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Continental News

Boko Haram leader is dead, say rival militants

The leader of the Nigerian militant group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, has killed himself, rival Islamist militants said in an audio recording. In audio obtained by news agencies, the Islamic State West Africa Province (Iswap) said Shekau died detonating explosives on himself after a battle between the two groups.

Shekau was reported dead last month and has been reported killed before.

Neither Boko Haram nor the Nigerian government have confirmed his death. In the undated audio recording, a voice thought to be that of Iswap leader Abu Musab al-Barnawi said Shekau "killed himself instantly by detonating an explosive". Iswap fighters hunted down the warlord and offered him the chance to repent and join them, al-Barnawi said.

"Shekau preferred to be humiliated in the afterlife than getting humiliated on earth," he said. When reports of Shekau's death in a clash

circulated last month, the Nigerian army said it would investigate.

Army spokesman Brig Gen Mohammed Yerima told the BBC at the time the army was looking into what happened, but that it would not issue a statement until it got definitive proof.

One journalist with close links to security agencies said

that Shekau died when Iswap attacked Boko Haram positions in the Sambisa forest, north-east Nigeria.

He has been reported dead numerous times before, only to resurface.

The official media outlets of the Islamic State group have also not yet commented on the claims. It's unclear what

Shekau's death will mean for Boko Haram but it's unlikely to spell the end of jihadism in West Africa.

For one, the Islamic State West Africa Province has become increasingly prominent in the region and has carried out a number of successful attacks against the Nigerian military. Analysts say the group may now be wooing Shekau's former fighters. This is both good and bad.

It may result in less violent clashes between the two groups. But it would also mean that the so-called Islamic State's footprint in West Africa receives a massive boost.

Alternatively, Shekau's fighters could decide to join forces with other extremist groups in the region, or create their own faction. This would be potentially disastrous for the already embattled north-east of Nigeria as it could lead

to more infighting between the different groups, with civilians caught in the middle.

After taking the reins of Boko Haram after its founder died in police custody in 2009, Shekau led its transformation from an underground sect to a deadly insurgency that has swept north-east Nigeria. Under Shekau, Boko Haram staged bombings, kidnappings and prison breaks across the region. And from 2014, it began overrunning towns in a bid to create an Islamic State under Sharia law.

Believed to be in his early- to mid-40s, Shekau backed a bloody jihadist campaign in propaganda videos that drew comparisons to Osama Bin Laden. "I enjoy killing... the way I enjoy slaughtering chickens and rams," he said in one 2012 video. Since he took charge, more than 30,000 people have been killed and over two million displaced from their homes. BBC



The underwater avalanche which hit the internet

Scientists are reporting what they say is the longest sediment avalanche yet measured in action.

It occurred underwater off West Africa, in a deep canyon leading away from the mouth of the Congo River.

Something in excess of a cubic kilometre of sand and mud descended into the

deep.

This colossal flow kept moving for two whole days and ran out for more than 1,100km across the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. The event would have gone unrecorded were it not for the fact that the slide broke two submarine telecommunications cables, slowing the internet and other data traffic between Nigeria and South Africa in the

process. And also because of the prescient action of researchers who had lined the length of the Congo Canyon with instruments capable of measuring current and sediment velocities.

"We had a series of oceanographic moorings that were hit by the event, which broke them from their seafloor anchors so that they popped up to send us an email," said Prof Peter Talling from Durham University, UK.

"This thing gradually got faster and faster. Because it erodes the seabed as it goes, it picks up sand and mud, which makes the flow denser and even quicker. So, it has this positive feedback where it can build and build and build," he told BBC News. The underwater avalanche - more properly called a turbidity current - was initiated on 14 January last year. It's only being reported now because scientists needed time to recover the sensors and fully analyse their data. The team says two factors combined to prime and then trigger the prodigious flow.

The first was an exceptionally large flood along the Congo River in late December 2019. A 1-in-50-



Prof Pete Talling: "This thing gradually builds and builds and gets faster and faster"

Mali's junta leader sworn in as president



Col Assimi Goïta, the leader of Mali's junta, has officially been sworn in as the country's interim president and promised "credible, fair and transparent elections". These are expected in February next year, AFP reports.

Two weeks ago he had removed the transitional president and prime minister in a coup - the second he'd engineered in nine months.

Events in Mali have drawn condemnation from its Ecowas neighbours and the African Union - both of whom suspended Mali's membership. Meanwhile France has halted joint military operations with Mali.

News agencies have yet to publish any photos from Monday's ceremony but here was the scene in the capital Bamako shortly beforehand: BBC

year occurrence, this delivered vast quantities of sand and mud to the head of the underwater canyon. But this was still two weeks before the slide. What followed in January, however, were some unusually big spring tides.

"The turbidity current we

think was triggered at low water, at low tide," said Prof Dan Parsons from Hull University.

"As the loading of the ocean above declines, so you get a change in the pore water pressure within the sediment - and that's what allows it to fail. BBC

EDITORIAL

Reading Pres. Weah's mind about war crimes court

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah's response to Lofa County Representative Clarence Massaquo's concern on the need to establish a war and economic crimes court for Liberia to stamp out impunity clearly indicates the President is less interested in prosecuting people who committed heinous crimes during the 14-year civil war. This means victims of the civil crisis should not count on the Weah administration to deliver justice.

LOFA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE Clarence Massaquo, speaking in Foya District, Lofa County over the weekend reminded President Weah that Liberians are hurt because they lost relatives, including parents, so impunity should not stand in the way of accountability and justice. The Lofa lawmaker, like many Liberians, wants the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendation for prosecution implemented.

"I KNOW IT is not common to say this. But Mr. President we have the report of the TRC, whatever forms they come Mr. President, those that are in those mass graves are not here today, on their behalf, we ask for justice", he pleaded.

BUT THE PRESIDENT responded to the lawmaker in the way he spoke which indicates that war crimes court is a far-fetched discussion on his government's agenda, rather telling Liberians to live with impunity for the sake of peace.

LIBERIANS BOTH AT home and abroad are yearning for justice and rightly so, especially when warlords and other perpetrators are publicly unremorseful for atrocities they committed during the crisis that left families decimated and dreams shattered.

MOST KEY PLAYERS from the war are back in government, including the Legislature. They claim to enjoy immunity or exemption from prosecution despite being recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for trial. They include notorious warlord Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, leader of the defunct INPFL rebels, Representative Dr. George S. Boley, leader of the demobilized Liberia Peace Council rebels, Sekou Damate Conneh, leader of the LURD rebels, and Professor Alhaji G.V. Kromah, leader of the disbanded ULIMO-K rebels, among others.

IN FACT, SENATOR Johnson, a staunch political ally of President Weah, continues to brag that no war crimes court is coming to Liberia and publicly deny that he committed atrocities during the war just like his colleagues Rep. Boley and Sekou Damate Conneh say.

SO WHEN PRESIDENT Weah calls on Liberians to sit at a roundtable to discuss how to forge the country ahead rather than call for war crimes court that could return Liberia to the dark days, you can understand that justice is going to elude us continuously, as long as this administration is in power.

HOWEVER, THE HOLY Bible says the voice of the people is the voice of God. Liberians should never give up the fight. They should keep mounting pressure for the establishment of war and economic crimes court despite the apparent un-readiness by the government.

HISTORY HAS PROVEN repeatedly that the will of the people eventually prevails despite attempts to suppress their views and trample on their expressed wishes for justice, which is the fulcrum on which peace that the President talked about, development and all other positive human endeavors rest.

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COMMENTARY

By Melvyn B. Krauss

Biden's Great Game

STANFORD - Joe Biden is about to embark on his first trip to Europe as US president. After a G7 summit in England, he will attend a NATO summit in Belgium and then a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva. But while Europe will serve as the locale, the focus ultimately will be on China, because Biden's strategic priority is to marshal a united Western response to Chinese behavior.

China's increasing assertiveness and contempt for Europe has soured many European leaders' views on President Xi Jinping's regime, creating an opportunity that Biden dare not miss. Strange as it may sound, the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline connecting Germany to Russia is now at the center of Biden's efforts to woo Europe - particularly Germany - away from China.

For years, Biden derided Nord Stream 2 as a "bad deal for Europe," arguing that it jeopardized the continent's security, and particularly that of Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltic states. At his confirmation hearings in January, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the incoming administration was "determined to do whatever we can to prevent" the pipeline's completion.

But US efforts to scupper Nord Stream 2 could have dealt a lethal blow to the transatlantic alliance, because German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government regards Russian gas as Germany's waystation for phasing out coal. In an unexpected about-face, the United States last month waived sanctions against the company that is building the pipeline. Since then, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas has gushed about "the really excellent relations that we've built up with the Biden administration."

To be sure, one of the biggest winners, for now, is Putin. With Nord Stream 2 delivering Russian gas directly to Germany via the Baltic Sea, the Kremlin will be able to cut off supplies to transit countries like Ukraine. But while there is no denying that Ukraine's security, finances, and even independence have been cast into doubt, the Biden administration was wise to acknowledge that it could not stop the pipeline. It therefore decided to use acceptance of the project to gain more cooperation from Germany on US policy toward China.

For its part, China views Europe as even more decadent and sclerotic than the US, and it has been heaping abuse on the continent, even issuing individual

sanctions against Dutch legislators and members of the European Parliament. In response, the European Parliament has blocked ratification of the draft Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI), a deal that the European Commission agreed with China last December, openly spurning the incoming Biden administration's request for prior consultations on the matter.

China's assertiveness has given both Germany and the US the encouragement they needed to make a deal that will unify the West. The terms are already clear: Germany will get the pipeline and, ultimately, the climate policy it wants; the US will have Germany's support in implementing a new China strategy and defending the rules-based international order.

Viewed in context, then, Biden's concession on Nord Stream 2 was essentially cost-free. With the Germans determined to finish the project, US opposition would only have deepened divisions in the Western alliance. Unlike former President Donald Trump, with his bombastic deal-making and brinkmanship, Biden has recognized reality and extracted material benefits from it. The Europeans are now highly unlikely to allow implementation of the CAI anytime soon.

As for Putin's Russia, Biden seems confident that the West has the capacity not only to contain it but perhaps to woo it away from China, too. There is a clear case to be made that increasing dependence on China is not in Russia's national-security interest, and this is presumably the message that Biden will transmit to Putin in Geneva.

Trump didn't think America needed allies in Europe to achieve its economic and political objectives. But Biden understands that the transatlantic alliance is a bedrock of US economic and national security. That is why he is willing to risk burnishing Russian economic interests in order to strengthen the West's position vis-à-vis China.

Critics like Wolfgang Münchau of Eurointelligence view Biden's policy as one "based on a misjudgment of German politics, which bodes ill for the chances of a successful Biden administration foreign policy." In fact, anchoring Germany firmly within a Western united front to engage with China may prove to be one of Biden's pivotal diplomatic achievements. If nothing else, it is a bold gesture that exorcises Trumpism from US foreign policy.

OPINION

*By Anne-marie Slaughter,
Kazumi Hoshino-macdonald*

Making America Global Again

WASHINGTON, DC - The liberal international order remains trapped in the twentieth century. As autocracies like China and Russia increasingly develop spheres of cooperation, the United States is responding by building or strengthening regional groupings of its own, from NATO to the Indo-Pacific Quad (the US, Japan, Australia, and India). But America should instead take a global approach that focuses on values and visions rather than on countries.

Emerging strains of authoritarianism pose new challenges to democratic aspirations from Crimea to Taiwan. In both Eastern Europe and East Asia, proliferating “gray-zone” warfare tactics are jeopardizing countries’ territorial integrity, open trading systems, democratic elections, technology supply chains, and the rule of law. These illiberal threats are no longer just European, American, or Asian issues. They target all open societies, international human rights, and democracy itself.

Unfortunately, America’s post-1945 international frameworks are ill-suited to fostering a common conversation among liberal societies. The G7, NATO, the European Union, and the Quad are too regionally disparate to forge a strong global response.

Consider the issue of semiconductors. The most advanced play a foundational role in emerging technologies such as biotech, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence, and are produced almost exclusively by the US, the EU, and their Asian allies. But semiconductor manufacturers depend on a global system of talent and trade in which China is deeply embedded. No democratic forum currently exists to generate consensus on international standards, export controls, or industrial cooperation.

The US, the EU, and their democratic Asian allies, which have technologically sophisticated economies and high standards of living, together account for roughly half of global GDP. But if the US is to protect and rejuvenate its economic foundations and approach autocracies from a position of strength, its strategy cannot be merely trans-Pacific or transatlantic; it must be openly sourced from across the democratic world.

US President Joe Biden’s administration has, or at least had, a vision of global democratic cooperation, but one focused on countries more than issues. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and author and pundit Robert Kagan called in 2019 for the establishment of a “league of democracies.” Likewise, during the presidential transition, Biden announced his intention to convene a “Summit of Democracies” during his first year in office. But the administration stumbled on the rock that trips up all such efforts: the difficulty of defining who belongs to the liberal democratic club. It has thus renamed the gathering the “Summit for Democracy,” and apparently postponed it until next year.

Rather than focusing on democracy itself, the summit should emphasize the underlying values that liberal democracies cherish: an open society, the rule of law, representative government, economic opportunity, privacy, security, freedom of expression, justice, and equality.

To that end, the US should consider how to work with smaller states to convene countries in support of specific democratic norms and standards on important issues. Jared Cohen of the Council on Foreign Relations and Richard Fontaine, the CEO of the Center for a New American Security, argue that such “microlateralism,” a combination of “small-country leadership and large-state participation,” can be a “key instrument in the United States’ collective-action toolkit.”

Developing a code of best practice for open societies’ pandemic responses might be an easy starting point. Taiwan, for example, has been among the most successful in countering COVID-19, despite its proximity to the Chinese mainland and lack of vaccines. Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, recently praised Taiwan’s handling of the pandemic, noting that the US has “a lot to learn” from the country’s ability to combat disinformation and tackle the challenges of an interconnected democratic society. The US could turn to New Zealand to lead or co-lead a gathering of states committed to developing a set of principles or a code of conduct for tackling pandemics. This could be named after the host city, like the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

Such a forum should not be restricted to governments. Civil society, academia, industry, philanthropy, and religious organizations are all force multipliers for democratic dynamism. During the COVID-19 pandemic, institutions such as Johns Hopkins University and vaccine developers like Pfizer-BioNTech have been invaluable in immunizing society from disinformation and the virus, respectively. The vibrancy of these non-governmental actors is one of liberal democracies’ unique strengths vis-à-vis authoritarian systems.

Moreover, these gatherings could disseminate democratic best practices on combating disinformation. Estonia, which developed a multi-faceted digital approach to reinforcing its democratic institutions after a series of crippling cyberattacks in 2007, offers an excellent example of how civic tech can foster resilience to autocratic hostility. Its “digital nomad” visa has allowed citizens of countries from Canada to South Africa to work virtually in Estonia, thereby integrating further private-sector expertise and strengthening cultural ties with other open societies. Such innovative pockets of ingenuity shine a positive light on the value of human freedom and show how developing and diffusing democratic norms can offer a multi-centered model of twenty-first-century governance.

The Biden administration is currently preparing for the upcoming G7 and NATO summits, but prominent democracies such as Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Taiwan, and South Korea will not be at the table (although the UK has invited some as guests to the G7 meeting). An effective mechanism for strategizing among liberal-democratic states could help America get its own house in order and provide values-based leadership on human rights, security, tech governance, supply chains, and even global corporate taxation. Emerging or at-risk democracies, seeing opportunity rather than only forced choice, will certainly take note.

US strategy for addressing authoritarian challenges should be global, not regional, plural rather than unitary, and issue-based rather than country-based. Over a century ago, following the last pandemic, America was the engine driving the creation of a new international order. Today, it must lead from the center rather than the front, side by side with many other countries, to seize a unique opportunity to update the model of a more interconnected, inclusive, and democratic global society.

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OP-ED

By Dambisa Moyo

Accelerating Global Britain

LONDON - Skeptics have long argued that the United Kingdom is past its peak and trading largely on former glories. They point to the country’s middling rankings in the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment education scores, the fact that only one British firm, HSBC, is among the world’s 50 largest public corporations, compared to Germany’s four, and the likelihood that Brexit will ultimately erode, rather than boost, Britain’s global standing.

But I disagree with this judgment. After all, the UK is one of only a handful of countries to have produced an effective COVID-19 vaccine in record time. It remains at the forefront of shaping the global green-energy transition, and it was the first major economy to enact legislation requiring it to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. Moreover, the UK retains its traditional strengths of language, location and time zone, strong universities, and deep financial markets, and it remains a standard-bearer for the rule of law.

When the UK hosts the upcoming G7 summit in Cornwall, political and business leaders will want to see how well aligned the country is with the three issues that, collectively, will upend global commerce and catalyze economic growth in the coming decades: engagement with China, technological innovation, and clean energy.

With respect to China, Britain has considerable scope to increase bilateral trade. UK exports to China in 2019 were £30.7 billion (\$43.5 billion), little more than one-third of Germany’s total of \$110 billion. In fact, 2020 was the fifth successive year in which China was Germany’s largest trading partner.

Britain thus urgently needs to expand its trade and investment links with China, which is set to dominate the global economy. China is already the largest trading partner and foreign direct investor for many developed and developing countries, and it is now the largest lender to emerging-market economies - bigger than the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Paris Club of sovereign creditors.

Of course, human-rights concerns and ideological differences pose an ethical challenge for Britain when dealing with China. But stepping away from engagement with the Chinese political class would limit the UK’s ability to influence the regime in Beijing and risk setting back the British economy.

In terms of technology, Britain’s role in developing the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine underscores its strengths in medical science innovation - as evidenced by a thriving biotech and life sciences sector. And yet the UK has yet to develop a technology company of global stature and renown, and recent stock-market activity has sent mixed messages to investors. The initial public offerings of food-delivery company Deliveroo and semiconductor technology firm Alphawave were challenged: both companies’ share prices fell sharply on their first day of trading and remained below their launch price weeks later.

But the UK is well positioned to benefit from investments and advances in emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, that will undoubtedly transform education and health care in the coming years. Moreover, the country has real opportunities to help allies plug technological gaps - not least in semiconductors, where America’s share of global output has fallen from 37% in 1990 to just 12% today.

To realize its potential as a science superpower, the UK needs a technology hub that can rival Silicon Valley in its dynamism. That will require aggressively and deliberately building an ecosystem of talent and collaboration across data science, technology, and public policy.

For example, the Oxford-Cambridge arc already supports two million jobs and adds £110 billion to the UK economy each year. But to rise to the next level, this region must become a vibrant environment for innovation, and be far more visible to leading global investors. This is particularly important given that global foreign direct investment had fallen for three consecutive years (2016-18) even before plummeting 42% in the annus pandemicus of 2020.

On energy, the UK has been a global front-runner in mitigating climate risk through carbon sequestration and capture, and setting a net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions target. And it has an important opportunity to bolster its credentials as an environmental and green-energy leader when it hosts the United Nations COP26 climate summit this autumn.

Crucially, the UK has a chance to shift the discourse so that the green transition is not only about limiting the economic downside but also about maximizing the upside. In particular, government support for larger-scale investments in solar, wind, hydrogen, biofuels, hydropower, geothermal energy, Generation IV nuclear reactors, and new battery technologies would yield massive returns.

If Britain is to lead in the energy transition, new technologies, and engagement with China, it must overcome several obstacles. Above all, the currently fragmented “Global Britain” agenda needs to reflect much closer cooperation between the public and private sectors, and become clearer about how to track execution and measure success.

The UK has a strong hand to play. But playing it well will require greater political vision. British leaders should set in motion a grand scheme that creates a long-term legacy - in the spirit of the Manhattan Project during World War II to develop the first nuclear weapons, or the US government’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which enabled the subsequent development of Silicon Valley.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC launches biometric voters feasibility studies

By Lewis S. Teh

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has officially launched the biometric voters registration feasibility studies in the country.

Addressing a press conference, NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown - Lansanah told reporters Monday, 7 June 2021 that the commission in partnership with UNDP and Ecowas, has begun the feasibility studies of voters' biometric

in data capture and analysis, and increasing security, improving the conduct of future elections," Madam Brown - Lansanah said.

On behalf of the Board of the NEC, Madam Brown - Lansanah told reporters that NEC along with UNDP and Ecowas technical support is undertaking a comprehensive feasibility study for a potential introduction of new technology - the biometric voters registration in election management in Liberia.

She indicated that in the interest of transparency and

efficiency and sustainability of various technologies and advise the NEC appropriately.

According to her, given the experience gained from the cleaning of the voters roll, the studies will increase public confidence in the voters roll.

"These types of solutions are becoming more popular globally, but each nation has its own strength and limitations when it comes to conducting technological solutions, and these need to be considered more consciously," the NEC boss continued.

She said Liberia's position is by no means unique, noting that there's a need to carefully assess how to adapt any new technology before making any kind of commitment.

"This feasibility study we are launching today will assess Liberia's ability to initially adapt new technologies," she said.

"As we look forward to 2023, this is just one way in which the NEC can continue to improve its performance to benefit every voters," Madam Brown - Lansanah indicated.

Speaking on behalf of the Ecowas Technical Support team, the head of Ecowas Radio Ms. Eva Flomo said the regional body has been collaborating with UNDP in ensuring that there is a free, fair and transparent election in Liberia.

"We provided support in 2017, during that process the major issues that came out were the cleaning of the voters roll," she said, adding that Ecowas along with UNDP again was pleased in providing support to the cleaning of the voters roll exercise, adding credibility to the electoral process.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



registration.

She noted that the introduction of biometric voters' registration globally has had some advantages, among them the possibility of enhancing voters' confidence and increasing integrity, accuracy and transparency of the electoral process.

"Following this launch, we are hoping that the potential adoption of the biometric voters registration in Liberia can bring greater efficiency

national ownership, the team will meet with a broad spectrum of politicians here in Liberia for their inputs in this exercise.

According to her, the feasibility studies will do a comprehensive analysis of the potential of the introduction of new technologies such as biometric voters' registration in the electoral process ahead of the 2023 elections and beyond.

Ms. Brown - Lansanah added that the studies will strongly consider the effectiveness,

Rep. Seboe to introduce vocational education at D. Twe High School

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County District # 16 Representative Dixon Seboe discloses plan to introduce a bill for vocational training skills during high school at the D. Twe Memorial High School in New Kru Town, suburb of Monrovia.

D. Twe Memorial High School is one of the oldest public schools in electoral district#16.

Speaking over the weekend, Representative Seboe said the aim is to

ensure that graduates leaving the school come out with vocational skills to enable them pursue higher education.

According to him, when the bill is proposed and legislated, it will put smiles on the faces of youths of the district and enable them contribute to the rebuilding process of the country.

He notes the youths are faced with challenges in pursuing higher education, so it is time to change the dynamics at D. Twe.

Rep. Seboe at the same time challenges 12th graders to prepare adequately for the

upcoming WAEC exams in order to make a successful pass, while vowing to support any student that would emerge as dux for D. Twe High School for the first year in any University of his or her choice in Liberia.

Meanwhile, the Montserrado County Lawmaker has also donated buckets of paint worth over US\$ 1,600 to the D. Twe Memorial High School to give the institution a facelift.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

AME University inducts Dr. Attah as President

By Bridgett Milton

The Board of Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal University has formally inducted Rev. Dr. Alvin E. Attah as President of the University.

Dr. Attah received the baton of leadership as Interim President of the AME University on April 1, 2020 from Dr. Josephine George-Francis, a position he served up to his formal appointment. He has been given a four year mandate to run the affairs of the university.

Speaking at the induction of Dr. Attah on June 4, 2021, the 1st Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the AMEU Dr. Josephine George Francis, said the Board is satisfied with the workings of Dr. Attah since he took over and they have no

improvement of AMEU.

Dr. Attah at the same time dedicated a new office complex for use by the College of Education and Business and Continuing Education Center (BCEC), an online television station, AMEU Magazine and AMEU Radio, awaiting permit to resume regular broadcast.

Rev. Alvin E. Attah holds a BSc. degree in Physics from the University of Calabar, Nigeria; a Master's in Project Management from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria; a MBA in Management from the University of Liberia, and a MTh. degree in Theology from the Cuttington University Graduate School of Professional Studies, respectively.

He previously served as an



doubt of entrusting him for the next four years.

In response, Dr. Attah promised that as he leads the university for the next four years, to take AME University to the level it ought to be.

He said his dream is to move the University to a level that attracts people for enrollment.

For his part, the President of the Association of Liberian Universities, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, who also heads the state-owned University of Liberia, welcomed Dr. Attah as a member of ALU, indicating that they will work together for a better educational system in Liberia.

He promised to work closely with Dr. Attah for the

Examiner for the West African Examination Council in Nigeria, a full-time faculty and Research Fellow at the University of Calabar in Nigeria.

In the public service, he worked as Deputy National Authorizing Officer at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs in Monrovia; Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and most recently, as the Associate Vice President for Administration at the AME University.

He is currently the Senior Pastor of Eliza Turner Memorial AME Church, Camp Johnson Road, Monrovia, Liberia. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Weah wraps up Lofa visit



Weah wraps up Lofa visit



Français

Le Président Weah préfère un tribunal de paix à un tribunal de crimes de guerre

Le président George Manneh Weah a demandé aux habitants du comté de Lofa et aux Libériens en général de dialoguer et de se pardonner les uns les autres, au lieu de réclamer un tribunal de crimes de guerre et crimes économiques pour le pays.

Le président Weah est actuellement dans le comté de Lofa dans le cadre de sa tournée nationale dont le but est d'écouter les préoccupations des citoyens et les féliciter de l'avoir élu en 2017. La tournée l'a emmené dans 14 comtés, à partir du comté de Montserrado qui sera le dernier.

Il a demandé aux Libériens de plutôt se concentrer sur la promotion du pardon et de la paix, soulignant que sans paix, il est difficile de réaliser des progrès.

«Mais encore une fois, nous pouvons pardonner parce que parfois nos propres enfants sont les auteurs, nous devons comprendre ce que nous voulons faire», a déclaré le président Weah dans le

district de Kulahun, dans le comté de Lofa, tout en répondant aux préoccupations du représentant Clearance Massaquo concernant la responsabilité des atrocités commises dans le comté pendant la guerre, en montrant des fosses communes.

«M. Président, l'avant-dernière ville dans laquelle vous êtes entré avant d'atteindre

Kolahun s'appelle Tambulahun ; Tambulahun est le site d'une fosse commune contenant 39 de nos citoyens qui ont été tués pendant la période de la guerre dans toutes les villes.

Il y a environ huit mois, j'étais à Kalahun, dans le district de Lukamble, pour la

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Foyaa-t-il changé de cap politique ?

Foya, le district le plus peuplé du comté de Lofa, et terrenalement de l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai, a promis son soutien au président George Weah samedi 5 juin en vue des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Le district et l'ensemble du comté avaient voté à une écrasante majorité pour M. Boakai qui était opposé au chef de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), l'actuel président, ce qui en fait une zone interdite

pour l'actuel pouvoir.

La pétition, qui a été signée par plusieurs chefs et fonctionnaires, dont le chef suprême Momo Tailor, le fils du chef traditionnel le plus respecté de Foya, feu le chef Tamba Tailor, pourrait être un coup fatal pour l'opposition et M. Boakai si la région riche en culture maintient sa tradition de suivre les décisions de ses chefs et anciens.

Le président Weah, ému par l'annonce des chefs, des anciens et des responsables de Lofa, a crié «Lofa est tombé», lorsqu'il a

pris la parole.

Le comté, avant la tournée de M. Weah dans le cadre de la quatrième étape de sa tournée nationale dans 14 comtés, avait été considéré comme hostile au président et à son régime.

Mais le seul sénateur en exercice du comté au moment où Steve Zargo s'exprimait à Voinjama, la capitale politique du comté un jour plus tôt, a déclaré que les déclarations condescendantes faites contre le président à Monrovia n'engagent pas les habitants de Lofa, ajoutant que les habitants de Lofa sont connus pour avoir soutenu les gouvernements qui se sont succédés et ne s'est jamais rebellé contre aucun pouvoir dans le pays auparavant.

«Ceux qui sont assis à Monrovia et font des commentaires condescendants ne sont pas des habitants de Lofa. Vous êtes venu, vous avez vu que vous êtes le choix», a déclaré à M. Weah le sénateur Zargo, membre du parti de la liberté, lors d'une réunion publique à Voinjama vendredi.



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

Le Président Weah préfère

construction d'un site commémoratif, il y a une fosse commune de 50 de nos citoyens qui ont été tués de sang-froid. Kamata, Masala, est le site d'un charnier. Je n'étais pas trop petit pour ne pas me souvenir de ces fosses communes », a dit le représentant Massaquo.

Selon lui, les Libériens sont blessés dans leurs âmes parce qu'ils ont perdu des proches, y compris des parents, d'où la nécessité de mettre fin à l'impunité afin qu'elle ne fasse obstacle à la situation des responsabilités et à la justice. Le représentant de Lofa, comme de nombreux Libériens, souhaite que la recommandation de la Commission vérité et réconciliation concernant les poursuites des auteurs des crimes odieux soit mise en œuvre.

« Je sais que ce n'est pas courant de dire ça. Mais Monsieur le Président nous avons le rapport de la CVR, quelles que soient les formes qu'elles prennent Monsieur le Président, ceux qui sont dans ces charniers ne sont pas là aujourd'hui, de leur propre vœu, nous demandons justice », a-t-il plaidé.

D'après lui, la réponse à la question de savoir pourquoi le régime précédent n'a pas mis en œuvre le rapport de la CVR est si longue qu'il faut des années. « Il n'y a pas de mauvais moment pour faire la bonne chose. Si l'administration précédente n'a pas pris de mesures, nous ne discuterons pas du rapport de la CVR. Monsieur le Président, quelle que soit la forme de justice, justice doit être rendue.

Cependant, le président Weah pense qu'il est important de panser les plaies et de restaurer la nation plutôt que de rouvrir les blessures, précisant : « Nous ne disons pas que les auteurs doivent être libérés. Ce que j'ai dit aux Nations Unies, nous devons tous avoir des raisons et du temps, même les auteurs et les victimes doivent s'asseoir pour discuter, afin que nous puissions tous comprendre, afin que nous ne puissions pas revenir aux jours sombres. C'est pourquoi j'ai dit aux Nations Unies que nous devons nous engager. Nous devons retourner à la table de discussion, nous asseoir avec nos chefs et nos anciens pour que les erreurs que nous avons commises ne se reproduisent pas. Ainsi, nous

pouvons nous pardonner, afin que notre pays puisse avancer »,

Il s'est dit convaincu que les Libériens souffrent, y compris les auteurs de crimes de guerre qui sont, selon lui, « Nos propres enfants et parents ».

« Nous devons donc nous asseoir autour d'une table pour discuter de ce qu'il faut faire pour aller de l'avant; comment nous pouvons ramener l'unité et la compréhension entre nous. Nous avons fait une erreur, nous ne pouvons pas revenir aux jours sombres. Nous allons vers le progrès pour que notre pays soit apaisé, faisons les choses comme il faut. Si nous dialoguons en harmonie, je pense que nous pouvons faire tout ce que nous voulons. »

Le président a profité de l'occasion pour exprimer sa colère face à la violence dans le pays, tout en pointant plus précisément le viol endémique de doigt. « Regardez ce qui se passe dans notre pays, des gens qui violent des jeunes femmes tous les jours ; c'est notre famille qui les protège car certains des violeurs sont nos enfants. Chers Libériens, favorisons la paix, si nous nous asseyons autour d'une table nous ne retournerons pas aux jours sombres. L'heure est à la gouvernance, à la paix et à la sécurité.

S'adressant au Représentant Clearance, il lui a demandé pourquoi il ne fait pas venir le tribunal de crimes de guerre car il en a le pouvoir en tant que député. « Pourquoi ne le fait-il pas, pourquoi me le demande-t-il ? »

M. Weah a en outre expliqué qu'en tant que législateur, Clearance sert le peuple, donc s'il croit en ce qu'il dit, qu'il en parle au parlement.

« Cher peuple, je ne dis pas qu'il ne faut pas faire payer ceux qui vous ont fait du mal. Je vois que des gens ordinaires du tribunal de rue pour crimes de guerre viendront ici. Oui, nous voulons un tribunal de crimes de guerre. Nous ne sommes pas les coupables ; Je ne suis pas l'auteur. Je suis le chef de ce pays. Je n'étais pas en ta guerre. Quand tu faisais la guerre, je jouais au foot. Mais nous comprenons parce que mes parents étaient à la guerre et que des gens sont morts à cause de moi.

Un consortium d'organisations de la société civile dirigé par le président de l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria, Me Tiawan Gongloe, se mobilise pour réunir plus de 100, 000 citoyens dans les rues pour protester en faveur du tribunal.

COMMENTAIRE

By Melvyn B. Krauss

Le grand jeu de Biden

STANFORD - Joe Biden s'apprête à embarquer pour sa première visite en Europe depuis son élection à la présidence des États-Unis. Après un sommet du G7 au Royaume-Uni, il participera au sommet de l'OTAN à Bruxelles, puis à une rencontre bilatérale avec le président russe, Vladimir Poutine, à Genève. Mais si l'Europe offre le cadre, le point de mire, au bout du compte, sera la Chine, car la priorité stratégique de Biden est d'articuler, face au comportement des Chinois, une réponse occidentale unie.

L'assurance et le mépris grandissants qu'affiche la Chine à l'égard de l'Europe ont froissé nombre de dirigeants européens et assombri l'image qu'ils avaient du régime présidé par Xi Jinping, créant une opportunité que Biden ne saurait manquer. Aussi étrange que cela puisse paraître, le gazoduc Nord Stream 2, entre l'Allemagne et la Russie, est désormais au centre des efforts de Biden pour détourner l'Europe - et notamment l'Allemagne - de la Chine.

Depuis des années, Biden critique Nord Stream 2 comme un « mauvais accord pour l'Europe », qui mettra en péril la sécurité du continent, plus particulièrement de la Pologne, de l'Ukraine et des États baltes. Lors de son audition de confirmation par le Sénat, en janvier, le secrétaire d'État Anthony Blinken affirmait que la future administration était déterminée à « faire tout ce qu'[elle pourrait] pour éviter » que le gazoduc ne soit achevé.

Mais les efforts des États-Unis pour saborder Nord Stream 2 auraient pu porter un coup mortel à la relation transatlantique, car le gouvernement de la chancelière Angela Merkel considère le passage par le gaz russe comme l'étape qui doit permettre à l'Allemagne de sortir progressivement du charbon. Dans une volte-face inattendue, les États-Unis ont levé le mois dernier les sanctions à l'encontre de l'entreprise qui construit le gazoduc. Depuis, le ministre allemand des Affaires étrangères, Heiko Maas, n'est que louanges pour les « relations vraiment excellentes [...] bâties avec l'administration Biden ».

Certes, Poutine apparaît, pour le moment, comme l'un des grands vainqueurs. Lorsque Nord Stream 2 livrera directement à l'Allemagne du gaz russe en passant par la mer Baltique, le Kremlin pourra couper les approvisionnements des pays de transit comme l'Ukraine. Mais si l'on ne peut nier que la sécurité, les finances et même l'indépendance de l'Ukraine sont remises en cause, l'administration Biden fait preuve de sagesse en reconnaissant qu'elle ne peut arrêter le gazoduc. Elle a donc décidé d'utiliser le consentement finalement donné au projet pour s'assurer d'une attitude plus coopérative de l'Allemagne dans la politique menée par les États-Unis envers la Chine.

La Chine considère pour sa part que l'Europe est encore affaiblie et sclérosée que ne le sont

les États-Unis, et elle accable le continent de rebuffades, ayant même pris des sanctions individuelles à l'encontre de législateurs néerlandais et d'eurodéputés. En réponse, le Parlement européen bloque la ratification de l'accord sur les investissements entre l'Union européenne et la Chine, dit de coopération internationale (ACI), auquel la Commission, rejetant ouvertement la demande de consultations préalables faite par l'administration Biden, était parvenue en décembre dernier avec Pékin.

L'assurance de la Chine a fourni, tant à l'Allemagne qu'aux États-Unis, le mobile nécessaire à la conclusion d'une entente qui va cimenter les positions à l'Ouest. Les termes en sont déjà clairs : l'Allemagne aura son gazoduc et pourra mener telle qu'elle l'entend sa politique climatique ; les États-Unis auront le soutien de l'Allemagne dans la mise en œuvre d'une nouvelle stratégie à l'égard de la Chine et dans la défense de l'ordre international ainsi que des règles qui le sous-tendent.

Replacée dans son contexte, la concession de Biden sur Nord Stream 2 ne lui coûte guère. Les Allemands étaient déterminés à achever le projet, et l'opposition des États-Unis n'eût que creusé les divisions au sein de l'Alliance atlantique. À la différence de l'ancien président Donald Trump, de ses accords à grand tapage et de sa politique du bras de fer, Biden reconnaît la réalité et en tire profit. Il serait désormais fort peu probable que les Européens permettent avant longtemps à l'ACI de se mettre en place.

Quant à la Russie de Poutine, Biden semble convaincu que l'Ouest a la capacité non seulement de la contenir, mais peut-être aussi de la détourner des séductions chinoises. Et il a en ce sens un argument de poids : une dépendance accrue à la Chine ne correspond pas aux intérêts de sécurité nationale russes, et ce sera probablement le message de Biden à Poutine lors de leur rencontre de Genève.

Trump pensait que l'Amérique n'avait pas besoin de ses alliés en Europe pour atteindre ses objectifs politiques et économiques. Mais Biden comprend que l'Alliance transatlantique est un indispensable à la sécurité nationale et économique des États-Unis. Raison pour laquelle il est prêt à risque de cultiver les intérêts économiques de Moscou, afin de renforcer la position de l'Ouest vis-à-vis de la Chine.

Ses contempteurs, comme Wolfgang Münchau du groupe de réflexion Eurointelligence, considèrent que l'initiative de Biden, « fondée sur une appréciation erronée de la situation politique allemande, augure mal de la politique étrangère de l'administration Biden. » En réalité, le solide ancrage de l'Allemagne au sein d'un front occidental uni dans ses relations avec la Chine pourrait s'avérer l'un des succès diplomatiques essentiels de Biden. Quoi qu'il en soit, c'est un mouvement courageux, qui, dans la politique étrangère des États-Unis, signifie son congé au trumpisme.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CPP vows to hold together

The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) have issued a four-count resolution, committing to working together and avoid attacking one another's leaders in public. The CPP comprised of four opposition parties, including Alternative

have taken responsibility of the actions of their respective partisans and have promised to take actions against/penalize any partisan(s) and executive(s) who will make denigrating, derogatory and insulting comments against partisans and leaders from constituent

(UP), businessman Benoni Urey(ALP) and Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence (LP).

The release says constituent parties will ensure that all executives and/or officials will refrain from pointless accusations against Political Leaders, Executive Committee Members, or officials of any constituent party, and the institution itself, and that each constituent party will propagate this decision to all its membership and endeavor to ensure that all members at various levels heed to the decision.

"All partisans and supporters of constituent parties within the CPP are mandated to make best efforts aimed at protecting and respecting all leaders going forward", reads the release.

The release continues that the purpose of the one-day leadership workshop was led by all four Political Leaders, who reaffirmed the constituent parties' commitment to foster unity and uphold the framework agreement of the collaboration in the wake of growing apprehension among partisans and supporters, ahead of the CPP's selection processes for Standard Bearer

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National Congress, Unity Party, All Liberian Party and Liberty Party.

A press release issued in Monrovia Monday, June 07, says at a one-day leadership workshop held in Sinkor, Monrovia, the CPP agreed that all constituent parties

parties, warning that any such action(s) will be consistent with CPP's internal regulations and guidelines.

The forum was attended by all four constituent leaders of the CPP, including Mr. Alexander B. Cummings (ANC), ex-vice president Joseph Nyumah Boakai

Speaker donates rice to J.J. Dossen Hospital

Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who is also Maryland County district #2 Representative, has donated 30 bags of rice to the administration and staff of the J.J. Dossen Hospital in Harper City, Maryland.

The presentation ceremony, which was done over the weekend in the county, brought together health workers, patients, administrators, local government officials, among others.

The constituency coordinator for the Speaker, Robert P. Weah said the donation is the Speaker's way of identifying with the health facility that provides services to majority of citizens, including patients from neighboring countries.

He said although Speaker Chambers is not a medical practitioner, he is always concerned about challenges confronting the health sector.

The constituency

coordinator added that Speaker Chamber's gesture to the county is not only limited to the health sector in county.

He recalled that in July last year, the Speaker donated two drums of fuel to the J.J. Dossen Referral Hospital in Harper, including Covid-19 preventive materials to health facilities in Nyanbo Town, his own district.

He also disclosed that the

Speaker similarly donated 250 bags of rice to the county, which was shared among traditional chiefs, various health centers, towns and villages, and groups, including people living with disabilities.

Meanwhile, receiving the food at the hospital, the

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House Speak Bhofal Chambers

Rule of law is fundamental to national growth

-Chief Justice Korkpor

By Lewis S. Teh

Chief Justice, His Honor Francis Korkpor says, the rule of law in any society is fundamental to national growth and remains the cornerstone of Democracy.

He says the rule of law is fundamental to national growth, international peace and security that ensure protection for rights of citizens and foreign nationals within the borders of Liberia.

He notes that democracy is strongly intertwined with development, saying there's a census that democratic governance established through free and fair elections that creates a stable environment in which businesses and the economy flourish.

Chief Justice Korkpor spoke Monday, June 07, 2021 during

avoid arbitrary actions.

According to Chief Korkpor, the revised rules of the Supreme Court of Liberia mandate the Court to hold a national judicial conference once a year, but due to financial constraints this has not been possible for a long time, since it was last held in 2010 under his predecessor, the late Chief Justice Johnny N. Lewis.

"As I said before, law is much more dynamic and progressive than other fields of studies, locally and internationally new laws are constantly being promulgated while existing laws are being repealed or amended to suite the time, provision and the need of the people", he explains.

He continues that this means people who are in the field of law must keep pace on changes and development, must meet every time and discuss trending issues in law and harmonize views for the public.



Chief Justice, Francis Korkpor

opening ceremony of the 4th national judicial conference held at the Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo Town under the theme: "the Law Public Policy and the Economy."

He described law as a system of rules made by a country or community to regulate its members, noting that when the laws are violated, appropriate penalties are given, while describing public policy as a set of actions or decisions taking by government or public officials to addressing issues that affect society.

According to the Chief Justice, the rule of law and public policy must therefore work hands in hands, adding that all public policy decisions must be taken with the rule of law as guiding principles to

Justice Korkpor extols the government, particularly President Weah for making funds available for the holding of the conference, saying, "We hope that from now on, funds will be provided on a regular basis to make this conference an annual event as envisaged by the Supreme Court."

He also lauds the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the American Bar Association (ABA) for supporting the conference.

This year's national judicial conference brings together Justices, Judges, Magistrates, Lawyers, Financial Experts and other stakeholders to discuss burning issues that affect law, public policy, and the economy.

The President of the Liberia National Bar Association or LNBA

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I bring different experiences than Boakai

By Winston W. Parley

In his quest for the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) presidential ticket, former Coca-Cola bottling executive, now Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says after running large complex organizations and delivering result, he brings different experiences than former Liberian Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

"I think the difference, I

results, adding that the corporations that he worked for were neither Liberian-owned corporations, nor were they his mother or father's corporations, adding that he had no connections to those institutions.

"We earned the results we got every day and the success we have every day, and my experiences are there, clear. I keep saying the best way to predict future performance and future behavior is past performance and past behavior," Mr. Cummings added.

believes they both care for their country, believe in Liberia and they are both in the CPP.

Last month Mr. Boakai said he won't take a slot for the vice presidency this time around, but committed himself to abiding by all that is in the CPP framework in a subsequent response to a follow-up question if he would support the CPP's presidential ticket in case he is not chosen.

Among CPP's four political leaders, both Boakai and Cummings seem to be the main forces restlessly battling for the CPP presidential slot ahead of the party's final decision on who it carries.

And it seems so because supporters from both the former ruling Unity Party (UP) of Mr. Boakai and Cummings' ANC have separately been speaking out so much trying to present their various parties' leaders as the best options to battle sitting President George Manneh Weah.

CPP is comprised of four opposition political parties including Boakai's UP on whose ticket he and former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf won two successive six years terms that ended when President George Manneh Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) took office in January 2018 after the 2017 presidential elections. Within CPP are also Cummings' ANC, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence's Liberty Party (LP) and businessman-turned politician Benonie Urey's All Liberian Party (ALP).



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings



Ex-Vice Pres. Joseph Nyumah Boakai

will say is, I bring a different set of experiences than the former Vice President, and Liberians will have to decide whether that different set of experiences is what they think we need to lead our country," Cummings said Monday, 7 June in Monrovia during a live talk show on OK FM.

During the show, Mr. Cummings reminded Liberians of his experience of running large complex organizations and delivering

Additionally, Mr. Cummings stated that it is premature right now to start naming running mates now, when asked who he will pick as his vice presidential candidate in the event he were picked as CPP standard bearer. Instead, he indicated that if he gets the CPP presidential ticket, criteria will be developed and he will look within the CPP in line with its framework to select the vice standard bearer.

Speaking of the commonalities between him and Boakai, Cummings said he

Starts from back page

Responding to allegation, Madam Aminata Bangura, General Manager of GTMS said that her institution was never thrown out of Sierra Leone as is been insinuated by some unscrupulous individual. Displaying a letter from the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone, Madam Bangura noted that our good record speaks for us. Besides our fiduciary responsibilities, we are also engaged in corporate social responsibilities in some of the Liberian community.

Madam Bangura in a more soulful mood asked the audience to see GTMS as their own African brothers and sisters doing business in Liberia. "I am from Sierra Leone, I have Liberians cousins, uncles and aunties but sometimes, the way we treat each other is not good. We look down on our own African business and give much credence and respect

to other businesses. GTMS is here to provide security and facility trade" she noted.

During their presentation, the Liberia Business Association outlined some of the challenges faced by the business community in the importation of their goods. They accused GTMS of charging excessive fees for obtaining a tracking number. Mr. Dominic Nimley speaking on behalf of LIBA said GTMS was charging extremely high penalty for no reason. He called on the government of Liberia to distinguish the responsibility of GTMS and BIVAC as there was not a clear line of function.

After the presentations followed by questions and answers, a group comprising LIBA, GTMS and Civil Society was set up to develop a joint resolution as the way forward for harmonizing the relationship. The three counts resolutions read:

1. That the Government of Liberia and the GTMS do a review of the contract with specific

focus on the fees and penalties with a 25% reduction on Container Tracking Note fees and penalties;

2. That GTMS presence is visible and accessible at every point of loading and also be made public on other websites; and

3. That penalty shall be imposed ten working days after loading and seven working days after landing; a total of seventeen days in total.

The joint resolution was signed by Mr. Samuel Kofi Jones, Madam Aminata Bangura for GTMS, RemaFawaz, Lawrence Cole and Robert Teah for the Liberia Business Association, Mr. Charles B. Weah for Civil Society Organization and Hon. Clarence Freeman from the Ministry of Commerce.

In concluding remarks, Hon. Struther informed the

CPP vows to

Cont'd from page 10



and legislative candidates for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The workshop brought together members of the National Advisory Council, Executive Committee, Legislative Caucus, Secretariat and Specialized Committees of the CPP.

Upon assuming the leadership of the CPP on February 3, 2021, Liberty Party's Political Leader, Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, promised to guide the development of a roadmap to the selection of a presidential ticket for the CPP ahead of the 2023.

Following that declaration, debates as to who heads the CPP ticket have ensued across various platforms, including social media and radio stations

across Liberia. "Even within the CPP, the debate has further intensified leading to "negative statements and utterances" amongst partisans and against Political Leaders and executives of constituent parties, the release notes.

The CPP says it is cognizant that over the course of the last few months, there have been growing public concerns over the "perceived decline" of existing relationship amongst leaders and partisans of the CPP. Consequently, Liberians with strong hope in CPP, who find the organization as the appropriate platform for redeeming Liberia and restoring their hopes in 2023, fear that this "perceived decline" would undermine the founding objectives of the Collaboration. -Press Release

Rule of law

Cont'd from page 10

Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe said though the Bar welcomes the holding of the conference, there is a need for Justices and Judges to act accordingly in order to give citizens confidence to seek justice.

"We also hope that at the end of this, what we strive to achieve in the justice system will be improved more", Cllr. Gongloe said.

He said it's time to act so that those who seek Justice will see a independent judiciary standing with the tower of the executive and the legislature in the interest of all those seeking justice. "This is what our Consitution refers to when it says justice without fear, or favor." -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Speaker donates rice

Cont'd from page 10

administrators of the hospital JJ Dossen Hospital lauded Speaker Chambers for the kind gesture and noted that though the hospital had been confronted with several constraints, but a charity group, Partner In Health came to its rescue.

The hospital administrators said despite the Speaker's engagement at the national level, he has been more concerned about the county's referral hospital and on several occasions, donated food and non-food items there.

"So on behalf of the staff and Management of the county referral hospital, we will like to extend our profound thanks

and appreciation to Dr. Chambers for always giving back to his people through the means of empowering health facilities in the county", they said.

They appealed to other lawmarkers and prominent sons and daughters of Maryland County to emulate the Speaker Chambers, as there are still challenges confronting the J.J. Dossen Hospital.

They named inadequate staff and budgetary allocation, salary payment and lack of ambulance, among others facing the sector.

Meanwhile, in April of 2019, Maryland County former Senator H. Dan Morias donated one ambulance and medical equipment to the hospital.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

more than 70 participants that the resolution will form part of

his presentation at the June 10th National Judicial Conference.

LIBA and GTMS signed Joint Resolution



Thursday, day 4 of the on-going National Judicial Conference will focus on issues affecting the ease of doing business in Liberia. The conference is expected to bring together a wide range of speakers from the private and public sectors and the donor community. The conference is also expected to go global through the use of Zoom. This will enable partners outside of Liberia to fully participate and make contribution towards improving the business climate.

Ahead of the planned

meeting, the Liberian Business Association held a one-day working session under the theme: Analyzing the Security and Trade impacts of Container Tracking Note. The meeting according to LIBA President, Hon. James M. Struther was necessary to understand the role of the Global Tracking Maritime Solutions (GTMS), the institution that operates the Container Tracking Note.

Hon. Struther noted that the essence of the meeting was to better prepare LIBA for the pending business climate meeting on June 10th at the Ministerial Complex. He pointed

out that the meeting was gear towards win-win solution and not a zero sum. "We are here to find workable solutions to doing business in the country."

A presentation from the GTMS highlighted a thirteen step approach to obtaining container tracking number by importers and exporters. With its operation spread in over 10 countries, GTMS noted that their goal is to ensure that their business relations with the port operators including customs brokers, importers and exporters were cordial.

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Aston Villa seal club-record deal for Buendia

Aston Villa have reached an agreement to sign Emiliano Buendia from Norwich City.

Reports over the weekend suggested Villa had a £33million offer, which could reach a total value of £40m, accepted by promoted side Norwich.

Arsenal had also pursued Buendia, but it is Villa who have confirmed they are poised to sign the Championship's Player of the

Year in a deal that is a club-record signing for them and the highest ever sale for Norwich.

Villa's statement on Monday read: "Aston Villa and Norwich City have reached an agreement for the transfer of Emiliano Buendia."

"As Emiliano is currently in the Argentina national team's biosecure bubble, preparing for a World Cup qualifying match with Colombia on Tuesday evening, he will undergo a medical and complete the transfer after the game."



Playmaker Buendia, 24, played a major role in Norwich's return to the Premier League, racking up 15 goals and 16 assists in the Championship and recently earned his first Argentina call-up.

He provided seven assists the year before in a productive top-flight season, even though Norwich were ultimately relegated.

Norwich have also confirmed the transfer will go through pending a successful medical for Buendia.

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