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VOL.11 NO. 156

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

ECOWAS suspends Guinea



Guinea junta leader addresses media



Liberia National Police Headquarters

Soldiers face armed robbery probe

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Dial *352#



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Continental News

Kenyans who are helping the world to cheat

If a student in London or New York goes online to pay somebody to do their essay, the chances are the work will actually end up being done by somebody in Kenya. BBC Trending reports from Nairobi on the ghost writers helping foreigners to cheat. Kennedy used to work as a teacher but for the past five years he's made his living in a very different way. "I do academic writing," he says.

He's part of a truly global online industry, which is booming in Kenya. But what Kennedy and many other Kenyans call "academic writing", the rest of the world calls cheating.

If you're a student or a school pupil who is struggling with an assignment, or you just can't be bothered, then Kennedy and his team of writers will do it for you - for the right fee.

You then hand it in, pretend it's your own work and hope you don't get caught.

The middle men in the

transaction run so-called "essay mill" websites, on which cheating students post jobs they want doing. The profile pictures of writers for hire on these sites are a sea of white faces. They give the impression the piece will be written by an academic in the West.

But like a lot in this business, the pictures tend to be fake. In reality, if you order an essay

online it's highly likely to be written by someone in Kenya - often by a student or graduate there.

Many of these sites are based in the US and Eastern Europe and their cut can be as much as half the fee. How much the customer pays varies depending on whether the assignment is a simple essay or, at the other end of



the scale, an entire PHD thesis. Researchers who study the business of what's been termed "contract cheating" say Kenya is a key hub. The reasons are simple: Kenya is an English-speaking country with a good education system where there are often poor economic opportunities, particularly for young people.

For those struggling to get by, there is money to be made regurgitating knowledge for foreigners who they will never meet. And for Kennedy, joining this industry was a no-brainer. "How much I used to earn as a teacher, it was so little compared to what I earn right now," he says.

The 30-year-old makes around 150,000 Kenyan Shillings (around £1,000 or \$1360) a month - a little bit more than the average wage. He says the writers he employs can complete up to 200 essays or online exams a month. "You log on for a student and do the exams for them," he adds. But how does

he feel about the fact that he's helping undermine the integrity of education around the world? As a former teacher he admits feeling "morally compromised" but says he works for the money. "I care, but what do I care about more than my own life - at times you have to survive first to think about the morals," he says.

Kennedy is well aware that his work may help a customer to fake their way to a degree that lands them a job earning many times what he earns. "Then you realize it's not a competition against them. Sometimes it's a competition against poverty." While there are essay writers for hire in other countries, those in Kenya have developed their own subculture.

There are "academic writing" groups on Facebook and Telegram where jobs and software are traded. Some have tens of thousands of members. They range from middle class professionals dabbling for some extra cash, to students still in education. David is one of 10 people in his final year university class who he says are financing their studies this way. BBC

West African leaders suspend Guinea following coup

Guinea has been suspended from the West African regional bloc Ecowas following the coup that overthrew President Alpha Condé on Sunday, Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Alpha Barry has said.

The bloc also demanded Mr Condé's release from custody, he added. Leaders of the 15-nation bloc held a virtual meeting to discuss the coup waged by elite troops led by

the 41-year-old Col Mamady Doumbouya.

He accused Mr Condé, 83, of rampant corruption and human rights abuses.

The deposed president's whereabouts are unclear, although the coup leaders have said he is safe.

Guinea is one of the world's biggest producers of bauxite, the raw material for aluminium, and prices have leapt to a 13-year-high following the coup.

The junta released about 80

political prisoners who had been detained during Mr Condé's rule. Around 400 people had been imprisoned during protests in 2020.

Many of those released were arrested last year during massive nationwide protests against Mr Condé's plan to stand for a third term. The BBC's Alhassan Sillah in the capital, Conakry, says the most prominent of the freed prisoners was Oumar Sylla, known as Foniké Mengué, who went on hunger strike last December.

"I feel free, free, free, thank you to the people," said Ismaël Condé, a member of the opposition UFDG party, and no relation to the former president. He said his time in prison had been difficult, but he was now hoping for a better future for his country:

"It's a feeling you can't explain, to be deprived of your freedom for 12 months for such trivial things and to be released under these conditions, you can't explain," he said. On Tuesday, Guinea's main opposition leader expressed support for the coup, describing it as an opportunity for a new beginning.

Cellou Dalein Diallo said the army's junta was historic,

Morocco's Islamists suffer big loss in election



Moroccans voted in parliamentary elections on Wednesday

Morocco's Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) has suffered a crushing defeat in parliamentary elections, slumping from first to eighth place.

The liberal National Rally of Independents (RNI) party gained most seats, followed by another liberal party - the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) - which is seen as close to the monarchy.

The RNI and PAM parties

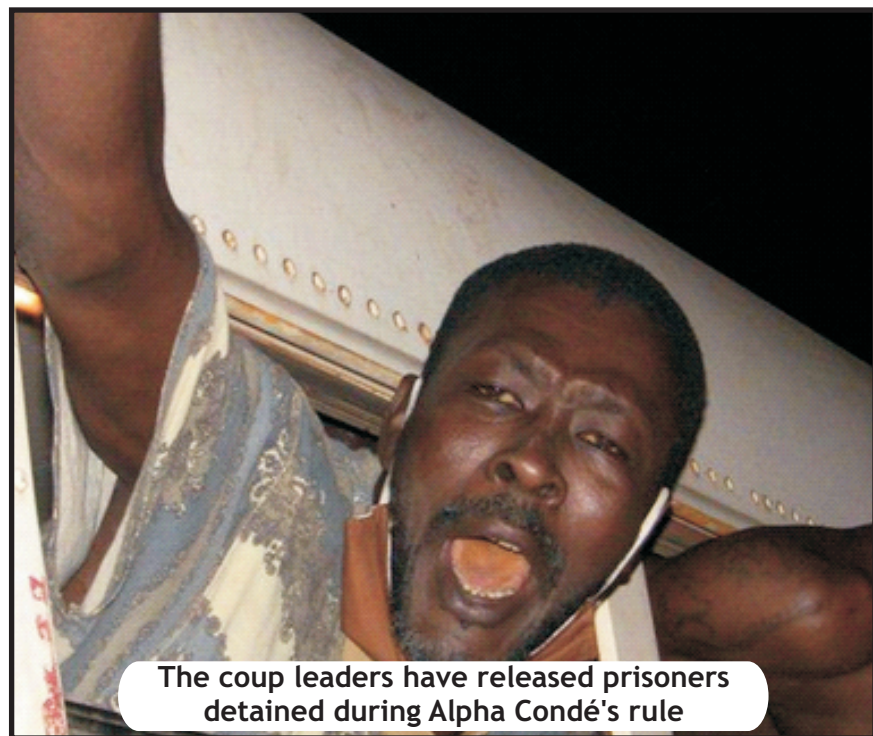
but called on them to foster national reconciliation.

Guinea's coup is the fourth time West Africa has witnessed an attempt to undermine

democracy in the region since August 2020. There have been two military takeovers in Mali and a failed attempt in Niger. BBC

took 97 and 82 seats respectively of the 395-seat parliament, while the centre-right Istiqlal Party got 78 seats, according to the preliminary results announced on Thursday.

The PJD only got 12 seats from the 125 seats it had in the outgoing assembly. Elected politicians in Morocco have only limited powers, as key decisions remain in the hands of King Mohammed VI. BBC



The coup leaders have released prisoners detained during Alpha Condé's rule

EDITORIAL

Uncertainty in neighboring Guinea is troubling

REPORT OF A military coup in neighboring Guinea that shows its President Alpha Conde sitting on a sofa barefooted and surrounded by armed troops is very troubling. Guinea is a very close neighbor of Liberia and both countries share cultural, ethnic and economic ties.

ANY DISTURBANCE IN that country has always had serious adverse repercussions on Liberia, whether it is Ebola, politics or business. Both countries are so intertwined that what affects one, impacts the other.

THEREFORE, WHEN REPORTS coming out of Guinea on international wires show armed soldiers discharging live bullets, placing the elected President under apparent arrest, parading the streets, ordering residents to stay indoors and closing borders, there is reason for concern.

THE GUINEAN MINISTRY of defense is quoted as dispelling news of a coup, maintaining that presidential guards have quelled the revolt and it is in control of the situation.

BUT A GROUP of soldiers under the banner, National Committee for Reconciliation and Development (NCRD) are reportedly claiming that they ousted President Alpha Conde because of rampant corruption, mismanagement and poverty. It has also announced suspension of the constitution.

IF THE SO-CALLED coup in Guinea were to succeed, Liberia could feel the burnt in several ways: Firstly, both countries are members of the Mano River Union and the Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS). We in Liberia depend on the neighboring country for basic commodities such as pepper, onions, clothes, and utensils, among others. Besides, the Port of Conakry serves as a major conduit for most used cars coming into Liberia due to huge tariff at the Freeport of Monrovia.

THEN THERE IS the issue of intermarriages and tribal relations. There are Mandingoes in Guinea and Mandingoes in Liberia, similarly, members of the Mano, Gio, Kpelle tribe are on both sides.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the Government of Guinea and the Government of Liberia signed a major concession that would allow Guinean ores to be transported thru Liberia for shipment abroad. The investment will cost millions of dollars and benefit peoples of both countries.

BESIDES, GUINEAN TROOPS fought and died in Liberia to restore the peace that Liberians enjoy today, so we cannot sit and watch that country degenerate in flames.

WE CALL FOR quick intervention to restore calm to the neighboring country, for this important for regional security, peace and economic cooperation. Guinea is key partner of both Mano River Union and ECOWAS.

COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

The Colonial Trap

NEW YORK - On February 20, 1947, Clement Attlee, the socialist British prime minister, informed parliament that India would become independent no later than June 1948. Attlee could not wait for the British to withdraw from a country whose leaders, Muslim and Hindu, had long been clamoring for independence. But India was seething with violent unrest. Muslim leaders were afraid of Hindu dominance. Worried that a civil war might land the British in an uncontrollable situation, Attlee decided to end the British Raj even earlier.

Indian independence began on August 14, 1947. Pakistan broke away. Horrendous violence between Hindus and Muslims claimed a half-million lives. Many more lost their homes. The wounds of partition are yet to heal.

Attlee was widely blamed for getting out too soon and leaving the former colony in chaos. If only a better police force had been organized. If only the army could have kept order. If only the British could have left once the country was stable.

US President Joe Biden now finds himself in the same situation. American troops have left Afghanistan in a bloody mess. Critics of Biden's decision to withdraw claim that the United States should have stayed longer. In the opinion of Robert Kagan, a well-known American promotor of robust military policies, the US should have promised to stay at least 20 years, instead of being non-committal. After all, the US military presence was minimal and could easily be afforded. But in that case, why just 20 years? Why not 40? Why not forever?

The question is whether Attlee, or Biden, could ever have left India or Afghanistan in a stable condition. At least Attlee knew that India, and even Pakistan, would be governed by responsible, mostly moderate men. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohammed Ali Jinnah were nothing like the Taliban. Both were widely regarded as legitimate leaders - and still there was a civil war. Biden didn't even have the luxury of leaving Afghanistan in capable hands.

It is easy to blame Attlee and Biden for the violence that followed their decisions. Perhaps they made mistakes. In hindsight, it may be possible to see how they could have mitigated some of the damage. But both leaders were caught in the same colonial trap that ensnared so many other imperial powers. Once you make local elites dependent on the power and money of a foreign occupier, it becomes almost impossible to leave without causing mayhem. And the longer the foreign power stays, the worse the mayhem often becomes.

Harold Macmillan, the Conservative prime minister who, sensing "the wind of change" blowing through colonial Africa in 1960, managed the withdrawal of British rule, was

once asked by the very conservative American journalist William F. Buckley Jr. whether Africans were ready to rule themselves. Macmillan didn't think so. But he added that this was all the more reason why they should be free to try. These were their countries. They had to learn how to govern by governing. For the British to hang on and throw the best and brightest anti-colonial activists in prison would only make that harder.

Empires are rarely established by design. Most European empires started as trading posts. Local rulers were cultivated, bribed, and set against one another. For a long time, great chunks of India were ruled by a British trading company. Colonial governments then took over to protect the commercial interests of the home countries. Imperial rule was often justified by Christian missionary zeal, or, very late in the game, around the very end of the nineteenth century, by high-minded ideals of educating native elites to mimic the West.

The US has been more half-hearted about its colonial enterprises. After all, Americans are supposed to be against imperialism. Their stated justification for fighting communism in Vietnam, or dictatorships in Iraq or Afghanistan, has been to enlighten the benighted populations through free-market capitalism and democratic government, often with disastrous consequences.

Whatever the justification for foreign intervention, the results are the same. Local elites, such as the Afghans who governed Kabul and other cities, might do well. But dependency - not just on another state, but on NGOs and other well-meaning institutions that do what governments should be doing - fuels corruption. Money flows too easily into ever deeper pockets. And the very presence of foreign military force and political tutors, who may have little understanding of how things work in the countries they occupy, makes it ever harder for the local people to rule themselves.

The colonial elites, bloated with free money, have no legitimacy in the eyes of their compatriots. Rebels and revolutionaries may have more, but only know how to rule by force. The imperial power is trapped. Leaving is almost always bad. Staying is worse.

Attlee and Biden understood this. That is why they wanted to get out. Biden is accused of naivety and seen as a hapless old man who had no idea what he was unleashing. This is unlikely. I think he decided it was time to leave without delay precisely because he knew it would be a big mess; better to get it over with than become further ensnared by the colonial trap.

This might seem callous. But Biden can't be blamed for the rise of the Taliban, or the fragile state of a country that has seen far too many wars and invasions. The US should not have been there in the first place, but that is a lesson that great powers never seem to learn.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan



Lord, at least our ears will rest now from this 24 years noise

Dear Father:

Hmmm, at least our ears will rest now from this 24-years noise. Yes oo, especially the way the Country Giant fini telling his friends from our neighboring village club that they must have respect for term limit-the noise fini.

But my son, you really think the Country Giant wanted this 24 years or that his people?

Father, even the old man who his nephew just kicked out of our neighboring village palace did not want that third term from his heart if you will ask me oo. But that the people surrounding him fooled him to make that decision-foolishly too armed with greed he accepted it. Now greed has imprisoned them all.

Yes, Father, now none of them are allow to leave their village to travel to any other village. All the people roaming that Village Street in the name of celebrating will soon face reality and sooner or later they will one way or the other enter their own prisons as well.

So, you see, it is not that the Country Giant by himself will want the 24 years but the people who are enjoying the power through him, will not want him to go as well. But thank God it came from his own mouth as a wise advice to his friend them.

Talky, I know the other old man from behind the Cavalla River was blue to hear that think coming from the Country Giant mouth.

But Father, that the thing you talking slow like that so. The man was very much unease in his chair-sweat has been running down his cheek since.

You know the thing I can't understand about these people ehn, is like they thing only they alone know how to chop president or get the idea to do president job.

The thing that 5-years two times or like in our village 6-years-two times. Imagine now with my age, Country Giant come go stay there whole 24-years, when I will get the time too to go chop president before I talk less of our Sleepy-old man who is already in his late 70s or even my own man the Coca-Cola guy. I may get small age in my favor but for them I doubt the Sleepy old man will still be around waiting to chop this president job.

Well, let them be there, if they can't learn from what is happening around them that their bisnay-at least my Country Giant fini telling them what to do, which means, himself will show respect for term limit here and therefore no need for worries here in our village.

You know my grandmother used to tell me that everything we see, we hear or that happened to us or someone is a lesson for you to learn from.

She used to say God is no more in creation business. She said God fini with creation ever since, and that is why he even make people to write the Bible so we can learn from the good and bad things the people before us did.

And this is the part I used to enjoy her saying: She said if you want to be a police man, asked the old police man who has retired, see his life where he has ended up. She said that is enough lesson for you to learn from his experience. If you want to be a nurse or teacher asked the retired ones, see how they ended up that alone is a lesson to teach you.

So, you see, the coup in our neighboring village should teach our leaders how they will end up when they over stay their time in office. And for the one them that have already played with the constitution to be their more than require-hmmm, let them think again ooo.

O-P-E-D

By Elizabeth Drew

Joe Biden's Afghan Nightmare

WASHINGTON, DC - It is far from clear that President Joe Biden deserves the obloquy heaped on him for the US evacuation from Afghanistan. This is especially true given the endings of other American wars, and the nearly impossible situation confronting him - in particular, that the Kabul airport is located within a city of millions which had just come under Taliban control.

The repetitive airing of scenes of panicked Afghans clinging to C-17 cargo planes after this was no longer happening made for far more dramatic, but misleading, scenes than the smooth take-offs that followed during the next 17 days of evacuation, yet news programs kept rerunning those chaotic images, creating an impression of Biden as hapless. Yet, some 120,000 people - including troops of US allies as well as Afghans who had helped the US cause - were evacuated by air from Kabul, a logistical triumph.

Since Biden chose to end the evacuation by August 31, the date he had set, a few hundred Americans - some not ready to depart, many unable to reach Kabul airport - as well as hundreds of Afghans who had worked with the United States, were left behind. (A few have been evacuated since.) But Biden faced only bad choices. Had he prolonged America's presence, US troops and those of allies would have been put at more risk, especially from the murderous Islamic State (ISIS) offshoot that had begun a campaign of suicide bombings.

The retreat from Afghanistan has revealed much about the nature of the government that Biden is running and how he runs it. Although Donald Trump - who also wanted to get out of Afghanistan - left Biden with an unworkable settlement with the Taliban, Biden's decisions on withdrawal were mostly buttressed by his long-held belief that, when al-Qaeda was driven out of Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden killed, America's strategic needs had been met. Despite his deep convictions about the correctness of his decisions, Biden brought trouble on himself by offering cheery predictions - such as that the Afghan government wouldn't fall any time soon. When that proved unrealistic, Biden became defensive, even belligerent, which dented his reputation as a nice guy.

Another factor that may have played a role in shaping Biden's Afghan policy is the striking difference in the nature of the president's foreign and defense policy team and his domestic policy advisers. The latter is comprised of former mayors, governors, members of congress, and at least one business executive - people of independent standing. But Biden's national security team is dominated by former aides. The soft-spoken Secretary of State Antony Blinken is a loyal, longtime Biden adviser. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, a youthful-looking 44, was Biden's national security adviser as vice president. Biden often cites the concurrence of his advisers as confirmation of the wisdom of his decisions, but one gets the strong impression that he makes clear to them what advice he wants.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin does carry an aura of independence and gravitas. Austin speaks slowly and carefully, and with that authority that comes almost naturally to a former four-star US Army general. He projects confidence without drama, and holds his views tight. A senator said, "I wouldn't want to play poker with him." Austin managed the draw-down of American troops in Iraq, where he had worked closely with the president's deceased son Beau, both qualifications that undoubtedly stood him well with the president. (Biden's continuing invocations of Beau, occasionally at truly awkward moments, is beginning to worry even some of his close allies.)

Republicans, who had been frustrated in their search for an effective means to attack Biden, have seized the opportunity provided by the chaotic withdrawal despite the fact that the decision to end America's 20-year Afghan war was widely popular. Despite this inconsistency on the part of the US electorate, for the first time since the inauguration Biden's job-approval ratings have dipped below 50%. Even some Democrats, their fingers held up to the wind, are planning to ask awkward questions of Biden and his team.

But what, exactly, is Biden to be blamed for? His administration is widely charged with not having planned for an evacuation, but Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, a Democrat and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who deals with the White House a lot, told me, "They had a plan on the evacuation, they didn't think they would need to execute so quickly."

Biden's administration, although less rancorous and leaky than most (thus far), does follow in the tradition of military and intelligence leaders differing markedly in their assessments of the quality of the Afghan army. Having spent \$83 billion on training and equipping the Afghan army, the military has tended to view its efforts as a success. The intelligence agencies have been more skeptical. Kaine said, "The military has always been more optimistic, the intelligence community has always been more pessimistic, and the State Department kind of in between - depending on the circumstances. At the end of the day Biden's team probably believed a little more of the military optimism."

Previous US presidents tended to relay to the public the bright side of America's efforts in Afghanistan. In a ground-breaking series published in 2019, The Washington Post exposed the lies that presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Trump all told the country, such as how wonderfully the war in Afghanistan was going. Thus, most Americans were unprepared for the sudden collapse of the Afghan army or the flight of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani (with bags of money) when the Taliban strolled into Kabul.

Defense Department officials insist that no one warned them that the Afghan army would collapse within 11 days, but this could be a failure of imagination as well as of intelligence. In any event, there is intelligence and then there is how intelligence is interpreted. For example, Bush's administration had received ample evidence that al-Qaeda was preparing to attack the US, even the World Trade Center, but leading figures brushed off the warnings. France, acting on the same intelligence about Afghanistan that the US government had, began to withdraw its troops in 2014.

A shaken Biden administration is now trying to change the subject away from Afghanistan by turning to domestic issues. But extricating itself from the consequences of its Afghanistan decisions, however warranted, may take longer than Biden envisions.

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<u>LOT II</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/001/2021	Power Supply System (Solar Power Systems – 10Kw Off Grid Solar System)	10sets	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

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<u>LOT IV</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/005/2021	Communication Equipment		August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

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Tender No	Description of Jobs/Items	Qty	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
<u>LOT V</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/004/2021	Computers (HP, Lenovo, Dell)	50 pcs	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM
<u>LOT VI</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/004/2021	Laptops HP – Lenovo, Dell)	50pcs	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

The bids will be opened on the above date & time in the presence of participating bidders or their representatives who wish to attend

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LIS assures border safety

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) has assured Liberians that the country's border with Guinea is secured and safe, amidst concerns over Liberia's porous borders with

regular Thursday press briefing at the Ministry of Information on 9 September 2021 that immediately following the situation in Guinea, President George Manneh Weah ordered a meeting with all heads of

He explained that during the meeting held Monday, 6 September, President Weah instructed various security forces in the country to deploy along the Guinea border to ensure that it's safe and secured.

The LIS chief said a well armed immigration service unit is conducting surveillance patrol along the Liberian and Guinea border, while the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has been activated and is in strategic positions along the border.

Commissioner Budy indicated that they are anticipating that there will be individuals crossing from Guinea to Liberia for fear of their lives, saying a few individuals have already crossed into Liberia from through Nimba, Bong and Lofa Counties.

He told the press conference that Liberia is a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention which requires countries to provide safety and care for individuals fleeing persecution from their own countries.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



its neighbors, especially after a military junta seized power in a coup in Guinea Sunday, 5 September 2021.

LIS Commissioner General Col. Robert Budy told a

security institutions and the Armed Forces of Liberia.

"have it in mind that your brother and sister out there [are] taking care," Commissioner Budy said.

Former goalkeeper Sherman damns 'Keka'

By Emmanuel Juduh

Former Lone Star (National Team) goalkeeper Nathaniel Sherman strongly damns striker Mohammed Kesselly 'Keka' Kamara for abandoning camp ahead of the recent 2022 World Cup Qualifier match with the Super Eagle of Nigeria which the home side lost 2-0 in Nigeria.

"In football whenever you are criticized or feel disrespected for reason best known to yourself as a professional person, you don't just walk away in the name you are the best person to have the job done", Sherman explains.

He says the idea of 'Keka' leaving the camp was unprofessional and didn't represent him as a professional player, lamenting "You let the team down! You let yourself down!"

Mohammed Kesselly 'Keka' Kamara, who plays for Turkish club Hatayspor, was invited by Head Coach Peter Butler to participate in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Qualifier match played against Nigeria on Friday, September 3, 2021.

Sherman stresses that

Kamara should do the right thing by apologizing to the entire team, and the people of Liberia, for his action.

Report gathered subsequently details the Liberian player left camp after he was not selected for the starting 11 to face the Super Eagle of Nigeria.

But Mohamed responds: "Heard that everyone wanna hear my side of the story. Too bad, cusain't got nothing to say to anyone. And definitely won't be cussing or throwing anyone under the bus. But in my years of

being out as a professional and a college student, I've learned that respect is a two-way street."

He says respect isn't demanded, but rather earned, adding "After years of turning down the invitation, I blame NO ONE but myself for coming here. I can promise you all that will never happen like EVER again. Its official a WRAP!! Will definitely be watching and jeering on the guys from a far

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 7**



Mohammed Kamara



Nathaniel Sherman

National Maryland County Association dedicates US\$40,000 rest-stop

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

National Maryland County Association of Liberia (NAMCAL) dedicates a modern rest-stop facility in Pleebo, Maryland County electoral district#2.

The facility with an estimated cost of US\$40,000 is called the Isaac T. Cla Russell Memorial Rest Stop. It contains 12 rest rooms, offices and an entertainment hall.

In a statement read during the dedicatory ceremony, NAMCAL said the project is its way of buttressing fellow kinsmen and government's efforts in developing the county.

NAMCAL also notes that the rest stop along with other initiatives, including recently dedicated hand-pumps would represent tangible marks of its support to the county.

According to US-based Marylanders Association, the facility is named in honor of its

from Barrobo, Karluway, Pleebo, and Harper Districts in fostering unity and collaboration.

The Association also encourages One Maryland County agenda beyond social, economic, political, and tribal barriers.

It has grown over the years from five to 12 Chapters in the USA, comprising Marylanders for Progress, Maryland County Associations in Rhode Island, Minnesota, New Jersey, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Indiana, respectively.

The organization acknowledges the good work of the Barrobo United Development Association (BUDA) and the Karluway Development Association (KDA) and noted that the rest-stop was constructed in response to call



former president, Mr. Russell, who was instrumental in proposing projects, among others.

The statement reveals that the National Maryland County Association of Liberia had constructed and renovated several projects in all four administrative districts of Maryland.

It names renovation of the Dugbeken Elementary and Junior High School in Barrobo Statutory District, a modern Pleebo Parking Station Rest-Stop, hand-pumps, provision of assorted materials and rations, amongst others.

"As you may know, the National Maryland County Association of Liberia-USA Inc (NAMCAL) was formed in the United States of America in 2003."

Its mission is to unite Marylanders residing in the USA

from the people of Pleebo to help provide a place where travelers could ease themselves to prevent environmental pollution and contamination.

The dedicatory ceremony was attended by County Superintendent George A. Prowd, elders and traditional chiefs, women and youth groups, local officials of the Liberia Marketing Association, and PleeboSodokenStatutory District superintendent Aloysius Williams, amongst others.

Superintendent Prowd including other local officials of the county expressed profound gratitude to the NAMCAL for remaining engaged with developmental issues back home.

"We are thankful to all Marylanders in the U.S. who contributed to the construction of this worthwhile project. Long live NAMCAL and our

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Soldiers face armed robbery probe

By Lincoln G. Peters

Three officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have been arrested and are undergoing police investigation for alleged armed robbery based on claims by some young people engaged in night - time community watch team activities in the Old Road Community.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter told this paper via mobile phone Thursday evening, 9 September 2021 that the accused AFL Officers were driving through Old

haven't," Mr. Carter told this paper via mobile phone.

According to Carter, the officers chased the watch team members, thinking that they were criminals, but they did not arrest any of them.

"So they came back and got in their car and drove off. But then, these young people, accordingly, had the information on one of the stations concerning the program called "Kapao" and they said these guys were armed robbers," said Carter.

He noted that after the citizens' alarm against the AFL Officers, the Liberia National

claim made by some private citizens who had accused the officers of armed robbery. Mr. Carter said the joint investigation is intended to establish a probable cause.

"According to the army personnel, they didn't find the individuals who set up the check point when they chased [them], and so they decided to forget about them and continue their journey and went around the Duport Road area where they were intercepted by officials of the LNP," Carter said.

Following the arrest of the AFL Officers by the LNP, Carter said they were taken to Zone Five Police Station in Paynesville where they slept before being subsequently transferred to the LNP Headquarters for joint investigation.

"The investigation by the LNP and the AFL police is to establish facts surrounding the claim of the alleged armed robbery hanging [over] these professional men," Carter explained.

"However, we are urging the public to remain very calm as we conduct the investigation and we will make sure that in the soonest possible time to get back to the public with the facts," Carter continued.

He pleaded with the public to do away with sentiment, adding that their work is outside of sentiment. Meanwhile, Carter disclosed that police are investigating some complaints by some individuals that they were harassed and their phones allegedly taken away by the three AFL Officers.

"If these officials are found guilty of these crimes that they are alleged of, I can assure you the public that they will be made to face the full weight of the law as we have done in several other cases across the country," Carter assured.



Road around Kailondo on Wednesday night, 8 September when they came across a checkpoint that was set up there by young people in the community in the name of a watch team.

He said the young people started running when they saw the officers who were dressed in military uniforms getting down from their vehicle.

"I mean it was just blown out of proportion because the truth is, we have not established the nature of armed robbery. Yes, we

Police (LNP) decided to deploy their officers in the street and they were able to intercept the AFL Officers around Duport Road market.

However, Carter said the AFL officers were not seen with any lethal weapon, adding that the police are investigating the claim of armed robbery made by the young people.

Earlier during an impromptu press conference at the police headquarters in Monrovia, Mr. Carter said the police and the investigative arm of the military were jointly investigating the three AFL Officers based on the

envisaged by citizens is realized. "The Tubman University, a government-owned, and situated in the most challenged region of Liberia, providing educational services to five highly underdeveloped counties is not being adequately funded", he notes.

He says government free tuition policy at the university is not enough to sustain the viability of the institution, as students living in the southeastern region of Liberia are deprived of many

opportunities available in other parts of the country.

The River Gee lawmaker continues that going to school at Tubman University also attracts registration and other fees coupled with rental payment and cost of purchases that are higher than prices in other urban areas.

Dopoh said as the people's direct Representatives, an affirmative action for the Tubman University is required for the fiscal year 2022

Sinoe, Rivercess

Starts from back page

members of the Legislature inviting both sides on 25 September to look into the matter.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Chea disclosed that President Weah has appointed a new Superintendent for Fiscal Affairs in Sinoe and he is hopeful the Liberian Senate will confirm the nominee to start work immediately.

"Currently there is \$200,000 for development in the county's coffer." He said they

have been unable to access the money because of the lack of a fiscal superintendent.

He emphasized now that the President has appointed one, there are numerous projects to be executed in the county, including projects abandoned by past lawmakers.

Rivercess and Sinoe counties share common boundary in the Southeast of Liberia and citizens of both counties are linked by intermarriage. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Former goalkeeper

Cont'd from page 6

cus most of these guys are more than just friends."

Head Coach Peter Butler says he really doesn't know reasons behind 'Keka' quitting camp on the heels of the September 3, 2021 encounter with Nigeria.

"Well, if I may not be honest with you, I really don't know. Mohammed Kamara is a player I highly rated. I really caught him and chased him and tried to get him to come into the Lone Star Squad on many, many occasions. And we managed to get him. He came and trained with us and I had a good chat with him, sat down in a nice, affable chat with the young man in question. And he said everything seemed OK. We did a training session. And few members of staff and myself, feel he wasn't really totally focused. But I was willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. And then unfortunately, after I did the team prior to the game, the player in question absconded from the camp because he

wasn't in the starting line-up. Now, the only thing I heard is that he was picked up by a young lady at reception. And that's it."

Coach Butler continues, "I never heard the end of it. I didn't know there was a family member or what but we had not heard from him. I have not seen him. And unfortunately, I am none the wiser."

Despite their 2-0 lost to the Super Eagle, the Lone Star went ahead secured their first away win in Group C with a lone goal from sticker Kpah Sherman, who plays in Malaysia top league. The goal came in the 86th minute in Doula, Cameroon against the Central African Republic (CAR).

Kpah dedicates the goal to all Liberians and wishes to work harder for the Lone Star, as he had always done but cautions home fans to reduce their expectation of him scoring in every game, something he notes, "It's impossible."

The Lone Star's next match is expected to be against Djibouti. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Rep. Dopoh seeks funding for Tubman University

By Bridgett Milton

River Gee electoral District #3 Representative Francis S. Dopoh asks the House of Representatives to fund the Tubman University in Maryland County.

Representative Dopoh says the request is his honest plea to his colleagues to allocate budgetary support for the Tubman University, the second public university in the country to ensure the level of quality education as

national budget to ensuring the University's goods and services budget is increased to an amount sufficient to covering fees and boarding for students, coupled with the inflationary cost of purchasing goods and services in Maryland

County. He prays the honorable House will support his request for a 100 percent free education at Tubman University, beginning next fiscal year 2022. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

« Respectons la limite constitutionnelle du nombre de mandats pour éviter les coups d'État », Le Président Weah

Le Président George Manneh Weah a exhorté ses homologues dirigeants de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) à respecter les limites constitutionnelles des mandats afin d'éviter des bouleversements politiques et sécuritaires dans la sous-région.

Le président Weah estime que la sous-région ne peut être épargnée par l'agonie des coups d'État militaires si la CEDEAO s'oppose sincèrement à la manipulation des constitutions.

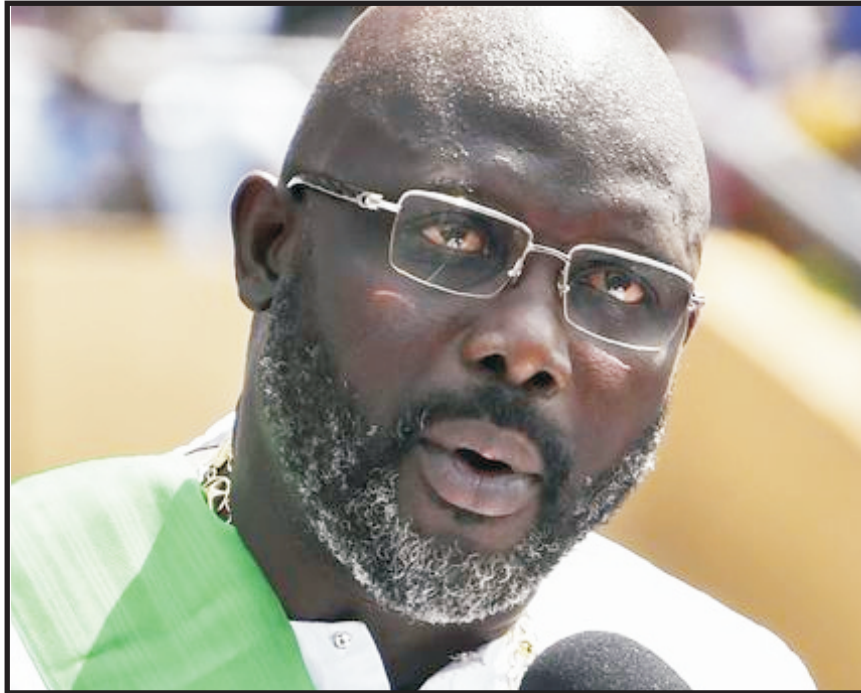
"Alors que nous condamnons ces coups d'État militaires, nous devons également rassembler le courage d'examiner ce qui déclenche ces prises de contrôle inconstitutionnelles".

"Se pourrait-il que nous n'honorions pas nos engagements politiques de respecter la limitation des mandats de nos diverses

constitutions", a demandé Weah. S'adressant au sommet extraordinaire de l'Autorité des chefs d'État et de gouvernement qui s'est tenu virtuellement mercredi pour discuter de la situation en Guinée et au Mali voisins, le président Weah a rappelé à ses collègues la tolérance zéro du Libéria à l'égard des coups d'État militaires, racontant comment le Libéria est encore sous le choc

de ces ascendances inconstitutionnelles au pouvoir. Le président Weah a déclaré que le Libéria, en tant que membre notable des Nations Unies, de l'Union africaine et de la CEDEAO, aligne sa position en ce qui concerne la Guinée et le Mali sur la position de ces organismes multilatéraux qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



« Donnez aux militaires ce qu'ils méritent », le Sénateur Zargo

Le sénateur du comté de Lofa et président de la commission sénatoriale de la défense, de la sécurité, du renseignement et des anciens combattants, Steve Zargo, insiste sur la nécessité d'une allocation budgétaire susceptible de renforcer la capacité militaire du Libéria de manière à rendre les soldats fougueux, énergiques et prêts à travailler.

«Donc, si vous voulez profiter de la bénédiction et de la protection des

militaires, traitez-les bien. Traitez-les comme vos enfants... Donnons-leur ce qu'ils méritent », a déclaré le sénateur Zargo mercredi matin 8 septembre à Monrovia lors d'une émission-débat en direct de la chaîne locale Prime FM.

Les propos du Sénateur Zargo interviennent seulement quatre jours après qu'une junte militaire a détrôné le gouvernement du président Alpha Condé en Guinée voisine, comme pour dire : « Attention, cela risqued'arriver ici aussi si...

Selon Zargo, certaines des questions que la junte guinéenne a citées comme facteurs ayant déclenché le soulèvement contre le président Alpha Condé sont applicables ici. Il a donc exhorté le Libéria et d'autres pays de la sous-région à prendre note et à tirer des leçons de la situation en Guinée.

La capture du président Condé par la junte dimanche et la prise du pouvoir ont semé des frissons dans toute l'Afrique de l'Ouest, avec des appels amplifiés aux gouvernements de la région à éviter de falsifier les constitutions de leurs pays, lutter contre la corruption, soutenir la sécurité nationale et dépolitiser les forces de l'ordre et le système judiciaire.

De plus, Zargo s'est prononcé contre l'idée d'essayer de "trouver quelque chose pour l'armée" à la dernière minute, et a insisté sur la nécessité de "donner aux militaires ce qu'ils méritent", de créer un environnement propice et d'aller dans les casernes

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Éditorial

L'incertitude en Guinée voisine est inquiétante

Les nouvelles d'un coup d'État militaire en Guinée voisine sont très inquiétantes d'autant plus que ce pays voisin est très proche du Libéria et les deux pays partagent des liens culturels, ethniques et économiques.

Toute perturbation dans ce pays a toujours eu de graves répercussions négatives sur le Libéria, qu'il s'agisse d'Ebola, de la politique ou des affaires. Les deux pays sont tellement imbriqués que ce qui affecte l'un a un impact sur l'autre.

Par conséquent, avec les informations provenant de Guinée selon lesquelles des soldats armés ont placé le président élu en état d'arrestation, ordonné aux habitants de rester à l'intérieur et fermé toutes les frontières, il y a lieu de s'inquiéter.

Le ministère guinéen de la défense avait dit avoir dissipé la nouvelle du coup d'État, affirmant que la garde présidentielle avait réprimé la révolte et qu'il contrôlait la situation.

Mais un groupe de soldats sous la bannière du Comité national de rassemblement et du développement (NCRD) aurait affirmé avoir évincé le président Alpha Condé en raison de la corruption généralisée, de la mauvaise gestion et de la pauvreté. Il a également annoncé la suspension de la constitution.

Si le soi-disant coup d'État en Guinée réussissait, le Libéria pourrait se sentir brûlé de plusieurs manières : Premièrement, les deux pays sont membres de l'Union du fleuve Mano et de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO). Au Libéria, nous dépendons du pays voisin pour les produits de base tels que le poivre, les oignons, les vêtements et les ustensiles, entre autres. En outre, le port de Conakry sert de conduit majeur pour la plupart des voitures d'occasion entrant au Libéria en raison des tarifs élevés au port franc de Monrovia.

Ensuite, il y a la question des mariages mixtes et des relations tribales. Il y a des Malinkés aussi bien en Guinée qu'au Libéria, de même, des membres de la tribu Mano, Gio, Kpelle sont des deux côtés.

Plus tôt cette année, le gouvernement de la Guinée et le gouvernement du Libéria ont signé une importante concession qui permettrait aux minerais guinéens d'être transportés à travers le Libéria pour être expédiés à l'étranger. L'investissement coûtera des millions de dollars et profitera aux peuples des deux pays.

En outre, les troupes guinéennes se sont battues et sont mortes au Libéria pour rétablir la paix dont jouissent les Libériens aujourd'hui, nous ne pouvons donc pas rester assis et regarder ce pays dégénérer en flammes.

Nous appelons à une intervention rapide pour ramener le calme dans le pays voisin, car cela est important pour la sécurité régionale, la paix et la coopération économique. La Guinée est un partenaire clé de l'Union du fleuve Mano et de la CEDEAO.

Français

« Respectons la limite constitutionnelle du nombre de

soutiennent le Protocole de la CEDEAO sur la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance.

Il a cependant appelé à une stratégie de médiation plus coordonnée et globale pour la Guinée, affirmant que l'inclusion de toutes les principales parties prenantes est primordiale afin de ne pas répéter les faux pas du Mali.

Le président Weah a ensuite fait part la volonté du Libéria de faire partie de l'équipe de médiation de la CEDEAO pour la Guinée, affirmant que le Libéria était bien placé pour être inclus compte tenu des relations socioculturelles et de la proximité géographique que les deux pays partagent.

Entre-temps, la CEDEAO a réitéré sans équivoque sa condamnation du coup d'État

et enverra immédiatement une équipe de médiation de haut niveau à Conakry pour examiner les situations politique, sociale et humanitaire. La CEDEAO a également appelé à la libération immédiate et inconditionnelle du président Alpha Condé et de tous les autres détenus en relation avec la prise de contrôle militaire. Le Bloc régional a averti les chefs d'État du CNRD qu'ils seraient tenus individuellement et collectivement responsables de la sécurité et du bien-être du président Condé et d'autres personnes également détenues.

La Guinée a été immédiatement suspendue de l'organisme régional et de toutes ses filiales, en attendant le rétablissement d'un régime démocratique dans cette nation ouest-africaine.

« Donnez aux militaires ce qu'ils

militaires, voir comment vivent les soldats et pouvoir rénover les casernes.

Il a noté que les casernes militaires du Libéria, y compris le Camp Jackson et d'autres casernes dans les comtés de Lofa et Nimba, par exemple, sont toujours au niveau d'avant-guerre, appelant ainsi à une allocation budgétaire pour renforcer la capacité des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) afin de remonter le moral des soldats.

Parlant spécifiquement du Libéria, il a expliqué qu'avant que les partenaires internationaux ne quittent le Libéria, il y avait eu cette réforme du secteur de la sécurité qui a été mise en place avec de nombreuses consultations, impliquant la mission de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies et le ministère de la Justice ici.

Sur la base de la réforme qui a été mise en place, le sénateur Zargo a déclaré que l'armée libérienne devrait désormais compter plus de 5 000 soldats sur la base des projections faites à l'époque. Il a également déclaré que

l'armée devrait désormais avoir ses propres bataillons d'agriculture et d'ingénierie pour dynamiser l'armée.

De plus, il a dit qu'il y avait une projection selon laquelle la police devrait maintenant avoir plus de 8 000 personnes, mais cela n'a pas été fait.

Pendant ce temps, le sénateur Zargo a félicité le président George Manneh Weah d'avoir donné l'ordre aux militaires d'organiser des patrouilles à la frontière entre le Libéria et la Guinée afin d'empêcher toute activité transfrontalière malsaine en ce moment.

Malgré la condamnation de la communauté internationale et des dirigeants régionaux, des informations en provenance de Guinée indiquent que le chef du coup d'État, le colonel Mamady Doumbouya, a déclaré qu'un nouveau gouvernement d'union serait formé dans quelques semaines.

Le colonel Doumbouya serait allé plus loin en ordonnant aux anciens responsables de remettre les véhicules officiels aux militaires, et en leur ordonnant également de ne pas quitter le pays, entre autres.

COMMENTAIRE

By Ian Buruma

Le piège colonial

NEW YORK - Le 20 février 1947, le Premier ministre britannique travailliste de l'époque, Clement Attlee, annonçait au Parlement que l'Inde accèderait à l'indépendance, au plus tard en juin 1948. Attlee jugeait opportun de se désengager au plus vite d'un pays dont les dirigeants, hindous et musulmans, réclamaient depuis longtemps l'émancipation. Mais l'Inde était en proie à des troubles violents. Les dirigeants musulmans s'inquiétaient d'une hégémonie hindoue. Préoccupé par l'éventualité d'une guerre civile qui placerait les Britanniques devant une situation échappant à tout contrôle, Attlee décida de mettre fin au Raj britannique plus tôt que prévu.

L'Inde devint indépendante le 15 août 1947. Puis, le Pakistan fit sécession. Des massacres d'une violence inouïe éclatèrent entre les communautés hindoue et musulmane, faisant plus d'un million de morts, selon les estimations les plus hautes. Des millions d'autres familles perdirent leur foyer. Les blessures de la partition de l'empire britannique des Indes ne sont pas encore cicatrisées.

Attlee fut critiqué de toutes parts pour un retrait jugé prématuré, qui plongea l'ancienne colonie dans le chaos. Si seulement une force de police plus compétente avait été formée. Si seulement l'armée avait pu maintenir l'ordre. Si seulement les Britanniques étaient partis une fois la stabilité du pays assurée.

Le président américain Joe Biden se retrouve aujourd'hui dans la même situation. En quittant l'Afghanistan, les troupes américaines ont livré le pays à un épilogue sanglant. Ceux qui se montrent critiques de la décision de Biden estiment que les États-Unis auraient du rester plus longtemps dans le pays. Selon Robert Kagan, un politologue américain néoconservateur connu pour ses prises de position belliqueuses, les États-Unis auraient du d'entrée de jeu promettre de rester 20 ans, au lieu de se montrer évasifs sur la durée de leur engagement. Après tout, la présence militaire américaine était minimale et pouvait facilement être financée. Mais alors, pourquoi 20 ans ? Pourquoi pas 40 ans ? Pourquoi pas pour toujours ?

La question est de savoir si la stabilité de l'Inde, ou de l'Afghanistan, pouvait éventuellement être assurée avant qu'Attlee et Biden décident de partir. Attlee avait au moins l'assurance que l'Inde, et même le Pakistan, seraient gouvernés par des hommes responsables, pour la plupart modérés. Jawaharlal Nehru et Mohammed Ali Jinnah n'avaient rien de commun avec les Talibans. Tous deux étaient largement considérés comme des dirigeants légitimes - et pourtant, une terrible guerre civile a bien eu lieu. Biden n'a même pas eu le luxe de pouvoir laisser l'Afghanistan entre les mains de dirigeants compétents.

Il est facile de blâmer Attlee et Biden pour les violences qui ont suivi leurs décisions. Il est possible qu'ils aient fait des erreurs. Avec le recul, on peut se figurer comment ils auraient pu atténuer ces désastres. Mais les deux dirigeants ont été le jouet du même piège colonial auquel ont succombé tant d'autres puissances impériales. Une fois que les élites locales sont rendues dépendantes de la puissance et de l'argent de l'occupant étranger, il devient presque impossible de partir sans provoquer des troubles majeurs. Et plus longtemps la puissance étrangère reste dans le pays, plus le désordre s'aggrave.

Le très conservateur journaliste américain William F. Buckley Jr. demanda un jour à Harold Macmillan, le Premier ministre conservateur britannique qui, sentant le « vent du changement » souffler sur le

continent africain, procéda à une décolonisation rapide dans les années 1960, si les Africains étaient prêts à se gouverner eux-mêmes. Macmillan répondit qu'il ne le pensait pas. Mais il ajouta que c'était une raison de plus pour qu'ils soient libres d'essayer. Qu'il s'agissait de leurs pays et qu'ils devaient apprendre à gouverner en gouvernant. Pour les Britanniques, s'accrocher à leurs colonies et jeter en prison les militants anticolonialistes les plus brillants et les plus compétents n'aurait fait que compliquer la tâche.

Les empires sont rarement créés à dessein. La plupart des empires européens ont commencé par des comptoirs commerciaux. Les gouvernants locaux furent choyés, soudoyés et dressés les uns contre les autres. Pendant une longue période, de vastes territoires de l'Inde furent administrés par une société commerciale, la Compagnie britannique des Indes orientales. Puis, les gouvernements coloniaux prirent le relais pour défendre les intérêts commerciaux de leurs pays d'origine. La domination impériale s'est souvent appuyée sur des missionnaires chrétiens zélés, et plus tardivement, à la toute fin du XIXe siècle, sur les grands idéaux visant à éduquer et former les élites autochtones aux valeurs occidentales, pour justifier la colonisation.

Les États-Unis se sont montrés plus réticents dans leurs entreprises coloniales. Après tout, les Américains sont censés être opposés à l'impérialisme. L'argument invoqué pour justifier la lutte contre le communisme au Vietnam, ou contre les dictatures en Irak ou en Afghanistan, était d'éclairer des populations plongées dans l'ignorance grâce au capitalisme fondé sur l'économie de marché et la gouvernance démocratique - avec des conséquences souvent désastreuses.

Quelle que soit la justification de l'intervention étrangère, les résultats sont les mêmes. Les élites locales, comme les Afghans qui gouvernaient Kaboul et d'autres villes, pouvaient tirer leur épingle du jeu. Mais la dépendance - non seulement à l'égard d'une autre nation, mais également d'ONG et d'autres organismes bien intentionnés qui font ce que les gouvernements devraient faire - alimente la corruption. L'argent coule trop facilement dans des poches toujours plus profondes. Et la simple présence de forces armées étrangères et de mentors politiques, qui peuvent n'avoir qu'une compréhension limitée du fonctionnement des pays qu'ils occupent, rend encore plus difficile pour les populations locales de se gouverner elles-mêmes.

Les élites locales, corrompues par l'argent des colonisateurs, n'ont aucune légitimité aux yeux de leurs compatriotes. Les rebelles et les révolutionnaires en ont peut-être davantage, mais ils ne savent gouverner que par la force. La puissance impériale est prise au piège. Partir a presque toujours des conséquences funestes. Rester est pire.

Attlee et Biden l'ont bien compris, raison pour laquelle ils ont décidé de se retirer. Biden est accusé d'être naïf et perçu comme un vieil homme malchanceux qui n'avait aucune idée de ce qu'il allait déclencher. Il est peu probable que ce soit le cas. À mon avis, il a décidé qu'il était temps de quitter l'Afghanistan sans délai, précisément parce qu'il savait quel désastre ce serait ; mieux valait en finir que d'être toujours plus embourbé dans le piège colonial.

Ce constat peut sembler cruel, sans-cœur. Mais Biden ne peut être blâmé pour l'avènement des talibans ou pour la fragilité d'un État qui a connu bien trop de guerres et d'invasions. Les États-Unis n'avaient rien à faire en Afghanistan en premier lieu, mais c'est une leçon que les grandes puissances semblent ne jamais retenir.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST for FISCAL REGIME CONSULTANT

NAME OF PROJECT: Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project, II

Assignment Title: Short Term Consultants to Draft Fiscal Regime for the Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASM) Sector of Liberia

Financing Agreement reference: 2100155034068

Project ID No.: P-LR-K00-014

Reference No. IPFMRP II/C/IC/2.1.1.1-AfDB

Issue Date: September 9, 2021

End Date: September 23, 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project (IPFMRP-II) was set in 2017 through an MOU between the GOL and the AfDB. The project primary objective is to improve accountability and transparency in PFM systems. The project is composed of many subcomponents, and one of them is to strengthen the capacity of Natural Resource Tax Section of the Liberia Revenue Authority. The project intends to apply part of the proceeds of the funding for eligible payment under the contract to hire the services of an individual consultant to **Drafting of a Fiscal Regime/Legislation for Liberia's ASM Mining Sector.**

The present fiscal regime for the Liberian mining sector is **non-ASM specific**. The fees levied upon ASM value chain actors are set out in general mining sector legislations in the Liberia Revenue Code. This is atypical for ASM host countries for two reasons: 1) ASM specific fiscal arrangements are common and increasingly recognized as good practice to account for the particularities of the sector, and 2) ASM mining fiscal regimes are generally articulated in mining legislation and associated regulations, not the revenue code. Focusing on the development of an ASM specific fiscal regime, one of the reasons for this is that the operating conditions as well as the incentive structures of large-scale mining operations are often very different from ASM operations and value chain actors. By way of example, the geographic spread of ASM mines and low levels of regulatory enforcement capacity mean that extra-legal sale of production is common place. Conversely, large scale mining (LSM) operations, often majority foreign-owned and operating within geographically distinct areas with easily identifiable (and therefore monitorable) production sites are obliged to sell through the formal supply chain. Therefore, the purpose of an industrial fiscal regime, which is primarily to attract and maintain incentives for investment and mining expertise differs from that of an ASM regime, which is, at least in the case of widespread informality, to encourage more operators and traders respectively to produce and sell their minerals through legal channels.

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning received funding for the Second phase of the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project (IPFMRP-II) funded by the African Development Bank. The project intends to apply part of the proceeds of the funding for eligible payment under the contract to hire Fiscal Regime/Legislation for Liberia's ASM Mining Sector consultant to the Liberia Revenue Authority Domestic Tax Department.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The General Objective of this assignment is to hire an individual consultant to draft a well-defined fiscal regime for the Artisanal Mining Sector to guide the taxation of the sector.

The Specific Objectives are as follows:

- Review the general mining sector regulations in the Liberia Revenue Code, and the Mineral and Mining Law of Liberia to account for the particularities of the sector and other fiscal regime arrangements relating to ASM;
- Organize a workshop and make a presentation on the proposed fiscal regime or legislation on the ASM, incorporate feedback from the workshop and submit a final copy.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES FOR EACH OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANTS

Under direct supervision of the Commissioner for Domestic Tax, the consultant will carry out the following functions:

- i) Review and analyze the existing legal frameworks including the consolidated Revenue Code, the Mineral and Mining Law of Liberia to help inform the drafting of the legislation for the ASM Sector and where appropriate recommend changes to the Minerals and Mining Law of Liberia as well as the Liberia Revenue Code;
- ii) Work closely with the appropriate stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Ministry of Mines and Energy and other relevant line Ministries and Agencies to draft the fiscal regime/legislation for the ASM Sector;
- iii) Outline how one can progress from one category to the other: Currently it seems very difficult to move from a Class C license to a Class B license. According to an Extractives Hub report, only nine Class B gold licenses were issued in 2018. One possibility to move from artisanal to small- and eventually medium-scale production is to eliminate the limit of the number of concessions one can hold. Currently, this number is limited to four concessions per operator. However, this comes with the risk of pushing out less financially powerful miners and could lead to elite capture.
- iv) Work with the appropriate stakeholders to agree on how Class C licensees can, after three years, move up to a Class B license, paying only \$2,000 USD for the first year before the standard Class B license fee kicks in. This should incorporate international best practice.
- v) Ensure and provide the appropriate mechanism on how the legislation can ensure that the government could also consider dividing the Class C category into two sub-categories, namely an artisanal and a small-scale group, with Class B licenses representing the medium-scale/semi-industrial producers.
- vi) Review and analyze the current royalty rate, compare same to regional perspectives and discuss the imposition of income tax along the upstream value of the sector.

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OR DELIVERABLES

- a. **Inception Report** (due 10 days after kickoff of the assignment): The Consultant shall prepare

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a brief inception report highlighting his/her understanding of the assignment and the methodology to be employed. The Report will also include: (a) Initial findings following the desk review of relevant documents and consultations with agency heads, key personnel, and other stakeholders; (b) An elaboration of the work plan; (c) List and contacts of key stakeholders to be engaged; (d) A proposed methodology, plan and dates for the stakeholder workshop; (e) proposed outline for the Fiscal Regime/Legislation.

b. **Draft Fiscal Regime/Legislation:** This report should be submitted within 45 calendar days after commencement of the assignment, and must incorporate all the requirements of the Terms of Reference.

c. **Stakeholders' Workshop:** This activity is to be done within 50 calendar days of the commencement of the assignment and will bring together all the key agency personnel of the LRA and other complementary agencies to a half-day Review and Validation Workshop after the submission of the draft legislation. The LRA will be responsible for implementing the logistical arrangements concerning the venue and provide the necessary support for the attendance of relevant stakeholders and assisting with the required devices to do the presentations.

d. **Final Fiscal Regime/legislation on ASM:** This should be submitted within Sixty calendar days after the commencement of the assignment. The legislation shall incorporate all comments and inputs provided by the Government during the review and validation exercise. This should be accompanied by a report stating recommendations for possible changes to both the Minerals and Mining Laws of Liberia and the Liberia Revenue Code.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Consultant will report to the Manager of the Natural Resource Tax Section, who will in turn report to the Commissioner for Domestic Tax Department on all technical aspects of the assignment and to the Project Manager on all contractual matters.

6. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment shall be completed within three (3) months after signing of the contract.

7. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The Liberia Revenue Authority will provide the following facilities:

- A. Access to all necessary information and stakeholders to facilitate the assignment
- B. Office space within the Liberia Revenue Authority where applicable
- C. Essential office furniture
- D. Essential miscellaneous office equipment
- E. Access to Internet, and network resources, where necessary
- F. The consultant will use her/his personal Laptop.

8. DUTY STATION AND PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT

The duty station and place of the assignment shall be at the LRA, Monrovia, Liberia.

9. EXPECTED DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The Consultant shall coordinate closely with the Commissioner for Domestic Tax Department at the Liberia Revenue Authority to accomplish the assignment successfully. The duration of the assignment is 60 Calendar days.

10. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH CONSULTANT

Interested Consultants should meet the following Minimum Qualifications and Experience Requirements:

- a. Master degree in Economics, Accounting, or Taxation or an equivalent university degree with minimum of 5 years of experience in Mining taxation.
- b. At least five (5) years' experience working in the Mining sector;
- c. Minimum 5 years of demonstrated knowledge and relevant experience in drafting fiscal regimes/legislation for the mining and mineral sector. Experience in drafting fiscal regime and legislation for the ASM Sector would be an added advantage.
- d. Must have an in-depth understanding of the operations and activities of the informal mining sector. Knowledge of the informal mining sector in Liberia will be an added advantage.

10. LANGUAGE: Fluency in English, spoken, read and writing.

Further information and the detailed TOR can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. from 0900 to 1700 hours (GMT), Mondays through Fridays.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) now invites eligible individual consultants to express interest in providing the services by submitting a list of similar assignments performed with references and submitting Curriculum Vitae (CVs) and copies of academic credentials, demonstrating experience in performing similar assignments with references and showing responsiveness to the qualification requirements outlined in this REOI. Eligibility criteria and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, Revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"). Consultants will be selected using the Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) Method set out in the Procurement Policy Framework referenced above.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form or by email to the address below on or before 23rd September, 2021 @ 1700 hours (GMT) and indicate in the Email subject line on the outer envelope "**Short-Term Consultancy to Draft Fiscal Regime for the ASM Mining sector**". The Address referred above is:

The Project Manager
Project Management Unit (PMU), Ground Floor Annex
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)
P.O Box 109013 – Intersection of Broad and Mechlin Streets
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
Phone: +231-881-154-787
E-Mail: taylor@mfdp.gov.lr, and copied to jmentroe@mfdp.gov.lr

ECOWAS suspends Guinea

The Authority of Heads of State and Government of regional group Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has suspended Guinea from all ECOWAS governing bodies with immediate effect, voicing its unreserved opposition to the military junta's overthrow of President Alpha Conde's government last Sunday, 5 September 2021.

The Authority took the decision during an extraordinary session convened via a videoconference Wednesday, 8 September, announcing plans to immediately dispatch a high-level ECOWAS mission to Guinea to assess the situation there.

"[The] Authority will review the situation in light of developments in the Republic of Guinea and the Assessment mission report," a final communique from the

physical safety of President Condé, and his immediate and unconditional release, as well as that of all arrested persons.

Meanwhile, the Authority calls on the African Union and the United Nations to endorse decisions it has taken and are stated in its final communique.

"The Authority expresses deep concern over the political developments in the Republic of Guinea following the coup d'état of 5 September 2021 and their consequences for regional peace and stability," the communique reveals.

The Authority holds the coup plotters, under the aegis of the National Committee for Reconciliation and Development (CNRD), individually and collectively responsible for the physical safety of President Alpha Condé and the arrested persons.

It calls for the immediate return to constitutional order and demands that the Defence and Security Forces maintain a

the transition period.

The Authority also takes note of the lifting of the restrictive measures imposed on the former President of the Transition, Bah N'Daw, and the former Prime Minister, Mr Moctar Ouane.

It calls on the Chair of the Authority to remain seized of the matter and of the conditions of detention of former senior government officials, particularly, the former Prime Minister, Mr. Boubeye Maiga, a person of advanced age.

The Authority expressed great concern over the lack of progress in the preparations for the different election-related activities scheduled for the end of February 2022, in accordance with the decisions of the Authority.

It urged the Transitional Government to draw up rapidly, a timetable detailing the calendar, reforms and priority actions to be undertaken, including the consensual definition of the legal framework for the elections, the preparation of the voters list, and the choice of the body to conduct the elections. The Authority insisted on adherence to the agreed electoral timetable.

The Authority reaffirmed ECOWAS' commitment to supporting the Republic of Mali for a successful transition and called on multilateral and bilateral partners to continue to support the transition process, particularly in the preparations for the elections.

In this connection, the Authority congratulated the Mediator, and urged him to continue his efforts for a successful transition in Mali.

The Heads of State and Government express their deep gratitude to Ghana's President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and Chair of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, for his leadership of the Community.

Present at the videoconference summit were Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Christian Kabore; Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara; The Gambia President Adama Barrow; Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo; Guinea Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embaló and Liberian President George Manneh Weah.

Niger President Mohamed Bazoum; Senegalese President MackySall; Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio; Togolese President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe; Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo; Benin Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Aurélien Agbenonci and Cabo Verde Minister of Foreign Affairs,

constitutional posture.

The Heads of State and Government express their solidarity with the people of Guinea and affirm their determination to take every necessary action for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea, in conformity with the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

On the political transition in the Republic of Mali, the Authority considered the report by the Mediator, former Nigerian President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, on his mission to Mali from 5 to 7 September 2021.

The mission reviewed the transition process and, particularly, the progress made in the preparations for the election scheduled to be held in February 2022.

The Authority welcomes the relative calm observed in the country and takes note of the renewed commitment of the transitional authorities to respect the planned duration of



extraordinary session said.

Led by army Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, members of Guinea's Special Forces captured President Conde in a coup Sunday over claims of his alleged disrespect for democratic principles, corruption and tampering with the constitution, among others as factors for the uprising.

The junta carried out the coup while Prof. Conde was serving a third presidential term he won after changing the constitution months before elections were held in Guinea, amidst violence in the country and resistance from citizens opposed to the move.

But the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS reaffirms its unreserved opposition to any political change by unconstitutional means and condemns, in the strongest terms, this coup.

It demands respect for the

Survey Notice

The Turkett, Kamara and Wright families hereby notify all adjoining property owners within Fahn Kie Korroh Estate Upper Johnsonville, four blocks away from the T. Wah Bedel Funeral Home and directly below Korma Village, that there will be a resurvey conducted on three acres and one lot of land.


The Survey will take place on Sunday September 12, 2021, at the precise hour of 3pm. This is intended to allow adjacent property owners to be present.

All concerned parties are advised to be on the scene with all relevant documents.

Signed: Francis S. Fahnbulleh
Registered Surveyor



**JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**



SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER TERM A.D. 2021.

BEFORE HIS HONOR J. VINTON HOLDER, JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.


IN RE: THE PETITION OF MR. JOTA NUPURLOR, OF PAGOS ISLAND, CONGO TOWN, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, PRAYING COURT FOR THE READING OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE JOHNSON W. FLOMO.

NOTICE! **NOTICE!!** **NOTICE!!!**

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE JOHNSON W. FLOMO. WAS IN DUE FORM BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2021. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTION TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2021, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION" GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED TO THE EXECUTOR(S).

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT
THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2021



EDWIN S. BOITMAH, SR.
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

Cooperation and Regional Integration Rui Alberto de Figueiredo Soares were also at the extraordinary session.

Further, the session was attended by ECOWAS Commission President Jean-

Claude Kassi Brou; African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat; and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa Mahamat Saleh Annadif.

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French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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Sinoe, Rivercess in land dispute



By Kruah Thompson (Intern)

Sinoe County Superintendent Lee NagbeChea alarms serious tension is building up between citizens of Sinoe and

the people of Rivercess County over a disputed land. Predominantly citizens of Rivercess reside in the area they claim to be theirs, while citizens of Sinoe similarly claim

ownership. Speaking to reporters Wednesday this week, Superintendent Chea alleged that some of his kinsmen have been mal-handled by community police, including the police support unit from Rivercess, but said the information is yet to be authenticated. He said national government has promised to intervene and resolve the dispute. "When we were in Bassa last year with the Liberia Land Authority and the peacebuilding office from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, we made our case", he narrated. According to the Sinoe Superintendent, he received a communication from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

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