

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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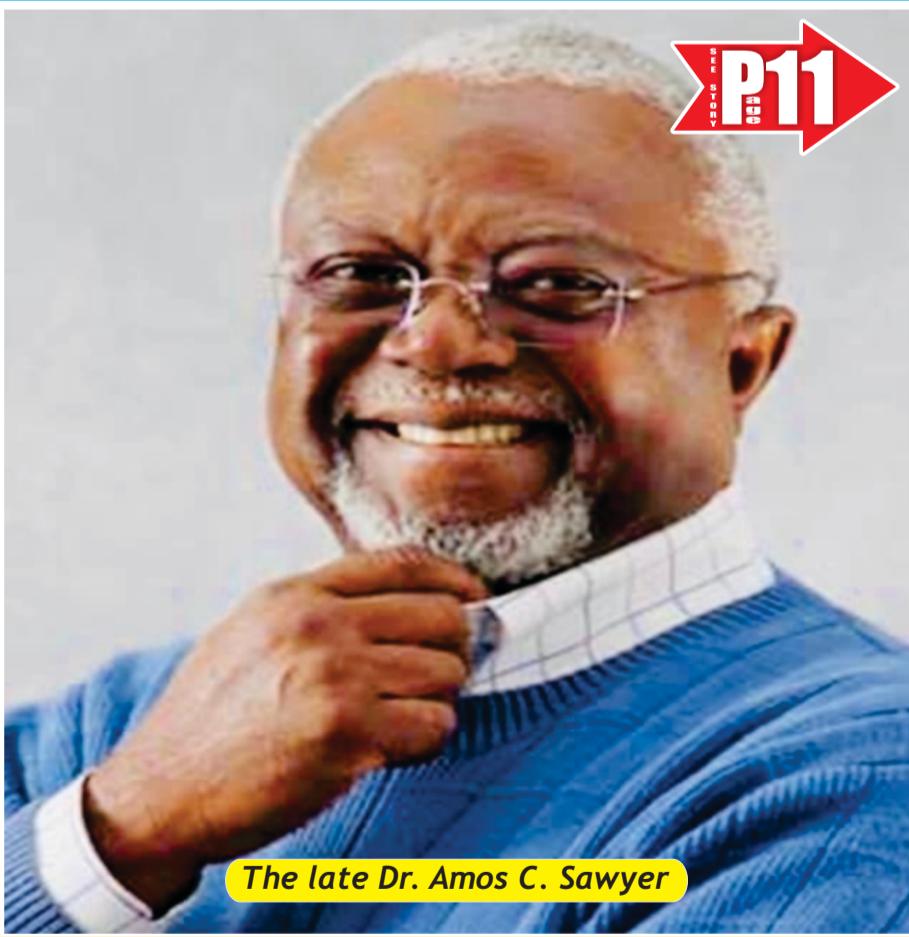
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NPP prepares for convention, but...

Liberia bids Dr. Sawyer farewell



What are we doing today?

Lonestar Cell

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Continental News

African Refugees See Racial Bias as US Welcomes Ukrainians

Wilfred Tebah doesn't begrudge the U.S. for swiftly granting humanitarian protections to Ukrainians escaping Russia's devastating invasion of their homeland.

But the 27-year-old, who fled Cameroon during its ongoing conflict, can't help but wonder what would happen if the millions fleeing that Eastern Europe nation were a different hue.

As the U.S. prepares to welcome tens of thousands of

Ukrainians fleeing war, the country continues to deport scores of African and Caribbean refugees back to unstable and violent homelands where they've faced rape, torture, arbitrary arrest and other abuses.

"They do not care about a Black man," the Columbus, Ohio, resident said, referring to U.S. politicians. "The difference is really clear. They know what is happening over there, and they have decided to close their eyes and ears."

Tebah's concerns echo protests of the swift expulsions of Haitian refugees crossing the border this summer without a chance to seek asylum, not to mention the frosty reception African and Middle Eastern refugees have faced in western Europe compared with how those nations have enthusiastically embraced displaced Ukrainians.

In March, when President Joe Biden made a series of announcements welcoming 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, granting Temporary Protected Status to another 30,000 already in the U.S. and halting Ukrainian deportations, two Democratic lawmakers seized on the moment to call for similar humanitarian considerations for Haitians.

"There is every reason to extend the same level of compassion," U.S. Reps. Ayanna Pressley, of Massachusetts, and Mondaire Jones, of New York, wrote to the administration, noting more than 20,000 Haitians have been deported despite continued instability after the

assassination of Haiti's president and a powerful earthquake this summer.

Cameroonian advocates have similarly ratcheted up their calls for humanitarian relief, protesting in front of the Washington residence of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and the offices of leading members of Congress this month.

Their calls come as hundreds of thousands in Cameroon have been displaced in recent years by the country's civil war between its French-speaking government and English-

speaking separatists, attacks by the terrorist group Boko Haram and other regional conflicts.

The advocacy group Human Rights Watch, in a February report, found many Cameroonian refugees deported from the U.S. suffered persecution and human rights violations upon returning there.

Tebah said he managed to escape, as many Cameroonian refugees have, by flying to Latin America, trekking overland to the U.S.-Mexico border and petitioning for asylum in 2019.

"I will be held in prison, tortured and even killed if I am deported," he said. "I'm very scared. As a human, my life matters too." VOA



Migrants from Africa, Central America and Haiti wait to see if their number will be called to cross the border and apply for asylum in the United States

South Sudan Facing Worst Humanitarian Crisis Since Independence

A senior U.N. official warns South Sudan is facing its worst humanitarian crisis since the country became independent in July 2011.

The celebrations that greeted that joyful event and the hopes that were raised for a peaceful, more prosperous future have been dashed. More than a decade later, the country remains riven in conflict, crushed by multiple natural and man-made disasters, and unable to feed its population.

U.N. humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, said the number of people struggling to eke out a living keeps rising year after year. She said year after year, more people are plunged into extreme poverty and desperation. She said the situation cannot go on. Something must change.

"As much as we need \$1.7 billion this year for humanitarian needs, we also need funding for development and for peacebuilding, ensuring

social cohesion, and resilience," she said. "Humanitarian aid will not solve the problems of the people of South Sudan...We need to make sure we protect and support those who are most vulnerable, but at the same time, where possible, we need to start now to build capacity."

Nyanti said it is important to empower those who can feed themselves. She did, however, acknowledge the primary need to provide food to some 8.3 million people suffering from

acute hunger.

She said aid also must be given to millions of people who have no access to safe drinking water and sanitation or to medical care. She said it is crucial to provide protection and psychosocial treatment to vulnerable people who are victims of violence, human rights violations, and gender-based sexual violence, including rape.

While the emergency



Liberia taxi driver: How returning \$50,000 changed Emmanuel Tuloe's life



The story of what happened to Liberian Emmanuel Tuloe has the quality of a modern fable.

The 19-year-old, dressed in a school uniform of sky blue shirt and navy shorts, looks incongruous in a class full of pupils at least six years younger than him.

But the one-time primary school dropout is happy.

Last year, he was struggling to earn a living as a motorbike taxi driver when he found \$50,000 (£40,000) in a mix of US and Liberian notes, wrapped in a plastic bag by the side of the road.

He could have easily pocketed this life-changing amount. But he gave it to his aunt to look after and when the rightful owner appealed

needs remain a priority, Nyanti said donors also should invest in development projects in relatively stable areas of South Sudan, which could benefit from such support.

"We are talking about a humanitarian operation that will be structured in a way to

on national radio for help in finding the cash, Emmanuel came forward.

Mocked by some for his honesty - people laughed at him saying he would die poor - his act earned him generous rewards including a place at Ricks Institute, one of Liberia's most prestigious schools. President George Weah handed him \$10,000 and a local media owner also gave him cash, some of which was raised from viewers and listeners. And the owner of the money that was found donated \$1,500-worth of goods.

On top of those and perhaps most significantly, a college in the US reacted by offering him a full scholarship once he had completed his secondary education. BBC

increase the dignity that the people of South Sudan deserve," she said. "And that will come with empowerment. It will come with us doing things differently, looking at cross-development and peace. Humanitarian response is necessary now to save lives. A development response is necessary to preserve the future." VOA

EDITORIAL

Fight drug addiction before youth empowerment

THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT seeming lack of willpower to vigorously fight drug addiction that is destroying thousands of young Liberians clearly contradicts President George Manneh Weah's professed love for youths of Liberia.

PRESIDENT WEAH SAYS he holds youth so dearly to his heart, not only because they represent the future of Liberia, which he is committed to improving, but also because the country's young people do have explicit confidence and trust in him to transform the State. Launching the USAID-sponsored Youth Empowerment Program at the Monrovia City Hall on Thursday, March 31, 2022, Mr. Weah said that he has had a special place in his heart for the youth of Liberia.

BUT THE PRESIDENT'S expressed love for the youth of Liberia and the reality on the ground are totally different, as thousands of youths, if not tens of thousands, across the country are losing their lives to narcotics under his watch.

THE ISSUE OF drug abuse has become so endemic in our society to an extent that substances are being sold on school campuses! Can you imagine, the learning environment that should be a place for transformation, is gradually becoming breeding ground for addicted youths. That's the magnitude of the situation facing the future of our dear country.

THIS IS NOT about political speeches, it is something that should prick our consciences as Liberians, especially national leaders. Through lip service or sheer neglect, we are breeding a generation of young people that would lack the capacity to take up future responsibility, given their current social habits.

COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE entire country are infested with ghettos that are involved in the sale of dangerous drugs, and even some of our security officers go there and become partakers with no regard whatsoever about their duty to protect lives and property.

PRESIDENT WEAH WOULD truly demonstrate his love for young people by empowering the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, the Police and other national security apparatus to raid communities of ghettos and save our youths from self-destructing.

"MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS committed to giving all youth the opportunity to develop their potentials so that they will be able to compete in an enabling environment in this ever-changing world. To you, our young generation, I promise to prepare and empower you so that you can take your rightful place in Liberia", the President said.

BUT IF THE empowerment project that is designed to directly benefit 21,000 youths in Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Lofa counties for five years is to make any significant impact, it should include rehabilitation program to transform beneficiaries into productive citizens after the exercise.

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Juan Manuel Santos

Peacemaking After the Pandemic

BOGLÓTÁ - In Paradise Lost, the English poet John Milton encapsulates a fundamental truth about the struggle to end a violent conflict and establish a sustainable peace:

"Who overcomes by force,
Hath overcome but half his foe."

This insight was crucial to my own understanding of how to chart a way to end Colombia's long and costly civil war, and it is acutely relevant to our shared global challenges today.

To build peace, leaders need to foster hope and anchor policies in empathy, solidarity, and a long-term vision of the common good. This is precisely the approach we must take now to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and build a more resilient world that can better withstand future shocks and crises.

Humanity's collective experience of COVID-19 has reminded us all how precious, fragile, and intertwined life can be. Each person's existence on this planet is inextricably connected with that of our brothers, sisters, and neighbors, as well as with our forebears and unborn generations. As we begin to map a post-pandemic recovery, recognizing our shared destiny makes it critical that we draw inspiration from the legacy of previous successful leaders.

In this regard, there is no better model than Nelson Mandela, a man of infinite courage and determination who defied a particularly evil system of racial oppression and became the greatest peacemaker of his generation. Mandela endured nearly three decades of imprisonment, led his people to freedom, and built a resilient, multiracial democracy in South Africa that endures to this day.

Mandela's abiding humility and his iron faith in democracy helped lay the foundations of modern South Africa. These qualities also resonated globally, because Mandela always placed the African National Congress's liberation struggle in the context of the wider international fight against colonialism, racism, and discrimination.

This affirmation of our common humanity lay at the heart of Mandela's decision to found The Elders, the group of independent global leaders of which I am a member. In his speech at the organization's launch in Johannesburg in July 2007, Mandela charged the group with a specific mandate: "Support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict, and inspire hope where there is despair."

Today more than ever, we must recommit to this approach in the face of the pandemic, as well as even greater existential threats such as climate change and nuclear

weapons. We urgently need an explicit recognition by global leaders that solidarity matters, and that they must act decisively to defend and rejuvenate multilateralism.

This ambition and sense of hope is essential. One sobering example of its absence is the underwhelming collective reaction to the March 2020 call by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for a "global ceasefire" in response to COVID-19. True, Guterres's appeal was compelling, and the UN estimated that warring parties in 11 countries had heeded it by early April last year. But the UN Security Council took more than three months to pass a resolution endorsing Guterres's appeal. And too many conflicts continued unabated throughout 2020 and still rage today.

The toll on human life, particularly among unarmed civilians, has been devastating. By mid-2020, violent conflicts had contributed to a rise in the number of forcibly displaced people, to nearly 80 million. And by the end of the year, almost 100 million people faced severe food insecurity as a result of conflict - up from 77 million in 2019.

This is a damning indictment of collective failure, especially by the Security Council's five permanent members. But we must understand the Council's near-paralysis in the wider context of the many global leadership failures laid bare by COVID-19. These include insufficient coordination and information-sharing to contain the pandemic, inadequate collaboration by the G20 to protect the global economy, a dearth of financial assistance to support the Global South, and the moral catastrophe of "vaccine apartheid."

Contemplating this litany of challenges and disappointments, it is easy to be overwhelmed by pessimism. But resigning ourselves to failure is not only an indulgence of the world's privileged, who do not have to endure the pain and loss of war, but also a betrayal of its victims. Hope persists, and so must our determination.

As for me, I am hopeful and determined that we will recover from the pandemic in a way that affirms the words of my compatriot, the great writer and Nobel laureate Gabriel García Márquez: "Neither floods nor plagues, famines nor cataclysms, nor even the eternal wars of century upon century, have been able to subdue the persistent advantage of life over death." In that spirit, we must then get on with the life-affirming task of building peace.

Juan Manuel Santos, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, is a former president of Colombia (2010-18), a visiting professor at the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford, and a member of The Elders.

O-PED

By Hélène Rey

Observing the Green Swans

LONDON - The statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb coined the term "black swan" to describe improbable, hard-to-predict events that can have a massive impact on the economy. The authors of a recent report have now introduced into the taxonomy of finance the phrase "green swans": events caused by climate change and biodiversity loss.

The appearance of green swans is arguably more predictable than that of black swans, as climate change makes them unavoidable. But there are no historical comparisons to help us understand how climate and ecological risks such as cyclones, wildfires, droughts, and floods might affect the banking system, the insurance industry, or any number of other economic activities.

As economic activity is reallocated from fossil fuels to clean energy sources, some activities will disappear, others will emerge, and the value of "stranded assets" will plummet. Although this process is necessary, it must be managed in a way that does not create instability in the financial system.

Owing to their financial-stability mandate, central banks, supervisors, and macro-prudential authorities have a central role to play in the green transition. The recent Green Swan Conference organized by the Bank for International Settlements, the Banque de France, the International Monetary Fund, and the NGFS (Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System) points to a growing recognition of this fact, though the mobilization remains too slow and too timid in some geographic areas.

With an eye toward anticipating the effects of climate risk, the Banque de France was the first central bank to introduce a comprehensive climate stress test for banks and insurance companies. Analyzing three 30-year climate scenarios devised by the NGFS (an orderly transition based on a low-carbon strategy; a disorderly, late transition; and a business-as-usual scenario), the test sought to assess banking and insurance portfolios' exposure to both physical and transition risks.

This exercise showed that the French system's current exposure is only moderate (under the assumptions used). More important, the climate stress test demonstrated what it will take to improve our understanding of climate risk.

There is much more work to do. For example, we still lack databases detailing the geographical conditions throughout global value chains. This information is essential to assess physical risks to production, and it would also be useful for monitoring social and environmental governance issues more broadly.

The increased frequency and severity of weather-related disasters will gradually come to be reflected in insurance coverage and costs, affecting profitability and the default rates of loan portfolios in the banking sector. At the same time, bankers and asset managers will be adjusting their portfolios accordingly. And if the price of carbon continues to rise, as it should, they will move away from carbon-intensive sectors, increasing their exposure to other risk factors.

These time-varying behaviors (and their knock-on effects) will matter for financial stability; but they are difficult to model. Still, a few essential policies would greatly help macro-prudential authorities and investors manage the change. First, those embarking on the green transition will need a compass: there should be a fully predictable increase in the carbon price across as wide an economic area as possible. The European Union could be on the right track here with its Emissions Trading System, wherein the price of carbon has risen from €25 (\$30) per ton in January 2020 to €50 per ton today. But progress remains limited, because the ETS covers only about 40% of EU emissions.

As a recent G30 report shows, credible commitments to deliver a predictably increasing carbon price are needed to enable investors, regulators, and monetary policymakers to adjust their strategies in a forward-looking manner. In their absence, we will be unable to unleash public and private investment in the structural adjustments needed to reduce the costs of the broader transition.

To achieve this, independent carbon councils can manage carbon-price inflation in a similar manner to how central banks manage inflation affecting the prices of goods. These institutions should have a mandate to map out a carbon-price-inflation path aligned with their respective governments' 2050 net-zero objectives. These policies must be accompanied by compensation of those most affected by a decline in purchasing power, owing, for example, to an increase in fuel prices.

Capital requirements for financial institutions could be linked to their exposure to a rising carbon price, which would change their calculated probability of defaults and losses on their portfolio. Supervisors also will need to ensure that financial institutions establish effective governance systems to deal with climate risk. Unlike what happened with shadow banks, whose growth reflected an ability to circumvent stricter banking regulations, we should endeavor to track "shadow emitters" very closely. The US Environmental Protection Agency recently revealed that five of the top ten methane emitters in the United States are little-known oil and gas producers, backed by little-known investment firms.

We should expect that private equity firms will try to acquire risky oil and gas properties, develop them, and sell them at a profit. But we cannot tolerate "below-the-radar" investors buying up carbon-intensive assets at fire-sale prices and then operating them in lax jurisdictions. Preventing this will require a high global floor on carbon prices, carbon border adjustment taxes, or both. The cost of capital for such investments must become prohibitively high, even if it means adjusting the regulatory perimeter.

A final key climate-policy component is mandatory disclosures of CO₂ emissions and a framework for harmonizing those disclosures globally in order to enforce universal minimum standards. This idea is already gaining momentum and may become more concrete after the United Nations climate summit (COP26) in November. Transparency is crucial for all market participants. It is incumbent on the institutions in charge of financial stability to ensure that green swans do not turn black.

Hélène Rey is Professor of Economics at the London Business School and a member of the Haut Conseil de Stabilité Financière.

OPINION

By Shang-Jin Wei

Will China Hit Its Growth Target?

NEW YORK - In early March, Premier Li Keqiang announced that China is targeting GDP growth of "about 5.5%" this year. That would be ambitious even without Russia's war against Ukraine and the attendant increases in global energy and food prices. Back in January, for example, the International Monetary Fund forecast that the Chinese economy would grow by only 4.8% in 2022. And in 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic, GDP increased by just under 6%.

By my calculation, the decline in China's working-age population is reducing the economy's potential growth rate by roughly 0.2 percentage points a year. So, if all other factors were like those prevailing in 2019, China's GDP could potentially grow in 2022 by about 5.4%.

But today, both the Ukraine war and an expected series of interest-rate increases by the US Federal Reserve this year have made the external environment much less favorable to growth. The OECD estimates that the recent spike in energy and food prices triggered by the conflict will reduce global GDP growth by more than one percentage point. Given that China is a big importer of oil, gas, wheat, and other commodities, its growth could slow by a similar amount.

Rate hikes by the Fed - the first of which came on March 16 - will likely further depress emerging-market growth. This will occur through a combination of reduced export demand in high-income countries, capital-flow reversals away from developing countries, and possible foreign-currency debt crises.

China can mitigate these risks to some extent. For example, by not participating in the Western-led sanctions against Russia, China may be able to purchase gas, petroleum, and other products from Russia at pre-war prices.

China may also be able to withstand higher US interest rates better than many other developing countries for three reasons. Because China's capital controls partly insulate its monetary policy, the domestic interest rate need not mechanically follow that of the United States. As China's foreign-currency debt is small relative to both its GDP and its foreign-exchange reserves, the likelihood of a foreign-currency debt crisis is remote. And with much of the foreign capital in China consisting of foreign direct investment (think General Motors or DuPont, for example), a reversal of capital flows is less of a concern than it is for countries that rely more on international bank lending or bond financing.

But it will be difficult for China to offset these two negative external factors completely. After all, lower growth and higher uncertainty in other parts of the world will translate into reduced demand for Chinese exports, implying a net negative impact on growth.

Several domestic factors also add to the downward pressure on China's growth in 2022. A spate of regulations in the past year and a half concerning antitrust, privacy protection, online education, and greenhouse-gas emissions have suppressed production in some sectors and damped overall investor sentiment. Leverage restrictions have created a small recession in the real-estate sector, which has spilled over to related industries such as steel, cement, home electronics, and furniture.

Many of the new regulations can be justified on economic grounds and have counterparts in advanced economies. But the way they have been devised and implemented has contributed to a sense of unpredictability, not only in the sectors directly affected, but also in the economy as a whole. Heightened uncertainty has discouraged both innovation and investment by firms and consumption by households, pulling down growth in the last quarter of 2021 and the first three months of 2022.

China's "zero-COVID" public-health strategy also has fueled uncertainty by requiring periodic and often unpredictable partial lockdowns that disrupt production and livelihoods. That strategy probably could be justified in 2020-21 in terms of the number of lives it saved. But the social cost-benefit calculation for the same approach looks much less favorable in 2022, given the greatly diminished rates of serious COVID-19 infections and mortality for fully vaccinated people and the increasing effectiveness and availability of oral pills and other treatments.

In addition, when the pandemic disrupted production in other countries in 2020-21, Chinese firms ramped up output to cover supply shortages. But as new coronavirus variants become less deadly and more transmissible, and as most other countries shift this year to "living with the virus," China's zero-COVID strategy could result in a much greater loss of domestic output and income.

The Chinese authorities now appear to be adjusting their regulatory approach and reasserting their support for private-sector firms. But while recent statements to that effect by Vice Premier Liu He prompted an initial rise in Chinese stock prices, only concrete policies are likely to restore entrepreneurs' confidence and spur more private-sector investment and innovation.

To adjust their COVID-19 strategy, policymakers need to solve the "last mile" problem of administering the full complement of vaccines to the remaining less-than-fully-inoculated population and ramp up production of COVID-19 antiviral pills.

If all goes well, China will achieve growth this year of close to but perhaps still below 5.5%. To reach its target and maintain moderately high growth rates in future years, the country needs a productivity revolution that will help to lift potential growth.

China will not achieve this through monetary or fiscal stimulus, or even with an industrial policy that subsidizes investment in research and development. The country must instead return to a key ingredient of its economic success in the past four decades, namely, giving the market a more decisive role in allocating capital and other resources, and reinvigorating entrepreneurial dynamism, including in online sectors.

Achieving GDP growth of 5.5% in 2022 will be highly challenging. But, if policymakers revert to market-oriented reforms and regulation, it remains feasible.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

RESPONSE TO UNITY PARTY PRESS RELEASE

RESPONSE TO UNITY PARTY PRESS RELEASE

The Unity Party ("UP") issued a press release published in the November 5, 2021 edition of the New Dawn Newspaper entitled "UP rejects claim of eviction" (the "Press Release").

In light of the deliberate misleading information in the Press Release, and further considering UP's election of going public about this matter, the Management of Worjoloh McClain Enterprises Inc. ("WME") is obliged to provide the below clarifications and corrections for the public to decide the question of whether or not UP was evicted from WME's Property.

HERE ARE THE FACTS

WME is the fee simple owner of a 3.48 acres parcel of land lying along Tubman Boulevard in Congo Town (the "Property").

WME and UP signed an agreement of lease for a period of one (1) year on July 1, 2017, subject to an annual rental payment of US\$60,000.00 (Sixty Thousand United States Dollars), payable annually in advance.

UP continued to occupy the Property beyond June 30, 2018. WME therefore informed UP in writing that UP was liable for the annual rental for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Despite several meetings and promises of payment which promises did not materialize, UP continued to occupy the Property resulting in outstanding and unpaid annual rentals for the periods:

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019	-	US\$60,000.00
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	-	US\$60,000.00
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	-	<u>US\$60,000.00</u>
Total		US\$180,000.00

In November 2020 following yet another meeting between the parties regarding the outstanding and unpaid annual rentals, UP acknowledged its obligation for the rental arrears of US\$180,000.00 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand United States Dollars) and made a proposal for settlement which proposal was not honored by UP. Documentation in substantiation of the above can be obtained from the Records of the Court.

¹
UP having failed to pay the agreed annual rentals for a period of three (3) years despite several promises that did not materialize, and considering that title was not involved, WME was left with no alternative other than to institute Summary Proceedings in the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court (the "Court") to recover possession of the Property, which WME filed in February 2021.

WME prayed the Court to:

- adjudge UP liable and to order UP evicted, ousted and ejected from the Property;
- adjudge UP liable and to order UP to pay to WME US\$180,000.00 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand United States Dollars) representing the annual covering the periods (a) July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, (b) July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, and (c) July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; and
- adjudge UP liable for damages and to order UP to pay WME US\$250,000.00 (Two Hundred Fifty Thousand United States Dollars for wrongful withholding of the Property).

Commencing from February 2021, the date of filing of the Summary Proceedings up to and including November 2, 2021, the date the case was assigned for disposition of law issues, UP still failed and neglected to pay the rental arrears due to WME.

At the call of the case for disposition of law issues, UP conceded that Summary Proceedings applied and requested the Court to grant UP time to negotiate with WME. The Court granted UP the requested time. Despite the time granted, UP still failed and neglected to pay the rental arrears due to WME.

On November 23, 2021, the Court rendered its ruling on the Summary Proceedings in which the Court: (a) adjudged UP liable for the rental arrears of US\$180,000.00 (One Hundred Eighty Thousand United States Dollars); (b) adjudged UP liable for damages for wrongful withholding in the amount of US\$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand United States Dollars); and (c) ordered the preparation and service of the writ of possession and the writ of execution for the Sheriff to have UP ousted and evicted from the Property.

The following references can be obtained from the records of the Court: "Court Minutes of November 2, 2021" and "Court Final Ruling of November 23, 2021".

UP's SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS

Despite the above incontrovertible facts, UP alleged the following in the Press Release.

Point One:

"The party had a cordial relationship with the property owners and have been working out modalities for the smooth transfer of the property after both parties could not reach a resolution on the abrupt astronomical increase in rental."

WME's Response

WME says that it still has "a cordial relationship" with UP in spite of UP's ongoing failure to meet its contractual obligations in a timely manner.

However, claiming to "have been working out modalities for the smooth transfer of the property" is far from reality. The opposite (failure to pay the rental arrears) is why WME had no other recourse but to seek a resolution through the Court.

Further, at no time did WME ever contemplate, represent, or even suggest, to UP ANY increase in rental cost beyond the initial agreed amount of US\$60,000.00 per annum. UP made a written proposal in November 2020 for reduction of the annual rental from US\$60,000.00 per annum to US\$30,000.00 per annum, which proposal WME rejected in writing. For UP to misrepresent that there was "an abrupt astronomical increase in rental" is frightening in its blatant fallacy – and should give reason for concern as to why this misrepresentation of facts is being fed to the public.

Point Two:

"in 2017, the Unity Party paid off its debt of US\$180, 000 in full and a further US\$60,000 for a year rent and continued the lease agreement as was."

WME's Response

This is again a blatant fallacy. The first and only payment received from UP in connection with the lease agreement was US\$60,000.00 for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

To be more specific, the rental arrears covering the periods July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, and July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, aggregating US\$180,000.00 is the amount sued for and granted by the Court. It is incredulous to represent that UP paid the rental arrears of US\$180,000.00 for the periods July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 and neglected to plead said payment in its Answer to the Summary Proceedings.

Because of UP's ongoing failure to meet its obligation, WME informed UP that, per provision provided in the lease agreement, WME would NOT be extending the lease agreement and requested UP to vacate the Property at the end of the lease agreement.

Every year WME pleaded for payment of the outstanding annual rentals through many telephone calls and in person visits. UP promised to pay without even paying a portion.

3

Each promise turned out to be false. Even when at last UP finally put its promise in writing in November 2020, UP still neglected to honor its written promise.

Having exerted every effort for an amicable resolution without success, WME had no choice but to seek a resolution through the Court. And if through the Court the matter became public, it may have been what UP wanted and needed in order to meet its obligation. WME never intended for this matter to go public.

Point Three:

"... the party initiated a discussion with the McClains about the high rental cost and basically agreed that further discussions would be held about the reduction in cost by 50%."

WME's Response

That UP would make a false representation like this - and in such a public manner is alarming and gives reason for concern.

Even though this topic was discussed between the parties, a proposed reduction in rent by UP was rejected outright in writing by WME.

CONCLUSION

WME therefore restates categorically that UP was evicted by the Court for nonpayment of agreed annual rentals. Hence UP's claim that it was not evicted is no more than a smoke screen intended to deceive the public.

It is important to note that up to and including the date of this Response, UP has failed and neglected to satisfy the final ruling of the Court. Hence therefore defying the Court. Could there have been a political motivation for such deliberate deception?

Signed

The Management of the Worjoloh McClain Enterprises, Inc.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Opposition claims flawed police report -In Princess Cooper's death

Opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has condemned the police here for claiming no foul play in Princess Cooper's death, saying the police's heavy dependence on autopsy report to determine who committed a crime is consequential to presenting flawed report and undermining the integrity of the investigation.

measures in the first 24 hours of a crime commission is parallel to being an accomplice to a crime," Dr. Whapoe claimed.

Whapoe argued that it is very easy for investigators to determine what happened, and who did what if they follow five simple steps in crime scene investigation, naming them as physical evidence recognition, documentation, proper collection, packaging,

where we saw the blood spilled all on the wall and the body was lying down right in the yard and somebody went there without proper investigation and just came out and said no foul was played," said Dr. Whapoe.

He strongly recommended the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government under the watchful eyes of President George Manneh Weah to be proactive in instituting preventive security measures to avoid and deter criminals and potential criminals from the commission of crimes, especially life threatening crimes.

The VOLT political leader stated that the security apparatus here appear to lack the necessary competencies and skills required in investigating death - related crime and crime scenes.

Princess Cooper, 25, was discovered dead in the fence hosting the Fawaz Construction Materials Store at ELWA Junction on Thursday, 24 March 2022.

The deceased, according to an eyewitness, was a caterer, makeup artist and resident of Tveh Farm Community on Bushrod Island, District #16, Montserrado County.

But Police Spokesperson Moses Carter told the public that following an examination conducted on the lifeless body of Ms. Cooper, police investigators did not establish any foul play into the death of the young lady.

But Dr. Whapoe said VOLT has come to the public to express its consternation over the security situation in the country and unequivocally condemned the recurrence of alleged extra judicial killing emerging in Liberia.

Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

Reading a press statement titled 'Liberians' Lives Matter' on Friday, 1 April 2022 at his office in the Old Road Community, Dr. Whapoe lamented that it has once again begun to resurface to the public sphere mysterious disappearances and subsequent discoveries of citizens' lifeless bodies around the country.

"The denial of the Liberia National police to institutionalize appropriate crime scene investigative

preservation of crime scene, and, finally, scene reconstruction.

"But we have observed over the period of time that these are not things that have been done. Somebody just goes on the scene with sirens and goes to look around and pass by and say, uh, no foul was played. I think that is very unprofessional."

"It's very premature to bring out those kinds of results to people, especially so in the case of Princess

Gasoline wholesale: U.S. \$4.82
Gasoline retail: U.S.5.00/775LD
Diesel Fuel wholesale: U.S.5.29

Diesel Fuel retail: U.S. 5.47/850LD

The government informs the public that it will deploy inspectors from the Ministry of Commerce to

Gov't adjusts gasoline and fuel prices

The Government of Liberia has announced new adjustments in the market price of petroleum products on the Liberian market.

The change is in keeping with the government's promise to review the cost of the commodity in the country whenever the price changes on the international market.

The Government through the Ministry of Commerce and Industries and the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company, announced on Friday, April 1, 2022, that the price of gasoline has been reduced by sixty-one U.S. cents, while diesel fuel is reduced by 53 U.S. cents.

The new costs of the products are therefore as follows:

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

'Complete leadership deficit'

-Montserrado District #14 Rep faces attack



By Lincoln G. Peters

Montserrado County Electoral District # 1 4

Representative Abraham Vamuyan Corneh, has come under serious verbal attack by one of his rivals in the district, representative aspirant Kerkulah Muka Kamara.

In an interview over the weekend, Mr. Kamara described the incumbent lawmaker, Mr. Corneh as a complete misrepresentation, embarrassment and disappointment to the entire electorate.

Kamara claimed that the smell of Corneh's leadership deficit can no longer be tolerated and it needs serious replacement urgently.

Kamara said the district is experiencing a serious leadership deficit under the watch of Representative Corneh because the incumbent has failed to exercise his function and responsibility as representative and leader of the district.

He further accused Mr. Corneh of failing to make himself available and accessible to the people of the district, something Mr. Kamara believes that the people are tired of and have resolved to boot the incumbent out.

"Representative Corneh has continuously failed to make himself accessible to his people by coming to them and understanding their problems and needs, and how to work with them to solve

ensure compliance with the new prices; they will also be tasked with monitoring the price circular in an effort to make sure importers and distributors do not undercut competitors and engage in profiteering.

The Government warns that any importer, distributor, or retailer selling above the designated price structure will face the full weight of the law.-Press release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC burns 2020 ballot papers

by NEC Chair Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

All of the speakers underscored the importance of the burning of ballots and other used electoral materials after the elections and disposal of cases as transparent and contributing to confidence building between the voters and the Commission which have linkages to peace and stability in Liberia.

Saturday's launch of the burning of used ballots and other electoral materials in

at its magisterial offices in Lower Bong, Maryland and Grand Gedeh counties on, 4 April 2022, 6 April 2022 and 13 April 2022, respectively.

The NEC statement said the disposal of ballots and other used electoral materials is in accordance with Article 4.16 of the New Elections Law of 1986.

The law states, "the Commission shall preserve all writs issued for election and all ballots cast and register of voters made in an election until the validity of such election and its result can no



Newland at the NEC local office in Gbarnga, Bong County.

Senior local government officials, security agencies, civil society organizations, religious groups and the media witnessed the symbolic ceremony of the burning of ballot papers and other electoral materials performed

the NEC Gbarnga Magisterial office will be conducted throughout the 15 counties and will continue until all of such materials are disposed of.

According to a NEC statement, on Sunday, 3 April 2022, the process started on Tuesday, 26 March 2022 in Margibi County and, will end

longer be disputed. The ballot papers may then be destroyed".

Meanwhile, the National Elections Commission is inviting all political parties, coalitions, alliances, civil society groups and the media to witness all of the burning processes across the country.

Stop politicizing Police criminal investigation

By Kruah Thompson

Liberian National Police (LNP) deputy inspector for crime service Col. Prince B. Mulbah, warns political parties in the country to desist from politicizing Police criminal investigation.

According to him, statistics shows that even in the United States of America, as well sophisticated as they are, there are over thousands of unsolved criminal cases.

In a statement released Thursday, March 31, 2022, at MICAT's regular press briefing on Capitol Hill, deputy inspector general Mulbah continued that if the entire Weah-led government is changed today and "angels are imported from heaven" to protect the country's internal security, it will still not change anything.

He underscores the need for community residents to work with the police in combatting crimes.

"Assuming that you changed the Weah Government today and

import angels from Heaven to serve your internal national security issues as police officers, people will still stress unsolved cases in the country. "Yes! this is the police that you have built over the past years.



LIS partners with Criminal Court 'A' on reforming naturalization



The Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) in collaboration with the Criminal Court "B" at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia is stepping up reform process on obtaining Liberia citizenship, according to a press release.

Speaking over the weekend, on behalf of all ECOWAS Ambassadors, Guinea Ambassador accredited near Monrovia, Abdoulaye Dore noted that immigration in Africa is complicated, as most neighboring countries have interrelated citizens and as a result, he said to identify the difference between those bearing similar names is challenging.

According to Amb. Dore, laws are different in various ECOWAS Countries, as such, citizens traveling to and fro must abide by these laws.

Therefore, he sees it prudent that procedures on naturalization be explained to those seeking citizenship in ECOWAS states.

At the same time, he wants the government to make the fees leading to the process of naturalization and residency permit affordable for all, including low-income earners.

Learn to trust them." DPI Mulbah notes.

His comments are in response to widespread public condemnation that greeted Police spokesman Moses Carter's initial report of no foul play in the mysterious death of 25-year-old Prince Cooper on March 24, 2022 inside the premises of the Fawaz Construction Materials Store at ELWA Junction in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

But the deputy inspector for crime service argues that criminal investigations are in stages:

"When someone is found dead, the homicide division of the LNP will dispatch a team to assess the situation and that's the beginning of our investigation; when that is done, the lifeless or unresponsive body of the victim will be transferred in an

"If you make the process exorbitant, people will not be able to pay, because we want people to get their original papers," Amb. Dore averred.

For his part, Deputy Justice Minister Nyante Twan, informed the gathering that the world is changing and Liberia must also change to suit current day's realities.

He said it is upon this backdrop, that the need for changes in the immigration law is important.

Cllr. Twan further noted that the Liberia Immigration Forum will at the same time inform migrants about the laws governing their stay in the country, so they cannot be fooled by anyone.

Also making a presentation at the forum, Liberia Immigration Commissioner General Robert Budy, said Liberia's naturalization process had long been an issue that continues to create an argument, for which according to him, the LIS and Criminal Court "B" see it prudent to inform the public on the process leading to obtaining citizenship.

"Lawful and genuine obtaining of Liberia Citizenship begins with the LIS and with all valid documents acceptable to travel through Liberia's borders," Commissioner Budy said.

ambulance to a medical facility", he explains.

For the second phase of the investigation, he says, a coroner team will come to conduct a coroner inquest on the victim, adding that corridor inquest is not controlled by the police but it's straight under the control of the Ministry of Justice.

"That is why when it's being conducted, it comprises of people of civil society organizations, family representatives, medical practitioners, human rights actors to reach the number of at most 15 persons."

Following the incident (the mysterious death of Princess Cooper) he notes that people said the late Princess Cooper was found in a pool of blood, asking "But where did the blood come from? Is it that her neck was slashed off, chapped in the middle of the face or hit with a blunt object or junk in her body? That is the concern."

Français

Liberia : il s'appelait Amos Claudius Sawyer...

Le président du premier gouvernement intérimaire du pays, décédé le 16 février à Baltimore (États-Unis), sera inhumé ce 2 avril à Monrovia. L'ancien Premier ministre guinéen, Kabiné Komara, lui rend hommage.

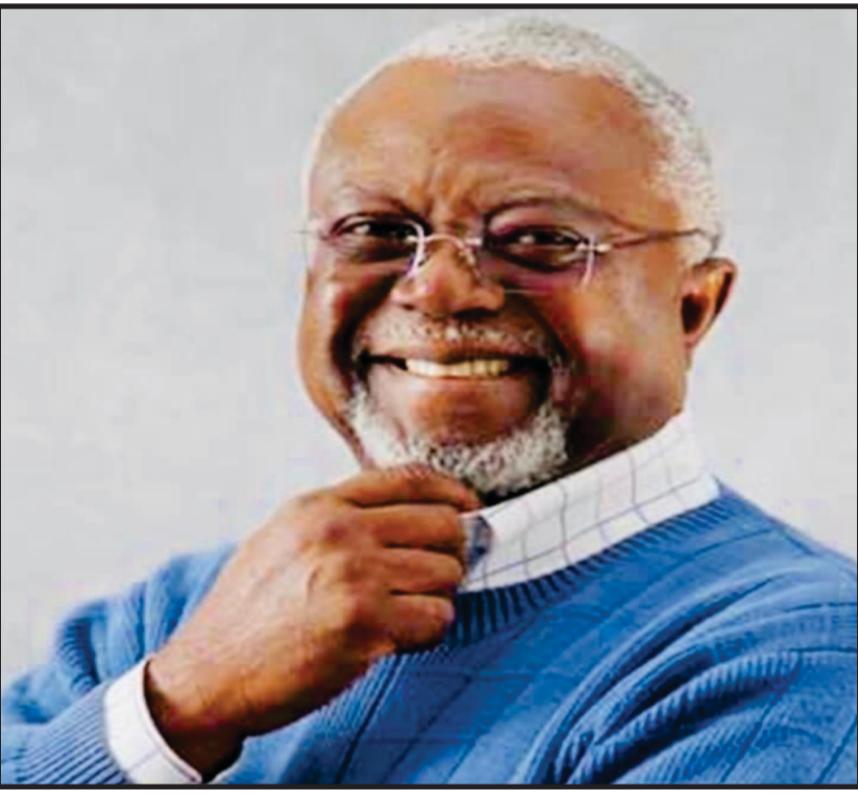
Le Liberia et l'Afrique porteront en terre ce 2 avril 2022 à Monrovia un des fils les plus remarquables de notre continent. Je veux nommer mon frère et ami Dr Amos Sawyer, ancien président du gouvernement intérimaire du Liberia durant la période 1990-

1993. Il eut la lourde responsabilité de diriger cet exécutif intérimaire d'union nationale après l'assassinat de Samuel Doe dans des conditions atroces, qu'il ne sied plus de rappeler.

Sa vision, son charisme et surtout son abnégation ont permis à son pays de faire l'économie de tant d'autres tragédies. Cet homme d'État hors pair, affable, presque effacé, n'est malheureusement pas très connu en Afrique francophone. C'est pourquoi je me fais le devoir de lui dédier cette tribune, afin de vulgariser un tant soit peu le rôle essentiel qu'il a joué pendant toute sa vie pour la promotion de la paix, de la justice et de la bonne gouvernance au Liberia et en Afrique.

Imperturbable et vertueux
Notre première rencontre remonte à seulement dix ans. C'était à Bissau, lorsque lui et moi avions été choisis par la Communauté des États

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Un Libérien accusé d'être un chef de guerre arrêté aux Etats-Unis

Des rebelles du groupe LURD, le 5 août 2003, à Viaton, près de Monrovia, au Liberia. Photo contenue dans une plainte de la justice américaine contre Laye Sekou Camara, accusé d'avoir été un membre haut placé du Lurd et arrêté à New York

Des rebelles du groupe LURD, le 5 août 2003, à Viaton, près de Monrovia, au Liberia. Photo contenue dans une plainte de la justice américaine contre Laye Sekou Camara, accusé d'avoir été un membre haut placé du Lurd et arrêté à New York

Un Libérien accusé d'avoir été un chef rebelle pendant la guerre civile meurtrière qui a déchiré son pays (1989-2003) a été arrêté aux Etats-Unis, soupçonné d'avoir caché son passé pour obtenir un titre de séjour, ont indiqué mardi à l'AFP les autorités judiciaires de Pennsylvanie.

Dans une affaire similaire, un ancien chef de guerre, Mohammad Jabateh, surnommé "Jungle Jabbah", avait été condamné en 2018 à 30 ans de prison à Philadelphie pour avoir menti

sur ses activités au sein de la rébellion ULIMO pour obtenir des papiers.

Cette fois, Laye Sekou Camara, "alias K1, alias +General Dragon Master+", soupçonné d'avoir appartenu à la rébellion du Lurd, a été arrêté "samedi à l'aéroport international JFK" de New York, a indiqué dans un courriel à l'AFP une porte-parole du bureau du procureur du district Est de Pennsylvanie.

Arrivé aux Etats-Unis en 2011, Camara est accusé d'avoir

déclaré qu'il n'avait jamais fait partie d'une organisation paramilitaire, d'un groupe rebelle ou d'une guérilla, en remplissant les formulaires pour obtenir un titre de séjour, ce qui lui a donné accès à une "carte verte".

Au contraire, "il s'agissait d'un membre haut placé du Lurd", le groupe rebelle des Libériens unis pour la réconciliation et la démocratie, actif et sanglant durant la "seconde guerre

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Editorial

On ne se sent plus en sécurité à Monrovia

Les habitants de Monrovia et de ses environs vivent de plus en plus dans la peur vu les morts mystérieuses et suspectes qui caractérisent désormais leur quotidien. Ils craignent pour leur sécurité.

Et comme si cela ne suffisait pas, une obscurité totale due au manque du courant électrique a assailli la capitale économique qui compterait un peu plus de 2 millions d'habitants.

Avec donc la série de morts suspectes jamais élucidée et l'obscurité totale qui ont englouti la ville et ses environs au cours de cette année, c'est non seulement la peur totale, mais aussi une grande déception.

Le meurtre en plein jour de la jeune Princesse Cooper, 25 ans, le 24 mars 2022 à l'intérieur d'une cour, derrière un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction, à l'extérieur de Monrovia, a suscité une certaine panique parmi la population prise en haleine.

La peur est si grande que dès le coucher du soleil, les habitants de Monrovia se précipitent pour quitter la rue, et les commerçants ferment précipitamment leurs magasins. La ville se transforme aussitôt en une ville fantôme.

Pire, une fois la nuit tombée, les communautés sont ensevelies dans l'obscurité opaque, ce qui donne libre cours aux criminels toxicomanes, armés d'armes à feu, de couteaux, de machettes et d'autres armes, pour terroriser les citoyens pacifiques.

Le manque d'électricité s'est avéré dévastateur en janvier lorsque plusieurs milliers de fidèles chrétiens revenant d'une croisade dans l'arrondissement de New Kru Town ont été terrorisés et dépouillés d'objets de valeur par des criminels, entraînant une bousculade et près de 40 morts. Jusqu'à présent, la police n'a annoncé aucune arrestation.

La compagnie d'électricité s'est révélée inefficace pour fournir de l'électricité à la capitale et à sa banlieue en raison d'une corruption endémique et d'une mauvaise gestion.

Ces dernières années, plusieurs personnes, dont des vérificateurs du gouvernement, une agente de l'immigration et les fils de deux anciens présidents ont été mystérieusement tués, certains horriblement de sang-froid.

L'enquête policière n'a pas permis d'identifier les auteurs, en dépit du fait que le président Weah ait promis de donner 5 000 \$ US à quiconque donnera des informations pouvant amener à l'arrestation des auteurs des crimes.

Il y'a cinq ans, les Libériens ne s'étaient jamais attendus au genre d'insécurité qui s'est emparée de la nation, en particulier sous un président populaire, George Manneh Weah.

Avec les élections qui sont prévues pour l'année prochaine, des réflexions persistent à travers le pays pour savoir si la situation changera alors que Weah cherche un second mandat.

Français

Liberia : il s'appelait

d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao) pour superviser l'élection présidentielle de ce pays coutumier des contestations électorales suivies parfois de soubresauts sanglants. Dr Sawyer était le chef de la mission et moi le vice-président. C'était la toute première fois que j'exerçais une telle mission.

Je fus littéralement conquis par le grand sens politique avec lequel il arrivait à atténuer les ardeurs des envoyés des différentes organisations multilatérales et bilatérales (lusophone, francophone, américaine, européenne et autres) qui se comportaient en infaillibles connasseurs des réalités bissau-guinéennes, alors que beaucoup n'avaient que leur propre agenda. Il me prenait souvent en aparté pour me faire découvrir les tentatives de manipulations, et m'exhortait à ce que nous n'ayons à l'esprit que le seul intérêt du pays.

Derrière sa mine bon enfant et son sourire qui arrondissait son visage, se cachait la carrure d'un homme imperturbable et vertueux à tous égards. Ainsi, à son initiative, nous eûmes une réunion cruciale avec José Ramos-Horta, ancien président du Timor oriental et prix Nobel de la paix, alors chef du Bureau intégré des Nations unies en Guinée-Bissau. L'objectif était de ramener d'abord les intervenants extérieurs à faire preuve de retenue, puis les ténors des partis politiques à la décence dans

leurs propos et gestes. Résultat : le premier tour se termina le 13 avril 2014, et nous fûmes invités à revenir pour superviser le deuxième tour de l'élection, qui déboucha le 28 mai 2014, sur l'élection du président José Mario Vas.

Sortie de crise

Depuis, une relation assidue s'est établie entre nous. Nous avons eu par la suite la très délicate mission de superviser l'élection présidentielle du Togo en avril 2015. Moi, président de la mission de l'Union africaine (UA) et lui, de celle de la Cedeao. Bien qu'il soit de cinq ans mon aîné, il me laissait la délicate mission de coordonner les initiatives au nom de toutes les missions, au motif que nous étions en pays francophone. Il y avait alors au Togo une profonde méfiance entre le pouvoir et l'opposition, convaincue que le gouvernement avait mis en place des stratagèmes pour « voler » leur victoire. Jusqu'à la veille des élections, les partis d'opposition exigeaient des changements profonds dans le système de centralisation des votes afin que cela soit remonté au niveau de la Commission nationale indépendante.

Avec beaucoup d'entregent, nous avons réuni l'ensemble des protagonistes autour d'une même table pour trouver une sortie de crise et se rendre aux élections le lendemain matin à 7 h. La réunion commença à 22 h sous ma présidence, avec à ma droite le président Amos Sawyer. Vers 3 h du matin, sans solution en vue, nous nous acheminons vers un échec aux conséquences incalculables pour le Togo. Sawyer me conseilla alors une salvatrice pause, suivie de coups de fils et de divers conciliabules.

Un Libérien accusé d'être

civile du Liberia" (1999-2003), explique le rapport d'un agent de la Sécurité intérieure (DHS) spécialisé dans les crimes de guerre, sur lequel s'est appuyée la justice américaine.

D'après ce rapport, Laye Sekou Camara est reconnaissable sur des images d'archives et l'ancien ambassadeur américain au Liberia John Blaney ainsi qu'une ancienne attachée de défense ont confirmé avoir directement négocié avec lui pendant la guerre civile, en 2003.

Aucune extradition n'est prévue et le suspect doit encore être présenté au tribunal de Philadelphie pour statuer sur son éventuelle détention provisoire.

Jusqu'à présent, aucun responsable n'a été poursuivi ni condamné au Liberia pour les crimes commis pendant la guerre civile, qui a fait 250.000 morts et a été marquée par de nombreux massacres. Quelques procès ont eu lieu ou sont en attente en Suisse, en Finlande ou en France, mais de nombreuses personnalités impliquées dans le conflit occupent toujours des postes économiques et politiques importants au Liberia.

« Nous nous sommes engagés à ce que les commandants de combat présumés qui mentent sur leurs activités pendant la guerre pour obtenir refuge aux Etats-Unis rendent des comptes », a assuré la procureure du district Est de Pennsylvanie Jennifer Arbittier Williams.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Juan Manuel Santos

Faire la paix après la pandémie

BOLOTÁ - Dans une formule lapidaire de son ouvrage *Le Paradis perdu*, le poète anglais John Milton énonce une vérité fondamentale sur les efforts visant à mettre fin à un conflit violent en vue d'établir une paix durable :

« Qui vainc par la force,
Ne vainc son ennemi qu'à moitié. »

Cette idée a joué un rôle central pour trouver un moyen de mettre fin à la longue et coûteuse guerre civile en Colombie. En outre, elle est parfaitement transposable dans le champ des défis mondiaux communs que nous traversons actuellement.

Pour établir la paix, les dirigeants doivent encourager l'espoir et ancrer les politiques dans l'empathie, dans la solidarité et dans une vision à long terme du bien commun. C'est précisément l'approche que nous devons adopter à présent pour surmonter la pandémie de COVID-19 et pour construire un monde plus résilient, capable de mieux résister aux chocs et aux crises à venir.

L'expérience collective de l'humanité durant la COVID-19 nous rappelle à quel point nos vies peuvent être précieuses, fragiles et étroitement liées les unes aux autres. L'existence de chaque personne sur cette planète est inextricablement liée à celle de nos frères, de nos sœurs et de nos voisins, ainsi qu'à celle de nos ancêtres et des générations futures. À l'heure où nous commençons à planifier une relance post-pandémie, notre capacité à reconnaître notre destin commun nous intime de nous inspirer de l'héritage des réussites des dirigeants qui nous ont précédé.

À cet égard, il n'y a pas de meilleur modèle que Nelson Mandela, un homme au courage et à la détermination sans faille, qui a défié un système particulièrement néfaste de l'oppression raciale et qui est devenu le plus grand conciliateur de sa génération. Mandela a enduré près de trois décennies d'emprisonnement, a conduit son peuple vers la liberté et a construit en Afrique du Sud une démocratie résiliente et multiraciale qui a perduré jusqu'à ce jour.

L'humilité inébranlable de Mandela et sa foi inflexible en la démocratie ont contribué à jeter les bases de l'Afrique du Sud moderne. Ces qualités ont également trouvé un écho à l'échelle mondiale, en ce que Mandela a toujours placé la lutte pour la libération du Congrès national africain dans le contexte de la lutte internationale plus large contre le colonialisme, le racisme et la discrimination.

Cette affirmation de notre humanité commune est au cœur de la décision de Mandela de fonder « The Elders », le groupe de dirigeants mondiaux indépendants auquel j'appartiens. Dans son discours lors du lancement de l'organisation à Johannesburg en juillet 2007, Mandela a chargé le groupe d'un mandat spécifique : « Défendre le courage face à la peur, encourager la concorde face au conflit et inspirer l'espoir face au désespoir. »

Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, nous devons renouveler cette approche face à la pandémie, ainsi que face à des menaces existentielles encore plus graves comme le changement climatique et les armes nucléaires. Il est urgent que les dirigeants mondiaux reconnaissent explicitement l'importance de la solidarité, ainsi que leur devoir d'agir de manière décisive pour défendre et rajeunir le multilatéralisme.

Cette ambition et ce sens de l'espoir sont essentiels. Un exemple frappant de son absence est la réaction collective décevante à l'appel lancé en mars 2020 par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies António Guterres en faveur d'un « cessez-le-feu mondial » en réponse à la COVID-19. Il est vrai que l'appel de Guterres fut convaincant et l'ONU a estimé que les parties belligérantes de 11 pays en ont tenu compte au début du mois d'avril de l'année passée. Mais le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a mis plus de trois mois à adopter une résolution approuvant l'appel de Guterres. Et trop de conflits se sont poursuivis sans relâche tout au long de l'année 2020 et font encore rage aujourd'hui.

Le nombre de morts, en particulier parmi les civils non armés, a été dévastateur. À la mi-2020, les conflits violents ont contribué à une augmentation du nombre de personnes déplacées de force, qui s'élève à près de 80 millions. Et à la fin de l'année, près de 100 millions de personnes ont subi une grave insécurité alimentaire à la suite d'un conflit, contre 77 millions en 2019.

C'est une mise en cause sérieuse de notre échec collectif, en particulier de celui des cinq membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité. Mais nous devons comprendre la quasi-paralysie du Conseil dans le contexte plus large des nombreux échecs mondiaux de leadership que la COVID-19 a révélés. Il s'agit notamment d'une coordination et d'un partage insuffisants d'informations en vue de contenir la pandémie, d'une collaboration inadaptée du G20 pour protéger l'économie mondiale, d'une pénurie d'aide financière pour soutenir la moitié Sud de la planète et de la catastrophe morale de « l'apartheid vaccinal ».

Face à cette litanie de défis et de déceptions, il est facile de se laisser gagner par le pessimisme. Mais se résigner à l'échec n'est pas seulement un aveu de complaisance des privilégiés du monde qui n'ont pas à supporter la douleur et les pertes de la guerre, mais également une trahison envers ses victimes. L'espoir persiste - tout comme notre détermination doit également persister.

Quant à moi, j'espère et je suis déterminé à ce que nous nous relevions de la pandémie de manière à affirmer les paroles de mon compatriote, le grand écrivain et prix Nobel Gabriel García Márquez : « Ni les inondations, ni les fléaux, ni les famines, ni les cataclysmes, ni même les guerres éternelles de siècle en siècle n'ont pu surpasser l'avantage tenace de la vie sur la mort. » Dans le même esprit, nous devons alors persister dans cette tâche porteuse de vie qui consiste à faire la paix.

Juan Manuel Santos, prix Nobel de la paix, ancien président de la Colombie (2010-18), professeur invité au Département du développement international de l'Université d'Oxford et membre du groupe « The Elders » (Les Anciens).

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Liberia bids

on his contributions to imparting knowledge to young people of Liberia at the University of Liberia where he taught for many years and rose to the position of Dean of Liberia College before his dismissal in 1984.

Dr. Sawyer's service to the nation was also remembered. Prominent among his services to the nation was his service as Interim President of the Interim Government of National Unity from 1990 to 1994 and as Chairperson of the Governance Commission from 2006 to 2018.

A proclamation was also made by the government renaming the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, formerly Liberia College, as the Amos Claudio Sawyer, College of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who had worked with Sawyer over the years spoke highly of her late colleague and friend: "I can recall on some events and occasions when we listened, we learned, we shared values, we took action with him, as a professor, the historian,

visionary leader and a true public servant. He exemplified a strong belief in the rights, anticipation and power of all, the high-ups and the ordinary ones among us because he was a people's person. And now our mentor, our friend, our national hero and conscience have left us. I am glad that in Amos's last days we were able to do more, to talk to him a bit more, to appreciate him a bit more, for what he was, and no one else has risen to the stature that he exemplified in our country."

Tributes also came flowing from the international community practically from the sub-region- the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Mano River Union (MRU).

The Special Representative from ECOWAS described Dr. Sawyer as a man of peace and a strong believer in democracy and good governance. He said Sawyer's footprints will remain in the archives of the regional body and will inspire good leadership among member states. Medina Wesseh, Executive Secretary of MRU echoed

leadership role of Dr. Sawyer and the role he played during the country's civil war.

A high power tribute came from the Elders of ECOWAS, a group of eminent persons who are former leaders in their respective countries of which Dr. Sawyer was a member. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former president of Nigeria spoke on behalf of the group.

He extended his deepest sympathies to the Government and people of Liberia and the bereaved family for the passing of Dr. Sawyer. He described the fallen leader as a great statesman and an uncommon leader whose contributions to advancing the democratization process in Africa have been outstanding.

"We are all sad and it is an unfortunate situation. Africa lost a role model, West Africa lost a voice, Liberia lost a leader and the family lost an icon, a father, a pillar and a guardian", he said.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA) IN THE COMMERCIAL COURT OF LIBERIA,
MONTSERRADO COUNTY) SITTING IN ITS JULY TERM, A.D. 2021,

**BEFORE HER HONOR: EVA MAPPY MORGAN.....CHIEF JUDGE
BEFORE HIS HONOR: CHAN CHAN PAEGAR.....ASSOCIATE JUDGE
BEFORE HIS HONOR: OTHELLO S. PAYMAN, L.....ASSOCIATE JUDGE**

Guaranty Trust Bank (Liberia) Limited by and thru its Managing Director, Mr. Ikenna Anekwe of the City of Monrovia, LiberiaPLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Baba Frozen Food, Inc. represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Tanuj Pandya also of the City of Monrovia, Liberia1ST DEFENDANT

AND

Mr. Tanuj Pandya also of the City of Monrovia, Liberia2ND DEFENDANT

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT

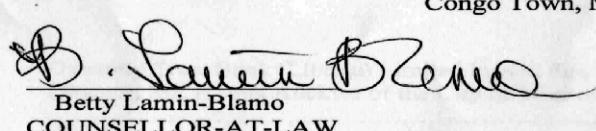
Plaintiffs in the above cause of action prays court to hold the herein named Defendants liable to Plaintiff, and for reasons sheweth the following to wit:

- That Plaintiff, Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia Limited, is a financial institution organized and existing under the Laws of the Republic of Liberia who by resolution of its Board of Directors was authorized to institute legal action against the delinquent customers of the bank. Attached are copies of the bank's Articles of Incorporation, Certificate of Business Registration and Board Resolution marked as **Exhibit P/1** in bulk.
- That the 1ST Defendant, Baba Frozen Food Inc. is a business entity operating under the laws of the Republic of Liberia and the 2ND Defendant, Tanuj Pandya, is its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who arranged for several loan facilities at various dates amounting to ----- on agreed terms and conditions and executed several instruments including a Personal Guarantee from 2ND Defendant to secure the loan. Attached as **Exhibit P/2** in bulk are the loan agreements and collateral instruments.
- That the Defendants have defaulted on the payment of the loans secured from the Plaintiff, overdrawn balance of US\$3,752.62 on its account No. 0102422/002/0001/000 despite repeated demands and now Plaintiff's lawyer fees of US\$8,443.59 for the institution of this debt action that brings the total indebtedness of the Defendants to US\$177,315.46. Attached as **Exhibit P/3** in bulk are the statements of account, demand letter and debt collection agreement.

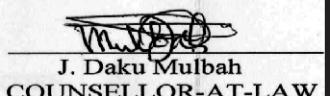
WHEREFORE AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Plaintiff prays your honor to render judgment against the defendants as follows:

- That the Defendants are liable to the Plaintiff in the sum of **US\$177,315.46(One Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen United States Dollars and Forty Cents)**; plus legal interest of 6% per annum.
- Rule all costs and expenses of this proceedings against the Defendants and grant unto the Plaintiff any and all relief equitable and just under the given circumstance. And submits.

Respectfully submitted, the Plaintiff by and thru its legal counsel the Lex Group Liberia LLC, Opposite Dominion Christian Fellowship Center Congo Town, Montserrado County, Liberia


Betty Lamin-Blamo
COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

Dated this 27th day of July A.D. 2021.


J. Daku Mulbah
COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

MOT holds dialogue

Starts from back page



He explained that a meeting was held on 12 April 2011 in Ghana for the harmonization of standards and procedures for the control of dimensions, weight and axle load of goods vehicles.

Uruaka said another follow up meeting was in February 2012, in Abuja, Nigeria, leading to the approval of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act, the Act required to impose prohibitive sanctions for non-compliance on overload control.

But the consultant, however, said for the effective implementation of the Axle Load limit regime, there must be thorough enforcement of the law.

He further recommended that the Government of Liberia should consider partnering with the private sector in the establishment and operation of weighbridge stations.

"There should be political will in



The Act, according to the consultant, provides a harmonization mechanism for the standardization and control of the dimensions, weight and axle load of heavy duty goods transport vehicles to ensure the control of overloaded vehicles and safety on the highway.

In line with the ECOWAS Vision, the

the enforcement and fighting against overloading," he said.

He said the law decriminalized Axle Load offenses, and instead imposed stiff fees on apprehended overloaded vehicles.

Mr. Uruaka said effective actions against vehicle overloading should



Government of Liberia in 2015, passed into law the Act establishing the Axle Load to protect public roads and bridges from rapid deterioration and destruction to align with the ECOWAS Act.

not be limited to the installation of weighing facilities but must be extended to all sectors responsible for heavy duty overloading.

NPP prepares for convention, but...

As mandated in the recent ruling by the Hearing Office of the National Elections Commission (NEC), the ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP) has appointed an 11-member Convention Coordinating Committee to take the party to its long-awaited 7th Biennial Convention.

The NPP, currently a member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) took the decision here in a stalwart meeting held on Friday, April 1, 2022.

The gathering, initially designed to be a stalwart meeting, brought together hundreds of jubilant partisans from all 15 political subdivisions (counties) who converged on the party's National Headquarters on Old Road, amid chants of thunderous battle cries and other party revolutionary songs and slogans.

Those appointed on the Committee are: Nyudueh

at the party Headquarters.

The NPP leadership notes that decisions emanating from said illegal forum doesn't represent the view of the party and is not binding. Thus it says it's of no effect.

The leadership also calls "on partisans and NEC members to remain calm as it will use all legal means available to deal with the current lawless behavior being carried out by partisans herein mentioned above." The statement added.

The Hearing Office of the NEC recently ruled that Senator James P. Biney's leadership of the NPP has expired and without legitimacy.

The NEC at the same time appointed former House Speaker Nyudueh Morkonmana to cause the hosting of a stalwart meeting of the NPP for the purpose of constituting a convention coordinating committee that will lead the party to its 7th Biennial Convention.

According to the NEC ruling, Partisan Morkonmana's selection was based on a careful review of the records available at the Commission, his independence, and public records.



Morkonmana, Cllr. Lavela Supuwood, Francis Menwon, Rev. George Taylor, Jacqueline Toe, Janet Sumo, Askia Cornneh, George Yeeplah, Robert Bear, Dennis Walker, and Edward Garmah.

But a faction of the NPP has described the action of the bearer as illegal and has planned a National Executive Committee meeting this week to take a decision on the folding.

In a statement signed by Andrew Peters, NPP Secretary General, the party said the meeting which has been scheduled to take place at its National Headquarters will take a look at the illegal actions of the Standard Bearer and other partisans on April 1, 2022.

The NEC further mandated that the stalwart meeting must be opened to all interested partisans, including the parties involved in the actions; and that Partisan Morkonmana is further mandated to submit names of members of the Convention Coordinating Committee to the Political Affairs Section of the Commission within twenty-one working days as of the rendering of the ruling.

Thomas Plauto et al of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), on November 30, 2021 filed a six-count complaint with the Elections Commission, alleging constitutional breaches by the outgoing Chairman James P. Biney and others, as well as attempting to manipulate the list of delegates intended for the planned 7th Biennial Convention to have been held in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The complainants (petitioners) also claimed that procedures for the nomination of candidates to be elected to various positions were not followed; and that Respondent Biney, who had registered as a candidate to be re-elected chairman of the party, has appointed a convention committee, naming himself as the chairman of said committee.

The complainants (petitioners) presented in all of their submissions and arguments that the Respondents (Biney and others) have lost legitimacy to govern the NPP, neither are they qualified to take the party to convention by virtue of the expiration of their tenure to rule.

"While we agree with the Respondents (Biney and others) on their argument of the law (NPP Constitution) which requires that the chairperson shall preside over all meetings and conventions, we wish to also remind the Respondents of another provision of the same constitution which requires that the party proceed to convention in four years for purpose of electing new officers. The party's constitution must be considered in a holistic manner. One cannot be in violation of one provision of the law and enjoy rights provided under another provision. Respondents (Biney and others) cannot enjoy constitutional protection to take the party to convention while at the same time violating the provision which protects their rights to enjoy tenure," the NEC ruling emphasized.

Former Speaker Morkonmana, to the effect of his appointment by the NEC, had made a passionate plea to all stakeholders of the NPP to rally around him for a successful holding of the 7th Biennial Convention.

Meanwhile, speaking at the meeting over the weekend, NPP Standard Bearer and Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, called for unity and urged partisans to keep the "pepper bird flying above all else, the people."

VP Taylor emphasized the politically-strategic role the NPP currently plays in Liberia, and reminded partisans of the glorious days ahead, if all agreed to chart the course of unity, hard work and discipline.

For his part, Mr. Morkonmana thanked fellow partisans for honoring his call from all walks of life, thus demonstrating that the NPP will remain together and strong.

The selected names will now be submitted to the National Elections Commission as mandated in the ruling, for further actions and decisions.

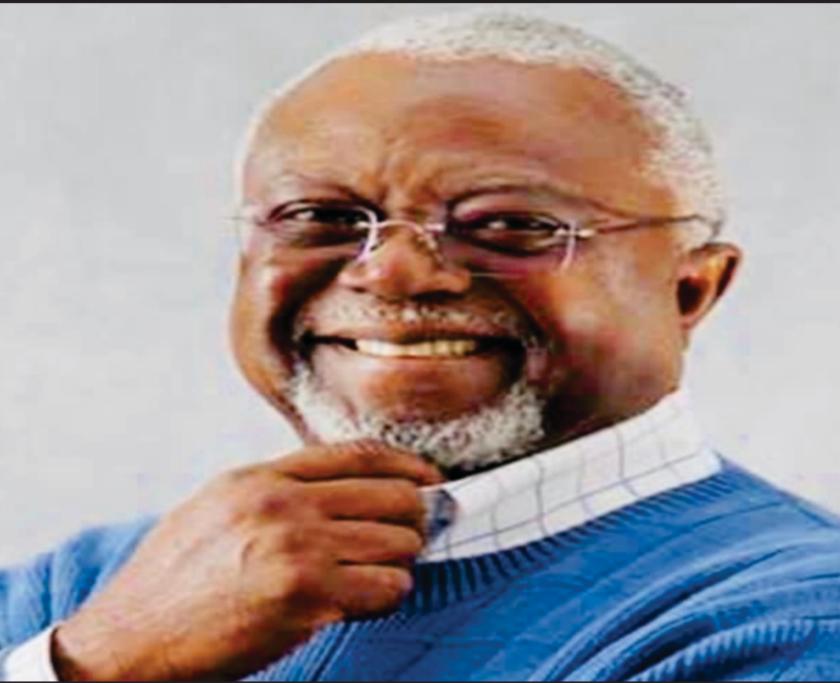
Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberia bids Dr. Sawyer farewell

By Othello B. Garblah

The birds sang in unison, as the trees clapped their hands, amidst a chorus of sirens as the nation bid farewell to one of its illustrious son-Dr. Amos C. Sawyer on Saturday, April 2.

The military also added



color to the farewell as they gave the mortal remains of Dr. Sawyer a full military escort in a paraded style from the Samuel Stryker Funeral Home in Sinkor through the Tubman Boulevard to the Centennial Pavilion on Ashmun Street where final farewell speeches were made.

Dr. Sawyer, the country's first interim President during the deadly civil war here died in the United States on February 22, 2022, from cardiac arrest. The burial on Saturday ended weeklong funeral activities that brought together high-profiled dignitaries including former presidents.

President George Weah led an array of Government officials including Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, Speaker Bhalo Chambers, Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, members of the Legislature, cabinet ministers and heads of autonomous agencies.

Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and other past officials of the government were well in attendance on Saturday at the Centennial Pavilion.

Also present at the funeral were leaders of political parties including former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai of the Unity Party and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the Alternative National Congress.

Members of the diplomatic corps were also in attendance at the Pavilion, visibly among them was US Ambassador Michael McCarthy and a host of foreign dignitaries.

Former Nigerian President Goodluck Johnathan was also present at the funeral.

The casket adorned in national colors was rolled in the Pavilion by members of the Armed Forces of Liberia led by clergymen.

Delivering the funeral discourse, Rev. Dr. Bombo Sellee, Bishop Co-Adjutor elect, Episcopal Church of Liberia admonished

leaders to be careful how they dispense power.

"Be careful how you use power, you are not the source of power, your power derives from my God all mighty. Power is transient. Today you can hold power and tomorrow you lose it. Be careful how you use authority and power. Use your power to serve the people and not to suppress the people," He warned.

He also spoke on other prevailing issues affecting the nation including the increasing wave of rape and gender-based violence that are prevalent in Liberian society.

"We need to address the issue of the rising rate of rape cases in our society. Our children are being destroyed by heartless men around the country. We thank our president who declared rape a state of emergency and promised prosecution for violators but rape is still an issue in the land. Violence against women is all over society, even in the city and we as a people must work together with the president to address this issue. We must work together to address the issue of women in our society", he said.

There were many tributes among them an eulogy from Prof. Dew Tuan Wleh Mayson, cousin of the deceased and a long time comrade.

He said he knew Dr. Sawyer throughout his life and from the beginning it was clear to him and all his colleagues that Sawyer was destined for greatness. "He was brilliant and well-liked by all of us. He was up to his death, very generous, generous with his time and generous with his resources. He was never one of those with open mouths with closed wallets"...

There was also an official gazette from Ministry of Foreign Affairs which recounted Dr. Sawyer's life history with emphasis

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MOT holds dialogue on Axle Load Control



By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Transport has conducted a one - day workshop on the overview of Axle Load Laws and structure of the Axle Load Control unit that is said to be established at the Ministry of Transport.

Giving the opening statement at the start of the workshop, Mr. Dave Diawoo,

Technical Director and Focal Point at the ministry, said the aim of the workshop is to build the capacity of staff who will be leading the charge on issues relating to Axle Load Control.

"We want to welcome each and every one of you here. As you may be aware, the importance of Axle Load Control in our country can't be over emphasized, and we count on you to focus

because it's you that [are] going to be leading the charge," said Mr. Diawoo.

He challenged the participants to apply the knowledge that they acquire from the workshop.

According to him, the main objective of the Axle Load Control is to improve and better protect asphalted regional road corridors, and enhance vehicle load management.

For his part, Mr. Anthony Dasibo Uruaka, Project Consultant and Team Leader, told trainees that the objective of his presentation on Axle Load draft structure and responsibility is to impact a thorough understanding and knowledge of the acts and regulations that control the loading of vehicles, among others.

Mr. Uruaka said the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Axle Load Control was first signed in 1984 by the Authorities and Government of the member states of ECOWAS.

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