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Rep. Edwin M. Snowe

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Continental News

Ethiopia army claims WHO boss backs Tigray leaders

Ethiopia's army chief has accused the head of the World Health Organization of lobbying in favour of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which is fighting federal troops.

Hundreds have died in the conflict in Tigray since the beginning of November.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is Tigrayan and was health minister in the previous Ethiopian government, which was led by the TPLF.

He has not yet responded to the BBC's request for comment. Gen Berhanu Jula said in a press conference that Dr Tedros had "left no stone unturned" to support the TPLF and help get them weapons.

"We don't expect him to stand on the side of Ethiopians and condemn these people. He has been doing everything to support them, he has campaigned for neighbouring countries to condemn the war," said Gen Berhanu.

"He has worked for them to get weapons."

He did not provide any

evidence to support his allegations.

After being voted in as the head of the WHO in 2017, Dr Tedros became well known at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic and is now arguably the highest-profile Tigrayan abroad.

Meanwhile, US President-elect Joe Biden's foreign policy aide has appealed for both sides to end the fighting. "Deeply concerned about the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia,

reports of targeted ethnic violence, and the risk to regional peace and security," Antony Blinken tweeted.

The UN's refugee agency warns that a full-scale humanitarian crisis is unfolding.

More than 30,000 people have crossed the border from Ethiopia into Sudan. Thousands of civilians are continuing to flee across the border, the UN Refugee Agency's representative for

Sudan, Axel Bisschop told the BBC's Newsday programme.

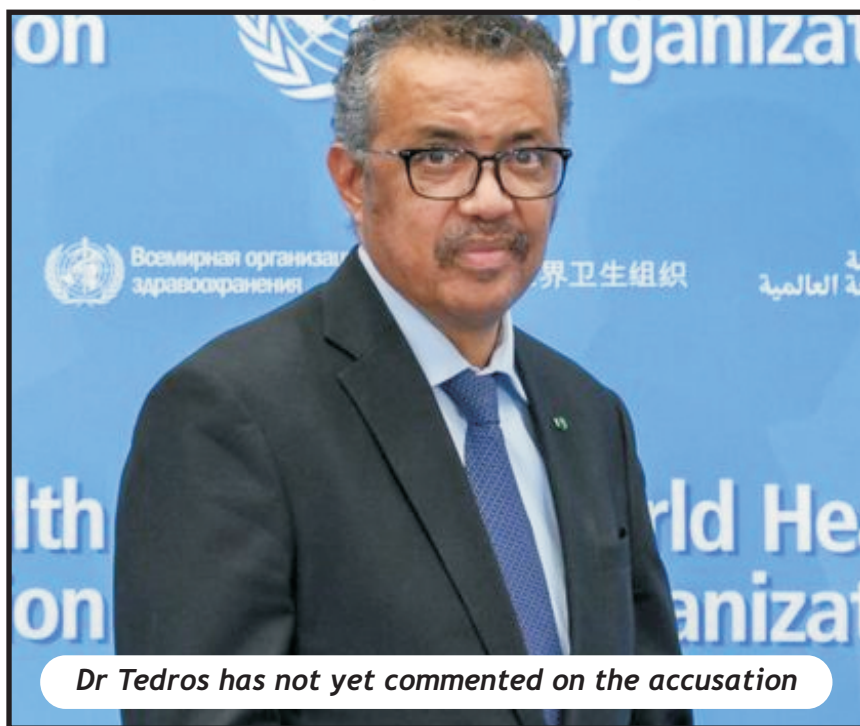
"I spoke to a banker, some teachers, health workers, and they all say that it was too dangerous to be there... and they left by foot," he said. The TPLF dominated Ethiopia's military and politics for decades before Abiy Ahmed became prime minister in 2018.

He pushed through major reforms which some say sidelined the TPLF.

The feud escalated in September when Tigray held a regional election, defying a nationwide ban on all polls imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Abiy called the vote illegal. Then fighting broke out on 4 November after Ethiopia's central government accused the TPLF of attacking a military base to steal weapons. The TPLF has denied

the attack. 1. The Kingdom of Aksum was centred in the region. Described as one of the greatest civilisations of the ancient world, it was once the most powerful state between the Roman and Persian empires. 2. The ruins of the city of Aksum are a UN World Heritage Site. The site, dating from between the 1st and 13th Century AD, features obelisks, castles, royal tombs and a church which is believed by some to house the Ark of the Covenant. 3. Most people in Tigray are Ethiopian Orthodox Christians. The region's Christian roots stretch back 1,600 years. 4. The region's main language is Tigrinya, a Semitic dialect with at least seven million speakers worldwide. 5. Sesame is a major cash crop, exported to the US, China and other countries. BBC



Dr Tedros has not yet commented on the accusation

Liberia court cancels vote to cut president's term

The Liberian Supreme Court has ruled in favour of the opposition to postpone a referendum on constitutional changes to decrease the length of the term of the president and senators, and to allow people to have dual

citizenship.

The referendum could not take place until a public education and awareness campaign took place on the proposed changes, the court ruled, in a unanimous judgement.

The referendum had been

slated for 8 December.

The court also ruled that the ballots violated the law by presenting multiple referendum questions on the same sheet of paper, Reuters news agency reports.

There was no immediate reaction from the government, and it was not clear if another referendum would be organised, Reuters added. The proposed changes seek to reduce the president's tenure from six to five years, the tenure of senators from nine to seven years. Other changes proposed included allowing people to hold dual citizenship. The case had been filed by the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

Liberian lawyers, the journalists' union and the council of churches had also called for postponement of the referendum. Liberia's current president is former football star George Weah, who took office in 2018 after winning elections. BBC



Tear gas fired to disperse protesters in Uganda



Bobi Wine's supporters are calling for him to be released from police detention

Tear gas and live bullets have been fired in Uganda's capital, Kampala, to disperse people protesting against the arrest of Ugandan presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi, popularly known as Bobi Wine.

There is a heavy police presence in different parts of the city. In some of the streets in the central business district, roads have been blocked with burning tyres and piles of rubbish on some streets in the central business district. Traders were closing their premises and coming out in their hundreds, hands in the air, trying to make it past the security forces.

A plain-clothed, stick-

wielding squad was also seen chasing and beating people.

Security forces were entering some of the shopping malls to chase people out, or firing tear gas inside to smoke them out.

Bobi Wine's supporters are calling for him to be released from police detention. He was arrested at a campaign rally in the east of the country on Wednesday and the police are accusing him of flouting coronavirus prevention guidelines against drawing crowds.

He has not yet been charged. Police have said that seven people died, and dozens were injured, in protests on Wednesday. BBC

EDITORIAL

We need party agents in polling centers

COMMISSIONER BOAKAI DUKULY of the National Elections Commission stressed the need for party agents to be present at various polling centers across the country during the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election to monitor the polls. He made the call last Friday, 13 November at a Training of Trainers Workshop for political parties, alliances, coalition and Independent Candidates, ahead of the special senatorial election.

COMMISSIONER DUKULY FURTHER noted the role of political party agents during elections is critical to legitimacy of election results throughout the country, as their presence during voting significantly help in validating free, fair, credible and transparent election.

WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREED with the NEC Commissioner that candidates, parties, alliances and or coalitions vying in the December poll should do everything necessary in having their agents deployed at various polling centers across the country to monitor the elections. This is important to avoid wild or unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud that could undermine the process.

IN OTHER WORDS, claims of electoral malpractices coming from the pending elections should be backed by facts or documentary evidence to authenticate their validity.

OVER THE YEARS, we have observed repeatedly with great disappointment that most political parties and or Independent Candidates failed to send agents or representatives to polling centers to observe both casting and counting of ballots. Yet, they are the first to alarm about malpractices, which does not demonstrate good intentions.

WHILE THE NATIONAL Elections Commission is statutorily and constitutionally responsible to conduct free, fair and transparent elections in Liberia, the Commission is not perfect in all of its activities because they are carried out by human beings, who may err or who may what to do something selfish.

HOWEVER, IF AGENTS of various political parties, alliances, coalition and Independent Candidates are present to watch the polls, they may quickly raise concerns and bring them to NEC's attention for prompt redress.

COMMISSIONER DUKULY CHALLENGED party agents to be truthful and to report exactly what they see but also to be careful in handling complaints arising out of the elections. And this is very important because if complaints are not carefully handled by parties or candidates involved, they may have the propensity to spark violence, which is counterproductive in a democratic process.

THE SUPREME COURT of Liberia has assured Liberians that it would remain fully active during and after the polls, ready to receive and address all electoral complaints in the interest of justice and peace. Political actors should learn from late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, ex-leader of the opposition Liberty Party, who mustered courage and complained to the High Court during the 2017 presidential election. That was demonstration of leadership at its highest level!

EMULATING CLLR. BRUMSKINE'S style of politicking by using the law would surely go a long way in not just strengthening our growing democracy, but setting good example for our respective followers and zealous loyalists other than choosing means of violence.

COMMENTARY

By Daoud Kuttub

What Biden Owes the Palestinians

Contrary to popular belief, a permanent settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict is not a lost cause. But it will require courageous and resolute US leadership. Whether President-elect Joe Biden will provide that remains to be seen, but pledging to ensure that Israel immediately halts settlement construction in the occupied territories would be a good start.

AMMAN - Nearly three years ago, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas took the extraordinary step of ending all negotiations with US President Donald Trump's administration, owing to its unabashed pro-Israel bias. Under President-elect Joe Biden, the Palestinian leadership is looking forward to getting back to the negotiating table. At the top of their agenda will be an end to Israel's construction of illegal settlements on Palestinian land in the occupied territories.

The Trump administration's bias in favor of Israel could not have been more blatant. Those who led the "peace process" - such as Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman - have all publicly supported Israeli settlement building and violations of Palestinian human rights.

Not surprisingly, the so-called peace plan this team devised gave Israel virtually everything it wanted, while offering no concessions to the Palestinians. Instead, the Trump administration attempted to buy Palestinians' acquiescence - or, more accurately, surrender - with promises of investment. Rather than submit, Abbas broke off discussions with the United States - a remarkable decision when one considers that, in the 1980s, the Palestinians were pleading with the Americans to hold direct talks with their leaders.

But Abbas had no choice. With the world's leading superpower on its side, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's right-wing government did not need the Palestinians' approval to ramp up its settlement building and lay the groundwork for more. In recent months, Israel has carried out an unprecedented spree of demolition of Palestinian homes and structures.

There is no question that such activities violate international humanitarian law. The United Nations Security Council confirmed as much four years ago, when it unanimously passed Resolution 2334. The resolution's preamble explicitly condemned "all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character, and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967," including "the construction and expansion of settlements" and "the demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians."

Yet the Trump administration remains committed to supporting Israel's violations. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who may be eyeing his own presidential run in 2024, is poised to visit an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, making him the first US secretary of state to do so. This is a blatant violation of Resolution 2334, which calls on all states "to distinguish, in their

relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967."

Since the Trump administration's betrayal, Palestinians have been fending for themselves. In protest of Israel's settlement activity, they have refused to accept taxes collected by Israel on their behalf - a decision that, together with a sharp reduction in US aid, has pushed the Palestinian Authority to the brink of bankruptcy.

This goes to show how crucial the settlement issue is to the Palestinians - and for good reason. Beyond violating international law and Palestinians' rights, Israeli settlement expansion precludes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state along the pre-1967 borders.

Fortunately, there are promising signs that Biden will take a very different approach from his predecessor. Resolution 2334 passed because US President Barack Obama's administration, then in its final days, decided not to veto it. The order came from Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser at the time, who is now said to be on Biden's short list for secretary of state.

Of course, Biden himself was vice president in the Obama administration, and in 2014, he told Netanyahu, "I don't agree with a damn thing you say." Other projected Biden administration appointees - including incoming chief of staff Ron Klain - all oppose illegal Israeli settlement activity.

Abbas clearly hopes that this will translate into progress. After congratulating Biden on his victory, Abbas called on his administration to "strengthen Palestinian-American relations," pursue "freedom, independence, justice, and dignity" for Palestinians, and "work for peace, stability, and security for all" in the Middle East and worldwide.

Even before Biden was elected, Abbas was attempting to jump-start progress. In his speech before the UN General Assembly in September, he called on the Quartet - the US, the UN, the European Union, and Russia - to convene an international conference early next year "to engage in a genuine peace process, based on international law, UN resolutions, and the relevant terms of reference, leading to an end of the occupation."

To hold such a conference, let alone produce results, in the first days of the Biden administration is a tall order. But it is not unreasonable to expect the new administration to implement Resolution 2334 immediately - and that means bringing Israeli settlement building to a swift end.

New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT



Lord, is it true Borbor chopped him pekin Teetee?

Dear Father:

Hmm, have you heard de news? They say one Pekin weh dey work for our village Town Crier says Borbor don chopped him Teetee. De Pekin de cried him heart out for him Teetee, it not be joke matter oo. You say whatin?

Uh, Father da de news me I heard oo. They say right na, the Pekin na for put foot for our village for fear da Borbor would na send some people after him. Tell me something!

Yes oo Father, de matter be serious for dis village oo. Even all we naPekin for village with fine, fine Teetee then dey worry right na, na.

But my son, tell me da who causedsamp-it be de Pekin or him fine, fine Teetee? Father, dis one water don pass garioo. And I don't even know sef how to feel answer da other question. De thin make we confused. De onlythin we dey hearsay pekin dey cried for Facebook on him Borbor for his Teetee.

Father if you see the fine, fine Teetee for Facebook, she dey post very well with some fine car be oo. They say pekin tell him friend then say da Borbor dey buy for him Teetee-Kayeee!

But my son oo, is it true sef? I mean all de thin de pekin dey talk for him Borbor. Ah Father, which one be yor own. Me I feel tell you say they say de pekin say. De only thin me I feel know is da Borbor like fine, fine Teetee bisnay and him pekin Teetee fine pass toooo. Hmm, my son dis one na why oo.

Father you see for dis village ehn plenty thins don dey happened. So Teetee matter for village it na be jus na thin.

Before, before, our village had one Borbor weh feel smoke bone, de book people can call it Cuban Cigar. He too he used to like follow his pekin them Teetee plenty.

They say one time he feel chopped one of his Cabinet Kitchen staff Teetee. So de man don know da him chopped de thin. So na he go beat him woman finish and Borbor dey hear. The say Borbor don vex and go sack amp for job.

They say na him Teetee then go beg de Borbor for him to get him job back. They say when de Borbor called de man at de Village Castle in front of him friends, he told de man to take off his trousers. And when de man do ehn, de Borbor told him look at you, you think you man, go back to work mehn!

Even for Bible, one Borbor there feel chopped him pekin Teetee too. And after him fini chopped him pekin Teetee de Teetee got Belle then he go killed him pekin to cover him sin.

These people ehn, Father den be wicked too much. So they feel say all the Teetee for village they should taste ehn?

No, dis one be serious. How can these Borbors not be happy with their own? Den feel say they have right to all the Teetees in the village.

Me, Father I only get one advise for the pekin them da feel work for these Borbors-don't get Teetee so da you can do yor work in peace.



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

Should ECOWAS Court Legal Jurisprudence Override the Liberian's Justice System?

The Economic Community of West African States was born in 1975 by 15 African countries, commonly referred to as ECOWAS. In 1975 an ECOWAS Treaty included a mandate for the establishment of a Community Court of Justice (CCJ) to adjudicate disputes related to the interpretation and operation of Human Rights violations. The CCJ was officially launched in 1991 and became operational in December 2000. The CCJ has seven judges, each serving a five-year term. No two judges can be nationals of the same state. The CCJ is located in Abuja, Nigeria.

West Africa has experienced a series of conflicts and judicial killings starting with Nigeria the headquarters of the CCJ where Boko Haram operates above the Justice system of CCJ. Most of the states like Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, etc. have seen civil wars as well as ethnic and religious clashes leading to the deaths of thousands and thousands of innocent citizens. What has the CCJ don't about that? Corruption and bad governance have ravaged ECOWAS countries, leading to the death of massive innocent people which is also part of CCJ's Human Rights issues, what has CCJ done about that?

Col. Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi was captured and killed by former President Obama's government and the European Union, October 20, 2011, which is also part of the gross Human Rights abuses, what did the CCJ do about that? There are doubts over the CCJ's definition of Human Rights and its selective in ECOWAS. The Jen'nah case seems to be a special interest case that is unprecedented by any legal standards.

The basic lawful core of the duties and responsibilities of the CCJ is definitively to delve into human rights violations in ECOWAS countries. This dream is yet to be fulfilled. For example, Boko Haram, an Islamic terrorist group operating under the nose of the CCJ has continued to massacre thousands and thousands of Nigerians and non-Nigerians what is the CCJ doing about such human rights' grave violation? The killing of over 150000-innocent Liberians in its then 16-years civil wars what did CCJ do about that and the Jen'nah LURD rebel movement contributed to these deaths, did the CCJ ask the former Associate Justice about that?

The killing of hundreds and hundreds of demonstrators in Guinea by the Guinean Government what did CCJ do about that? There is a growing judicial killing of innocent citizens in West Africa by West African leaders where is the CCJ on that? Nonetheless, the CCJ is deeply troubled over the impeachment of former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jan'neh's impeachment case.

What is ironic is the fact that the CCJ has had sleepless overnight duties looking into an impeached Associate Supreme Court Justice Jan'neh case who cried foul over his impeachment and filed a lawsuit to the CCJ through his Counsel Femi Falana for miscarriage of justice in his impeachment trial in which he is claiming an amount not less than twenty-five million United States Dollars US\$25,000,000.00 (Twenty Five Million United States Dollars) as compensation and an Order directing the Republic of Liberia to restore Mr. Jan'neh's as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia!

CCJ should begin to operate within its legal confines rather than interferes in the internal affairs of the Liberian government. The impeachment of KabinehJan'neh, who was once a former spokesperson of a rebel movement, LURD was done under clear and transparent legal guidance. His impeachment was opened to the general public and all legal proceedings were assured. The CCJ should learn how to respect lawful decisions made by a duly constituted government of Liberia.

The CCJ will need to revamp its human rights priorities and benchmark approaches. The CCJ should focus on the human aspects of human rights that deal exclusively with the killing of innocent citizens in the various member countries, rather than wasting its pressure time and energies on the removal of a former rebel spoke person Jen'neh from the Supreme Court bench. The CCJ will need to confront Boko Haram, an Islamic terrorist group in Nigerians, and bring them to justice.

It is with grave disappointment, to witness the CCJ imposed a fine on the Guinean government for killing its citizens for demonstration. Why the CCJ should imposed a monetary fine on a government for taking the lives of its innocent citizens when the government of Guinea should be taken to the Huge for persecution. The CCJ will need to understudy the constitution of the Republic of Liberia and learn how its judicial system works before jumping to a conclusion regarding decisions reached by the government of Liberia.

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A MEMO

A MEMO

President George Weah: a struggling economy & "Yes-men"

By Ike D. Coleman
Cont'd from last edition

Furthermore, where was the vision for creating a trained workforce of "skilled hands and technical knowledge," which she could have sold as she traveled and met so many foreign investors? With the local news media salivating over Ellen's credentials, and not the ability to interrupt poverty, thereby altering the lives of the majority disenfranchised, they—the media, that is, became culpable in propping up the notion that Liberians cared more about a college degree than whether an individual could prove his/her ability to move the needle. By the way, a trained workforce has far less to do with granting scholars to a select few to pursue graduate degrees in business administration and economics, and more about seeking international assistance to send more technically inclined Liberians abroad for training in vocational and technical education, to get their dexterity refined and updated. Come on, Mr. Weah, Liberia does not have any shortage of young, unemployed Liberians with undergraduate technical degrees; what is in short supply, however, is, the government—through its National Investment Commission inability to corral and persuade the international community to provide scholarship funding for purposes of dispatching select groups of Liberians for hands-on training in countries like South Africa and others. Eastern and Southern Africa would be regions where Liberians could be trained in the hospitality/tourism industry, for instance. In fact, many wealthy European countries might just set a quota of how many Liberians they would accept for such a training, if Mr Weah lined up the necessary salesmen to sell the hell out of Liberia's potential.

Is there a lesson Mr. Weah could learn from Ellen's failure dump? Most definitely! For starters, it means never to repeat the cycle by bequeathing the second round of failure to Liberians. If you are going to design programs, highlighted by projects to be implemented for poverty mitigation, then it must include extending an invitation to the people burdened by the problems your policies were attempting to assuage. Any convention on poverty must include a randomly sampled representation of people burdened by the problem. Just because the objects—victims of abject poverty weren't products of formal education, let alone suit and tie-wearing individuals, did not mean they were incapable of contributing to finding solutions to problems that affected them directly.

Defining and Adopting the Essence of Poverty:

Despite Liberia's failure in successfully tackling poverty, all is not lost if Mr. Weah became that transformative leader, prepared to cut his country's losses, by sidelining his matrix of "yes-men," with people capable of getting things done with conspicuous evidence of outcomes Liberians could see, feel and relate to. Let us call it "homework" hour because now, Mr. Weah should send members of his team, especially those on the domestic policy front to draw up and adopt a flexible plan based on poverty-related challenges like the one offered by the late King of Nepal—BirendraBirBikram's. The synopsis offered below by the King was so in-depth that no third world policy-making could have gone wrong in deciphering each point and collectively incorporating them into a pragmatic initiative. Having done so, Mr. Weah would undoubtedly recognize a need to transform poverty challenges into opportunities from which workforce training, small business startups, job creation, and employment could derive.

Poverty and human misery were an issue, not lost on Nepal's King BirendraBirBikram's watch as the keynote speaker to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Conference, in Paris, France, September 1981

(Economics of Social Issues). He could not have summarized poverty and human misery any better than calling it "The biggest issue of them all," which, if adopted by Mr. Weah, for example, would form the template, necessary to address his country's currently conspicuous human desolation—hunger, starvation and preventable illnesses, on many different fronts. If the "yes chief/bossman" advisers, along with the Liberian leader chose to decipher the various elements embedded in the synopsis below and addressed them individually, future poverty reduction plans might begin to bear fruit, because of commitment to his country, not individuals seeking personal gains.

Arguably, to begin the process of pretending to address poverty, Mr. Weah must accept first, that embedded in leadership of any kind is the flexibility to be in a continuous learning mode, alongside adapting to unexpected changes, especially external factors beyond his control. Learning and adapting means also being tactful enough to entertain "diversity of thoughts" from civil society and others, whose views may be different from his, yet add value to what he intends to accomplish.

According to King BirBikram:

A poor man in a least developed country—and his number runs into millions—suffers from poor nutrition. He is vulnerable to diseases. His average life span is short. He lives



in huts where squalor perpetually surrounds him. He is illiterate in both letters and skills. He does not get his meal regularly, but when he does, he is haunted by the fear of where his next meal will come from. He is clad in rags, if at all. He walks without a pair of shoes. Lack of hygiene, minimal food, and contagious diseases have inflicted some scars on his body. He lives mostly in villages—remote and inaccessible to the rest of the world—or slums or shantytowns. The water he drinks is neither safe nor clean. He is either unemployed or underemployed; but when he is employed, he's overworked and underpaid. He suffers from apathy and ignominy. From birth to death, he remains destitute. Usually, he dies an infant, but if he does survive, scarcity and wants haunt him to his end. Famine, drought, and other natural disasters continually plague him. If he is a villager, he may be landless; if he is a town-dweller, he rarely has a roof over his head. When the prices go up, the quality and quantity of his food go down, because his income can no longer buy him the food he needs. His wife, if she is pregnant, can only have a worse fate. He cannot buy books for his children, nor pay fees for school, let alone the toolbox he would love to buy for them to make ends meet. When he falls ill, he cannot pay fees to a doctor, nor buy medicine for himself, let alone getting better amenities of life in these crises. ...Starvation and death stare him in his face as in medieval times. ...and this is the greatest irony of all—giving birth to the largest number of children; children, he can hardly support on the income he does not have. "I speak of

on me the special obligation to speak for him, but even more, because his story is perpetrated on a scale and dimension that indeed is tragic because of what man can do for man and yet is not done..."

What the King neglected to mention, however, was one of the many contributing causal factors of poverty in third world countries—theft by public officials, drains national coffers of funds, making it impossible to allocate adequate funding for any of the above distresses, which plagues Liberians, for instance. In a country where people pretend to be too proud to work with their hands because it is not as prestigious as having a chauffeur, flaunting a college degree, and working out of an office, is a country where citizens are unlikely to achieve other national objectives such as addressing man's number one security for basic survival—FOOD. Nope, it is not being proud that prevents Liberians from working with the hands to make things; it is absolute LAZINESS, which in turn allows for a lot of talking, much more than "doing," for people that find pleasure in pontificating on sheer platitudes. About Liberians, they are more comfortable "telling subordinates to do," but "not how to do it," because too often, those issuing directives have no clue about the applied aspects of what they were directing others to do.

As if this was a memo to President Weah, would you disagree, Mr. President, that the late King was speaking of your country, Liberia! If you do agree, however, what are you prepared to do differently from Ellen's failure to shore up the way forward. Are you willing to begin organizing focus groups of young, unemployed Liberians, to test their pulse for how they could contribute to a national conversation on poverty, education, jobs, and employment? We should not be the ones to remind you that the one basic need common to human and animal survival, is FOOD. No matter your education, position, background, and life's experiences, whenever you are hungry, not a damn thing matters more than the need for FOOD to satisfy hunger; not even sex—looking at naked man or woman could attract a starving individual, amid the lack of food.

So imagine the impact on growing Liberian kids, who do not have the privilege of even a school program, highlighting a National Breakfast Initiative, to provide one daily meal needed for the energy to concentrate. Come on now, how much better would grade school kids do if Mr. Weah would interrupt the untenable theft of funds destined for offshore deposits, and reinvested them in a National Breakfast Program if only to give kids a fighting chance at beating starvation at its core! That brings us to an attempt to jolt the motivation of industrious Liberians, who seek financial independence instead of a government job that pays a meager salary once every four months, for instance! Of course, that does not apply to those closest to the seat of power, who are members of the "gravy train express" that makes continual stops at their offices to drop off their share of "spoils." It has always been an open secret that members of "Liberia National Corruption Syndicate" do not rely on a monthly paycheck for financial independence; they rely on the drops the "gravy train" makes ever so often. Because of that, no senior government official dares makes noise about his fellow partner in crime; Samuel Doe who was no stranger to riding the "gravy train" once challenged any senior official in his government to come forward, if he or she had not been stained by corruption. Not a single Cabinet officer, Legislator, Managing Director of Public Corporation—government-owned enterprises...took Doe up on his challenge. Against that backdrop, we believe that now is the time for Mr. Weah to embark on a Small Business Startup Revolution for entrepreneurial Liberians, something the 1970s generation—Ellen's generation was incapable of.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gov't to create 'green corridors' in 5 cities

The Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has disclosed plan to create green corridors in five municipalities, including Monrovia, Buchanan, Gbarnga, Ganta, and

sectors in the country. Creation of green corridors involves planting of trees to serve as windbreakers, provision of shade and beautification. The EPA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on Tuesday, November

development superintendents, and representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Forestry Development Authorities (FDA) and counties engineers focused on conducting feasibility analysis of available quantitative data on the adaptation potential of adding green corridors to these five cities.

The meeting that also sought to recommend targets to be added to the 2020 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) was facilitated by Ephrat Yovel, an international expert who did presentation on the concept of Urban Green Corridors and overview of urbanization in the cities earmarked.

Liberia submitted its first NDC in 2015. The document outlined the country's intended actions to contribute to the global effort to combat climate change.

It also contained both adaptation and mitigation targets that are contingent on the availability of support, a release from the EPA said.

Liberia NDC presents a platform to integrate its Low Carbon Development Strategy into the country's long-term sustainable development

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Paynesville to enhance its climate change mitigation drive.

The creation of green corridors in these cities is intended to enhance adaptation, as the impacts and effects of climate change increase and affect multiple

17, 2020 concluded a two-day Green Corridor Technical Meeting in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County to provide technical inputs that would help drive the creation of green corridors in the five cities.

The meeting which brought together city mayors,

Redd vows to transform rural broadcaster

By Bridgett Milton

With support from government and partners, newly appointed Deputy Director General for Rural Broadcasting at the Liberia Broadcasting System -- Isaac Redd, has promised to transform the rural broadcaster through meaningful programs.

"I believe that we will make a very impactful development at the Liberia Broadcasting System with the support of the government and our partners," he said.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Redd served as Director of Press at the House of Representatives for 13 years.

Speaking Tuesday when he turned over his press office at the Legislature, Redd said it was sad to note that since independence of Liberia, the state broadcaster has not been able to broadcast across the country.

"We believe we can achieve an agenda of connecting the country by

getting the farmers to listen to the rural broadcaster, to get the community radio to do what it takes to build their respective communities," he indicated.

affiliation. "We go to the position as a non-partisan Director General; we go to the position to serve the Liberian people



Mr. Isaac Redd

Redd said during his service at the state broadcaster, he would work to ensure an enabling environment for all, irrespective of their political

whether rain or shine; to ensure our frequencies (television and radio) are transmitted throughout the length and breathe of

WHO, MOH, PUL train over 50 journalists

By Bridgett Milton

The world Health Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Press Union of Liberia has ended two days training for 50 journalists across Montserrado County to enhance monitoring and reporting of Covid-19 rumor.

Speaking at the start of the training Tuesday, Risk Communication Lead Chester Smith lauded journalists for turning out for the workshop.

"We can't fight Covid-19 out of Liberia when we downplay the importance of the media", Smith noted.

and the Ministry of Health to refresh journalists on Covid-19 reporting.

He said as the country gears up for the pending December 8 special senatorial election, it was important to continue awareness on how to prevent the pandemic in the midst of the election.

Giving the objective of the training workshop, Mr. Hassan Kiawu said the exercise was meant to breast journalists of relevant facts amidst rumors that surround Covid-19.

"To train and empower media practitioners with the requisite skills to manage,



He said complacency by citizens is very detrimental to the health system, urging everyone to keep observing all health protocols to remain safe.

Smith at the same time thanked the leadership of the PUL that has been very instrumental in working alongside the risk communication team at the Ministry of Health to have this training workshop done.

Also speaking, the Vice President of the Press Union of Liberia Daniel Nyakonah said, the PUL was excited to have collaborated with the WHO

report and mitigate the rumors surrounding Covid-19", Kiawu noted.

He said journalists should follow up on issues and report facts in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. Kiawu added that the training workshop was meant to give journalists guidance how to report, adding the similar workshop was conducted in Margibi County for media practitioners there to be on par with their colleagues. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Liberia," Redd pointed.

For his part, Deputy Director of press at the House of Representatives Nelson Garr commended Redd for his preferment and promised to do his best.

Redd was appointed

recently by President George M. Weah after Boima J. V. Boima was dismissed from the position. Following his dismissal, Boima fled the country, alleging President Weah had extra marital affairs with his wife.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberians cautioned against mixing politics with education

By Lewis S. Teh

Deputy Education Minister for Planning and Research Alton V. Kesselly has urged politicians and citizens across the country not to mix politics with education so as not to take the country's education sector backward.

"If we continue to mix

and key issues relating to the fulfillment of the right to education in Liberia.

He says with the significant progress made by Liberian students in the just ended WASSCE examination, it was important for politician to leave politics out of the education sector of the country for the future of the school -

working to address the overcrowding of classes in public schools.

He also speaks of efforts to address female school drop outs, the high level of illiteracy, among others.

He says the ministry has a long term sector educational plan that will address the many challenges confronting the country's education system.

Also making remarks, Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) Executive Director Anderson D. Miamen extols media practitioners and the panelists for providing the necessary information that is meaningful to the growth of the country.

He notes that education is very key and is a fundamental right guaranteed by local and international convention framework and policies.

According to Miamen, Article 6 of the Liberian Constitution obligates government to provide equal access to educational opportunities for all to the extent of available resources.

Mr. Miamen explains that its not about any form of education, but one that is accessible and considers gender equality which when acquired can make the citizens to contribute to the



Deputy Min. Alton V. Kesselly

politics with education than our education sector will continue to go backward," he said Thursday, 19 November at the opening of a one - day training workshop to increase stakeholders' knowledge about the Abidjan Principles

going children who are considered the future leaders.

Making his presentation on the overview of Liberia's Education Sector, Minister Kesselly explains that the Government of Liberia through the Education Ministry is

President Weah applauds Lebanon on 77th Independence observance

President George Manneh Weah, has on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia and in his own name extended heartfelt congratulations to the Lebanese President, Michel Aoun, and through him to the Government and people of the Lebanese Republic on the occasion commemorating the 77th Independence

occupation forces after their commanders backed down and accepted the independence of Lebanon.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, President Weah emphasized that as Liberians join the people of Lebanon in observing this occasion, it is his keen prayer that the bonds of friendship and cooperation subsisting between the two countries and



President George Manneh Weah

anniversary of that country.

Lebanese Independence Day is the national day of Lebanon celebrated on November 22, in commemoration of the end of the French Mandate over that country in 1943, after 23 years of Mandate rule.

On this day in 1943, Lebanon's constitutionally elected leaders were released from detention by French

peoples in the spirit of continue mutual cooperation and friendship will be further strengthened.

He then prayed that the Almighty Allah will endow President Aoun with abundant wisdom, strength and good health as he leads his compatriots to nobler heights.-

Press release

Court summons Boima J. V. Boima

By Ben P. Wese

The Monrovia City Court at the Temple of Justice has summoned former Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) Deputy Director for Rural Broadcasting Boima J. V. Boima for action of debt, days after the dismissed official fled the country citing safety and other concerns.

The case is brought by one AlexmanMahn who alleges that Mr. Boima is indebted to him in the sum of US\$2,000.00, thought he court document did not indicate what transaction has been between the complainant and the accused.

"You are hereby commanded to summon the living body of Boima J.V Boima and cause him to appear before the Stipendiary Magistrate or any other Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court, Temple



Mr. Boima J. V. Boima

of Justice on November 16, to answer ... [to an] Action of Debt," the court says.

Mr. Boima recently got dismissed by President Weah after announcing in advance his plan to resign his post at the end

of December.

Mahn claims that despite repeated requests and demands for defendant Boima to pay the money in question, the accused has allegedly failed, refused and neglected

to pay the money.

"Wherefore, and in view of the foregoing, plaintiff brings this action [against] the defendant praying Court to render judgment against the defendant to pay to the plaintiff that said amount of US\$2,000.00 plus and 6% legal interest as well as plaintiff's expenses," Mahn says.

The court has ordered that

upon Boima's failure to appear for the the case, a judgment shall be rendered by default against him.

Following his dismissal, Boima recently surfaced in neighboring Sierra Leone, and it is also reported that he is making further efforts to travel to some Western countries.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

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Français

C'est l'incertitude pour le Référendum national suspendu

La Cour suprême du Libéria a statué sur le recours de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP, une plateforme de l'opposition), suspendant le référendum national controversé qui devrait être combiné avec les élections sénatoriales du 8 décembre.

“Pour cette raison et compte tenu de ce qui précède, le bref d'interdiction de remplacement délivré est maintenu et le bref péremptoire est accordé”, a statué la plus haute cour de justice du pays dans une décision unanime le mercredi 18 novembre.

Avant la décision de la Cour, le gouvernement a fait face à des critiques publiques pour avoir combiné les élections sénatoriales avec le référendum, principalement parce que l'on craint qu'il n'y ait pas eu assez de sensibilisation pour que les gens comprennent clairement ce qu'ils sont censés décider lors du référendum.

Vu que les élections sénatoriales sont leur propre stress et vu les sérieuses

tensions politiques qui ont cristallisé les positions dans le pays, ceux qui s'opposent à l'organisation du référendum à la date initialement prévue estiment que beaucoup de gens pourraient simplement se perdre sur la signification des propositions contenues dans le référendum car tout le monde semble se concentrer sur les sénatoriales.

Ainsi la Cour suprême a suspendu mercredi l'impression des bulletins de vote pour le référendum, car

les propositions sont contraires à la résolution conjointe du parlement et à l'article 92 de la Constitution.

La Cour suprême estime que la Commission Electorale nationale a violé la loi, par conséquent, elle a ordonné la suspension de la procédure référendaire.

Elle estime que l'acte de la commission s'écarte du libellé clair de la résolution du pouvoir législatif. Pour elle, le fait de combiner et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Frontière Ivoirio-Libérienne : la vérité sur les 8000 réfugiés de Pekan Barrage (présidentielle, Côte d'Ivoire)

Dès les premières violences survenues au mois d'août suite à l'annonce de la candidature du président Alassane Ouattara pour l'élection présidentielle du 31 octobre 2020 et au mot d'ordre de désobéissance civile et autres menaces lancés par

l'opposition, nombreux sont les Ivoiriens qui pris de panique du fait de la psychose et des fakenews sur les réseaux sociaux, ont décidé de faire un pas vers les pays voisins.

Al'ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire, ils étaient annoncés 8000, qui ont fui vers le Libéria. Dans le cadre d'une mission

d'évaluation post-électorale dans le Cavally, notre équipe de reporters s'est rendue dans la localité de Toulepleu puis dans les villages de Pekan Barrage et Pekan village à la frontière avec le Libéria. Reportage.

Mardi 17 novembre 2020. Il est 10h30 lorsque notre équipe de reporters fait ses civilités au préfet du département de Toulepleu, Bini Koffi Etienne, à la préfecture en présence du secrétaire général de la préfecture, du chef de cabinet du préfet et du sous-préfet de Toulepleu.

Il est 10h45, lorsque nous quittons la ville de Toulepleu (650 km d'Abidjan) à l'ouest, pour le village de Pekan Barrage. Le préfet nous a prévenu. La voie menant à Pekan Barrage longue de 16km est en mauvais état.

Abord de notre voiture de type 4x4, nous empruntons une piste à peine reprofilée mais qui reste encore

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Que chaque candidat ait des représentants dans tous les bureaux de vote

Le commissaire Boakai Dukuly de la Commission électorale nationale a souligné la nécessité que des agents des partis soient présents dans tous les bureaux de vote à travers le pays lors de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale du 8 décembre 2020 pour surveiller le scrutin. Il a lancé cet appel vendredi 13 novembre lors d'un atelier de formation des formateurs pour les partis politiques, les alliances, les coalitions et les candidats indépendants, en vue de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale.

Le commissaire Dukuly a en outre noté que le rôle des agents des partis politiques pendant les élections est indispensable à la légitimité des résultats des élections, car leur présence pendant le scrutin aide considérablement à valider des élections.

Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec le commissaire de la NEC. Oui les candidats, les partis, les alliances et / ou les coalitions en lice devraient faire tout ce qui est nécessaire pour que leurs agents soient déployés dans tous les centres de vote à travers le pays pour surveiller les élections. Ceci est important pour éviter des allégations sauvages ou non fondées de fraude électorale qui pourraient compromettre le processus.

En d'autres termes, les allégations de malversations électorales devraient être étayées par des faits ou des preuves documentées pour authentifier leur validité.

Au fil des ans, nous avons observé à plusieurs reprises avec une grande déception que la plupart des partis politiques et / ou des candidats indépendants n'envoient pas d'agents ou de représentants dans les bureaux de vote pour observer le dépouillement des bulletins de vote. Pourtant, ils sont les premiers à s'alarmer des malversations, ce qui peut être considéré comme une démonstration d'une mauvaise intention.

Quoique la Commission électorale nationale est légalement et constitutionnellement responsable de la tenue d'élections libres, équitables et transparentes au Libéria, elle n'est pas parfaite car elle est composée d'êtres humains qui peuvent soit se tromper ou avoir des affiliations politiques.

Cependant, si des agents de divers partis politiques, alliances, coalitions et candidats indépendants sont présents pour surveiller les élections, ils peuvent rapidement soulever des inquiétudes et les porter à l'attention de la NEC pour procéder à une réparation rapide.

Le commissaire Dukuly a invité les agents du parti à faire preuve d'honnêteté et à rapporter exactement ce qu'ils voient, mais aussi à faire preuve de prudence dans le traitement des plaintes découlant des élections. Et cela est très important car si les plaintes ne sont pas traitées avec soin par les partis ou les candidats impliqués, elles peuvent avoir la propension à déclencher la violence, ce qui est contre-productif dans un processus démocratique.

La Cour suprême du Libéria a rassuré les Libériens qu'elle resterait pleinement active pendant et après les élections, pour recevoir et traiter toutes les plaintes électorales dans l'intérêt de la justice et de la paix. Les acteurs politiques devraient apprendre de feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine, ancien chef du parti de la Liberté, qui a rassemblé son courage pour porter plainte devant la Haute Cour lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2017. C'était une démonstration de leadership à son plus haut niveau!

Suivre l'exemple de Brumskine en faisant usage de la voie légale contribuerait certainement non seulement à renforcer notre démocratie croissante, mais à donner le bon exemple à nos partisans respectifs et à nos fidèles zélés.

Français

C'est l'incertitude pour

condenser les huit propositions en trois catégories est tout à fait contraire à la disposition de l'article 92 de la Constitution qui prescrit spécifiquement que chacune des huit propositions soit énoncée séparément, de sorte que les électeurs aient la possibilité d'exercer leur droit de choix.

Selon la Cour suprême, les pétitionnaires ayant démontré qu'ils sont dûment enregistrés et certifiés par la Commission électorale nationale en tant que deux alliances politiques séparées et distinctes ayant une préoccupation commune relative à l'organisation du référendum du 8 décembre 2020, ils ont un intérêt dans la matière et peuvent donc se joindre à une action pour faire valoir tout droit qui leur est commun.

La Cour suprême a statué que cette suspension ne sera effective que dans le domaine où il est établi que l'intimé s'est arrogé une compétence qui ne lui est pas attribuée par la constitution ou a abusé de sa compétence désignée dans l'exercice de sa compétence légale, en suivant des règles erronées autres que celles à observer à tout moment.

Ainsi, la Cour suprême a

jugé que la NEC ne s'est pas attribuée des pouvoirs qui ne sont pas les siens en fixant le 8 décembre 2020 comme date du référendum puisqu'il n'y pas eu moins d'un an à compter du 30 septembre 2019, date de la résolution commune.

Elle estime que la date du 8 décembre est en soi conforme à la Constitution et que la commission électorale n'a dans ce cas outrepassé sa compétence, ni procédé selon des règles autres que celles qui devraient être observées à tout moment. La Cour suprême explique que l'article 92 de la Constitution est dépourvue de tout calendrier de diffusion des informations et de sensibilisation sur le référendum.

Le tribunal indique qu'il n'est pas en mesure de déterminer ce qui constitue une sensibilisation et une information suffisantes du public, en particulier lorsque les pétitionnaires ont admis dans leur pétition qu'en effet, une certaine sensibilisation du public a été entreprise par la NEC sur le référendum.

Concernant cet aspect de l'affaire, la Cour suprême détermine que l'institution ne procède pas selon une règle erronée et que, par conséquent, la suspension ne s'y applique pas.

Frontière Ivoiro-Libérienne :

accidentée avec ses côtes qui font cadencer notre véhicule. Il est 11h40 lorsque nous arrivons à Peka barrage puis à Peka village cinq minutes plus tard, après avoir traversé les villages de Zoguiné, Gueya, Tiobly, Kloby et Pekaheubly.

Selon plusieurs sources, ils seraient au moins 8000 Ivoiriens à avoir fui la ville de Toulepleu pour le Libéria voisin.

Mais en réalité, si ce chiffre est vu à la baisse, ces déplacés viennent de plusieurs localités de la Côte d'Ivoire.

Selon le préfet du département de Toulepleu et le Directeur général du Conseil régional du Cavally, ces personnes qui ont décidé d'aller se réfugier au Libéria avec une majorité à la frontière dans les villages de Peka village et Peka Barrage viennent de Bloléquin, de Daloa, de Danané et même d'Abidjan. Chacun avec son argument.

« Ceux de Bloléquin qui ont vu périr leurs parents dans le fleuve Cavally lors de la

traversée pendant les crises de 2002 et 2011 ont décidé de passer cette fois par Peka barrage pour atteindre le Libéria. D'ailleurs beaucoup sont restés à Peka barrage, alors que la première ville du Libéria, B'Haï, est à 500 mètres du poste de contrôle frontalier à Peka barrage » nous explique Tia Junior, un jeune de Peka village. Peka village, avec ses 435 déplacés manque de tout.

Si le village de Peka Barrage au poste de contrôle frontalier avec le Libéria compte 350 familles qui ont fui Guiglo, Bloléquin et autres localités de la région du fait des rumeurs d'un risque de violence à l'approche des élections, ils sont près de 435 personnes qui elles ont fait le détour vers Peka village, village voisin.

« Avant les élections, nous avons fait de la sensibilisation ensemble les allogènes et autochtones.

Dieu merci les élections se sont bien passées ici. Il faut aussi noter que toujours avant le scrutin du 31 octobre nous avons accueilli près de 435 déplacés qui fuyaient vers le Libéria.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daoud Kuttab

Que fera Biden pour les Palestiniens ?

AMMAN - Il y a près de trois ans, le président palestinien Mahmoud Abbas a pris la décision extraordinaire de mettre fin à toutes les négociations avec l'administration du président américain Donald Trump, en raison de son parti pris sans vergogne en faveur d'Israël. Le gouvernement palestinien a hâte de retourner à la table de négociation avec la nouvelle administration du président élu Joe Biden. Le principal point à l'ordre du jour sera la fin de l'implantation illégale de colonies de peuplement par le gouvernement israélien sur les terres palestiniennes dans les territoires occupés.

L'attitude partielle de l'administration Trump à l'égard d'Israël n'aurait pas pu être plus flagrante. Les personnes chargées du « processus de paix » - dont le gendre de Trump Jared Kushner et l'ambassadeur des États-Unis en Israël David Friedman - ont toutes publiquement soutenu la construction de colonies israéliennes, en violation des droits humains des Palestiniens.

Sans surprise, le prétendu plan de paix ébauché par cette équipe donnait à Israël pratiquement tout ce dont il pouvait rêver, tout en n'offrant aucune concession aux Palestiniens. À la place, l'administration Trump a tenté d'acheter le consentement des Palestiniens - ou plus précisément, leur capitulation - avec des promesses d'investissement. Plutôt que de se soumettre, Abbas a rompu les discussions avec les États-Unis, une décision étonnante quand on pense que dans les années 1980, les Palestiniens suppliaient les Américains de tenir des pourparlers directs avec leurs dirigeants.

Mais dans ces circonstances, Abbas n'avait pas le choix. Avec la première superpuissance mondiale à ses côtés, le gouvernement de droite du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu n'avait pas besoin de l'accord des Palestiniens pour accélérer la construction de nouvelles colonies et préparer le terrain pour d'autres projets du même ordre. Ces derniers mois, les autorités israéliennes ont procédé à une série de démolitions sans précédent de maisons et de structures palestiniennes.

Il ne fait aucun doute que ces activités de peuplement israéliennes sont en violation du droit humanitaire international. Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies l'a confirmé il y a quatre ans, en adoptant à l'unanimité la Résolution 2334. Son préambule condamne explicitement « toutes les mesures visant à modifier la composition démographique, le caractère et le statut du Territoire palestinien occupé depuis 1967 », y compris « la construction et l'expansion de colonies de peuplement » et « la destruction de maisons et le déplacement de civils palestiniens ».

Et pourtant, l'administration Trump reste déterminée à cautionner ces violations du droit international par Israël. Il est prévu que le secrétaire d'État américain Mike Pompeo, qui a peut-être en ligne de mire sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle de 2024, visite une colonie israélienne illégale en Cisjordanie occupée, ce qui fera de lui le premier chef de la diplomatie américaine à le faire. Cette visite constitue une nouvelle violation flagrante de la Résolution 2334, qui appelle « tous les États, [...] à faire une distinction, dans leurs échanges en la matière, entre le territoire de l'État d'Israël et les territoires occupés depuis 1967 ».

Depuis la trahison de l'administration Trump, les

Palestiniens doivent se débrouiller seuls. Pour protester contre le plan d'annexion de certains pans de la Cisjordanie, l'Autorité palestinienne (AP) a refusé d'accepter les recettes fiscales collectées en son nom par Israël - une décision qui, couplée avec la forte baisse de l'aide américaine, a mené l'AP au bord de la faillite.

Cela donne toute la mesure de l'importance cruciale que revêt la question des colonies pour les Palestiniens - et à juste titre. Outre les violations du droit international et des droits des Palestiniens, la poursuite des activités de peuplement israéliennes exclut la possibilité de création d'un État palestinien indépendant dans le cadre des frontières de 1967.

Heureusement, des signes prometteurs laissent à penser que Biden adoptera une approche très différente de celle de son prédécesseur. La résolution 2334 a été adoptée parce que l'administration du président américain Barack Obama, dans ses derniers jours au pouvoir, a décidé de ne pas y opposer son veto. Cette décision a été formulée par Susan Rice, conseillère à la sécurité nationale d'Obama, pressentie pour être la secrétaire d'État de Biden.

Bien évidemment, Biden était lui-même le vice-président de l'administration Obama, et en 2014, il avait dit à Netanyahu : « Je ne suis pas d'accord avec la moindre chose que tu dis ». D'autres personnes nommées par l'administration Biden - dont le futur chef de cabinet Ron Klain - s'opposent toutes aux activités illégales de colonisation israélienne.

Abbas espère clairement que la nouvelle administration américaine permettra d'aller de l'avant. Après avoir félicité Biden pour sa victoire électorale, il s'est dit « impatient de travailler avec le président élu et son administration pour renforcer les relations palestino-américaines et d'assurer la liberté, l'indépendance, la justice et la dignité pour notre peuple et d'œuvrer pour la paix, la stabilité et la sécurité pour tous dans notre région et dans le monde ».

Avant même l'élection de Biden, Abbas tentait de relancer les discussions. Dans son discours devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies en septembre dernier, il a appelé le Quartet pour le Moyen-Orient - les États-Unis, les Nations unies, l'Union européenne et la Russie - à convoquer une conférence internationale au début de l'année prochaine « pour engager un authentique processus de paix, sur la base du droit international, des résolutions des Nations unies et des modalités internationales pertinentes, pour mettre fin à l'occupation (israélienne) ».

Qu'une telle conférence puisse avoir lieu, et plus encore produire des résultats, dans les premiers jours de l'administration Biden, est beaucoup demander. Mais il n'est pas déraisonnable de s'attendre à ce que la nouvelle administration applique immédiatement la Résolution 2334 - et cela signifie mettre un terme rapide aux projets de colonies de peuplement israéliennes.

Contrairement à ce que l'on pense généralement, un règlement permanent du conflit israélo-palestinien n'est pas une cause perdue. Y parvenir nécessitera toutefois une action courageuse et résolue de la part des États-Unis. Que Biden lance une initiative dans ce sens reste à voir, mais qu'il s'engage à faire en sorte qu'Israël commence à respecter la résolution 2334 serait un bon début.

President George Weah:

Cont'd from page 5

Liberian Small Business Startups: Attracting Small Business Microloan Much Quicker Than High Capitalizing Businesses:

Liberians are dreamers of success as other groups of people in countries around the world; however, the one difference is, many others put their dreams and imagination to a test drive to determine possibilities because they are optimists; Liberians generally hide their potential in a textbook mentality and government employment, for fear of failure on their own volition. As if to make the point further, Liberians generally ride the wave of credentialism, are more talkative than doers, and inadvertently thrive on "telling subordinates what to do," but "not how to do it," because many of those giving instructions could not do it due to the lacked skills and experience to perform certain jobs, requiring technical knowledge. Teaching from a textbook without the ability to demonstrate "how things are done," is a waste of time, money, and effort. And for those of you crying foul about this assertion, let's just say, Liberia's dilapidated infrastructure—water, electricity, communication, and national road condition is proof of laziness, lack of vision and skills. If this attestation of facts hurts the feelings of thin-skinned politicians, then what is your counter argument, for those sitting around Monrovia having a good time?

As William Howard—another Liberian put it so succinctly, "Liberians are a finished product mentality group of people; we have become accustomed to enjoying other people's labor, while relishing in the pleasure of boastfulness, amid being too lazy to demonstrate a 'can-do' attitude, which requires hard work with our hands," he said. Furthermore, we are mostly good at seeking out social gatherings to drink beer, talk empty politics and boast about credentials; however, when challenged to produce proof of a match-up between those credentials and any existing practical outcome, we become angrily defensive, he continued. Essentially, what this Liberian was saying as a matter of summary was, his fellow Liberians had difficulty translating what's in their head to the hands for implementation because many rely on "poor pride" that prevents them from getting their hands dirty. And they are the same people that demonstrate a disdain for others with a skilled trade background, which did not reflect a liberal arts college degree, he said.

This damning assertion by William Howard should catch the attention of President Weah enough to reflect on and demand answers to these questions. That is, by comparison to Samuel Doe, Charles Taylor and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf: how many new, small businesses Mr. Weah's administration could account for; what is the nature of those businesses and their quality; what is the total number of people those businesses have employed, hence, reducing the national unemployment numbers? How much new tax revenue generation has the government realized from those small startups since George Weah became President? Conversely, what tax incentives are there to encourage other new, small businesses? Where are those businesses located around Liberia; are they concentrated in Monrovia or spread around the country, to provide services to people in Sinoe, for example, as they do people in Cape Mount? Or is it impossible



because the Liberian road network is crap! Given the need for new tax revenue for the government coffers, the alternatives below could be a starting point, which means Mr. Weah would be in his lane to create a (Small Business Liaison Office) under his direct supervision, to track and get direct feedback from the impact of newly created businesses, the services they provide, monthly number of new hires, and most definitely new tax revenue flow.

In our next post, we will examine specific ways by which Mr. Weah's administration could derive new money to provide government-backed microloans for the types of small businesses delineated below. One industry that could attract microloans much quicker than high capitalizing businesses is Foodservice; seemingly, financial independence is quite possible for Liberians who seek to carve out specific niches that cater to the needs of the general population, which for

Liberians, is FOOD and other sustenance to abate hunger. Below, we have sketched out several startup businesses, mainly in the Foodservice industry that talented, ambitious Liberians could embrace, which undoubtedly could become candidates for tailored microloans because those businesses required far fewer dollars for investment.

For starters, the foundation upon which to build financial futures could start with the establishment of communal cooperatives to purchase and share much-needed equipment and machinery to take advantage of any newfound business opportunities. For example, Cold-Press machinery to process oil on a small scale, and mini-commercial juicers to process mango, lime, lemon, and other juices; Coffee roasting equipment, cassava slicer, to say the least, are all necessary equipment required for a competitive Foodservice revolution. This, in our opinion, is thinking outside the box of textbook concepts and

principles. Here we go!

Coconut, Peanut and Corn: From dried coconut would come oil, milk, and cream, considering Liberians don't like to get their hands dirty by investing in dairy cow farming like Kenya, for example, to produce milk. Hence, coconut milk and cream would become the new substitute, processed using cheesecloth. Peanut is another product from which to produce oil; then there is corn for which a new breed of farmers that didn't grow rice could engage in small scale commercial corn farming from which to produce oil. The oil production of these and other products can be processed, using a relatively inexpensive cold-press machinery. They called it Argo Oil, for the many Liberians familiar with it; however, little did they know that Argo is a brand that makes lubricants, edible oil, ATVs, to say the least. But Argo oil is usually corn oil, which Liberians could produce on

a small scale. The by-products after processing would open up a new business opportunity for any Liberian interested in supplying animal—chicken/hog feed. These by-products contain very high levels of protein and carbohydrates, essential for chicken and pig health and development.

Mango/Plum—why enjoy Mango (plum) during the rainy season only when it is in abundance. What if people could process it into juice concentrate during peak season, flash freeze it, and reconstitute it as an ice-cold drink during the dry season; other opportunities for processing mango include, (puree, diced for pie-making, dried (dehydrated), and transformed into a powdered drink. Jelly/jam/preserve...many more uses could be pursued. A combination of mango juice/lemon/lime/orange.

Coffee: Liberia is a major coffee grower, but you won't know that because unlike Senegal, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Kenya, Tanzania....that not only process coffee for domestic consumption, but also export it, the "poor pride" mentality limits Liberians' ability to see the financial potential because getting their hands dirty is never prestigious thing. Prestige for many "big shots" means having family members ship Starbucks coffee to Liberia for personal use and something to boast about among many Liberians returning from the US, even for those that didn't drink Starbucks because of its cost.

Cassava: Outside of roasting, boiling, making fufu, dumboy, gari, other uses of cassava processing include, but not limited to flour for bread-making, dredging, and frying to make cassava fries/chips, modified starch as a thickener, et al.

Bottled Water: As observed in Costa Rica, rainwater can be inexpensively collected, bottled during the rainy season, stored in warehouses, distributed, and sold during the dry season. Sells relatively cheaply because of low production costs, compared to imported bottled water.

Fish: Liberia's biggest source of protein could be altered many other ways for business purposes, other than fish soup, grilled (roasted), or fried for "dried" rice. Business-minded Liberians could dive into processing fish nuggets, paired up with cassava fried; fish balls and patties...

Bakery: Could be communal, which people could use, based on scheduling, to baked their brand of bread/pie/cake/cookies for distribution, or a professional bakery servicing many different vendors based on their specification request for texture,

color, taste, size, design to distinguish from other vendors.

Sugar cane: Again starting on a small scale growing and juicing sugar cane and converting it to syrup using a rebuilt or second-hand juicer/press, which would reduce sugar importation, as Liberians continue to learn the process of transforming sugar cane juice into other products.

Consignment Merchandising: Teaching Liberians the rewards of consignment merchandising, for instance, through a cooperative set up, would be of immense benefit to people that have products to offer, but lack the opportunity to own a storefront due to high rental cost. So how would consignment merchandising work under one roof, with people displaying many different consumables! This would include reexamining under-used available warehouse/real estate space for consideration. Discussion!

General Retailing: Since it is virtually impossible for mom & pop businesses to secure loans from banks, wholesale distributors would rescue many small businesses, by offering "inventory-based lending," where credit via merchandise offerings and a revolving account are awarded to small retail businesses, who in turn make a monthly payment, having agreed to terms and condition such as weekly sales auditing to determine how well a business was doing with merchandise purchased on credit; making sure it was properly recording daily sales activities, which could translate to an increment in its line of credit, based on payment history. Much, much more to discuss and relate.

Future Post Now that we have provided information about a few startups, one question remains: What options are there for people to secure money to finance any number of those and other small-scale related businesses. In our next post, will examine where Mr. Weah and his team should look to tap dormant resources to trigger a once-in-a-lifetime Small Business Development Revolution. Revamping the entire tax code to identify untapped revenue sources would mean a focus on both the Formal and Informal Economies.

Informal Economy: Reclassifying certain businesses that may qualify to pay a flat tax instead of remaining under the radar and not paying into the system; the informal economy in all third world countries undermines the government's ability to raise additional tax revenue because it is not only very disorganized, but evade the government's ability to reclassify those businesses that pull in substantial incomes but pay nothing.

Bring back our money

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has accused members of the business community in Liberia of hoarding the Liberian currency at home and not putting it in the bank, leading to shortage of local banknotes.

Speaker Chamber is demanding business owners to put their money into banks operating in the country to halt the artificial scarcity of the Liberian dollar.

Despite his failure to provide oversight through the Banking and Currency

Speaking at ceremony making declaration of membership for the governing Coalition for Democratic Change by two former Unity Party lawmakers, Bomi County Representative Haja Fata Siryon and Sinoe County Representative Matthew Zarzar, Chambers said the hoarding of the Liberian dollars is a calculated attempt by people in the business community, who are against the ruling establishment.

He said they think by holding back the Liberian dollars is another way of fighting the administration of President George Weah.

started refusing the US dollar and insisting that customers purchase in Liberian dollars only," said Liberia's Minister of Commerce and Industry Mawine G. Diggs during an emergency meeting at the Liberian Legislature on Tuesday.

The shortage has resulted to drop in the exchange rate from L\$199 to L\$150 for US\$1. The cash shortage is affecting all sectors of the country's economy. Second-hand shoe salesman Jefferson Gbaytain, 39, said it had reduced his purchasing power.

Representative Siryon said she was taken to the former ruling Unity Party by Speaker Chambers, then a member, and now to the CDC by the same Chambers. She noted that she had been a member of the CDC for the fact that her children and husband are partisans of the CDC.

She added that she had come to the party to serve with dedication and determination for the forward march of the country.

Sinoe County Representative Matthew Zarzar praised the CDC-led administration for the level of development, including construction of roads, market structures and open style of governance that are enough to encourage anyone to join ruling party CDC.

According to him, the Weah administration is determined to move the country in the right direction and those who were in the driving seat should give space.

Receiving the converts, Chairman MulbahMorlu of the CDC thanked both individuals for the board steps taken.

Chairman Morlu called on partisans of the CDC to show massive support for the party, as it launches its political campaign over the weekend. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



committee of the House of Representatives in ensure the local currency is protected and kept within the borders of Liberia, Speaker Chambers instead, blamed business people and entrepreneurs for the situation that has led commercial banks to restrict daily withdrawal by cutomers.

The Speaker, from the governing Coalition for Democratic Change is the first senior official of government to publicly accuse the business community of hoarding Liberian dollars.

Banks in Liberia are trying to manage the shortage of local currency as the Ministry of Commerce warned businesses here to accept both Liberian and United States dollars or risk fines.

Customers are queuing at banks to withdraw money from their accounts or to cash paychecks.

The scarcity of local currency has led to several businesses rejecting the United States dollar that had previously been in demand.

"We have noticed that there are lots of businesses that

Snowe in self-quarantine

By Ethel A Tweh

Bomi County District#1 Representative, Edwin Melvin Snowe has self-quarantined, disclosing the Minister of Health has informed him of testing positive of Coronavirus.

In a live video on social media, Rep. Snowe, also a candidate in the December 8th special senatorial election, said he had an emergency meeting at the ECOWAS Parliament to attend in Lome, Togo on Monday, this week, and went to test his health status as is the protocol before traveling. He said he couldn't get a call from the center so he decided to reach there himself

center, he called the Minister of Health, Doctor Wilhelmina Jallah and after three minutes, she called and told him that she was informed that his first test was neutral, but the second test came out positive.

"I am currently at home and alone but I am experiencing absolutely no symptoms of COVID-19 and I'm not ill. I will respect the health protocol." Snowe lamented.

He explained that it will have an impact on his political campaign but his team will continue the work that he has started in the county. "When I'm cleared by the Ministry of Health, I will be able to join my team. We are confident



Rep. Edwin M. Snowe

to inquire.

Snowe explained that because of his political campaign, he asked the Speaker of the regional Parliament for an excuse but since he is the head for political affairs in the region, he was asked to attend the opening ceremony.

According to him his flight was scheduled for 2PM on Monday, but up to 12 PM he had not received his test results saying, at the center he was told that his result wasn't yet up, so he rescheduled the flight for Tuesday, instead.

Thyer Liberian lawmaker added that on his way from the

because we have done a lot of works on ground that the team can take over from."

He vowed to respect all health protocols, while stressing the Ministry of Health will also respect the protocols by doing what is right. Snowe who has been at the Liberian Legislature since 2006, noted the Liberia has only one COVID-19 laboratory, so there's no way to challenge his test result anywhere else, as he thanked the ECOWAS Parliament, his friends, supporters and families to keeping in touch with him and also keeping him in their prayers. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Con't from page 6

vision by 2030 (Agenda for Transformation).

According to the release, the country's mitigation targets include: Reducing Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) by at least 10% by 2030; Improving energy efficiency by at least 20% by 2030; Raising share of renewable energy to at least 30% of

Gov't to create

electricity production and 10% of overall energy consumption by 2030; and Replacing cooking stoves with low thermal efficiency (5-10%) with the high efficiency (40%) stoves.

Liberia also planned to implement adaption actions in sectors such as energy, agriculture, forestry, fishery,

health, coastal etc.

The meeting was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and NDC Partnership through Conservation International (CI) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). -Press Release



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Man City boss Guardiola signs new contract



Pep Guardiola has ended speculation over his Manchester City future after signing a new two-year contract extension on Thursday.

Guardiola was due to be out of contract at the end of this season and it had been suggested the Spaniard might be ready to leave City.

But the 49-year-old has now agreed to stay at the Etihad Stadium until at least 2023.

"Manchester City are pleased to announce that Pep Guardiola has signed a new two-year deal with the club," a statement on City's website said.

Former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola is midway through his fifth campaign with

the Premier League and his new deal will extend what is already his longest stay at any club. He has won two Premier League titles, three League Cups and the FA Cup with City, although winning the club's first Champions League crown has proved elusive so far.

Amid upheaval at his old club Barcelona, Guardiola found himself linked with a return to the Camp Nou.

But he is reported to have told the City hierarchy that he was ready to agree the new deal during the recent international break.

"Ever since I arrived at Manchester City I have been made to feel so welcome in the club and in the city itself - from the players, the staff, the supporters, the people of Manchester and the chairman and owner," Guardiola said.

"Since then we have achieved a great deal together, scored goals, won games and trophies, and we are all very proud of that success.

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Ramos 'expected to miss three Real Madrid games

Sergio Ramos is expected to miss at least three games for Real Madrid after the club confirmed he has suffered a hamstring strain.

While Madrid did not specify how long they will be without their captain, reports in the Spanish media claimed he will not be available again in November.

Zinedine Zidane's side are due to face Villarreal in LaLiga on Saturday, with a clash

against Deportivo Alaves following a Champions League trip to Inter on Wednesday.

Ramos was forced off with the injury in the first half of Spain's 6-0 triumph over Germany in the Nations League on Tuesday.

A Madrid statement released on Thursday read: "After the tests carried out today on Sergio Ramos by the Real Madrid medical department, the player has been diagnosed with a strained hamstring in his right



leg. His recovery will continue to be assessed."

Zidane will also have concerns over Raphael Varane after the centre-back went off at half-time in France's 4-2 victory against Sweden.

Madrid's defensive options are not expected to be depleted entirely, however, with Eder Militao (coronavirus) and Nacho Fernandez (knee) set to return for the trip to Estadio de la Ceramica.

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