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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Boakai urges Lofaians to welcome Weah



Pres. Weah receives traditional welcome

Mr. Boakai

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Continental News

Cameroon Clears Illegal Miners from Border Village after Landslide Kills 27

Cameroonian authorities say they are deporting more than 1,000 illegal gold miners on the country's eastern border with the Central African Republic after 27 miners died in May due to landslides. Those being expelled include 400 Central Africans and Senegalese in the village of Kambele.

At least 300 illegal miners were forced by Cameroonian police and military to sit on the floor at the Kambele market square on Tuesday night this week. Among them are Cameroonians, Central Africans and Senegalese. Alfred Kamoun is a 31-year-old father of two from the neighboring Central African Republic. He says he was forced out of a mining site called Boukarou in Kambele village.

He says he and his two brothers will no longer be able to raise \$50 each night from digging and selling gold. He says while at the mining site they could dig at least 7 grams of gold each night.



Young goldminers crush rocks to find gold dust on June 3, 2008 at the Kambele III site near the eastern Cameroonian town of Batouri.

Kamoun says his son will no longer be paid \$4 every night for supplying water to wash gold.

Kambele is a village in Batouri, an administrative unit located about 700 kilometers from Cameroon's eastern neighbor, CAR.

On Monday local authorities at Batouri said 27 illegal gold miners died in Kambele village

in May. Auberlin Mbelessa, mayor of Batouri says an emergency crisis meeting recommended the deportation of at least 1,000 civilians from the risky mining area.

He says no one can be indifferent when civilians are dying in gold mines, yet thousands of people continue

to rush to mining sites which from every indication are dangerous. He says while deporting the illegal gold miners, rescue workers and Cameroon military will also search to remove corpses and save the lives of people who may still be trapped in the collapsing mines.

Cameroon said it deployed its rescue workers, military and police to Kambele to clear the area of illegal miners and make sure foreign illegal miners either obtain their residence and mining permits or leave.

The military is prohibiting miners from visiting risk zones where trenches dug to harvest gold are collapsing. Baba Bell, traditional ruler of Kambele says some civilians may have drown in trenches filled with water from heavy rains.

He says every year during the rainy season as from the months of April, so many gold mines collapse leaving many people severely wounded or dead. He says a majority of the victims are unemployed Cameroonian youths who flood

his village. Many of the victims were foreigners from Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, China and Senegal are in his village.

Hilaire Kembe is a Cameroon illegal gold miner at Kambele village. He says it is impossible to know the exact number of dead or wounded people in May in Kambele.

He says miners do not report when they discover fresh corpses and human bones at mining sites because of fear that they will be held for several weeks at police posts for interrogations. He says several hundred villagers and foreign miners whose identities are unknown prefer digging for gold at night when Cameroon police and military retire to their barracks. He says it is difficult to know when the night miners are buried by collapsing soils.

Cameroon says some of the illegal miners are displaced persons fleeing the conflict in CAR and fleeing from Boko Haram terrorist groups on its northern border with Nigeria. Some are escaping from the Anglophone separatist fighters in the country's English-speaking western regions. VOA

MPs demand apology for 'tight' trousers eviction

Female MPs in Tanzania have called for an apology to an MP who was ordered to leave parliament because of her trousers. A male MP said the way some women dressed invited ridicule to parliament.

"Mr Speaker, an example there is my sister seated on my right with a yellow shirt. Look at the trousers she has worn, Mr Speaker!" Hussein Amar said in parliament on Tuesday.

The Speaker then ordered

the MP, Condester Sichwale, to leave. "Go dress up well, and then join us back later," said the Speaker Job Ndugai. He added that this was not the first complaint he had received about female Member of Parliaments' attire, and told chamber orderlies to deny entry to anyone who was inappropriately dressed. While Mr Amar did not elaborate on what he found wrong with Ms Sichwale's outfit, he quoted the parliamentary rules which allow women to wear trousers but stipulate that clothes should not be tight-

fitting. He was unavailable to answer the BBC's request for comment.

A group led by MPs Jacqueline Ngonyani and Stella Manyanya insist that the move was unfair and that there was nothing wrong with Ms Sichwale's clothes.

The incident has also attracted comments on social media from around the world, with some saying it was another example of men policing how women dress. BBC



The MP was ordered to leave parliament after a complaint about her trousers

African Union suspends Mali and warns of sanctions



Mali has been suspended from the African Union (AU) following last week's military coup - for the second time in nine months. The first was last August following a military coup - but the country was reinstated after the heads of a civilian-led transitional government were announced.

Now that administration has been overthrown, and so once again, Mali finds itself excluded. The AU in a statement called for a return to civilian government, saying

it would not hesitate to impose sanctions and other punitive measures unless troops were urgently ordered to return to barracks.

On Monday, leaders of the West African bloc Ecowas also suspended Mali's membership, calling on the military government to adhere to an 18-month transition period towards presidential elections next February. Colonel Assimi Goïta, who led the coup, was appointed transitional president by the country's constitutional court four days ago. BBC

EDITORIAL

Please help the media Ambassador Delahousse

THE EUROPEAN UNION Head of Delegation to Liberia Ambassador Laurent Delahousse could be of great help in strengthening the press in Liberia by specifically identifying media institutions in the country that he claimed received money to write derogatory articles against Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Saah Kemayah, who he described as his friend rather than to leave such dark cloud to linger perpetually on the entire media landscape of Liberia.

MAKING REMARK MONDAY, May31, 2021 at a Roundtable in Monrovia, the EU Envoy sweepingly accused the media of targeting his good friend, Minister Kemayah, who was accused by a former female staff of sexual harassment, while serving in New York.

UNDISPUTEDLY, THE EU is a strong partner of Liberia that has supported various sectors of the country, including the media in our developmental drive. But for Ambassador Delahousse to have made such blanketed indictment against the Liberian media is least expected and highly disappointing.

THE MEDIA IN Liberia is still grappling to understand how could a foreign diplomat, attempting to defend a friend while speaking at a media roundtable would bundle all journalists in the country into one category. It is quite unfortunate.

HOWEVER, WE HASTEN to call on the EU Head of Delegation to work with the Liberian media to identify and shame those media houses allegedly involved in such unprofessional practices in order to safeguard ethical journalism and acknowledge sacrifices made by Liberian journalists over the years in promoting good governance, free speech, tolerance pluralistic democracy.

SPECIFICALLY, THIS CAN be achieved by working with the Press Union of Liberia or the Publishers Association of Liberia in bringing those involved in mercenary journalism to book. The journalism profession is not a license for character assigation and should not be condoned in Liberia.

INSTEAD, THE MEDIA is an effective tool for societal transformation, peace, unity and growth, aspirations that the Liberian media subscribes to and preaches.

BOTH THE PUL AND the PAL would never encourage or condone any practice that could bring the media here to disrepute and erode public confidence in its work.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY that the EU collaborating with the Liberian media in strengthening quality and ethical standards would go a long way in not just promoting and sustaining Liberia's socio-economic development, but attracting more assistance from our foreign partners.

THE SOONER AMBASSADOR DELAHOUSSE provide copies of specific newspaper publications of such derogatory articles against his best friend the easier it will be in knowing those media institutions bent on tainting the good image of the Liberian media.

COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

America Remains Indispensable

BERLIN - In addition to a pandemic, this decade has already been overshadowed by the return of great power rivalries. Few developments could be more threatening to world peace. Three world wars - two of them hot, one cold - during the twentieth century highlighted the danger of high-stakes geopolitical competition.

To many observers, the era of great power rivalry appeared to end once and for all with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. But this assumption proved to be one of the gravest errors of the post-Cold War period (a time that abounded with momentous blunders and misconceptions). US political elites' presumption of global empire - of a truly unilateral moment in world history - could not be sustained. Nor could the "eternal peace" anticipated by Europeans following the "end of History" in 1989, when Western liberal democracy and the market economy supposedly triumphed over all the alternatives.

On the contrary, the decades since the end of the Cold War have been marked by a loss of international order. As the last remaining global power, the United States exhausted itself in pointless wars in Mesopotamia and the Hindu Kush, and has since become increasingly self-absorbed.

The international system that America built after World War II began to disintegrate, leaving power vacuums that other powers - Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia - sought to fill. Worse, the risk of nuclear proliferation suddenly returned to the fore as smaller regional powers began to pursue arsenals of their own.

Moreover, it was during the past decade that China emerged as a global power capable of challenging the incumbent hegemon. The new rivalry materialized fully following Donald Trump's election to the US presidency in 2016. America started pursuing a narrowly nationalist agenda, and chaos within the global system increasingly emanated from the top.

Nowhere was the resulting power vacuum more palpable than in the Middle East. The US had ended its expensive and absurd war in Iraq and then gone on to defeat the Islamic State in Syria. Having become self-reliant in energy terms tapping domestic shale oil and gas, America set its sights on a fuller military withdrawal from the region. Iran, meanwhile, was standing ready to exploit the US departure. It soon ended up in an escalating struggle with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf emirates, and Israel for regional hegemony, fueling a horrific proxy war in Yemen.

In addition to openly signaling its intent to withdraw the US from the region, the Trump administration also abandoned America's traditional role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For decades, successive US administrations had pushed for a two-state solution and a fair compromise between Israel and the Palestinians, even while remaining wholly committed to protecting Israel. But the Trump administration backed Israel fully and unconditionally, creating the impression that the Palestinians no longer had any role to play.

The Trump administration's approach to the issue, together with the danger emanating from

Iran, did lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and four Arab states, including two - the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain - in the Gulf. But with the latest armed confrontation between Hamas and Israel, the fantasy in which the Palestinians could simply be sidelined forever has been dispelled.

The latest conflict has included violent clashes on the Temple Mount around the al-Aqsa mosque, and, unlike in previous episodes, between Jewish and Arab citizens in mixed cities across the Israeli heartland. Four lessons should be drawn while the current cease-fire holds.

First, even if a two-state solution hardly seems realistic anymore, its political renunciation will lead more or less directly to a highly charged confrontation. Second, Palestinians and Arab Israelis will not simply stand by and allow themselves to be ignored in regional political settlements. Third, the Israeli occupation cannot be continued indefinitely. And, lastly, the US cannot simply abandon the region out of a lack of interest, at least not if it wants to maintain its role as the leading global power.

The return of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has exposed the real distribution of power in the Middle East. Notwithstanding all of the changes of the past few decades, the fact remains that stability depends on the US. Though America no longer wishes to engage with the region, it has no choice but to keep doing so, lest a regional brushfire escalate into a global conflagration with nuclear risks.

In other words, the Middle East is proving to be this century's Balkans. As in ex-Yugoslavia in the 1990s, America is the only global or regional power capable of guaranteeing regional peace - or at least of suppressing all-out war. Russia would like to assume this role, but it cannot. (It was able to intervene in Syria to the extent that it did only because the US refused to do so.)

As for China, it has no interest in assuming America's Middle East role, nor could it do so if it wanted to. The Chinese regime simply does not have the mindset to become a guarantor of a global order far beyond its borders.

What about Europe? Although it would be one of the main victims of regional destabilization, it is no longer a force to be reckoned with, and thus has reduced its involvement to that of providing financial resources in response to the latest crisis. Still, Europe plays an important supporting role.

Finally, among regional players, Turkey would like to step up, but it is hampered by its own weaknesses and the fraught history of the Ottoman Empire's role in the Middle East. Iran and Saudi Arabia are confined to pursuing their own claims to hegemony within the Islamic world. And Israel is and will remain focused on its own defense.

That leaves only the US. Despite its past foreign-policy blunders, it is the only country with both the necessary political mindset and the technological, economic, and military power to exert a moderating influence in the region. The worst outcome for the international order would be a continuing US inclination toward self-isolation. Trump's presidency already proved how dangerous that can be.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

OPINION

By Bertrand Piccard

Waste Less, Earn More

LAUSANNE - Our world is extraordinarily inefficient. We waste enormous quantities of energy, water, raw materials, and food. We even waste our waste and the precious resources it contains. We do so not necessarily because we lack ecological awareness, but rather because the society we live in is built on the myth of infinite resources.

Sustaining this situation of false abundance is morally unacceptable when a large part of the world's population lacks what a small part routinely wastes. It also has a considerable financial cost now that technologies exist to end this waste.

While some are considering economic degrowth as an option to achieve global climate targets and other environmental goals, there is a much stronger case for adopting technologies that allow us to become more efficient. That means replacing old polluting infrastructure with cleaner modern systems.

The good news is that the resulting efficiency gains outweigh the financial cost of the transition. Better still, we won't have to sacrifice economic growth in the process. Over the past four years, the Solar Impulse Foundation has selected and labeled more than 1,000 products, services, and processes that can greatly increase efficiency in the fields of mobility, construction, agriculture, industry, energy, and water.

Efficiency is the ability to achieve the most with the least. Energy efficiency, for example, means maximizing service while minimizing consumption.

The search for efficiency long had a bad reputation because of the so-called rebound effect, a perverse phenomenon whereby technological improvements result in increased resource consumption. The British economist William Stanley Jevons first described it in 1865. The emergence of more efficient steam engines, he observed, led to greater coal use.

But Jevons was observing conditions in a totally free market. Today, ecological regulations and incentives to reduce consumption, such as carbon taxes, help to preserve the environmental gains of efficiency. Moreover, rebound effects work both ways: current heightened environmental awareness could produce a positive effect, whereby a household spends the economic gains from lower energy costs on a healthier diet or the purchase of an electric vehicle.

In any case, efficiency must be part of our overall response to the climate challenge. The International Energy Agency estimates that today's technologies could reduce our electricity consumption by about 3,000 terawatt hours, or more than 10% of the total in some regions and 5% globally. By 2040, this potential for improvement will almost double, to roughly a quarter of total consumption.

This is because energy-management systems in recent years have become able to limit generation and distribution losses and support increasing shares of variable and distributed renewables while increasing grid flexibility. They have also become much smarter, integrating external data sources such as weather conditions and traffic patterns. Using artificial intelligence, these advanced systems can forecast energy demand more accurately and improve grid-response capabilities.

Public policies to boost efficiency would also improve access to electricity for the 13% of the world's population still without it. As the global standard of living increases, we must ensure that new consumption demand - including for electricity, goods, and mobility - is met with efficient devices. That way, we can reconcile greater prosperity with adherence to our environmental commitments.

Technologies that boost efficiency are not limited to the energy sector. We are also wasting huge amounts of water at a time when scarcity is affecting hundreds of millions of people - often fueling conflict, displacement, and other disruptions of lives and livelihoods. But today's technologies enable us, for example, to allocate the minimum quantity of water needed to increase agricultural yields.

The responsibility of policymakers today is to set higher efficiency standards in every sector. This will increase demand for clean and efficient technologies and thus encourage innovative firms to bring them to market. Such regulations would be hard to accept if they penalized citizens and undermined economic growth. But new green technologies do exactly the opposite: they increase corporate profits and create jobs.

As a result, we can now finally escape from the sterile debate pitting economic growth against ecological stewardship. The two must go hand in hand. Clean, efficient, and profitable technologies are available today, and the faster we implement them, the more will be available tomorrow.

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OP-ED

By Daron Acemoglu

CEOs Are the Problem

CAMBRIDGE - ExxonMobil recently announced a five-year plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and is pumping out ads proclaiming its commitment to a green future. Tobacco giant Philip Morris is touting its plans to help smokers quit. Facebook is calling for new internet regulations. And these moves come less than two years after the Business Roundtable, representing the CEOs of America's largest corporations, issued a statement calling for business to serve all stakeholders.

Are today's corporate executives ushering in a new era of corporate responsibility? Or are they merely protecting their own power?

For decades, business leaders and prominent academics believed that corporations' sole commitment was to their shareholders. Previously a fringe view, the publication of a New York Times op-ed by Milton Friedman in 1970 - "The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits" - moved this perspective toward the mainstream. It gained further momentum within academia following a number of articles by Harvard Business School's Michael Jensen, who offered theoretical and empirical support for Friedman's doctrine. For example, in one influential paper, Jensen and Kevin Murphy of the University of Southern California estimated that the average CEO's pay increased by only \$3.25 for every \$1,000 of value he created, pointing to the need for an even tighter link between executive compensation and shareholder value.

But this academic research was following more than leading the trend. By the 1980s, CEOs like General Electric's Jack Welch and scores of management consulting companies had already normalized the preoccupation with shareholder value. Corporations started downsizing their workforces, limiting wage growth, and offshoring tasks - all in the name of delivering better value to shareholders.

Although proponents of shareholder primacy would not have approved of the type of fraud that became associated with Enron, WorldCom, and others, it was easy to see how an obsession with increasing the stock price might lead some executives to go too far. There is now growing agreement that maximizing shareholder value should not be a corporation's sole aim. Less obvious, however, is what model should be adopted instead.

Should we draw up a new charter for executives so that they feel empowered to consider a broader set of interests? The Business Roundtable seems to think so. But I would caution against any solution that gives even more discretion to management. The problem with shareholder primacy wasn't only that it created an obsession with stock prices and pitted workers against shareholders; it was that it handed a massive amount of power to top managers.

Many CEOs now run their companies according to their own personal vision. There is very little social oversight, and executive compensation has soared. Despite the unprecedented hardship caused by the pandemic, CEOs of hard-hit companies took home tens of millions of dollars last year.

When inordinately empowered CEOs receive a vague mandate to pursue stakeholder interests as they see fit, abuses are sure to follow. Some companies might funnel millions of dollars to their CEOs' pet project (be it the Metropolitan Museum of Art or a preferred charter school program), or to "philanthropic" causes that are really just veiled forms of influence-peddling.

Under the current incentives structure, there is little stopping corporations from collecting huge amounts of consumer data, disempowering workers and citizens, and establishing tyrannical new forms of surveillance - even as they are advertising their philanthropy and virtue. There is certainly nothing that prevents them from pursuing excessive automation to reduce labor costs, destroying jobs just to eke out a few more bucks for shareholders. The way to reverse these anti-social trends is through a two-pronged approach that is very different from what the Business Roundtable would prefer.

First, the legal and institutional constraints on top executives need to be strengthened. For too long, managers have avoided criminal prosecution for criminal behavior. Even the colossal abuses leading to the 2008 financial crisis went almost entirely unpunished. As journalist Jesse Eisinger points out, today's executive-friendly legal landscape owes much to ambitious, selfish prosecutors' tendency to eschew criminal charges against businesses and managers in order to further their own careers.

More importantly, legislation is needed to set clearer red lines. It should not be left to CEOs to decide whether to engage in aggressive tax avoidance and then pay themselves with the proceeds. It should not be optional for companies to reduce their carbon footprint. And we urgently need to redirect technological change by pushing corporations away from incessant automation. These issues all bear on our prospects for maintaining a functioning society; they must not be left to the goodwill of self-interested CEOs.

The second prong is complementary to the first. ExxonMobil, Philip Morris, and Facebook are virtue signaling because they are under increasing pressure from civil society, not because their CEOs suddenly have become more public-spirited. That kind of pressure is needed now to block any reforms that would give executives even more discretion. But civic activism works better when laws specify what counts as unacceptable corporate behavior, be it tax evasion, excessive automation, pollution, or accounting tricks to enrich shareholders and greedy managers.

There is no reason to believe that ExxonMobil, Philip Morris, and Facebook are committed to overhauling their socially destructive business models. Their public-relations efforts reflect the pressure they are feeling. Civic activism is starting to work, and it could become even more effective.

But that will take better organizing and stronger demands on corporations - not whitewashing campaigns designed to defuse criticism and demobilize the critics.

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Arcelor Mittal Liberia donates US\$ 40,000 to JFK Medical Center

The Management of ArcelorMittal Liberia has provided a financial grant of US\$ 40,000 (forty thousand United States Dollars) for the renovation of the General In-Patient Pediatric and the General Surgery Wards at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Monrovia.

A press release issued by the company says presenting the check to the Management of the JFK, Marcus Wleh, Head of Government Affairs

partnership where we will collaborate to target the critical needs of the JFK,” explained Wleh.

Supporting and contributing to the improvement of Liberia’s healthcare system has always been important for ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Since the Corona virus outbreak, the release says AML has provided more than US\$ 200,000 (two hundred thousand United States Dollars) in material and financial support to the Government, local, and

John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital Dr. Jerry Browne commended the Management of ArcelorMittal Liberia for the timely response to the hospital’s request for support to improve patients’ care by upgrading some critical facilities of the hospital.

“JFK is here to provide quality services to all. To do this, we often encourage partnership and don’t just want to wait for people to come and do things for us, but we are willing to collaborate



at ArcelorMittal Liberia said the company was identifying with the JFK as it strives to improve quality of services to the public.

“ArcelorMittal Liberia is pleased to present this check of US\$ 40,000 as a contribution towards your efforts to upgrade the Pediatric and the General Surgery Wards at the hospital. We know the needs are many, but we hope this will be the start of a new

community structures to help combat COVID-19.

These included donations of much-needed medical equipment such as ventilators and oxygen concentrators, mattresses, PPEs, and consignments of hygiene and sanitation supplies, in addition to the launch of robust public awareness through the mass media and community outreach.

Receiving the check, the Chief Executive Officer and General Administrator of the

and contribute as well. We look forward to greater collaboration with ArcelorMittal Liberia”, he said.

Dr. Browne disclosed that the plan is to complete the renovation of the targeted facility in time for the 50th anniversary of the JFK in July.

The JFK Medical Center is Liberia’s biggest referral hospital, officially opened on July 27, 1971. **-Press Release**

Women urged to seek increased participation

The Executive Director of the West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPDHDO), Madam Nelly Cooper encourages women to participate in both governance and private sector of the country.

Speaking at the climax of two days transformative leadership workshop held in the township, Madam Cooper said women are decision

makers and there’s no need they should be afraid or intimidated by their male counterparts.

The workshop brought together participants from various communities, including Coconut Plantation, Newport Street, Front Street, Michelin Street and WestPoint Township, respectively.

Mrs. Cooper said women should stand strong in order to have their voices heard on both political and social issues. “Women are also decision

makers, do not be afraid to speak whenever the opportunity is given to you, you must at all times be prepared to make a decision that will be in the interest of all,” she further stated.

Liberian women have been disproportionately challenged. High rate of sexual and gender-based violence are well documented, especially during Liberia’s 14 years of civil war; only one in three

LACC reminds public officials to declare assets

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has begun reminding public officials and those required by law to take cognizance of their obligations to declare assets as required by law.

In a statement issued, the LACC reminds all current public officials and those required by law to commence the process of declaring their assets in line with law and statutory regulations which mandate declarations and re-declarations every 3 years on the last Friday of July.

The statement noted that those concern should to commence the declarations of assets in the following manner a) those in the Executive Branch should declare at the LACC b) those in the Judiciary Branch should declare to the Clerk of the Supreme Court while c) the members of the Legislature should declare respectively to both the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the LACC says it takes note of reports in the press regarding 4-year old (2015-2017) GAC Audits of the LACC which cover a 4-year period ending with the 2017 fiscal year.

The LACC says it has seen the audit reports referenced in the new story which was

conducted four years ago and the LACC is thoroughly reviewing those reports to ensure there is full accountability on issues raised in the report relating to past officials of the Commission.

The LACC notes that given the transition of leadership at the entity especially in regards to the period covered in the report, it is therefore calling for the cooperation of all past leaders of the Commission to assist with the investigation of the report.

Finally, the LACC says it has seen strong determination on the part of the leadership of the Legislature to see through the passage of several draft anticorruption instruments submitted to that body.

The Commission says it is particularly touched by the leadership demonstrated by Hon. Cllr. J. KanieWesso, Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary for his sincere efforts to see the legislations passed. The LACC emphasizes that the passage of these crucial legislations will be critical to repositioning the anticorruption architecture of the country. The proposed legislations among other things give the LACC direct prosecutorial powers and allow for a uniform assets declaration process. **-Press release**

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Liberian women are literate; and women are often more significantly impacted by poverty and hunger, compared to men.

Placing women in decision-making positions is instrumental to addressing these issues; however, women face significant obstacles in attaining leadership positions.

Although Liberia’s 2005 democratic transition saw the election of Africa’s first woman head of state, Liberian women continue to face considerable challenges to their participation in political

processes.

In 2015, USAID’s Liberia Electoral Access and Participation (LEAP) survey found that nearly 10 percent fewer women were registered to vote than men, 14 percent fewer women voted in the 2014 Senatorial elections and 17 percent fewer women engaged in campaign activities. Indications of data from the 2017 elections indicate the gap is closing as more women are participating in elections as voters, however, they still

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia to hold business climate meeting

Few years ago, President George Weah set up an Ad Hoc Business Climate Working Group to look into ways and means of improving the country's business environment. Charged with the responsibility, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning set up the Business Climate

of Doing Business Report but to also pave the way for an enabling business environment for Liberians and foreigners to participate with equity.

The final report of the Business Climate Secretariat outlined several key challenges that inhibit the ease of doing business in the country. Efforts to resolve some the problems have not been easy to go by,

reassess the gains made and the challenges that still loomed, the Business Climate Secretariat is scheduled to hold a one-day National Symposium at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town on 10th June 2021. The Conference which is intermingled with the 4th National Judicial Conference which begins on 7th June 2021. The theme of the National Judicial Conference: The Law, Public Policy and the Economy will look at the nexus between the rule of law and access to justice as an enabler and facilitator of an improved business climate.

Plingloh Emmanuel Munyeneh, the head of the Business Climate Secretariat at the MFDP noted that the scheduled meeting will bring together major players in the private and public sectors. Specifically, this year's summit will examine the linkages between three key World Bank's indicators: enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency and access to credit in relations to access to justice and the rule of law. Speakers from the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Liberia Business Association, the Commercial and Central Banks, the National Investment Commission are expected to make presentations.

The rationale for the mélange of this year's business climate meeting

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Secretariat to lead on the coordination and diagnostics of the business climate in the country.

The months that followed witnessed the holding of technical meetings aimed at identifying binding constraints and workable solutions not only to improving the country's scores on the World Bank ease

especially in the areas of trading across borders which involves land and sea transport. The World Bank ease of Doing Business 2020 report ranked Liberia at 175 among 190 economies on the Trading across borders. The country's scores in Resolving Insolvency, Enforcing Contracts and Access to Credit have also been lagging.

In order to reexamine and

Weah encourages environmentally smart projects

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has told an environmental and climate change conference in Monrovia that building climate-resilient infrastructure and environmentally-smart projects must be the centrepiece of national development program, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

In his message Wednesday, 2 June at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, Mr. Weah flagged several environmental and climate challenges that are posing serious risks to the timely attainment of the goals and objectives of the PAPD.

"This is why Government is working to align the PAPD

with initiatives that are sensitive to issues of environment and climate change," President Weah said, adding that it is the

moral duty and obligation as citizens to ensure that the management and protection of the environment of Liberia is done responsibly.

"I therefore call upon all citizens and foreigners within



UL Law students

Cont'd from page 6

the push and reached out to ensure its success.

Having received the presentation, Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, President of the University of Liberia appreciated the students for their contribution in the upliftment of the university, saying administration will sell the message to other student leaders and various associations as a way of encouraging them to continue to make their contribution to the institution.

During the program, Dr. Nelson recalled how Management Students at the university similarly made a decision during UL's 101st graduation program to get a mini bus to facilitate their professors' transportation between UL's Fendall and Capitol Hill campuses.

He indicated that he is very happy for the innovative spirit of UL student leaders, assuring them that "whatever little we can do in whatever way to the upliftment of the university, this administration will always appreciate that and give all the support and commitment for our partnership."

Cllr. T. Negbalee Warner, Dean of Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law commended the tremendous contribution of the class to the law school,

saying "everyone here will testify that from the painting, from the shelves, from the structures, what they did is amazing."

Further, Dean Warner commended Dr. Nelson's leadership at UL for moving the institution a step further by introducing computer-based entrance at the graduate and professional school levels.

According to Cllr. Warner, the law school has received an additional seven laptops and three desktop computers beside what the school has been operating.

For his part, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia Cllr. Philip A. Z. Banks said he takes pride in accepting the donated materials, the facilities and all that the students put into it and have given to the law school.

"Thank you, thank you from the depth of our hearts. Thank you so much," Justice Banks said, as he announced his own little contribution to the initiative by pledging a brand new desktop to be donated to the law school.

Justice Banks promised to look through his personal libraries and see what materials he can extract from there for onward donation to the law school library at UL.

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our borders to work together for a cleaner and more healthy environment," he said.

President Weah said he is informed that a State of the Environment Report which is due to be released this year, points to several environmental and climate challenges which include rapid encroachment of the Savanna in the North West of the country; contamination and pollution of the major water basins, especially from mining activities; burning of waste in urban communities; and abuse of wetlands, including illegal building of structures.

"In this regard, my Administration is currently making critical interventions

in land reclamation and coastal defense projects. The D. Tweah High School and the Redemption Hospital, both in the Borough of New Kru Town in Monrovia, were recently saved from sea erosion," President Weah said.

Additionally, he noted that the government is now embarking on a similar project for West Point, called the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilient Project, adding that the total cost of the project is US\$25 Million.

Mr. Weah explained that US\$17.2 Million is being funded by a grant from the Green Climate Fund, while another grant of US\$10 Million has been approved for a similar project in

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

FM reconfirms one China policy

The Government of Liberia and the People's Republic of China have signed the handover and acceptance Certificates for the 6th term of China-Aided Bamboo and Rattan Weaving and Vegetable Planting Technological Assistance Project to Liberia.

Making a special remark at the signing ceremony, Liberian Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr., on behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, extended profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China for the support rendered the Bamboo and Rattan Weaving and Vegetable Planting Technological Assistance Project; as well as for the numerous contributions China has rendered towards

youth empowerment and youth development.

"When we create opportunity for our youths, we will be doing a lot towards nation building; we will be supporting His Excellency, the President of Liberia's vision towards poverty reduction", he noted.

Ambassador Kemayah said it is a necessary imperative to create opportunities for youth development and youth empowerment, adding youths are at the core of decision making for this Country in terms of its national development agenda.

He then used the occasion to reaffirm to the Government of the People's Republic of China Liberia's unwavering commitment as a Government towards the One China Policy.

"The One China Policy is a policy that we reaffirmed our commitment to, as a country, through legislation, which makes it a Law; and we are pleased to

Minister Kemayah told the Chinese Envoy at the occasion.

For his part, the Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, His Excellency RenYisheng said through the use of these renewable natural resources, the Government of Liberia will be able to create opportunities for economic growth, youth employment and women empowerment.

Ambassador RenYisheng indicated that the Chinese technical team has been working in Liberia for more than one decade training hundreds of Liberians under the model capacity-building project which, he said, will help Liberians make use of their natural resources to produce Liberian products.

The Chinese Ambassador stated "the project has promoted the concept of "made in Liberia, made by Liberians and made from Liberia"

Ambassador RenYisheng further added that the Chinese technical team has trained more than 900 Liberians with practical skills in the areas of bamboo and rattan weaving.

He also revealed that many of the trainees have begun opening their own businesses and workshops across the nation.

The Chinese diplomat stressed that agriculture is a very important area in Liberia's economic development, adding China has been, and will continue to support Liberia through meaningful venture in agriculture.

The Ambassador also told the gathering that this bamboo and rattan weaving team has expanded its project to Klay Agriculture and Vocational Training Center in order to share agriculture techniques and skills with more young people.

"We will invite Chinese experts to come and offer onsite training in agriculture field and encourage more entrepreneurs to invest in Liberia especially in the areas of fishery including marine fishing and freshwater aquaculture and aquatic product processing in the future," he added.

In brief remarks during the signing ceremony, the Assistant Foreign Minister for Afro-Asian Affairs, Madam Nawomie Gray lauded China for the gesture and indicated that the project is helping to empower young Liberians to be self-sufficient.

She said the gesture by the People's Republic of China at this time is a cleared

Low access to information weakens governance in Liberia

Key government and civil society actors have acknowledged that transparent and accountable governance is being profoundly undermined in Liberia because of challenges in accessing pertinent public information, coupled with the inadequate implementation of the freedom of information law.

At a one day public information roundtable in Monrovia, the government and civil society representatives identified a variety of

public information by the public, inclusive of journalists and media organizations.

In his speech on the topic, "The Increasing Need for Cooperation and Partnership in our Quest for Unhindered Access to Information in Liberia," Cllr. Mark BedorWla-Freeman, the Commissioner of the government statutory institution with oversight mandate to implement the FOI Act - the Independent Information Commission (IIC) - emphasized that it was crucial



constraints that serve to impede the promotion and development of a culture of robust freedom of information regime for good governance in Liberia.

The identified interrelated impediments include among others the current internal review mechanisms embedded within the FOI law, the lack of political will by central government actors, limited public outreach and awareness on the FOI law, the culture of secrecy, and the low use of the FOI law to access

to recognize that, "access to information is an anti-corruption as well as a tool for accountability and transparency."

He called for open minds in the fight against corruption in Liberia. "We should realize that in order to succeed, we need to demand accountability and transparency not only from the government but also from NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and donors that have also held vast resources on

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



the reconstruction and development of Liberia.

Liberia's Foreign Minister Kemayah signed on behalf of Liberia while Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, His Excellency RenYisheng signed for his Government.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the signing ceremony took place Tuesday, June 1, 2021 in the minister's Conference Room on the 4th floor of the Foreign Ministry.

While expressing delight over the signing, Ambassador Kemayah stated "We are particularly pleased, Mr. Ambassador that this project from its inception to current, created an opportunity for capacity building for 900 Liberian youths.

The Minister also indicated that Liberia is looking forward to more of such support in relations to

state that this administration led by Dr. George Manneh Weah, remains committed to upholding the One China Policy", the Dean of the Cabinet stressed.

The Liberian Foreign Minister indicated that China and Liberia have come a long way and that Liberia looks forward to see how the two nations can continue to collaborate for the realization of landmark projects approved previously by the two countries.

"In Liberia, we experience temporary setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as this world is making gains, we see many doors being opened; it is our call for us to consolidate efforts towards the realizations of those projects."

"It is with more pleasing duty, with almost humility, to witness a signing ceremony in this conference room for a document that further enhances the bilateral ties between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Liberia,"

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manifestation of the excellent bilateral ties subsisting between Liberia and the People's Republic of China.

Also speaking at the occasion, Honorable Isaac Doe, Deputy Minister for Youth Development, who proxy for the Youth and Sports Minister at the occasion, thanked the People's Republic of China for the project and said the GOL, through the Ministry of Youths and Sports is grateful to the Chinese and will continue to seek China's intervention in critical areas including the

empowerment of vulnerable youths in Liberia.

Meanwhile, following the signing of the Agreement between Liberia and China, Foreign Minister Kemayah and Chinese Ambassador RenYisheng used the occasion to Exchange Handover and acceptance Certificates for the 6th Term of China-Aided Bamboo & Rattan Weaving and Vegetable Planting Technological Assistance project to Liberia aimed at enhancing youth empowerment.

Français

Alexander B. Cummings ne veut pas être vice-président

Le leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, est plus que jamais déterminé pour assurer sa victoire au dépend du régime actuel lors des élections de 2023.

« Je suis attaché à ce pays », a déclaré mardi Cummings lors d'un entretien avec le New Dawn.

L'ancien cadre de la compagnie Coca-Cola a confié au New Dawn qu'il est si attaché au pays qu'il ferait campagne pour s'assurer qu'en 2023, la CPP remporte la victoire lors des prochaines élections.

« Je parcourrai ce pays en long et en large. J'étais à West Point la semaine dernière, et la façon dont nos gens vivent me donne l'énergie de vouloir les servir », a affirmé M. Cummings.

Le leader politique de l'ANC, qui est certain de briger la présidence sur le ticket de la Coalition des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, s'est dit

capable de battre Weah en 2023 dans les urnes.

Il a promis de faire en sorte qu'il soit difficile pour le peuple libérien de réélire George Weah en 2023. « Nous rendrons difficile pour le peuple d'aller dans une direction différente », a-t-il déclaré.

Cummings ne veut pas le poste de vice-président. Il veut à tous les prix le poste de président. Il

reste à savoir si l'opposition toute entière lui permettra cela. « Je ne serai pas un vice, ça ne me va pas », a-t-il dit.

Il a déclaré qu'être vice-président ne lui permettra pas de fonctionner de manière indépendante et de mettre en œuvre les choses qu'il désire pour le peuple

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Libéria : Pourquoi le ministre de la Défense a quitté la réunion sur la sécurité régionale ?

Téné Birahima Ouattara dit Photocopie, ministre d'État, ministre de la Défense et cadet du Président Alassane Ouattara, était à une réunion de haut niveau consacrée à la sécurité dans la région de l'Union du fleuve Mano (MRU) à Monrovia, capitale du Libéria. Selon le site Africatopforum, dans un article en anglais, publié, l'on apprend que celui-ci a quitté précipitamment la réunion. La raison est livrée par le ministre libérien des

Affaires étrangères.

Selon l'article publié en anglais sous le titre « Why Ivorian Defense Minister Prematurely Left Regional Security Meeting in Liberia », autrement dit « Pourquoi le ministre ivoirien de la Défense a prématurément quitté la réunion sur la sécurité régionale au Libéria », et disponible sur Opera en cliquant sur ce lien, Téné Birahima Ouattara est rentré en Côte d'Ivoire et n'a pas achevé la réunion.

Ce dernier n'a pas donné d'explication à son

départ précipité. Par contre, ce sont deux officiels libériens qui ont livré des raisons à la presse libérienne, si l'on en croit le site qui a dévoilé l'information.

« Mais expliquant son départ soudain, le Ministre de l'information, de la culture et du tourisme du Libéria a informé Africatopforum que le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire entretenaient de très bonnes relations et restaient de bons partenaires ».

Ledgerhood J. Rennie a expliqué que Téné Birahima Ouattara aurait laissé entendre à ses hôtes, avant de quitter la réunion qu'il n'y a pas de tension entre le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire ».

Précisant que « Le ministre ivoirien de la Défense et son équipe sont venus sur un vol charter. Il a rencontré le Président George Weah à sa résidence, puis s'est rendu à la réunion pour expliquer à ses homologues pourquoi il ne pouvait pas rester pour la réunion ».

La raison essentielle, selon le ministre Ledgerhood J. Rennie serait, à l'en croire, « parce qu'ils avaient des

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Faire écho à l'appel de M. Alexander B. Cummings

Il y a un adage qui dit : « refuser de planifier son succès, c'est accepter de planifier son échec ».

Cela pourrait hélas être le sort des élections de 2023, à moins que l'administration Weah commence dès maintenant d'apporter un soutien financier à la Commission électorale nationale afin qu'elle entame ces activités préparatoires. C'est plutôt l'inquiétude du leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress, M. Alexander B. Cummings.

En fait, il n'est pas le premier politicien à souligner la nécessité d'une préparation précoce en vue des élections de 2023. Le sénateur Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount avait lancé un tel avertissement au gouvernement.

En avril, le sénateur Sherman, qui préside le Comité judiciaire du Sénat, a suggéré la nécessité de former un comité conjoint de la Chambre des représentants et du Sénat libérien pour siéger avec la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et le président du Libéria pour commencer à planifier les élections générales, soulignant qu'une planification précoce empêcherait un report inutile des élections pour manque de financement suffisant.

« Le respect des dates prescrites par la Constitution concernant le processus politique est l'un des fondements de la démocratie. Ne manquons pas de nous y conformer », a déclaré Nota Sherman.

Sur ce point, M. Cummings est totalement d'accord avec le sénateur et il ajoute que l'organisation des élections à temps est une épreuve élémentaire dans n'importe quel pays qui se veut démocratique. « Le Libéria ne peut pas échouer à cette épreuve, car il veut être connu comme un pays démocratique. L'organisation à temps des élections libres, justes et crédibles est garant de paix et de stabilité politique », a-t-il dit.

Il y a suffisamment de raisons pour que ces alertes précoces émanent de deux dirigeants politiques avisés de notre pays. A noter que le président George Weah a récemment reporté le recensement national de la population et des logements de 2021 à 2022 en raison du manque d'argent. Une autre raison de préoccupation est le retard accusé par la Commission électorale pour payer les fournisseurs dont elle avait loué les services lors des élections sénatoriales du 8 décembre 2020, ce, en raison de difficultés financières.

Fort de ces exemples, Me Sherman et M. Cummings ont choisi d'avertir le gouvernement. N'oublions pas que les élections sont une question constitutionnelle qui doit être traitée avec prudence.

Pour reprendre les mots de Cummings, les élections donnent au peuple la possibilité de s'exprimer et de choisir ainsi, les gouvernements démocratiques sérieux ne retardent pas les élections et il n'est pas nécessaire de leur rappeler de planifier leur soutien aux élections.

Nous ajoutons également qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement d'organiser des élections, il faut surtout que le processus, du début à la fin, soit transparent, équitable et crédible. Cela n'est possible qu'avec une préparation rapide et un financement adéquat.

Hélas, à ce rythme, tout porte à croire que le gouvernement envisage déjà d'échouer, ce qui pourrait être désastreux non seulement pour notre démocratie, mais aussi pour la paix précieuse dont les Libériens jouissent actuellement.

On dit souvent qu'« un point dans le temps en sauve neuf ». Le gouvernement doit tenir compte de ces appels et commencer à agir dès maintenant pour assurer la tenue d'élections pacifiques.

Français

La Route de Lofa est fin prête,

libérien. En d’autres mots, il ne veut pas être sous les ordres de qui que ce soit.

A noter qu’il y a quelques jours, l’ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai, a également refusé de devenir vice-président.

« Avec mon expérience, je ne peux qu’être le candidat unique de l’opposition. Toutefois, je vais supporter le candidat que la Coalition aura choisi », avait dit Boakai.

M. Cummings ne croit pas que Weah est capable de construire toutes les routes qu’il a promis de construire.

Le leader politique de l’ANC, rendant hommage à l’ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a déclaré que les contrats routiers actuels dont ce gouvernement se vante ont tous été négociés pendant son régime. Il a indiqué que si l’administration Weah ne montre pas du sérieux concernant la construction de ces routes, les partenaires donateurs n’investiront pas leur argent.

Selon lui, les donateurs veulent savoir le niveau

d’engagement du gouvernement actuel concernant les routes et s’il est capable de tenir ses promesses avant d’investir.

“Nous ne pouvons pas continuer à faire la même chose et s’attendre à un résultat différent”, a déclaré Cummings, ajoutant: “Le meilleur moyen de prédire les performances et le comportement futurs est d’analyser les performances et les comportements du passé.”

Selon lui, le président Weah n’a jamais dirigé une organisation et donc il n’a aucune expérience pour sortir ce pays de son état désastreux actuel.

“Je ne pense pas que George Weah ait une fois été capitaine d’une équipe, même s’il a presque toujours été le meilleur joueur des équipes pour lesquelles il a joué, mais il n’a jamais été capitaine, car pour être nommé capitaine, il faut avoir fait preuve de bon leadership et de compétences », a déclaré Cummings.

M. Cummings a déploré que le sous-développement du pays et s’est demandé « pourquoi nous ne pouvons pas le faire si les pays de la sous-région vont de l’avant en matière de développement.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

Les États-Unis restent incontournables

BERLIN - En sus d’une pandémie, cette décennie est déjà assombrie par la résurgence de la rivalité entre grandes puissances, une évolution particulièrement menaçante pour la paix dans le monde. Trois guerres mondiales - deux « chaudes » et une froide - au cours du XXe siècle ont mis en évidence les dangers d’une concurrence géopolitique avec des enjeux majeurs.

Pour de nombreux observateurs, l’époque de la confrontation entre grandes puissances semblait avoir définitivement pris fin avec l’effondrement de l’Union soviétique. Mais cette conjecture s’est révélée être l’une des plus graves erreurs de l’après-guerre froide (une période riche en méprises et gaffes monumentales). La présomption d’un empire mondial régi par les États-Unis rêvée par l’élite politique américaine - d’une ère véritablement unilatérale de l’histoire mondiale - s’est avérée être une chimère. Tout comme la « paix éternelle » à laquelle s’attendait les Européens après la « fin de l’histoire » en 1989, lorsque la démocratie libérale occidentale et l’économie de marché étaient censées l’emporter sur toutes les autres options.

Bien au contraire, les décennies suivant la fin de la guerre froide ont été marquées par une érosion de l’ordre international. En tant que dernière superpuissance, les États-Unis se sont épuisés dans des guerres dénuées de sens en Mésopotamie et dans l’Hindou Kouch et se sont depuis lors repliés sur eux-mêmes.

Le système international mis en place par les Américains après la Seconde guerre mondiale a commencé à se désintégrer, créant des vacances du pouvoir que d’autres puissances - la Russie, la Chine, la Turquie, l’Iran et l’Arabie saoudite - ont cherché à combler. Pire encore, les risques de la prolifération nucléaire sont soudainement revenus au premier plan avec la constitution de leurs propres arsenaux nucléaires par de plus petites puissances régionales.

En outre, au cours de la dernière décennie, la Chine a émergé comme une puissance mondiale capable de défier la puissance hégémonique en place. Cette nouvelle rivalité s’est pleinement manifestée après l’élection de Donald Trump à la présidence en 2016. Les États-Unis ont alors commencé à suivre un ordre du jour essentiellement nationaliste, et le chaos au sein du système mondial a de plus en plus émané des élites dirigeantes.

La vacance du pouvoir qui en a découlé n’a nulle part été aussi flagrante qu’au Moyen-Orient. Les États-Unis avaient mis fin à la guerre absurde et ruineuse en Irak pour concentrer leurs opérations contre l’État islamique en Syrie. Ayant assuré la sécurité de leur approvisionnement énergétique grâce à l’huile et au gaz de schiste, les États-Unis ont alors cherché à opérer un retrait plus complet du personnel et du matériel militaires de la région. Pendant ce temps, l’Iran se positionnait pour profiter du départ des Américains et s’est rapidement retrouvé dans une situation d’affrontement croissant avec l’Arabie saoudite, les émirats du Golfe et Israël pour l’hégémonie régionale, donnant lieu à une horrible guerre par procuration au Yémen.

Non contente de faire clairement comprendre son intention de retirer les soldats américains de la région, l’administration Trump a également renoncé à assumer le rôle traditionnel des États-Unis dans le conflit israélo-palestinien. Pendant des décennies, les administrations américaines successives ont défendu la solution à deux États et un compromis équitable entre Israël et les Palestiniens, tout en restant déterminées à protéger l’État hébreu. Mais l’administration Trump s’est rangée inconditionnellement aux côtés d’Israël, donnant l’impression que les Palestiniens n’avaient plus leur mot à dire.

Cette approche, couplée au danger représenté par

l’Iran, a certes conduit à l’établissement de relations diplomatiques entre Israël et quatre États arabes, dont deux États du Golfe, les Émirats arabes unis et le Bahreïn. Mais compte tenu de la dernière confrontation armée entre le Hamas et Israël, le fantasme qui voudrait que les Palestiniens puissent simplement être tenus à l’écart pour toujours a volé en éclat.

Cette dernière flambée de violence a compris des affrontements violents dans l’enceinte de l’esplanade des Mosquées et, fait inédit par rapport aux épisodes précédents, entre des citoyens israéliens juifs et arabes dans des villes où ils cohabitent en Israël. Quatre enseignements doivent être tirés tant que dure le cessez-le-feu actuel.

Tout d’abord, même si la solution à deux États ne semble plus très réaliste à l’heure actuelle, y renoncer au plan politique conduira plus ou moins directement à une confrontation plus violente encore. Ensuite, les Palestiniens et les Israéliens arabes ne resteront pas passifs et ne toléreront pas d’être ignorés dans les accords politiques régionaux. Troisièmement, l’occupation israélienne ne peut pas se poursuivre indéfiniment. Et enfin, les États-Unis ne peuvent pas simplement abandonner la région par manque d’intérêt, du moins pas s’ils veulent conserver leur rôle de première puissance mondiale.

La reprise du conflit israélo-palestinien a révélé la véritable répartition des pouvoirs au Moyen-Orient. Nonobstant toutes les évolutions intervenues au cours de ces dernières décennies, le fait est que la stabilité de la région dépend des États-Unis. Bien qu’ils ne souhaitent plus s’impliquer dans la région, ils n’ont pas d’autre choix que de continuer à le faire, de peur qu’un conflit régional ne se transforme en une conflagration mondiale comportant des risques nucléaires.

En d’autres termes, le Moyen-Orient s’avère être les Balkans de ce siècle. Comme en ex-Yougoslavie dans les années 1990, les États-Unis sont la seule puissance mondiale ou régionale en mesure de garantir la paix régionale - ou du moins d’empêcher une guerre totale. La Russie voudrait bien assumer ce rôle, mais elle n’en a pas les moyens (Elle a pu intervenir en Syrie dans la mesure où elle l’a fait uniquement parce que les États-Unis ont refusé de le faire).

Quant à la Chine, elle n’a aucun intérêt à endosser le rôle des États-Unis au Moyen-Orient, ni les moyens de le faire même si elle le souhaitait. Le régime communiste chinois n’a tout simplement pas la mentalité nécessaire pour devenir le garant d’un ordre mondial bien au-delà de ses frontières.

Et quid de l’Europe ? Bien qu’elle serait l’une des principales victimes d’une déstabilisation régionale, elle n’est plus une force avec laquelle compter et a par conséquent réduit son implication à l’octroi d’une aide financière en réponse à la dernière crise. Il n’en reste pas moins qu’elle continue à jouer un rôle d’appui important.

Enfin, parmi les acteurs régionaux, la Turquie souhaiterait s’impliquer davantage, mais elle est entravée par ses propres faiblesses et par l’histoire mouvementée du rôle joué par l’Empire ottoman au Moyen-Orient. L’Iran et l’Arabie saoudite se limitent à poursuivre leurs propres revendications hégémoniques au sein du monde islamique. Et Israël est et restera concentré sur sa propre défense.

Il ne reste donc plus que les États-Unis. Malgré leurs erreurs passées en matière de politique étrangère, ils sont le seul pays à disposer à la fois de l’état d’esprit politique nécessaire et de la puissance technologique, économique et militaire pour exercer une influence modératrice dans la région. La pire évolution pour l’ordre international serait une inclinaison continue des États-Unis vers l’auto-isollement. La présidence de Trump a déjà prouvé à quel point cela peut être dangereux.

Libéria : Pourquoi le

problème en Côte d’Ivoire et qu’il était nécessaire là-bas”. Interrogé sur la nature réelle du problème, “le ministre Rennie n’a pas

dit quelle était l’urgence”, souligne le site Internet. « Vous savez que la Côte d’Ivoire a des problèmes de sécurité », a-t-il simplement déclaré.

L’Union africaine suspend le Mali mais ne sanctionne pas les auteurs du nouveau coup d’État

Après la Cédéao, c’est l’Union africaine qui a décidé de suspendre le Mali de ses instances dirigeantes. Mais l’organisation continentale n’a pris aucune autre décision allant dans le sens de pénaliser les nouveaux dirigeants du Mali au moment où le pays attend la nomination du nouveau Premier ministre.

Les militaires doivent « retourner dans leurs casernes. » L’expression avait déjà été utilisée après le premier coup d’État de la junte conduite par le colonel Assimi Goïta, en août dernier. Elle tranche avec le ton employé au Tchad où ce sont 15 généraux qui ont pris les commandes de l’État après la mort d’Idriss Déby, sans que le pays soit suspendu par l’Union africaine.

Au Mali, l’organisation continentale exige un

retour à une transition démocratique « sans entrave, transparente et rapide » et menace d’« imposer des sanctions ciblées et d’autres mesures punitives. » Le ton est ferme, mais cette suspension automatique en cas de coup d’État ne pénalise pas vraiment les nouveaux dirigeants du Mali. Tout comme la Cédéao deux jours avant elle, l’Union africaine affiche son mécontentement, mais repousse l’éventualité de sanctions plus concrètes. Surtout, elle accepte que le colonel Assimi Goïta conserve son nouveau fauteuil de président et qu’il remette lui-même le pays sur les rails de la transition.

Dans l’attente du nouveau Premier ministre

Dans la foulée de cette annonce, la Mission des Nations unies au Mali a rappelé son engagement à travailler avec la Cédéao et l’Union africaine « en vue d’un retour à l’ordre constitutionnel », mais aussi l’importance de respecter « le

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Fahgon predicts enhanced partnership with America

-following GOL delegation's visit to Washington

By Lewis S. Teh

Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs, Eugene L. Fahgon is says Liberia stands to benefit enhanced partnership with the Government of the United States as a result of the recent visit of a high-power Government of Liberia

government", Deputy Minister Fahgon optimistically said in a special press conference held at the Ministry of information in Monrovia.

According to him, the delegation's visit to the U.S. was a great step taken to build on existing relationship between Liberia and America, saying We're not going to waste our

are these people serious?" He wondered.

He said the Government of President George Weah is concerned about impacting lives of citizens, so no level of negative criticism will stop him from doing what is right.

A six-member official delegation concluded two-week engagements and discussions with U.S. Government officials, Congressional leaders and businesses on array of issues.

The delegation led by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr. Samuel D. Tweah, included the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Nathaniel F. McGill, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Mrs. Williametta Saydee-Tarr, the Minister of State without Portfolio, Mr. Trokonkpui and the Mayor of Monrovia, Mr. Jefferson Koijee.

It was supported by Liberia's Ambassador accredited to the United States, George S. W. Patten.

A press release issued by the delegation in Monrovia after its return says the initiative was aimed at updating U.S. officials and Congressional leaders on the mid-term progress of the administration, discuss critical challenges and explore opportunities for deepening Liberia - U.S. partnership over the course of the next three years.



Min. Eugene L. Fahgon

delegation to Washington, D.C. "Look, to answer your question as to what will Liberia benefit following the return of our delegation, I can safely say we stand to benefit from an enhance partnership that will have no end with the U.S.

time on weak people in the opposition; this government has shown to her critics that she wants the best for her citizens. Firstly, they said our officials couldn't go to the U.S. Now that they've seen all the photos taken with key U.S. officials, they change the topic to another one;

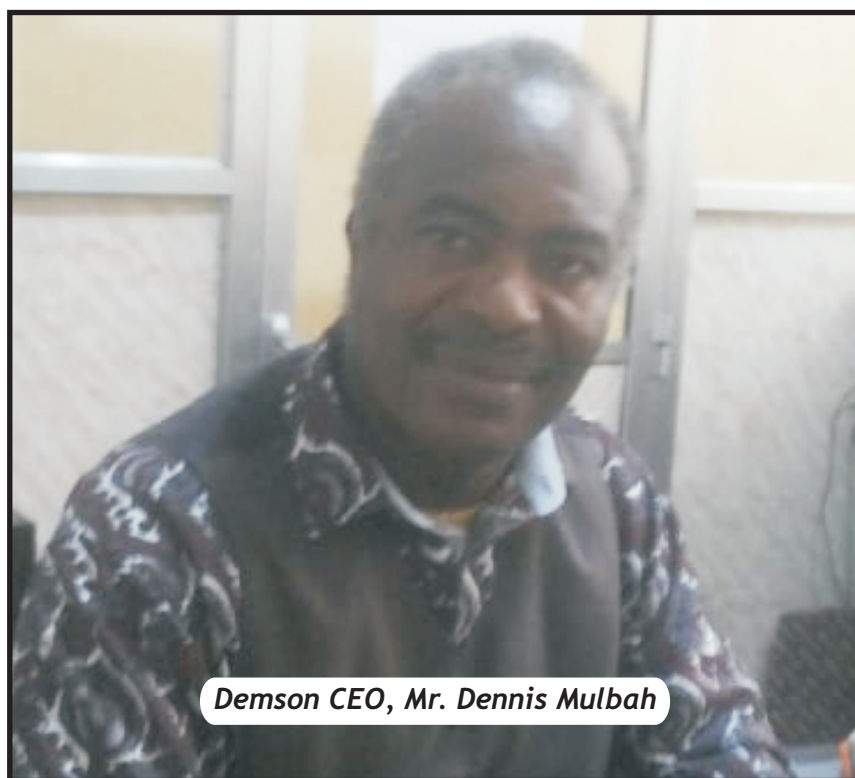
Liberian importer seeks to create middle class

Demson Incorporated, a Liberian-owned business involves in export has embarked on a process to create a middle class in the country by empowering marketers, petty traders and other local entrepreneurs.

Chief Executive Officer Mr. Dennis Mulbah says Demson supplies groceries to marketers and petty traders at affordable prices to enable them remain in business and make profit.

He discloses that a meeting has been scheduled with Liberian-owned businesses this Saturday, June 5, 2021 in Caldwell to brainstorm on how they could collaborate in promoting a viable business climate in the country.

"We want to know their problem and what we can do to help in a win, win, win



Demson CEO, Mr. Dennis Mulbah

situation. Win for the importer, the marketer and the end user", Mr. Mulbah explains.

He reveals that Demson Incorporated has been in

existence since 2012, but slowed activities because of the Ebola outbreak, adding, "We started in employment agency and lubricants."

Sustainable Development Institute gets new boss

The campaigner group Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) Liberia has recruited Wilfred Gray-Johnson as its new Executive Director following a meticulous and competitive exercise, according to a press release.

At a brief presentation and orientation ceremony, Mr. Silas Siakor on behalf of the Board welcomed Mr. Gray-Johnson with the admonition to work harder, as much was expected from the highly rated former United Nations

achieved in six month; I have drawn up a five month Workplan for myself, and will work towards that time frame. I am a result-oriented person but will surely depend on all of you for my success; we will work as a team", he said.

In a brief remark, Miss Nora Bowier, who is the immediate past Executive Director, assured Mr. Gray-Johnson of fervent working relations from the SDI staff, noting that it will be an opportunity to learn from his awe-inspiring experience.

Mr. Gray-Johnson joins the



Mr. Wilfred Gray-Johnson

professional.

"You are coming at a time when your expertise is most needed, much is expected- there will be challenges but we will get through together. We, the board will continue to work with you for a smooth landing." Mr. Siakor assured.

For his part, Mr. Gray-Johnson thanked the Board of SDI for his selection and promised to work assiduously for the betterment of the institution. "The board gave me a huge term of reference with key deliverables to be

SDI with a wealth of experience as a lecturer, professional and statesman, having served as one of the immediate past Commissioners at the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR).

Gray-Johnson also served as Director of the Liberia Peacebuilding Office / Liberia Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat established in January 2009, from 2004 - 2008 a penultimate position he held before joining

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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The DemsonInc CEO says he looks forward to having more than 150 marketers at the weekend's meeting and the banks will also be represented there.

The collaboration could provide great prospect for Liberian-owned businesses by strengthening Small, Medium Enterprises to boost the informal sector.

However, Mr. Mulbah points to mindset of some Liberians,

who don't want to embrace their own. He observes that some marketers prefer working with foreign importers rather than their fellow compatriots.

Demson's goal is to collaborate with small and large Liberian businesses by facilitating them to create and operate profitable markets in Liberia but mentality and trust worthiness appear to be a challenge. -Story by Jonathan Browne

Boakai urges Lofaians to welcome Weah

Despite rumors of mass protest awaiting President George Manneh Weah on his tour to Lofa County, former Vice President Joseph Nyuma Boakai has called on the people of Lofa to welcome the President of Liberia to

Citizens of that county are aggrieved over the conviction of their son Senator-elect Brownie Samukai who has not been certificated by the National Elections Commission (NEC) since his announcement as winner of the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Election.

untrue.

Mr. Boakai has called on citizens in the county to do everything to make the President and his entourage comfortable during their stay in the County.

President Weah's nationwide county tour



Pres. Weah receives traditional welcome

Mr. Boakai

their county.

Recently, there were rumors that some aggrieved citizens of the county were planning to stage protests upon the arrival of President Weah for his citizen engagements.

According to a release issued in Monrovia Wednesday, 2 June 2021, former Vice President Boakai said Lofaians are peace loving people and that speculations that the President of Liberia will not be welcomed to the county is unfounded and

mainly to the northern region of Lofa was postponed for proper planning and roads connecting to that part of the country and to other parts of the county.--**Press release**

Cont'd from page 6

Greenville, Sinoe County.

President Weah stated that for almost three decades now, Liberia has not been able to conduct a national forest inventory that would enable the country to know the approximate value of this critical asset to guide national development planning.

However, he said with the support of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), he is pleased to report that Liberia has now concluded the first post-war national forest inventory, expressing gratitude to the FAO for this support.

"The inventory revealed

Weah encourages

that Liberia is still a forested nation that is endowed with many unique plant and animal species. I can attest to this because, during my recent County Tours, I witnessed and deeply appreciated the greenery of our Country, and its vast and impressive forests," President Weah said.

"What is important for us now as a Nation is to ensure that our God-given resources should now be wisely used as a way of meeting the needs of the present generation, without compromising the needs of future generations," he continued.

He stated that his administration remains committed to all of the

multilateral environment agreements that Liberia has signed to date, including the Paris Accord, and all other protocols on climate change and the environment.

Mr. Weah also asked U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy to kindly convey sincere thanks and appreciation to the U.S. Government for re-joining the Paris Climate Accord.

"The return of the United States and its global leadership to this important forum will restore hope to the international community, especially the developing countries in Africa, and the Small Island Developing States," Mr. Weah said.

Cont'd from page 7

behalf the country," adds Cllr. Wla-Freeman.

Peter Quaqua, President of the West Africa Journalists Association (WAJA), while recognizing the milestone in the enactment and ongoing patchy efforts toward implementing the FOI law, observed that there was a need to review the law with a view to amending some problematic aspects, specifically, Chapter Three,

Section 3.9 and Chapter Six, Section 6.2.

Both sections of the law, according to Mr. Quaqua, create unnecessary delays in terms of journalists being "pushed around" for between 30 and 90 calendar days as regard the response period for request made for access to public information and the internal review period for hearing negative responses toward requests made for access to

public information.

"The law as it is written can be used by people who are mischievous - people who got something to hide; people who don't favour the information being released," says Quaqua, who adds that, "those aspects of the FOI law are not friendly for media work ... because no journalist wants to wait for 30 days, 60 days, or 90 days - to get an information released to the

Liberia to hold

Cont'd from page 6

with the 4th National Judicial Conference is intended to look at the rule of law and the dispensation of justice as pathways to private sector growth, efficiency in free market operations, equilibrium in supply and demand side economics, as well as relationship between lenders and borrowers. According to Munyeneh, laws derive from the fountain of public policy must serve the common good of the people and by extension improve the well-being of society.

The country's business partners including the Fula, Lebanese and Indian

communities are expected to provide insights on decades of business activities and what lessons have been learned so far. International actors including the International Financial Corporation is expected to provide international perspectives on resolving insolvency and enforcing contracts as well as impediments to financial market development. Representatives of some of the country's concessionaires including Golden Veroleum, Mittal Steel, Firestone and APM Terminal Liberia are expected to be in attendance.-**Press release**

Women urged

Cont'd from page 10

remain underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles, even after the 2017 election.

The Visionary Young Women in Leadership (VYWL) team conducted research to understand why women are

underrepresented and to uncover new ways to encourage more of their peers to become more active in their communities, especially in leadership and decision-making positions.-**Press Release**

Sustainable Development

Cont'd from page 5

the SDI.

He worked with the United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), in various capacities - notably National Coordination Officer in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Recovery and Governance, and contributed to a number of conceptual frameworks that have influenced policies in Liberia. These include the United Nations Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Liberia, the United Nations Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF), and particularly the Government of Liberia Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (iPRS) and Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS).

Prior to working with UNMIL, Mr. Gray-Johnson was a lecturer in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts at the United Methodist University, and also worked as Assistant Programme Officer for World Vision Liberia. He holds a Master's Degree in Theological Studies (MTS), from Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, and Bachelor's Degree in Theology (B.Th.), from the Methodist University in Liberia.

The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) works to transform decision-making processes of natural resource management so the benefits are shared equally. SDI's work aims to create space for the participation of local communities in decision making processes on natural resources. -**Press Release**

public that is waiting, waiting, and waiting.'

Internews' Project Director, Samuka V. Konneh, revealed that out of over a hundred FOI requests filed by journalists in a previous project - the Liberia Media Development program - only 12 got responded to, which he blamed on 'the poor level of relationships between journalists and public information officers or county information officers' as well as 'difficulties expressed in the FOI law in terms of the right of appeal and internal review'

for the little success, so far, in the full utilization of the FOI law.

Mr. Konneh added: "Access to information isn't only a matter of upholding the constitution and international protocols, it's even more a matter of good governance, participatory and sustainable democracy - and a matter of national security. Access to information is an important factor in combating what has become known as a 'culture of secrecy' in a democracy; and Liberia is no exception."

Sen. Pro-Tempore Chie Vs. Daniel Sando



Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie

Mr. Daniel Sando

By Ethel A Tweh

Senate President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate Albert T. Chie says here the Liberian Senate has terminated the services of the Administrative Assistant in the office of Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, Daniel Sando.

But Sando denies he is fired, insisting that he still works in the office of Senator

Lawrence and will go to office today, Thursday, June 3.

He was recently suspended for one month without salary by his boss Senator Lawrence after he accused the Senate of taking a bribe of US\$20,000 to approve request from the Central Bank of Liberia for the printing of new family of Liberian bank notes, totaling over 48 billion Liberian dollars.

The Senate subsequently welcomed the decision of Senator Lawrence at the time

against Mr. Sando and announced an investigation into the allegation.

The Liberian Senate says while it encourages free speech and freedom of the press, as provided for under Article 15 of the 1986 Constitution; such freedom comes with responsibility.

Under the laws of Liberia, bribery is a serious crime, and the burden of proof lies on the shoulder of the accuser. -
Editing by Jonathan Browne

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UL Law students present library to administration

By Winston W. Parley

A library equipped with brand new computers and law school books has been presented to the administration of the University of Liberia (UL) by the outgoing leadership of the Law School Students Association (LAWSA) at the University of Liberia, a boost to learning activities at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at UL.

Making the presentation

on behalf of his class and leadership team Wednesday, 2 June at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law on UL's Capitol Hill campus, outgoing class president Mr. Al Varney Rogers said the entire project cost over US\$10,000. The project included the painting of the facilities and other infrastructure works.

According to Mr. Rogers, the presentation of the equipped library was in fulfilment of a promise earlier made a few months back that taking up student leadership is not about



agitation, but it's about complementing the efforts of administration.

He said with the supervision of Judge Eva Mppy Morgan, the class succeeded in carrying out the project, recalling how she had insisted that despite the circumstances during the coronavirus crisis, the project must still go on.

Rogers gave Judge Morgan credit for being the brain behind the project as she made all of

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