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TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.11 NO. 021

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P11

No room for corrupt individuals

-Wilmot Paye

Tolerate all political actors

-Weah tells Grand Geddeans



P10

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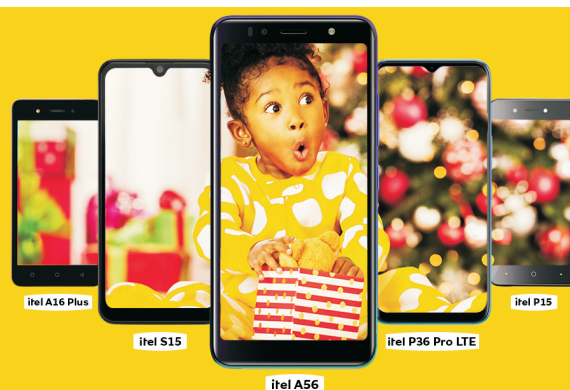
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Continental News

Boyfriend charged for murder of SA pregnant woman

The boyfriend of a South African woman, whose murder galvanised protests against violence against women in the country, has been charged with her murder at a court in Johannesburg.

Ntuthuko Ntokozo Shoba is accused of planning Tshegofatso Pule's murder and paying the killer.

The body of the pregnant 28-year-old was found hanging from a tree two years ago, with multiple stab wounds. Mr Shoba was not asked to enter a plea during his court appearance.

Last week, a Johannesburg court sentenced another man, Mzikayise Malephane, to 20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to murdering Ms Pule.

In a plea agreement read out in court by his lawyer, Malephane, 31, said he had been offered 7,000 rand (£340; \$480) by Mr Shoba to carry out the killing but had

declined. The offer went up to 70,000 rand before he accepted, he said. Malephane told the court that Mr Shoba "did not want his wife to find out about the unborn baby". Prosecutors have charged Mr Shoba, who was arrested last week, with murder, conspiracy to commit

murder, and defeating the ends of justice.

The 32-year-old, whose legs were shackled, wore an all-black suit and shirt in his first court appearance on Monday, news site TimesLive reported.

Ms Pule's uncle Tumisang



It is alleged that Mr Shoba did not want his wife to find out that he was expecting a baby with another woman

Katake said that seeing Mr Shoba in court reopened "old wounds that were beginning to heal." He added that the family knew that Ms Pule was dating Mr Shoba, but did not know "what type of relationship they had".

According to the family she had gone to see Mr Shoba in his house in Florida on the West Rand district, 16km (nine miles) west of Johannesburg, in June 2019, after he invited her to go shopping for the unborn baby, news24 reports.

They got into an argument and he later called a taxi whose driver turned out to be Malephane.

On 5 June Ms Pule's body was found hanging from a tree in Roodepoort area in the West

Rand district. Her death was widely condemned and inspired the hashtag #JusticeForTshego on Twitter, the BBC's Pumza Fihlani reports from Johannesburg.

In a country with one of the highest levels of violence in the world, including high cases of femicide, Ms Pule's death distressed many, our reporter adds.

In response, President Cyril Ramaphosa released a statement denouncing gender-based violence, saying the pandemic had made it more dangerous for women because "violent men are taking advantage of the eased restrictions on movement to attack women and children".

As many as 51% of women in South Africa had experienced violence at the hands of someone they were in a

The cost of not counting the dead

Only eight African countries out of more than 50 have a compulsory system to register deaths, a BBC investigation has found. This is not just a failure of the state to recognise individual tragedies but has enormous implications for the making of government policy. All but two countries in Europe - Albania and Monaco - have a universal death registration system, and in Asia, just over half, analysis of UN data shows. But in Africa it is only

Egypt, South Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles and Mauritius that have what are called functioning, compulsory and universal civil registration systems - known as CRVS systems - which record deaths.

All of the countries surveyed by the BBC, working with researchers from the UN's Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), do have some sort of death registration.

But it is often on paper and not available in a shareable digitised form. The information

may be used in a local area but cannot calculate mortality trends on a national level. In the wake of the Ebola epidemic, and now Covid-19, having an accurate picture of who is dying, from what and where, is crucial when it comes to allocating resources and funding.

This also has implications for tracking maternal and child mortality as there are children whose birth and untimely death go unrecorded.

This not only robs them of a "right to an identity", in the words of William Muhwava - the head of demography at the UNECA based in Addis Ababa - it also means that lessons are not learnt.

"In order to help the living, we need to count the dead," UN Population Fund demographer Romesh Silva told the BBC. Those who are missed out on the registers are often the poorest and socially excluded, he adds, and the absence of information about their deaths means that measures to deal with the causes are sometimes not taken. "Despite investments, CRVS systems

Rwandan dissident killed in South Africa

Leading Rwandan opposition politician Seif Bamporiki has been shot dead in South Africa, where he lived in exile. Mr Bamporiki was pulled from his vehicle in a township in Cape Town before being killed, police said.

Preliminary investigations showed he had been killed in a robbery, police said. But Mr Bamporiki's party, the Rwanda National Congress (RNC), said the motive was still unclear.

Rwanda has previously been accused of targeting dissidents in South Africa.

It has consistently denied the allegation. The RNC was formed in exile by opposition politicians who accuse President Paul Kagame's government of being authoritarian, and of being intolerant of dissent.

Mr Bamporiki ran a bed shop in Cape Town. He was making a delivery in Nyanga township on Sunday when he was shot after being confronted by two men, police said.

"The deceased was pulled from his vehicle and shot while the 50-year-old man



who accompanied him managed to escape unharmed.

"The suspects who are yet to be arrested fled with the deceased's vehicle, and we have reason to believe that the motive for the murder was robbery," police added in a statement to the BBC.

RNC spokesman Etienne Mutabazi gave a different account, saying Mr Bamporiki was killed after a gunman fired a single shot through the window of the car. There was speculation on social media that Mr Bamporiki had been killed in a political hit, but Mr Mutabazi said he did not know whether this was the case, reports the BBC's Nomsa Maseko from South Africa's main city, Johannesburg. BBC



South Africa has the highest Covid death toll in Africa - according to official figures

EDITORIAL

Political tolerance is key to peace and stability

IN HIS DEPARTING comments to the people of Grand Gedeh County on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at the Zwedru City Hall, President George Manneh Weah emphasized the need for political tolerance in the county in order to move ahead with economic development. He urged Grand Gedeans who voted for him overwhelmingly during the 2017 elections to tolerate opposition views in fostering a democratic culture in their midst.

THE CALL IS in direct reference to violence in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County on Thursday, 30 July 2020 when hundreds of thugs throwing stones and waving machetes prevented the leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress and former chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Alexander B. Cummings, and Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah from stepping out to address supporters in the county after a stopover from Maryland County.

THE OPPOSITION DELEGATION woke up to a nightmare on the 30th of July last year when angry youths, armed with stones, sticks and cutlasses, among others barricaded B-2 Motel in the heart of Zwedru City, where Mr. Cummings, Representative Kolubah and other members of their entourage lodged. The mobs threatened to lynch Rep. Kolubah for constantly ranting invectives at President George Manneh Weah.

THAT INCIDENT RECEIVED condemnation from the Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus and the international communication with calls for speedy investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice. Findings of investigation by the government are yet to be made public.

BUT PRESIDENT WEAH was very emphatic on Saturday when he told citizens of the county that despite their support for his administration, they should tolerate opposition politicians as guaranteed under the Constitution.

WE BELIEVE THE remark by the President is important in promoting diversity of opinions or contrary views as required by freedom of speech. Mr. Weah further stressed that there would be no development both in Grand Gedeh and the entire Liberia without peace, so peace and tolerance for one another should be upheld.

WE JOIN THE President in calling on citizens of that county to cherish tolerance and peace for the sake of national unity and economic progress. Development cannot thrive in chaos.

ADDITIONALLY, GRAND GEDEANS should be reminded in no uncertain terms that Liberia is not for any pacific President or administration. Rather, the democratic space, thru the Constitution allows a person to be elected at the ballot box to govern the state for a specific tenure.

NO MATTER WHO is elected President, that person automatically becomes leader for the entire Republic, which includes both his own supporters and the opposition. He may not be liked or loved by all of the citizens but tolerance requires that critical or contrary views are expressed without threats to those expressing such views.

IN FACT, CRITICAL views strengthen democracy and the government in power to govern well in the interest of all citizens, including the opposition. If a President succeeds in his administration, it is Liberia that gets the credit.

THIS IS THE message President Weah wants the people of Grand Gedeh County to run with: He appreciates so highly that they love him 100 percent, as demonstrated at the ballot box, but at the same time, others may express contrary views about his leadership. This should not give his supporters right to go after those people who criticize his government. History has proven time and again, that doing so is counterproductive.

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COMMENTARY

By Melvyn Krauss

The Draghi Power Triangle

STANFORD - Mario Draghi's first speech as Italy's prime minister made clear that his national unity government will not only be about domestic Italian politics and policy reforms, but about Europe, too. Draghi has signaled nothing less than a dramatic reconfiguration of European policymaking, with major consequences for Europe and the European Union's relations with Russia and the United States.

As prime minister, Draghi will be a member of the influential European Council; in fact, he should be one of its core leaders, along with his French and German counterparts, Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel. As Jörg Asmussen, a member of the European Central Bank's executive board when Draghi was ECB president, put it shortly before Draghi's installment, "European politics might shift into more of a triangle."

Asmussen was right. In his maiden speech to Italian lawmakers, Draghi stressed that Italy would "need to better structure and strengthen the strategic and essential relationship with France and Germany." Clearly, the reconfiguration of European politics will be a top priority for his government. "Without Italy, there is no Europe," Draghi said.

And there is no Europe without further EU integration. Taking aim not only at anti-euro Italian populists like Matteo Salvini, Draghi said, "Supporting this government means sharing the irreversibility of the choice of the euro," adding that it also "means sharing the prospect of an increasingly integrated European Union that will arrive at a common public budget capable of supporting countries in times of recession."

Draghi's ascension to the European stage alongside Macron and Merkel also implies closer EU-US relations. US President Joe Biden could not find a better ally in Europe. Italy's new government, Draghi vowed, will be "strongly pro-European and Atlanticist, in line with Italy's historical anchors." This marks a break with the foreign policy of Giuseppe Conte, the previous prime minister, who had aligned Italy more closely with China. Draghi is giving the transatlantic alliance a chance to recover after four years of Donald Trump's strategic recklessness.

On NATO, Biden and Draghi think alike. Both favor keeping US troops in Europe, and both want a bigger German monetary contribution to the common defense budget. A more fundamental point is that the two see the US as the ultimate protector of Europe's independence.

Draghi's Atlanticism and pro-American sentiments run too deep for him to support the current push - led by Macron, with much elite support - for greater EU "strategic autonomy." But seeing eye to eye with Macron on many other matters, as he does, Draghi is likely to smooth over their differences on this thorny issue.

But Draghi's position on European security is firm - for the foreseeable future, there can be

no replacement for the US troops in Europe. As Trump's influence fades in the US, so, too, will European anxiety about the reliability of America's security guarantee, which may dampen the sense that greater "strategic autonomy" is needed.

Draghi's strong belief in Atlanticism should bolster that of the entire European Council, working in particular as a counterweight to and moderating force on Merkel, who at times puts German business interests with Russia and others ahead of transatlantic ties and European security. The more influence Draghi has in Europe's power triangle - and his tenure at the ECB appears to give him considerable clout with Merkel - the tougher the EU will be with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as Europe's home-grown autocrats like Hungary's Viktor Orbán and Poland's Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

After all, Draghi's standing does not rest solely on his reputation in financial markets, where he is seen as someone who can lower Italian borrowing costs and boost Italian stock prices. He is a student of history, with strong democratic values and a strategic sense of the type that Europe badly needs to deal effectively with Putin and his ideological soulmates in Central Europe.

Draghi's pro-Atlanticism clearly does not conflict with the prospects for a more united Europe. When he was president of the ECB, he did not save the euro merely to preserve Italy's membership in the common currency, as his northern detractors allege; he did it to save the European project itself. Likewise, he did not introduce quantitative easing simply to bail out Italian bonds; he did it to further north-south integration.

Now he is championing the EU recovery fund, not only to help Italy and other southern countries overcome the economic consequences of the pandemic, but also to make permanent the most daring joint effort so far to integrate Europe's north and south. The next step in the process could be the introduction of a true eurobond. Draghi's support for such a joint debt instrument may well prove decisive.

Draghi can serve as Italy's prime minister until 2023, when new elections must be held. But he may decide not to serve past May 2022, if Charles Michel, the current president of the European Council, does not serve a second term. Given Draghi's focus on Europe's future, the opportunity to pursue the position would be tough for him to ignore. The conventional wisdom that Draghi will move on to the Italian presidency is overblown. There is no power in that job.

Although Italy's economy could prove to be Draghi's Achilles heel if he is forced to spend all his time and political capital fighting for necessary reforms, ultimately, his domestic and European challenges are interconnected. It is only the fact that he will have over €200 billion (\$243 billion) of recovery-fund money to disperse to various domestic factions that mitigates the risk that the Italian economy will be his undoing.

O-PED

By James K. Galbraith

Texas Froze by Design

AUSTIN - Harvard Kennedy School's William Hogan is credited with designing the Texas energy market. As Texans froze and their water pipes burst, he reportedly remarked that the state's energy market has functioned as designed.

Hogan is right, which says a lot about how some economists think.

For years, electric utilities were a stable, dull business. To counter the effects of monopoly, utility commissions set and stabilized prices, and companies got a rate of return on their investment that was (in principle) enough to cover construction, maintenance, and a fair profit.

But economists complained: utilities had an incentive to over-invest. The bigger their operations and the higher their total costs, the more they could extract from the rate-setters.

Electricity is the ultimate standard product, every jolt exactly like every other. Texas had a self-enclosed energy grid, cut off from interstate commerce and thus exempt from federal regulations. What better place, what better product, to prove the virtues of a competitive, deregulated system?

So, economists proposed a free market: let generating companies compete to deliver power to consumers through the common electrical grid. Freely chosen contracts would govern the terms and the price. Competition would maximize efficiency, and prices would reflect fuel costs and the smallest possible profit margin.

The state's role would be to manage the common power grid linking producers to consumers. In times of shortage, prices might rise, but those who did not wish to pay could flip their switches off.

In 2002, under Governor Rick Perry (later President Donald Trump's secretary of energy), Texas deregulated its electricity system and established a free market, managed by a non-profit called the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), with roughly 70 providers. While a few cities - including Austin - kept their old-fashioned public power, they, too, were tied to the state system.

The problem is that electricity demand is inelastic: it doesn't respond much to price, but it does respond to weather. In times of extreme heat or cold, demand becomes even more inelastic. And, unlike in an ordinary market, supply must equal demand every minute of every day. If it doesn't, the entire system can fail.

The Texas system had three vulnerabilities. First, cut-throat competition to provide power in the cheapest possible way meant that machinery, wells, meters, pipes, and windmills were not insulated against extreme cold - rare but not unknown here. Second, while wholesale prices were free to fluctuate, retail prices depended on whatever contract the consumer had signed. Third, prices would rise the most at moments when demand for power was greatest - and would not fall.

The new system did work most of the time. Prices rose and fell. Customers who didn't sign long-term contracts faced some risk. One provider, called Griddy, had a special model: for a \$9.99 monthly membership fee, you could get your power at the wholesale price. Most of the time, that was cheap.

But people don't need electricity "most of the time"; they need it all the time. And, at least by 2011, when Texas experienced a short, severe freeze, the state's leaders knew that the system was radically unstable in extreme weather. The system's architects knew it as well, whatever they say now.

Yet Texas politicians did nothing. Texas energy providers, a rich source of campaign donations, didn't want to be required to invest in weatherization that was not needed most of the time. In 2020, even voluntary inspections were suspended, owing to COVID-19.

Enter the deep freeze of 2021. Water vapor in the natural gas froze at the wells, in pipes, and at generating plants. Non-weatherized windmills went offline, but they were a small part of the story. Because the Texas grid is disconnected from the rest of the country, no reserves could be imported; and, given the cold everywhere, none would have been available anyway. In the small hours of February 15, demand so outstripped supply that the entire grid reportedly came within minutes of a meltdown.

As this happened, the price mechanism failed completely. Wholesale prices rose a hundred-fold - but retail prices, under contract, did not rise that much, except for customers of Griddy, who got socked with bills for thousands of dollars a day. Demand rose as supply collapsed.

ERCOT was forced to cut power, which might have been tolerable, had it happened on a rolling basis across neighborhoods throughout the state. But this was impossible: you can't cut power to hospitals, fire stations, and other critical facilities, or to high-rise apartments reliant on elevators. So, lights stayed on in some areas, and stayed off - for days - in others.

Freezing water was the next phase of the calamity. Pipes burst, and the water supply could not keep up with demand. Across Texas, water pressure fell or failed. Hospitals could not generate steam, and therefore heat, and some had to be evacuated. All of this, Hogan accurately tells us, was according to design.

Power is now coming back in Texas; water supplies will take some extra days. Food is scarce, and damaged homes will take months to repair. Millions of Texans have suffered the effects of a design, invented by economists, aided by a myth, that served the fossil fuel industry and the politicians it funds. One of these politicians, US Senator Ted Cruz, acted in perfect keeping with the system's free-market logic by decamping to Cancún.



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
5th Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Via Email: adhoccommittee2021@gmail.com

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

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



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC certificates Snowe

-Gets notification for vacancy in G. Gedeh

The National Elections Commission, (NEC) Monday certificated Mr. Edwin Melvin Snowe as the winner the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Bomi County.

This follows the reading of the mandate from the Supreme Court of Liberia affirming the decision of the Board of Commissioners of NEC declaring Mr. Snowe as Senator of Bomi County. The colorful program was held

process are fully disposed of.

This, the NEC Chairperson said is in line with the decision of the Supreme Court of Liberia in the case Congress for Democratic Change, CDC versus the National Elections Commission, NEC, in 2015.

In remarks, Snowe said as Senator he will serve as an advocate for the Commission to ensure the timely release of needed funds to the NEC to enhance the workings of the

received a notification from the Honorable House of Representatives for a vacancy in the 54th National Legislature.

A NEC statement says, the House' Communication informs the Commission that the vacancy was created as the result of the Election to the Liberian Senate of Grand Gedeh County district number one Representative, Zoe Emmanuel Pennue.

A release from the NEC today Monday, 22 February 2021 says the Communication from the House of Representatives was received on Thursday, 18 February 2021.

The NEC release quotes the letter from the House of Representatives signed by its Chief Clerk Mildred N. Sayon as authorizing the NEC to work out the necessary modalities and mechanisms for the holding of a by Election in Grand Gedeh County.

Article 37 of the Liberian Constitution says, in the event of a vacancy in the legislature caused by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, the presiding officer shall within 30 days notify the NEC thereof. The NEC shall not later than 90 days thereafter cause a by-election to be held; provided where such vacancy occurs within 90 days prior to the holding of general elections, the filling of the vacancy shall await the holding of such elections.

Accordingly, the National Elections Commission is requested therefore to conduct the Grand Gedeh County by-election within 90 days to fill the vacancy in the National Legislature.



Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah and Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe

today Monday, 22 February 2021 in the James M. Fromayan Conference Hall at the Headquarters of the Commission on 9th Street in Sinkor.

Performing the certification ceremony, the Chairperson of NEC Davidetta Browne Lansanah said though the Commission announced winners in a number of other counties, those winners will not be certificated until complaints filed against the

Commission, including the speedy adjudication of electoral matters.

Senator Snowe described the conduct of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections as free, fair and credible with the little resources provided to the Commission.

However, the NEC Boss assures the public that as soon as these cases are adjudicated the winners will be certificated without any delay.

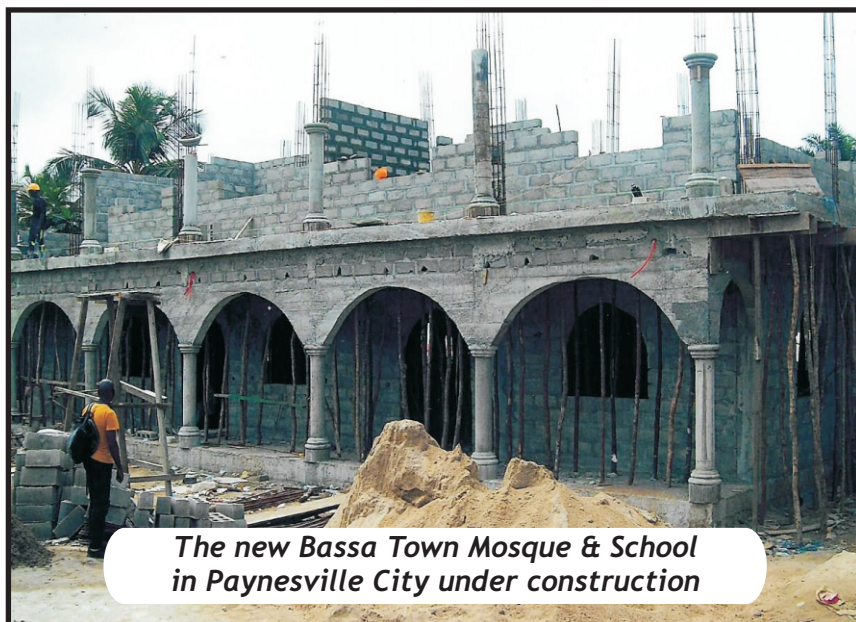
Meanwhile, NEC says it has

Construction progresses at burnt Islamic school in Paynesville

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Mamadou Kanana Bah, Operations Manager of Ndalao Construction International Inc., a firm that is constructing a modern school and mosque in Bassa Town, Paynesville exactly where dozens of Islamic school students died in a fire incident in September 2019 says the project is on course and progressing, as engineers intensify work.

Fire gutted the Islamic boarding school and mosque where dozens of boarding



The new Bassa Town Mosque & School in Paynesville City under construction

Journalist takes Palm Insurance to task

-wants CBL to investigate

The publisher of The New Republic Newspaper has called on the Central Bank of Liberia to investigate Palm Insurance Corporation (PIC) for alleged unprofessional and unethical practices in the country, especially against its customers.

In a letter of complaint filed to the Central bank of Liberia, Mr. Alphonso Toweh wrote that the Insurance company allegedly failed to underwrite a liability for one of his vehicles which was involved in an accident this

In a preliminary investigation carried out at PIC office, all documents and receipts requested by the insurance corporation from Mr. Toweh to authenticate his claim were correct. Later, the corporation realized that there were inconsistencies in the documents processed in their office which led to them holding an emergency internal meeting with the staff.

This is the second time for PIC to carry out incorrect preparation of documents. Early this month, PIC issued a Tricycle document to Mr. Toweh instead of Toyota Pickup. After discovery, it was immediately



Journalist Alphonso Toweh

month. According to the corporation, its new policy has a clause which does not allow it to incur liability for any vehicle if a client owes.

"According to PIC, it has a revised policy which supersedes what was given to me last year; and [it] expires end of February, 2021. The earlier policy given to Mr. Toweh expires February this year but does not have any such clause. Palm said, it has a new policy which copy was not given to the publisher," the letter stated.

corrected.

"As a supervisory body, I would appreciate were you to intervene into this matter in the shortest possible time," the letter addressed to Central Bank Executive Governor, J. Aloysius Tarlue, stated.

Three communication noted that it is about time activities of insurance companies in Liberia be carefully scrutinized to ensure they provide professional services to the public. **-Press Release**

students of the school and a faculty member reportedly died.

At least 27 people, many of them children, died in the fire, believed to have broken out in the early hours of the morning, when Koranic school students were sleeping in a building near their mosque.

During a recent visit to the project site, this paper observed that intensive work was ongoing by engineers and workers of the company at the top floor of the structure where the new school building

will be located.

The structure is very wide in size to accommodate huge number of worshippers going for prayers.

Explaining more about the project to reporters at the NCI construction site in Bassa Town over the weekend, Operations Manager Mr. Mamadou Kanana Bah said his company has within a period of two and half months, completed the ground floor containing the mosque.

Mr. Bah disclosed the mosque

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Weah ends visit to G. Gedeh



Weah ends visit to G. Gedeh



Français

Un nouveau parti politique fait son entrée sur l'arène politique libérienne

« Il est maintenant temps de libérer le Libéria », lance Wilmot Paye, président du Parti de la libération du peuple (PLP), ancien président du Parti de l'unité (ancien parti au pouvoir).

« Depuis trop longtemps la politique a été déformée au Libéria et présentée comme un moyen de promouvoir les ambitions égoïstes d'individus corrompus dont le seul motif pour entrer en politique est d'exploiter leur propre nation. Mais le PLP pense que le Libéria ne peut pas continuer comme ça, surtout en ce 21^e siècle. Cela doit changer ! Je ne parle pas d'un simple changement de personnel. Les mêmes politiciens traditionnels qui ont plongé le Libéria dans le désordre dans lequel il se trouve ne peuvent mener aucune véritable transformation. Le Libéria a besoin d'une race de politiciens totalement différente. Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de les décevoir », a dit M. Paye.

S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie d'inauguration du siège du PLP le samedi 20

février à Monrovia, Paye, qui a démissionné de manière controversée de l'ancien partiau pouvoir aux termes d'une longue bataille juridique, a déclaré que le Parti de libération du peuple est né de la volonté des membres fondateurs de rendre effectif l'article 5 de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986.

En vertu de cette disposition de la Constitution, le

népotisme, le mercantilisme et le tribalisme sont qualifiés de « vices ». Mais il n'y a pas un seul parti politique qui se soit distingué par sa volonté de la respecter et d'en faire son cheval de bataille.

« C'est ce que notre Parti défend et veut promouvoir. Libérer le Libéria des politiciens corrompus et de

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Guillaume Soro : "Un jour viendra où Alassane Ouattara saura la vérité"

Guillaume Soro, qui ne parle plus le même langage avec Alassane Ouattara depuis bien longtemps, est convaincu que l'avenir lui donnera raison sur son ancien mentor. En exil dans l'hexagone, l'ex-chef de la rébellion sous Laurent Gbagbo ne lâche pas prise.

Alassane Ouattara et Guillaume Soro, la rupture

Alassane Ouattara n'a pas

du tout digéré le refus de Guillaume Soro d'intégrer le Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP). L'ex-leader de la Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire (FESCI) occupait à cette époque le poste de président de l'Assemblée nationale. Mais les divergences entre le député de Ferké et le chef de l'Etat vont aboutir à la démission de

Guillaume Soro.

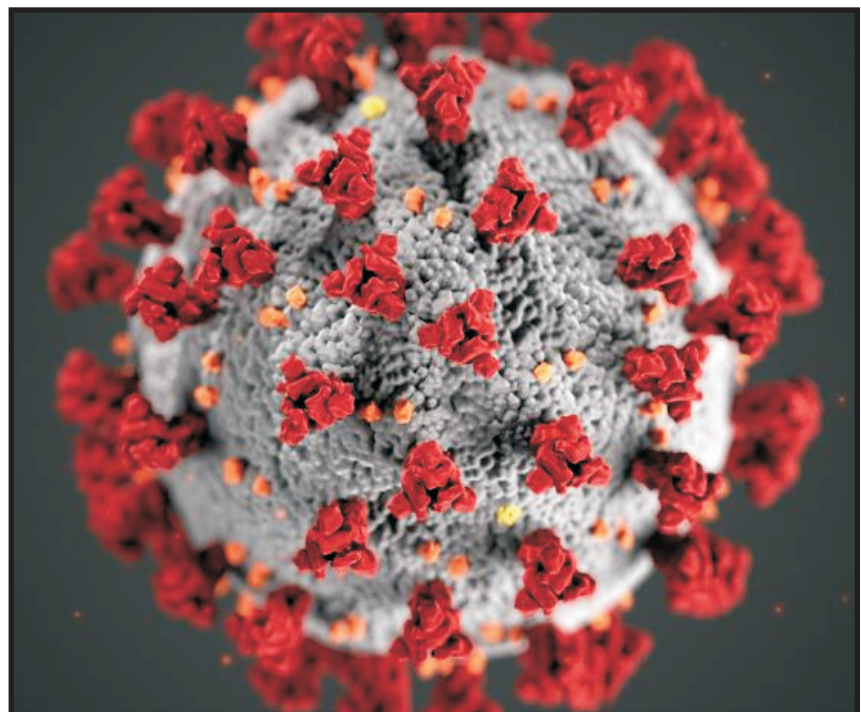
"Oui, j'ai choisi de ne pas m'engager au sein du RHDP unifié. Ainsi, je n'ai pas pris part au congrès du 26 janvier dernier au stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Grave erreur ! Grave faute ! Ont tât fait de clamer certains de mes compères. Mais voyez-vous, je suis homme plus au jugement de l'histoire qu'au jugement des hommes", a lancé l'ex-Premier ministre de Laurent Gbagbo le 8 février 2019 lors de sa démission.

Guillaume Soro, candidat à la présidentielle

Guillaume Soro se débarrasse du titre de chef du Parlement ivoirien. L'homme qui a conduit les Forces nouvelles contre le régime de Gbagbo et du Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), dévoile sa volonté de conquérir le fauteuil présidentiel.

Samedi 12 octobre 2019, en séjour en Espagne, le leader des soroistes se déclare candidat à l'élection présidentielle de fin octobre 2020. "Plusieurs partis pro-

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La tolérance politique est la clé de la paix et de la stabilité

Dans son message de départ du comté de Grand Gedeh le samedi 20 février 2021, le président George Manneh Weah a souligné la nécessité d'une tolérance politique dans le comté afin de sauvegarder la paix sociale et relancer l'économie. Il a exhorté les habitants de Grands Gedeh qui ont voté massivement pour lui lors des élections de 2017 à tolérer les opinions de l'opposition et à favoriser la culture démocratique.

L'appel fait directement référence à la violence qui avait éclaté dans la ville de Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, le jeudi 30 juillet 2020, lorsque des centaines de voyous s'étaient mis à lapider le leader de l'Alternative National Congress et ancien président de la coalition des principaux partis de l'opposition. Ce jour-là, Alexander B. Cummings et le représentant du district n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, n'ont pas pu s'adresser à leurs partisans dans le comté, en ayant été empêchés.

Ce jour fatidique du 30 juillet était pour la délégation de l'opposition qui s'était rendue dans cette partie du pays un véritable cauchemar. Des jeunes en colère, armés de pierres, de gourdins et de machettes avaient pris d'assaut et barricadé le Motel où la délégation (M. Cummings, le représentant Kolubah et d'autres) avait élu domicile, au cœur de la ville de Zwedru. Ils menaçaient de lyncher le représentant Kolubah qui on reprochait d'avoir l'habitude d'injurier le président George Manneh Weah.

Cet incident a été condamné par le caucus législatif du comté de Grand Gedeh et la communauté internationale qui a appelé à une enquête rapide pour traduire les auteurs en justice. Les conclusions de l'enquête du gouvernement n'ont pas encore été rendues publiques.

Mais le président Weah a été très catégorique samedi lorsqu'il a déclaré aux citoyens du comté que malgré leur soutien à son administration, ils devraient tolérer les politiciens de l'opposition comme le garantit la Constitution.

Nous pensons que la déclaration du président est non seulement remarquable, mais elle est aussi indispensable à la tolérance politique et à la promotion de la diversité des opinions, comme l'exige la liberté d'expression. M. Weah a en outre souligné que sans paix, il n'y aurait pas de développement dans tout le Libéria, encore moins dans le comté de Grand Gedeh. D'où la nécessité de promouvoir encore une fois la tolérance politique et de chérir et de sauvegarder la paix dont nous jouissons.

Nous nous joignons ainsi au Président pour appeler les citoyens de ce comté à chérir la tolérance et la paix au nom de l'unité nationale et du progrès économique. Il ne peut y avoir de développement et de prospérité dans le chaos.

De plus, il faut rappeler aux Grand Gedeans en des termes clairs que le Libéria n'appartient pas unprésidentou à une administration. Au contraire, l'espace démocratique, à travers la Constitution, permet à une personne d'être élue aux urnes pour gouverner l'État pour un mandat spécifique.

Peu importe qui est élu président, cette personne devient automatiquement le chef de toute la République, qui comprend à la fois ses propres partisans et l'opposition. Il peut être aimé ou haï de certains citoyens, mais la tolérance exige que des opinions critiques ou contraires soient exprimées sans menaces pour ceux qui expriment de telles opinions.

En fait, les opinions critiques renforcent la démocratie et le gouvernement au pouvoir pour bien gouverner dans l'intérêt de tous les citoyens, y compris l'opposition. Si un président réussit dans son administration, c'est le Libéria qui en a le mérite.

C'est le message que le président Weah a bien voulu livrer aux habitants du comté de Grand Gedeh. Certes, il apprécie tellement le fait qu'il est si aimé par ces habitants, comme en témoigne les résultats des urnes, mais s'en prendre à ceux qui expriment des opinions contraires sur son leadership ne serait pas de son goût. Il est convaincu que les partisans n'ont pas le droit de s'en prendre à ceux qui critiquent son gouvernement. L'histoire a prouvé à maintes reprises que cela était contre-productif.

Français

Un nouveau parti politique fait son

leurs alliés est moral et juste. Sinon, notre mécanisme de gouvernance restera un repaire de voleurs. Le PLP travaillera avec les Libériens patriotes pour favoriser et promouvoir un programme de libération nationale dans le cadre duquel aucune politique de défense des intérêts personnels égoïstes au détriment de l'intérêt général ne sera tolérée ou encouragée », a-t-il promis.

Le président Paye a été expulsé du Parti de l'unité en raison d'une différence de politique. Selon lui, il a pris ce pari ultime non pas parce que c'était «mon souhait ou mon désir de quitter un parti politique pour un autre, mais parce que de toutes les indications, les Libériens et le monde savent maintenant que les nobles rêves, la vision, les idéaux, les principes, les valeurs fondamentales et la philosophie conçues par Jackson Fiah Doe, Sr, Edward Binyah Kesselly et William Gabriel Kpolleh il y a près de quarante ans ont été détournées par la cupidité ».

C'étaient de grands politiciens libériens dans les années 80, mais ils n'ont pas réalisé les rêves pour lesquels ils se sont battus.

La vision du PLP est de

devenir un parti communautaire efficace, efficient et pleinement fonctionnel grâce à une mobilisation agressive de la base, a-t-il insisté.

« Je veux rappeler aux Libériens et au pays que certains partis politiques adoptent des noms et des devises auxquels leurs fondateurs et dirigeants ne croient pas vraiment ; mais avec un soutien et une coopération sans réserve, le Parti de libération du peuple sera différent dans sa conduite, son attitude, son comportement, ses actions, ses opérations, ses décisions et son caractère. Sous notre présidence et avec les conseils de notre leader politique, le PLP représentera son nom, sa devise, sa vision, sa philosophie, ses principes fondateurs et nos valeurs fondamentales de patriotisme, d'intégrité, de responsabilité et de transparence. Pour devenir et rester le véhicule de libération pour laquelle il a été établi, le PLP ne peut en aucun cas compromettre ces valeurs. C'est ce à quoi aspirent les Libériens partout au pays et à l'étranger: un parti politique à la hauteur de son vrai sens, de sa propre vision, philosophie, principes fondateurs et valeurs fondamentales. Le PLP est là pour assainir et purifier la politique libérienne. »

Guillaume Soro : "Un jour viendra où

Soro m'ont déjà choisi comme leur candidat, alors oui, je serai candidat. Chacun va se présenter au premier tour en 2020. Maintenant, si je gagne au premier tour, honnêtement, je serai content. Mais s'il y a un second tour, c'est là tous les partis de l'opposition vont se réunir pour soutenir le candidat de l'opposition qui aura obtenu le plus de points", s'est-il exprimé.

Cependant, Guillaume Soro ne pourra pas entrer en Côte d'Ivoire et entamera même un exil dans l'hexagone.

Guillaume Soro clame toujours son innocence

Le pouvoir ivoirien accuse le fondateur de Générations et peuples solidaires (GPS) de vouloir renverser le régime d'Alassane Ouattara. Le gouvernement ivoirien avance que Guillaume Soro est à la tête d'un projet de déstabilisation de la Côte d'Ivoire.

Le 23 décembre 2019, le natif de Kofiélé (nord du pays) décide de rentrer à Abidjan, la capitale économique ivoirienne, mais son avion est dérouté au Ghana. Certains de ses partisans sont interpellés au siège de Générations et peuples solidaires (GPS). Les autorités ivoiriennes lancent un mandat d'arrêt international contre Guillaume Soro.

En avril 2020, l'ex-chef rebelle est condamné à 20 ans de prison ferme pour recel de deniers publics détournés et de blanchiment de capitaux. Retranché dans l'hexagone, celui que l'on surnomme le "leader générationnel" continue de soutenir qu'il est victime d'une cabale.

"Un jour prochain viendra où @AOuattara_PRCI saura la vérité sur mon compte ! Un jour viendra où la vérité s'imposera aux mensonges, autres cabales de son cercle ! Gardons le cap. Allons à la fusion", a déclaré Guillaume Soro dans un tweet récent.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Melvyn Krauss

Draghi et le triangle de pouvoir européen

STANFORD - Dans son premier discours au poste de Premier ministre de l'Italie, Mario Draghi a clairement fait savoir que son gouvernement d'unité nationale entendait travailler non seulement sur la politique intérieure et les réformes en Italie, mais également sur l'Europe. Draghi annonce en effet une importante reconfiguration de l'élaboration des politiques européennes, avec des conséquences majeures pour les relations de l'Europe et de l'Union européenne avec la Russie et les États-Unis.

En tant que Premier ministre, Draghi sera membre du très influent Conseil européen ; il en sera d'ailleurs l'un des membres clés, aux côtés de ses homologues français et allemand, Emmanuel Macron et Angela Merkel. Comme l'a exprimé Jörg Asmussen, membre du comité exécutif de la Banque centrale européenne pendant la présidence Draghi, Asmussen ayant eu cette formule peu avant l'installation de Draghi, « La politique européenne pourrait bien évoluer vers un triangle de pouvoir ».

Asmussen avait vu juste. Dans son premier discours devant les parlementaires italiens, Draghi a insisté pour dire que l'Italie avait « besoin d'une meilleure structure, ainsi que d'un renforcement de sa relation stratégique essentielle avec la France et l'Allemagne ». Manifestement, la reconfiguration de la politique européenne constituera une priorité majeure de son gouvernement. « Sans l'Italie, il n'y a pas d'Europe », a-t-il ajouté.

Et il n'y a pas d'Europe sans poursuite de l'intégration de l'UE. Ciblant notamment les populistes italiens opposés à l'euro, tels que Matteo Salvini, Draghi a déclaré « Soutenir ce gouvernement signifie partager le choix irréversible de l'euro ». Cela signifie également « partager la perspective d'une Union européenne de plus en plus intégrée, qui parviendra à un budget public commun susceptible de soutenir les États en périodes de récession ».

L'accession de Draghi à la scène européenne aux côtés de Macron et Merkel implique également des relations plus étroites entre l'UE et les États-Unis. Le président américain Joe Biden n'aurait pas pu trouver meilleur allié en Europe. Le nouveau gouvernement italien, a promis Draghi, sera « résolument pro-européen et atlantiste, en phase avec les ancrages historique de l'Italie ». Ceci marque une rupture par rapport à la politique étrangère de Giuseppe Conte, son prédécesseur à la tête du gouvernement, qui avait privilégié un rapprochement de l'Italie avec la Chine. Draghi donne à l'alliance transatlantique une chance de se rétablir, après quatre ans de détérioration stratégique sous Donald Trump.

Biden et Draghi sont par ailleurs en accord sur la question de l'OTAN. Tous deux préconisent le maintien de troupes américaines en Europe, et tous deux souhaitent une plus grande contribution monétaire de l'Allemagne au budget commun de défense. Plus fondamentalement encore, tous deux considèrent les États-Unis comme le garant ultime de l'indépendance de l'Europe.

Les sentiments atlantiste et pro-américain présents chez Draghi sont trop profonds pour que celui-ci soutienne l'élan actuel - impulsé par Macron, avec l'approbation d'une grande partie de l'élite - en direction d'une plus grande « autonomie stratégique » de l'UE. Draghi s'inscrivant toutefois en accord avec Macron sur bien d'autres sujets, il aplanira sans doute leurs divergences sur cette question délicate.

Pour autant, la position de Draghi est ferme concernant la sécurité européenne - dans un avenir relativement proche, il ne peut y avoir de substitut à la présence de troupes américaines en Europe. L'influence de Trump s'estompant actuellement aux États-Unis, il en ira certainement de même pour les craintes européennes autour de la fiabilité de la garantie de sécurité américaine, ce qui devrait atténuer l'idée d'un nécessaire renforcement de « l'autonomie stratégique ».

La confiance profonde de Draghi dans l'atlantisme devrait par ailleurs renforcer celle du Conseil européen tout entier, lequel pourrait alors faire office de force de contrepoids et de modération vis-à-vis de Merkel, qui a parfois placé les intérêts d'affaires de l'Allemagne auprès de la Russie avant les relations transatlantiques et la sécurité européenne. Plus Draghi exercera d'influence dans le triangle de pouvoir européen - son poids face à Merkel semblant nettement confirmé par son mandat à la BCE - plus l'UE se montrera ferme avec le président russe Vladimir Poutine, ainsi qu'avec les autocrates locaux d'Europe tels que Viktor Orbán en Hongrie et Jaroslaw Kaczynski en Pologne.

La stature de Draghi ne repose en effet pas seulement sur sa réputation auprès des marchés financiers, où il est considéré comme quelqu'un de capable d'abaisser les coûts d'emprunt italiens et de dynamiser le cours des actions italiennes. Il est également un amateur d'histoire, fort de solides valeurs démocratiques et d'un sens stratégique dont l'Europe a cruellement besoin pour faire face efficacement à Poutine et ses semblables idéologiques d'Europe centrale.

L'atlantisme de Draghi ne s'inscrit absolument pas en contradiction avec la perspective d'une Europe plus unie. À la présidence de la BCE, il n'a pas sauvé l'euro dans le simple but de préserver l'appartenance de l'Italie à la monnaie commune, comme les prétendent ses détracteurs du nord ; il l'a fait pour sauver le projet européen lui-même. De la même manière, il n'a pas introduit l'assouplissement quantitatif pour sauver les seules obligations italiennes, mais bien pour renforcer l'intégration nord-sud.

Il défend aujourd'hui le fonds de relance de l'UE, pas seulement pour aider l'Italie et d'autres États du sud à surmonter les conséquences économiques de la pandémie, mais pour rendre permanents les audacieux efforts conjoints fournis jusqu'à présent pour intégrer le nord et le sud de l'Europe. Dans cette démarche, la prochaine étape consistera à mettre en place une véritable euro-obligation. Le soutien de Draghi en appui d'un tel instrument de dette conjoint pourrait bien se révéler décisif.

Draghi peut en principe rester Premier ministre de l'Italie jusqu'en 2023, lorsque de nouvelles élections devront avoir lieu. Il pourrait toutefois décider de ne pas exercer au-delà de mai 2022, si Charles Michel, actuel président du Conseil européen, ne brigait pas un second mandat. Sachant l'attachement de Draghi pour le futur de l'Europe, l'opportunité d'un tel poste serait pour lui difficile à laisser passer. L'idée très répandue selon laquelle Draghi aspirerait à la présidence de l'Italie est erronée, dans la mesure où ce poste ne confère aucun pouvoir.

Même si l'économie italienne risque de constituer le talon d'Achille d'un Draghi qui pourrait devoir consacrer tout son temps et son capital politique à la lutte pour les réformes nécessaires, son défi national et son défi européen sont en fin de compte étroitement liés. Mais seule la disponibilité de plus de 200 milliards € de fonds de relance à répartir au niveau national vient atténuer ce risque de voir l'économie italienne le conduire à sa perte.

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Tolerate all political actors

By: Naway Gumeh,
with additional files

Fish Town, Riverge February 22-Amidst reports of hustle treatments of opposition political parties and politicians in Grand Gedeh dubbed as the stronghold of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), President George Weah has urged citizens of the county to tolerate all political actors

politician to come here freely. It's not a good image to ask people to leave the county, he told the local.

"If you really like me, allow all of them to come. If you don't want to listen to them, stay home. You are respected in our society," Weah warned, adding "Let no one provoke you. I am the one they are insulting. I am not saying that they must insult me, but what I am saying to you,

democracy, every politician should be allowed entry into Gran Gedeh.

Mr. Weah furthered that reverting to violence against his critics would give a bad image of Zwedru, because that would undermine his regime.

Meanwhile, President Weah has vowed to extend the pavement of the Ganta-Tappita highway to Zwedru, before the end of his first term in office.

He said it would be unfair to pave Ganta-Tappita road without paving the Tappita to Zwedru highway.

He disclosed that his administration is in holding conversation with the World Bank to ensure the possible alignment of the Tappita to Zwedru corridor to the previous arrangement.

"We cannot achieve Ganta to Tappita and don't do Tappita to Zwedru. As I speak, we are in conversation with the World Bank to make sure that the corridor-Tappita to Zwedru also align with the Ganta to Tappita project" Mr. Weah opined.

He explained that both roads will be implemented simultaneously in an effort to rescue the people from the age-old nightmare of driving on muddy, bumpy and narrow highways.

"The two roads will finish at the same time. We must fix this corridor even if we will not achieve anything under my regime, this road will be paved" President Weah stated. **-Editing by Othello B. Garblah**



in spite of the different political persuasions.

Addressing crossed section of Grand Gedeans in Zwedru, at a Town Hall meeting Saturday, Mr. Weah cautioned the citizens against chasing out of the county, people who are believed to be in the constant habit of insulting or criticizing him.

"We must allow every

don't be angry. We are in a country where some people don't understand and respect authorities because of their orientations. You who grew up here in the interior have respect for your authorities and elders. So don't revert to violence before you tint your character like them," he noted.

The President explained that in order to foster peace and

LEITI names new Head and Deputy

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) now has a new Head and Deputy Head of Secretariat.

The Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group of the LEITI on February 20, 2021, disclosed the hiring of Jeffrey N. Yates, Head of Secretariat, and Daniel B. Tipason, Deputy Head of Secretariat following a rigorous recruitment exercise that lasted for almost a year.

According to a press release issued in Monrovia, both men were finally awarded contracts by the MSG on February 20, 2021, after a comprehensive recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee of the Board. Jeffrey N. Yates joined the LEITI in 2016 as Head of Finance after serving the General Auditing Commission (GAC) in several capacities including Supreme Auditor,

Senior Auditor, and Performance Audit Manager.

After the GAC, Mr. Yates was hired as the Professional Ethics and Anti-Fraud Consultant under the World Bank and assigned to the Liberia Revenue Authority Formation Office.

He holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Nairobi. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) as well as a Certified Forensic Investigation Professional (CFIP).

Mr. Yates before his recruitment served the LEITI Secretariat as Officer-In-Charge from September 2019 to February 2021. Daniel B. Tipason for his part joins the LEITI with a wealth of experience in both public and private sectors, having served the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) as Executive Director for nine years from 2008 to 2017.

Mr. Tipason holds a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Regional Science and a Bachelor

of Science (BSc) degree in Economics from the University of Liberia.

In a statement of appointment on behalf of the MSG, the Chairperson of the MSG Mr. C. Mike Doyen thanked all stakeholders and expressed the government's continuous commitment to the scrupulous implementation of the EITI process in the Country.

He assured the new head and his deputy of the MSG's commitment and support admonishing them to innovate ideas to move the entity forward.

The Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) is a part of the global Standard, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) that promotes revenue transparency in the extractive sectors in resource-rich countries.

UL begins 101st

Starts from back page

members and students alike while building a competitive academic environment which values quality competitive academic achievement and education.

Concerning the UL Faculty, Ms. Fofana noted that the university has some of the best faculties in the country, but recommends that UL must by all means, take care of its faculty members to ensure that corruption is eliminated from the classrooms.

Speaking directly to the graduates from the three colleges, Madam Fofana told graduates from the William V.S. Tubman College of Education to be the agents of change when they are called to serve, cautioning them against all forms of abuse of their position in the discharge of their duties, including sex for grade.

"And some of you are already in the classroom, you must be the ones to inspire your students," she said, adding that the teachers should be the ones to ensure that their students are happy to go to school.

She also told the graduates from the Liberia College of Social Sciences and Humanities that they are from the university's foundational college, challenging them to be the agents of change.

Also speaking to the graduates from the David A. Straz Sinje Technical and Vocational College, Ms. Fofana noted that the dream of the late Amb. David A. Straz, a philanthropist after whom the college is named, will continue to live with the graduates.

She urged the graduates to help transform their country and their county, Grand Cape Mount where the college is based. She emphasized that they must help the people of Grand Cape Mount to develop and maintain the dream of Amb. Straz.

Earlier in his message, the President of the University of Liberia Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson said Liberia is faced with numerous challenges as it continues to pick up the pieces to transform to where it ought to be and play its role among the comity of nations.

In this light, Dr. Nelson stressed the need to invest and develop the nation's human resources and capacity in tackling the daunting task of transforming the nation.

As the University of Liberia plays its role in this investment of human capital or human resources, Dr. Nelson assured the nation that the university is proud and confident of its

products from the Liberia College of Social Sciences and Humanities, the William V.S. Tubman's College of Education and the David A. Straz Sinje Technical and Vocational School.

He said all the 697 graduates from the three colleges have been tested and tried and have come out successful.

The UL President congratulated members of the graduating class for their hard work over the years that have made them to be where they are.

"I know the road has been rough, the journey has been tough, but through the special grace of God Almighty you have made it through," Dr. Nelson said amidst cheers from the audience.

He indicated that they have survived and sustained themselves through the challenges and obstacles and have now come to a successful end of their pursuit of academic excellence at the nation's premier institution of higher learning, the University of Liberia.

He expressed gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Josephus Gray, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Liberia, Dr. Cecelia Cassell, Dean of the William V.S. Tubman College of Education and Mr. John M. Seilue, Dean of David A. Straz Sinje Technical and Vocational College for their service.

He also expressed gratitude to faculty members and staff of the various colleges for a job well done in bringing the graduates to the finishing line.

Additionally, Dr. Nelson appreciated the family members and friends of the graduates who supported them in preparation for the future of Liberia and the world at large.

The UL President assured them that their investments are highly appreciated and will certainly payoff as they go into the future.

Dr. Nelson appreciated the entire University of Liberia family for brightening the light to lead the institution to where it is.

The Valedictorian, Student Sekou Sidiki Konneh from the Sociology Department who graduated with honor (Magna Cum Laude), said the graduating class was so honored and grateful to the university administration and faculty for all the support in ensuring the success of their academic journey.

He thanked families and friends who stood by their relatives to achieve their academic dreams.

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No room for corrupt individuals

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor
& Lewis S. Teh

Conservative Liberian politician and chairman of the newly established People's Liberation Party Wilmot Paye, says the opposition environment is not a waiting room for corrupt individuals to regroup or conspire to unseat another group.

He argues that after all, there is no evidence in history that consummate tribalists and conventional politicians who reject truth and do not promote integrity but fear those who stand up against dishonesty within their own organizations have the spine to lead transformation in any society.

"You cannot give what you do not have. Integrity does [not] change its character or nature, no matter what. While it exposes the ills and evils done by others, it distances itself from that which is committed under its nose. No political party,

ideas, practical and predictable approaches to tackling the problems of corruption, nepotism, sectionalism and tribalism.

"I know that you are all tired of promises that do not match current attitude, conduct, action and character. The question is not whether one administration will end in 2023 with the election of another. Let the debate rather be about how different Liberia's governance system will be after 2023. We must never settle for anything below this."

The former Unity Party stalwart says when Liberia is liberated; the current monetary uncertainties will vanish, and the Central Bank of Liberia will cease from being a channel for looting donor and public funds, while commercial banks will be trusted, and depositors will use the banking system without the fear that they will be robbed.

"When we liberate Liberia, then Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of subordinate courts will dispense justice

we reject the idea that poverty is a way of life for you. We are convinced that poverty is an artificial condition created by bad governance," he concluded.

Meanwhile, the head of Liberia's newest political party Dr. Daniel E. Cassell says, the PLP seeks to become the alternative political institution that would liberate Liberians from economic degradation, education paralysis, health immobility and agriculture decadence through inclusive and democratic participation of all citizens regardless of county, tribe or social status.

He made the promise here over the weekend while launching the PLP headquarters and inducting officers in office in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

Those inducted include former Unity Party Chairman Wilmot Paye, National Chairman; Mr. Tapped E. Doe, National Vice Chair for Administration and Finance; Alphonso D. Bindah. National Vice Chair for Operation; Carlos Tingbah Edison, Secretary General; Stephen Vorkpor, Assistant Secretary for Press and Propaganda, Israel Mayou, Assistant Vice Chair for Recruitment, and Christina Christopher, Acting National Vice Chair for Administration and Women League, respectively.

"There are systematic challenges undermining the gains we have made as a nation; our economy is still struggling to get back on its feet, unemployment is a major challenge"; he says, and notes that as a result, companies are still laying off workers, while Liberians are still spectators in their own economy.

Until now, Dr. Cassell had been involved with various humanitarian programs in Liberia from his base in the United States of America where he has lived and worked for many years before coming to politics.

He says in response to the many challenges, the People's Liberation Party, which was established and certificated in December 2020, has come to offer an alternative while lamenting the country's education and health systems that are challenged by inadequate domestic resource allocation, limited qualified and trained workforce, and poor service delivery especially for our rural communities and the most vulnerable and physically challenged groups.

"I believe that we can all agree that for democracy to work in our society, every individual's voice should matter, people in positions of public trust should be held

Construction progresses

Cont'd from page 5

contains eight modern restrooms while the school has one restroom only for instructional staff to avoid pollution from the upper floor of the building.

"There will be six spacious classrooms placed on top of the Mosque where the school will be relocated to provide education to the children who are from the Fula ethnic group", he added.

He disclosed the entire cost of the construction of both the school and mosque is US\$120,000 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand United States dollars.)

According to Bah, Ndalao Construction International

Inc. is the company that constructed the 17th Street and Gurley Street Mosques and several other projects in Liberia.

It may be recalled that scores of children who were reportedly sleeping in their campus building along with a senior staff of the Islamic school were killed in a fire, attracting visit of President George M. Weah and scores of other high profile individuals.

President Weah at the time assured that the brunt school building and mosque will have rebuilt with help from the Government of Liberia. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



alliance or coalition, however "good" the intentions may be, can present itself as a viable alternative if it fails and/or refuses to hold its own members and leaders accountable for their evil deeds and conduct," Paye continues.

Speaking at the induction ceremony, he cautions that Liberians must never allow members of those he terms 'self-seeking political class' to intercept yet another opportunity to restore hope to the Liberian people.

According to him, patriotism, integrity, accountability and transparency are virtues that are the minimum standards that those in leadership at national, county, district, chiefdom, township, town, village and community levels must meet at all times and under all circumstances.

Paye notes that liberating Liberia would require fresh

without fear or favor. Then, Liberians will hope again, and their hope will have meaning. Yes, when we liberate Liberia, then political parties will cease from being vehicles through which the selfish agendas of thieves and their associates are promoted."

He promised that the PLP will be run differently, with openness, with honesty, with respect, with truth, with total commitment, not just to participate in elections and afterwards sleep to wait for the next elections, adding, PLP value the people.

"If you are in a political party that has failed to live up to your expectations, wherein the leaders say one thing and does another; if your party has taken your allegiance for granted, focusing only on wrongs done by others while tolerating or justifying internal ills, come and make The People's Liberation Party your home. We cannot and will not disappoint. In this Party,

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

00006968

IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIVIL LAW COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

BEFORE HIS HONOR: PETER W. GBENEWELEH.....ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF MOHAMMED DUKULY PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HIS LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME IN FAVOR OF PETITIONER TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND REFERRED TO AS "MOHAMMED DONZO."

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner by and thru his legal Counsel filed a Petition before this Court requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of his name from Mohammed Dukuly to Mohammed Donzo.

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of his name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect his true father's name. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of name proposed by him.

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on December 20, 1992 in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and that he was born unto the union of Mr. Yabdee Donzo, and Madam Masigbeh Dolley, all of the Republic of Liberia and that the Change of his name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish his just identity more firmly and that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his name in this jurisdiction.

The Petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name Mohammed Dukuly be changed to Mohammed Donzo, beginning this 12TH Day of February, A.D. 2021. That all documents signed by the Petitioner herein prior to this decree remain valid.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THIS HONORABLE COURT, THIS 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 2021.

COURT SEAL:

REGISTERED RECORD

HIS HONOR PETER W. GBENEWELEH
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE, PRESIDING
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

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

accountable to work for the people and help develop the country.

We must endeavor to ensure that the marginalized, disenfranchised and poor of our society are not repeatedly victimized by the political elites and cunning political actors, or actresses whose sole aims are to gain government employment and to amass illegal wealth."

He continues that the PLP core beliefs of diversity and inclusivity are based on a conviction that collectivism is the progressive path to move Liberia forward, and this is grounded in six political tenets: Agriculture, Socio-economic, Education, Health and Wellbeing, Employment, and Infrastructure Developments, with emphasis on improving healthcare, roads, electricity, water and sewer, and human resource

development without clearly detailing how he intends to achieve these services.

But Dr. Cassell is optimistic these five political tenets are key elements in dignifying the lives of the Liberian people and developing the country, pledging the PLP total commitment.

He observes that fear looms over Liberia about a potential public health situation in the wake of the outbreak of Ebola in neighboring Guinea and warns the Weah administration not to downplay the situation, adding, "We all know so well, the devastating effects Ebola had on our nation seven years ago. It is therefore in the best interest of public safety that the Government of Liberia acts swiftly and effectively by implementing measures to protect our citizens and the already fragile economy."

Editing by Jonathan Browne

UL begins 101st commencement

697 graduate from 3 colleges



By Winston W. Parley

The University of Liberia (UL) has commenced its 101st graduation exercises for the academic year 2019/2020, graduating the first batch of 697 candidates from three colleges at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.

This year's commencement ceremony began with a joint program Monday, February 22, 2021 with UL's foundational college, the Liberia College of Social Sciences and Humanities, the William V.S. Tubman's College of Education and the David A. Straz Sinje Technical and Vocational School, respectively.

UL's Assistant Dean of the David A. Straz Sinje Technical and Vocational College, delivering a keynote address at the 101st commencement program, Madam Kula Fofana, noted that the road to success is overrated, but suggested to the graduating class that the backbone of success is service, hard work, and sleepless nights.

The youthful leader who previously worked as Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Youth and Sports during the past regime of Mrs. Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, told the graduates to take their careers very seriously and not be complacent at all times.

She notes that in their struggles for success in the larger society, they must keep in mind that failure is part of success, and also an opportunity for them to learn from their mistakes and correct their past.

She suggests that UL should ensure that it encourages research among its faculty

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Haaland & Mbappe signings "absolutely possible" for Barca

Barcelona presidential candidate Toni Freixa believes the double signing of Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland and PSG star Kylian Mbappe is possible after securing €250 million of investment.

The elections on 7 March will decide who takes charge of the Camp Nou club, with Freixa running alongside Joan Laporta and Victor Font.

Barca have been hit hard by the financial impact of the

coronavirus pandemic and are in a precarious position with enormous debts to repay.

But Freixa hinted that he will be able to finance a big summer of transfer activity from the club despite their apparent difficulties.

"We have closed an agreement with an investor who will contribute €250 million for Barca," he told Marca (via Football Espana).

"For the 2021-22 season, we will be able to sign three stars, two in attack and one in



defence.

"We have talked about the possibility of securing the signings for next season. Barca will have the competitive team that it has to have and that now it does not have."

He was then asked about the possibility of Barcelona signing Haaland and Mbappe, two stars of the future who lit up the Champions League last week for their respective clubs.

"It is absolutely possible, and this is what Barca must do; signing players of that level,"

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