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Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh

Fake reports?

-Senate rejects Tarpeh's update

Weah pays journalist Philip Wesseh's medical bills



Atty. Philip N. Wesseh

-As Publisher Association accompanies him to Ghana

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Continental News

The Nigerian minister haunted by his extremist views

Nigeria's presidency says it "stands behind" an embattled minister facing calls for his resignation after extreme Islamist views he held in the past recently came to light.

Isa Pantami, minister of communications and digital economy, and also a renowned Muslim cleric, expressed views sympathetic to groups such as al-Qaeda and Boko Haram.

In one sermon from the 2000s he said he considered al-Qaeda founder, Osama Bin Laden, a better Muslim than himself, and in another, he said he was happy when infidels were massacred.

Recordings of him expressing these views began circulating on social media last week, leading to calls for his resignation or sacking by President Muhammadu Buhari.

But in its first reaction since the saga began, presidential spokesman Garba Shehu said the minister was being "subject[ed] to a

'cancel campaign'".

"In the 2000s, the minister was a man in his twenties; next year he will be 50. Time has passed, and people and their opinions - often rightly - change", the statement said.

The minister also attempted to renounce his past views at the weekend, telling a local newspaper that some of the comments were based on his

"understanding of religious issues at the time" and that he has changed several positions "based on new evidence and maturity".

But that has not stopped calls for his sacking or resignation with many using the #PantamiMustGo hashtag on Twitter to express concerns over his access to sensitive data as the minister

of communications.

He has also been defended under the #PantamiMustStay hashtag as the issue exposed the religious and ethnic lines in this multi-ethnic country.

What exactly did Mr Pantami say?

There has been a steady stream of new evidence of the views he held in the past and the latest are documents that appeared online on Wednesday.

The documents are purportedly from a 2010 meeting he chaired at the Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), a top Islamic body, where it was agreed that Christians should be prohibited from building churches in city centres across northern Nigeria, which has a majority Muslim population although millions of Christians also live there. Audio and video recordings have also

emerged of Mr Pantami's fiery prayers and sermons at different stages of his career as an imam. In one sermon after there had been a deadly religious conflict and tensions were still high in Shendam, Plateau state, he volunteered to lead Muslims back to their homes, saying that he was willing to die in the process. In a 2006 speech, Mr Pantami publicly offered his condolences after the death of al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In one audio clip, where he talks about the Nigerian army's war against Boko Haram, he appears to be on the verge of tears as he passionately describes the militants as "our Muslim brothers" who did not deserve to be "killed like pigs". In another audio recording, he declares he is always happy when infidels are massacred. He has not denied the authenticity of these texts, audio and video clips. BBC



India's Covid-19 variant detected in Uganda



Uganda has reported its first case of the Indian variant of Covid-19

A sample from the infected person, who is receiving treatment at the Mulago National Referral Hospital in the capital Kampala, was taken on 26 March.

The country has also recorded variants from the UK, South Africa and Nigeria.

Confirmation of the Indian variant comes as India battles a second wave of coronavirus that has devastated its cities, with hospitals running of beds and oxygen and funerals taking place in car parks.

Despite the surge in cases in India, there is not yet enough data to say the Indian variant is a "variant of concern" - a term used to describe the UK, Brazilian and South African variants.

The Executive Director of

the Uganda Virus Institute, Dr Pontiano Kaleebu, said that more emphasis would have to be placed on preventative measures and testing at the country's borders.

Uganda rolled out the first phase of its vaccination campaign in March after receiving 864,000 doses of the AstraZeneca jab through the global-sharing Covax scheme, and an additional 100,000 from India.

Just 304,000 people have so far taken their first dose.

The first phase is aimed at front-line workers - including those in the health and education sectors, the elderly and adults with underlying health conditions.

The country began a phased easing of lockdown restrictions in May last year. Preventative steps, like the wearing of masks and social distancing, are now largely being ignored. BBC

Zimbabweans Take Stock of Abuses During COVID-19 Lockdowns

Human rights groups in Zimbabwe say the government has frequently violated people's basic rights since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The groups presented their findings at a partially virtual meeting with officials in the capital Thursday.

At the meeting, rights groups presented a report they call "The Impact of COVID-19 on Socio-Economic Rights." The report

chronicles how Zimbabwe's government has violated human rights since COVID-19 lockdowns started in March 2020. Calvin Fambirai, executive director of Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights, was one of the speakers. He said the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the gap in medical care between the haves and have-nots in the country.

"The haves were able to secure that equipment and the

bedding facilities in private hospitals whose pricing was far beyond the majority of poor Zimbabweans. The right to health is also another component that relates to torture and inhumane and degrading treatment," said Fambirai.

On a number of occasions, Zimbabwe's doctors and nurses have gone on strike, demanding adequate protective equipment and decent salaries during the coronavirus pandemic. Naoime Chakanya, a researcher at the Labor and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe, said the government must increase salaries of all its employees to motivate them.

"If the government is not doing a good service in terms of providing living wages, it is also increasing its own burden in terms of filling the gap of decent work deficit by providing social protection. So, it is in the best interest of the government to ensure that the majority of workers in the public sector enjoy decent work," said Chakanya. VOA



EDITORIAL

Weah's challenge to officials

OFFICIALS OF THE Weah administration seem to be living deceitful lives with their people, disappointing the President each time he tours the country. Recently in Grand Cape County President Weah frowned at Senator Varney Sherman and other lawmakers of the county for not having a home or a place to host official delegation in the county they represent.

NOW IN GRAND Bassa County, President Weah was not just disappointed but physically upset with county officials, including superintendent and lawmakers, who were elegantly attired, for hosting him in an unkept town hall during a meeting with citizens. The President faced the unpleasant experience as he ended the third leg of his nationwide tour.

MR. WEAH: "LOOK at this, look at this, look at this, look around you, look at this and look at us, look at us (describing how splendidly dressed up they were as compared to the infrastructure they were sitting in and the environment). Sometimes, we should have conscience and be ashamed of ourselves. This place doesn't represent anything. You can't be representing people and bring the President and the entire government here. It is not possible."

MOVING HIS EYES around the hall in which the town hall meeting was being held, he lamented that the place was not fit for such gathering and that even their own dress code contradicted everything.

OFFICIALS OUGHT TO know that reality always contradicts pretense or false life. The fact of the matter is that the Presidents's nationwide did not come as a surprise. It had been planned for 2020, but was postponed because of COVID-19 and other official engagements.

EVEN PRIOR TO the start of the exercise this year, it was formally announced. So we are also surprised that county superintendents and their lawmakers would not prepared adequately to host the President and his entourage. Are Grand Bassa County Superintendent Janjay Vakpah, Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence and her colleague lawmakers from the county saying they couldn't find paint in Buchanan, the provincial capital to give the town hall a facelift for President Weah's meeting with citizens? Quiet disappointing!

LAWMAKERS SHOULD NOT only focus on personal projects in their constituents but also the county they represent, especially, when the President is paying an official visit. He should be received and hosted in line with the esteem ascribes to the Presidency.

LEADERS SHOULD DESIST from dressing up and parading themselves in public shamelessly while the towns, villages, counties and people they represent remain in appalling conditions. This is not leadership but sheer hypocrisy!

FROM RIVER GEE, Grand Cape Mount to Grand Bassa, the story is the same: Neglect and poorly managed infrastructure that does not properly portray the places they represent as leaders. Nevertheless, members of the Liberian Legislature preside over the national budget every year and apportion the national cake, even allotting themselves bigger shares.

IT'S TIME THEY change their leader style by placing the people and places they represent above personal interest to demonstrate the true leadership they ought to be.

COMMENTARY

By Jean Pisani-ferry

Europe Needs a New Fiscal Framework

PARIS - In the mid-1980s, only seven countries had fiscal rules. In 2015, when the International Monetary Fund last counted, 96 did. Most had provisions limiting public debt, budget deficits, or both, and some had additional rules on public expenditures.

This circumscription of fiscal discretion was partly a response to traumatic experiences such as Latin America's "lost decade" following the debt crises of the 1980s; the painful adjustment suffered by countries caught off-guard by rising interest rates in the early 1990s; and the European sovereign-debt crisis of 2010-12. But the adoption of fiscal rules also owed something to growing distrust of fiscal activism.

In 2000, John B. Taylor of Stanford University captured the spirit of the time when he wrote that it is "best to let fiscal policy have its main countercyclical impact through the automatic stabilizers" - in other words, to put it on automatic pilot. The consensus then was that monetary policy is a nimbler and more effective policy tool, because the key decisions are made by an independent central bank and implemented with the stroke of a pen.

Nowhere are fiscal rules as detailed and prescriptive as in the European Union, whose budgetary rulebook is nearly 100 pages. There are good reasons for this. Because euro members share a currency, they cannot inflate away their individual debt burdens. As Paul De Grauwe of the London School of Economics has observed, they are in a position similar to countries that borrow in a foreign currency. Yet excessive public debt results in pressure on partner countries to come to the rescue to avoid severe financial fallout from debt restructuring or, worse, an exit from the currency union. This is what happened with Greece in the 2010s. So there is a real motive for preventing fiscal irresponsibility.

But there are also bad reasons for having codified budgetary behavior so extensively. Germany is traditionally wary of stabilization policy (though not in response to the 2008 financial crisis or the pandemic), and smaller northern European countries are even more fiscally gun-shy. In addition, member states lack mutual trust. As a result, they have piled up a tangle of rules so complex that people in Brussels joke that only one person in the whole European Commission actually understands it all.

But times have changed. For 12 years now, interest rates have been pinned near zero, making a mockery of claims touting monetary policy's effectiveness. Instead of protecting the central bank from fiscal vagaries, the priority in such an environment is to ensure that monetary and fiscal policy function in tandem. Breaking a taboo, Isabel Schnabel, a member of the European Central Bank's Executive Board, has stressed that today's situation requires unconventional monetary policies and unconventional fiscal policies, which should complement one another to protect the economy from large downturns. As outlined in a recent Geneva Report, the long-forgotten concept of a policy mix is back in

fashion.

In parallel, concerns about sovereign solvency have greatly diminished. As former IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard notes, there is no such thing as an unsustainable debt as long as the interest rate remains below the growth rate. In many countries, this has now been the case for a decade; and even in the United States, where bond rates have recently increased, the margin remains wide.

Recognizing the implications of these debt dynamics, US President Joe Biden's administration has lost no time pursuing its fiscal agenda. Whereas the post-2008 US stimulus was too timid, the recently adopted \$1.9 trillion fiscal package, coming on top of trillions of dollars in spending enacted last year under Donald Trump, amounts to massive overkill.

The question now is what Europe will do. In March 2020, it wisely availed itself of an escape clause in its fiscal rulebook, allowing member states "to temporarily depart from the normal budgetary requirements." This exception will likely remain in place for 2022 but, pandemic permitting, will end in 2023. In the meantime, the debate will focus on whether the rules should be reformed before they are reinstated, and - more fundamentally - whether fiscal initiatives should be regarded as a problem or as a solution.

The case for comprehensive reform was strong before the pandemic and has now become overwhelming. The current rules were built for a world that no longer exists. They are opaque, excessively constraining, and reliant on numerical targets that do not make sense in a low-interest-rate environment. Moreover, they are no longer credible. With a debt-to-GDP ratio approaching 160% this year, Italy can scarcely be expected to hit the EU's debt-to-GDP limit of 60%.

Make no mistake: in a monetary union, fiscal responsibility is crucial. The question is not whether member states should be given high standards to meet, but how this should be done. Reformers want to retain the commitment to fiscal discipline but change the yardstick for assessing actual behavior. Others, worried that this commitment would not survive a renegotiation, prefer to tinker on the margin. But sticking to an obsolete commandment out of fear of being unable to define a better one is a formula for undermining trust in the rules altogether.

If there is any silver lining to the COVID-19 crisis, it is that we have been forced to rethink rules that have survived on inertia. Short of the radical reform advocated by some, it is possible to design a fiscal framework that creates more space for fiscal discretion but preserves the essential commitment to responsibility. The first step is to accept that all countries cannot be expected to achieve the same goal. The second is to acknowledge that fiscal discipline must be based on principles and buttressed by well-designed institutions, rather than by rigid numerical targets.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT



Lord, is it the tale of the Toad & Crocodile?

Dear Father,

So wait oo, is it the tale of the Toad and the Crocodile unfolding at the Traditional Council so? Hmmm, just thinking aloud oo.

What do you mean my son?

Oh Father, haven't you heard the tale of the Toad and the Crocodile before? They say when the Toad comes from under the river and tells you that the Crocodile is asleep, you should believe it, because it lives down there with the Crocodile-that heavy gees oo.

Tell me something my son. So what does it has do with the Traditional Council?

Hmmm, haven't you heard how one small boy in the office of one of the Chiefs at the Traditional Council been talking how the Chiefs them collected Uncle Sam money 20,000 each for our Money House to go and print new family money?

You joking my son!

Father, this one that na joke oo. It be serious matter right now as I am writing you na, na. In fact, the particular Chief who is a woman and the big person for four different group but with one agenda fini suspending the boy for one month without pay.

She say the thing the boy talked na bring disgrace to she and her friend them and for that he suspended for one month without pay.

But wait oo my son did she deny it?

Father, me I na hear her say it na true. All I heard was that the thing the boy talked na bring disgrace to she and her friend them so she punishing him.

You joking right?

Aah, Father, da this kina thing I coming joke with? But anyway the other chief them say that lie-hayaka.

But have you heard anything from that big mouth chief who say he went over there to carry light to the place?

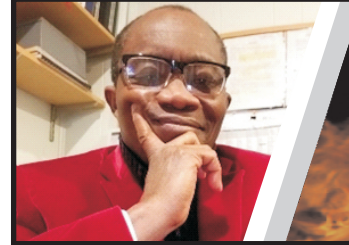
No, Father, in fact, it looks like the light bulb is losing energy small, small oo. But you know those chiefs Father, they will never come up to say they received money.

The bad news for them is that the person who talking plenty work with them and know how they can cross some of their deals there.

So like the Toad from the River, when the young man tells you that the Chief them collected 20,000 of Uncle Sam's money each, you should not doubt it, because he lives and work there with them.

But my son, ehn they say, the Paramount Chief asked them to look into the young man story?

Father, leave that thing ya, ehn that jus to save their faces. Me I believe in the Toad and Crocodile story at least to a large extent. Like in this very case, the story hold some water. Some of the people jus came from voting, what do you expect, they need some of their money back na.



LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

Should President Weah continue to be apprehensive over CDC's massive senatorial defeat, or simply ignore it completely?

Political Hot-Fire asks: "Should President Weah continue to be apprehensive over CDC's massive senatorial defeat, or simply ignore it completely?"

The writer is aware that CDC's Stewarts would refer to him as being stupid or has no sense of direction. But the fact of the matter is that the senatorial results are self-evident of president Weah's systematic declining football popularity that took him to the majesty-high of the Liberian politics, where he now served as President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

However, President Weah's well-deserved football popularity was not the only factor that gave him the Presidency. Two other political parties stood with the CDC to capture the government in the form of a coalition led by Alex Tyler (Liberia People Democratic Party (LPDP)); and the National Patriotic Party under Jewel Howard Taylor. These two parties helped to enforce CDC's overwhelming success through its "Coalition for Democratic Change."

But the political foundation of LPDP and NPP in the coalition is seemingly cracking at a disproportionate level, which should by and large make Pres. Weah apprehensive due to the just-ended CDC massive senatorial defeat which is a political referendum on Pres. Weah's if he chooses to run for 2nd term in 2023.

Pres. Weah should also be apprehensive for three reasons: First, either the coalition base did not support any of his senatorial candidates, or the coalition members simply refused to vote for them either the coalition leadership was simply unhappy over the limited political pie Pres. Weah has to offer them and keep the most lucrative jobs for CDC partisans.

Second, President Weah may have turned his blind eyes on everything they agreed on or he simply doesn't respect the power of the coalition anymore. Third, either President Weah is now overconfident at this time in his presidency after mastering and understanding the Presidency, or he no longer needs any type of political expertise going into the 2023 election.

But the writings are very clear on the wall. The parties that make up the coalition are the same parties that may undermine the CDC in the 2023 elections for three reasons: First, they may feel Pres. Weah used them for his political aggrandizement at their peril. Second, they may also feel that President Weah dumped them and deceived them by denying them lucrative jobs.

Third, the coalition parties would feel that they have nothing to lose, but Pres. Weah has all to lose, because if the CDC is yearning for 2nd term in 2023, with or without any coalition which in my mind is very dangerous tactics, that could possibly be the end of CDC political existence. But the LPDP and the NPP are not sleeping as well. They could be in search of another political opportunity to build a much stronger coalition that may inevitably endanger Pres. Weah chances in 2023.

Other CDC partisans think that Pre. Weah has a very strong political popularity from his football career days which is still active to earn him the 2023 presidential victory whether coalition or no coalition parties. Three reasons account for the President's confidence come 2023. First, Pres. Weah did employ an array of election Commissioners that can easily twist their hands in the direction of President Weah in the 2023 presidential election and make him the winner. Second, Pres. Weah did employ all the election Commissioners who should also return similar favor in kind by making him the winner in the 2023 election. Third, African governments are very notorious when it comes to cheating and nothing can ever happen to them.

Aside from the coalition fallen apart due to Pres. Weah's own political maneuvering capabilities, the ruling CDC has its own bad political odors heading into the 2023 Presidential election could also affect Pres. Weah directly. The first bad political odor is associated with the deplorable economic status of the nation where Pres. Weah has put the economics of the nation in the charge of his friends, who are simply not doing well? Pres. Weah has received calls from oppositions to replace unqualified Liberians with qualified Liberians but he doesn't care. This could cause a problem for Pres. Weah in 2023 Another bad odor has to do with the CDC party itself.

The party membership will need to be revamped to be reflective of a more responsible personality who do not subscribe to militants' ideologies. The CDC should be a respected ruling political party in Liberia, but it is not. There are many level-headed Liberians who are finding it difficult, if not impossible to take up active membership within the CDC political entity due to the type of characters who are currently manning the CDC.

Political-Hot Fire is told that the CDC is run largely by boys who are militants and who make militants' utterances and dress like militants who are ready to kill. Some responsible Liberians at home and abroad argued that the CDC doesn't have a well-structural layer of functionaries, nor does it have well-educated professionals and political technocrats to man its day-to-day political affairs or guide its strategic planning and actionable goals.

Many level headed Liberians in CDC led-government are often ashamed to associate themselves in public with the CDC party officials who are just violence oriented according to one inside source familiar with the CDC inner working. These are some of the rationales while Pres. Weah has to be apprehensive in the 2023 election for 2nd term.

**NATIONWIDE ADDRESS ON SUSPICIOUS DEATHS AND VIOLENCE
DELIVERED BY ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS, JR.**

**POLITICAL LEADER
ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL CONGRESS
April 27, 2021**

My people:

I know many of you are worried about some of the things going on in the country. I am too. The so-called mysterious deaths of Liberians is troubling. The other day, I returned to Monrovia to news of another "mysterious death". The man's name was Mr. Anthony Johnson. From the pictures we have seen, it is hard not to believe that Mr. Johnson was killed. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Under this government, the "mysterious deaths" are plenty! We have to ask ourselves; how many times are we going to be expressing sympathies to families for the mysterious deaths of their loved ones? How can anyone in our country feel safe when the government cannot explain how people are disappearing and dying?

When a government is silent, or cannot seriously investigate and convincingly explain the deaths of people, that government is actually encouraging criminals to continue to kill people. This threatens the lives of everyone. This is not how serious governments behave. It is not how governments show they care about the lives of their people.

Today, in many places in and around Monrovia, in the day or night, people are scared to walk the streets. Communities are unsafe. Drugs and crimes are taking over our streets and neighborhoods. The people who should be helping to protect our people are themselves helping to sell the drugs to our children. The people who should be fighting crimes are looking the other way while people are being robbed and harmed, and while armed robbers are breaking into homes terrorizing sleeping families.

When President Weah was asked about the "mysterious deaths" and the fear people are now living under, he said people should go and buy CCTV. What kind of President tells families who are crying for the wicked killing of their relatives to go buy CCTV? How many Liberians can buy CCTV? Many Liberians are not working. Those who are lucky to be working, the government has cut their salaries so much that there is barely anything left to do anything, let alone buy CCTV! For many civil servants, the monthly cost of transportation is more than their harmonized salaries. Everyday in the life of ordinary Liberians is a struggle just to eat, or to pay rent, or to pay school fees. When someone gets sick, the whole family is likely to breakdown because they can hardly afford to pay the hospital bill.

Maybe some of the President's friends and officials can buy CCTV. But it is not the President's friends and officials that are dying mysteriously, or being harmed, robbed and are scared to walk the streets or get in a taxi cab at night. It is ordinary Liberians that are now living through this hell. And they cannot afford CCTV.

Governments have a duty to protect everyone - those who can afford and those who cannot. Because every life is precious.

All over the world, the first thing every government tries to not fail in doing is protecting the lives of its people. Even on this one, somehow, President Weah's Government is failing, again. My people, I don't know how, but today, I have come to beg you to please protect yourselves. Get home early. Lock your doors at night. Look out for each other. Do your best to be safe. From the bottom of my heart, I promise you - we will work as hard as we can to make President Weah a one-time President.

And when we do, we will end this mysterious deaths business in our country by going back and investigating all of these deaths, from Mr. Matthew Innis to Mr. Anthony Johnson. Anyone we find to be involved - big hand or small hand - we will arrest you, try you, and punish you severely, in keeping with the law.

The other thing that worries me is the confusion over land business. Such confusion can threaten our peace. I am still trying to talk to some of the leaders and elders of the country to really understand what needs to be done so that all of our people, everywhere in Liberia, can enjoy living anywhere in Liberia.

The day we start to feel that we cannot live together because we are not all of the same tribe or religion, that same day we will not be Liberia. Because Liberia is really the coming together of all of us. Our tribes may be different. Our religions may be different. Our political parties may be different. But it is really all of these differences that make us to be Liberians, and to belong to the same country.

I know there are plenty things that are wrong with our country. To be fair, this government did not do all the things that are wrong with our country. They met some of the wrong things there. But they have spoiled the wrong things even more. And they are showing us everyday that either they are not able to fix it, or don't even know how to fix it. For sure, they are not even letting themselves try to fix it.

And so, here again, I have come to ask all of our people to do all we can to accept each other. Let all of us try to keep our peace. Like I said, this government time will end in three years. As soon as they leave, we will look seriously into all of the major land palaver in the country to find a workable and lasting solution to them. Our interest is that all of our people will live and prosper together as citizens of one nation.

Lastly, many of you will remember that at the end of March, ordinary people protested in Maryland County. The protest was mostly led by women. Again, our government was slow and careless to respond to the killing of a son of the county. Marylanders are peaceful people. But as is the case with these kinds of protests, some people wrongfully engaged in the destruction of properties.

We condemned the violence, called for calm and appealed to our people to wait for redress to their grievances. Our people listened. But today, they are still waiting. Again, the real reason our people protested was that their government was slow and careless to respond. This led to frustration that the government does not act to protect all of its people, or to punish all who commit crimes, in the same way.

When it comes to the law, governments should not be picking and choosing, or letting the people believe that it is doing so. Governments have a duty to act fair and to be just to everyone. When a government does not act this way, overtime, the people learn not to trust the government. And this can lead to frustration and people taking the law into their own hands.

You would think that by now this government would be trying to show that they understand this. Actually, they don't.

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
(Petroleum Products)**

IFB No.:UL/SBA/NCB/001/20/21

- The University of Liberia through the Government of the Republic of Liberia has received budgetary allotment from the National Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply portion of it towards the procurement of Petroleum Products.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible registered bidders for the supply of Petroleum Products for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA) and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
- Specifications and Quantity:

LOT # 1:

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE	CONTRACT TYPE
Diesel	AGO	1 gallon	COUPON	FrameWork Contract
Gasoline	PMS	1 gallon	COUPON	Contract

LOT# 2:

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	SPECS	QUANTITY	MODE	CONTRACT TYPE
Diesel	AGO	1 gallon	Pump & Truck Supply	FrameWork Contract


- Qualification requirements include:
 - Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least five (5) clients.
 - Valid GOL Business Registration and Tax-Clearance with Business Activities Code No. G4661
 - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registry
 - List of stations or sub-stations within Monrovia
 - At least one(1) station along the Red-light to Fendall highway(Applicable only to LOT#:2)
- A set of bidding document in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee: US\$50(Fifty United States Dollars beginning April 26-May 24, 2021 from 8:AM- 4:PM.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing declaration valid for 90 days after the opening of bids.
- Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm May 24, 2021 and bids will be opened in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:
In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS"
REF: IFB No.:UL/SBA/NCB/001/020/021
Below is the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

**Procurement Department
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus
Liberia**

Note: that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: 
DIRECTOR
Procurement Department
University of Liberia

Approved: 
VP/ADMINISTRATION
University of Liberia

MONOPRIX SUPERMARKET BENSON STREET, CONGO TOWN, AND POINTFOUR

MONOPRIX SUPERMARKET

Vacancies announcement--- Assistant Branch Manager

Requirements

Bachelor's Degree in Business Management
Minimum 5 years of Experience in Sales and Marketing in Administration at a reputable institution.
And at least to have 4 years of working experiences in supermarket as a manager with a track records and references.

We need a bond check of 10,000.00 (ten thousand united states dollars) from any bank in Liberia.
The applicant should have computer knowledge
We need five references or letters of recommendation from people we can trust in societies.

Vacancy announcement supervisor position

Requirement
Bachelor degree in Public Administration and Management
Applicant should have minimum 6 years working experience as supervisor to any reputable supermarket.
Applicant should have a very good communication skill and human relationship as well.
We also need a bond check of \$10,000.00 (ten thousand united states dollars) from any bank in Liberia.
We also need five letters of recommendation from trusted people in our society.

All applicate should please deliver his or her application at Tiba Industrial group Gardnerville Somalia Drive
The deadline for all applicants is on the 7th of May 2021

I say this because out of the protest, 34 Marylanders have been arrested and jailed. None has been formally charged. Some have been in jail since April 1. And so, the Liberian Government is reacting to a protest which is really questioning its ability to uphold the law by actually breaking the law.

Well, we cannot allow this to continue. It is wrong for anyone to break the law. And it is wrong for the government to break the law. When a government does not respect the law and the rights of its people, the country will break down.

And so, I am calling for the immediate release of all persons who have been jailed, in connection to the protest, since the last 28 days, without a charge.

I am also calling for the immediate lifting of the curfew. Except to unfairly punish our people, there is now no reason to keep our people under curfew, which is causing more hardships. Once again, my people, I ask all of you to please keep yourselves safe. Hold on -real change is coming. Liberia deserves better.

May God continue to bless our nation.

I thank you.

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14-year-old student takes marijuana to school

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Fourteen years old Student Melvin Brooks was caught early Thursday morning, April 29, 2021 smoking marijuana in an abandoned building near his school campus. Student Brooks is a 7th Grader at the JS Pratt High School in Harper, Electoral District#1, Maryland County.

Township Commissioner Mr. Jonathan Harmer, narrates that the minor was caught in the unwholesome act along with a friend, who he didn't identify.

Commissioner Harmer says while on his way to work

teenagers in the county, so there is a need for national government to act effectively in order to arrest those who normally traffic harmful substances in Liberia that are destroying the youth of the nation gradually.

Commissioner Harmer notes although there are straight laws on the books to deter perpetrators from engaging into such unlawful act, but they are yet still happening.

He says with the increase in the number of youths getting involved in such harmful situation, government needs to be more practical, robust and take drastic actions or decisions to prevent such from happening,

"It is so embarrassing this morning to see my student being caught right-handed in such unlawful act especially, with his age and class."

He said in line with the Student's Handbook on campus, the administration will institute appropriate punishment befitting Student Melvin's offense and also threatened expulsion if he (Melvin) failed to bring his parents on campus.

Meanwhile, Student Melvin Brooks, who spoke to this paper early Thursday morning, confirmed the act and apologized to his parents and the school.

The minor disclosed this is not his first time taking the substance, disclosing that his elder brother introduced him to it at age 12 in 2019 in J. Las Cuz Community in Harper, Maryland County where he currently resides.

Melvin continued that he usually buys a parcel of marijuana for 50 Liberian Dollars from a male dealer in his community, take it to his brother and they smoke.

Though he didn't disclosed name of the trafficker to enable the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency make arrest, the JS Pratt High School in Harper had suspended three students before for similar bad habit.

The issue of students smoking harmful drugs is worrisome and alarming, as was highlighted recently during the third phase of President Weah's nationwide tour and engagement with citizens in Margibi, Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties.

The President challenged Liberians to be good citizens by exposing and reporting such practices to relevant authorities of government for prompt intervention.

Meanwhile, the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency has launched an investigation into circumstances that led little Marvel smoking marijuana near his school campus with a friend. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Student Melvin Brooks

early Thursday morning at about 8:46 am, he was astonished to see the two male students of the JS Pratt High School inside an old house molding and smoking the harmful substance.

"I rushed on them immediately when I saw and identified what exactly they were doing. I was shocked and embarrassed with the marijuana smell and I quickly reported them to their school authorities, including the media", he discloses.

According to him, the situation is not the first of its kind especially, among

noting today is little Melvin but tomorrow it could be someone else's child or children.

The Acting Principal of the JS Pratt High School, Mr. Markenzine Blackmon thanked the Township Commissioner for arresting Student Melvin.

"Thank God he has been caught by a prominent citizen here in Maryland County, this is what we have been going through here on the campus as administrators", Principal Markenzine said.

He said whenever students are observed involving in such habit by their fellow students, they often argued and denied.

Brown cautions Liberians on 2023

Former Liberian Ambassador to the United Nations is challenging Liberians to focus on making right choice for the presidency in 2023.

Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown, II also a former Minister of Information from the former Sirleaf administration, laments if Liberians disregarded national debate and educational standard of presidential candidates during the 2017 elections, but expect that miracles will take place in their lives and the country

opposition Liberty Party. He died in 2020 after battling illness.

Ambassador Brown notes that Liberians usually prefer doing the wrong things but expect good things to happen for them, which according to him, does not work in that manner.

He stresses that if Liberians made bad decision of electing incompetent and corrupt leadership, the society will be corrupted with poor governing system.

He warns the hardship of the people will increase as the results of bad economic policy



Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown, II

than they should think again.

Speaking Tuesday this week at the launch of the Charles Walker Brumskine Memorial Lecture Series held in the Auditorium of the University of Liberia on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, he said when people elect leadership that lacks experience about governing system, they will suffer the sequences of their decision, which is affecting everybody in the country.

The late Cllr. Brumskine was a former presidential candidate and founder of the

under the current administration.

Browne notes the lack of respect for rule of law by those at the helm of power undermines the forward march of the governance structure any nation.

He emphasizes that Liberians have seen the effect of bad and corrupt leadership and hopes this time around; they will be prepared to correct their mistake in 2023 to avoid further hardship in the nation. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Speaker extols Swedish Amb. Ingrid Wetterqvist

-As she concludes service in Liberia

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has extolled the Ambassador of Sweden accredited to Liberia Madam Ingrid Wetterqvist as she ends her service in Liberia.

collective records of assisting Liberia significantly, counting the Government of Liberia's efforts in rule of law, infrastructure, good governance, education and

European partners in Liberia as they buttressed the Liberian Government's development agenda.

Amb. Wetterqvist discloses that her service in Liberia is expected to end soon, and the Kingdom of Sweden has designated her successor, adding that she's expected to depart Liberia in August of this year.

The Swedish Envoy mentioned that her government remains committed to the bilateral relationship with Liberia, and has thanked the government and people of Liberia for their resilience during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amb. Wetterqvist also expresses her regrets over the recent violence in Maryland County which countenanced the vandalization of law enforcement facilities.

She then extends her consolation to Speaker Chambers for the arson attack on his residence in his native Pleebo Sodoken District, Maryland County.

The Swedish Ambassador calls on Liberians to always seek their redress through the law in any event as the case may be in Maryland County or any other place within Liberia.--Press release



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

According to a press release issued Thursday, 29 April in Monrovia, the Speaker says the Kingdom of Sweden is one of those countries in the European Union with direct and

health, among others.

During a working visit to Speaker Chambers' Office at the Capitol Building, the Swedish Ambassador said she's pleased about the activities of the Swedish Government and its

ABIC holds dialogue for over 300 disadvantaged youths

By Lewis S. Teh

In a frantic effort to help buttress government's efforts in catering to disadvantaged youths also referred to here as Zogoes, the Angie Brooks International Center for Girls Empowerment (ABIC) has held a one-day urban peace dialogue aimed at providing opportunities for disadvantaged youths.

According to ABIC, the one-day urban peace dialogue was intended to bring disadvantaged youths together to restore their lost hope that they can still achieve their dreams of whoever they wanted to become in the future.

Addressing participants at the start of the peace dialogue held at the Paynesville City Hall recently, ABIC Board Chair Madam Olubanke King-Akerele extolled the organizers for the tremendous work they did in bracing the storm to go in

various ghettos to encourage the disadvantaged youths to form part of the dialogue.

She said her passion to rebuild Liberia through skills training can't be over emphasized, adding that she developed her passion at the time she held several key

positions not only in Liberia, but in several African countries.

The former Liberian Foreign Minister says it's against this backdrop that the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



GOL launches HISWA Liberia project

By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Institute for Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) has launched the Harmonizing Improving Statics in West Africa (HISWA) Liberia project which is aimed at supporting statistics for development, planning, strengthening and putting Liberia on the right trajectory in the sub region.

During the program held at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town Thursday, 29 April, LISGIS Director General Prof. Francis F. Wreh described the launch of the HISWA project as a milestone in the history of Liberia, saying this is an important day for Liberia.

According to Prof. Wreh, this project will help the government meet all of its statistics problems.

He applauds the tireless efforts of the Legislature especially for seeing the need

She emphasizes the importance of statistics to national decision making, but notes that Liberia as a nation is lagging behind due to limited budgetary allocation to conduct most of the relevant statistical studies and produce indicators that are needed for decision making.

Assistant Finance Minister Benedict Korlubah who proxied for Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah says in a keynote address that statistics are meaningful to policy making, adding that "if we don't have quality data our decisions we need at the policy level wouldn't be evidence based."

He however says efficient resource mobilizations are also key in having quality data, adding that the importance of having quality data is helpful in providing effective public service delivery.

"It was on the foundation of the HISWA and other data



to speedily ratify the implementation of the project.

The LISGIS boss further extols the staffers at his institution for their efforts in making sure that the project is fully launched.

"Today following this launch, we have entered into a new challenging phase. This isn't going to be easy. However the lesson learned during the first project implementation will serve as a good base to perform on this new project," Prof. Wreh continues.

In overview of the project, Madam Joyce Nyenpan Ngafuan says the HISWA project is being implemented in line with the framework of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) developed by LISGIS with the help of development partners covering the period of 2017-2021.

sources that were used to develop the objective and the goals of the PAPD [Pro - Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development]," he says.

According to Mr. Korlubah, the goal of the PAPD is to reduce the regional disparity from the HISWA, realizing that poverty was increasing in six regions thereby creating the PAPD to provide greater income in the other five regions.

The launch of the HISWA was held under the theme: "Supporting Statistics for Development Planning," and brought together officials of government from line ministries and agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, donor partners, student groups from the Federation of Liberian Youth and Liberia National Students Union, among others.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

« Enseigner n'est pas un boulot, mais une vocation », le Ministre Libérien de l'Éducation

Le Ministre Libérien de l'éducation du Libéria, le professeur D. Ansu Sonii, a décrit la profession d'enseignant comme une vocation et non un simple boulot, soulignant que l'enseignement va au-delà du simple travail.

« Le problème qu'on a dans ce pays par rapport à l'enseignement est que les gens croient d'une manière ou d'une autre que l'enseignement n'est rien d'autre qu'un travail. Moi, je catégorise l'enseignement comme une vocation. L'enseignement va au-delà du travail. C'est à grâce à l'enseignant que toute la civilisation a transité d'hier à aujourd'hui... », a déclaré le ministre Sonii qui s'exprimait lors de l'inauguration du nouveau centre de l'Alliance Française sur 94 UN Drive, Mamba Point à Monrovia, le jeudi 22 avril 2021.

Jetant un regard rétrospectif sur l'histoire récente du Libéria, le temps les Libériens cherchaient des refuges dans les pays voisins, en particulier les pays francophones comme la Guinée, la Côte d'Ivoire et le Sénégal, il a dit que les libériens ont souffert parce

qu'ils ne comprenaient pas un mot du français.

Soulignant l'importance de la langue française, la ministre Sonii a rappelé que pendant la guerre, la plupart des Libériens ont souffert de la barrière linguistique, « parce que des endroits qu'ils auraient pu traverser facilement, ils ne l'ont pas pu. Surtout lorsque vous rencontrez quelqu'un de l'autre côté de la frontière, qui ne comprend pas votre langue ; comment communiquez-vous ? Cette personne de l'autre côté de

la frontière n'est pas dans le besoin ; c'est vous qui voyagez qui êtes dans le besoin. Comment exprimez-vous ce besoin ? Ça c'est une barrière linguistique.

Il a souligné la nécessité pour les Libériens de prendre la langue française au sérieux, tout en regrettant cependant le manque d'enseignants de français formés professionnellement au Libéria, notant que la majorité

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Acting Minister of Public Works, Ruth Coker-Collins speaking at the launch

L'opposition se dit confiante que le président Weah ne sera pas réélu pour un second mandat

Alors qu'il reste encore deux ans pour aller aux élections présidentielle et législatives, la tension politique est déjà montée d'un cran dans le pays, pouvoir et opposition se regardant en chien de faillance et tentant de s'attirer les faveurs des électeurs.

Le président George Manneh Weah lui-même a

visité la plupart des 15 comtés du Libéria pour remercier les citoyens de l'avoir élu en 2017 et mis en œuvre des plans de développement qui pourraient encore séduire le peuple.

Déjà, M. Weah a commencé à recevoir l'assurance des chefs traditionnels et des autorités locales qu'il a toujours leur confiance pour la présidence, même pour un second mandat.

Mais le Congrès national alternatif accuse l'administration Weah d'incompétence, de complaisance et de corruption, promettant d'empêcher le président d'obtenir un second mandat en 2023.

« Du fond du cœur, je vous promets - nous travaillerons aussi dur que possible pour faire du président Weah un président à un seul mandat », a promis le leader politique de l'ANC mardi 27 avril dans un message à la nation.

Le discours s'est concentré sur un large éventail de questions, y compris la vague de morts mystérieuses qui ont caractérisé l'administration au cours des quatre dernières années, soutenues par un manque apparent de volonté politique de poursuivre les auteurs de ces crimes, ce qui a déclenché une série de manifestations. D'autres préoccupations sont l'insécurité et les conflits fonciers.

« Et quand nous le ferons, nous mettrons fin à cette mystérieuse affaire de morts dans notre pays en retournant

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Éditorial

Le président Weah est dégoûté

Les fonctionnaires de l'administration Weah semblent tromper le peuple et le président qui s'en rend compte au fur et à mesure qu'il visite le pays.

Récemment, dans le comté de Grand Cape, le président Weah a été désagréablement surpris en se rendant compte que le sénateur Varney Sherman et d'autres législateurs du comté n'ont pas de domicile ou de lieu pour accueillir une délégation officielle dans le comté qu'ils représentent.

Maintenant dans le comté de Grand Bassa, le président Weah n'était pas que déçu, il était littéralement bouleversé par le fait que les responsables du comté, y compris le surintendant et les législateurs, n'avaient aucun lieu pour le recevoir à part une mairie mal tenue. Il a terminé la troisième étape de sa tournée nationale déçue.

M. Weah : « Regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez autour de vous, regardez ceci et regardez-nous, regardez-nous (décrivant à quel point ils étaient magnifiquement habillés par rapport à l'infrastructure dans laquelle ils étaient assis et l'environnement).

Parfois, il faut que nous ayons une conscience et ayons honte de nous-même. Cet endroit ne représente rien. Vous ne pouvez pas être les représentants des gens et recevoir le Président et l'ensemble du gouvernement ici. Ce n'est pas possible ».

Jetant un regard autour de la salle dans laquelle se tenait la réunion, il a déploré que l'endroit ne soit pas adapté à un tel rassemblement et que même leur propre vêtement contredisait tout.

Les fonctionnaires doivent savoir que la réalité contredit toujours la fausseté. La vérité est que la tournée nationale du président n'a pas été une surprise. Elle était prévue pour 2020, mais elle a été reportée en raison du COVID-19 et d'autres engagements officiels.

Même avant le début de cette tournée cette année, elle avait été officiellement annoncée. Nous sommes donc également surpris que les surintendants de comté et les législateurs ne se soient pas suffisamment préparés à accueillir le président et son entourage. Le surintendant du comté de Grand Bassa,

Janjay Vakpah, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence et ses collègues législateurs du comté veulent-ils nous dire qu'ils n'ont pas trouvé de peinture à Buchanna, la capitale provinciale, pour donner à l'hôtel de ville une cure de jeunesse pour la réunion du président Weah avec les citoyens ? Comme c'est décevant !

Les législateurs ne devraient pas se concentrer sur leurs projets personnels seulement, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leurs électeurs, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leur comté qu'ils représentent, en particulier lorsque le président effectue une visite officielle. Il doit être reçu et hébergé dans le respect et l'estime réservés à la présidence.

À quoi bon de se vêtir très élégamment et se promener partout pendant que les villes, les villages, les comtés et les personnes qu'ils représentent restent dans des conditions épouvantables. Ce n'est pas du leadership mais de l'hypocrisie !

River Gee, Grand Cape Mount et Grand Bassa, c'est la même histoire : négligence et infrastructures mal gérées et délabrées au point qu'on a l'impression qu'elles ne sont pas des lieux qu'ils représentent en tant que leaders. Pourtant, les membres du pouvoir législatif libérien décident chaque année du budget national et distribuent le gâteau national, s'attribuant même des parts plus importantes.

Il est temps qu'ils changent leur style de leadership en plaçant les personnes et les lieux qu'ils représentent au-dessus de leurs intérêts personnels pour démontrer le véritable leadership qu'on attend d'eux.

Français

« Enseigner n'est pas un boulot, »

des enseignants de français qui évoluent dans les écoles sont ceux qui avaient été contraints de parler français pendant les crises et qui enseignent désormais sans qu'ils aient une formation formelle à la matière.

Exprimant son inquiétude face au fait que le français est négligé au Libéria, il a dit « maintenant que les crises sont terminées, comment le Libéria survivra-t-il au milieu des nations qui comprennent ce que nous disons tandis que nous ne comprenons pas ce qu'elles disent ». Le ministre Sonii s'est toutefois dit optimiste quant à la réouverture de l'institut de l'Alliance Française qui permettra de former des professeurs de français pour le Libéria, soulignant que le président George Weah « parle bien la langue française et comprend ce qu'il (Weah) dit, parce que certaines personnes parlent mais elles ne comprennent pas ce qu'elles disent. »

Auparavant, le nouvel ambassadeur de France accrédité à Monrovia, SE Michael Roux, a déclaré que les activités de l'institution française, l'Alliance Française, offriront de nouvelles opportunités aux jeunes libériens d'étudier, de voyager, de faire des affaires et de travailler à l'étranger dans les pays francophones.

S.E. Michael Roux a indiqué que l'Alliance française fournirait des cours de français

intensifs aux étudiants libériens qui souhaitent étudier dans les pays francophones avant de quitter le Libéria, ajoutant que le gouvernement français, par le biais de l'Agence française de développement (AFD), a accordé des bourses d'études à quarante (40) étudiants libériens pour faire des études dans divers domaines à l'Institut polytechnique Houphouët Boigny à Yamoussoukro, en Côte d'Ivoire, mais ces étudiants ont été contraints de suivre des cours intensifs de français pendant six à 12 mois avant de commencer leurs études proprement dites.

Ainsi, avec la réouverture de l'Alliance Française ici, les étudiants susceptibles de bénéficier d'une bourse d'études dans les pays francophones peuvent désormais suivre ces formations intensives de français ici avant leur départ.

Selon lui, de nombreux autres pays francophones, comme le Maroc, proposent des bourses pour les étudiants libériens.

Le diplomate française en outre révélé que des négociations sont actuellement en cours pour offrir des cours de français aux forces armées du Libéria, les soldats libériens étant désormais impliqués dans des missions de maintien de la paix à travers le monde, comme c'est le cas pour la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (MINUSMA), et d'autres sont affectés aux différentes frontières avec la Guinée et la Côte d'Ivoire, deux pays francophones voisins.

L'opposition se dit confiante

et en enquêtant sur tous ces décès, de M. Matthew Innis à M. Anthony Johnson. Toute personne que nous sera impliquée - grande ou petite main - sera arrêtée, jugée et vous punie sévèrement, conformément à la loi », a-t-il promis.

Le chef de l'ANC a qualifié de troublantes les morts mystérieuses des Libériens sous cerégime. Il a mis en garde : « Mon peuple, je ne sais pas comment, mais aujourd'hui, je suis venu vous implorer de bien vouloir vous protéger. Rentrez tôt à la maison. Verrouillez vos portes la nuit. Faites attention les uns les autres. Faites de votre mieux pour être en sécurité. »

Selon lui, lorsqu'un gouvernement est silencieux, ou ne peut pas enquêter sérieusement et expliquer de manière convaincante la mort des innocents, ce gouvernement encourage en fait les criminels à continuer à tuer des gens.

Cependant, il a reconnu que l'administration Weah ne peut être totalement responsable

de tous les torts que le Libéria a subis, affirmant qu'ils y ont rencontré certaines des mauvaises choses, mais qu'ils ont gâché encore plus les mauvaises choses.

« Et donc, là encore, je suis venu demander à tous nos gens de faire tout ce qui est en leur pouvoir pour s'accepter les uns les autres. Essayons tous de maintenir notre paix. Comme je l'ai dit, ce gouvernement prendra fin dans trois ans. Dès leur départ, nous examinerons sérieusement tous les principaux problèmes fonciers du pays pour y trouver une solution viable et durable. Notre intérêt est que toutes nos populations vivent et prospèrent ensemble en tant que citoyens d'une seule nation », a-t-il promis en outre. Cependant, des observateurs politiques pensent qu'empêcher M. Weah d'obtenir un second mandat sera une bataille rude pour l'opposition, car les dirigeants des quatre partis qui composent la coalition de l'opposition semblent ne pas parler d'une même voix en raison des ambitions politiques de chacun d'entre eux.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jean Pisani-ferry

L'Europe doit redéfinir son cadre budgétaire

PARIS - Seuls six pays disposaient de règles budgétaires au milieu des années 1980. Au dernier comptage du Fonds monétaire international, en 2015, ils étaient 96. La plupart s'étaient dotés de dispositions visant à limiter la dette publique, le déficit budgétaire, ou les deux, et certains de règles additionnelles d'encadrement des dépenses publiques.

Cette volonté d'endiguer le pouvoir discrétionnaire a certainement été l'effet d'expériences traumatisantes : la "décennie perdue" en Amérique latine qui a suivi une série de crises de la dette dans les années 1980, l'ajustement douloureux subi par les pays pris au dépourvu par la hausse des taux d'intérêt au début des années 1990, ou la crise européenne des dettes souveraines de 2010-2012.

Mais l'attrait pour les règles provient également d'une méfiance à l'égard de l'activisme budgétaire. En 2000, John Taylor, de l'université de Stanford, a bien saisi l'esprit du temps lorsqu'il a écrit qu'il était "préférable de laisser la politique budgétaire jouer son rôle contra-cyclique principalement par le biais des stabilisateurs automatiques", en d'autres termes, de la mettre en pilotage automatique. Le consensus de l'époque était que la politique monétaire est un outil plus agile et plus efficace, car les décisions sont prises par une banque centrale indépendante et mises en œuvre d'un simple trait de plume.

Ces règles ne sont nulle part aussi détaillées et prescriptives que dans l'Union européenne, dont le règlement budgétaire compte près de 100 pages. Il y a de bonnes raisons à cela. Parce qu'ils partagent leur monnaie avec d'autres, les membres de l'euro ne peuvent pas réduire le poids de leur dette en jouant sur l'inflation. Comme l'a fait remarquer avec perspicacité Paul De Grauwe, de la London School of Economics, c'est comme si ces États empruntaient dans une monnaie étrangère. Or une dette publique excessive pousse les pays partenaires à venir à la rescousse plutôt que de devoir faire face aux retombées financières de la restructuration de la dette ou, pire, de la sortie de l'union monétaire. C'est ce qui s'est passé avec la Grèce dans les années 2010. La raison d'être d'une prévention de l'irresponsabilité budgétaire est incontestable.

Mais la codification extensive du comportement budgétaire provient aussi de mauvaises raisons. L'Allemagne est traditionnellement méfiante à l'égard de politiques de stabilisation (ce qui ne l'a pas empêché de réagir vigoureusement à la crise financière, puis à la crise sanitaire), et les petits pays d'Europe du Nord le sont encore plus. En outre, les États membres de l'UE ne se font pas confiance. Ils ont donc empilé les réglementations, au point que la plaisanterie à Bruxelles est qu'une seule personne au siège de la Commission européenne maîtrise la complexité qui en découle.

Les temps ont cependant changé. Depuis douze ans, les taux d'intérêt monétaires sont bloqués à un niveau proche de zéro, ce qui discrédite la célèbre efficacité de la politique monétaire. Plutôt que de protéger la banque centrale d'éventuels divagations budgétaires, la priorité dans un tel environnement est de faire en sorte que politique monétaire et la politique budgétaire puissent fonctionner en tandem. Brisant un tabou, Isabel Schnabel, membre du Directoire de la Banque centrale européenne, a souligné que la situation exigeait à la fois des politiques monétaires et budgétaires non-conventionnelles, et qu'elles devaient se compléter l'une-l'autre en vue de protéger l'économie contre des épisodes récessifs importants. Comme l'expose un récent rapport de Genève, le concept longtemps oublié de policy mix est de nouveau d'actualité.

Parallèlement, les inquiétudes concernant la solvabilité des États se sont fortement atténuées. Comme l'a souligné Olivier Blanchard, l'ancien économiste en chef du FMI, aucune dette n'est insoutenable tant que le taux d'intérêt reste inférieur au taux de croissance. Telle est la situation depuis une décennie et même aux États-Unis, où les taux obligataires ont augmenté, cette condition reste largement remplie.

Le président Biden n'a pas perdu de temps pour en tirer les conclusions. Alors que le plan de relance lancé en 2009 en réponse à la crise financière était trop timide, son paquet de 1900 milliards de dollars, qui vient s'ajouter au programme de relance de Donald Trump, représente un puissant - sans doute même excessif - coup d'accélérateur.

Les regards se tournent désormais vers l'Europe. En mars 2020, elle a judicieusement activé une clause de sauvegarde de son cadre budgétaire. Celle-ci restera certainement en place en 2022, mais prendra fin en 2023 si la pandémie le permet. Un débat s'est engagé à la faveur de cette parenthèse pour savoir si les règles doivent être réformées avant d'être rétablies et, plus fondamentalement, si les initiatives budgétaires doivent être considérées comme un problème ou plutôt comme une solution.

Les arguments en faveur d'une réforme d'ensemble étaient puissants dès avant la crise sanitaire. Ils sont désormais incontournables. Les règles actuelles ont été conçues pour un monde qui n'existe plus. Elles sont opaques, limitent excessivement l'action budgétaire et reposent sur des objectifs numériques qui n'ont aucun sens dans un contexte de faibles taux d'intérêts. De plus, elles sont inapplicables : on ne peut pas demander à l'Italie, dont la dette devrait approcher 160 % du PIB cette année, de viser un ratio dette/PIB de 60 %.

Il ne faut pas se tromper : la responsabilité budgétaire est indispensable à une union monétaire. La question n'est pas de savoir s'il faut fixer aux États des normes exigeantes à respecter et les tenir responsables de leurs performances, mais de savoir comment le faire. Les réformateurs veulent conserver l'engagement en faveur de la discipline budgétaire mais changer le critère d'évaluation des comportements des États. D'autres préfèrent retoucher le Pacte de stabilité à la marge, car ils craignent que cet engagement ne survive pas à une renégociation. S'en tenir à un commandement dont la raison d'être a été perdue par crainte de ne pouvoir en définir un plus raisonnable, c'est cependant la meilleure façon de miner la confiance dans les règles.

La vertu de la crise sanitaire est qu'elle oblige à repenser ce qui fonctionnait par simple inertie. Sans aller jusqu'à la réforme radicale proposée par certains, il est possible de concevoir un cadre budgétaire qui préserve l'engagement essentiel en faveur de la responsabilité budgétaire, mais laisse plus de place aux choix discrétionnaires. Cela exige d'abord d'accepter que les pays ne peuvent pas tous se voir assigner le même objectif. Ensuite, cela implique une discipline budgétaire fondée sur des principes et soutenue par des institutions bien conçues, plutôt que par des objectifs numériques rigides.

L'Union européenne n'a pas hésité à concevoir des réponses sans tabou à la crise sanitaire. En s'engageant dans une réforme complète de son cadre budgétaire, elle montrera qu'elle est suffisamment forte pour repenser la politique économique dans le contexte post-pandémique. Elle devrait ouvrir le débat sans attendre, dans la perspective d'un plan d'action d'ici un an.

MEMO TO CLLR. CHARLES WALKER BRUMSKINE

By: Isaac W. Jackson, Jr.

As twin starting points: Today is your birthday; you departed this life on 20 November 2019. Reflecting upon your courageous fight for a corruption-free Liberia under the rule of Law, it is of deep concern to me how your venerated legacy is being exploited and poorly treated by some of our friends.

Collectively, we struggled to lay the foundation stones of Liberty Party - the political vehicle aimed at advancing the aspirations for a better Liberia. The journey we trekked was not altogether smooth; howbeit, there was a common consensus on public standards of decency that the Party espoused at its formative stages. From what's obtaining nowadays, I am not sure whether you would recognize the political vehicle of integrity you left behind, if your return were humanly possible! Because, those purporting to manage the affairs of the political vehicle have no decent respect for integrity. They are unconscionably flirting with utterly-corrupt individuals and bastardizing the Party's integrity standards which call for those linked to corruption scandals to step aside from whatever positions they hold to clear their names.

Contrary to the standards mentioned supra, the Party now has a chairman who is a condemned FIFA fraudster, congenitally dishonest, and widely known both in Liberia and abroad for corruption scandals. So, I am wondering where the Party is heading with such diametrical departure from its founding practices and principles? Hence, this Memo!

Boss man, besides having this morally bankrupt fellow as chairman, I see others faking and manipulating our people into falsely believing that they had a wonderful relationship with you during your last days on earth. Since I know that this sort of attitude constitutes a mighty deception on an industrial level, I thought to highlight them in this Memo.

At least, those of us who follow from a distance, as a result of our disagreement, are aware that you held a meeting with core members of the Friends of Brumskine (FOB) just before your departure to the USA for medical treatment. In that meeting, you expressed utter disgust about how Darius Dillon [now Senator] insulted you; and that one of the comrades stood-by without saying a murmuring word in your defense. Also, you groaned, and lamented the personal disservice to you when others pledged support to Weah's CDC in reckless disregard of your advice. Today, some of those same people are still pretending that you were on good terms with them during your sad departure from earth. This childish maneuver is utterly despicable!

In their desperate attempts to exploit your venerated legacy, in recent times they attributed to you a legal maxim that you pooh-poohed in the case, CDC and Liberty Party v. The Executive Branch of Government, decided January 11, 2008. Knowing my zero tolerance for nonsense, I red-carded them publicly for being disingenuous.

Also, in an attempt to deceive our people, more recently they employed similar tactics on Spoon TV, talking plausibly about your warm relationship with them; even though, you would have flatly denounced some of their misdeeds. For example, taking money from Albert Chie under the cover of darkness; dividing US\$6,000 with fellow Lawmakers, while PPEs and beddings were in short supply at quarantine centres. Yes, you would have condemned them for threatening to jail Election Commissioners on bogus contempt charges. I emphatically highlighted these cases, especially the one with the NEC Commissioners because one of your Refrains was that, "as Senate Pro Tempore, you NEVER jailed anyone". I recall you telling me on several occasions that a leader doesn't gain the respect of others by abusing the exercise of his/her authority. So, I know that you would have filed such overzealous action under legislative tyranny: in that, the Election Commissioners did not deliberately obstruct legislative functions in the case under consideration.

Boss man, your "small sister, Nyonblee" who left in charge of the Party, even though you were not on talking terms with her until your sad departure, is now proceeding in total disregard of the pillar of reconciliation in the Party. Also, she has proceeded in reckless disregard of your legacy, and the Constitution of the Party by organizing a controversial and bogus Special Convention to inveigle Musa Bility to the Chairmanship of the Party.

I know in 2005, you declined an invitation from Musa Bility's Mandingo Caucus for obvious reasons. But, again, politics being what it is, you compromised your position and hang-out with Bility in 2017. Maybe, if you had known the drama and trauma Bility would have put you through as a result of his pledge to Weah's CDC against your advice, you would have maintained your posture and position of 2005, i.e., staying clear of tainted characters.

Boss man, I heard that you told Romeo Gbarte and some of the comrades that you would have shocked the nation by appointing me as one of your first ministers, had you won the election for the presidency.

I also heard you told Lamii Kpargoi that I surprised you by

being the only FOB and Liberty Party Executive member who stayed with you at your mother's funeral until her casket was deposited in the grave, and fully sealed up. Following your discussion with Lamii, you extended me an invitation thru him to see you. Truth being told, you informed Lamii that most of the things I criticized and screamed about in the Party were true; however, your only problem was the manner in which I articulated those uncomfortable truths.

Boss man, as you look down from heaven upon us, I know you are nodding your head with pleasure, and saying, Bob Jack is once more saying the uncomfortable truths. Yes, sir, I am saying the uncomfortable truths, for you know that I am not a passive soldier, and will not compromise with utter rubbish. So, yes, I am fighting again! However, this time around, you can be consoled by the fact that I am not fighting alone but, along with your Pekin them: Daniel Merchant, Chester Neese, Sampson Dolo, Bishop Lemuel Gbardue, and your sister Clarice Jah - we are fighting for the soul and the long time moral health of the Party. On the other hand, Romeo Gbarte, Jacob Smith, Aruna Fallah and Debar Allen are also fighting in a subtle manner through FOB to launch a lecture series in your honor. I also contributed to their efforts by developing the communication strategy for the lecture series, suggested the names of some of the panelists, and developed the topic with editorial input from Aruna Fallah regarding today's program.

Boss man, knowing that our friends who are purportedly running the affairs of the Party have no solid argument against me, they have escalated their lies against me by saying that I am not a member of Liberty party, and that I am being sponsored by Samuel Tweah, an old pal from the University of Liberia, now Finance Minister. I know you are aware that these are irrational and rubbish arguments. Because, if they are saying that I am not a member of Liberty Party, then what become of the reconciliatory overture that was made by you, which rendered the case at the Supreme Court Moot? Or what about the other subsequent reconciliatory efforts by the Party? By saying that I am not a member of Liberty Party, are they not questioning the intelligence of Madam Clarice Jah, Steve Zargo, Jacob Julius Smith, and Bishop Lemuel Gbadyu - stalwarts of the Party who are associating with me? Do these clowns really



believe that such caliber of sophisticated people will be associating with a non-member of Liberty Party to ferret out their missteps? I can understand why those people in their desperation would glibly gloss over institutional piety, i.e., respecting those who give birth to the thing that's benefiting today.

On the allegation regarding Samuel Tweah; do I have to take money from Tweah to make an obvious argument that Musa Bility is a notoriously corrupt bandit based on that fact that he (Bility) has been linked to myriads of corruption scandals? Heaven knows that the person next to Chief Justice Korkpor that I am unhappy with in the CDC Government is Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. Yes, it is true that Samuel Tweah has been my longtime friend but, since the CDC Government has been sitting on my neck, I have not had any friendly conversation with him. So, how could these people come up with such useless lie? I can understand, their use of the dead cat strategy is aimed at diverting meaningful attention from the efforts to pull corrupt Bility's pants down, and handcuff him to his checkered history. But, their strategy will not work!

Boss man, I'm sure you remember this same rumor surfaced in 2005, that I was influencing you to endorse CDC because of my friend Samuel Tweah. I remember during the Executive Meeting aimed at deciding whether to support CDC or Unity Party, it was this rumor that opened the discussion, when I, in my usual Bob Jack's style, jokingly responded that even if we had endorsed CDC, I would have still explained that we had gone to the CDC to shepherd the process - having said that, I remember everybody laughed, and the meeting stated on a more serious note. Though the consensus in the room at the time was, for us to endorse Unity Party's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf but, through your persuasion, we decided to remain neutral. So, boss man, you are aware that the rumor was not true yesterday, and it's not true even today.

In addition to the barren allegation supra, they have been spewing the shoddy propaganda that Madam Sirleaf rewarded me with Assistant Minister job because I was saying mean things about you. You know, and heaven can testify that the confusion in Party erupted as a result of Nat Toe, Sampson Dolo and others being asked to resign and that Mr. Israel Akinsanya overstayed his role as acting chair.

By the way, how is it rational that a serious professional of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's caliber will give me a job for merely saying mean things about you, when in fact, I was also fiercely criticizing Madam Sirleaf? Far from the rubbish those clowns are saying, I believe Madam Sirleaf offered me the opportunity to serve her government firstly because of my competence, and secondly because of my pure intellectual and legal argument at the time that she shouldn't go to the TRC because her appearance would have violated Article 61 of the Constitution. I hold this view because it was following this argument that I bumped into Cllr. Morris Saytumah at the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law, when he said, "I like the argument you are making. When we offer you a place to work in the government will you accept it?" My answer to the question was in the affirmative. About two weeks following my conversation with Cllr. Saytumah at the Law School, he called me in his office, and asked, "if we offer you a place in the Government, will you not be leaking information to Cllr. Brumskine"? I answered in the negative. Then he said, "by evening hours, we will announce you". End of story!

Contrary to the false claim by some people that "they even took me to Madam Sirleaf", I never met Madam Sirleaf during my advocacy. This fact can be authenticated by Tobias Wesseh, then Special Assistant to Cllr. Saytumah. Matter of fact, I was not even desperate for a job at the time because I had just taken up a new job at LBDI as its Legal Assistant.

No rational person in my position at the time would have refused an offer from the Sirleaf administration because I was criticizing my political leader, and also criticizing Madam Sirleaf. I had no friends then. So, what would a rational man do in the case under consideration? In fact, when the appointment was made, ranking members of Liberty Party, United Democratic Party and FOB issued a press release on October 9, 2008, commending President Sirleaf, and also stated that my appointment was a confirmation of the Unity Party-led administration's policy of inclusion. Even you, yourself, boss man, sent me an email congratulating and wishing me well for my appointment in September of 2008.

Boss man, Bility and his people who are accusing me of taking money from Tweah, endorsed Weah's CDC. So, how come they're making it to look like working with Tweah's CDC is a disgusting sin, when in fact, they are responsible for giving CDC power? Knowing that Musa Bility and his likes were driven by their selfish ambitions to curry favor with Weah's CDC, why do they want us to suddenly join them in their frustration with the CDC-led Government? How is it our fault that they were not farsighted? If Mr. Bility were enjoying a cozy relationship with the CDC-led Government, would he have cared about the poor masses? By the way, when Mr. Bility was pledging support to the CDC, did he care to know that some of us would have been at risk? I think Bility and his bunch of greedy friends created their own Frankenstein, let them deal with their creation without dragging my name into their mild frustration. I say mild frustration because if President Weah were to reach out to Bility now, his mild anger will suddenly dissipate.

Boss man, you know that I am not like Bility to trade character for money. Just look at how Bility swaggers with political parties, i.e., LAP, ALCOP, Unity Party, CDC, now LP. You see, I don't pretend in my opposition to wrongdoings. I am not looking for any personal benefit in my opposition to Bility. Matter of fact, others and I, are opposing Bility because he doesn't represent the aspirations of the Party that we established, and we want the best for our Party. I am a bit visible because I am a passionate warrior, and naturally allergic to roguish behavior.

Boss man, this is not the normal intellectual battle. I am told that some of those in this fight have zero intellectual muscles to flex therefore they have resulted to consulting juju men. But, I am not perturbed by this scaring rumor because I am covered by the efficacious blood of Jesus. And so, Boss man, as you look down from heaven upon us, give us the courage to be strong in upholding your legacy by ensuring that Bility relinquishes the Chairmanship in obedience to the established precedent in the Party. Don't let your passing witness the death of integrity in our dear Liberty Party. Knowing that Bility and others treated you so badly in your last days on earth, I ask that your spirit fight back fiercely so that they do not remain at the helm of power in our Party. Let this shame not befall your legacy, and the Party you labored to establish!

Boss man, was the term of endearment used by all of us at the early stage of the movement. And so, with teary eyes and heavy heart, I wish to say rest on, Boss man!

*The author, B.Sc., LL.B, LL.M, is a Founding Executive Member of Liberty Party, United Democratic Party and Friends of Brumskine (FOB) political arrangement. He defends a political career which arises from his days as a student activist at the University of Liberia.

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Weah pays journalist Philip Wesseh's medical bills

President George Manneh Weah has made a cash donation of US\$30,000.00 United States dollars to help with the treatment of ailing veteran Liberian journalist and Publisher of one of Liberia's Independent newspapers, the Inquirer Newspaper, Atty. Philip N. Wesseh.

At the time of issuing the release, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia said Thursday, 29 April that Atty. Philip Wesseh was undergoing intensive medical care at the Fidelity clinic on

expressing concern about his conditions.

He stated that President Weah, who cares about his citizens, sent him to come and identify with Atty. Wesseh by donating the amount of USD\$30,000 to speedily take the publisher of the Inquirer daily to Ghana for advanced medical treatment in order to get him back on his feet to continue his good work to the nation.

The Liberian Foreign Minister also noted that the President wants to let the family know that he is with them in prayer and empathizes with Atty. Wesseh

process all traveling documentations needed to have Atty. Wesseh flown out of Liberia.

According to him, this is a commitment of a government that wants to see a vibrant press, disclosing that the Government of Liberia at the United Nations championed a resolution which was adopted declaring the month of September as the Universal Access to Information Day.

Responding to President Weah's good gesture from his sick bed at the local clinic in Monrovia, Atty. Philip Wesseh said the cash donated by the President has solved the problem, adding: "the amount of Thirty thousand United States dollar (USD30,000) donated by President Weah is not a small amount, the amount is so great."

He said he will be back on his feet very soon and strong, amidst cheers from members of the Publishers Association of Liberia (PAL), who went to pay Atty. Wesseh a visit at the local clinic.

For his part, PAL president Othello B. Garblah, accompanied by PAL's vice president Sam O. Dean, former PAL president Philipbert S. Browne and T-Max Jlateh along with other publishers, expressed gratitude to President Weah for the cash donation.

Garblah expressed thanks and appreciation to the President for identifying with one of their members in person of Philip N. Wesseh, adding that the President's contribution will go a long way in transporting and settling the medical bill of their ailing colleague.

He told Minister Kemayah to convey to the President of Liberia, their deep appreciation for his concern and care shown for one of their members. --*Press release*



20th Street, Sinkor.

According to the Foreign Ministry release, the amount will be used to underwrite transportation and medical bills of Atty. Wesseh who is expected to be flown to Ghana for advanced treatment.

Presenting the cash amount of US\$30,000 on behalf of President George Manneh Weah on Wednesday, 28 April, Liberian Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., said when President Weah was touched when he learned of Atty. Wesseh's sickness, thereby

during this undesirable time of ailment.

"I wish you fervent hope and pray that you have a speedy recovery to the fullest. The President wants to see you well, he wants to see you pushing the pen", Minister Kemayah noted.

Foreign Minister Kemayah emphasizes that in the spirit of fast tracking the movement of Atty. Wesseh to Ghana for advanced medical treatment, the government will support the family to get all traveling documents on time for smooth movement.

He said President Weah has instructed him to expeditiously

Fake report?

By Ethel A Tweh

The Liberian Senate continues to keep former Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, now head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under oath while it summons members of his coronavirus stimulus package steering committee and the World Food Program (WFP), after differing with Prof. Tarpeh's update on the distribution of the package.

The Senate wants members of Prof. Tarpeh's committee and the WFP which the government contracted to appear before the full plenary along with the contract that was signed by the WFP and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning on behalf of the Government of Liberia.

The Plenary's decision on Thursday, 29 April came about after Prof. Wilson Tarpeh reported to the Senate that he did not have a copy of the

food distribution was marred by alleged criminality, saying his county has not been completed.

According to Mr. Snowe, a commissioner was caught with 800 bags of rice in the county, adding that she was jailed shortly and fined US\$200 but the rice wasn't taken from her. Snowe continues that the accused still maintains her position as commissioner.

Also speaking, Margibi County Senator Emmanuel Nuquay calls for the Senate to constitute a committee to investigate the issues surrounding the processes of the stimulus package. He notes that something went wrong and there's a need to unearth what went wrong.

For his part, Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson believes that nothing will come out of the investigation being conducted by the Senate.

According to him, there have been so many investigations on corruption and other serious



contract that was given to WFP by the Government of Liberia, saying the contract was done by the Ministry of Finance.

In addition, Prof. Tarpeh said his job as the chair of the steering committee was to supervise the process, noting that WFP was the only organization that had access to the funds and they did the hiring of trucks and those that did the distribution of the food in the various counties.

In his update to the Senate, Prof. Tarpeh continues that a total of 2.3 million people have benefitted from the food distribution so far, adding that Bomi, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru and River Cess have been 100% completed with the distribution. He says the other counties have gone very far with the distribution.

Senator Edwin Snowe of Bomi County claims that the

matters in the country and they yielded no results.

Grand Gedeh Senator Zoe E. Pennue terms the update by chairman Tarpeh as a flying sheet from the world trade center.

Pennue argues that if the update was from WFP, it would have carried a letterhead and signature.

Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay recalls that when the Senate approved the money for the stimulus package, WFP was brought before that august body, and therefore WFP should come to give the Senate answers to questions over how the money was spent.

"Time to give justification on how they spent our money, that's the time diplomacy should be put in place by going through the Foreign Ministry. They came before us and they can still come before us with their report," Pennue says. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Cont'd from Page 7

establishment of the Angie Brooks International Center for girls empowerment came into existence.

"It's very important that each of you take advantage of this program; it's meant to empower you, and no one should think it's fiasco," she admonishes the participants.

According to Madam King-Akerele, they began with peace dialogue, and the next step will be about providing entrepreneurial skills for the disadvantaged youths to enable them to stand up and

ABIC holds dialogue

meet the challenge.

"You need to be prepared to take up leadership, this isn't about just sitting, you have to take advantage of this initiative and stop complaining about no jobs. Government alone can't do it all, we are one people and we must all work together for the common good of this country and our future," she adds.

At the same time, the former Foreign Minister stresses the need to stop divisiveness, saying "we are all Liberians, this country doesn't belong to CDC [Coalition for Democratic

Change] or whoever."

For her part, the Establishment Coordinator for ABIC Cllr. Yvette Chesson Wureh says "this is one of my dreams; as I sit and look at all of you, I'm seeing ... new born babies."

Cllr. Chesson Wureh continues that she sees the disadvantaged youth in the streets and it pains her and that's why the ABIC thought to bring all of them together to talk about empowerment.

Liberian military commandant disrobed



Ltcol Nyankun E. Williams

The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) High Command has relieved Lieutenant Colonel Nyankun E. Williams of his post as Commandant of the Armed Forces Training Command (AFTC) on allegation of rape.

In a press release issued Thursday, 29 April by the Ministry of Defense, the authorities say the AFL High Command has forwarded Lieutenant Colonel Williams to the Military Police to face investigation.

The Military Police will conclude its investigation on 10

May 2021, and submit its findings to the AFL High Command for further actions, the release says.

On 26 April 2021, Sergeant Obento Roberts, presently serving the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions in Mali, formally complained against Lieutenant Colonel Nyankun E. Williams of allegedly having sexual intercourse with his (Roberts') 16 years old daughter.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry says Sergeant Obento Roberts has been recalled from the peacekeeping mission to aid the Military Police in the investigation.

The AFL High Command assures the public that all recommendations emanating from the investigation will be fully executed.

At the same time the AFL is assuring the public that it remains a "Force for Good," and will not tolerate any act that has the propensity to undermine the integrity of the Armed Forces of Liberia.--
Press release

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5 Super League club executives resign from Premier League roles

Five high-profile club executives have resigned from their roles on Premier League sub-committees following the European Super League debacle.

Stats Perform News understands Manchester United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and Liverpool chairman Tom Werner have stepped down from the club broadcast advisory group, while Chelsea chairman Bruce Buck has left

the audit and remuneration committee.

Arsenal chief executive Vinai Venkatesham and his Manchester City counterpart Ferran Soriano have both resigned from the club strategic advisory group.

The moves came to light just 11 days after these clubs, and Tottenham, declared on April 18 they would be joining a new Super League competition, which faced scorn before it was formally announced after news leaked out in the preceding hours.



It provoked fury, with the 'closed-shop' element of the proposed new competition set to see six of the Premier League's biggest clubs guaranteed riches far beyond those available to their domestic rivals.

Within 48 hours, the project had collapsed as the Premier League clubs withdrew, but by showing they had been willing to join in the new league, and doing so without consulting others that may be affected, domestic rivals were left incensed.

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