coalition a donc fait appel devant la Cour suprême », a-t-il fait savoir.

Dans sa décision du lundi 31 août, la NEC a déclaré : « Nous concluons que l'accord informe que si un parti constituant de la Coalition a un représentant ou un sénateur en exercice à l'Assemblée législative nationale et que le siège législatif est à élire, le droit de proposer un candidat pour briguer ladite élection sur le

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## La diaspora africaine en Chine : étudiants, commerçants, entrepreneurs, qui sont ces Africains qui vivent en Chine ?

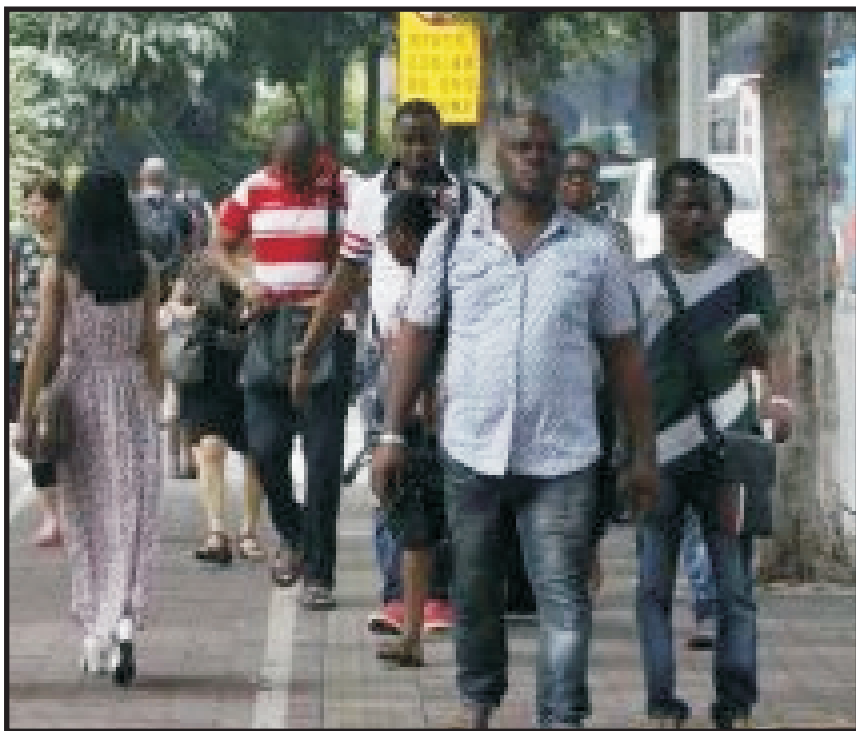
La population africaine en Chine est plus ou moins composée de trois catégories de personnes : un petit nombre de diplomates, un nombre d'étudiants et une grande majorité de commerçants et entrepreneurs. C'est autant dire qu'en dehors des commerçants, entrepreneurs et fonctionnaires internationaux africains, la présence des étudiants africains en Chine n'a cessé d'accroître. Les étudiants africains représentent aujourd'hui près de 14% du nombre total d'étudiants internationaux en Chine alors qu'ils étaient à peine 2% en 2003. En 2018, ils étaient plus de 80 000 étudiants africains dans l'Empire du Milieu, classant ainsi le pays d'Asie à la deuxième place des destinations privilégiées des étudiants d'Afrique, derrière la France.

La diaspora africaine qui est présente dans le monde entier est le fruit de trois grandes vagues de migration. Dans ces trois grandes vagues de migration, nous avons entre autres celle historique, qui est liée notamment au processus de décolonisation

dont l'Afrique a été victime, il y a aussi cette diaspora actuelle qui est motivée surtout par la situation socio-économique et politique des pays africains. Ainsi, nous avons la fameuse citation selon laquelle : « Quand il y avait autrefois des dispersions, il y a maintenant la diaspora ». Partant de cette illustre citation, il est évident que la notion de diaspora souligne la spécificité de certains phénomènes migratoires, contribuant ainsi à

donner un sens à certains mouvements transnationaux. La question de savoir qu'est-ce qu'une diaspora peut tarauder dans les esprits. En effet, étymologiquement, le mot diaspora, qui signifie dispersion, provient du grec spora (graine) et speira (spree). À l'origine, il était utilisé dans la tradition antique pour désigner la « dispersion des établissements helléniques autour de la mer Méditerranée ». Plus tard, dans la tradition biblique, il a été utilisé pour discuter de la dispersion du peuple juif. Par ailleurs, L'Union africaine a

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Maintenant, nous connaissons la vraie féministe en chef

Les événements de la semaine dernière ont montré clairement qui est la véritable féministe en chef du Libéria.

Pendant trois jours consécutifs, des manifestants essentiellement composés de petites filles de cinq, six et sept ans, ont marché de Vamoma House au ministère des Affaires étrangères pour présenter une pétition au président Weah contre le viol récurrent dans le pays. Ils voulaient remettre la pétition au Président lui-même, mais M. Weah ne s'est pas manifesté.

Et donc, vu le refus catégorique du président Weah de les rencontrer à son bureau officiel au ministère des Affaires étrangères, les manifestants ont décidé le dernier jour de leur marche de se rendre à sa résidence dans la communauté Rehab à l'extérieur de Monrovia, mais la police anti-émeute armée jusqu'aux dents leur a barré la route tout en les brutalisant. Mais l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf est apparue pour les rencontrer et leur exprimer sa solidarité.

Pourtant, il y a quelques semaines, le président George Weah se faisait passer pour le féministe en chef du Libéria. Il est donc décevant qu'il ne puisse pas rencontrer les femmes au cœur saignant, les femmes qui se lamentent face à la vague d'abus ignobles de leurs bébés, filles et fils de la part des hommes sans loi ni foi, les femmes qui avaient à tort placé leur confiance à celui qui se faisait appeler le féministe en chef. Hélas ! Grand hélas !

Étant une femme, une mère et une grand-mère elle-même, Mme Sirleaf a entendu les gémissements des manifestants dans la rue et elle est sortie pour s'identifier à eux dans leur deuil à cause d'un acte qui détruit rapidement les futures épouses, mères et maris de la terre, tandis que le soi-disant féministe en chef ne s'est contenté d'envoyer émissaires sur émissaires, comme quoi le président ne pouvait pas faire le déplacement, ce, en dépit du caractère critique de cette question du viol dans le pays.

Les Libériens n'ont plus à chercher plus loin pour savoir qui est la véritable féministe en chef du pays. En tout cas, ça ne peut en aucun cas être M. Weah. Certes, le président Weah est très occupé ou du moins devrait l'être, mais sacrifier au moins 10 ou 15 minutes de son emploi du temps chargé pour recevoir la pétition des manifestants n'est pas quelque chose de trop ou trop difficile. Il aurait au contraire démontré qu'il est le père de la nation et le féministe en chef du pays et combien il a de la sympathie pour son peuple et s'engage à promouvoir la justice.

Encore hélas, grand hélas, les manifestants, naïfs, sont repartis les habits lacérés, le corps couvert de plaies, les yeux pleins de larmes du fait de la brutalité de la police qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour exécuter à la lettre l'ordre venu de haut, de si haut. Quel paradoxe ! Cela se passe-t-il dans un pays présidé un féministe en chef ? Ou s'agit-il d'un simple titre dénudé et dépouillé de tout son sens pour suborner les naïfs que nous sommes. Le président Weah se soucie-t-il vraiment des problèmes auxquels les femmes du Libéria sont confrontées ?

Il n'y a plus de doute. Nous connaissons maintenant qui de l'ex-présidente Sirleaf et de l'actuel président George Weah est féministe en chef, d'autant plus qu'il est question d'actions qui correspondent à ce titre, car les actions sont plus éloquentes que les mots.

La semaine dernière, jeudi soir, Mme Sirleaf était à la BBC, reconnaissant le viol comme un fléau endémique qui ronge le tissu social, et insistant sur la nécessité de résoudre le problème. C'est ça la marque d'un vrai leader.

L'administration actuelle politise tout et se méfie de tout le monde, même des femmes et des filles en deuil qui protestent pour leur propre vie dans la rue. Qui devrait leur assurer la sécurité, sinon le gouvernement qu'elles ont élu ? Le Président Weah doit savoir qu'il a le devoir d'assurer à tout moment la paix, la sécurité et le bonheur du peuple.

En refusant de rencontrer les femmes et les filles qui ne demandaient rien d'autre que de recevoir leur pétition sur une situation qui dépeint le Libéria de manière négative sous sa direction, M. Weah a raté une excellente occasion de faire preuve de leadership politique. Nous nous demandons si le Président comprend les conséquences de sa réticence ou de sa pure inaction face à un crime cruel tel que le viol et la maltraitance des femmes et des filles.



# Français

## Sénatoriales 2020 : La Coalition

ticket de la Coalition appartient uniquement à ce parti».

La décision de la NEC faisait suite à une plainte déposée par le sénateur du comté de Maryland, Dan Morias, du Parti patriotique national, contre la primaire de la CDC, arguant qu'en tant que sénateur sortant du NPP, il avait droit au siège conformément au cadre qui lie les partis membres du Coalition.

Le Parti national patriotique est membre de la Coalition au pouvoir.

Selon le Conseil des commissaires, le sénateur Morais ayant été élu en 2011 sur le ticket du NPP pour représenter le comté de Maryland et étant donné qu'il est membre du NPP, que la Coalition accorde au NPP le droit de nommer un candidat pour les élections du 8 décembre

Morais a fait valoir dans sa plainte que l'accord-cadre que les trois partis politiques ont soumis à la NEC contient une clause relative au choix des candidats.

Mais la CDC estime que le sénateur Morais s'est distancé de la Coalition et ne lui a apporté aucun soutien, ainsi donc, il ne mérite pas d'être son candidat.

Par ailleurs, la CDC a annoncé la création d'un fonds fiduciaire pour répondre aux besoins des victimes de viol.

Le président Morlu, lors d'une conférence de presse au siège de la CDC mercredi, a

révélé que des comptes avaient été ouverts auprès d'Afriland Bank Liberia Limited dans le seul but d'apporter un soutien financier aux victimes de viol.

Il s'est félicité de la formation d'un groupe de travail interministériel sur la violence sexuelle basée sur le genre (SGBV), qui a été constitué par le président George M. Weah.

S'exprimant récemment, le président Weah a invité les trois pouvoirs de l'Etat - l'exécutif, le législatif, le judiciaire - et la société civile à conjuguer leurs efforts afin de mettre fin aux viols dans le pays.

Le président a lancé cet appel lundi 31 août, après avoir reçu un dossier contenant la feuille de route du groupe de travail interministériel sur la violence sexuelle et sexiste au complexe ministériel de Congo Town.

Le groupe de travail a été chargé de mettre en place une équipe technique comprenant les parties prenantes concernées qui discuteront, consulteront et fourniront régulièrement des recommandations concrètes et applicables sur le renforcement de la lutte contre la violence sexuelle et sexiste.

« Le Comité exécutif national de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, s'est réuni récemment à son siège national à Congo Town, a agi pour créer un fonds fiduciaire pour éradiquer le viol et renforcer le soutien aux victimes de violences sexuelles », a dit le patron du parti au pouvoir.

## La diaspora africaine en Chine :

défini la diaspora comme « des personnes d'origine africaine vivant en dehors du continent, quel que soit leur citoyenneté et leur nationalité et qui souhaitent contribuer au développement du continent et à la construction de l'Union africaine ». L'Union africaine considère la diaspora africaine comme sa sixième région.

Par ailleurs, après l'ouverture de la Chine vers le monde extérieur rentrant dans le cadre des réformes initiées par l'énigmatique Deng Xiaoping en 1978, les vagues successives de migrants se sont déferlées sur la Chine. C'était majoritairement des Européens, de Nord-Américains, d'Océaniens et certaines nationalités des pays voisins, entre autres la Corée du Sud et le Japon. En effet, compte tenu des opportunités commerciales et d'affaires qui s'offraient après cette fameuse ouverture de la Chine,

cet afflux migratoire était compréhensible. Ces hommes et femmes d'affaires en provenance des pays précédemment cités étaient plutôt en quête de ces opportunités commerciales que des candidats naturels à l'immigration économique au vrai sens du terme. Cependant, de nos jours, la donne migratoire a radicalement changé à cause notamment de la mondialisation croissante et le boom économique de l'empire du milieu. C'est ainsi l'immigration africaine croissante s'est ajouté aux flux migratoires habituels. Finalement, s'y est ajouté ce flux étudiant au bénéfice de l'octroi des bourses aux étudiants étrangers par le gouvernement chinois et aussi l'importance et l'internationalisation du mandarin qui est devenu un élément.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jan-werner Mueller

## Les partis politiques doivent survivre

BERLIN - La récente convention d'investiture du parti républicain, aux États-Unis, fut un scandale à plus d'un titre - du dévoiement de la Maison Blanche en support de propagande de la campagne (en violation de la loi Hatch de 1939 et des usages établis) et des mensonges éhontés proférés par les orateurs au défilé des membres de la famille Trump. Dans ce spectacle tape-à-l'œil d'un Grand Old Party transformé en succursale de la Trump Organization, une chose s'est avérée particulièrement choquante : le parti n'avait aucun programme. Le seul objectif des républicains était apparemment de « soutenir avec enthousiasme la vision du président pour l'Amérique d'abord ».

On peut considérer, d'une certaine façon, qu'éviter de communiquer un programme politique est une stratégie intelligente en vue d'isoler le parti de l'individu Donald Trump. S'il advenait que le président sortant perde les élections de novembre, la faute en incomberait alors à son impopularité, et la direction du GOP pourrait d'autant mieux s'en laver les mains ; les principes intangibles du parti demeurerait saufs.

Mais il est plus vraisemblable que le mélange toxique de polarisation et de division partisane qui caractérise aujourd'hui l'Amérique ait atteint là un nouveau sommet. Après avoir été complètement vidé de sa substance, l'un des principaux partis politiques du pays au moins est désormais incapable de remplir son rôle démocratique élémentaire.

Ce rôle requiert que les partis ne se contentent pas d'offrir un choix à l'électorat, mais décident aussi de la façon dont seront menés les combats politiques. En séduisant certains groupes plutôt que d'autres, les partis dessinent les limites de leur action ; en privilégiant sur d'autres certaines lignes de clivage, ils composent des coalitions qui arboreraient un visage très différent si l'accent avait été placé sur d'autres sujets également importants.

La raison d'être de la démocratie n'est pas de forger un consensus en toute matière, mais plutôt de gérer les intérêts et les volontés en conflit. La démocratie peut en revanche se déliter lorsque des partis ou des responsables politiques diabolisent ouvertement les autres prétendants au pouvoir ou leur nient toute légitimité. De telles manœuvres ont longtemps constitué la spécialité des populistes de droite, qui se sont livrés à des guerres culturelles en vue de réduire les conflits politiques à des questions d'appartenance. Partant, plutôt que de discuter les arguments de ses opposants, Trump vilipende leurs critiques au prétexte qu'elles sont « inaméricaines ».

Comme l'ont montré les professeurs et chercheurs en sciences politiques Jacob S. Hacker et Paul Pierson, la propension du GOP à mener des guerres culturelles doit beaucoup au fait que son programme de politique économique est profondément impopulaire. Ayant diminué les impôts des plus riches et totalement échoué face au Covid-19, Trump et son parti doivent distraire l'attention de leurs électeurs potentiels des questions matérielles.

Ce « populisme ploutocrate », démontrent Hacker et Pierson, résulte d'une inaptitude absolue à produire des idées politiques nouvelles. Les républicains n'ont fait que s'obstiner à réduire les impôts et à déréguler inconsidérément, s'avérant dans le même temps incapables d'offrir une option

de rechange cohérente à la loi de 2010 sur les soins abordables (l'« Obamacare »), qu'ils sont toujours censés remplacer d'un jour à l'autre par « un truc formidable ».

De même que le GOP confie son identité à des sous-traitants des guerres culturelles, actifs sur les sites Web et les chaînes câblées d'extrême-droite, il confie son travail intellectuel à des groupes de réflexion plus désireux de satisfaire leurs donateurs que de formuler des propositions politiques efficaces capables de rallier les suffrages.

Ces problèmes ne concernent évidemment pas que les Américains. Dans tout l'Occident, les partis traditionnels sont mis au défi par des parvenus qui ne s'embarrassent pas de débats internes, sans parler de souscrire à des procédures de décisions démocratiques. Aux Pays-Bas, le parti du populiste d'extrême-droite Geert Wilders n'a que deux adhérents officiels : Wilders lui-même et une fondation dont il est l'unique membre. Et il en va de même au Royaume-Uni, où le parti du Brexit revendique plus de 11 000 « soutiens payants », mais n'est en réalité qu'une société à responsabilité limitée, avec quatre administrateurs, un seul étant déclaré comme « personne dont l'autorité compte » : Nigel Farage, Brexiter omniprésent et entrepreneur en série de la polarisation politique.

Certes, les partis ne sont pas des cercles de débats contradictoires ; ils sont néanmoins censés produire des idées nouvelles et des projets politiques, tâche dont il demeure peu probable que l'assument le spectacle d'un humoriste ou une quelconque entreprise familiale. Si les partis doivent représenter certains principes, que partagent leurs membres, les établir n'est jamais sans litiges, et leur respect ne survient pas automatiquement.

Lyndon B. Johnson, alors président des États-Unis, fit un jour remarquer que « ce que veut l'homme de la rue, ce n'est pas un grand débat sur les questions fondamentales ; il veut quelques soins médicaux, un tapis par terre, une photo au mur. » Mais comme devait l'apprendre à ses dépens le parti démocrate de Johnson, « quelques soins médicaux » peuvent devenir l'enjeu d'un conflit de principe.

Le sort de ces combats ne se décide pas seulement entre adversaires de partis différents ; les débats internes, ouverts, pluralistes, sont également nécessaires. Lorsque les différends sont réglés de cette façon, il est plus probable que les perdants acceptent leur défaite et demeurent fidèles au parti. En revanche, les acclamations des masses, comme celles que le GOP met en scène pour Trump, conduisent souvent vers la sortie certains membres du parti.

Le signe distinctif d'un parti en bonne santé est sa capacité à ramener dans ses rangs des gens dont l'engagement militant résiste au temps. Et ce sont paradoxalement les partis qui permettent à leurs membres de manifester leurs critiques sans être assimilés à des traîtres qui suscitent finalement les plus profondes fidélités.

Il ne s'agit pas ici d'idéaliser la démocratie participative au sein des partis. Il existe pourtant une raison pour laquelle les constitutions de l'Allemagne, de l'Espagne et du Portugal, par exemple, prescrivent le pluralisme dans les partis. En habituant les gens au débat démocratique et en les contraignant à considérer la validité du point de vue adverse, ce modèle incarne ce qui a précisément été perdu en une période d'intense polarisation politique.



# Open Letter to

## Mrs. Davidetta Browne Lansannah

### Chairperson, National Elections Commission (NEC) 9th Street, Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Mrs. Lansannah:

Permit me to congratulate you for your new job. I hope by the grace of God you are fine and doing well. I am also fine.

As a journalist and former workmate at the Liberia Broadcasting System, I was among well-wishers who celebrated you upon your appointment as Chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC) early this year. I am glad that a female media executive has been named to head the country's electoral body. I think that your preferment is also an honor for the journalism community. The job is no doubt tedious and tension pack. The need for all stakeholders' hands to be on the table in this process cannot be overlooked.

Following the Senate's approval, a month later, while looking through some local dailies, I came across an astonishing Editorial of the Monday, August 17, 2020 edition of Daily Observer Newspaper, caption: Gloomier by the day? Chairperson Lansannah is playing with Fire and She Must Beware! After reading the editorial, my initial reaction was wow, how come this professional colleague of mine has not lasted long in office, but she's being opposed by her staffers instead of being supported to succeed?

According to the Editorial, the standup between you and your staffers centered around the means of complying with the Supreme Court order to the NEC to clean up the 2017 Voter Roll the court had declared compromised. The Editorial said the NEC staffers' suggestion to conduct 'Stationary Voters Roll Update' (VR) has been overruled by you Madam Chair, and you are insisting that the VR Update be conducted by 'Mobile teams around the country'.

The paper said the experience gathered from the 2014 senatorial elections during which time the experiment with Mobile VR Update proved shockingly bad though it was conducted during the dry season when the country's roads were in better condition.

It said now with the rainy season at its peak, the NEC Chairperson's insistence on a Mobile VR process which she very well knows will be another fruitfulness exercise given the bad road conditions at this time of the year, is unwelcoming.

Stationary VR Update is a process where the VR team is set up at a particular location for the entire VR Update exercise, while VR Update by Mobile team is rotational i.e. for the team to work in one community or district for a specific period like for example a week or two and move to another community or district throughout the VR process.

The paper pointed out that with the failure of Mobile VR Update experiment in mind, it appears that the Chairperson is either being double-dealing and deceptive or she does not know or fully understand just what she is doing or is supposed to be doing.

If the paper's position on what appears to be serious disagreement between you and your support staff is something to go by, then it reminds me of what the Executive Director of the NAMO Partners for Democratic Development, Mr. Eddie Jarwolo told a local radio talk show host that cheating in electioneering process does not happen in one day.

According to him, it can start small and continues up to the election day. Perhaps the alleged slashing of the pending December 8, 2020 senatorial budget from US\$26 million to US\$13.5 million dollars which has been described by the commission as unrealistic, could be a well calculated attempt to deliberately delay the midterm elections under the pretense of the usual no money slogan.

I think that instead of hauling and pulling Madam Chair, as insinuated by the editorial, you should be seeking support and advice from experts on election aimed at resolving your staffers' opposition to the use of VR Update by Mobile teams. The way things are going, I believe that there is an urgent need to fast track the process leading to the success of the December poll. You have to be mindful because you have a long list of electoral arrears that are time-bound exercises that need to be held at a prescribed date in order to meet deadline.

I do hope that the commission's remaining re-scheduled electoral activities such as Voter Roll Update (VRU) will be completed on time in order to ensure smooth landing come December 8, 2020, since you have assured that all timelines are still intact, according to the Thursday, August 20, 2020 edition of the Inquirer Newspaper.

As you may be aware, a strong advocate for the impartiality of electoral authorities, has emphasized that regular and genuine elections through which the people have a real opportunity to choose their representatives freely, are now considered to be the cornerstone of democracy.

He further revealed that "an electoral roll of acceptable completeness and advocacy lies at the heart of the democratic process where the ability to vote depends on whether a voter's name is on the roll." (Free and Fair Elections, International Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, P. 47.)

Besides, Madam Chair, 17 years after the signing of the historic Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), on August 18, 2003, which marked the ending of 14 years of Liberian civil war, one of the drafter of the instrument, River Gee County Senator Commany B. Wesseh is cautioning Liberian to maintain the peace that we enjoyed today.

He reminded us that on that fateful day, Liberian leaders made a solemn and strong pledge to end the brutal civil war and also promised to never allow the country to go back to war with itself again and that Liberians would never allow the use of their territory for war against their neighbors.

In my candid opinion, Mrs. Lansannah, you as head of the country's election management body, have a crucial role to play in the maintenance of Liberia's fragile peace especially during these electoral seasons. One way you can do it, is to conscientiously adhere to the election laws without fear or favor.

You are already in the driver's seat Madam. Do your best in order to discourage the return of the ugly past. Another way I think that you can be successful in the process, is to ensure that election workers especially magistrates are trained and motivated to act impartially.

Thursday, August 20, 2020 edition of the Inquirer Newspaper reported that the Ruling Coalition

for Democratic Change (CDC) and the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) did not attend the NEC organized inter-party consultative committee (IPCC) political parties Code of Conduct (CoC) signing ceremony in Monrovia.

Part V of the CoC provides among things, that appointed officials who want to canvass or participate in an election must resign at least two years before elections; three years in the case of tenured officials. The CoC is also intended inter-alia, to hold accountable politicians that would come in conflict with the law especially when they are key players in the process.

Up to now, the NEC appears to be unwilling to determine the fate of the two parties in the wake of their refusal to comply with the NEC directive which implied their unwillingness to uphold democratic principles aimed at abiding by the Code of Conduct. This in my view Madam Chair, is unacceptable and unhealthy for the ensuing special senatorial and future regular elections in the country.

Remember Madam Chair that suspicion is dangerous. It can destroy friendship, relationship and a country; just by poisoning the minds of one group of people against another. Let's get it out of our national politics. For example, the brutal memories of the Presidential and Legislative elections of October 1985 in which Slain President Samuel Doe was accused of stealing the election, which according to political observers, served as one of the prime factors of the 1989 rebellion, which is still fresh in our minds.

I also want to draw your attention to the missteps of your predecessor, Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya, which led to some strange things happening at the commission under his watch during the 2017 elections that had the potential to have undermined the credibility of the entire exercise and create a political tension in the country at the disadvantage of the ordinary people.

Wednesday, July 5, 2017 edition of the Heritage Newspaper quoted the former Civic Educator of the NEC, Mr. Josiah F. Joeker, Jr. as saying that NEC ex-Chairman Korkoya's June 14, 2017 statement that citizens with valid voter cards would have voted on Election Day whether or not their names were on the roll, was inconsistent with the standard of maintaining a credible roll. He wondered how does one obtain a valid card when his or her information was not captured on the roll.

He said the profile of the voter is established by a credible voters roll, which confirms the validity of the voter card. He stated emphatically that without credible voters roll there will be no free and fair election.

Besides, this principle of maintaining a credible voters roll is also guaranteed by Article 77 (b) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia mandating the commission to ensure that eligible voters are registered. Commenting on the issue further, Commissioner Jonathan K. Weedor indicated among other things that a reliable and credible Final Registration Roll is a cardinal requirement for every free, fair and transparent election.

From all indications, you are gradually being challenged by some politicians in Montserrado County, who are engaged in pre-election campaign activities through petitioning ceremonies without the campaign being officially declared by your entity as required by law. The gavel is already in your hand. You just need to use it within the confine of the law to regulate violators before things become shockingly bad to the point where the Commission may likely find it difficult to control.

As you the experts are quite aware, one of the pre-election activities of the NEC is to monitor elections guidelines and Code of Conduct for Representatives of Political Parties, Accredited Coalitions, and Alliances, and Independent Candidates at all times without fear or favor. If not, politicians may likely take advantage of the Commission's indifference to sideline the law in order to accommodate their vested interest.

For instance, Nimba County District 5 Representative. Hon. Samuel Korgai was on the OK FM morning rush recently raising serious issue about the billboards installed in various parts of Monrovia with inscriptions alongside President Weah's photograph calling on voters to vote "YES" for all the prepositions contained in the pending December 8, 2020 referendum which has already been objected to by some lawyers and civil society actors.

He said President Weah's call for the reduction of term for elected officials i.e. President from 6 to 5 years, Senator from 9 to 7 years, Representative from 6 to 5 years as well as his "YES" vote for dual citizenship, is a cleaver attempt by the President to secure his third term bid.

I am just wondering as to whether the office of the President is now responsible for civic voter education instead of the NEC and civil society. If the expressions on the lips of politicians and civil society actors are something to go by, then it appears that they are looking up to you to prevail on the office of the president to have the billboards removed.

I think Madam Chair that there is a need for your entity that is responsible to organize and conduct free, fair and transparent elections in this country, to provide clarity on Hon Korgai's assertion and set the record straight.

When you begin to check mail these people at the initial stage, they will regard you as head of the NEC with the gavel of authority to compel compliance. In addition, your action will also reduce the necessity for challenge, limit the possibilities of outright rejection of election results on the basis of cheating, as well as make transfer of power from losers to winners much easier and honorable.

To be frank with you, colleague, if you don't do it now, and God forbid the situation happens to become a recipe for political bitterness, Liberians at home, away from home, and the generation yet unborn may not easily forgive you, and the 21st century Liberian political history may not likely favor you. I am therefore suggesting that your conscience and the God that you serve be your guide in the conduct of your daily activities at the commission. Liberian people along with the world at large is washing you! Stay blessed, stay safe, have a nice day.

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Department of Mass Communication  
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# S/Court slaps Orange in the face

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Supreme Court has ruled that the L i b e r i a Telecommunications Authority (LTA's) imposition of surcharges on data services and on - net-voice calls did not invade the Legislature's authority to levy tax, a slap in the face of GSM company Orange Liberia, which had continuously opposed the move.

Reading the Supreme Court's decision Thursday, 3 September, Associate Justice Yussif D. Kaba said it was not the intent of the Legislature to preclude the LTA from imposing surcharges on data services and on-net voice calls when it repealed and amended Sections 1165 (Mobile Telephone Usage) and 1022 (B) (2) of the Amended Revenue Code as Amended 2016.

On 25 February 2019, LTA caused the publication of its order captioned LTA Services and a Regulatory Fee on Telecommunication Goods and

examine Orange Liberia's concerns and decide what will best conduce to the purpose for which the Legislature enacted the Telecom Act of 2007.

In the Supreme Court's decision as read by Associate Justice Kaba, the court recounts requests for consultation made separately by service providers for LTA's intervention in addressing alleged anti- competitive practices in the mobile voice and data markets.

The Supreme Court notes that Orange Liberia noted in its inputs during the consultation that the "concept of unlimited, three day free calls" is at the core of its marketing strategy and if stopped, would destabilize the company and create significant risks on its leadership of the market, operations, revenues and taxes.

Besides, Orange had complained also that this would affect a vast number of its customers, and argued that it

s t a b i l i z e t h e telecommunications market, as the regulator, it could only act on those factors within its direct control, such as the service providers' cost price.

LTA further noted that it understands that the marketing gimmick of "unlimited calls" to be customers' unlimited minutes or megabytes at a defined cost within a specified period.

The regulatory agency therefore suggested that the service providers apply a cap to all such unlimited offers "under a price floor, and that the 'unlimited marketing offers' may continue as long as the appropriate caps are applied to ensure compliance with the price floors.

Having heard the case, the Supreme Court rules that the word "surcharge" as used in the LTA's order published on 25 February 2019 is construed within the context of an imposition of additional fees or charges on data services and on - net voice calls.

The court says this is under the authority of the Telecommunications Act of 2007, hence, the imposition of surcharges by the LTA did not invade the Legislature's authority to levy tax.

Further, it says that the trial judge who had earlier ruled in the case was not in error when he held that Orange Liberia did not allege sufficient legal grounds for the granting of its petition for judicial review.

It says further that the judge was not in error in ruling that LTA, acting under the Telecommunications Act of 2007 did not exceed its jurisdiction in the publication of its order.

"Wherefore and in view of the foregoing, the final judgment of the trial court is affirmed. The Clerk of this Court is ordered to send a mandate to the court below to resume jurisdiction over this case and give effect to this judgment. Costs are ruled against the appellant," the Supreme Court says.

When the case was called for hearing, Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu appeared for Orange Liberia and its CEO Mamadou Coulibaly, while Cllr. Jonathan T. Massaquoi and Osborn Diggs, LTA In-house Counsel, appeared for the LTA.



Mamadou Coulibaly - CEO Orange Liberia

Services, and set forth the price floor for on - net voice at US\$0.0156 per minutes and US\$0.0218 per megabyte for data services.

The order also provides that after it comes into force on 15 April 2019, and on the sixth month anniversary of the order, there shall be automatically imposed a surcharge on the on-net voice of US\$0.008 per minute, and on the data services a surcharge of US\$0.0065 for each megabyte.

But following the publication of this order in 2019, the Supreme Court says Orange Liberia continued to engage the LTA by numerous letters, outlining its objection to the order.

However the Supreme Court rules that the purposes of establishing the LTA are to address concerns such as the ones raised by Orange Liberia.

It says that it is the LTA that has the requisite capacity, skills and technologies to

would find it challenging to comply with a price floor.

Orange Liberia had further insisted that the reduction in the telecommunication market value by more than 33% between 2014 and 2017 was due to a combination of other facts, apart from a price war between service providers.

In response to the concerns raised by Orange Liberia, the Supreme Court notes that the LTA agreed that a combination of economic and other factors might have contributed to the telecommunications market's destabilization.

However, the Supreme Court says LTA noted that to rebalance the price structure and

# Maryland students

Cont'd from page 6

actually achieve her dreams or goals.

"Let me use this time to say thanks first to the Almighty God for my life and the life of my family, thanks to the government headed by his Excellence, President George Manneh Weah and USAID, for this huge package they have given me; this package has blessed me and it has solved those major problems" she expressed.

Another 12th grader in Pleebo, Mary S. Toe said, though she did not receive her package in full, but is grateful to God for being among the recipients.

Mary said the experience is first of its kind in her life to see

students writing the WASSCE to receive money for feeding and transportation in Liberia.

She noted that though she has received only L\$5,000 thru her Mobile Account, but she's so grateful because she wasn't expecting such amount at the beginning of the school year.

"I was surprised to have heard that students writing WASSCE will be giving the amount of 10,000 Liberia Dollars", she noted and thanked the government and USAID for the assistance provided, recommending that such gesture should continue for other students who will be writing the annual regional exams in 2021. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# House committee calls

Cont'd from page 7

bitter experience in legislative work here Tuesday when aggrieved staffers demanding unpaid salaries jeered and booed him at the Capitol in total disgrace.

Some of the aggrieved s t a f f e r s s h o u t e d uncontrollably, "Chambers la rogue! Chambers la rogue!" Montserrado County Representative Jimmy Smith tried intervening, but his effort was like adding gas to fire, as the protesting staffers banged on the doors of the chambers.

The grounds of the Capitol on Tuesday this week became tense after aggrieved staffers

o f t h e H o u s e o f Representatives stormed the entrance of the chambers of the House, demanding that their salaries and benefits allegedly cut without justifiable cause be returned immediately.

Staffers at the Legislature, including the House and the Senate have suffered cuts in salary and benefits after a salary harmonization scheme by the government.

In July, staffers of the Liberian Senate protested for cuts totaling US\$557,000 from their salaries and benefits since July, 2019. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# Grand Gedeh Bar

Cont'd from page 5

for the employment of Liberians, holding that within the first five years as of the Agreement coming into effect, the Company shall hire at least 30 percent of Liberians in all management positions, including 30 percent of its ten most senior positions (Section 11a, b, c, d Employment, Training and Education).

Atty. Zeon said aside just the failure of the company to pay agreed community funding and undertake the outlined projects as stipulated in the Agreement, the Bar is concerned about the potential of an environment impact on the lives of the people of the region and their livelihoods.

In Section "13.2 Environmental Reports and Audits", the Agreement mandates the company to submit an environmental audit and assessment of the production areas under such

license plus all areas outside of the production areas in which the Company conducts Operations. The Agreement provides that the audit and assessment are for the purpose of determining whether operations since the beginning of the relevant period the subject of the audit are being conducted in conformity with the applicable environmental law and the other requirements of this agreement and the company's approved EMP (Environmental Management Plan). Such audit and assessment will also include an assessment of the state of the Company's provision for the restoration or remediation of the production areas and such other areas in which the company conducts or has conducted Operations and its conformity with the requirements of the approved EMP.

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# Messi's father and agent hints at Barcelona stay



The six-time Ballon d'Or winner has expressed a desire to leave Camp Nou, but discussions have been held with the Blaugrana board.

Lionel Messi's father and agent, Jorge, has hinted at a compromise being reached at Barcelona which allows his son to remain at Camp Nou until the summer of 2021.

The Argentine forward's

representatives arrived in Catalunya on Wednesday for showdown talks with the Blaugrana board.

Jorge Messi told reporters upon touching down that he did not "know anything" when it comes to his son's future. He was, however, to discuss the matter with under-fire Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu amid mounting speculation suggesting that a

stunning separation could be on the cards.

Messi has spent his entire senior career to date on the books of the La Liga heavyweights. Countless records have been broken by the South American over the course of his remarkable career.

The 33-year-old is, however, approaching the end of his playing days and is aware of the need to make the most of the time he has left. With Barca starting to falter at home and abroad, he has opened the door to a possible exit.

Messi dropped a bombshell on Barca when stating his intention to push for a move elsewhere, having grown disillusioned with life on and off the field at Camp Nou.

It was initially suggested that he could walk away for nothing, with an exit clause inserted into his lucrative contract that could be triggered at the end of any given season.

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# PSG confirm another three positive COVID-19 tests

Paris Saint-Germain have confirmed three more players have tested positive for COVID-19, putting their return to Ligue 1 action next week in doubt.

It means six players have now returned positives across the last two rounds of screening, with the first three having been reported on Wednesday.

Thursday's news will likely see PSG's match at Lens,

scheduled for September 10, rearranged to a later date, having already been pushed back at the request of the beaten Champions League finalists.

A brief statement from the club said: "The latest tests for PCR SarsCoV2 carried out on the Paris Saint-Germain first team confirmed three new positive cases."

"The players are following the appropriate health measures."



Thomas Tuchel's men were crowned Ligue 1 champions on a points-per-game basis after the 2019-20 season was abandoned in April because of the coronavirus pandemic.

They went on to win both domestic cups in the space of a week but were denied an historic quadruple after losing 1-0 to Bayern Munich in the Champions League final on August 23.

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