

TIP ME

...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals made easy and smooth

TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now

Available on  



# New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn  
TRULY INDEPENDENT



VOL.11 NO. 010

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2021

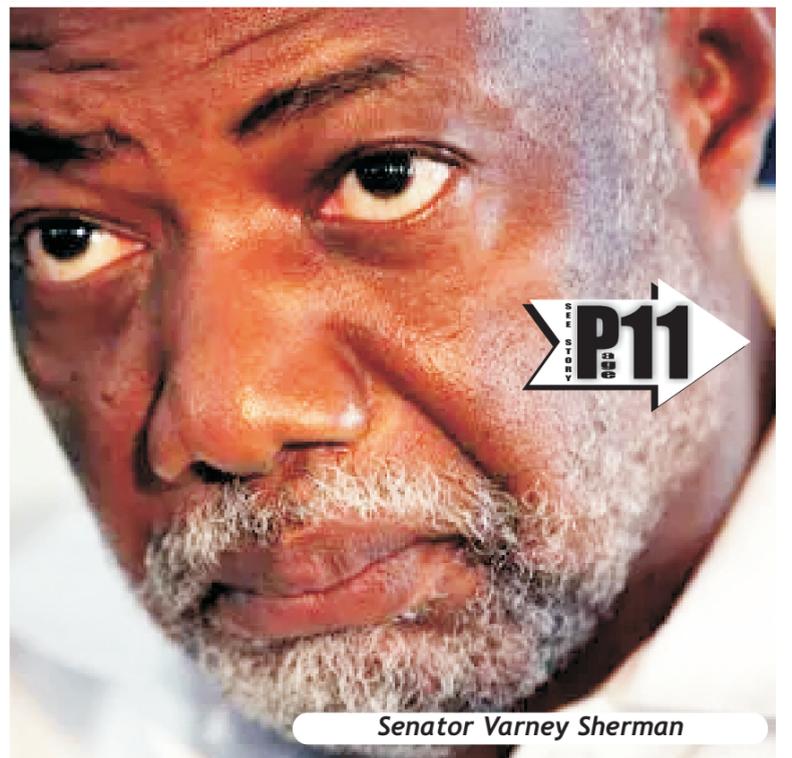
PRICE LD\$40.00



# Govt. wants to print LD48.733 billion

# Senate divided over Sherman

*-As sanction sinks in*



Senator Varney Sherman

For as low as 60 USD, you can own one of these!

You also enjoy 1GB free data every month for 6 months!  
Phone prices range between 60USD and above.

Available at: itel shop at Broad and Center Streets Intersection.

everywhere you go

Dial \*187# to get 1GB free data after purchase.

Ts & Cs apply.





# Continental News

## Former LRA commander guilty of Uganda war crimes

**E**x-Ugandan rebel commander Dominic Ongwen has been convicted of war crimes at the International Criminal Court. Ongwen, a feared commander of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), is the first member of the LRA to appear before the court. He was convicted on 61 of the 70 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes he faced. The charges relate to attacks on four camps for

internally displaced people in Uganda in 2004. Ongwen's sentence is to be handed down at a later date. He could face life imprisonment. This case presented a dilemma to the court as he appeared to be both the victim and the alleged perpetrator.

He said he was abducted by the LRA and forced to be a child soldier, before going on to rise up the ranks to become the deputy to LRA commander

Joseph Kony.

But reading out his verdict, presiding judge Bertram Schmitt said: "His guilt has been established beyond any reasonable doubt."

"The chamber did not find evidence that supported the claim by the defence that Dominic Ongwen suffered from any mental disease or disorder during the period relevant to the charges, or that he committed these

crimes under duress."

He was convicted of counts including war crimes, crimes against humanity, torture, sexual enslavement and pillaging. The ICC issued a warrant for his arrest in 2005 and US and African forces had been searching for him since 2011. In 2014 he gave himself up in the Central African Republic (CAR) and his three-and-a-half year trial in the Hague ended in March.

His lawyers had asked for his acquittal and are quoted by Reuters news agency as saying in the closing argument: "When Ongwen was abducted he had no option, he was made a slave. That slavery continued until he left the bush."

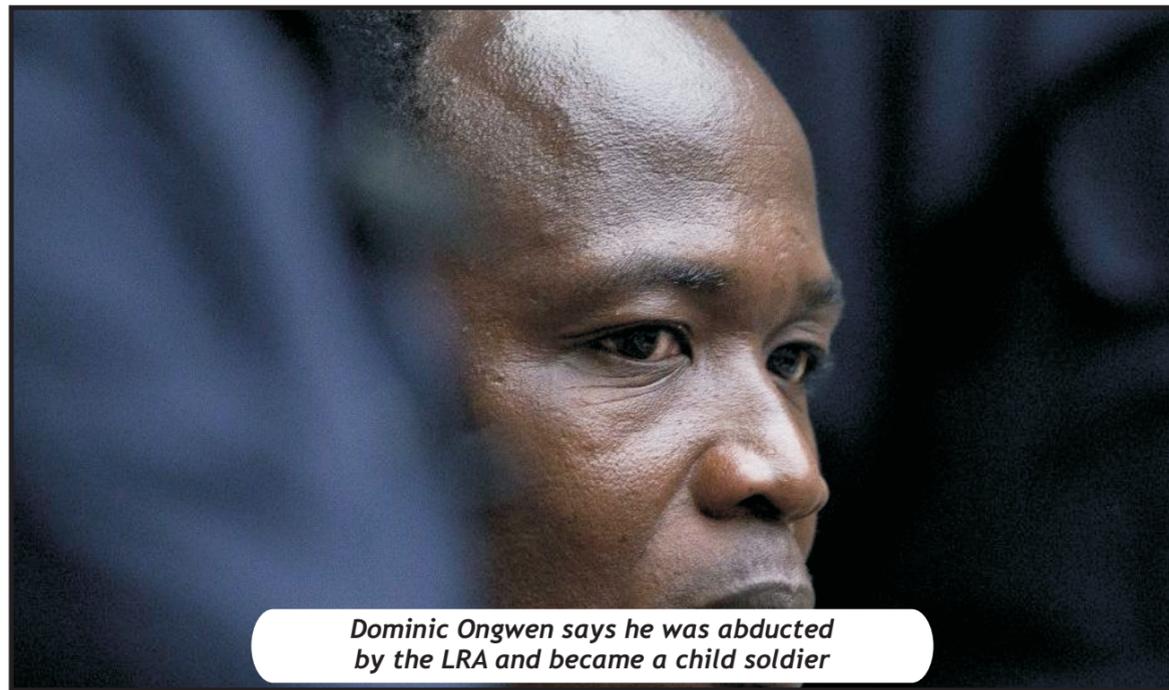
But prosecutors reportedly insisted he was an adult at the time of the alleged offences so

cannot be excused of responsibility. The LRA was formed in Uganda where it said its goal was to install a government based on the biblical 10 commandments.

Led by Joseph Kony, it became notorious for abducting thousands of children to use as soldiers or sex slaves. From the 1990s, LRA attacks became infamous. Rebel fighters would hack off their victims' limbs or parts of their faces.

In 2005, the LRA was forced out of Uganda by the army and the rebels went into what was now South Sudan and eventually set up camp in the border area with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

They later moved to CAR where they acted more like a criminal outfit engaging in poaching and illegal mining. BBC



*Dominic Ongwen says he was abducted by the LRA and became a child soldier*

## Dominic Ongwen - from child abductee to rebel commander

**K**nown as the "White Ant", convicted war criminal Dominic Ongwen is estimated to have been between nine and 14 years old when he was abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as he was walking to school in

northern Uganda - going on over the next 27 years to become a ruthless rebel commander.

Warning: Some people may find details in this story upsetting "It is a story of a child, like many in the LRA, forced to grow up in the image of their oppressors," campaign group

LRA Crisis Tracker says. Shortly after his abduction in 1987 or 1988, he tried to escape with three others and when they failed, he was forced to skin alive one of the other abductees as a warning, a psychiatrist at his war crimes trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague said. "They skinned this person, removed his gut, and put it up on trees," Dickens Akena told the court. "And he [Ongwen] said he wouldn't eat meat for two to three months."

Mr Ongwen - whose surname means "born at the time of the white ant" - went on to rise rapidly in rebel ranks, becoming a brigadier by his late 20s after winning the confidence of LRA leader Joseph Kony, LRA Crisis Tracker says.

But he had a fractious relationship with the LRA warlord, managing to escape his clutches in 2015 when he surrendered - 10 years after he, Mr Kony and three other senior commanders had been indicted by the ICC. BBC



*Dominic Ongwen is the first LRA commander to appear before the International Criminal Court.*

## Facebook removes Nigerian separatist leader's account

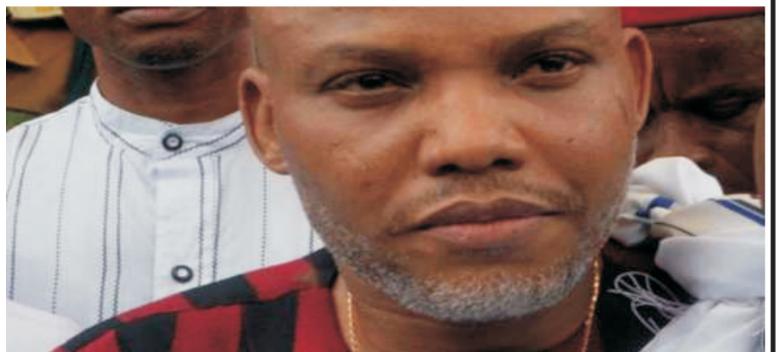
**S**ocial networking site Facebook says it has removed the account of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipub), Nnamdi Kanu, for repeated violation of its rules on harm and hate speech.

The account of the leader of the secessionist group was blocked after a live broadcast on Tuesday, in which he accused herders of destroying their farms.

Mr Kanu had posted a video

voice" but it also wants people to "feel safe" while using the platform.

In a statement, it said Mr Kanu's page was removed in line with its rules for repeatedly posting content that breaks Facebook's Community Standards, including those violating rules on co-ordinating harm and hate speech. Ipub's lawyer Paul Achalla told the BBC that it will appeal against the ban.



of people suspected to be members of the Eastern Security Network - an armed militia group he set up in the south-east region, attacking and killing cattle in herders' settlements.

It comes at a time when Nigeria is struggling with an upsurge in clashes between herders and farmers in many parts of the country.

A spokesperson for Facebook told the BBC that it "believes in giving people a

He added that the ban does not affect Radio Biafra and other platforms of the group.

Nnamdi Kanu's Facebook page has served as a key platform for Ipub to communicate with his followers across the world, reaching thousands of listeners regularly.

The Nigerian government outlawed the group and designated it a terrorist organisation in 2017. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Sad disgrace of Liberian diplomatic passport

IT IS GENERALLY understood that people carrying diplomatic passports around the world deserve special preference and courtesy of the highest esteem. But when supposed diplomats or their relatives with diplomatic passports crossed the red line and behaved very uncouth, like in the case of George Weah, Jr., son of President George Manneh Weah, Sr., they automatically lost their respect and therefore, are treated like common criminals.

**GEORGE WEAH, JR., AKA CHAMP**, carrying Liberian Diplomatic Passport, has been reportedly arrested in Paris, France by French Police for contempt and rebellion, after being observed intoxicated.

**ACCORDING TO TODAY 24 News**, based in Paris, Champ is being scheduled to appear before French justice system next Thursday, 10 February, though he holds a Liberian diplomatic passport, bringing reproach not only to his father and President of Liberia, George Manneh Weah, Sr., but the entire Liberia that he represents in France, as son of our President.

**REPORT FROM PARIS** details that on Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 3:20 am, Police in Paris intervened in a nighttime noise during a clandestine party in an opulent building in the French capital specifically, avenue du President-Wilson (8th arrondissement), in the Alma-Marceau district.

**INSIDE A RENTED** apartment through Airbnb, French officials discovered a gang of eight, including George Weah, Jr., 33, clearly breaching COVID-19 health protocols.

**REPORT QUOTES FRENCH** Police as describing Weah Junior as "very alcoholic" and insulted the police and took out a diplomatic passport. He was subsequently arrested for contempt and rebellion, and taken to the 17th arrondissement police station.

**IT IS SAD** and highly regrettable that someone holding our nation's highest credential abroad, in this case, son of the President of Liberia, would have stood so low in a foreign land, fully cognizant that he is an adult and not an ordinary Liberian citizen.

**WHAT DOES THIS** say about our moral rectitude as a country when a Liberian with such status would knowingly get drunk, ignore health protocols and behaved rudely to French Police? Doesn't he know that being a son of President George Manneh Weah, his wellbeing automatically becomes the concern of all Liberians?

**AT AGE 33**, Champ clearly knows right and wrong, and to have allegedly insulted and defied French Police before displaying his Liberian Diplomatic Passport, brought Liberia to serious ridicule.

**IT IS INDEED** sad and disgraceful that someone entrusted with our Diplomatic Passport by virtue of his dad representing the 4.5 million people of Liberia as their President, would choose to discredit such international honor thru actions and behaviors that contravene diplomatic norms.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

## The Right Time for Joe Biden

*The new US president may not be an original thinker, a courageous leader, or exude personal magnetism, but are liberal democracies best served by such leaders in times of crisis? In fact, those hoping for a new New Deal in America can take comfort in the precedent of Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

**NEW YORK** - It is easy to underestimate Joe Biden. The new US president has been dismissed by some people on the left as a party hack, a trimmer, a holdover from a corrupt and broken establishment. An article in the conservative journal National Review bore the headline: "Joe Biden: Mediocrity Personified." It was written by that right-wing admirer of great men, Conrad Black, the former newspaper owner and convicted fraudster.

Biden, so far, is not a great man. Still, a figure who has operated for four decades in the snake pit of Washington politics, and was elected president at the age of 78, cannot be so easily dismissed. He is at the very least a highly skilled politician.

Biden is neither a brilliant thinker nor a heroic leader. He doesn't have much charisma either, which is refreshing after four years of spectacular misrule under Donald Trump. If Biden has ever had an original idea, he has disguised it well. In his 1988 presidential campaign, he even cribbed from a speech by the British politician Neil Kinnock. But at least Biden didn't shift the blame to his speechwriter, as Trump and his wife Melania have done when similar lapses occurred.

The question is whether liberal democracies are best served by brilliant or heroic leaders. Such figures would seem especially desirable in difficult times. But as the American writer Gore Vidal once said, "Great leaders make great wars." Intellectuals with great ideas can go badly wrong as well. Many don't take kindly to criticism from people who refuse to see things their way. In fact, they have little time at all for their intellectual inferiors. But successful politicians must suffer fools gladly. That is part of their job.

People with a taste for revolution often disdain liberal democracy because of its perceived mediocrity. The late French lawyer Jacques Vergès, who defended left-wing political terrorists, summed up this attitude. "Ever since I was a child," Vergès said. "I felt drawn to grandeur...[t]o the idea of Destiny, not happiness. Happiness in Europe has been tarnished by social democracy."

One can see what he means. There is something mediocre about happiness, the opposite of what Romantics used to call Sturm und Drang, Storm and Stress. But the "pursuit of happiness" is in America's DNA, enshrined by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps that is why revolutionaries on the right and the left so often despise the United States.

Such times are rare, however. Unfortunately, too many postwar US presidents have chosen to emulate Churchill, rather than Chamberlain, which has sometimes led to

foolish wars. The pursuit of happiness is rarely well served by seekers of martial glory and national grandeur. It is far better served by a leader like Biden.

But perhaps we are now living through one of those rare moments when heroism and big ideas are required. As Biden said in his acceptance speech, we face multiple dangers: a pandemic, a severe economic crisis, and a general lack of trust in democratic institutions. Then there is the sharp rise on several continents of right-wing populist demagogues. A significant percentage of the US population, exposed to a barrage of malicious propaganda, believes that Biden stole the election.

The newly inaugurated president is sometimes hopefully compared to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Many of his supporters believe, rightly in my view, that it is time for a revised New Deal and substantial political reforms. Too much money is concentrated in too few hands. And too much has been smashed in the last four years (not least the idea that there is such a thing as truth) to think the US can simply revert to the way things were.

In some ways, Biden's task will be harder than Roosevelt's. Although the economic crisis was worse in the 1930s, Roosevelt had large majorities in Congress, and the Republican Party was not in thrall to a dangerous cult. The New Deal was a great achievement. But despite his quasi-aristocratic airs, Roosevelt was not a brilliant or heroic man. Like Biden, he was a skilled political operator.

And, like Biden, Roosevelt was certainly no revolutionary. His task was to save American capitalism. He was a repairer, a fixer. The New Deal was achieved not because of Roosevelt's genius or heroism, but because enough people trusted him to act in good faith.

That is precisely what people are expecting from Biden, too. He must save US democracy from the ravages of a political crisis. To do so, he must reestablish trust in the system. He has promised to make his country less polarized, and to restore civility and truth to political discourse. In this endeavor, his lack of charisma may turn out to be his greatest strength. For all that he lacks in grandeur, he makes up for by exuding an air of decency.

Will that be enough to push through the necessary political changes? The answer won't depend only on him, of course. All of his big initiatives might run into the sand of Republican obstruction. But he is more likely to succeed than flashier, more radical politicians would be. An old hand like Biden, who knows exactly how the system works - the compromises, the pats on the back, the twisting of arms, and the suffering of fools gladly - might be exactly the leader America needs now.



## Lord, why if Chief Botswan was alive today?

Dear Father,

You know, I am sitting down here in my little corner today thinking about old man Chief Botswan. Why if the old man was alive today? I wonder what would he had told our greedy chiefs at the Traditional Council-just thinking out loud.

What do you mean my son, and why do you need the poor old man around for anyway?

Hmmm, I would have loved for him to ask those greedy Chiefs at our Traditional Council one question. The same way he asked those chiefs way back then.

Um, really my son?

Yes, oo Father. I would have loved to see him asking them the same way he asked those old chiefs after they sold their land to the White people who were looking for land for our forefathers to return to from Uncle Sam's Village those days.

You see, the people at the time sold their land to our forefathers and took the people money or whatever they gave them at the time. After they saw the way the people were using the land na, then they came back and say the people should move from on their land. Can you imagine that Father?

Da the noise they were making until all of them went to old man chief Botswan who used to live where they called Jamaica Road today.

Old man Chief Botswan just made the whole case short and sweet. He told those greedy Chiefs then that you have sold your land and accepted payment. So let the people have their land. Simply put, it na for you again.

Wise old man living in his days.

Yes, Father, he was truly wise indeed. People would say, he was way ahead of his generation.

So, tell me na my son, why do you so which that he was around today for na?

Hmm, Father, have you heard of late the noise about some 25 years old contract the Chiefs them okay some time ago during the Old lady era to some of Uncle Sam's cousins to manage our big shipping yard?

Yes, my son, I remembered.

Okay, da whole deal na backfired. The people are abusing the contract left, right center and our chiefs can't do fewn!

Tell me something my son!

Yes oo Father. They can't do fewn. Those greedy chiefs sat down there and signed something they did not even read with care and committed our village to it. Even after they read it in black and white that this contract will go for its entire 25 years and will not be review-they said yea.

In fact, just days after they finished signing the contract before they even realize that our village was to pay royalty to the people instead of they paying royalty to our village.

Are you kidding me?

Oh, you just hearing this one Father. I swear to my grandma and aunty tay-tay waters, because da their tay-tay water I suck, the chiefs were only after the brown envelope to sign.

You know what they people can say ehn-if you want to hide something from black man put it in sidea book because black man na get patient to read.

Yes, so it haunting them na and we the poor people in the village are suffering. Now they want to change it but it na choked them. We inside.

So, you see, if old man Chief Botswan was around he would have told them not to disturb his peace.

And Father you know, that reminds me of one Wise man from Uncle Sam's village who said he charge our people 50,000 Uncle Sam's money to help our people renegotiate the big mining contract in our village.

He said all the people that the Old lady sent at the time to talk on behalf of our village were just looking stupid. They have never negotiated any deal like that before and their only focus was on perdiem. He said our village was going to be short changed had he not put his legal and negotiating skills to work.

Truth be told, it's better for us to call in people who know about these kinds of contracts to negotiate on our behalf than for us to sign something just to come back and say it was not fair. No one force you. If it was the brown envelopes that blinded your eyes, just tell us. Now we the poor village people have to pay for your greed!



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

### Can Pres. Weah Football Popularity Earns Him A 2nd-Term in 2023 Given the Humiliating Defeat His Party Sustained in the December 8th. 2020 Senatorial Election?

The Congress for Democratic Change was established in 2004. A credible source revealed that one Joshua Sackie led a movement to petition President Weah to contest the Liberian presidency for the first time in 2005 because according to the source George Weah wanted to kill himself due to the unavailability of a job. The movement was quickly transformed into a political party known and styled today as Congress for Democratic Change, CDC.

The party was officially certificated in July 2005 by the National Elections Commission as a political party to contest the October general and presidential elections which took Pres. What to an election for the first time when he was endorsed as the party standard-bearer in a convention held in August 2005? The CDC is not one of the known mainstream political parties in Liberia such as the Unity Party, Liberty Party, National Democratic Party of Liberia, etc., it was formed out of political desperation by George Weah to gain political power according to one source familiar with the CDC.

CDC political survival and total independence rest exclusively on the shoulders of Pres. George MannahWeah's popularity which he earned during his 18 years of successful football adventures at home and abroad. Interestingly, looking at the illiteracy rate at 52% in Liberia coupled with acute poverty, weak educational system, and devastating economy, Pres. With magnificently used his advantage to translate his 18 years of football popularity to exploit those volatilized sectors in gaining a huge political victory first, as senior Senator in 2014 and current Liberia 25th president.

Pres. Weah's popularity resonated with Liberia's young millennium, especially the so-called downtrodden, Yanna-boys, market women, school dropouts, and most especially ex-rebel fighters and war-lords who viewed him as their Mensah, a Hero and their guy who will not implement a war crime court in Liberia. He was also viewed as a downtrodden who lived and grew up and experienced acute poverty and survived in one of Monrovia's known slums Borough of New Kru Town, like thousands of other less fortunate young Liberians.

Aside from the aforementioned different populations, there is another population that joined the rank and file of Pres. Weah's CDC, that population includes some traditional corrupt retired Liberian politicians whose fundamental mission in the CDC is to exploit Pres. Due to his little experience in politics and lack of exposure internationally to manage a government. The CDC party is therefore a host to multiple different populations with computing interests and hidden political objectives.

For example, the massive humiliation defeat of the CDC in the just ended Dec. 8th, 2020 Senatorial election is a serious referendum on Pres. Weah's popularity and his bid for the 2023 presidential election for his 2nd term. It is also a huge referendum on the entire CDC's different computing populations within the rank of the CDC starting with its centralized leadership trend. Emphatically, the entire CDC leadership has zero popularity of its own and zero political influence and contacts at home and abroad.

Sources confirmed that 95% of CeDecians and their leadership are regarded as a bunch of hustlers and wealth hunters, who are militant in thinking, lack interest in schooling, lack domestic political experience, very acrimonious, emotional, lack former education to manage the CDC as a political institution. The source continues, the CeDecians possessed the characteristics of being desperately provocative with rebellion posture and intolerable. What is annoying according to the source is the fact that when experienced, well-educated and politically talented Liberians try to join the CDC party, Cedecians fostered politics of marginalization, segregation, discrimination and suddenly declared such person of interest as a stranger in the CDC party. As a result, the new members leave the party. This is one major problem that will continue to create avenues of defeat for the CDC's political party in Liberia.

Another problem that will always cause the defeat of CeDecians in any future political contest is their habitual singing tendencies, yelling attitude, marginalization theory within its rank and file, direct and indirect extortion of money from people for jobs, massive corrupt practices, making tremendous unnecessary political battle-cries coupled with numerous militant proclamations to energize CeDecians politically, is doing the CDC more harm than good. The CDC party is not financially accountable and transparent, the party according to one source survives on state resources, because the entire leadership lacks the abilities and the experience to generate funds apart from donations, heavy fines, and taxations of its poor members, and exertion of funds for the promise of a job.

Another problem that would affect CDC future elections will be due to Pres. What's a failure to address the acute multiple economic, social welfare, educational challenges facing the downtrodden masses, especially the youth who do not have food to eat, and do they have a place to sleep. Most of the youths in the CDC party have either become visible vagabonds or they have lost total hope in Pres. Weah and the CDC have no solution to their nightmare. The party has created a middleman status where the top dogs look down on the illiterate youths in the party and this will continue to affect CDC future changes to succeed in any political elections.

The final problem is the fact that CDC has marginalized its original political alliances, these include, the National Patriotic Party and the Liberia People's Democratic Party. All political appointees are Cedecians. Members of the alliance are being discriminated against and sidelined by CDC political doctrine of discrimination and segregation constitutes a deep-seated betrayal by leadership endorsed by Pres. We will affect CDC in any future political elections.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)



Republic of Liberia

**Ad hoc Committee for the Recruitment  
of the Auditor-General of Liberia**



**Invitation for the Position of  
Auditor General of Liberia**

**Background**

Established by an Act of the National Legislature in 2014 ("the Act"), the General Auditing Commission (GAC) supports Legislative oversight of the management of public resources. As the independent constitutional external auditor of Liberia, the GAC serves the people of Liberia by conducting quality and timely financial, compliance and performance audits. Headed by the Auditor General of the Republic of Liberia, the GAC is mandated to periodically conduct professional audit of all government ministries and agencies, and reports audit results and recommendations to the Legislature with copies to the President.

According to Section 2.1.5, the Auditor General shall hold office for a term of seven (7) years and shall not be eligible for reappointment. Consequently, given the tenure of the current Auditor General is nearing expiration, the Government of Liberia, in compliance with Part 2, Section 2.1 of the ACT, is recruiting to fill the position of Auditor-General of the Republic of Liberia.

**The Duties and Responsibilities of the Auditor General:**

- The Auditor General shall be the auditor of the public accounts and public funds of the Republic of Liberia. Subject to sub-section (b) below, the Auditor General shall carry out such audits and inquiries as he/she considers necessary of public entities and funds owned or controlled by the Government to enable reporting as required by the General Auditing Commission Act of 2014.
- Notwithstanding the generality of Section (a) above:
  - The Auditor-General shall carry out the annual audit of the Government's annual consolidated financial statements and
  - The scope of audits by the Auditor General for the Judicial Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to court decisions and for the Legislative Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to the merits of legislation.
- The Auditor General shall have the right to determine which audits are to be carried out, to select the type of audit to be carried out, when to carry them out and report the findings.
- In the performance of his/her operational duties as set out in sub-section (c) above, the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.
- The Auditor General and the staff of the General Auditing Commission shall carry out audits, but shall not be involved, or seen to be involved, in any manner, in management's responsibilities of the organizations being audited

**Basic Qualification for Selection and Appointment**

A person shall be appointed as Auditor General only if:

- the person is a Liberian citizen;
- the person possesses at least one professional certification such as a CPA, CA, or ACCA from a recognized professional accountancy body;
- the person possesses at least a Bachelor degree in accounting, audit, business, finance or a related field;
- the person possesses a minimum of fifteen (15) years of relevant work experience, including an understanding of the role of a Supreme Audit Institution; and
- the person is of a high moral character, with integrity and impartiality, and who has neither been convicted of any criminal offence nor judgement or been declared bankrupt, in any jurisdiction.

**Core Competencies Required for the Auditor General:**

**Behavioral**

- Integrity;
- Objectivity;
- Professional competence and due care;
- Confidentiality;
- Professional behavior;
- Ability to work with others; and

**Technical**

The Auditor General must understand:

- Financial Statement, Compliance, Performance and Information Technology Audits;
- Public Financial Management Act and Regulation of 2009 of Liberia as amended in 2019;
- Public Procurement and Concessions Commission Act of 2005 as amended in 2010;
- Revenue Code of Liberia of 2000 as amended in 2011;
- INTOSAI Standards;
- International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and
- IFAC Standards.

**Others:**

- Information technology systems for financial accounting and reporting, including relevant current issues and developments;
- Principles and practices for evaluating financial accounting and reporting systems, including evaluating controls and assessing risk;
- Computer-assisted auditing packages and techniques; and
- Have an understanding of the LICPA Act and Regulations.

**SUBMISSION OF INTENT**

To be considered for inclusion in the recruitment process, please submit your CV, Cover Letter, and all relevant Credentials to:

**In Person Delivery:** Office of the Ad hoc Committee  
C/o Office of the Legal Advisor  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Via Email:** [adhoccommittee2021@gmail.com](mailto:adhoccommittee2021@gmail.com)

**Deadline for Application:** Friday, February 26, 2021 @ 4 0'Clock P.M. (GMT)

**Note:** All Applications already delivered in-person to the Civil Service Agency or via email to [agapplication@csa.gov.lr](mailto:agapplication@csa.gov.lr) are valid.

Committee Room  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

+231777022484 / +231777947938

# Local NGO pays tuition for 150 children

By Lewis S. Teh

At least 150 school children particularly teenage girls in Gbalekoma, Gonlonkluma Clan, electoral district 4, Margibi County have received cash for school fees and some educational materials from a local nongovernmental organization, Youth and Girls Educational Initiative.

The group was established in 2016 with the aim of focusing on education and health for underprivileged girls in Liberia especially in rural areas where it offers training, educational materials, health services and school fees to teenagers.

The distribution of educational materials and disbursement of cash began recently with students from the Morning Star Academy in Sekou Village and the K. Orange Christian Academic School in upper Margibi County benefiting.



The project is expected to continue this Saturday in other parts of Margibi and lower Bong Counties, respectively.

K. Orange Christian Academic School currently has an enrolment of 193 students, while Morning Star Academy has forty-three students for this academic year. Students were seen receiving copybooks, pencils, coloring, and sharpeners, among others.

Speaking during the disbursement exercise recently in the county, Executive Director Miss. Paulema G. Gweama stressed the need for equal opportunity for both urban girls and girls in rural areas across Liberia.

Miss. Gweama observed that girls in rural Liberia are not being given equal opportunity as compared to their counterparts in Montserrado, and other areas, something she noted has affected some rural parents thus,

making things difficult for them to send their children to school.

"The same way we give girls in urban area equal opportunity, those in rural places must also be given the same and equal opportunity for the betterment of Liberia, because the future of this country rests in their hands".

According to Ms. Gweama, "Based on a survey conducted by the organization, it was observed and established that girls in rural communities deserve more in every aspects of life most especially, in the areas of education and health.

"When you say Liberia, most people think that Montserrado is Liberia and Liberia is not just Montserrado; we have other counties and other girls that need us most, more than girls in urban communities.

It is against this backdrop that for the past three years, we have been providing school fees, educational

materials, training and health materials for female in Montserrado and rural areas", she said.

She noted that females are the most vulnerable and are often marginalized group in every society, noting that at such, they must be given all necessary care to help them compete with their male counterparts.

In remarks, the administrator of K.

Orange Christian Academic School, Pastor Clarence Tokpalzee thanked the local organization for identifying with students in this struggling economy currently affecting every sector in Liberia.

"I am so excited as the result I'm lack of words, but I guess it was the special grace of God that brought you people here. Imagine all the schools in Kakata but yet you located us in this corner; I'm grateful to the heads of this organization."

For her part, Madam SattaKollie and Ms. KorpoTokpa both expressed joy to the Youth and Girls Educational Initiatives for the support giving to the students, saying, we are grateful to God to have brought this organization wasn't something easy, and it's our prayers that God repays whatever that was used."

Editing by Jonathan Browne



## Change of Name

I, Kingsley Freeman.  
Am changing my  
current name to  
Kingsley Sirlie Smith. Hence, as  
of this publication, my name  
now is Kingsley Sirlie Smith.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Pres. Weah to light streets Friday**

President George Manneh Weah is expected this Friday, 5 February to formally light up the streets of Monrovia and its environs, according to the Executive Mansion.

A press release issued says

turn on switches at the Broad & Buchanan Streets and Congo Town respectively.

The switch at Congo Town will light up the Paynesville Boulevard to Monrovia City Hall corridor, while that of Broad &

drivers, pedestrians, and other residents of the city. The President has promised that the initiative will be extended to other nearby streets.

The project, funded entirely by the Government of Liberia, is being implemented by the Ministry of Public Works with technical support from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and Quality Group of Companies serving as Contractor, the release says.

The ceremony will commence at 6:00pm.

In a related development, President Weah has issued an Executive Order that exempts the LEC from customs duty, GST on generation, transmission and distribution equipment, material and fuel.

According to the Executive Mansion, this is consistent with his commitment and passion to accelerate the spread of electricity across the country.

Executive Order 104, which was issued on 3 February, seeks to reactivate Executive Order #9 which has since expired at the time the Government of Liberia is creating every avenue to expand its use of

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7**



President Weah is expected to turn on the switch at Vai Town, Bushrod Island to light up the Johnson Street to Freeport corridor.

Simultaneously, Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Kojee and Senator Saah Joseph will

Buchanan Streets will light up Capitol Bypass to the Crown Hill.

The Executive Mansion says "Presidential Street Light Project" was initiated by Mr. Weah not only for the beautification of Monrovia, but to also provide security for

**ALIPH to support Liberia's cultural heritage development**

Director for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism of Liberia (MICAT) Mr. Darius D. Gweh, disclosed that ALIPH has accepted to give the information ministry an emergency grant for cultural heritage development.

MICAT, in collaboration with the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in conflict areas has begun the grant process to establish a tie

contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was elaborated following discussions with ALIPH's partners and will be implemented in concert with international organizations, foundations, cultural and academic institutions, namely; ALIPH, Chemin de Balexert 7-9, 1219 Vernier, Switzerland- a Swedish based organization in the protection of the heritage sector.



**Liberia tops road accidents**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia leads the number of motor road accidents globally, according to Transport Minister Samuel Wulue.

Making the shocking revelation when he appeared before the Liberian Senate on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, Minister Wulue disclosed that most of these accidents are attributed to the current state of road conditions in the country.

He stressed an urgent need for government allocate sufficient financial resources in the National Budget to ensure that roads are adequately and timely rehabilitated to reduce the increasing wave of road accidents here.

The Transport Minister warned that if nothing were done about the growing wave of road accidents, Liberia risks more accident cases.

Mr. Wulue called on the 54th Legislature to seriously provide additional funds in upgrading roads that are currently depreciating due to lack of regular maintenance.



Representative Rustonlyn S. Dennis

At the close of 2020, the Inter Ministerial Task Force which

comprises the Ministry of Transport (MoT), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Ministry of Education (MOE), and the Ministry of Health (MOH) held a joint program in Monrovia with several speakers calling for increased budgetary support to the Road Safety Secretariat (RSS) aimed at minimizing road

accidents in Liberia.

In order to reduce the level of road accidents in the country, the government's Road Safety Secretariat (RSS) based at the Ministry of Transport has embarked on the 2nd Phase of the Road Safety Awareness and Sensitization campaign in four counties.

According to the Director of Press and Public Affairs, Mr.

in the wake of the global pandemic.

Director Gweh said ALIPH will support the heritage protection sector in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic initiated financial support for the most vulnerable organizations to assist them overcome the crisis, adopt digital tools or implement urgent preventive protection measures.

According to him, ALIPH's

Gueh told reporters in an interview that MICAT was created by an Act of Legislation in 1965 and later reorganized under Decrees 46 & 47 of the People's Redemption Council (PRC).

Speaking further he said, one key component of MICAT is to protect, preserve and promote all Government of Liberia's cultural policy; to promote a

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7**

Lemuel O. Kleeme, and the Coordinator of Road Safety Secretariat at the Ministry of Transport, Mr. Samuel Wonasue, the campaign, slated for February 7-19, 2021, will be held in Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Grand Cape Mount Counties respectively.

According to them, the awareness and sensitization campaign is aimed at providing road safety education to drivers, motorcyclists, tricyclists, pedestrians, marketers, students and workers, to help reduce the high rate of motor accidents across the country.

They disclosed that during the conduct of the awareness, the Road Safety Secretariat will hold stakeholders'

meeting and also conduct Training-of-Trainers (TOT) workshops with local authorities, marketers, the transport unions, private and public school authorities as well as streets promotion and the distribution of road safety information flyers, stickers and T-shirts.

They added that the program will be held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County from 8:00AM to 6:00PM daily as of February 1-15, 2021.

Meanwhile, the Government of Liberia (GOL) through the Road Safety Secretariat of the Ministry of Transport is inviting all transport stakeholders and the general public during these activities. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Form Agriculture battalion**

**-AFL urged**

Liberia's military has been asked to form a robust agricultural battalion to find ways to solve the country's collective food insecurity problem, and by extension, create jobs for civilians and agriculture students.

In a keynote speech Wednesday, 3 February at the 64th Armed Forces Day Symposium at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) president Cllr. Taiwan Gongloe said the military can play a lead role in solving the country's food insecurity problem.

Despite having a rich soil that is said to have great potential for farming

incentives for entrepreneurs that want to venture into food production.

He urges the government to use the process of eminent domain, saying "The Government of Liberia should identify huge parcels of farmland in each county and make them available to the military to produce food for Liberia."

He declares that "As a nation, we cannot make progress, if we cannot produce most of the food that we eat."

The LNBA Boss notes that the engagement of the military in food production will also provide opportunities for civilian jobs for agricultural school students, graduates and those with skills from T-Vet programs in the operation and repairs of farming machines,

Liberian thinkers that I have spoken to is that the armed forces, for more than a decade, has been incrementally disciplined and more professional that it is now trusted by the public more than the paramilitary forces," the legal pundit states.

"Today, we are all proud of the performance of the men and women of the Armed Forces as part of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Mali," he adds.

While focusing on the theme of the symposium, he urges the military to stay out of politics and let the politicians make whatever mistake they can make, noting instead that the military can play a leading role to reverse the increasing level of food insecurity in the country.

"The military with the support of the legislature should expand the scope of the military's role of providing for our collective security, beyond protecting us from invasions from across our borders to our collective security from hunger," he emphasizes.

The symposium brought together members from the various security institutions including the AFL and experts to discuss topics for the development of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

It was held under the theme: The Military in Sustaining Democracy. The knowledge gained from the symposium helps the AFL in answering questions and to solve problems.

Madam Moima Briggs Mensah, Representative, Bong County; Commissioner BoakaiDukuly (Proxy for Counselor Davidetta Brown Lansanah, Chairperson, National Elections Commission); Madam Cecelia N. Flomo, Acting Executive Director, Governance Commission; Mr. Harris FumbahTarnue, Principal, Booker Washington Institute (BWI) and Counselor Cyril Jones, CEO, Jones and Jones Law Firm, served as discussants at the symposium.

Other discussants include Lieutenant Colonel Matt Alden, SDO/ DATT US Embassy and Mr. Jimmy W. Smith, Representative, District 2, Montserrado County. Mr. Julius Jeh served as the moderator.



purposes, Liberia heavily relies on food import, including its staple, rice. Millions of dollars are said to be used annually for rice import alone.

However, Cllr TiawonGongloe believes that given the level of discipline that exists in the military, using the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) to intervene in the agriculture sector would help Liberia overcome its food insecurity problem.

"The level of discipline that exists in the military makes it ideal for leading our national effort to overcome our food insecurity problem," Cllr. Gongloe suggests.

In support of this recommendation, the Liberian legal luminary also calls on the legislature here to make adequate budgetary appropriation so as to strengthen the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Cllr. Gongloe further states that the Liberian Government must also provide more

and other logistical and administrative services.

"It can be done, once there is a political will," he maintains.

The symposium brought together panelists mostly from the government, diplomatic sector, civil society and also international partners to discuss the topic: "Enhancing Military and Legislative Interaction in a Democracy: Liberia in Perspective".

Giving a brief narrative of his temporary, but, quite interesting time with the AFL through some observations about its past and present history, Cllr. Gongloe says the AFL has transcended from a brutal force to an incrementally disciplined and professional force over the years.

"...Let me quickly say that my general observation and the observations of many critical

**LP founding leaders**

*Starts from back page*

the Party to former Margibi County Senator Clarice Davis Jah, as a way of salvaging the Party's image; maintaining the enduring legacy of Cllr. Brumskine as well as promoting peace and reconciliation within the rank and file of the Party.

The release also said that Madam Clarice Davis Jah as Acting Chair will administer the affairs of the party, while modalities are being worked up for an extraordinary session to elect a suitable candidate with morally acceptable CV in society as Chair de jure of the Party.

According to the group, Musa Bility's involvement with many corruption scandals, ranging from the RIA Economic Sabotage and Criminal Conspiracy Case; Tax Evasion; 27 million dollars Road Fund debacle and the widely publicized FIFA ban from football because of his involvement in corruption renders him unfit to Chair Liberty Party; until he clears his name from the myriad of corruption; adding that Liberty Party has over the years situated itself as an

institutional pillar for integrity in Liberia.

"Mr. Bility's assertions carried in the Liberian media in which he bragged that he bankrolled executive members of Liberty Party by buying them cars have not helped the suspicions of corruption that marred his ascendancy to the party's leadership", the group observed. At the same time, the group is warning against the use of dark money to influence national politics.

The group further stated that as they embark upon the journey to restore credibility to the Party, heal the "bad blood" and reconcile the rank and file of the party, they wish to call on the general public, especially foreign diplomats not to do official business in the name of Liberty Party with Mr. Musa Bility.

"We have taken this corrective action amidst the avalanche of public criticism against Mr. Bility regarding his checkered history, in the hope of restoring credibility to the party as well as maintaining the support of the masses", the release concluded.

**Sen. Wesseh requests**

*Starts from back page*

"Accordingly, I am appealing to plenary to request the president of Liberia to present to the senate written copies of the report in order for us to open up his legislative program for discussion and approval where necessary. We also need to see in clear terms, the expenditure as well as our national income," he

concluded. Meanwhile, Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Naatehn made motion that the leadership of the senate mandates its secretariat for communication to be sent to the Executive Mansion to request copies of the president's 2020/21 Annual Message. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

**Pres. Weah to light**

*Starts from page 6*

hydroelectric power generated at the Mount Coffee facility to deliver affordable electricity to customers.

President Weah says the Executive Order is in the interest of national reconstruction and development.

He maintains that the Executive Order is imperative because the LEC, during its transition from the use of fossil fuels to hydropower to generate electricity, faces external market forces and risks that increase the costs of operations of the entity.

President Weah continues that there is still a need to minimize the cost of fuel to enable the LEC to provide electricity to the general public at a reasonable cost.

He explains that some of

the costs which are associated with the purchase, delivery, storage, and use of fossil fuels, particularly Heavy Fuel Oils (HFO), represent a significant expense to LEC, which slow investments in the transition to the wider use of hydroelectric power in Liberia.

President Weah also intimates that it is necessary for the LEC to achieve what he calls "higher levels of operational and financial efficiencies" to enable it to distribute electricity at affordable rates to customers.

Customs Duties and GST on petroleum products are LEC cost categories that have the potential for volatility that adversely impacts the monthly expenses of the Corporation.

**Advertise with us!**

# Français

## Le fils de George Weah, président du Liberia interpellé à Paris dans une fête clandestine

**G**eorge Weah junior, le fils du président du Liberia aussi ancienne star du PSG, a sorti un passeport diplomatique. Son immunité va être vérifiée.

Illustration. Au cours de l'intervention, le ton est monté. George Weah junior, « très alcoolisé » note une source policière, a invectivé les forces de l'ordre et sorti un passeport diplomatique.

Au cours de l'intervention, le ton est monté. George Weah junior, « très alcoolisé » note une source policière, a invectivé les forces de l'ordre et sorti un passeport diplomatique. LP/Olivier

Le fils du président du Liberia a rendez-vous jeudi prochain avec la justice française. Dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, à 3h20 du matin, les policiers sont intervenus pour tapage nocturne lors d'une soirée clandestine dans un immeuble cossu de Paris, situé avenue du Président-Wilson (VIIIe), dans le quartier Alma-Marceau.

Là, dans un appartement loué via Airbnb, les fonctionnaires sont tombés



nez à nez avec une bande de huit fêtards. Tous ont été verbalisés pour « non-respect des mesures en vigueur liées au contexte sanitaire ».

Interpellé pour outrage et rébellion

Parmi eux, George Weah junior, 33 ans, le fils du président du Liberia, George Weah, ancien footballeur international ayant appartenu

au Paris SG, et à la tête du pays africain depuis 2018.

Au cours de l'intervention, le ton est monté. George Weah junior, « très alcoolisé » note une source policière, a invectivé les forces de l'ordre et sorti un passeport diplomatique. Il a été interpellé pour outrage et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Al-Qaïda veut viser la Côte d'Ivoire et le Bénin, selon le patron du renseignement français

Des soldats français de Barkhane, lors d'une opération dans la région du Gourma, dans le centre du Mali.

Le patron de la Direction générale de la sécurité extérieure (DGSE) française a affirmé, lundi 1er février,

que les chefs d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel avaient un « projet d'expansion vers les pays du golfe de Guinée ».

Le patron du renseignement extérieur français, Bernard Émié, a la parole publique rare. Lundi 1er février, alors qu'il intervenait aux côtés de la

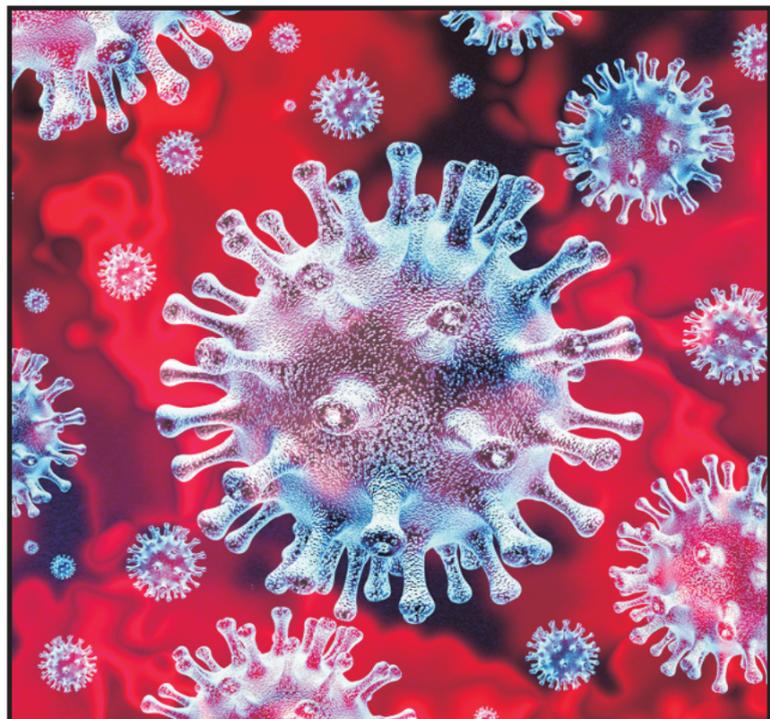
ministre française des Armées, Florence Parly, le chef de la Direction générale de la sécurité extérieure (DGSE) s'est cependant montré prolix. Et précis dans ses affirmations.

Bernard Émié participait lundi dans la matinée à un comité exécutif consacré à la lutte antiterroriste sur la base aérienne d'Orléans-Bricy, lors duquel il s'est entretenu avec Florence Parly ainsi qu'avec le chef d'état-major des Armées, le général François Lecointre.

Présentant des images qui montraient un rassemblement qui s'était tenu dans le centre du Mali en février 2020, entre les plus hauts responsables jihadistes de la région, Bernard Émié a affirmé qu'il s'agissait là d'une « réunion » dont l'objet était « la préparation d'opérations de grande ampleur sur des bases militaires ».

« C'est là que les chefs

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Nwabudike doit partir

**S**i le fraudeur nigérian Me A. Ndubuisi, qui siège à la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria en tant que président, après avoir frauduleusement obtenu la citoyenneté libérienne, pense que les membres du Sénat libérien se sont réunis pour jouer du théâtre à propos de sa destitution, il devrait repenser. Nwabudike devrait être informé en termes clairs de ce qu'il n'a pas le temps en sa faveur et que la seule option est de démissionner immédiatement.

Il est tout à fait incompréhensible et honteux que l'administration Weah continue de garder un étranger comme Me Nwabudike à la tête de la LACC, un poste statutairement réservé exclusivement aux citoyens libériens. Et le président George Weah en est pleinement conscient, mais il continue de faire la sourde oreille sur la question.

La semaine dernière, les sénateurs de Capitol Hill ont débattu des raisons pour lesquelles l'exécutif garde toujours Me Nwabudike à la tête de la LACC après avoir menti sous serment au sujet de sa citoyenneté libérienne malgré son rejet par le Sénat lors de l'audience de confirmation pour occuper la tête de la Commission électorale nationale.

Des rumeurs ont circulé à Monrovia selon lesquelles le fraudeur nigérian qui a utilisé un faux document de naturalisation libérien et s'est inscrit à la Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law de l'Université du Libéria en tant que citoyen libérien et obtenu un diplôme en droit devrait démissionner cette semaine.

Le sénat est résolu à faire en sorte que Nwabudike, qui porte des passeports libériens avec des incohérences dans sa date de naissance, ne continue pas à occuper une institution d'intégrité importante comme la LACC lorsque sa vie entière est entourée de triche et de malhonnêteté.

Le sénateur Conmany Wesseh du comté de River Gee lors de la session de la semaine dernière a noté que Me Nwabudike a réussi son chemin de manière criminelle dans tous les secteurs du gouvernement libérien, y compris les pouvoirs judiciaire, exécutif et législatif, et a par la suite dupé l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria pour en être un membre.

La LNBA a depuis lors expulsé Nwabudike après que ses actes laids aient été découverts et portés à la connaissance du public. Tant le Barreau que le Sénat n'ont aucune confiance en cet escroc étranger, cela n'a donc aucun sens de le garder dans le gouvernement libérien parce qu'il ne sert pas les intérêts du peuple libérien.

Avec le pouvoir investi dans le Sénat libérien en tant que représentants directs du peuple libérien, nous demandons instamment à cet auguste organe de veiller à ce que Nwabudike soit empêché de gérer « l'argent des contribuables libériens » à la LACC ou d'effectuer toute transaction au nom de la République du Libéria.

Le Sénat ne devrait pas se reposer tant que cet objectif n'est pas atteint. Il est dans l'intérêt du peuple libérien et de l'État de faire en sorte que ce fraudeur étranger, qui a envahi notre système de manière criminelle, soit expulsé et poursuivi conformément aux lois du Libéria.

# Français

## Le fils de George Weah,

rébellion, ramené au commissariat du XVII<sup>e</sup> arrondissement, présenté à l'officier de police judiciaire de nuit. L'enquête a été menée par le service de traitement judiciaire de nuit.

« Un jeune de 33 ans qui a fait la fête » « Le quai d'Orsay a été prévenu », précise un haut fonctionnaire de police. Un autre précise : « On va vérifier son éventuelle immunité diplomatique ».

Côté ambassade du Liberia, on confirme l'immunité diplomatique de George Weah junior mais... ses services qui ont découvert ce mardi matin les frasques du fils du président « regrettent de ne pas avoir été prévenus par le quai d'Orsay cette nuit ».

« Tout va bien, insiste-t-on à l'ambassade. Il a été libéré. C'était juste une sorte de petit tapage nocturne. C'est un jeune de 33 ans qui a fait la fête. »

## Al-Qaïda veut viser la Côte d'Ivoire et le Bénin,

d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel ont conçu leur projet d'expansion vers les pays du golfe de Guinée, a ajouté Bernard Emié. Ces pays sont désormais des cibles eux aussi. Pour desserrer l'étouffement dans lequel ils sont pris et pour s'étendre vers le sud, les terroristes financent déjà des hommes qui se disséminent en Côte d'Ivoire ou au Bénin. »

Il a aussi assuré que, selon ses services, « des combattants [avaient] également été envoyés aux confins du Nigeria, du Niger et du Tchad ».

Abdelmalek Droukdel, chef historique d'Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (Aqmi) - tué plus tard en 2020, en juin, par les forces françaises dans le nord du Mali -, Iyad Ag Ghaly, chef du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans (GSIM), et Amadou Koufa, chef de la katiba Macina, étaient présents à cette « réunion » dans le centre du Mali, selon le patron du renseignement extérieur français.

Iyad Ag Ghaly, le chef du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans.

IYAD AG GHALY N'EST PAS UN HOMME QUI PENSE LE TERRORISME, C'EST UN HOMME QUI LE PRATIQUE AU QUOTIDIEN

« Iyad Ag Ghaly incarne la stratégie d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel. Ce n'est pas un homme qui pense le terrorisme, c'est un homme qui le pratique au quotidien, a par ailleurs affirmé Bernard

Émié. Il n'hésite pas à prendre lui-même les armes. »

Le chef de la DGSE a par ailleurs estimé que ces leaders jihadistes étaient les héritiers directs d'Oussama Ben Laden », dont « ils poursuivent son projet politique, avec l'objectif assumé de commettre des attentats en Occident et en Europe en particulier ».

La France a déployé 5 100 hommes dans cette région depuis le lancement de l'opération Barkhane en 2014. Le président français, Emmanuel Macron, a confirmé en janvier que Paris s'appropriait à « ajuster son effort ».

Un ajustement qui passe par une montée en puissance des alliés de l'Hexagone, a confirmé lundi Florence Parly. « Depuis un an et demi, les Européens ont pleinement pris conscience des enjeux liés à l'expansion des terroristes en Afrique et de la menace de voir une base arrière s'installer au Sahel, comme nous avons pu le connaître au Levant », a-t-elle déclaré.

« Acculé, l'ennemi change ses méthodes, ses moyens d'action et les lieux où il agit », a-t-elle ajouté, pointant notamment les « champs de bataille immatérielle » et les « guerres d'influence et d'information ».

Le détail du réajustement de Barkhane sera discuté par la France et ses alliés du G5 Sahel (Mauritanie, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso et Tchad) lors d'un sommet prévu à N'Djamena les 15 et 16 février.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

## Le moment opportun pour Joe Biden

NEW YORK - On peut facilement sous-estimer Joe Biden. Certaines personnalités à gauche ont refusé de prendre au sérieux le nouveau président des États-Unis en le qualifiant de politicien minable au service du parti, de petite main, de vestige d'un establishment corrompu et en panne. Un article paru dans le journal conservateur National Review s'intitulait : Joe Biden: Mediocrity Personified (soit « Joe Biden : la médiocrité incarnée »). Il a été écrit par Conrad Black, cet admirateur des grands hommes de tendance droite et ancien propriétaire du journal. Il a lui-même été condamné pour fraude.

Biden, jusqu'à présent, n'est pas un grand homme. Mais malgré tout, un personnage qui a évolué quatre décennies durant dans la fosse aux lions de la politique de Washington et qui a été élu président à l'âge de 78 ans mérite peut-être d'être pris au sérieux. Il est au moins un homme politique hautement qualifié.

Biden n'a rien d'un brillant penseur, ni d'un leader héroïque. Il n'a pas non plus beaucoup de charisme, ce qui est bienvenu après quatre années de mauvaise administration à grand spectacle sous Donald Trump. Si Biden a déjà eu une idée originale, il l'a bien dissimulée. Lors de sa campagne présidentielle de 1988, il a même plagié un discours du politicien britannique Neil Kinnock. Mais au moins Biden n'a pas fait porter le chapeau à l'auteur de son discours, comme cela s'est produit lorsque Trump et sa femme Melania ont connu des déboires similaires.

La question est de savoir si les démocraties progressistes sont mieux gouvernées par des dirigeants très intelligents, ou par des dirigeants héroïques. Quand l'époque n'a rien de riant, on peut être tenté de croire que des personnages de cette trempe devraient être au pouvoir. Mais comme l'a dit un jour l'écrivain américain Gore Vidal, « les grands dirigeants font les grandes guerres ». Les intellectuels qui ont de grandes idées peuvent eux aussi se tromper. Nombreux sont ceux qui n'apprécient pas les critiques de ceux qui n'abondent pas dans leur sens. En fait, ils n'ont pas de temps à perdre avec ceux qui leur sont inférieurs sur le plan intellectuel. Mais les politiciens qui réussissent doivent supporter avec joie la compagnie des imbéciles. Cela fait partie de ce qu'on leur demande.

Les gens qui ont un penchant pour la révolution dédaignent souvent la démocratie progressiste à cause de son apparente médiocrité. Feu l'avocat français Jacques Vergès, qui défendait les terroristes politiques de gauche, a résumé cette attitude. « Depuis mon enfance, dit Vergès, j'ai toujours été attiré par la grandeur, (...) par l'idée du Destin, pas par celle du bonheur. La notion de bonheur en Europe a été ternie par la social-démocratie ».

On comprend ce qu'il entend par là. Il y a quelque chose de médiocre dans le bonheur, à l'opposé de ce que les Romantiques entendaient sous les termes Sturm und Drang, Tempête et avancée. Mais la « recherche du bonheur » est inscrite dans l'ADN de l'Amérique, cette notion consacrée par Thomas Jefferson dans la Déclaration d'indépendance. C'est peut-être la raison pour laquelle les révolutionnaires de droite comme de gauche nourrissent un tel mépris à l'égard des États-Unis.

Il y a bien sûr certaines périodes où même les démocraties ont besoin de héros. Neville Chamberlain, un conservateur traditionnel, pas très imaginatif et homme de compromis, n'était pas le chef dont son pays avait besoin pour affronter Hitler en 1940. En temps de paix, Chamberlain était un Premier ministre efficace, alors que Winston Churchill avait la réputation d'être un fanfaron peu fiable. Mais en mai 1940, alors que la Grande-Bretagne était loin d'être prête à mener une guerre contre l'Allemagne nazie, le pays avait besoin d'un romantique farouche comme Churchill pour animer son peuple par son esprit héroïque.

Mais il faut dire que les époques de ce genre ne sont pas fréquentes. Malheureusement, trop de présidents américains d'après-guerre ont choisi d'imiter Churchill plutôt que Chamberlain, ce qui a parfois conduit à des guerres absurdes. Ceux qui recherchent la gloire des armes et la grandeur nationale sont rarement des agents dans la recherche du bonheur. Un dirigeant comme Biden rend de meilleurs services à cette recherche.

Mais peut-être vivons-nous à présent un de ces rares moments où l'héroïsme et les grandes idées sont nécessaires. Comme l'a dit Biden dans son discours d'acceptation de l'investiture, nous sommes confrontés à de multiples dangers : une pandémie, une grave crise économique et un manque général de confiance en les institutions démocratiques. À cela s'ajoute un fort regain de popularité sur plusieurs continents en faveur de démagogues populistes de droite. Un pourcentage significatif de la population américaine, exposée à un barrage de propagande malveillante, estime que Biden a faussé les résultats des élections.

Heureusement, on compare parfois le président fraîchement investi de ses fonctions à Franklin D. Roosevelt. Un grand nombre de ses partisans croient, à juste titre à mon avis, qu'il est temps de mettre au point une nouvelle version du New Deal et d'importantes réformes politiques. Trop d'argent est concentré entre trop peu de mains. Et trop de choses ont été foulées aux pieds au cours des quatre années écoulées (notamment l'idée qu'une chose telle que la vérité existe) pour qu'il soit possible de s'imaginer que le pays peut simplement reprendre son mode de vie habituel.

D'une certaine manière, la tâche de Biden sera plus difficile que celle de Roosevelt. Bien que la crise économique ait été pire dans les années 1930, Roosevelt jouissait de fortes majorités au Congrès et le Parti républicain n'était pas sous l'emprise d'une secte dangereuse. Le New Deal fut une grande réussite. Mais malgré ses airs quasi aristocratiques, Roosevelt n'était pas un homme brillant, ni héroïque. Comme Biden, il était un agent politique qualifié.

Et comme Biden, Roosevelt n'a certainement pas été un révolutionnaire. Sa tâche a consisté à sauver le capitalisme américain. Il était là pour réparer et pour régler les problèmes. Le New Deal n'a pas été réalisé grâce au génie ou à l'héroïsme de Roosevelt, mais parce qu'un nombre suffisant de personnes lui ont fait confiance quand il leur a promis d'agir en toute bonne foi.

C'est précisément ce que les citoyens attendent également de Biden. Il doit sauver la démocratie américaine des ravages d'une crise politique. Pour ce faire, il doit rétablir la confiance dans le système. Il a promis de faire que son pays soit moins polarisé et de restaurer la civilité et la vérité au sein du discours politique. Dans cette perspective, son manque de charisme pourrait bien se révéler être sa plus grande force. Car il compense son manque de lustre par un témoignage de bonnes manières à chacun de ses gestes.

Cela suffira-t-il à faire passer les changements politiques nécessaires ? La réponse ne dépendra pas seulement de lui, sans aucun doute. Toutes ses grandes initiatives risquent de se heurter à l'obstruction du Parti Républicain. Mais il a plus de chances de réussir que d'autres politiciens radicaux plus tape-à-l'œil. Un homme chevronné comme Biden, qui connaît tous les rouages du système - les compromis, les compliments, ceux qui tentent de vous forcer la main, ainsi que la capacité à supporter avec joie la présence des imbéciles - pourrait être exactement le leader dont l'Amérique a besoin à présent.

Du moins c'est ce que nous devrions espérer. À son entrée dans le Bureau Oval, Biden a fait retirer le buste de Churchill que Trump avait fait trôner bien en évidence derrière le bureau. Pour un début, c'est n'est pas si mal.

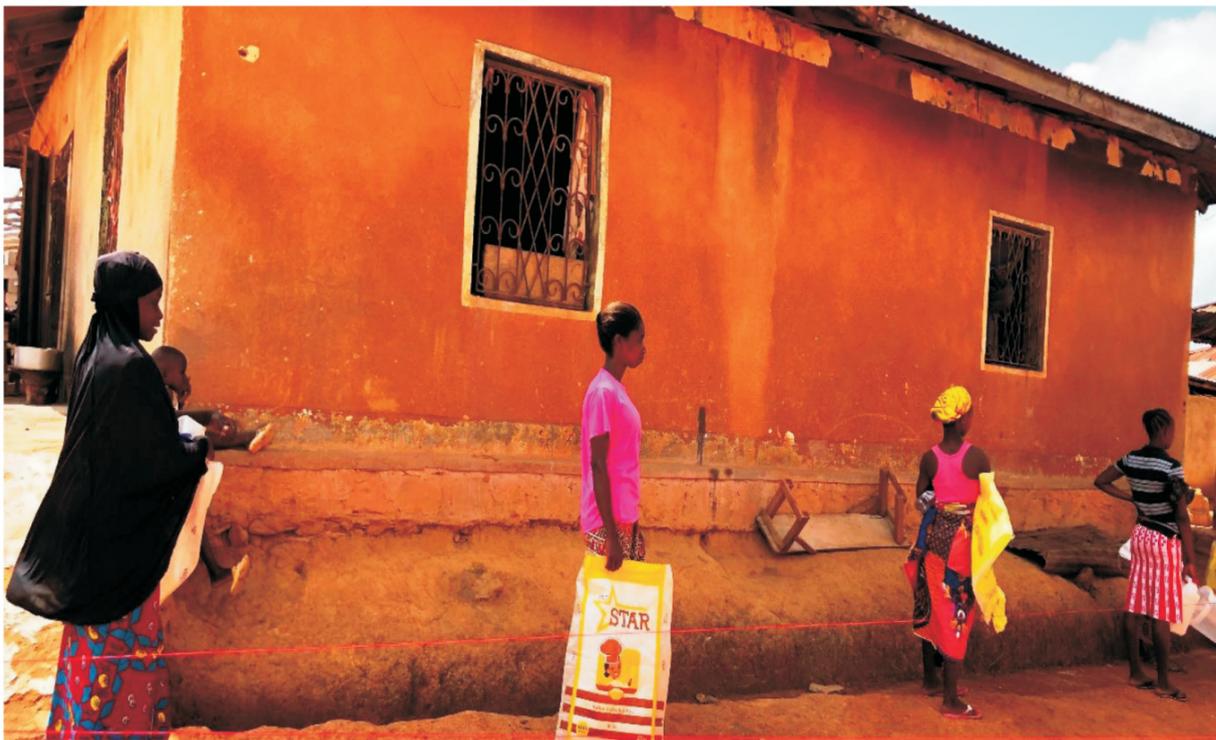
**The NewDawn Newspaper  
is on the Newsstand Daily.**

**Grab a copy of today's edition  
or visit: <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/>**

## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# WFP, Ministry of Education Take-Home Rations Essential in Helping Schoolchildren Study at Home and Remain Safe from Coronavirus



Parents in line to receive their children's school feeding take-home rations in Nimba County // Photo: @World Food Programme/Johnson Kolubah

Monrovia - Innovative approaches in the provision of school feeding, such as students' take-home rations, proved to be an effective way of keeping schoolchildren in Nimba and Maryland Counties safe while reading and reviewing their lessons at home when schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Liberia and the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food packages of rice, oil, and beans in April 2020 and June 2020 to support over 90,000 schoolchildren from kindergarten to grade six to continue their learning activities.

For Theresa M. Jarteh, 42, a teacher at the William R. Tolbert Elementary School in Saclepea, Nimba County, the school closures meant a loss of face-to-face classroom activities, but not home-learning where children studied under the supervision of their parents.

Mrs Jarteh recounted how the take-home rations were visible in the narratives that the children, parents, and teachers are now telling. "There are lots of testimonies of the wonders that the take-home rations played in helping our children to not only keep studying but to also stay at home and avoid the perils of catching the virus", said Theresa. She is hopeful that take-home rations will continue in 2021 due to the surge in enrolment, as more parents are encouraged to send their children to school to bring home the transformative monthly rations. "The food is a big encouragement for parents to enrol more students than before because when you have two or more children bringing food home, your worries to feed the family reduce seriously," Theresa explained.

In March 2020, Liberia confirmed its first case of COVID-19. The resulting national state of emergency led the Ministry of Education to announce indefinite closures for all schools, including elementary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. It also meant that the over 90,000 students benefiting from the WFP school feeding programme stayed at home. Prior to March 2020, WFP and the Ministry of Education provided school meals to more than 90,000 students in Nimba and Maryland Counties making the school feeding programme one of the largest social safety net programmes in the country. A key component of the WFP "saving lives, changing lives" strategy, school feeding provides multiple benefits for the development of Liberian children. School feeding boosts school enrolment and attendance, improves classroom participation and retention, discourages school dropouts, prevents school-time hunger among children, and lessens the financial burden of lunch money on parents. In Liberia, WFP and the Ministry of Education have been providing daily hot meals to students in kindergarten through grade six, and monthly take-home rations to girl students in grades four to six to encourage the enrolment of girls in a country where boys are traditionally sent to school over girls.

The WFP strategy to provide take-home family rations to both girls and boys during the COVID-19 school closures was successful and became an impressive game changer for teachers, children and parents, said Naomi Harris, 32, a parent and mother of three children who also benefit from school feeding in Nimba County. "It helped us and was so good for the family. The other children in the house and our neighbours' children who were also not going to school benefited because we shared the food with them. Getting enough food then was hard".

She continued, "When the school feeding food came, some families organized study classes with children sitting far apart. The food encouraged the children to remain at home to study instead of passing around looking for mangoes or anything they could find for their stomachs".

"As a parent, I am today happy because my son who was a beginner and could not write his name is now writing his name. I only hope that more WFP take home rations will come because the first one helped us and our neighbours, and it united us", said Naomi.

Patience Charpea, a grade four student at the W.R. Tolbert Elementary School in Saclepea, Nimba County remembers the take-home ration distribution in April 2020. "It helped me to study because when we got the food the entire family used it including my little brother and sister. I used to study English and science more as my best subjects. The food gave us the strength to read, write, spell, and do math also. Because of my home study last year, I am now making better progress in class", said Patience.

She also has a vision, "I want to become a nurse to help sick people get well. When I become a nurse, I will remember the take-home food and will tell my patients and children the story".

Mr. G. Markson Pewue, the Ministry of Education School Feeding Coordinator in Nimba County, lauded the WFP take-home rations as a unifying force for the family. "Families of primary school students in 301 schools in Nimba benefited from the WFP take-home rations in April and June 2020 during the COVID-19 school closures. Parents were involved in ensuring their children remained close to their lessons, reviewing notes and listening to Ministry of Education radio reading programmes".

He expressed optimism for more student enrolment in 2021. "If the provision of WFP take-home rations continue, both parents and students will be attracted to



L-R: Parent (Naomi Harris), student (Patience Charpea), and Self-contained Teacher (Theresa Dahn) // Photo: @World Food Programme/Lonnie Herring

the schools, thus increasing school enrolment and retention as well as increasing parent's involvement in their children's education" In early 2021, WFP will provide 1,000 schoolboys and girls with a commodity voucher or mobile money with a transfer value of USD 15 that will support access to locally available, nutritious foods. Throughout 2021, WFP and the Ministry of Education will provide school meals to 90,000 students through cash-based transfers, take-home rations, and on-site school meals.

###

The United Nations World Food Programme is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. We are the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

Follow us on Twitter @wfp\_media and @WFP\_WAfrica

For more information please contact:

Vannette Tolbert, WFP/Liberia, Tel. +23177650294, E-mail: vannette.tolbert@wfp.org

John Monibah, WFP/Liberia, Tel. +231776737521, E-mail: john.monibah@wfp.org

# Govt. wants to print LD48.733 billion

By Ethel A Tweh

The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, J Aloysius Tarlue, has officially written the plenary of the Liberian Senate, requesting approval to print fresh family of Liberian banknotes completely.

Governor Tarlue seeks to replace existing Liberian bank notes in three (3) years, from 2021-2023.

The request to print totally new family of bank notes comes at a time there

demands for local currency.

In his communication to the Senate, Governor Tarlue said for consideration and approval in compliance with section 23 of the Act creating the Central Bank and based on CBL's forecast, the total projected amount of new banknotes to be printed is LD\$48.733 Billion.

"That the details including the assumptions, rationale, volume and estimated cost of the printed of the banknotes are contained in the enclosed proposal", he said.

He continue that in view of the justification outlined, both

senate, especially given that 4 billion of the current Liberian banknotes printed late last year in 500 denominations have been scarce in circulation, leaving lawmakers to call the CBL to account.

Bong County Senator Prince K. Moye, wants plenary of the Liberian Senate to reject the Governor's communication and return it, arguing that instead, the President of the Republic of Liberia should be the one communicating to them.

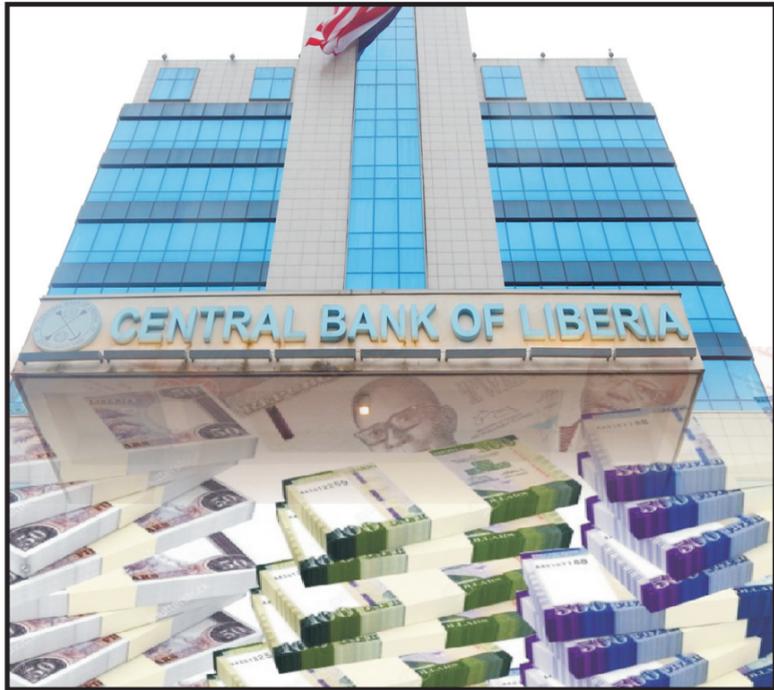
However, the during the CBL amended Act in 2020, the Senate amended that the request to printing money should come directly from the Central Bank, and should be filed within three years.

Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Nathaan noted that before the Senate approves printing of any banknotes, the Central Bank of Liberia should account for both the LRD16 Billion that allegedly went missing and the LRD4 Billion printed in 2020.

Sen. Nathaan said in order to make an informed decision, the Liberian Senate should be in the know of expenditure of monies that were printed.

Meanwhile, the Senate committees on Banking and Currency and the Judiciary have taken seized of the CBL communication to report to plenary in two weeks whether to approve or reject the request.

The Senate Banking and Currency committee is headed by Grand Gedeh County Senator Marshall Dennis and the Judiciary committee is chaired by Senator Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



is acute shortage of local currency in banks, forcing tellers to restrict daily withdrawal.

The request to the Senate is a reiteration of President George MannehWeah's recent appeal to legislators during his Annual Message before the 54th Legislature sitting in joint session. Mr. Weah pleaded with lawmakers to quickly approve printing of new family of Liberian banknotes for the economy before another peak in high

in the Board Resolution and the proposal for printing new Liberian banknotes, "The Management of the CBL wishes to respectfully request for Senate's consideration by granting approval of this proposal."

The CBL boss said approving the proposal will fast track the systemic procurement process of printing and delivering of new banknotes in the country which my take six to nine months.

But the request is likely to face thorough scrutiny at the

# Senate divided over Sherman

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Members of the Liberian Senate are reportedly divided over the recent sanction and barring of their colleague, Senator Varney Sherman by the Treasury Department of the United States government.

On Thursday, February 04, the chambers of the senate snowballed in to a tense atmosphere when a report emanating from the leadership of the senate hit the floor relating to the decision by the US Government sanctioning Sherman.

On December 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) targeted corrupt actors and their networks across several countries in Africa and Asia. The, actions the US Government claimed are taken pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13818, which builds upon and implementing the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, and targets perpetrators of corruption and serious human rights abuse.

In 2010, Harry Varney Gboto-Nambi Sherman (Sherman), now a prominent lawyer, Liberian Senator, and Chair of the Liberian Senate Judiciary Committee, was hired by a British mining company in an effort to obtain one of Liberia's last remaining mining assets, the Wologizi iron ore concession. Sherman advised the company that, in order to obtain the contract, they first had to get Liberia's concessions law changed by bribing senior officials. In 2016, Sherman was indicted by the Liberian government, along with several other government officials, for their involvement in the USD 950,000 bribery scheme. In 2019, the presiding judge acquitted all individuals accused of being involved in the bribery scheme. Sherman offered bribes to multiple judges associated with his trial and had an undisclosed conflict of interest with the judge who ultimately returned a not guilty verdict in July 2019," the sanction regime noted.

Cllr. Sherman had earlier written the plenary of the senate for intervention on the decision of the US Government against his person and law firm.

Following the reading of

the report from the leadership of the senate in plenary, Senator Steve Zargo asserted that Sherman was not given due process and that it is banding on the senate to make inquires and intervene on behalf of him (Sherman) for the way forward.

Zargo, of the Liberty Party explained that US Government is fully aware of due process under the law and that the senate is under moral obligation to seek information and detailed the information surroundings the matter.

But he was resisted by River Gee County Senator, Mr. ConmanyWesseh who indicated that the Liberian Senate has no say into the matter and that the matter is of more personal to Senator Sherman.

According to him, former President Charles Taylor, Benoni Urey, Chief Cyril Allen, and many other Liberians were placed under sanction for various reasons, and those affected serve penalties and some later free, while others are still facing restriction.

Wesseh added that Sherman did not get sanction because of his role in the Liberian Senate. Instead in his private life and career.

Sen. Wesseh furthered that the senate has no part to play in the saga and besides, the precious time of the Liberian Senate cannot be wasted on something that is not before that august body.

Responding to Mr. Wesseh, Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay argued that Cllr. Sherman is part of the senate and anything that affects him should be a concerned to body.

For his part, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon suggested that the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations be engaged to use persuasive diplomatic engagement to resolve the matter.

Adding his comment to the argument, Gbarpolu Senator Daniel Naatehn noted, the fact the United States Government has not written the senate or the Liberian government, it suggest that the matter is more personal then national one.

But Margibi County Senator Emmanuel James Nuquay differed on grounds that Cllr. Sherman is a Liberian and for the fact he (Sherman) wrote the senate that gives the reason for the senate intervention.

**-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

Cont'd from page 6

progressive, inclusive and egalitarian society characterized by respect for diversity, equity and social justice, drawing largely from the national cultures, values and traditions; while safeguarding and promoting cultural linguistic and religious diversity with a view to reviving and strengthening cultural understanding, national consciousness and the enrichment of the Liberian identity.

He also said that the COVID-19 pandemic is already having a significant impact on the protection of cultural heritage in conflict areas,

## ALIPH to support Liberia's

through the postponement of planned work and the potential destabilization of the local economic and social fabric, noting, this health crisis may lead to deeper and lasting transformations in the cultural heritage sector.

Mr. Gweh indicated that ALIPH COVID-19 Emergency Grant would help alleviate the financial challenge stems from the fact that many cultural workers and artists have lost their source of income. Besides, he said the cancellation of all activities caused hardship for small and medium size businesses, which are the major stakeholders under the cultural

sector of the country.

Director Gweh further stressed that besides adapting its support for ongoing projects, ALIPH has set up a complementary support mechanism for local operators in the heritage sector in conflict or post-conflict areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed support mechanisms should meet urgent needs, while taking into account foreseeable long-term transitions. ALIPH has set up an extraordinary relief fund to support the heritage sector in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Advertise with us!**

# Sen. Wesseh requests Weah's message



Senator Conmany Wesseh

According to a communication read in the senate plenary Thursday February 04, signed by Sen. Wesseh "it has been a week since the President George Weah presented to the Liberian Legislature his administration's legislative agenda in line with article 58 of the 1986 Constitution, which state, The President shall, on the fourth working Monday in January of each year, present the administration's legislative program for the ensuing session, and shall once a year report to the Legislature on the state of the Republic. In presenting the economic condition of the Republic the report shall cover expenditure as well as income."

Sen. Wesseh, a stalwart of the former ruling Unity Party noted that the senate and his colleagues are aware, the report was verbally presented thereby making it impossible for legislators to do justice to what the framers of the constitution envisaged.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh has written the plenary of the Liberian Senate requesting that the senate made President George Manneh Weah and the Executive Branch of government to make available copies of this year's Annual

Message. President Weah on January 24, this year, made his fourth Annual Message to both members of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate in a joint special session in the William Richard Tolbert Joint Chambers at the Capitol Building in Monrovia.

**For as low as 60 USD, you can own one of these!**

You also enjoy **1GB** free data every month for **6 months!**  
 Phone prices range between **60USD and above.**

Available at: **itel shop at Broad and Center Streets Intersection.**

Features:  
 - 3G or 4G  
 - Fullscreen  
 - Powerful Battery  
 - Quality front and back cameras  
 - Fingerprint/Face Unlock

price range  
**\$60 and above**  
 PLUS  
**1GB data**  
 Free every month for 6 months

Dial \*187# to get 1GB free data after purchase.

everywhere you go  
Ts & Cs apply.

Lonestar Cell MTN

# LP founding leaders reject Bility

**-Calls for his immediate resignation**

The Leadership of the Friends of Brumskine (FOB), and Founding Executive Members of Liberty Party have described the outcome of the just-ended Liberty Party Special Convention as undemocratic and a total letdown for Liberia's fight against corruption.

The FOB Leaders noted that the decision to allow Mr. Musa Bility ascend to the

chairmanship of the Liberty Party considering his myriad involvement in corruption scandals locally and internationally, speaks to the leadership malaise that currently pervades the party.

In a statement released in Monrovia, signed by both Aruna Fallah, the Founding Chairman and Bishop J. Lemuel Gbadyu, Founding Co-Chairman of the FOB and Liberty Party also noted that the pre-



Mr. Musa Bility

packaged nature of the activities leading to the Party's Special Convention was not only inimical to the tenets of internal democracy but dishonored the venerated memory of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, who took personal risk in his quest for good governance and a corruption free Liberia.

Therefore, the group calls on Musa Bility to rescind and relinquish the chairmanship of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

**The NewDawn Press**

**2 colors Heidelberg printing machines**

**We Offer The Following Printing Services:**

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...