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Continental News

ANC blasts 'divisive Trump over Mandela insult'

South Africa's governing African National Congress (ANC) has called US President Donald Trump "divisive, misogynistic and disrespectful" in response to reports that he was dismissive about Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president.

Mr Trump said the Nobel Peace Prize winner was "no leader", according to his former lawyer Michael Cohen.

The allegation comes from Cohen's new book, *Disloyal: A Memoir*.

The White House says Cohen is lying.

His book also says that Mr Trump behaves like a mobster and has "a low opinion of all black people". In a scathing response, the ANC, which Mandela led from 1991 to 1997, said that "all freedom-loving people of the world are appalled by these insults which come from a person who, himself, is not a model of competent leadership".

"Trump is [the most] divisive, misogynistic and disrespectful person ever to occupy the office of the president," it added.

In contrast, Mandela had stood as a unifying leader, who "reached out to the world and sought to bring peace and a just society", the ANC said. Mandela,

who was imprisoned for 27 years for his fight against apartheid, negotiated with the white-minority government to ensure a non-violent transition to democratic rule in 1994.

In 1993, he won the Nobel prize alongside former South African President FW de

Klerk, the man he negotiated with, for their efforts in securing a "peaceful termination of the apartheid regime".

Apartheid was a legalised system of discrimination against people who were not white, and had been introduced in South Africa in 1948. Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994 and stepped down in 1999.

He died in 2013 aged 95.

Earlier, the Nelson Mandela Foundation said it did not believe that "leaders who conduct themselves in the way Mr Trump does are in a position to offer authoritative commentary on the life and work of Madiba [Mandela]".

As well as criticising Mandela, the US president is

reported by Cohen to have said: "Tell me one country run by a black person that isn't a shithole. They are all complete [expletive] toilets."

The words echo similar allegations, from 2018, that Trump referred to African countries as "shithole" nations.

Back then, Mr Trump told reporters: "I am not a racist. I'm the least racist person you have ever interviewed."

Responding to Cohen's book, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany at the weekend described him as "a disgraced felon and disbarred lawyer, who lied to Congress".

"He has lost all credibility, and it's unsurprising to see his latest attempt to profit off of lies," she said. BBC



Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected president in 1994

Nigeria first lady defends wedding amid 'drowning' row

A viral cartoon which depicts Nigeria's First Lady Aisha Buhari showing her daughter's wedding pictures to Nigerians drowning in a river is "very unfair", her spokesman Aliyu Abdullahi has told the BBC.

Many Nigerians have been complaining bitterly in recent weeks about the high cost of food and fuel and a hike in

electricity tariffs, and were not impressed by the images and videos they saw of wedding celebrations - including the bride and groom being showered with money.

Some feel that Friday's wedding of Hanan - who studied photography in the UK and is the youngest child of the first lady and President Muhammadu Buhari - to Mohammed Turad

Sha'aban - the son of former legislator Sani Sha'aban - should, therefore, have been postponed.

Their sentiments were captured by Daily Trust newspaper cartoonist Bulama Mustapha, and his cartoon has been widely circulated on social media.

Mr Aliyu said Mrs Buhari was not insensitive to the plight of Nigerians but also had the right to celebrate her daughter's wedding without being made to feel guilty about it.

The cartoon was "very unfair", as the wedding was "very low-key, all thanks to madam [Mrs Buhari] who called a meeting a month ago telling her staff she wants a low-key wedding to gauge the mood of the nation and also the threat of Covid-19," Mr Aliyu said.

"The pictures of the couple she posted on social media was just to thank well-wishers after the celebrations, and not to rub it in the faces of Nigerians," Mr Aliyu added.

Here's a video clip of the wedding: BBC



Zambia's president mourns death of good-luck fish

Zambia's President Edgar Lungu has joined the nation in mourning the death of a fish that lived in a pond at the country's second-biggest university.

Students at Copperbelt University (CBU) lit candles and marched around campus to mourn the big fish.

The hashtag Mafishi, as the fish was affectionately known, is trending on Twitter in the southern African state.

For the past two decades CBU

planning on embalming it," Mr Kasonde told the BBC.

Some students used to pay homage to the fish before exams, believing it brought them good luck while others saw it as a stress-reliever, says BBC Zambia reporter Kennedy Gondwe. Second-year student Edwin Nambo described the fish as an "iconic symbol of the university".

"Just watching him swim would bring healing to the soul before exams and during hard



students have believed the fish would bring them good luck in exams.

Mafishi, meaning "Big Fish" in the local Bemba language, was thought to be at least 22 years old and had lived in the university's pond for more than 20 years, student leader Lawrence Kasonde said.

His death was still being investigated, added the president of the Copperbelt University Student's Union.

"It is yet to be buried, we are

times," he added.

President Lungu quoted Indian anti-colonial campaigner Mahatma Gandhi in his message of mourning, saying on Facebook that "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated".

"I'm glad you received a befitting send-off. We'll all miss you," he said. BBC

EDITORIAL

President Weah is leading from behind

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, President George Manneh Weah needs to adjust his leadership style and govern Liberia from the front rather than being a backbencher. President Weah's posture of leading Liberians from the rear is not just harming the country in so many ways, but raising a shadow over the country.

FOR NEARLY THREE years, Mr. Weah has not mustered courage enough to take charge of leadership, instead, allowing his officials to call the shots at the expense of a people-centered Presidency.

WE ARE TALKING about the 4.5 million Liberians in and out of the country including those from the opposition, not just partisans of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

THESE LAPSES BY the President have become very glaring so much so that outcries are pouring in about citizens not feeling the presence of the leader they elected at the ballot box in 2017 to govern the county.

PRESIDENT WEAH SEEMS to be confined or has allowed himself to be confined in a corner by so-called advisors and loyalists, who claim to know it all when their real motive is to have an opportunity to get at perceived enemies.

AS NIMBA COUNTY District#5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar observed here on Sunday, President George Manneh Weah has distanced himself from the masses, who popularly elected him.

HE CAUTIONED MR. WEAH not to destroy his popularity by avoiding people under the pretext of "security intelligence", which he described as fake.

REP. KOGAR SPECIFICALLY accused Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, of erecting blockage around President Weah to deny key officials from interacting with the President on major national issues.

THIS IS A VERY serious allegation coming from a member of the House of Representatives, who commands a voting constituent from a vote-rich county. He is not the only one decrying such posture of the President and those surrounding the Presidency. Several other officials have similarly complained of being denied access to President Weah. Even if Mr. Weah is pressurized to come out and speak, he throws nothing but jives at perceived critics and enemies, shamelessly justifying and defending inadequacies of his leadership. It is quite disappointing and embarrassing for a President so elected by popular votes to feel insecure, afraid, and consider his subjects as enemies just half way into his term.

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COMMENTARY

By Xavier Vives

A Stable Euro Requires an Ambitious Industrial Policy

After years of falling behind in cutting-edge technologies, Europe now has a chance to transform its economy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The case for an EU-level industrial policy is stronger than ever, and the survival of the eurozone itself may depend on it.

BARCELONA - The idea of a European industrial policy has been back on the agenda at least since the release of a Franco-German manifesto on the issue in early 2019. But whereas that document focused primarily on global competitiveness, an equally strong argument for reviving industrial policy is that it is necessary for the survival of the euro.

Since the introduction of the single currency, the industrial share of the economy in terms of value added has remained stable in Germany while declining markedly in France, Spain, and Italy. Germany's massive economic-policy response to the COVID-19 shock is bound to reinforce this tendency.

Industry, broadly construed to include digital services, is the key to increasing productivity, implying that the European Union's southern members will need to embark upon an industrial revival. Otherwise, their relative lack of competitiveness will deepen imbalances within the eurozone, and raise the prospect of permanent north-to-south transfers, threatening the bloc's political sustainability.

The bad news is that while France can perhaps afford to spend billions of euros supporting its auto industry, Italy and Spain cannot. The good news is that the recently adopted Next Generation EU recovery package offers an opportunity both to revive southern European industry and position it for a digital, sustainable future.

According to the European Council's agreement this past July, "Member States shall prepare national recovery and resilience plans setting out the reform and investment agenda of the Member State concerned for the years 2021-23." But EU leaders should now go further, by establishing clear goals for making European industry not just globally competitive but also more geographically balanced. The focus should be on the same key sectors identified in the Franco-German manifesto: health, energy, climate, security, and digital technology, with specific initiatives in microelectronics, batteries, and artificial intelligence (AI).

While the United States and China each race ahead in pursuit of global dominance in AI and other cutting-edge technologies, Europe is increasingly lagging behind in the digital economy. Even in successful Germany, total stock-market capitalization is less than that of a single US tech giant like Amazon, Apple, or Microsoft.

Contrary to what some commentators have argued, Europe's lack of technological competitiveness is not the result of EU competition policy, which has blocked such mergers as the one between Alstom and Siemens. Rather, Europe's problem is that it has a deeply fragmented digital market, which makes it impossible for firms to profit from the dynamic economies of scale that digital

platforms and Big Data would otherwise offer. This obstacle leaves few incentives to invest in the research and development that drives innovation.

Making matters worse, Europe also has deeply fragmented public procurement policies, owing largely to the fact that it lacks a joint defense policy. It is this fragmentation, not competition within the single market, that explains the absence of European "champions."

In the past, European industrial policy decayed after the strategy of picking winners failed in the 1980s and 1990s. Policymakers shifted their focus to fostering innovation, training the workforce, and providing an attractive business environment. Then, the 2008 global financial crisis renewed interest in industrial policy, and now the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored its potential advantages as a means of driving competition, advancing sustainability objectives, securing supply chains, and increasing economic resilience.

The pandemic has made technological sovereignty and value-chain stability leading priorities, not just in Europe but everywhere. Both imperatives feature prominently in US Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden's economic-policy platform, and there is every reason to believe that the operations of foreign state-controlled firms - particularly Chinese companies - will be closely monitored both in the US and in Europe in the years ahead.

Moreover, industrial policy has a crucial role to play in moving resources from declining and obsolete sectors to emerging, viable ones. Without a strategic approach, state aid to the private sector will merely create more zombie firms that should have failed. This danger is particularly acute in the current circumstances, given the scale of emergency spending by governments. In pursuing a post-pandemic recovery, the goal of Next Generation EU and other programs should be not just to restore growth but also to transform the economy.

To that end, industrial policies should be used to help coordinate investments. Key industries like electric vehicles depend not just on the automotive sector but also on domains ranging from AI and 5G to battery manufacturing and infrastructure (charging stations). Achieving global competitiveness in this industry thus requires wide-ranging complementary investments, not to mention a properly trained and educated workforce. In Europe's case, a traditional laissez-faire approach will have little to recommend it. Public-private cooperation will be necessary.

The success of the EU recovery fund depends on coordination at the European level, following a process of careful selection and monitoring of public spending. To prevent pork barrel politics from limiting the transformational potential of the recovery, candidate projects should be evaluated and shaped by independent national agencies staffed by recognized professionals.

O-PED

By Kemal Dervis &
Sebastián Strauss

Multilateralism for the Masses

All over the world, nationalist populists have successfully stoked anti-globalist sentiment among the people who would benefit the most from international cooperation. Countering this trend will require internationalists to clarify what global solidarity really means, beginning at the upcoming UN General Assembly.

WASHINGTON, DC - As the United Nations General Assembly gathers in New York City for its 75th session - which will open with a high-level meeting focused on "reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism" - the United States is engulfed in perhaps the most contentious presidential election in recent memory. The outcome will have far-reaching implications for the future of international cooperation and globalization.

All over the world, nationalist populists are stoking "anti-globalist" sentiment. Rather than address the sources of alienation, and mistrust - including income inequality, economic insecurity, and insufficient cooperation against global threats such as the current pandemic - populists manufacture bogeymen.

In the populists' portrayal, "globalists" are a shadowy cosmopolitan elite that seek to destroy national sovereignty in the name of a self-serving agenda. Anti-globalist rhetoric - which refers, for example, to "rootless elites" - often includes a hefty dose of anti-Semitic dog-whistling, particularly in Eastern Europe.

In the US, this anti-globalist rhetoric was recently on stark display at the Republican National Convention, where speakers implored voters not to let the Democrats - supposedly under the control of the dreaded globalist cabal - dictate what voters think or say. At last year's UN General Assembly, President Donald Trump declared that, "the future does not belong to globalists," but to "patriots."

Such statements have proved potent, convincing a growing share of voters that multilateral cooperation serves the interests of the elites and comes at the expense of "the people." Yet it is nationalist populists who often pursue policies that benefit the wealthiest groups; Trump's tax reforms are a case in point. By contrast, the global public goods that only multilateralism can deliver - from pandemic control to a healthy planet - disproportionately benefit the least privileged.

How, then, do populists so often succeed in equating international cooperation with cosmopolitan elitism? First, they muddy the conversation by referring to globalization and multilateralism interchangeably, even though the two terms describe distinct processes.

Globalization refers to the increasing flow of goods, services, capital, labor, data, and ideas across national borders. Many, including Harvard economist Dani Rodrik, have long argued convincingly that globalization has gone too far in many domains.

But this is very different from multilateralism, which refers to cooperation or coordination among nation-states. While multilateralism can lead to more globalization, it doesn't have to. The first step toward countering the populist narrative is clarifying this distinction.

As Rodrik notes, however, multilateralism can also be overused, such as when global governance solutions are applied to areas where individual nation-states' actions do not have significant spillover effects. For example, if a country uses moderate tariffs or subsidies to protect or encourage the development of certain industries, the effect on competitors in other countries is likely to be small.

If the international community steps in anyway - say, by imposing rules that constrain domestic policy - it risks fueling nationalist sentiment, especially among vulnerable groups who could be facing concentrated losses as a result of the lack of domestic protection against competition. As trade theorists have long known, diffuse gains spread over large numbers of consumers cannot compensate politically for such losses. And some industrial policies may generate net national gains due to externalities or dynamic effects.

Just as excessive multilateral intervention can look to domestic populations like an international assault on sovereignty, it can convince voters elsewhere that their "rivals" are using national policies as economic weapons against them, fueling rather than preventing self-defeating cycles of retaliation. Effective multilateralism thus requires us to respect national sovereignty where policies have limited spillover effects, so that it can better help manage these effects when needed.

The other populist myth that must be dispelled is that international cooperation benefits only a wealthy, footloose, and privileged global elite. Many grassroots "people's cosmopolitanism" movements exist, but they must grow rapidly to shrink the political space occupied by national populists.

This will require overcoming two longstanding obstacles: the distance between people and the absence of a common language. Though still formidable, these obstacles have diminished in recent decades. Thanks largely to digital technologies, from social media to translation apps, there are now countless ways to overcome them.

Shared challenges, such as climate change, have spurred the rise of increasingly influential and highly diverse global movements, and multilateral efforts such as the Sustainable Development Goals have fostered similar kinds of broad activism, with the UN playing a significant facilitating role. Ironically, even nationalists are awkwardly attempting to summon a common voice and agenda.

Yet internationalist discourse is still politically costly if it appears to ignore the local and the familiar. That is why progressive internationalism must not only celebrate diversity and nurture a global civic consciousness, but also recognize that people will always give priority to their families, communities, and countries. Acknowledging our common humanity and shared responsibility as stewards of the planet does not require asking anyone to tear up the parochial roots that underpin their sense of belonging. Those roots are precisely what will provide the security they need to reach out to others.

Contrary to populist myth, global solidarity does not mean caring more about children in far-flung locales than one's own; it simply means recognizing that all children - all people - have equal value. The UN enshrined this subtle but essential distinction in its Charter 75 years ago. There is no better time to reaffirm it than at the upcoming UN General Assembly.

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OPINION

By Dani Rodrik

The Coming Global Technology Fracture

Today's international trade regime was not designed for a world of data, software, and artificial intelligence. Already under severe pressure from China's rise and the backlash against hyper-globalization, it is utterly inadequate to face the three main challenges these new technologies pose.

CAMBRIDGE - The international trade regime we now have, expressed in the rules of the World Trade Organization and other agreements, is not of this world. It was designed for a world of cars, steel, and textiles, not one of data, software, and artificial intelligence. Already under severe pressure from China's rise and the backlash against hyper-globalization, it is utterly inadequate to face the three main challenges these new technologies pose.

First, there is geopolitics and national security. Digital technologies allow foreign powers to hack industrial networks, conduct cyber-espionage, and manipulate social media. Russia has been accused of interfering in elections in the United States and other Western countries through fake news sites and the manipulation of social media. The US government has cracked down on the Chinese giant Huawei because of fears that the company's links to the Chinese government make its telecoms equipment a security threat.

Second, there are concerns about individual privacy. Internet platforms are able to collect huge amounts of data on what people do online and off, and some countries have stricter rules than others to regulate what they can do with it. The European Union, for example, has enacted fines for companies that fail to protect the EU residents' data.

Third, there is economics. New technologies give a competitive edge to large companies that can accumulate enormous global market power. Economies of scale and scope and network effects produce winner-take-all outcomes, and mercantilist policies and other government practices can result in some firms having what looks like an unfair advantage. For example, state surveillance has allowed Chinese firms to accumulate huge amounts of data, which in turn has enabled them to corner the global facial recognition market.

A common response to these challenges is to call for greater international coordination and global rules. Transnational regulatory cooperation and anti-trust policies could produce new standards and enforcement mechanisms. Even where a truly global approach is not possible - because authoritarian and democratic countries have deep disagreements about privacy, for example - it is still possible for democracies to cooperate among themselves and develop joint rules.

The benefits of common rules are clear. In their absence, practices such as data localization, local cloud requirements, and discrimination in favor of national champions create economic inefficiencies insofar as they segment national markets. They reduce the gains from trade and prevent companies from reaping the benefits of scale. And governments face the constant threat that their regulations will be undermined by companies operating from jurisdictions with laxer rules.

But in a world where countries have different preferences, global rules - even when they are feasible - are inefficient in a broader sense. Any global order must balance the gains from trade (maximized when regulations are harmonized) against the gains from regulatory diversity (maximized when each national government is entirely free to do what it wants). If hyper-globalization has already proved brittle, it is in part because policymakers prioritized the gains from trade over the benefits of regulatory diversity. This mistake should not be repeated with new technologies.

In fact, the principles that should guide our thinking on new technologies are no different from those for traditional domains. Countries may devise their own regulatory standards and define their own national security requirements. They may do what is required to defend these standards and their national security, including through trade and investment restrictions. But they have no right to internationalize their standards and try to impose their regulations on other countries.

Consider how these principles would apply to Huawei. The US government has prevented Huawei from acquiring American companies, restricted its operations in the US, launched legal proceedings against its senior management, pressured foreign governments not to work with it, and, most recently, banned US companies from selling chips to Huawei's supply chain anywhere in the world.

There is little evidence that Huawei has engaged in spying on behalf of the Chinese government. But that does not mean that it will not do so in the future. Western technical experts who have examined Huawei's code have been unable to rule out the possibility. The opacity of corporate practices in China could well obscure Huawei's links to the Chinese government.

Under these circumstances, there is a plausible national security argument for the US - or any other country - to restrict Huawei's operations within its own borders. Other countries, including China, are not in a position to second-guess this decision.

The export ban on US companies, however, is harder to justify on national security grounds than the ban on Huawei's US-based operations. If Huawei's operations in third countries pose a security risk to those countries, their governments are in the best position to assess the risks and decide whether a shutdown is appropriate.

Moreover, the US ban confronts other countries with severe economic repercussions. It creates significant adverse effects for national telecoms companies like BT, Deutsche Telekom, Swisscom, and others in no fewer than 170 countries that rely on Huawei's kits and hardware. Perhaps worst hit are poor countries in Africa that are overwhelmingly dependent on the company's cheaper equipment.

In short, the US is free to close its market to Huawei. But US efforts to internationalize its domestic crackdown lack legitimacy.

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PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

MEDICAL SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN LIBERIA

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
August 31, 2020

While subjected to 173 years of socio-economic and political indignities, the Liberian People are, now, concerned about the profoundly inefficient, ineffective and deadly Healthcare System with glaring, disgraceful lack of medical treatment of curable diseases in our country (in the light of the-now prevailing coronavirus pandemic).

Patients - mostly the wealthy Liberians, foreign nationals, high-ranking officials of government, politicians and the "politically-connected Liberians" are flown out of the country, regularly, for medical service in foreign countries. Unfortunately during recent times, Liberia lost about 10 (dead) prominent government officials and hundreds of private personalities in foreign countries, while thousands of poor, average citizens suffering seriously with curable disease *died and wait to die due to lack of medical treatment here in Liberia.*

This article describes, briefly, the prevailing medical service conditions in Liberia with some recommendations for radical, reasonable Change/Reform.



Dr. Jens Spahn, MD., Federal Health Minister (R)

Healthcare Conditions in Liberia

1) The John F. Kennedy (JFK) Memorial Hospital
JFK is Liberia's "premier teaching and medical Reference Hospital that replaced the ancient Government Hospital on upper Ashmun Street, Snapper Hill Monrovia, was described by a visiting, fact-finding committee of US medical doctors "as the place one goes to die". This observation by medical-practicing doctors underscored the disgraceful, deadly condition of Liberia's healthcare service system since the founding of the Republic to this day . . . the primary responsibility for Healthcare Delivery falls on the State, particularly, a small, poor and developing country such as Liberia.

2) The Jackson F. Doe Memorial Hospital
There is or has been a tug of war between Monrovia Healthcare Authorities and the Jackson F. Doe Memorial Hospital at Tapeta, Nimba County, about "medical equipment, budgetary and related support". Additionally, the politically-celebrated "state-of-the-art" modern medical facility is placed in the "middle-of-no-where", in terms of accessibility or lack of road transport for residents of the surrounding towns and villages in Nimba County, *let alone residents of neighboring Counties.*

3) Almost, all clinics and hospitals are:

- Apparently high-class pharmacists for foreign drug makers;
- Monrovia area hospitals and clinics have been and are struggling with expensive, mobile electric generators for needed electric power in medical operations;
- Patients' medical records are a floor-to-ceiling manual filing business, impediment to medical efficiency;
- Drugs, where and when available, are unaffordable - too expensive due to massive corruption; and
- Patients die of curable illness in the urban communities, let alone faraway, remote rural towns and villages.

Training doctors & medical technicians

Unfortunately, Liberia has been unable to train Liberian medical doctors- specialists in Urology (prostate), Audiology (ear), Cardiovascular (kidney and heart), the corresponding medical technicians and many others, such as cancer and related tropical diseases prevalent in Liberia.

Young and older Liberian doctors and technicians are not provided the required periodic in-service training designed to enable doctors and technicians to be informed

or keep-up with developing medical technology and practices. Poor and sick Liberians (they are in the overwhelming majority of the population) who cannot afford the cost of travel to Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, etc., let alone the USA and Europe just wait, simply, to die.

Dr. William V. S. Tubman

It was the late President, William V.S. Tubman, whose vision of a medical school in Liberia to train Liberians as medical doctors and technicians for the Liberian nation led him to seek and obtain the assistance from the Italian Government, the Vatican and the A.M. Dogliotti Foundation, by agreement, that established the "Monrovia-Torino Medical School" in 1966 which admitted the first group of first year students in 1968.

In 1970, the College was re-named "Achilles Mario Dogliotti College of Medicine", after the late Italian philanthropist-founder of the Dogliotti Foundation in Italy and merged with the University of Liberia as the seventh academic program. A year later, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital was inaugurated and became the teaching hospital of the A. M. Dogliotti College of Medicine of the University of Liberia. The first class of medical students were admitted in the Clinical Program at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in July 1971.

In December 1973, the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine graduated the first set of medical students who received their Degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD). Unfortunately, President Tubman did not live to see the work of his dreams come true. He died at a London, United Kingdom Clinic, in a foreign country with the his vision and dreams.

In 1982, the College reached a milestone with the graduation of its first 100th medical doctor as 16 students graduated in that year. The support of the Italian government and the Dogliotti Foundation provided substantial and material support to the College between 1966 and the 1980s.

But the Liberian Civil War, brain-child of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, adversely affected the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine of the University of Liberia, forced a temporary closure in May 1990. The Medical School re-opened after two years with a bare minimum of training and teaching capacity. After the re-opening, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Catholic Church and the Italian Government through its International Foundation, The Institute for Higher Health Education were the major supporting organizations of the College that cooperated to renovate and equip the damaged facilities and infrastructure including Academic Buildings, Student Laboratories, the Library, Student Hostels and Perimeter fence.

Today, the conditions of the College and the JFK Reference and Teaching Hospital reflect the assessment by the visiting, fact-finding Committee of US Medical Doctors, that the JFK Memorial and Teaching Hospital "is a place one goes to die".



Angela Merkel, Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Police charge woman

-for slapping CDC partisan

By Ben P. Wesee

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has investigated and forwarded a lady believed to be a member of the former ruling Unity Party for allegedly slapping a retired American soldier, who recently declared his

and is immediately charged with Disorderly Conduct and Simple Assault, both charges bailable under the law.

“That in violation of Chapter 17, Section 17.3 and Chapter 14, Section 14.21 of the revised Penal Law of the Republic of Liberia, defendant Peaches Johnson, aka ‘Queen’, was

the person of Wendell M. Sailey, an American and social justice advocate, during an anti-rape campaigners protest at Sinkor, Fish Market on August 24, 2020 during the day light time,” the LNP details.

According to the Police, information revealed that during the fateful day of the anti-rape campaigners gathering in Fish Market community, complainant Sailey took to the podium to speak to the gathering about some mishaps he observed that was taking place at the protest ground.

The Police continue that just within that time Mr. Sailey was slapped and shoved by suspect Peaches ‘Queen’ Johnson at which time the complainant lost balance and went almost to fall but he was prevented from falling by some members of the gathering.

The LNP explains that the moment Ms. Johnson carried on the act, she immediately absconded, leaving the victim in pains and psychological trauma, pointing that Mr. Sailey was immediately admitted and treated at Benson’s Hospital in Paynesville, Montserrado County and later discharged.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Peaches Johnson, aka ‘Queen’

membership for the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC). According to Police charge sheet, Peaches Johnson popularly known as “Queen” has violated the law of Liberia

arrested and acquainted with her Constitutional rights, investigated and charged with the offence simple assault for purposely and intentionally hitting to effectuate injury on

Sherah Young Women Initiative

wants harsher penalties

-for rapists

By Bridgett Milton

A Liberian group, Sherah Young Women Initiative petitions the 54th Legislature, recommending harsher punishments for convicted rapists.

Reading the petition Tuesday at the Capitol, 12-year-old Best K. Adhoghene said a person who has sex (rape) with a child 13 years and below with or without consent, should face immediate castration (by surgery) plus lifetime imprisonment without bail.

She said in the case where, a person has sex forcibly with a child (above 13 years and below 18), the rapist should face the same punishment, and that a person who has sex with a child above 13 years, with both the child and parent’s

consent or knowledge (such as an arranged early marriage or a relationship with an adult), punishment for the rapist should be life imprisonment and parents or guardians who

encouraged and arranged such marriage or relationship should receive between one to three years imprisonment

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



GT Bank staffs

Starts from back page

officials for billions of Liberian dollars allegedly unaccounted for.

But the Criminal Court “C” at the Temple of Justice recently acquitted all of the four CBL officials at the end of trial in the CBL case.

In Mr. Charles Sirleaf’s case, investigators say defendant Andrea Doubah was assigned by GT - Bank management as account officer to Charles Sirleaf’s accounts, as well as the account to which Sirleaf and his wife are signatories.

As for Genesis David, he worked with GT - Bank as head of operations at the bank’s head office in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia.

According to police, Mr. Sirleaf’s lawyer, Cllr. J. Johnny Momoh alleges that in 2017, 2018 and 2019, several unauthorized withdrawals were made from his client’s account totaling LD\$10,480,000 and US\$886,580.

These monies, according to the complaint, were allegedly withdrawn from Mr. Sirleaf’s saving and salary accounts and a single USD withdrawal from a joint checking account titled “Bojelene Guest House Incorporated,” operated by Mr. Sirleaf and his wife Fanta Donzo Sirleaf as signatories.

During investigation, police indicate that defendant Andrea Doubah explained that on 13 January 2016 she reactivated Mr. Sirleaf’s saving USD account and also encouraged him to open LD account, which he did.

Police say Andrea allegedly stated that she deposited and withdrew cash from Mr. Sirleaf’s account based on his orders, using his Identification Card because he is considered a High Net worth Individual (HNI) as per the bank’s alleged policy.

Further, police say Andrea told the investigation that, she never signed any of Mr. Sirleaf’s withdrawal slips, and that Mr. Sirleaf’s emissaries or representatives never signed for the cash she turned over to them on his behalf.

According to Andrea, Mr. Sirleaf’s wife, Mrs. Fantan Donzo Sirleaf is one of the persons to whom she (Andrea) turned over cash that was withdrawn from Mr. Sirleaf’s account based on an alleged instruction from the complainant.

She claims that it was Mr. Sirleaf who would call her whenever he sent people to

conduct transactions on his account and that these conversations took place on different platforms such as voice calls, SMS and WhatsApp, among others.

As for defendant Genesis David, police say he informed the investigation that he approved all the slips that were used as source documents to allow withdrawals from Mr. Sirleaf’s accounts executed at GT - Bank, Sinkor.

In her response, police say Mrs. Fanta Donzo Sirleaf explained that she filled in a withdrawal slip authorizing US\$90,000 from her account and later deposited it into her brother Boimah Konah’s account, having heard that the government had decided to freeze her husband Charles’ accounts in reference to alleged missing Liberian dollars.

She says the idea came based on Andrea’s advice that she should withdraw her cash and take it home to avoid it being seized by the government.

In July 2019, Fanta says she instructed her brother to withdraw US\$40,000 from his account and the withdrawal slip was allegedly delivered to Andrea who executed the withdrawal, adding that she (Mrs. Sirleaf) received the US\$40,000 through Genesis David while US\$50,000 remained in her brother’s account.

Mrs. Sirleaf says she and her brother did not transact any business within their respective accounts until 26 May 2020 when they withdrew all of their monies, both LD and USD.

In reference to the Bojelene Guest House account, Fanta Sirleaf says she was only a signatory, noting that on 31 October 2019, she and her husband Mr. Sirleaf wrote GT - Bank check leaf, authorizing US\$88,000 withdrawal from Bojelene Guest House account. She continues that the check was given to Andrea, but Andrea did not present it to the bank and did they (Sirleafs) receive the cash from Andrea.

According to her, when the issue was raised with the bank, management provided a counter check dated 29/9/2019 as proof of US\$88,000 withdrawal from Bojelene Guest House. Mrs. Fanta Sirleaf denies an allegation that she received US\$100,000 on 4 March 2020.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

First Lady Clar Weah recommends strategies against SGBV

By Lewis S. Teh

First Lady Clar Marie Weah has suggested here that instead of focusing on tough punishment for rapists, and people committing all forms of violence against women and children, government should direct its attention to prevention.

"However, I strongly believe our concentration should focus more on prevention rather than punishment because of the physical, emotional and psychological impacts SGBV has on its victim", she said.

Mrs. Weah made the suggestion Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at the

victims, but the scars from SGBV are permanent, adding, "Therefore, we should prevent it from happening."

"We must educate our men and boys in schools, Churches, Mosques and our communities against SGBV; Let us speak out and not be silent; prosecute the perpetrators and not shield them. We must protect the victims and refuse to compromise with people who are committing these atrocities."

First Lady Weah said since her ascendancy to office, she has closely worked with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and international partners on SGBV issues.

on SGBV for the forum.

She also noted that with the theme, "A National Call to Action: Inclusive Involvement to Fight Rape/SGBV in Liberia!" the conference came at a very challenging time when the COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact on the way people live and the economy, saying, "Instead of us galvanizing our efforts on mitigating the pandemic, we are here to find solution to another crisis, Rape."

Madam Weah said rape pricks her heart as a mother and a female, and that there should be no excuse for rape, describing all forms of SGBV as both inhumane and unacceptable.

But President Weah, who prides himself as Feminist-In-Chief, initially refused to personally receive petition from anti-rape protesters here despite demanding so during three days of protests in the streets of Monrovia that ended with clashes with Police, resulting to injuries.

The President subsequently on Monday, 31 August received a roadmap dossier from the inter-ministerial taskforce on SGBV at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, remarking, "Rape is a serious issue that needs to be weeded out of society."

"As President of Liberia, it is my responsibility to lead all efforts to address social and societal irregularities and threats that befall our people or any segment of it. I have stated on many occasions that, as Feminist-in-Chief, I have zero tolerance for Sexual and Gender Based Violence. And I mean it", the Executive Mansion quoted Mr. Weah as saying.

In a statement, the United States Embassy near Monrovia called for practical actions such as establishing an SGBV call center and providing resources for survivor support to demonstrate the Government of Liberia's resolve in fighting endemic rape in the country. "We urge the Government to target resources to survivors, take a strong stand against female genital mutilation, and ensure swift and transparent prosecution", the Embassy said in statement posted on its website on Monday, 31 August. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Gbarpolu citizens demand County Sitting

By Bridgett Milton

A group of citizens under the banner, "concern citizens Movement of Gbarpolu County are calling on their legislators to conduct County Sitting, an annual forum that brings key stakeholders from a county together to discuss development.

Reading a petition Tuesday at the Capitol, the group's chairman Mohammed K. Toure recalls that few months ago students from the county issued a press statement, calling on the Gbarpolu

held a sitting.

He says due to failure of authorities, issues that should be prioritized in the county have been abandoned thus, leaving citizens hopeless and poverty-stricken.

He adds that therefore, concern citizens of Gbarpolu County residing in Monrovia and other parts of Liberia have resolved that the caucus should immediately call a county sitting before December 8, 2020, where the Legislative caucus along with the Project Management



First Lady Clar Marie Weah

opening of a national conference on Sexual and Gender Base Violence held at the Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo Town.

President George Manneh Weah who declared himself as Liberia's Feminist-In-Chief, led an array of officials to the conference.

According to the First Lady, procuring DNA machine and establishing safe homes are necessary but stressed that vigorous public awareness should be the main tool in fighting SGBV in Liberia.

Madam Weah explained that DNA machine will identify perpetrators, while safe houses will provide temporary shelter for

"In June 2019, we launched the 'She's U Movement.' A movement geared at providing necessary support for women, girls and children victimized by SGBV, as well as providing help to other vulnerable and marginalized groups."

However, she noted that despite these efforts, SGBV still persists, lamenting that it is sickening to hear children as young as 10 years are being raped with outcries demanding penalties for perpetrators or would-be perpetrators, noting that the Anti-SGBV Road Map 2020-2022 provides clearer directions.

She thanked organizers of the conference, including the Government of Liberia through the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce



Representative Kannie Wesso

Legislative Caucus to conduct a county council sitting, but till now absolutely no action has been taken by the caucus under the leadership of Representative Kannie Wesso.

He describes as heartless, insensitive and barbaric, behavior of leaders in their employed and that the people of Gbarpolu have reached a point where they can no longer sit and allow their county to lag behind, while the rest of Liberia moves on with developments, lamenting that since 2016, Gbarpolu has never

Committee (PMC) shall provide update on unfinished and finished projects from 2012 - 2020.

Toure also wants the Legislative caucus account for allotments made by national government through the County Development Fund from 2016 to 2019, saying failure to hold county sitting in flagrant disregard to the budget law over four years is a slap in the face of the people of Gbarpolu County. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Énième rejet de la demande d'un transfert de l'ancien président libérien.

La requête persistante de l'ancien président libérien Charles Taylor pour un transfert de la prison britannique dans laquelle il purge sa peine de 50 ans dans un pays tiers a été rejetée de nouveau.

Contrairement aux demandes précédentes, M. Taylor, 72 ans, a introduit un recours pour obtenir un transfert TEMPORAIRE du Royaume-Uni en raison de la pandémie de COVID-19 vers un tiers pays sûr. Mais cette demande a aussi été rejetée comme les demandes précédentes.

Taylor a été condamné par le Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone en 2013 pour crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité commis en Sierra Leone. En vertu d'un accord avec le Royaume-Uni, il purge sa peine de 50 ans à la prison HM de Frankland.

Taylor avait fait valoir qu'en raison de "l'épidémie massive de COVID-19 au Royaume-Uni", son maintien en détention dans ce pays posait "un risque substantiel pour son droit à la vie". Il a fait valoir en outre que le RSCSL avait le devoir de

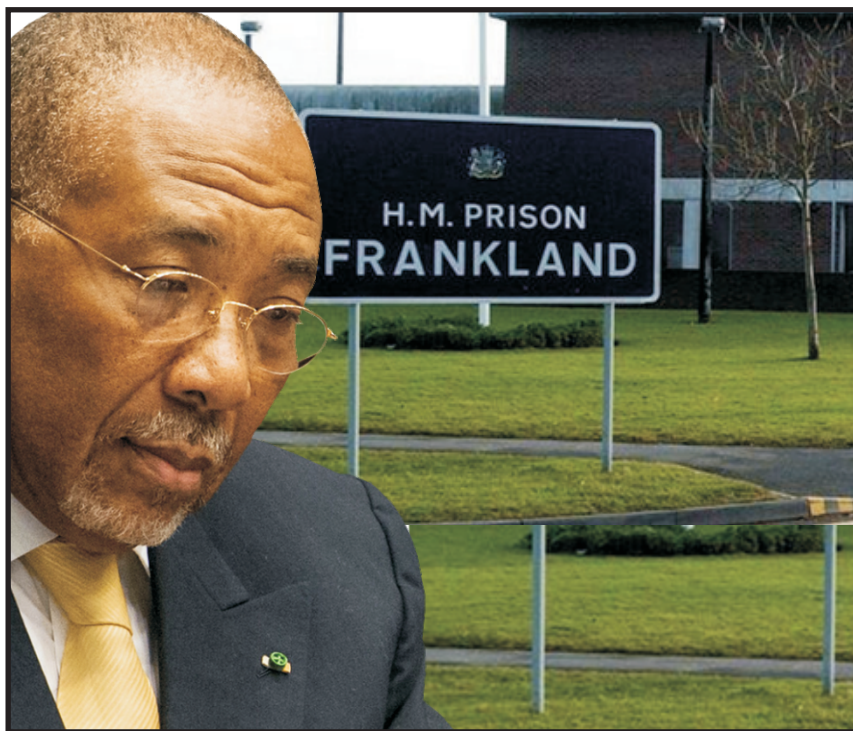
surveiller sa peine pour assurer sa sécurité et qu'il était habilité à ordonner son transfert vers un pays tiers sûr.

Mais la juge Teresa Doherty, qui a entendu la requête en tant que juge de service RSCSL, a noté que Taylor n'avait pas respecté les instructions de la Cour lui demandant de préciser quels pays il considérait comme sûrs, ou de préciser quels pays étaient ses « premiers » ou « seconds » pays pour les objectifs

de sa demande ". Elle a en outre noté que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé n'a déclaré aucun endroit dans le monde à l'abri du COVID-19.

Elle a conclu que l'allégation de Taylor selon laquelle HM Frankland était surpeuplée et que d'autres allégations concernant des conditions défavorables dans la prison étaient en

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Déjeuner à l'Elysée : Alassane Ouattara échoué devant Macron (2) (un dossier de Mediapart)

Pour éviter une sortie de route du chef d'État ivoirien, le président Macron eu une conversation téléphonique avec son ministre Jean Yves Le Drian, le priant de se rendre de toute urgence à Abidjan, pour présenter ses condoléances et dire au Président Ouattara qu'il serait mal venu de se renier et de se présenter à l'élection. Il a dit la

disponibilité de la France à saisir le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU pour envisager un report de l'élection afin de laisser le temps à ADO de trouver un nouveau poulain. Devant Le Drian, Ouattara surjoua le président accablé par le décès de son Premier Ministre, lui fit savoir qu'il était encore sous le choc de ce trépas et qu'il se réservait le temps de la

réflexion, pour décider des contours de la future présidentielle. Il lui jura de sa voix la plus douce, qu'il était un très grand démocrate et qu'il n'était guidé que par le souci de la stabilité de la Côte d'Ivoire et de la sous-région, ce qui pour lui était une question d'une extrême importance.

C'est pourquoi il plaide pour qu'on lui laisse quelques jours de réflexion. Dans son avion de retour, Jean Yves Le Drian avait un sentiment mitigé. En effet, après avoir parlé avec l'ambassadeur de France en Côte d'Ivoire et quelques officiels français, il voyait bien que ADO était plus que tenté par un troisième mandat. Il s'inquiétait notamment du fait qu'une telle décision ne manquerait pas de nuire aux bonnes relations entre la France et la Côte d'Ivoire. Une fois arrivé à Paris, il s'en inquiéta auprès de Nicolas Sarkozy, émissaire attitré de Ouattara. Il le pria d'intervenir auprès de son ami et de le convaincre que tenter le diable du troisième

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le président Weah dirige par derrière

D'après toutes les indications, le président George Manneh Weah doit ajuster son style de leadership et se mettre au-devant de la scène pour gouverner le Libéria, au lieu de se cacher en arrière-plan. La gouvernance du Président Weah, qui consiste à diriger les Libériens par derrière, ne fait pas que nuire au pays à bien des égards, mais élève une ombre sur le pays.

Pendant près de trois ans, M. Weah n'a pas rassemblé suffisamment de courage pour prendre en charge la direction, au point que ses fonctionnaires ont l'impression d'avoir toute la latitude de donner des coups de feu au détriment d'une présidence qui est sensée être centrée sur le peuple.

Nous parlons des 4,5 millions de Libériens qui vivent tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur du pays, y compris ceux de l'opposition, et pas seulement les partisans de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir.

Ces manquements du président sont devenus très flagrants à tel point que les cris affluent de partout, les citoyens ne ressentant pas la présence du chef qu'ils ont élu aux urnes en 2017 pour diriger leurs affaires.

Le président Weah semble être confiné ou s'est laissé enfermer dans un coin par de soi-disant conseillers et loyalistes, qui prétendent tout savoir alors que leur véritable motif est d'avoir l'occasion de s'attaquer à des ennemis perçus.

Comme l'a fait observer dimanche le représentant du district n° 5 du comté de Nimba, Samuel G. Kogar, le président George



Manneh Weah s'est éloigné des masses qui l'ont mis au pouvoir.

Il a conseillé le M. Weah de ne pas détruire sa popularité en évitant les gens sous le prétexte de « questions de sécurité », qu'il a qualifiées de faux.

Le représentant Kogar a spécifiquement accusé le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, d'avoir érigé le mur de Berlin autour du président Weah pour empêcher des responsables clés d'interagir avec le président sur des questions majeures d'intérêt national.

Il s'agit d'une allégation très grave, puisqu'elle émane d'un membre de la Chambre des représentants. Il n'est pas le seul à dénoncer une telle attitude du président ou de ceux qui entourent la présidence.

Plusieurs autres responsables se sont également plaints de s'être vu refuser l'accès au président Weah. Même si M. Weah est poussé à sortir et à parler, il ne jette rien d'autre que des critiques et des ennemis perçus, justifiant et défendant sans vergogne les insuffisances de son leadership.

Il est assez décevant et embarrassant pour un président si élu par des votes populaires de se sentir insécurisé, effrayé et de considérer ses sujets comme des ennemis à mi-chemin de son mandat.

Français

Énième rejet de la demande

contradiction avec les faits présentés dans la présentation du registraire. Elle a également statué que les conventions internationales et les précédents d'autres tribunaux qu'il a cités n'étaient pas applicables à sa demande.

Le Tribunal spécial résiduel pour la Sierra Leone est chargé des obligations juridiques permanentes du Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone, qui a achevé son mandat en décembre 2013. Il s'agit notamment de la surveillance des peines d'emprisonnement, de la protection et du soutien des témoins, de l'entretien et de la conservation des archives, et assistance aux autorités nationales de poursuite.

Taylor a été condamné pour 11 chefs d'accusation, dont terrorisme, viol, meurtre et utilisation d'enfants soldats

par des groupes rebelles en Sierra Leone voisine pendant la guerre civile de 1991-2002, au cours de laquelle quelque 50 000 personnes sont mortes.

On a découvert que Taylor avait fourni des armes aux rebelles du Front révolutionnaire uni (RUF) en échange de diamants. Les rebelles étaient connus pour avoir amputé des civils et terrorisé les populations.

Mais Taylor a toujours insisté sur le fait qu'il était innocent et que son seul contact avec les rebelles était de les exhorter à arrêter de se battre.

Il avait environ 64 ans au moment où il a été condamné en 2012. Sa peine a été confirmée en appel. Le 15 octobre 2013, il a été transféré dans une prison britannique et a commencé à purger sa peine à la prison HM de Frankland, dans le comté de Durham, en Angleterre.

Déjeuner à l'Élysée :

préjudiciable et ruinerait tout son crédit. Sarkozy hésita, connaissant le tempérament sanguin de Ouattara, mais finit par aborder la question avec ce dernier. Sans hésiter, le président ivoirien laissa clairement entendre à Nicolas Sarkozy qu'il n'avait d'autre choix que de se présenter, après le décès d'AGC. Il craignait de laisser le pays entre les mains de cadres de son parti dont il peignit longuement l'incompétence et le manque de charisme. Nicolas Sarkozy n'eut pas la force de caractère de dissuader son ami.

Parallèlement, Mme Dominique Ouattara entrepris de remuer ses propres réseaux pour voler à la rescousse de son époux. Elle distribua des coups de fils et contacta diverses personnalités qu'elle mit en mission pour tenter de convaincre Emmanuel Macron, que c'est Ouattara ou le chaos.

Bien sûr, Pierre Fakhoury, Président de PFO, qui bénéficia de dizaines de marchés opaques totalisant plusieurs centaines de milliards en Côte d'Ivoire sous les Ouattara, fut mis en mission. Mais surtout, Dominique Ouattara accentua ses efforts sur Mme Mélissa Bouygues, l'épouse de Martin Bouygues. Elle fut également très sollicitée. Ainsi donc, Fakhoury, les Bouygues, les Bolloré montèrent au créneau d'abord sur Brigitte Macron et ensuite sur Emmanuel Macron lui-même.

Le roublard d'Alassane Ouattara leur proposait un schéma assez simple dont ils devaient se charger de

convaincre Macron. Ce dernier devait adouber sa candidature et lui garantir la neutralité passive de Paris dans le processus électoral qui allait avoir cours en Côte d'Ivoire. Concrètement, il leur soumettait le plan suivant :

Que Macron garde le silence lorsqu'il annoncerait sa candidature

Qu'il abreuverait les médias français d'images et de vidéos du peuple de Côte d'Ivoire qui réclame sa candidature ;

Qu'il se présenterait à l'élection d'Octobre 2020 et la gagnerait les doigts dans le nez. Il présenta deux sondages arrangés qui le donnaient vainqueur à 70% dès le premier tour, tandis que Henri Konan Bédié récoltait 19%, Guillaume Soro 8% et Laurent Gbagbo 2%.

Pour ce qui est de l'opposition ivoirienne, Alassane Ouattara a assuré qu'il en faisait son affaire et qu'il n'y avait rien à craindre d'elle. Qu'elle ne créerait aucun trouble.

Grâce à l'entregent de Mélissa Bouygues, Dominique Ouattara a pu avoir une audience avec Brigitte Macron à qui elle expliqua qu'en Afrique ce serait très mal vu que son époux ne soit pas reçu par le président français alors qu'il est en France et en a fait la demande.

A vrai dire, Paris restait sceptique face à l'optimisme de M. Ouattara, puisque des sondages contradictoires ne le voyaient guère arriver au deuxième tour.

Un des sondages projetait un deuxième tour entre Bédié et Soro qui, peu ou prou,

COMMENTAIRE

By Xavier Vives

La stabilité de l'euro dépend d'une politique industrielle ambitieuse

BARCELONE - L'idée d'une politique industrielle européenne est de nouveau à l'ordre du jour, au moins depuis la communication, au début de l'année 2019, du manifeste franco-allemand sur la question. Mais si ce document s'intéresse d'abord à la compétitivité sur la scène mondiale, on peut aussi affirmer à l'appui de l'opportunité d'un réveil de la politique industrielle qu'elle est nécessaire à la survie de l'euro.

Depuis la mise en place de la monnaie unique, la part de l'industrie dans la valeur ajoutée de l'économie est demeurée stable en Allemagne, tandis qu'elle a sensiblement diminué en France, en Espagne et en Italie. Les importantes mesures économiques décidées par l'Allemagne pour faire face au choc du Covid-19 ne peuvent qu'accentuer cette tendance.

L'industrie, dans son acception large, comprenant les services numériques, est la clé de la croissance de la productivité, ce qui implique pour les membres méridionaux de l'Union européenne qu'ils amorcent une renaissance industrielle. Sans quoi leur manque relatif de compétitivité creusera les déséquilibres au sein de la zone euro, soulevant la perspective de transferts permanents du Nord au Sud, et menaçant la stabilité politique du bloc.

Mauvaise nouvelle : si la France peut éventuellement se permettre de dépenser des milliards d'euros pour soutenir son industrie automobile, l'Espagne et l'Italie en sont incapables. Bonne nouvelle : l'adoption récente du plan de relance Next Generation EU offre l'opportunité non seulement d'une renaissance de l'industrie en Europe du Sud, mais aussi de son positionnement pour un avenir numérique et durable.

Aux termes des conclusions de la réunion du Conseil européen qui s'est tenue du 17 au 21 juillet 2020, il est notamment acté que « les États membres élaborent des plans nationaux pour la reprise et la résilience établissant leurs programmes de réforme et d'investissement pour les années 2021-2023 ». Mais les dirigeants européens doivent désormais aller plus loin, en définissant des objectifs clairs afin non seulement de rendre l'industrie européenne compétitive sur la scène mondiale mais aussi de permettre un rééquilibrage géographique. L'accent doit être mis sur les secteurs clés déjà identifiés dans le manifeste franco-allemand : la santé, l'énergie, le climat, la sécurité et les technologies numériques - la microélectronique, les batteries et l'intelligence artificielle (IA) méritant quant à elles une attention spéciale.

Alors que les États-Unis et la Chine sont chacun à la poursuite de l'hégémonie mondiale dans le secteur de l'IA et dans d'autres technologies de pointe, l'Europe prend de plus en plus de retard dans l'économie numérique. Même en Allemagne, la capitalisation boursière totale est inférieure, malgré les succès du pays, à celle d'un seul des géants américains de la technologie que sont Amazon, Apple ou Microsoft.

Contrairement à ce qu'affirment certains commentateurs, le manque de compétitivité de l'Europe dans les secteurs de la technologie n'est pas dû à sa politique de la concurrence, qui a bloqué des fusions comme celle d'Alstom et de Siemens. Le problème de l'Europe est plutôt celui d'un marché profondément fragmenté, qui ne permet pas aux entreprises de profiter des dynamiques créées par les économies d'échelle que pourraient offrir les plateformes numériques et les données de masse. Cet obstacle n'incite guère aux investissements dans la recherche et le développement, qui commande l'innovation.

Et, ce qui est loin d'arranger la situation, les

politiques publiques d'achats en Europe sont elles aussi fragmentées, en raison, principalement, de l'absence d'une politique commune de défense. C'est cette fragmentation, et non la concurrence au sein du marché unique, qui explique l'absence de « champions » européens.

Par le passé, la politique industrielle de l'Europe s'est étiolée, après l'échec, dans les années 1980 et 1990, de la stratégie qui consistait à choisir des gagnants. Les responsables politiques ont reporté leur attention sur le soutien à l'innovation, la formation de la main-d'œuvre et la création d'un environnement attractif pour les entreprises. Puis la crise financière mondiale de 2008 a relancé l'intérêt pour la politique industrielle, et, aujourd'hui, la pandémie de Covid-19 met en lumière son potentiel lorsqu'il s'agit de stimuler la concurrence, de faire avancer des objectifs durables, de sécuriser les chaînes d'approvisionnement et de renforcer la résilience économique.

Avec la pandémie, la souveraineté technologique et la stabilité des chaînes de valeur sont devenues des priorités, non seulement en Europe, mais partout. Ces deux impératifs sont mis en avant par le programme de politique économique du candidat démocrate à l'élection présidentielle aux États-Unis, Joe Biden, et l'on a toutes les raisons de croire que les opérations des entreprises publiques étrangères - et plus particulièrement chinoises - seront surveillées de près aux États-Unis et en Europe au cours des prochaines années.

En outre, la politique industrielle a un rôle crucial à jouer dans la réallocation des ressources, depuis les secteurs obsolètes en déclin vers ceux qui émergent et sont viables. Sans approche stratégique, l'aide publique au secteur privé ne fera que créer plus d'entreprises zombies, c'est-à-dire qui auraient dû faire faillite. Ce danger est particulièrement vif dans les circonstances actuelles, étant donné l'importance des mesures de dépenses d'urgence consenties par les gouvernements. Dans la poursuite de la relance après la pandémie, l'objectif de Next Generation EU et d'autres programmes ne devrait pas être seulement de rétablir la croissance, mais aussi de transformer l'économie.

À cette fin, les politiques industrielles doivent être mises à profit pour coordonner les investissements. Une industrie clé, comme celle des véhicules électriques, ne dépend pas uniquement du secteur automobile, mais aussi de domaines qui vont de l'IA et de la 5G à la fabrication des batteries et à la réalisation des infrastructures (notamment des stations de charge). Il faudra donc, pour prétendre être compétitif à l'échelle mondiale dans cette industrie, un large éventail d'investissements complémentaires, sans parler d'une main-d'œuvre ayant reçu un enseignement et une formation idoines. Pour ce qui concerne l'Europe, la traditionnelle pratique du laisser-faire n'est guère pertinente. Les coopérations public-privé seront nécessaires.

Le succès du fonds de relance européen dépend de la coordination au niveau européen, et du soin accordé aux procédures de sélection et de contrôle de la dépense publique. Pour éviter que le clientélisme politique ne limite le potentiel de transformation de la relance, les projets candidats devraient être évalués et pensés par des agences indépendantes dirigées par des professionnels respectés.

La zone euro a besoin d'une politique industrielle qui préserve la concurrence en son sein tout en dynamisant l'industrie de l'Europe du Sud et en maintenant l'engagement de l'Union européenne en faveur du marché libre sur le plan international. Sans quoi l'euro lui-même demeurerait en danger.

MEDICAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Cont'd from page 5

This piece of history of our Healthcare Delivery System is intended to enlighten and motivate patriotic citizens to demand meaningful, efficient, effective and peaceful positive Reform and Change. For, the public healthcare delivery service in Liberia had been and is profound disgrace after 173 years. The late President Tubman must be fuming and turning in his grave at the great beyond.

Our Recommendations

In ancient times, African and other societies live in small,

movement, socio-cultural transformation, fast-food-processed diet, introduction of strange, infectious diseases, medicines for and medical treatment of which were yet unknown.

Some industrialized and developing African countries, including our Liberia, built garages of engineering repair shops for automobiles, trains and airplanes but ignore, continue to ignore the critical problem of human life engineering repairs for support of the "Right-to-life" entitlement of the citizens, the responsibility/obligation of government to provide, but had been subjected to all

medicines, manufacture/production of medical equipment, world-class universities, medical doctors & technicians, hospitals, clinics, etc. and says that the "Coronavirus Pandemic (is) Manageable".

According to the Voice of America news monitored here, the German Federal Minister of Health, Dr. Jens Spahn said that "the COVID-19 outbreak (in that country) has become manageable", because the number of patients who have recovered from the virus is greater than the number reported infected. Speaking at a news briefing in Berlin, the Health Minister declared that "as compared to other nations, Germany is doing well . . . that fact makes them humble, not exuberant".

These comments followed announcement by German Chancellor Angela Merkel that "initial steps would be taken to ease restrictions by allowing some shops to open as early as next week". Both the Chancellor and Dr. Spahn said that "the restrictions should be lifted only gradually . . . Germany has carried out more than 1.7 million coronavirus tests and the other health experts credit that to their ability to manage the outbreak. The German Federal Ministry of Health website reports that the country has seen a total of 133,830 cases of the virus with 3,868 deaths", 2.89 or 3% of the tested Chancellor Merkel says that "Germany's COVID-19 Pandemic Curve is 'Flatter', but remains cautious . . . some restrictions may be lifted, but coronavirus situation is 'fragile'".

For the nation of 800 hundred million population, this is an outstanding achievement for the nation's Healthcare delivery system of trust and Confidence in government by the citizens.



German Federal Ministry of Health Office Building, Berlin

rural village communities fearful of others with very little or no travel and contacts. They live on diet, mainly, of natural fruits, vegetables, grain, leaves, nuts, oil, peas, beans and others grown, gathered, produced with wild-hunted or trapped meat and fish caught from creeks and rivers. Disease was limited, but treated by the village or tribal experienced "herbalist medicine men".

Then came the Industrial Revolution with its monetized economy, automobile and rapid air travel, population growth and explosion, rural-to-urban population

sorts of irrational arguments, including corruption, the massive and most public dishonesty which robs the public treasury in its effort to evade this cardinal public responsibility. The efficient/effective delivery of healthcare service in a country under democratic rule of law depends upon or the function of several variables.

These variables include

Universities and/or colleges with medical schools for training of General Practice and Specialized Medical Doctors (eye, ear, throat, prostate, skin, cardiovascular diseases, etc.), the required major policy which should make highly-trained, efficient/effective medical service affordable and available to all Liberians.

An overwhelming majority of industrialized countries, with approval by majority of their medical doctors and many developing countries, have adopted and operatesome form of publicly-funded health care with universal coverage as the goal. According to the *Institute of Medicine* and others, the United States is the only wealthy, industrialized nation that does not provide universal health care.

According to Dr. Jonathan Oberlander, Professor of Health Policy at the University of North Carolina, "maintains that the term is merely a political pejorative . . . defined to mean different levels of government involvement in health care, depending on what the speaker was arguing against at the time. The term is often used by conservatives in the U.S. to imply that the privately run health care system would become controlled by the government, thereby associating it with socialism, which has negative connotations to some people in American political culture. As such, its usage is controversial and at odds with the views of conservatives in other countries prepared to defend socialized medicine such as Margaret Thatcher, the late Prime Minister of the UK. According to a 2018 Gallup poll, 37% of American adults have a positive view of socialism, including 57% of Democrat-leaning voters and 16% of Republican-leaning voters.

The Healthcare Delivery Policy of the Federal Republic of Germany has been, and is, the Universal Healthcare System or "Socialized Medicine", one of the foremost international leaders in Medical Science and Technology - education, research, inventions of various types of



German Federal Ministry of Health Office Building, Bonn

Current Federal Minister of Health: Dr. Jens Spahn, MD
Number of Employees: 700
Annual Budget: 15,350 Billion Euros
Euro = 1.12 US Dollars

\$1.12 x 15,350 billion Euros = \$17, 192 Billion Annual Budget

Change of Name



I, Sekou Talawally, have officially changed my name from Layee Sekou Talawally to Sekou Talawally, as of the date of this publication, hence, I am informing the public in line with the Republic of Liberia Police regulation on Change of Name.

My name now is Sekou Talawally, as of the date of this publication.

Change of Name



Patricia Youkonjay Weah has officially changed her name from Patricia Youkonjay Glasgcow to Patricia Youkonjay Weah, as of the date of this publication hence, I am in this public manner informing the public in line with the Republic of Liberia Police regulation on Change of Name. My name is now changed from Patricia Youkonjay Glasgcow to Patricia Youkonjay Weah, as of the date of this publication.

New faces in UP

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The former ruling Unity Party on Tuesday, September 8, went to the poll to elect its new corps of officers, days after violent clashes marred the opposition's primary in Nimba County.

The UP is a constituent member of the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) that participated in that primary.

However, on Tuesday, the former ruling party elected businessman Amin Modad to head the party as national chairman, replacing embattled chairman Wilmot Paye, who still has a case

recalled in 2011, Henry Fahnbulleh, now acting Foreign Minister, had to relinquish his secretary general position days after being elected, because he and then chairman Varney Sherman hailed from the same county.

Meanwhile, at Tuesday's polls, Mr. Amin Modad received 34 of the total 54 votes cast, followed by Senator Conmany Wesseh, 08 votes, while George Wisner collected only 05 votes and Ceebee Barshall zero vote, respectively.

The senior vice chair was won by Mrs. Varpilah with 27 votes, while Roland Giddings obtained 20 votes; Mohammed Ali, alias Mo Ali won the

Boakai as standard bearer during the 2017 Presidential election, but he denied the information.

Instead the tough-talking River Gee County lawmaker narrated that he was actively involved into the campaign but was never given key role as was done in past elections.

Wesseh stated that at no time he had attempted to undermine the presidential bid of Mr. Boakai, saying the wrong perception out there is "dead wrong."

Making her case to delegates, Madam Varpilah said Unity Party being the political party in Africa that championed gender equality



pending at the Supreme Court over his controversial dismissal.

Other officers elected were Madam Debah Varpilah, as senior national vice chairperson and Mr. Mo Ali, as secretary general.

Both Madam Varpilah and Ali are from the same county. It remains to be seen whether their elections will stand or one may have to give way for the other, simply because the UP constitution forbids two higher ranking officials from the same county.

This issue was raised after the results were announced on Tuesday night. It could be

secretary general post with 24 votes, against Amos Tweh's 17 votes, and Jacob Kabakollie managed with 06 votes.

During debate, Mr. Modad, whose father is a Lebanese and has a Liberian mother, was strongly quizzed to prove his Liberian nationality. In responds to the question, Modad encouraged concerned partisans to utilize the legal process, if anyone doubted his nationality, clarifying that he has never held a Lebanese passport.

For his part, Senator Wesseh came under scrutiny for alleged refusal to support former Vice President Joseph Nyumah

should never be overlooked and that young women are observing the decision of today's cloud, while encouraging more determined young women to come to the national stage.

She called on voters to reflect on the historic movement where female (Ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf) redeemed the country and served with care and duties.

Speaking during the convention, Unity Party political leader, Ambassador Joseph Boakai called for unity, unifying force and reconciliation among partisans in order to make an impact on the national scene.

The party reportedly expelled its national chairman Wilmot Paye for allegedly taking 'unilateral decision' in violation of its constitution.

Embattled chairman Paye has since taken his concern before the Supreme Court for redress. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Police charge

Cont'd from page 6

"During the course of the investigation which was conducted to determine what actually led to the assault against the victim, detail investigation and information revealed that at the gathering of the anti-rape campaigners protests, there was no misunderstanding to have existed between the complainant, and suspect Johnson chose of her own ego and attacked the victim to cause an unwarranted disturbance at such a public gathering and believed that she wouldn't be touch for her action," the Police disclosed.

The LNP disclosed further that during investigation and interview with the suspect, Peaches Queen Johnson decided to remain silent until her lawyer was present, narrating that the investigators visited the Benson Hospital and obtained medical report for the

treatment which Mr. Sailey underwent.

It noted that investigators obtained a footage evidence of the hit against the complainant Mr. Sailey by suspect Peaches Queen Johnson, while both of them were in attending the anti-rape protests.

The CSD investigation, said having analyzed the records of the case file, followed by the medical report and footage evidence, established that indeed, the crimes of Disorderly Conduct and Simple Assault were committed by defendant Peaches Queen Johnson against the complainant Mr. Wendell M. Sailey.

"In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, coupled with evidence adduced, this investigation has resolved to charge suspect Peaches Johnson aka "Queen" (defendant) with Disorderly Conduct and Simple Assault, to

Sherah Young

Cont'd from page 6

without bail.

The petitioner continues that parent/guardian, organization, community group or traditional leader, facilitators such as hotel/motel/residential or entertainment centers and any other person who facilitates in any way rape of a child or were aware of and refused to prevent or report the rape of a child, should be sentenced to between one to three years without bail based on the extent of facilitation or awareness.

The petitioner maintains that this would help Liberians learn the importance of reporting rape cases, including people who use children for prostitution or provide accommodation for such an act to take place.

The group also recommends that the current punishment

for rape of a man or woman be amended to 30 years imprisonment without bail and that any law enforcement officer caught demanding money bribes or fees to prosecute or investigate rape cases or proven to have recommended compromise of rape cases for family/community settlement, should be fined US\$5,000 or imprisoned for three years without bail.

Receiving the petition on behalf of the Legislature, Montserrado County electoral district #4 Representative Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, who chairs the Committee on Claims and Petition assure that the document will be peruse and forwarded to the Liberian Senate and President George M. Weah for action. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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By **Winston W. Parley**

Two employees of privately run Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia defendants Andrea Doubah and Genesis David have been dealt multiple charges for allegedly withdrawing over LD\$10m plus US\$886,580 from the salary and savings accounts of Mr. Charles E. Sirleaf, son of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

Andrea Doubah and Genesis David were bailed out Tuesday, 8 September after they were placed under the jurisdiction of the Monrovia City Court by police on charges of theft of property, forgery, and aiding consummation of crime and criminal conspiracy, specifically for Andrea; and criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation, for David.

Mr. Sirleaf claims that the

signature used on the alleged forged withdrawal slips and on check to get the alleged amount out of his accounts was completely different from the genuine signature he lodged with Guaranty Trust Bank (GT - Bank).

Sirleaf alleges that from the date defendant Andrea Doubah became his account officer, she filled in all withdrawal slips and checks and she signed them, alleging that he did not sign the forged withdrawal slips bearing the name Charles E. Sirleaf and the counter check was not signed by he and his wife.

Mr. Sirleaf's case against the commercial bankers from GT - Bank came ever since just about the time prosecutors here nolleprosequim (dropped charges against him) with prejudice from a trial against him and other former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 6**

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De Bruyne wins PFA Player of the Year award

Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award for 2019-20.

City ceded the Premier League title to Liverpool as they finished 18 points behind Jurgen Klopp's champions, in second place, but De Bruyne enjoyed a magnificent individual campaign.

The Belgium international scored 16 goals and provided

23 assists in all competitions, equalling Thierry Henry's record of 20 assists in a single Premier League season.

De Bruyne saw off competition from team-mate Raheem Sterling, along with the Liverpool quartet of Jordan Henderson, Virgil van Dijk, Sadio Mane and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

England right-back Alexander-Arnold received the PFA Young Player of the Year honour.



De Bruyne, who is the first City player to win the coveted top prize, said: "It's a huge honour. To be voted for by your colleagues and competitors from other teams who you play against and they vote for you for best player is amazing.

"It's strange that I'm the first one at City given all the good players that have played here before and who are still playing here, but it's nice to represent the club.

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