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# Gibi Mountain to make Weah "man"

**-Chief Zoe discloses**

# Mo Ali regrets sex scandal



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# Continental News

## Residents evacuated as Table Mountain fire spreads

South African emergency workers have evacuated three 17-storey residential buildings overlooking Cape Town as a huge fire burns along Table Mountain.

The blaze spread quickly after breaking out on Sunday morning near a memorial to politician Cecil Rhodes. A restaurant was

destroyed. The University of Cape Town's historic library was also badly damaged.

About 250 firefighters have been battling the blaze, which has been fanned by strong winds.

Helicopters were used to water-bomb flames, but their work had been hampered by the strong winds. South African National Parks said firefighters

were alerted at 09:00 local time (07:00 GMT) on Sunday. The flames spread quickly because of the low humidity and dry bush.

The fire created its own wind further increasing the rate of spread, it added, estimating that firefighters would need at least three days to control the blaze.

City officials said a suspect

had been detained amid speculation that new fires may have been started and the original fire was an act of arson.

"The fire is not under control yet. At this time, the wind is a major contributing factor," a statement issued by city officials said. The emergency services have evacuated some residents from the upmarket suburb of Vredehoek, along the slopes of Table Mountain. Schools in the suburb have been also ordered to evacuate.

"The fire that initially started in the vicinity of Rhodes Memorial just under 24 hours ago continues to rage and has spread in the direction of Vredehoek," city officials said in a statement.

Disa Park, which refers to three identical residential buildings close to the foot of Table Mountain, has also been

evacuated. The nearby University of Cape Town has also been shut and students evacuated.

The fire destroyed the Reading Room at its 200-year-old Jagger Library and the historic Mostert's Mill. Other buildings were also affected. "Some of our valuable collections have been lost," the university said.

This includes some 3,500 archival collections, including the Bleek-Lloyd collection of San language and mythology, the university added. Residents in the area have been warned of smoke and soot in the air, and told to keep windows and doors closed.

Meanwhile hikers in the Table Mountain National Park have been urged to leave and drivers who have parked in the area have been told to collect their vehicles. BBC



## Guards and dogs to deter Nigeria school attacks

Authorities in Nigeria's Katsina state say dogs and prayer sessions will be part of a new security set-up to protect students at schools from criminals.

Schools in northern Nigeria have come under increased attacks from armed criminals who have abducted hundreds of students since December.

More than 300 boys were

kidnapped from a school in the Kankara area of Katsina state in December but were later released. Public boarding schools in the state were ordered shut last month following increased attacks on schools in north-west Nigeria.

At the reopening of schools last Saturday, the state commissioner of education, Badamasi Charanchi, announced that new security

measures will be put in place to prevent further attacks.

In addition to a perimeter fence, five guards and a security post, dogs will also be deployed at public boarding schools.

"We were advised to deploy these dogs at each school because they have special abilities to detect any intruder faster than human beings in many instances," he said.

He added that the dogs will alert the students and other security agents in cases of intruders or bandits.

He did not say how many dogs will be deployed at each school but told BBC Hausa that schools will have a dog breeding programme.

There will also be at least three daily prayer sessions at all public schools in the predominant Muslim state to pray against attacks from bandits, he told the BBC.

Many public secondary schools in north-west Nigeria remain closed as authorities try to find solutions to increased attacks on schools by bandits demanding ransom payments. BBC



## Namibian court denies entry to gay couple's surrogate daughters

A Namibian court has refused to issue a gay man emergency travel documents so that he can bring home his twin daughters from South Africa where they were born by surrogate.

The authorities say Phillip Lühl must show genetic proof that he is their father before they can travel.

Mr Lühl, 38, and his

daughters were currently "stateless", and previously told AFP that Namibia's refusal amounted to "state-sanctioned homophobia". Sexual contact between males is forbidden in Namibia but the law is rarely enforced. Neighbouring South Africa meanwhile - where the couple got married - was the first country in the world to use its constitution to outlaw discrimination on the grounds



Mexican husband Guillermo Delgado say this is discriminatory.

Both fathers' names are on the babies' birth certificates.

Mr Lühl, a university lecturer and Namibian citizen, has argued that the paternity test being demanded of him would not be required from a single mother or heterosexual couple.

He told the BBC his

of sexual orientation back in 1996.

Mr Delgado is in Namibia with the couple's two-year-old son, while Mr Lühl is stuck in Johannesburg with the girls who are five weeks old. The BBC's Nomsa Maseko in Johannesburg says more details of the Namibian judge's ruling are to be made public later on Monday. BBBC

# EDITORIAL

## Sen. PYJ is running away from himself

**THE PAST IS** human history that can never be erased even if it is nasty and unpleasant. But Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba County, a former rebel leader that committed countless atrocities, doesn't want to be reminded of his notorious role in the Liberian Civil War.

**IT IS VERY** unfortunate that Sen. PYJ, who commanded the rebels Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia that captured and slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe on September 09, 1990 at the Freeport of Monrovia, among other executions, is running away from his deeds. Men may succeed in destroying physical or material evidence of their past activities, but memories of such actions intangibly live on forever.

**CURRENTLY AN EVANGELIST** and preacher at his own Christ Chapel Faith Ministry in Paynesville outside Monrovia, PYJ should be aware that even in the Holy Bible, particularly in the New Testament, Saul who prosecuted Christians before he was arrested, converted and put into service by Jesus Christ and became Apostle Paul, was initially rejected by Christians because of his past. Believers at the time refused to sit under his ministry because his hands had been stained with blood.

**OUR PAST DEEDS** remain with us even after death. It is nothing to run away from. Rather, acceptance, remorse and plead for forgiveness is the way to proceed. If we are sincerely remorseful and ask God for mercy, the Bible says He is faithful and just to forgive us of all our sins.

**SENATOR/EVANGELIST PRINCE JOHNSON** should preach forgiveness and God's grace instead of attempting to run from his past. He can't escape from himself, because his deeds are always before him. And so telling Liberians not to remind him of the atrocities he committed is a fruitless act of denial.

**EVERY HUMAN BEING** should learn to accept that the rear view mirror preserves facts and realities that can't be changed no matter how hard we tried. If our national leaders would lead well, they should never attempt to run away from themselves. Instead, we urge them to be men and women enough to accept their past in spite of how ugly they were.

**THIS IS WHY** we were even more disappointed recently in Grand Gedeh County Representative Dr. George E. S. Boley, leader of the defunct rebels Liberia Peace Council when he vehemently rejected responsibility for heinous atrocities committed by rebel forces under his command during the civil crisis.

**EVEN AFTER GLARING** fact of his deportation from the United States for arming child soldiers in Liberia, Dr. Boley is running away from himself that he played no role in arbitrary executions from the civil war here despite commanding the rebels LPC that were based in Sinoe County, southeast Liberia.

**WE WONDER WHAT** lessons our national leaders teach their children at home when they lie so confidently in public and want people to believe them! It is too sad for our country that moral decadence has taken center-stage against truthfulness and rectitude.

**THE BIBLE SAYS** in the Book of Roman that all has sinned and fallen short of God's glory, for only confession and sincere plead for mercy can bring us back under His grace and give us new life we so desire rather than running away from ourselves.

# COMMENTARY

By Sheldon Whitehouse,  
Hank Johnson

## The Dark-Money Tipping Point

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - America's courts are under siege from right-wing special interests. They want to rig the federal judiciary to favor large employers over workers, mega-banks over small businesses, and gun manufacturers over gun victims. Again and again, the political agenda pushed through the Federalist Society, a group that has done more than any other to move the federal judiciary far rightward, has become the law of the land at the expense of everyone else. And now, if this operation gets its way in a little-noticed case before the Supreme Court, secretive interests will cement their upper hand in US constitutional law for generations to come.

As the chairs of the Senate and House subcommittees on courts, we have closely observed the alarming encroachment of dark money on the judiciary. The undisclosed interests wielding that influence dictated the last three nominations to the Supreme Court, and then pressured the Senate to ram the nominees through, including by spending millions of dollars on national television and radio ad campaigns (especially for Justice Brett Kavanaugh when his nomination ran into trouble).

Having helped to install sympathetic jurists on the federal bench, a web of financially interconnected legal groups then takes turns setting up cases to land in the Supreme Court, where they file coordinated amicus ("friend of the court") briefs in support of the outcome they are pitching. Resembling a strategically conducted orchestra, the amicus effort is the closing movement of a massive court-capture operation.

The key to this operation is dark money: donations that cannot be traced to a donor. Special interests have built a massive network of dark-money front groups to carry out every function of court capture, from selecting judicial nominees, to picking cases for them to hear, to lobbying through amicus briefs for the outcomes they desire. From 2014 to 2018 alone, this network received \$400 million in dark money, according to recent expert testimony to the Senate.

It's an unfortunate fact that this dark-money campaign is working. Even before Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined the Court in the dying days of Donald Trump's administration, the Republican majority of five had run up an 80-case streak of partisan 5-4 victories for big Republican donor interests. But the real payoff could come in *Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Rodriguez*, where the Court may decide that a right-wing donor elite has a constitutional right to secrecy when it uses front groups to influence politics and courts.

The parties in the case tell us much about what is at stake. The *Americans for Prosperity Foundation* is part of the constellation of dark-money front groups funded by billionaire energy mogul Charles Koch, and its *Americans for Prosperity*

affiliate provides the political muscle for the operation. Still more telling is the array of "amici" who flocked to the case even before the Supreme Court agreed to hear it. These groups often appear in well-organized armadas before the Court, but the presence of more than 60 dark-money front groups in this case indicates that something big is afoot.

The explanation lies in Congress, where powerful corporate entities deeply involved in dark-money operations have begun openly refusing to answer questions about dark-money funding. In doing so, they are "pleading the First" - claiming a previously unknown First Amendment right to operate covertly in politics through dark money.

Ironically, the requirement that political spending be transparent was established by the Supreme Court's 2010 *Citizens United* ruling, which opened the door wide for big money in politics. But the Court has made no effort to insist on adherence to its transparency requirements, and now that the Court's political balance has lurched rightward, those requirements on paper may be shredded.

Justice Clarence Thomas was alone in opposing the disclosure requirements back in 2010. But three new justices have since been ushered onto the bench by dark-money forces, and Justice Samuel Alito seems likely to flip to the dark side. That makes a plausible majority of five for unlimited dark money. Certainly, whoever is behind those 60 amici thinks so.

Needless to say, the special interests that have built a massive influence machine around the federal judiciary will protect it at all costs. No dark money would mean no machine, and no machine would mean no influence. It is as simple as that. Today's Supreme Court - the Court that dark money built - may be the one to lock in dark money for the long term.

As politicians, we are convinced that *Citizens United* was wrongly decided, and we are deeply disappointed that the Court never enforced its decision's own terms. We have witnessed widespread obstruction and corruption in Congress as a result of these failures, and we believe these problems are factors in the public's dissatisfaction with government.

For the Court to offer constitutional protection to dark-money schemes would make matters much worse. An informed citizenry is one of the few checks on power and influence in government. Deny citizens information about what is going on around them and in their government, and you have struck a deadly blow against democracy.

That would certainly suit the autocratic dark-money forces that worked so hard and spent so much to shape the current Supreme Court. Democracy is what these forces oppose. They want power for billionaire puppet masters operating from behind the dark-money curtain. We cannot let that happen.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

# OPINION

By Robert Skidelsky

## Britain's Benefit Madness

**L**ONDON - Mahatma Gandhi probably never said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its weakest member." But that doesn't make it any less true. And nowadays, the United Kingdom is in danger of receiving a failing grade.

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 14.5 million people, or 22% of the UK's population of 65 million, live below the "poverty line" (defined as less than 60% of median income). Of a working-age population of 42 million, some 5-6 million, or about 12%, are either unemployed or underemployed (working less than they want to). About eight million working-age citizens, or 20% of the total, qualify for what the British call "benefit," whereby all or part of their income is paid by the state.

These figures are approximate, and some of the details are disputed. But the broad picture is that, even setting aside COVID-19, the UK's capitalist system normally cannot provide a living wage for about one-fifth of the country's working-age population.

This represents a huge change from the late 1940s, when Britain established its redoubtable welfare state. The philosophy that inspired it, reflected in the 1942 Beveridge Report held that the state would guarantee full employment, that work would provide the income for a decent life, and that the welfare system would deal with "interruptions" to work caused by unemployment, sickness, and maternity.

By the 1960s, the interruptions had become much more frequent, not because unemployment had risen, but because the number of claims for so-called national assistance (benefits not covered by insurance) rose faster than the working-age population. The initial growth stemmed largely from an increase in the number of single mothers and an additional entitlement to disability benefits. Later increases in the number of claimants, including in the early 1980s, were fueled by a rise in unemployment and precarious work.

The current situation, with about 20% of the working-age population "living on the state," has existed since the 1990s. The growing numbers inevitably resulted in the spread of means-testing and conditionality, which, together with demands to simplify an increasingly fragmented system, led to the introduction of the current Universal Credit regime, whose long rollout began back in 2011. The new scheme consolidated six benefits for working-age people, in or out of work, into a single monthly payment.

But the key move had come earlier, in 1995, when the UK's then-Conservative government replaced the unemployment benefit with a Jobseeker's Allowance. In contrast to the era of Keynesian full-employment commitments, claimants would receive the allowance in return for undertaking a mandatory "job search," defined as "work activity." Every claimant had to prove that they were spending 35 hours a week - the equivalent of a full-time job - looking for work. Failure to engage in the necessary "work activity" would result in their allowance, or "wages," being docked or cut off.

The philosophy behind this parody of the work contract was clearly explained by Neil Couling, a senior civil servant at the UK's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), in his evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs in March 2021. "The system does require the 2.5 million people on universal credit to engage with work search as a condition of receiving universal credit," Couling said. "You have to look for a job if you are going to get a job."

As the DWP explained, "deliberately mirroring a contract of employment, the claimant commitment makes clear that welfare is no different from work itself." This means that "just as those in work have obligations to their employer, so too claimants have a responsibility to the taxpayer."

Pronouncements like this one reveal that insanity - the inability to distinguish fantasy from reality - has taken over a system. It is true that you have to look for a job in order to get one. But you will not find one, even if you search overtime, if there are none available. The fantasy behind the scheme (which also underpins neoclassical economics) is the assumption of full employment, with unemployment being simply a consequence of able-bodied workers' preference for leisure.

Likewise, the UK's benefit system assumes, insanely, that all claimants are digitally literate. The moving film, *Daniel Blake*, about an unemployed carpenter who had recently had a heart attack, portrays Blake's increasingly desperate efforts to submit a benefit claim online. Although his cardiologist has said he is unfit for work, the authorities say he lacks enough "points" to qualify for disability benefits. So, Blake has to apply for a Jobseeker's Allowance, which means he is forced to attend a CV workshop and be coached to apply for jobs that he is medically unfit to do.

Blake, who is digitally illiterate, goes to a public library to use the computer there. When the librarian tells him to "run the mouse up the screen," he takes the mouse and moves it across the monitor.

He then writes a CV by hand and gives it to various employers, who tell him that there is no work to be had. But the officials at the Jobseeker's Allowance office are unimpressed. "That's not good enough, Mr. Blake - how do I know you've actually been in contact with all these employers?" says one. "Prove it." This is pure Kafka, the algorithmic grinding of a senseless machine.

There is of course a method in the madness: Universal Credit can be seen as a deliberate tool to shape a currently redundant segment of the workforce into the forms required by low-skilled labor markets. But the disease is misdiagnosed: the problem is aggregate under-demand for labor, not a surplus supply of the wrong kind of labor.

The only escape from such a system is to replace fantasy with reality. If the UK's private sector cannot in normal times provide decently paid jobs for all those willing and able to work, the state should step in with a public-sector job guarantee. That would immediately halve the number of Universal Credit claimants "searching for work" and, by eliminating Marx's "reserve army of the unemployed," substitute upward for downward pressure on wages.

Community-provided work, however dire, is more rewarding than a soul-destroying slog from firm to firm in search of nonexistent jobs. Work is the ultimate escape from poverty, but the futile sort demanded by the UK's benefit contract puts many of society's weakest members on a path to nowhere.

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# O-PED

By Alan J. Auerbach

## A Commonsense Corporate Tax

**B**ERKELEY - As part of its massive infrastructure plan, President Joe Biden's administration is seeking to raise the US corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%, with a 21% "minimum" tax on profits earned abroad by US corporations. In the words of Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, the goal is to arrest an international "race to the bottom" by getting other countries to adopt similar minimum corporate taxes.

Unfortunately, the measures being proposed seem designed for an earlier era, when it was easy to identify the factories and refineries where companies produced and earned their profits, and when a corporation's nationality was largely determined by the location of its main operations and its shareholders. In the modern era, multinational companies with international shareholder bases operate global supply chains, creating value using intangible capital with no natural location. As such, trying to modify a tax system based on a company's residence and where its profits are earned amounts to trying to replace the race to the bottom with a race to the past.

If the United States adopts the proposed measures but fails to get others to go along, it will have saddled itself with a less competitive tax system. But even if it succeeds, it will have locked in a system that will require constant modification to keep up with economic realities that are departing ever further from the core concepts on which the system is based.

Fortunately, there are alternatives that are much more attuned to the realities of the modern economy. Policies enacted in the US at the state level in recent decades have steadily moved toward taxing corporations based on the location of their sales. For these jurisdictions, shifting away from taxes based on the location of payroll and tangible assets has proved salutary for investment and employment. Moreover, if adopted at the national level, "destination-based" taxation could solve the problem of international profit shifting that the Biden reforms are intended to confront.

The most decisive reform would be a "destination-based cash flow tax" (DBCFT). Among other things, this would provide immediate expensing for all investment, eliminate the tax advantage for corporate borrowing, and impose border tax adjustments to eliminate taxes on export revenues and tax deductions for import costs. At the end of the day, only domestic cash flows would be taxed. And, because transactions between domestic companies and related foreign parties would have no US tax consequences, the practice of profit shifting would disappear.

Moreover, the border tax adjustments would move the locus of taxation from where products are produced to where they are sold. Because domestic production would impose no additional tax on companies, America's attractiveness as a location for employment-generating investment would be enhanced. A major added benefit would be that the welter of complicated tax rules aimed at preventing corporations from shifting profits and production abroad could be repealed as unnecessary artifacts of a bygone era, rather than being augmented even further under the Biden plan.

Likewise, with the tax system imposing no special burdens on US corporations, all measures aimed at preventing them from moving their headquarters abroad in order to escape US nationality could be consigned to history, rather than confounding matters further. And tying tax liability only to transactions within the US would relieve the Internal Revenue Service of the burden of chasing down information about companies' foreign operations.

Readers may recognize the DBCFT from its appearance in 2016, when House Republicans Paul Ryan and Kevin Brady proposed it. The scheme ultimately did not make it into the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, because its sponsors' insistence on the immediate, full-scale adoption of a then-unfamiliar reform drew opposition from other Republicans. Moreover, the Trump administration's belligerence toward America's traditional allies created an adversarial relationship in which there was little attempt to explain the rationale for the reform, let alone push for its adoption abroad.

But the Biden administration, with its expressed desire for international cooperation and domestic bipartisanship, has a better chance at success. As an effective tax on corporate profits, the DBCFT is not only progressive; it is actually more progressive than the current US corporate tax, which makes US workers less productive by discouraging investment.

A straightforward tax that provides a sustainable, progressive source of revenue and incentives for domestic investment and employment (even if the tax rate is increased) should appeal to many in Congress, regardless of their political orientation. The choice between a modern corporate tax and a race to the past should be clear.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## 34 detained in Grand Gedeh

**-following ritualistic killing, protests in Maryland County**

By Winston W. Parley

The vandalism of the Harper Correction Palace in Maryland County, southeast Liberia by angry protesters following the gruesome murder of commercial motorcyclist Moccidious Nyemah has

Carter told a live talk show Monday morning, 19 April that "those persons are currently remanded at the Grand Gedeh prison," pending the completion of the Harper prison before they will be transferred to Maryland.

According to Carter, four of the suspects were arrested for

killing.

Carter says the arrested persons cannot be sent to the Harper Court because the Correction Palace in the county capital also got attacked during protest against the ritualistic killing.

"Our mission in Maryland was very successful, successful to the point where we forwarded 34 persons to court, and those persons forwarded to court were in the category of people who were responsible for the ritualistic killing ... in Maryland and that of the vandalization, looting of property as well as the burning of the Speaker's home," he says. Carter also explains that the police had some meetings with the local authorities of both Pleebo and Harper, relative to their concerns for ritualistic killings in the county and the issue of justice.

"They were assured of our resolve to ensure that they get justice and that the issue of ritualistic killing will be fought head - on, but it will be a joint effort as this was done collectively," he continues.

On Tuesday, 30 March, angry citizens, including motorcyclists broke into the Harper Prison compound, demanding the living body of murder suspect Moses

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



compelled the Liberia National Police (LNP) to transfer 34 arrested suspects to Grand Gedeh County for detention, pending completion of the Harper prison facility, police say. Police Spokesman Moses

their alleged link to the ritualistic killing of victim Nyemah, while 30 suspects were arrested in connection to the vandalization, looting and destruction of property during the protests that erupted in Maryland County following the

## GAC, Nyenswah in the ring

**-over alleged financial malpractices**

Latest report released by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) indicts the former Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Mr. Tolbert Nyensawh, currently in the United States of 'double dipping' as well as other financial and administrative malpractices, but Nyenswah denies.

The GAC is the country's supreme auditing institution responsible for auditing government revenue and spending. It is the independent constitutional external auditor of Liberia, which supports Legislative oversight over the management of public resources. It also serves the people of Liberia by conducting quality and timely financial, compliance and performance audits.

But while the Commission is considered as a credible public auditing institution, the former NPHIL boss has

challenged the report against him, describing it as "false and misleading."

amounting to US\$24,000.00 and L\$624,000.00, respectively but he dismisses the revelation as complete fallacy and lacking facts.



Auditor General Yusador S. Gaye and former NPHIL Boss Tolbert Nyenswah

According to the GAC report released recently, Nyenswah received salaries from NPHIL and the Ministry of Health,

The report continues that the former NPHIL boss, prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister of Health, was paid by both entities for three

## Unfortunate and complete ignorance

**-Rep. Kiazolu terms Presidential Press Secretary's claim**

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County Representative Hassan Kiazolu from the opposition says recent statement by Presidential Press Secretary Solo Kelgbeh that members of the legislature are receiving monies for legislative projects is unfortunate and a complete ignorance of the office he serves.

Speaking on Truth Breakfast show hosted by Truth FM 96.1 recently in Paynesville outside Monrovia Solo Kelgbeh alleged that

Kiazolu says it was unfortunate for a man who sits just next to the President to make such utterance when the Weah administration has allegedly failed to pay county development funds in full since 2018.

He notes that Mr. Kelgbeh's statement will now serve as a source of information for the House of Representatives to request the Ministry of Finance to validate the statement since it is the entity of government responsible for the disbursement of funds to all



members of the 54th Legislature are deceiving the public on funds for county development and legislative projects.

According to the Press Secretary, since the inception of the Weah administration, members of the Legislature have received all benefits, including county development and legislative project funds, but are bent on lying to the public, thereby portraying the government negatively.

But countering the statement, Representative

spending entities.

Rep. Richard Koon similarly buttresses his colleague Kiazolu that lawmakers at the Capitol have not received a dime from the Executive for development in their respective counties despite the Presidential Press Secretary's statement.

Speaking to OK FM Monday in Monrovia Rep. Koon said the only fund they received came from China Union's social development commitment, which is outside the National Budget. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

months, running from January to April 2017.

It details the Ministry of Health paid US\$10,803.13 and L\$297,532.34, while NPHIL paid US\$24,000.00 and L\$624,000.00 in net salaries to Nyenswah. The GAC wants the monies refunded to the Government of Liberia.

Furthermore, the GAC reports that transactions for various goods and services were processed and paid without supporting documents in the amounts of

US\$136,556.12 and L\$15,345,949.02 thru government funding to the NPHIL under Nyenswah's administration.

"Management did not maintain payment vouchers along with the necessary supporting documents for several transactions in the amount of US\$354,611.25 recorded in the ledgers of World Health Organization (WHO) Funds provided to NPHIL. The GAC says it requested the

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# Weah kicked start third



# nationwide County tour in Margibi



# Français

## « Le Libéria a besoin d'un gouvernement propre », l'ancien ambassadeur américain Blaney

L'ancien ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria (2002/2004), M. John Blaney a fait observer dans un message sur sa page Facebook que le Libéria a besoin d'un gouvernement propre, d'un état de droit, de la justice, du respect et d'une identité nationale plus forte.

M. Blaney n'a pas précisé si l'administration Weah est un gouvernement propre ou pas, mais il s'est contenté de souligner que le Libéria a besoin d'un gouvernement propre

« À mon avis, le Libéria a besoin d'un gouvernement propre, d'un État de droit avec justice et respect, et d'une identité nationale plus forte avec moins de tribalisme et plus d'égalité des chances. Faire mieux dans ce domaine et accélérer le développement, étant donné que le Libéria est en fait un pays riche en ressources et non surpeuplé », a-t-il déclaré sur sa page facebook le dimanche 18 avril 2021.

Selon lui, les États-Unis sont confrontés à des problèmes quelque peu

similaires qui nécessitent une attention particulière, notamment des problèmes de tribalisme croissant (rouge contre bleu) et de race, des défis de l'état de droit et de la justice (l'attaque de janvier contre le Capitole, toutes les fusillades), une disparité excessive des revenus - tout est aggravé par un leadership souvent inadéquat et stratégiquement faible, en particulier pour le pays qui est essentiel pour que le monde

parvienne à un avenir meilleur, plus sûr et plus libre pour tous.

A l'Ambassadeur Blaney d'ajouter que les pays du monde entier devront travailler beaucoup mieux ensemble pour surmonter les menaces mondiales qui pèsent sur l'humanité telles que les pandémies, le changement climatique et d'autres problèmes environnementaux. Il a pointé

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Le Député YekehKolubahsaisit la Cour Suprême

Le député de l'opposition YekehKolubah a saisi la Cour suprême du Libéria à la suite de sa suspension par ses collègues députés, dénonçant une procédure bâclée.

« Le pétitionnaire dit qu'il s'est vu refuser son droit à une procédure régulière, comme le prévoient les règles

et procédures qui [régissent] la Chambre des représentants », a déclaré M. Kolubah, fervent critique du président George Manneh Weah et de son régime, dans une pétition qu'il a adressée la semaine à la haute cour de justice.

« Pour cette raison et [compte tenu des] faits et circonstances qui précèdent, le

requérant prie très respectueusement Votre Honneur et cette honorable Cour de délivrer le bref approprié pour mettre fin à l'acte illégal de l'intimé. De plus, le pétitionnaire veut que Votre Honneur accorde tout ce qui semble légal, juste et équitable », a écrit le député Kolubah.

La Chambre des représentants a suspendu le représentant du district 10 du comté de Montserrado, M. Kolubah, pour une période de 30 jours. Il sera privé de son salaire, des indemnités et de son immunité parlementaire pendant la durée de suspension. On lui reproche d'avoir maintes fois insulté le président Weah.

«Le pétitionnaire a reçu une lettre signée par Mildred N. Sayon, greffier de la Chambre des représentants, indiquant que le pétitionnaire est suspendu par l'honorable Chambre des représentants pendant 30 jours de toutes les réunions / sessions de l'honorable Chambre à compter du mardi 13 avril 2021. Il sera privé de son salaire, de toute indemnité et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Le registre national d'identification devrait redoubler d'efforts

Le gouvernement du Libéria veut que l'ensemble de la population obtienne des cartes d'identité nationales, surtout les fonctionnaires, mais il se peut que le registre national d'identification, l'organisme d'État chargé de délivrer ce papier n'ait manifestement pas de moyen, au point que les citoyens font la queue pendant des semaines ou des mois pour avoir leurs cartes d'identité.

Le plus dégoûtant encore, c'est que le gouvernement a fait de la possession de la carte une condition sine qua non pour chaque fonctionnaire d'avoir accès à son salaire. En plus, les utilisateurs de téléphones portables sont harcelés pour mettre à jour l'enregistrement de leur numéro en se servant de leur carte d'identité nationale. Pourtant, il faut environ deux à trois mois aux demandeurs pour obtenir une carte d'identité, car le système du registre national est défaillant.

Le groupe de travail national chargé du nettoyage de la masse salariale de l'état a publié une circulaire, avertissant qu'à compter du mois d'avril 2021, les fonctionnaires qui ne disposent pas de carte d'identité nationale ne recevront pas de salaire. Mais concernant le dysfonctionnement des prestations de services au niveau du registre national, aucune mesure n'a été prise.

Il est important que le gouvernement prévoie des mesures d'accompagnement pour chaque politique mise en place, sinon les résultats escomptés pourraient être désastreux. En réalité, tout processus aléatoire finit par créer des inconvénients aux personnes qui devraient en bénéficier.

Compte tenu de la ruée actuelle vers les cartes d'identité et de l'incapacité du Registre national à répondre à la demande, l'on assiste à de sérieux compromis qui pourraient entraîner des conséquences imprévues et inattendues que la nation pourrait regretter ultérieurement.

Nous nous félicitons certes de la délivrance d'une pièce d'identité nationale appropriée à chaque Libérien, mais encore faut-il que le processus soit correctement soutenu tant sur le plan financier que technique. À quoi sert l'annonce d'une politique qui manque de planification appropriée. Cela n'a aucun sens.

Nous appelons les autorités du registre national d'identification à redoubler d'efforts pour répondre à la demande. Il ne suffit pas de forcer les gens à se faire délivrer des cartes d'identité. Il faut prévoir un service efficace.

Le Libéria ne dispose pas d'un système biométrique synchronisé qui améliorerait l'accès facile et réduirait les coûts sur les dépenses nationales, selon la Commission de la gouvernance, un groupe de réflexion gouvernemental.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, presque tous les services, y compris les passeports, les banques, les admissions universitaires et les services mobiles, entre autres, sont pré-conditionnés par des cartes d'identité nationales.

Nous semblons mettre la charrue avant les bœufs, en tant que nation qui n'a pas contribué à faire avancer le Libéria. Comme l'a dit le président, il est temps de calibrer pour garantir un pays meilleur.



# Français

## « Le Libéria a besoin d'un

du doigt les nombreuses autres menaces graves, dont les guerres, les points sensibles régionaux, l'extrémisme, la balkanisation mondiale, etc.

Il s'est dit convaincu qu'il y a plus de bonnes personnes au Libéria que de mauvaises personnes.

« Mais, dans l'ensemble, je ne suis pas pessimiste. Il y a eu beaucoup de progrès et la technologie se vante rapidement de la productivité. La question est

de savoir si nous pouvons apprendre à mieux nous gouverner et à limiter la cupidité et l'extrémisme. Les jeunes semblent être plus capables et honnêtes lorsqu'ils définissent et relient ces problèmes, et je pense qu'ils comprennent mieux que de nombreux problèmes ne sont pas des jeux à somme nulle et ne l'ont jamais été. En somme, nous pouvons aller vers les étoiles ou rejoindre les dinosaures ; cela dépend vraiment de nous », a-t-il conclu.

## Le Député Yekeh Kolubah saisit

de son immunité parlementaire », a-t-il dit à la Chambre de justice.

Il a fait valoir que l'article 20 (a) de la Constitution stipule que « nul ne peut être privé de la vie, de la liberté, de la sécurité de la personne, de la propriété, du privilège ou de tout autre droit, sauf à la suite d'un jugement d'audience conforme aux dispositions énoncées dans cette Constitution et conformément à la procédure régulière. »

En outre, Kolubaha indiqué que les règles et procédures de la Chambre des représentants prévoient à l'article 48.1 que la Chambre prenne des mesures disciplinaires contre tout membre qui enfreint ou ne se conforme pas à l'éthique et à la procédure de la Chambre spécifiées dans cette règle.

En insistant spécifiquement sur la règle 48.5 de la Chambre des représentants, Kolubaha indiqué que la loi exige que « tout membre contre qui est prise une mesure disciplinaire a droit à une procédure régulière ».

Il a ajouté que cette règle exige que « le Président renvoie la question au Comité du règlement et de l'ordre » et que la Chambre, « après

avoir examiné le rapport et lu les recommandations, rende sa décision ».

Selon le législateur, contrairement à la règle sur la régularité de la procédure, la Chambre des représentants a refusé et négligé de soumettre la question à la commission du Règlement pour enquêter sur la question conformément aux règles et procédures de la Chambre.

Il déplore qu'une plainte ait été déposée auprès de l'Honorable Chambre des représentants à son encontre, mais il n'a jamais été soumis à la Commission du Règlement, comme le prescrit le Règlement du défendeur, et la Commission du Règlement n'a pas non plus soumis de rapport et de recommandation qui doit être examinée par la Chambre pour rendre une décision finale.

« Le défendeur a rendu une décision finale contre le pétitionnaire sans le guide sur la procédure régulière tel que [prescrit] dans le règlement et la procédure de l'Honorable Chambre des représentants », a-t-il affirmé.

De plus, le représentant Kolubaha affirmé que le comité parlementaire chargé de la discipline n'a mené aucune enquête pour authentifier la véracité de l'allégation.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Sheldon Whitehouse,  
Hank Johnson

## Argent de l'ombre : le point de non-retour

WASHINGTON - Les groupes de pression de droite font le siège des tribunaux américains. Leur but : manipuler la magistrature fédérale pour privilégier les grands employeurs sur les salariés, les banques géantes sur les petites entreprises et les armuriers sur les victimes de la violence armée. Encore et encore, le programme politique poursuivi par la Federalist Society fait la loi aux dépens du citoyen. Cette organisation agit, plus qu'aucune autre, pour déplacer le plus possible vers la droite le pouvoir judiciaire fédéral. Si sa persévérance parvient aujourd'hui à ses fins dans un dossier qui a peu fait parler de lui, porté devant la Cour suprême, des intérêts occultes consolideront, pour les générations à venir, leur emprise sur le droit constitutionnel des États-Unis.

En tant que présidents des sous-comités sur les tribunaux du Sénat et de la Chambre, nous avons pu observer de près l'empiètement de l'argent de l'ombre sur le pouvoir judiciaire. Les discrets intérêts qui exercent cette influence ont dicté l'identité des trois derniers juges nommés à la Cour suprême, puis fait pression sur le Sénat pour qu'il confirme leur nomination, en dépensant notamment des millions de dollars pour des campagnes nationales de publicité à la radio et à la télévision (en faveur surtout du juge Brett Kavanaugh lorsque la procédure de confirmation s'est heurtée à des difficultés).

Ayant contribué à pourvoir la magistrature fédérale en juges favorables à leurs objectifs, des groupes de juristes financés par un même réseau, ont tour à tour constitué des dossiers susceptibles d'atterrir devant la Cour suprême, appuyés par toutes sortes d'informations, opinions et mémoires déposés chacun par un amicus curiae, en appui des cas soutenus. Ces mémoires émanant de personnes extérieures à la Cour constituent le dernier mouvement d'une œuvre orchestrale stratégiquement dirigée, en l'occurrence une opération d'envergure visant au contrôle de la jurisprudence.

L'argent de l'ombre est la clé de cette opération : à savoir des sommes dont les donateurs ne peuvent être identifiés. Des intérêts privés ont construit un vaste réseau de groupes de façade collectant l'argent de l'ombre afin de s'assurer des fonctions essentielles au contrôle de la jurisprudence, du choix des juges qui seront nommés jusqu'à celui des cas qui leur seront soumis, à grands renforts d'actions de lobbying exprimées dans les mémoires déposés par les amici curiae (les « amis de la cour [ou du tribunal] »). Pour la seule période courant de 2014 à 2018, ce réseau a reçu, selon la récente déposition d'un expert devant le Sénat, 400 millions de dollars.

Malheureusement, c'est un fait, cette campagne financée par l'argent de l'ombre fonctionne. Avant même que la juge Amy Coney Barrette ne rejoigne la Cour suprême, dans les derniers jours de l'administration de Donald Trump, la majorité républicaine de cinq juges a accumulé une série de 80 victoires sur des affaires ayant donné lieu à des verdicts partisans (5 voix contre 4) en faveur des intérêts d'importants donateurs républicains. Mais la grande récompense pourrait provenir de l'affaire Americans for Prosperity contre Rodriquez, où la Cour serait en mesure d'arrêter qu'une élite donatrice de droite jouit d'un droit constitutionnel au secret lorsqu'elle utilise des groupes de façade pour influencer la vie politique ou le jugement des tribunaux.

Dans cette affaire, l'identité des parties nous dit bien ce qui est en jeu. The American for Prosperity Foundation appartient à la constellation de groupes de façade collectant l'argent de l'ombre fondés par le milliardaire et magnat du secteur énergétique Charles Koch, et sa société affiliée Americans for

Prosperity fournit la force de frappe politique nécessaire à l'opération. Le vaste éventail des amici venus en foule soutenir l'affaire avant que la Cour suprême n'accepte de l'entendre est encore plus instructif. Ces groupes se présentent généralement devant la Cour en flottes de combat bien organisées, mais la présence cette fois de plus de 60 groupes de façade liés à l'argent de l'ombre indique l'importance de ce qui se prépare.

L'explication est à chercher au Congrès, où de puissantes sociétés profondément impliquées dans les opérations de collecte de l'argent de l'ombre commencent ouvertement à refuser de répondre aux questions concernant les financements qui bénéficient de cet argent de l'ombre. Pour ce faire, elles « plaident le Premier [Amendement] », en s'appuyant sur le droit jusqu'alors inconnu, prétendument garanti par le Premier Amendement, d'intervenir secrètement dans la vie politique en usant d'argent de l'ombre.

Ironie du sort, l'obligation de transparence pour les dépenses liées aux partis politiques fut établie par la Cour suprême à la faveur de l'arrêt Citizens United en 2010, qui ouvrait grand la porte aux dons colossaux à des organisations politiques. La Cour cependant n'a guère fait d'efforts pour que soient respectées ses exigences de transparence, et aujourd'hui, alors que sa balance politique penche à droite, de telles exigences de papier pourraient être réduites en lambeaux.

En 2010, le juge Clarence Thomas fut le seul qui rendit un avis opposé à la contrainte de publicité des dons. Mais trois nouveaux juges ont depuis lors été portés à la Cour par les forces de l'argent de l'ombre, et le juge Samuel Alito semble prêt à basculer du côté de ces mêmes forces. Ce qui rend possible un vote emporté par les cinq voix conservatrices en faveur d'une utilisation illimitée de l'argent de l'ombre. C'est du moins ce que doivent penser ceux qui se tiennent derrière les 60 amici.

Il est inutile de préciser que les groupes de pression qui ont bâti cette énorme machine d'influence autour du pouvoir judiciaire la protégeront quel qu'en soit le coût. Supprimer l'argent de l'ombre, ce serait supprimer cette machine, et sans machine, ç'en est fini de l'influence. C'est aussi simple que cela. Aujourd'hui, la Cour suprême - la Cour bâtie par l'argent de l'ombre - peut être l'instrument qui pérenniserait à long terme la puissance de cet argent.

Nous sommes convaincus, en tant qu'élus, que l'arrêt Citizens United fut rendu à tort, et nous sommes profondément déçus que la Cour n'ait jamais fait respecter les propres termes de cet arrêt. L'obstruction et la corruption, largement répandues, dont nous avons été les témoins au Congrès, sont les conséquences de ces échecs, et nous croyons que ces problèmes sont des facteurs de l'insatisfaction de l'opinion envers le gouvernement.

Que la Cour accorde une protection constitutionnelle aux intrigues de l'argent de l'ombre ne ferait qu'empirer la situation. L'information des citoyens constitue l'un des rares moyens de contrôle qui puissent s'exercer sur le pouvoir ou l'influence dans le gouvernement. Refuser aux citoyens cette information sur ce qui se passe autour d'eux et dans leur gouvernement, c'est porter un coup fatal à la démocratie.

Cela conviendrait certainement aux forces autocratiques de l'argent de l'ombre qui ont déployé tant d'efforts et ont tant dépensé pour l'actuelle composition de la Cour suprême. C'est à la démocratie que s'opposent ces forces. Elles veulent le pouvoir pour des marionnettistes milliardaires agissant derrière le rideau créé par l'argent de l'ombre. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter qu'il en soit ainsi.

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MOA, Ghanaian firm sign contract valued US\$14.25m

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Ministry of Agriculture has signed a grant management contract with Deloitte and Touche, a Ghanaian firm.

The grant signed Monday, April 19, in the conference room of the ministry's is in the tune of US\$14.25million.

Liberia's Minister of Agriculture, Jeanine Cooper describes the contract as a millstone in the agriculture sector, which she had yearned to achieve.

expresses.

Deloitte and Touche Managing Partner, Danile Kwadwo Owusu thanks the ministry for the opportunity, assuring that expectations of the government shall be met beyond imagination. He narrates the company has built its name and reputations over the years working for international groups, companies and governments.

The project is expected to provide matching grants on a competitive basis by soliciting subproject proposals based on

competitive matching grants to co-finance eligible activities identified by project beneficiaries.

The Fund will be created as a special designated account under the PIU and will be managed by an independent fund manager (Deloitte & Touche).

The Government of Liberia and relevant stakeholders will establish a fund advisory committee to provide appropriate governance and oversight of the fund's use in accordance with the project objectives.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu LLC (DTT) is one of the Members of Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited, a member firm of the Deloitte network. As Japan's leading audit firm and principal firm of the Deloitte Tohmatsu Group, DTT provides audit & assurance and risk advisory services.

These services are delivered to many clients including multinational enterprises and major Japanese business entities through over 6,700 professionals, including about 3,200 Certified Public Accountants, in about 30 cities in Japan.

The company presents stakeholders with a "transparency report" based on the European Union Directive 2006/43/EC (as amended by Directive 2014/56/EU) that addresses the basic information related to auditing practice including a description of organization, governance, quality control, independence, and education and training, for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2020.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



She stresses that the expectations of the ministry and the government shall be met in full as the country is in dire need of revamping the sector.

"I'm happy today for the signing ceremony. This project should have since been achieved but many factors interplayed. We were at very slow pace but thanks be to God for the conclusion," Madam Cooper

business plans from potential beneficiaries and assessing them based on set criteria.

Proposals that promote one or more of the following in the design will be given additional weight in the selection scoring process: Nutrition, gender equality and climate-smart agri practices.

The vehicle for providing the matching grants support is LACF, which the Ministry of Agriculture will establish to provide

# Isaac Jackson demands morality from CPP

By Lewis S. Teh

Former Liberian Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Atty. Isaac W. Jackson is urging the leadership of the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) to be highly concerned about morality.

"You can't portray yourselves to be the best and next alternative to the Liberian people and failing to take into consideration the issue of morality," Atty. Jackson said over the weekend.

Addressing reporters, Atty. Jackson calls on the

Ministry of Justice to get involved by investigating Mr. Mo Ali, the Secretary General of the opposition Unity Party (UP), a CPP constituent party, who is alleged to be captured in a leaked audio proposing to a young woman in her early 20s, the need to abort a pregnancy she is carrying for him.

Atty. Jackson is seeking Mr. Ali's investigation by the Justice Ministry to save the alleged pregnant woman's future and to also serve as a deterrence to others.

"It saddened me to see some of our friends in the Unity Party to hide the unspeakable conduct of your partisans and say it's a personal issue," Jackson says.

Atty. Jackson contends that even if the matter is a personal thing, there is something called personal morality, adding that Mr. Ali is having a wife and three children.

He wonders as to where is the morality for Mr. Ali to have gone out with a young woman, allegedly impregnated her and then encouraged her to remove the pregnancy.

Atty Jackson insists that such action is a crime under the Liberian law which frowns against abortion and requires an investigation for anyone who facilitates or commits abortion.

"I wonder why up to now

# GAC, Nyenswah

Cont'd from page 5

documents several times from Management during the conduct of the audit but management did not provide the documents," the report says.

The GAC also observed that the NPHIL Management did not remit to the Consolidated Account in keeping with the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act of 2009 unspent/closing cash balance of US\$219,749.55 left in its bank accounts. The PFM requires that amounts not spent or committed by spending entities by the end of each fiscal year should be sent to the consolidated fund for reallocation.

It also states the NPHIL Management made payment in the amount of L\$162,000.00 from the Government of Liberia funds to an employee of NPHIL for catering services instead of the caterer. Further, the Management of NPHIL made payments in the amount of US\$29,155.00 from World Health Organization Funds in the names of employees of NPHIL for subsequent disbursements to the service providers/beneficiaries rather than make the payments directly to the providers or their authorized representatives as required by the Public Financial Management Act of 2009.

"Payments for fuel/gasoline and scratch card in the amounts of US\$25,255.53 and US\$129,887.55 were made from UNICEF and World Health Organization Funds respectively without evidence of distribution to the end users," the report adds.

However, in response, the former NPHIL head debunks and thrashes the entire GAC report, saying, "It is only good for the newspapers' headlines' as he did not at any point in time receive any double payment of salaries.

"There are well-known and indisputable FACTs that no wrongdoing carried out here. The Auditor General did not do a thorough work. These allegations are ploy, frivolous, sensational, and present alternative facts. These kinds of audit reports are only good for the newspapers headlines. PERIOD!" Nyenswah counters.

He also challenges report by the GAC that NPHIL Management did not maintain payment vouchers along with

the necessary supporting documents for several transactions in the amount of US\$354,611.25 recorded in the ledgers of World Health Organization (WHO) Funds to the Institute.

"This is another fallacy. When working with international organizations like the UN Agencies, USAID, US-CDC, etc., work plans and budgets are approved on an annual or bi-annual basis and funds as disbursed in trenches based on the approved work plan. Aside from the initial disbursement, all other disbursements are predicated upon the successful completion of the task (as per the work plan for that quarter) and full narrative report is accompanied by a full financial liquidation of funds received. It is only after these financial reports and supporting documents have been verified and certified by the partners that you receive funding for the subsequent period," he responds.

"If the GAC's assertion is true, NPHIL would not have received approximate US\$1.5M from WHO alone, in several trenches of disbursements, during the period under review. Additionally, these international partners, on a routine basis, send their financial experts and auditors to check their account and books with us. That is why most of the partners insist on government agencies keeping a separate and distinct account for their funding. NPHIL's integrity, when it comes to its financial management, attracted the interest of lots of partners to the entity.

If the GAC is referring to the audit conducted when I was DG of NPHIL from January 2017 to October 2019, in which my Deputy DG for Administration and I addressed all concerns of the auditors and adduced all relevant supporting documents, then this assertion is false and misleading. However, if this assertion refers to the second audit conducted by GAC in 2020 after my Deputy for Administration and I had left the country, (Sources at GAC told me that the GAC carried away documents from NPHIL and conducted an exclusive audit at their office after I had left the country), then I cannot address these concerns as I was not in the country by then," Nyenswah clarifies.

the MOJ hasn't called Mr. Ali for questioning," Jackson wonders, adding that even the license of nurse who was

allegedly involved should also be revoked for alleged unethical conduct.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Gibi Mountain to make Weah "man"

By Othello B. Garblah

**K**akata, Margibi County - The Paramount Chief of the Gibi Chiefdom, in Margibi County, Peter Banryou told President George M. Weah on Monday April 19, at the start of the third leg of his nationwide county tour that the Gibi Mountain awaits him to make him a man.

Gibi, is one of the territories that was merged with Marshall Territory to create Margibi County on December 13, 1985 by an

at the Mountain are often initiated with voodoo powers.

Paramount Chief Barnyou to President Weah: "The Gibi Mountain has agreed for you to visit. The Mountain is ready to make you a man. They did not say you are not a man, but they will make you (more) man."

The district is not on the President's current travel schedule during this tour but the Chief Zoe said the mountain will still be waiting for the President's visit. "When you go there, they will make you a

The President after listening thanked the people of Margibi County for believing in him as demonstrated by the results of the 2017 Presidential elections.

Mr. Weah heaped praises on the county leadership for the level of unity they had put on display in the county saying, it speaks to the level of development being undertaken in the county.

At a second Town Hall Meeting held at the grounds of the Weala Public School, President Weah took a swipe at former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai who supporters condemned him (Weah) for playing lulum games with children, but was now on beaches playing checker with children.

Former VP Boakai recently condemned the President's road initiative in the capital, Monrovia and its suburb, questioning their economic values.

But President Weah during the town hall meeting said it was unfortunate that a man who stayed in power for 12 years and did nothing and was charging citizens USD10 per month to park their cars in his yard, would want to come back to gain state power.

VP, Baokai during his reign as Vice President did not personally collect USD 10 for parking in his compound but members of his security details did.

President Weah questioned what would be his achievement, which he could not accomplish when he was in power for 12 years. The tour of the county continues today with more town hall meetings.

# 34 detained

Cont'd from page 7

Mlamah, resulting in the escape of 91 inmates, including the suspect.

The protesters allegedly damaged a police patrol vehicle, looted several properties at both Harper and Pleebo police stations in Maryland County and wounded a deputy police commander.

Economic and other activities came to a standstill Tuesday, 30 March in the county as riot intensified there, amidst angry citizens' demand for the speedy trial of 18 - year - old suspect Moses Mlamah who is accused of murdering 22 - year - old motorcyclist Moccicious Nyemah on Thursday, 25 March. Tension flared on Wednesday, 31 March and protesters set ablaze the residence of the Speaker of the House of Representatives Bhofal Chambers in the district.

Police said suspect Mlamah allegedly began chopping victim Nyemah, leading to his death, after the deceased motorcyclist had honored a

request to accompany the accused into the bush to pick up some items and bring them to town.

Police said the incident occurred in Bassiken Town around the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation at 11:00 AM in Pleebo District, Maryland County where the suspect allegedly chopped victim Nyemah after an altercation between them.

According to the police, 30 minutes after the incident, they arrested, investigated, charged and sent suspect Mlamah to court for prosecution for his alleged link in the murder of victim Nyemah. But the suspect became part of prisoners who fled the Harper Prison Center when protesters invaded it.

Following the incident, President George Manneh Weah declared curfew in the entire county as of 1 April in order to keep the peace and to ensure that law and order prevailed, saying he had been informed of the gruesome killing of a young man in the county.



Interim National Assembly decree. The county is bordered by Montserrado County to the west, Grand Bassa County to the east, and Bong County on the north. The southern part of Margibi lies on the Atlantic Ocean.

The Gibi Chiefdom, now one of five districts in the county is feared for its voodoo powers, particularly as it relates to the Gibi Mountain. Many Liberians here believe that those taken

man," he added.

President Weah kicked started his tour on Monday with a traditional welcome into the county headed by the county's traditional chiefs and local officials at its border with Montserrado County.

The President thereafter held a Town Hall meeting at the Kakata City Hall, where he interacted with thousands of citizens and listened keenly as they made their petitions in line with their developmental needs.

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# Mo Ali regrets sex scandal

By Winston W. Parley

**O**pposition Unity Party (UP) Secretary General Mo Ali says he regrets the embarrassment he caused his children, loved ones, friends, supporters, and the UP, days after a viral leaked audio captured him allegedly proposing to Augustina Gray, a young woman in her early 20s, the need to abort a pregnancy she claims to carry for him.

Writing through his Facebook page Monday, 19 April, Mr. Ali says "I truly regret the embarrassment that this has caused my children, loved ones, friends, supporters, and the Unity Party."

"As a father of three girls, I respect womanhood and know the importance of



protecting women," he says.

The leaked audio has since caused stirs here, many among

politicians and social media users who have been discussing the matter either

on the basis of morality, particularly on the issue of an alleged call for abortion of the reported pregnancy.

Mr. Ali says as a key political or public figure, he is fully aware that the public holds him at a very different and high moral standard and expects that his behavior, public engagements and dealings would always serve as a good example for the upcoming generation.

Further, Ali notes that he is also aware of the gravity of any action and statements that he makes either in the public space or even in his private life, adding that it is in this vein that he takes "full responsibility of the incident involving Ms. Augustina Gray."

"I have met with the family and had a very good discussion. It was not and has never been my intention to cause harm to anyone or to exhibit an attitude that disrespects our daughters, sisters or mothers," he says.

He assures his commitment to helping to protect the image of his family and political institution, pledging that he is renewing and again avowing this commitment.

"I call on our supporters and others to address this issue with a high level of respect for everyone's privacy. I also call on the public to refrain from the trading of accusations and attacks against all involved," Ali continues.

The UP Chief Scribe says in the wake of this unfortunate incident, he is taking a leave of absence for the rest of April 2021 in order to enable him to fully recover from the shocks of the past one week.

He expresses sincere appreciation to everyone for the moral support and pieces of advice during these trying times, assuring that he remains committed to his political values and will always pursue such with the same vigor that he has come to be known for.

# Mourinho sacked by Tottenham



**J**ose Mourinho has been sacked by Tottenham with their Champions League qualification hopes hanging by a thread.

Mourinho was appointed by Spurs in November 2019 as the replacement for Mauricio Pochettino on a contract until the end of the 2022-23 campaign.

But he has not managed to preside over a full season, with chairman Daniel Levy ending the Portuguese head

coach's tenure prematurely on Monday.

Mourinho's backroom team of Joao Sacramento, Nuno Santos, Carlos Lalin and Giovanni Cerra have also been relieved of their duties, with Ryan Mason taking first-team training on Monday.

Levy, said: "Jose and his coaching staff have been with us through some of our most challenging times as a club. Jose is a true professional who showed enormous resilience during the pandemic."

"On a personal level I have

enjoyed working with him and regret that things have not worked out as we both had envisaged. He will always be welcome here and we should like to thank him and his coaching staff for their contribution."

A 2-2 Premier League draw at Everton on Friday left the London club in seventh place with six matches to go and looking unlikely to seal a place in the top four.

Spurs have won just one of their last six games across all competitions, the most damning result in that sequence arguably being a 3-0 defeat to Dinamo Zagreb in the Europa League round of 16.

Dinamo were beaten 2-0 in the first leg, but stormed back to complete a remarkable turnaround.

Cracks had started to show away from the pitch as well in recent weeks, Mourinho drawing attention to himself with numerous comments relating to Spurs' performances.

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# UEFA ratifies new CL format

**U**EFA has officially sanctioned a new-look Champions League a day after plans for a controversial breakaway European Super League were announced.

The reforms received unanimous backing from the ECA (European Club Association) Board and the UEFA Club Competitions Committee following what UEFA described as "extensive consultation across the football family".

Under new rules which



were announced on Monday, there will be 36 teams competing in the Champions League instead

of 32, while the present group-stage format - whereby there are eight pools of four -

will be scrapped.

Each team will instead play 10 group games before advancing to a last-16 knockout format. The changes, which have faced criticism, will be implemented for the 2024-25 season onwards. Similar format alterations will also be applied to the Europa League, with six matches in a league stage of the competition.

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said: "This new format supports the status and future of the domestic game

throughout Europe as well. It retains the principle that domestic performance should be the key to qualification and reconfirms the principles of solidarity right through the game and of open competition.

"This evolved format will still keep alive the dream of any team in Europe to participate in the UEFA Champions League thanks to results obtained on the pitch and it will enable long-term viability, prosperity, and growth for everyone in European football, not just a tiny, self-selected cartel.

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