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CDC hails Fahngon as hero





Continental News

Rwanda pardons more than 2,000 prisoners

Rwanda has pardoned more than 2,000 prisoners, including a top opposition figure.

Victoire Ingabire, of the FDU-Inkingi party, has been serving a 15-year jail term for threatening state security and "belittling" the 1994 genocide.

She has been a leading critic of President Paul Kagame and says her trial was politically motivated.

Mr Kagame has won praise for reforming Rwanda's economy but has also been accused of human rights abuses.

He won re-election for a third time last year with 98.8% of the vote, in an election observers said was a sham.

In parliamentary elections earlier in September though, two opposition candidates from the Democratic Green Party won seats for the first time.

Paul Kagame - visionary or

tyrant?

The release of Ms Ingabire and 2,140 other convicts was announced by the government following a cabinet meeting.

No reason was given for the move, but a statement said that Mr Kagame had exercised mercy under his

prerogative as president.

Singer Kizito Mihigo was also freed, having been jailed for 10 years in 2015 for plotting to kill President Kagame. Ms Ingabire smiled as she left jail, dressed in the colours of her party.

She thanked the president and said she hoped her

release marked the opening of "political space" in Rwanda.

Justice Minister Johnston Businge sought to play down the significance of Ms Ingabire's release.

"There is nothing political about her release - there is nothing political about her imprisonment," he told Reuters. Ms Ingabire returned from exile in the Netherlands in 2010 to take part in presidential elections.

She was arrested and

barred from standing soon after, and has been in jail ever since. Ms Ingabire, a member of the Hutu ethnic group, had questioned why Rwanda's official memorial to the 1994 genocide did not include any Hutus.

Most of the 800,000 people killed were ethnic Tutsis but Hutu moderates were also slaughtered by the Hutu extremists. Mr Kagame's Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front put an end to the genocide. BBC



Victoire Ingabire has received a presidential pardon

Mnangagwa woos Mugabe protégé

President Emmerson Mnangagwa met one of former president Robert Mugabe's top allies, Ambrose Mutinhiri, amid indications that the Zanu PF leader is on a charm offensive to lure back his foes into the ruling party. Mutinhiri last year wrote a stinging letter criticising the coup that saw Mnangagwa taking over from Mugabe in November last year and went on to dump Zanu PF. He was one of the 23 candidates that took part in the July 30 presidential elections, where he performed dismally. However, last Wednesday he met Mnangagwa, where it was agreed that the former

Front (NPF) after the party split on the eve of the elections. The other faction backed MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa in the presidential race. Before he was appointed founding NPF leader, Mutinhiri met Mugabe at his Harare mansion. In a statement released yesterday, Mutinhiri's faction said it backed the Zanu PF government because it had been elected by the people. Mutinhiri said he was confident Mnangagwa's government would not let the people down. "We do not want to fight the elected Zanu PF government," the Mutinhiri faction's spokesperson Silence Nhamuro said. 'It is ready to



Mashonaland East Provincial Affairs minister would be cleared to rejoin Zanu PF. Mutinhiri initially denied the meeting ever happened, but later confirmed it. He promised to issue a detailed statement about his tête-à-tête with Mnangagwa. "The only thing that I can confirm at the moment is that yes I met with the president at my own initiative and the main agenda really was that I wanted to congratulate him on his victory and inauguration," he said. "The statement, which I am going to issue, I think, will have other issues not related necessarily to that meeting." Mutinhiri led a faction of the National Patriotic

attack the challenges we are facing by engaging fresh blood in the cabinet, hence technocrats who have vision and sound economic turnaround principles." Jealousy Mawarire, the spokesperson of the other NPF faction, said he would not comment on Mutinhiri's statements because Mutinhiri was fired from the party long back and his utterances were thus personal. Meanwhile, Zanu PF has also approached other former ruling party officials that were fired as a result of factionalism during Mugabe's time. REUTERS

Egypt ex-President Mubarak's sons arrested

The two sons of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have been arrested for alleged stock market manipulation.

Alaa and Gamal Mubarak are accused of breaking stock market and central bank rules, state news agency Mena reported.

The case against them began in 2012, after their father was deposed the year before. The pair had been out on bail for the past three years.

The brothers - who deny any wrongdoing - will appear in court on 20 October.

The Cairo court also ordered the arrest of three

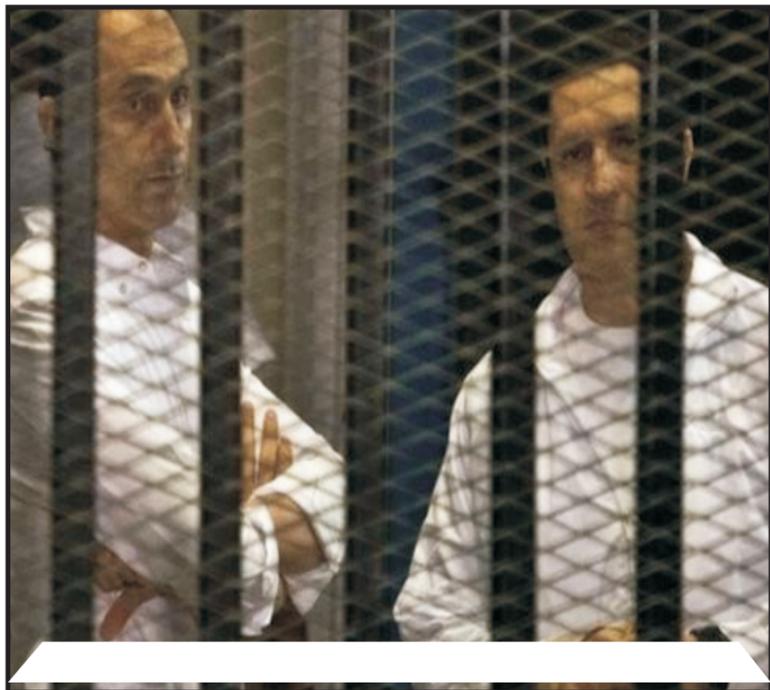
others, and the defendants collectively face charges of embezzling 2bn Egyptian pound (\$115m; £88m).

Both Alaa, 57, and Gamal, 54, are charged with embezzling at least 494m Egyptian pound after they decided to sell the National Bank of Egypt for profit.

Alaa is a businessman who stayed out of politics, while Gamal is a former banker who was widely viewed as being groomed to succeed his father before he was overthrown in the Arab Spring uprising in 2011.

The brothers were arrested at the time for a number of alleged crimes, and spent several spells in provisional detention. In May 2015, Alaa and Gamal Mubarak were sentenced alongside their father to three years in jail for embezzling at least 125 million Egyptian pounds from public money that was earmarked for maintaining presidential palaces.

Their sentences were



covered by time already served.

The now 90-year-old former president, who ruled for three decades, was freed

in 2017 after a court cleared him over of the deaths of protesters in the 2011 uprising. BBC

EDITORIAL

Lingering governance issues that need urgent attention

GOVERNANCE PROCESS IN Liberia seems to be headed in a direction that needs serious check to avoid an eventual collapse of the state. Decisions whose outcome may negatively impact not only present generation, but future generations are being taken by national leaders without exercising caution.

THE OPPOSITION ALTERNATIVE National Congress (ANC) alarms here that the governance process under the administration of President George Manneh Weah is rapidly deteriorating.

ANC LEADER ALEXANDER B. Cummings, a former presidential candidate, warns that if nothing were done by this administration, it might lead the country to a downtrend.

WE BELIEVE THE warning is no crying wolf, but a serious warning that should immediately claim government's attention. Let us remind officials of government, including leaders of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, who are relentless in denigrating comments from the opposition community, that an opposition political party should never be viewed as an enemy of the state.

RATHER, OPPOSITION POLITICAL parties are governments in waiting, and their views should be accepted and critically analyzed by the government of the day in order to help keep itself in check.

HERE ARE SOME of the governance issues presently plaguing our common patrimony: an ongoing campaign by two lawmakers of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change to impeach an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court amid legal questions; irresponsible verbal attacks by an emotionally erratic deputy minister against a sitting lawmaker in the public glare with no remorse for such action; the reported disappearance of a 40-foot container stacked with newly printed Liberian Banknotes, totaling about 9 billion Liberian Dollars or US\$54 million from the Free Port of Monrovia, and signing of a US\$2.5 billion "natural resources swap" agreement with the China Roads and Bridges Corporation, among others.

THESE ARE GERMANE issues plaguing the governance process of our Dear Liberia that demand critical evaluation and intervention. It is our prayers that the Weah-led administration would heed concerns raised by the opposition ANC to navigate our beloved country on the right trajectory for peace and economic prosperity.

EMBARRASSINGLY, LIBERIA HAS been suspended indefinitely from the global integrity body Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives or EITI for failure to report to that institution in time. Though the current head of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (LEITI) Gabriel Nyenkan argues that the reported period being requested for is from the former government, we believe the abrupt change of leadership at the LEITI that saw Nyenkan forcibly taking office despite protest from the environmental watchdog Global Witness also contributed to the failure to report.

THERE ARE TOO many loosed ends in the governance of the country. We believe it is about time the government puts its feet down firmly and begin to tie the loose strings to demonstrate responsible leadership and control.

IT IS IN the best interest of this administration to listen and act accordingly so as not to disappoint the popular mandate it received from the citizenry at the ballot box in 2017. Sitting in the driver's seat and being surrounded by blind loyalists can sometimes be deceptive.

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COMMENTARY

By Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser

The Siren Song of Left-Wing Populism

A growing number of commentators believe that populism represents the best strategy for the left to reclaim power and advance policies needed to provide economic security in the face of globalization. But these thinkers should look beyond populism's electoral effectiveness, and acknowledge the threat that it can pose to democracy.

SANTIAGO - Social democratic parties around the world are struggling. In France's 2017 presidential election, the candidate for the Socialists - once the mainstream party of the French left - received a mere 6% of the vote, and the party has since been forced to sell its headquarters on the chic Rue de Solferino in Paris.

Likewise, Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) gained just 20% of the vote in that country's federal election last fall - the party's worst showing in the postwar period. And the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) secured just over 20% of the vote in the 2015 and 2016 general elections, which is half the share it received a decade ago.

Meanwhile, in each of these countries, left-wing populist parties have been capturing a significant share of the vote. Twenty percent of French voters cast ballots for Jean-Luc Mélenchon's La France Insoumise (France Unbowed) in 2017; 9% of Germans voted for Die Linke (The Left); and 21% of Spaniards backed Podemos.

A growing number of pundits and academics now believe that left-wing populism is the best strategy for returning the left to power and implementing policies to help the so-called "losers" of neoliberal globalization. In her new book *For a Left Populism*, Chantal Mouffe of the University of Westminster argues that "left populism, understood as a discursive strategy of construction of the political frontier between 'the people' and 'the oligarchy,' constitutes, in the present conjuncture, the type of politics needed to recover and deepen democracy."

Curiously, Mouffe spends an entire chapter drawing lessons from Thatcherism, but then overlooks many real-world examples of left-wing populist governments in recent years. These include, most notably, Rafael Correa's 2007-2017 presidency in Ecuador; the increasingly brutal regime of Hugo Chávez and his successor, Nicolás Maduro, in Venezuela; and the administration of President Evo Morales in Bolivia.

Mouffe thus confines her analysis to Western Europe. Despite some resemblances, she believes that the different varieties of left-wing populism around the world "need to be apprehended according to their various contexts." But while it is true that the Latin American and Western European strains of left-wing populism are not identical, nor can they be delinked. After all, Western Europe's left-wing populists have often drawn inspiration from their Latin American counterparts.

For example, Íñigo Errejón, the architect of Podemos's original electoral strategy, wrote his doctoral thesis on the rise of Morales, whom he openly admires. Similarly, Mélenchon has repeatedly defended Chavism and the Maduro

regime. And in his 2017 electoral manifesto, he proposed that France join the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America, an intergovernmental institution created by the late Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and Chávez in 2004.

In 2016, Mouffe and Errejón co-authored a book in which they discuss Bolivia's experience under Morales. And in her new book, she lists Mélenchon in the acknowledgements, even as she omits the Latin American roots of left-wing populism in Western Europe.

But to examine the track record of radical left-wing populism in contemporary Latin America is to find a devastating picture. A cursory review of the scholarly literature shows that such forces have laid waste to their countries' democracies since the turn of the century.

When Correa, Chávez, and Morales came to power, they immediately implemented major constitutional reforms through referenda. In each country, the new constitutions not only diminished the power of the old elites, but also severely constrained opposition parties' ability to compete on a level playing field. The executive director of Human Rights Watch's Americas Division has raised several warnings over the past decade about the deterioration of the rule of law under Correa, Chávez/Maduro, and Morales.

Venezuela stands out in this regard. The judiciary has lost its independence, corruption is rampant, and inflation is out of control. And, as Amnesty International's Americas director recently reported, "People in Venezuela are fleeing an agonizing situation that has transformed treatable health conditions into matters of life and death." Under Maduro, "Basic health services have collapsed and finding essential medicine is a constant struggle, leaving thousands with no choice but to seek health care abroad."

Clearly, Latin America's recent experience with left-wing populism has been nothing short of disastrous. Those who advocate it as a way "to recover and deepen democracy" would do well to acknowledge this reality. In my own research, I have always stressed the importance of examining the relationship between populism and democracy empirically. The reason is simple: Though populism can bolster democracy, it can also pose a serious threat to it.

An objective, empirical examination of the experience of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela demonstrates that nominally inclusive populist policies have come at far too high a cost. Morales, Correa, and Maduro have done lasting damage to their countries' democratic norms and institutions. And Maduro, in particular, has shown that the price for supposedly helping the "losers" can be the creation of an even greater number of them.

SPECIAL OP-ED

by António Guterres

Kofi Annan was the United Nations

Since the shock of former United Nations' Secretary-General Kofi Annan's death, I have been reflecting on what made him so special. To my mind, it is simply this: Kofi Annan was both one-of-a-kind and one of us.

He was an exceptional global leader — and he was also someone virtually anyone in the world could see themselves in: those on the far reaches of poverty, conflict and despair who found in him an ally; the junior UN staffer following in his footsteps; the young person to whom he said until his dying breath “always remember, you are never too young to lead — and we are never too old to learn.”

Like few in our time, Kofi Annan could bring people together, put them at ease, and unite them towards a common goal for our common humanity.

There is an old joke: The art of diplomacy is to say nothing especially when you are speaking!

Kofi Annan could say everything, sometimes without uttering a word. It came from the dignity and the moral conviction and the humanity that was so deep in him.

He had that gentle voice, that lilt that made people smile and think of music. But his words were tough and wise. And sometimes the graver a situation, the lower that voice would get.

We would lean in to listen. And the world would lean in. And we were rewarded by his wisdom.

Kofi Annan was courageous, speaking truth to power while subjecting himself to intense self-scrutiny. And like his predecessor as UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, he had an almost mystical sense of the role of the United Nations as a force for good in a world of ills.

All of this added up to a remarkable record of achievement. He pioneered new ideas and initiatives, including the Millennium Development Goals and the landmark reforms in his report, “In Larger Freedom”.

He opened the doors of the United Nations, bringing the Organization closer to the world's people and engaging new partners in protecting the environment, defending human rights and combating HIV/AIDS and other killer diseases.

Kofi Annan was the United Nations and the United Nations was him. He was also my good friend. We marched through life together in many ways.

When the people of Timor-Leste were seeking self-determination, we worked together -- he from the United Nations, and I as Prime Minister of Portugal -- to support the peaceful resolution of their plight.

When the UN Refugee Agency needed new leadership, Kofi blessed me with his trust in asking me to fill that role - and then provided unwavering support to protect and shelter the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.

Now that I occupy the office Kofi once held, I am continually inspired by his integrity, dynamism and dedication.

To him, indifference was the world's worst poison. Even after finishing his term as Secretary-General, he never stopped battling on the front-lines of diplomacy.

He helped to ease post-election tensions in Kenya, gave his all to find a political solution to the brutal war in Syria and set out a path for ensuring justice and rights for the Rohingya people of Myanmar.

Kofi straddled many worlds, North and South, East and West. But he found his surest anchor in his African roots and identity. The great Nelson Mandela, accustomed to being called Madiba, had his own nickname for Kofi, and called him “my leader”. This was no jest. Kofi was our leader, too.

When I last saw him not long ago at the UN, his bearing was how I will always remember him: calm yet determined, ready to laugh but always filled with the gravity of the work we do.

He is gone now and we will miss him immensely. But I am sure of this — if we continue to lean in and listen hard, we will still hear the words and wise counsel of Kofi Annan.

“Please carry on,” I hear him saying. “You know what to do: Take care of each other. Take care of our planet. Recognize the humanity in all people. And support the United Nations -- the place where we can all come together to solve problems and build a better future for all”.

Let us continue to heed that voice of grace and reason - that voice of morality and solidarity. Our world needs it now more than ever. As we face the headwinds of our troubled and turbulent times, let us always be inspired by the legacy of Kofi Annan -- and guided by the knowledge that he will continue speaking to us, urging us on towards the goals to which he dedicated his life and truly moved our world.

António Guterres is Secretary-General of the United Nations. Remarks delivered at the funeral of Kofi Annan in Accra, Ghana on September 13, 2018.

OPINION

By Daoud Kuttab

Trump's Self-Defeating Palestine Policy

Jerusalem - US President Donald Trump's administration decided last month to cut all funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides schools, health care, and other assistance to Palestinian refugees. Last week, the administration announced the withdrawal of \$25 million in funding for six East Jerusalem hospitals, where the majority of patients are Palestinian. And this week, the US State Department announced the imminent closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Washington mission.

The goal is to force Palestinian leaders to drop their demand for the right of return to the homes they left when Israel was established in 1948. It will not work. On the contrary, it will probably make an agreement on one of the most contentious issues in the Israel-Palestinian conflict even less likely.

Trump has tried this tactic before. Last year, his administration threatened, via its ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, to impose financial punishment on countries that contested its formal recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. UN member states responded by voting overwhelmingly to condemn the decision.

Using financial blackmail to threaten the Palestinians directly may be even more ill-advised. Given the deep personal interest Palestinians have in the conflict's outcome, negotiators are already walking a tricky path that demands a nuanced approach and respects the sensibilities and aspirations of the people.

Of course, in the business world, financial leverage can be used effectively to close difficult deals. But, when it comes to international diplomacy, crass attempts to force particular outcomes, especially using money, usually have the opposite effect, as they tend to push those being threatened into taking more extreme positions.

After all, these are not negotiations over a real-estate deal, the results of which will please some investors and disappoint others. What is at stake are dignity, identity, and human rights. The outcome in such cases will shape the lives and futures of entire populations.

Public threats shackle even moderates like Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to hardening public opinion. Over the years, Abbas has opposed violent resistance, shown unprecedented flexibility on the prospect of a demilitarized independent Palestinian state, and expressed publicly his willingness to compromise on contentious issues like the right of return.

But, with the Trump administration's tactless bullying, such concessions become impossible, as Abbas would no longer be able to convince Palestinians that a deal was made in a fair and equitable way that does not compromise national pride. To most of the Palestinian public, disavowing the right of return in such circumstances would simply look like defeat.

The fact is that no Palestinian leader can agree to anything - even what is technically a good deal - if it seems like they are capitulating to threats, especially when it means abandoning what Palestinians view as their birthright. As soon as the US made its threats public, they became self-defeating.

In fact, the two most important Middle Eastern peace agreements of the last half-century - the 1978 Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt and the 1993 Oslo Accords between the Israelis and Palestinians - succeeded because negotiations were conducted largely behind closed doors. This freed negotiators from the fetters of fluctuating, often emotionally driven public opinion, so that they could formulate broadly equitable compromises that, in their completed form, could be defended on the public stage.

Even behind closed doors, the compromise must be fair. The Trump administration could not try to force the weaker Palestinian side to accept inequitable positions under the guise of political realism, because any agreement that was hammered out would still have to secure broad public support. If the terms were excessively one-sided, the deal would collapse.

To avoid such an outcome, talks on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, conducted in a less public way, should be based on long-accepted reference points. Palestinian leaders have shown a willingness to compromise even on contentious issues like Jerusalem (agreeing to keep it united); refugees (accepting that only a limited number could return to Israel); and even land swaps (as long as they are equal in size and nature).

But such compromises would be made only within the context of a peace settlement that included the establishment of an independent Palestinian state conforming to the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. That is the basic framework toward which stakeholders should be working. The first step, however, must be to rebuild trust, not just between the Israelis and Palestinians, but also with third-party brokers. The US cannot expect to serve as a credible intermediary if it persists with a blatant pro-Israeli bias.

The Palestinians are a proud people who have made tremendous sacrifices in their struggle to survive displacement, occupation, and protracted sieges. They will not be blackmailed into accepting US-Israeli diktats. No peace agreement will be possible unless and until all parties involved recognize that fundamental reality.

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PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
July 18, 2018

Public Policy . Economics . Democratic Politics . Political/Economic Decentralization . Public Dishonesty . Dual Citizenship

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
September 15, 2018

IN LIBERIAN GOVERNANCE OF DAYLIGHT BANDITRY WHO POLICES THE POLICE?

Indeed, the overwhelming majority of law-abiding, patriotic Liberians are, now, extremely concerned and deeply-troubled about the nature, scope and level of (apparent) government officials-sponsored, -involved lawlessness or planned disobedience to Law.

This development has brought or is bringing shame, disgrace and disrepute to the name and character of the Liberian nation and people, a pattern of public, dishonest behavior of no return.

According to the newspaper (*Hotpepper Liberia*, September 14, 2018), "detectives of the Emergency Response Unit of the National Police and the National Security Agency . . . raided the offices of the Auditing Department of the Central Bank on the fifth floor of the CBL Building . . . searching computers of staffers, interested in . . . digitized records . . . in search of any record that will give them a clue to the mystery of the missing container containing L\$9 billion in Bank Notes . . . printed in Lebanon . . . all in L\$500 and L\$100" denominations.

The Paper continued that "On March 31, 2018, the 40-foot container with L\$9 billion, approximately US \$59 million, left the Free Port of Monrovia upon written request by Mariea E. Grisby-Toe, Oldada DeShield, Musulyn R. B. Jackson and five others, officials of the Central Bank of Liberia, escorted by well-armed members of the Emergency Response Unit of the National Police".

But the container with its contents disappeared in thin air!! This



Police raids Central Bank of Liberia

development of a missing container with such number of banknotes of L\$9 billion while the nation's economy is in the Great Beyond with depreciation of the Liberian currency, the Liberian dollar, in hot pursuit is certainly of national economic and political significance and importance.

Therefore, reasonable, diligent law enforcement suggests arrest of the known officials of the Central Bank - Mariea E. Grisby-Toe, Oldada DeShield, Musulyn R. B. Jackson for questioning. But this was not done and why was it not done?

Law is not only academic/intellectual theoretical Discipline taught at colleges and universities, but also, crucial requirement, because of its (Law's) practical impact, positively or negatively, on achievement of basic, pre-determined desirable goals of society - safety, security, rights protection, economic and political well-being or Happiness, consistent with diligent application and obedience to Law.

Six Months later

Now, On September 14, 2018, Police raids the offices of the Central Bank of Liberia for "clue to the mystery of the missing container containing L\$9 billion".

In the light of the prevailing level of some Liberians' desire for foreign citizenship (dual nationality), it is reasonable to argue that, perhaps, the concerned Central Bank officials are out of Liberia at this time.

FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

By: Jones Octavious Mallay, Esq.
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China Liberia relationship: Is It a Potential Death Trap for Liberia?

Burgeoning president head-of-state and commander-in-chief in undeveloped African countries like Liberia are three times overwhelmed about China immeasurable economic handouts to their immature countries. African presidents who are unable to make rational decisions are so happy about the outpouring of China's economic hospitality and social generosity accorded them in their individual countries. There are severe consequences for free gifts from Chinese.

A dangerous death trap for poor, weak and vulnerable African presidents is often embedded in the Chinese free gifts, something, the insensitive African presidents do not know nor understand due to their lack of critical assessments on the part of African presidents. African presidents have forgotten about their colonial dilemmas that ruined the foundation of Africa from its cradle by economic intruders. But the fact is that Africa is going through a period of neo-colonialism, and the Chinese are prepared for such an equation.

Most African countries like Liberia are comfortable with the Peoples Republic of China's main political and foreign dynamics for ten (10) fundamental political analysis that is deeply tied to the Chinese social culture and political values they shared with African presidents.

1. China does not interfere with any African county domestic affairs or how long certain presidents have been in power
2. China doesn't have time for human rights violations, abuses, crackdown or freedom of speech
3. China does not want to know how repressive or dangerous an African president can be to his own people
4. China does not want to know where Liberia is ready to enforce its TRC or not
5. China is not interested in rampant corruption, International treaties or embezzlement
6. China is not interested in wage wars in another part of the world to impose its values or engages in civil wars in other countries or kill innocent people who don't share their beliefs and political practices
7. China does not speak the language of regime change or that African president be deposed
8. China fundamental concerns are the mineral resources in African countries
9. China does have time for the fourth estate, rule of law or due process in African countries
10. How an African presidents' treats his people, comfort his people or destroy his people, China doesn't really care about those standards

African presidents are three-time very, very comfortable with these China political values rather accommodate United political values, which is by and large an access bagged for African presidents. The African presidents now find themselves between two strange political worlds: Communism and Democracy, but the African president interpretation of democracy is in direct alignment with the China expectation and social economic and political fulfillment. China tells the greedy African presidents to take and carry and pay me later.

The United States will say before you take, let us do your international background checks on your human rights, women rights, children rights, international treaties. Somethings, the African president disallow in their political DNA. The recent "Forum for China-Africa Cooperation" (FOCAC), compelled all the African to dress up in cat suits for Beijing China to attend FOCAC and the Chinese Premier Xi Jinping welcomed all the African presidents both dictators and non-dictators asking in their own rights with no discrimination, unlike the American government dictators are not allowed to enter the US, they risked being arrested and persecuted by the American government, but the Chinese Xi Jinping doesn't have such luxurious time to waste checking for who is a dictator and who is not dictator among the African presidents.

They qualified that as political rubbish. All the African presidents are treated equally irrespective of their repressive status in their individual countries. From the political side dressing issues raised in this analysis, it appears the African presidents are happy to deal with a partner that doesn't provide checks and balance on their social economic and political undertakings including the suppression of their citizens. With this said, then China is the future for all African presidents who will want to still in office for life or who will want to kill all their population simply to stay in power at all cost, because China is interested in one thing and one thing only, the "mineral resources" of African countries. With such a Familia echo, China has indeed found a trusted partner of African presidents both dictator and non-dictators.

The question then becomes, should China accumulate all the African mineral resources? The answer is in the affirmative because China and Africa have the same political DNA especially how they treat their own citizens in a very oppressive and cruel direction. It is believed that as long, China doesn't interfere in African politics and want to police them, they can have the resources they want from the 52 African countries with no hesitation which is not a superb news for African president who supposed to be striving how to feed itself, clothed itself, defense itself and determined its own destiny.

This marriage appears to sound interesting, but there is a price to be paid which is in the form of a death trap. Liberia for an instant, Liberia just received \$US54 million as an initial grant for or the construction of two overhead bridges as well as US\$20 million in food aid. And President Weah is very pleased about such a great offer. President Weah termed as "successful for Liberia's recovery process his visit to China in terms of the gains made in terms of re-strengthening the country's relations with China as well as its support for agriculture, road, health, and technology under the government's Pro-poor Agenda." President Weah further lamented "No one in his/her sound mind will not appreciate a free gift from a friend." (Credit Liberia daily Observe newspaper. 9/12/18).

A free gift? Are you sure President Weah that the \$US54 million was a free lunch? It is such a free lunch that has continued to make African president mentally weak to be innovative to develop new ideas and new ways to even feed their own population, neither developed their countries. Liberia also got \$56 million to build an overpass on SKD Boulevard.

The Chinese do not give free lunch, President Weah, this is a death trap for you against America wishes who will soon be labeled as Chinese puppet and will go after you through sanctions and change of regime. China did not invest \$US 60 billion in Africa for lunch or gift or they so loved African so much especially where African already owned China 130 billion dollars in debt that is a death trap for those countries including Liberia.

The goodwill dram continues for Africa. Ghana is getting it to share of \$US2 billion from China for its bauxite and the same death trap I have already been extended to Guinea, Senegal, and Mauritania just in West Africa along. The seriousness is that when African president is unable to pay back their huge debts to China, China will ask them to surrender all their mineral resources to them including wildlife and fisheries. China will then take those goodies away and repackage resend them to Africa for sale to the same African who will be compelled to buy the Chinese goods because the African president lacks vision so their people will continue to suffer immensely.

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Economic Freedom Fighters damns resource swap agreement

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia or EFFL frowns on the Government of Liberia's Natural Resources swap agreement signed with China Roads and Bridges Corporation. In a press release, EFFL says it is deeply troubled about the US\$2.5 Billion agreement that would commit the

Mount Wologizi to a Chinese firm for 2.5 billion dollars and the Chinese will be allowed to do feasibility study on mineral values. But EFFL describes the deal as an unwise decision that shows lack of leadership and patriotism by the administration of President George M. Weah. The release notes that upon

agreements signed with acceptable standard.

"We can now safely say that the sole focus of the Weah Presidency and investment policy is to make Liberia indebted. The \$2.5 Billion cash deal termed by this administration as natural resources swap is a debt trapped that can potentially damage our economy forever and make us indebted to China with the potential of seizure of our natural resources and ports and in the case with Djibouti, Maldives, Madagascar, Zambia and Ethiopia."

EFFL expresses concern about the danger ahead as the country's future is hugely at risk when leaders prioritized certifying personal resource mobilization ambition of the President and embarked on a self-centered agenda.

It recalls that Liberia lost millions of dollars during the regime of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf from the Oil sector through NOCAL when TB Noble sold Liberia's potential Oil Data to companies for fifteen (15) million dollars and the country only received three (3) million from each set of data sold. "Even up to now the Database NOCAL is using to attract investors to the Oil sector is owned by a private company and not the state which is also creating huge losses on the part of the country", the release concludes.



Finance Minister Samuel Tweah

Government of Liberia to swap the country's natural resources in exchange for infrastructural development.

Last Tuesday, Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel Tweah disclosed that Liberia has signed to an agreement giving the natural resources including

assuming office in January this year, the government's investment policy has taken on the tone of loans, plunging the country into 3.5 billion debt that Liberians are unable to pay as a country, noting that there has been no generally and internationally accepted bilateral investment

Lawmaker donates drugs, beds to clinics

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County Representative Solomon C. George donates drugs to four clinics in his district.

He says the donation is a gift from Montserrado County Senator Saah H. Joseph.

Making donation to the God's Will Health Clinic at

Rep. George, recalling that during the heat of the Ebola virus outbreak in the country, the lawmaker was the first person who identified with the Clinic before others came in.

She says the donation came just in time because they are in need of beds at the Clinic, disclosing that on a daily basis they cater to about 20 patients



Rep. Solomon C. George

Newport Street, Central Monrovia Rep. George says he had observed services rendered by the Clinic to his people, so this is his way of saying thanks by giving back.

In response to the gesture, the Officer-In-Charge of the Clinic, Estella Quoi lauds the district#7 lawmaker for the kind gesture.

Madam Quoi notes this is not the first intervention from

and run 24hrs service.

Similarly commenting, the Officer-In-Charge of the Jonna Maternity Clinic at Center Street South Beach community in Central Monrovia Jonna Gayflor expresses gratitude for items donated by Representative George especially, the beds, which she notes are most needed.

SHAD-P empowers Smallholders in Bong County

Smallholder farmers in Bong County are engaged in swamp rice cultivation under the auspices of the Government of Japan. According to the World

Food Programme, the Government of Liberia and Samaritan's Purse Liberia.

In the early afternoon of Wednesday, 12 September, a

County.

It's food distribution day or as one farmer put it "rice pay day" for members who have achieved the required work



"Rice pay day" for Gbuyah Swamp Project members in Suakoko on food distribution on 12 September

Food Programme, the smallholder agriculture development project or SHAD-P is a joint assets creation and food production effort of the

team of WFP and Samaritan's Purse co-workers were greeted to a friendly welcome by grinning farmers of the Gbuyah Swamp Project on the outskirts of Suakoko, Bong

output for one month in developing community assets (lowlands) under the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SHAD-P). Many of the nearly 90-

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strong farmer organization members were there in strength.

He stepped forward, and urging the crowd of farmers to maintain consistency, hard work, and team spirit devoid of greed, infighting, and cheating, Bong County Agriculture Coordinator, Kollie R. Nahn, said: "This time around we, especially you the farmers, have to work to succeed because help will not always come. Now that this help has come, we must do all we can to grow the food we eat".

"What we need to work hard is motivation and encouragement and we see it right here in front of us with this rice, oil, and beans. I pledge to you today that we

will not fail you our supporters", says Saydee J.M. Lincoln, the group's manager, also a farmer.

Lonnie Herring, WFP's Head of LAMP, lauding the Government and people of Japan for financing the project, re-emphasizes the Organization's commitment to helping Liberia arrives safely at the 2030 zero hunger target by assisting and supporting smallholder producers within the framework of the Government's development agenda. "The assets we help you create, the food you produce, the income you generate are all yours. None for WFP, Samaritan's Purse or the Ministry of Agriculture, it's all yours", he



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LRA exceeds August's target by US\$7.75 Million

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) says exceeds projected revenue target for August 2018 by 23 percent or US\$7.75 Million.

In a press release, the LRA says the projected target for August was US\$33.74 Million, but actual collection realized was US\$41.48 Million.

Compared to the same period of last fiscal year, the release notes collection increased by 25 percent from US\$33.2 Million to US\$41.48

Million.

It says the over performance for the period is driven by realization of road maintenance fund after the lifting of ban on collection by the Supreme Court. Additionally, withholding taxes from residents, increased by 129 percent from US\$4.0 Million to US\$9.3 Million.

LRA notes that the currency composition showed that 79.1 percent (29.07 million) of the total revenue was collected in

United States Dollars whilst the remaining 29.9 percent (1.89 billion) was collected in Liberia Dollars for the month.

The release says there was no external resource realized for the period under review, which indicates the entire US\$41.48M was paid by taxpayers in the bounds of Liberia.

According to the release, Year To-Date as August 31, 2018 total gross revenue collection consolidated at the average exchange rate of LD 152.88 to 1USD is US\$75.88M. Compared to same period last fiscal year, year-to-date collection slumped by 3 percent, from US\$78.0M to US\$ 75.88M. LRA says domestically compared to same period last fiscal year, collection increased by 1 percent from US\$75.4M to US\$ 75.8 Million.

Collection as at August 31, 2018 shows that 13percent of the approved revenue envelope of US\$ 570.148M has been achieved.

Newly appointed Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah applauds taxpayers across the country for their valuable contributions to the country's revenue envelope and urges citizens to be tax compliant in supporting the government's Pro Poor Agenda.

CG Nah emphasizes no country in the world develops without payment of taxes by its citizens. -Press Release



LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah

Senate leaves works undone -Pro Tempore Chie alarms

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Senate Pro Tempore Albert Chie says some key legislative instruments are left undone while the Liberian Senate goes for break.

"Some of the legislative instruments that are currently being reviewed by the executive branch of government and to be ratified by the Liberian Legislature are the Amended and Restated Firestone Agreement, the Hummingbird Mineral Development Agreement, the Traffic Management Agreement, various incentive [for] job opportunities," he told journalists on Capitol Hill Friday, 14 September.

In the wake of the Senate's closure for a break while legislative works remain undone, Pro Tempore Chie expresses hope that the Legislative and the Executive Branches of Government can give this consideration within the context of Article 32 of the

Constitution.

Article 32 requires the Legislature to assemble in regular session once a year on the second working Monday in January.

It further mandates the president to extend a regular session of the Legislature beyond the date for

adjournment or call a special extraordinary session of that body to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern.

According to Article 32 of the Constitution, that extension can be done by the president on his own initiative or upon receipt of a certificate signed by at least one-fourth of the total membership of each House, and by



Gender authorities take issues with LSWC Deputy MD

-Over allegations of sexual exploitation

Authorities at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP) have frowned on allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly committed by Mr. Moseray Momoh, a Deputy Managing Director at the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation (LWSC), and therefore, expresses profound dismay over such act.

MGCSPP said in a release issued over the weekend by directive of Minister Williametta E Saydee-Tarr that it has been in close contact with the victim. It added that a formal complaint from the victim has been recorded and the ministry is providing counseling, protection and routine follow up with the Liberia National Police (LNP) as they conduct their preliminary investigation.

The release quotes officials at the ministry as saying, they are deeply troubled by the allegation and is pressing forward and staying engaged until the results of the police investigation are in, to determine further legal action.

The ministry further stated that it condemns the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse at all levels of our society. "Sexual harassment and exploitation are serious human rights violation, and they should have no place in our society," MGCSPP underscores the need for bold, urgent and much-needed action to curb the act of sexual exploitation and abuse, a scourge that permeates at workplaces as well as the communities.

"For this reason, combating

this menace and helping those who have been scarred by these egregious acts, continues to be key priorities for the Ministry and its partners. Every victim deserves justice and the fullest support of the society," MGCSPP added.

"We cannot allow the unspeakable acts of a few to cause irreversible harm and discredit the effort of National Government as well as local and international rights groups, who uphold, the values enshrined in international protocols, to protect our women and girls from all forms of exploitation and abuse," MGCSPP noted.

At the same time, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, (MGCSPP), is seriously worried about the circumstantial release of two alleged rape perpetrators in persons of Momolu V. O. Sirleaf and Varney Jersey respectively.

MGCSPP said it views the release of the two alleged culprits as unjustifiable attempt and flagrant disregard for the dispense of justice, while the victims have continued to raise their voices in demand of justice. Moreover, MGCSPP is also concern about the monitoring of the alleged perpetrators as their absence from the country could pose a serious setback to fight against the menace of rape and all forms of violence against women and children.

"This should not be seen as an attempt to delay justice, because a justice delayed is tantamount to a justice denied," the MGCSPP release stated.

The ministry further noted that



proclamation.

When the extension or call is at the request of the Legislature, the law says the proclamation shall be issued not later than forty-eight hours after receipt of the certificate by the president.

Both members of the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives have officially closed the first session of the 54th Legislature.

But Senator Chie is alarming here that some of the key legislative instruments have been left undone while they take their break.

He indicates that the Senate has some unfinished business which it would have loved to complete before the commencement of the second

session of the 54th Legislature.

Unfortunately, he says the plenary of the Senate could not achieve this.

Meanwhile, Pro Tempore Chie has given the 'Best Senator' award to Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr. Varney Sherman.

He says Senator Sherman was the best performing Senator during the first session of the Senate at the 54th Legislature.

"I have decided to recognize one senator, who in my mind, made the most difference to the work of the senate from assessment. Despite all challenges, Senator Varney Sherman did and he is thus my senator of the year," Pro Tempore Chie concludes. -- Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Le ministre Fahgon a-t-il vraiment passé la nuit en prison ?

On ne sait toujours pas si le ministre adjoint de l'Information, Eugene Fahgon, a été transféré du siège de la Police nationale du Liberia (PNL) à la prison centrale de Monrovia pour y purger sa peine de prison.

Le reporter du NewDawn qui s'est rendu au siège de la police le jeudi 13 septembre a observé qu'un législateur et des responsables du parti au pouvoir, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), avaient pris d'assaut le siège de la police au moment où le transfèrement de Fahgon à la prison centrale de Monrovia devrait avoir lieu.

Le sergent d'armes de la Chambre des représentants, le général Martin Johnson, s'est rendu au siège de la police avec un dossier à la main le jeudi matin. On s'attendait à ce que le sergent accompagnât le



ministre Fahgon à la prison centrale conformément à la décision des législateurs. Les gens pensaient qu'il allait présenter la lettre de transfèrement de Fahgon aux autorités de la police

nationale. Mais à son arrivée sur les lieux, il a été informé que le ministre Fahgon était dans le bureau de l'inspecteur général de la police, le colonel Patrick Sudue, où étaient présents de

hauts responsables du gouvernement et des membres du parti au pouvoir.

Parmi les responsables présents dans ce bureau figuraient le ministre du Travail, Moses Kollie, et le président national de la majorité au pouvoir, Mulbah Morlu.

Quelques secondes plus tard, le sergent d'armes est ressorti du bureau du colonel Sudue sans Fahgon sous sa garde, il ne tenait que dans sa main le dossier qu'il avait apporté avec lui. Et il a pris la direction du Capitole, le siège de l'Assemblée nationale.

Quelques moments plus tard, le président du comité parlementaire sur les affaires judiciaires, le député Fonati Koffa, a également été vu au

siège de la Police nationale. Il est également pénétré dans le bureau de l'Inspecteur général, où il est resté un certain temps avant de ressortir cette fois avec le premier groupe de responsables qui s'y étaient rendus plus tôt. Personne n'a vu le ministre Fahgon.

Toutes les manœuvres apparentes qui ont retardé le transfèrement du ministre adjoint de l'information à la prison centrale de Monrovia jeudi laissent croire qu'il n'a pas purgé le reste de sa peine de prison à la prison centrale du Libéria, contrairement au verdict des législateurs de la chambre des représentants.

Le ministre Fahgon avait été provisoirement placé en détention au siège de la police nationale du Libéria le mercredi 12 septembre, dans la soirée, pour qu'il fût transféré le lendemain à la prison centrale de Monrovia pour y purger sa peine de deux nuits que lui avaient infligée les députés de la chambre des représentants.

Il avait été humilié par les législateurs, menotté et emprisonné pour avoir refusé d'expliquer, lors d'une audience pour outrage devant la Chambre des représentants, ce qui s'était passé entre lui le représentant du comté de Bomi, Edwin Melvin Snowe.

L'audience pour mépris faisait suite à une altercation qui avait opposé le ministre Fahgon le député Snowe. Le second avait porté plainte au parlement contre le premier

Les commerçants protestent devant le tribunal

Des commerçantes ont entrepris un mouvement de protestation contre la décision de la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor qui porte suspension de la présidente et de deux autres hauts responsables de l'Association des commerçants du Liberia (LMA).

Des dizaines de commerçantes membres de

la LMA s'étaient rassemblées devant le tribunal de droit civil du temple de la justice à Monrovia. Elles ont menacé de ranger leurs marchandises et continuer de protester pendant trois jours afin de contraindre la vice-présidente Taylor de réintégrer la présidente de la LMA, Mme Alice Yeebahn.

Mme Taylor a récemment suspendu la présidente de la

LMA, Madame Yeebahn, le vice-président Abraham Barchue, et la secrétaire générale adjointe Mme Lawuo Hiami.

Le bureau de Mme Taylor a déclaré avoir suspendu les responsables de l'association en raison des allégations de corruption, de mauvaise gestion financière, de détournement de ressources et d'autres actes contraires à l'existence de l'Association.

Mais lors de leur manifestation devant le tribunal de droit civil où certains responsables ont déclaré avoir intenté une action en justice, les femmes exigeaient à ce que leur présidente reprît ses fonctions pendant que l'audit est en cours. Au cours d'un entretien avec des journalistes, la porte-parole des manifestantes, Yaessey Jalloh, a déclaré que : « Nous voulons que notre présidente revienne... ou nous fermerons toutes les entreprises. »

Selon Yaessey, qui vend au marché de Red-lighthouse à Paynesville, la vice-présidente Taylor a suspendu la présidente de la LMA pour qu'un audit ait lieu au niveau de l'organisation. « Notre présidente peut reprendre ses fonctions, et laisser l'audit

suivre son cours », a insisté Yaessey.

Selon elle, plus de 30 marchés étaient représentés devant le tribunal du Temple de la Justice, prévenant qu'elles continueraient jusqu'à ce qu'elles obtiennent gain de cause. Elle a soutenu que la présidente suspendue de la LMA a apporté des améliorations à l'organisation, notamment une augmentation des revenus des travailleurs. Elle croit que cette suspension relève d'une simple jalousie.

Mme Taylor a depuis lors mis en place une direction intérimaire. Il s'agit de M. Jerry V. Geedeh et Mme Henrietta Zorpoe, représentant le conseil d'administration de la LMA ; Madame Antoinette N. Mulbah, représentant le Comité exécutif de la LMA ; Madame Cecelia G. Wuduwelh, représentant la partie lésée ; et M. David Weah, représentant des surintendants du comté de LMA.



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Français

Un partenariat entre les radios et télévisions publiques de la CEDEAO pour un meilleur traitement de l'information régionale

Le ministre ivoirien de la Communication et des Médias, porte-parole du gouvernement, Sidi Tiémoko Touré, a plaidé pour un réajustement ou un redimensionnement des politiques éditoriales et de l'information des organes de communication de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao).

Dans son discours à l'ouverture, le jeudi 13 septembre 2018, à Grand Bassam, en Côte d'Ivoire, d'un séminaire régional consacré aux radios et télévisions publiques de l'espace Cedeao, il a invité les professionnels de ces médias à traiter l'information avec justesse, pertinence et intelligence.

« L'information est disponible partout, en tout temps et en tout lieu. Il est impératif de la traiter, de la confronter, de la juguler parfois, afin de transmettre une information complète, juste, documentée, mais également pour déconstruire des idées reçues ou des rumeurs infondées », a déclaré Sidi Tiémoko Touré.

Il a exhorté les professionnels des médias à respecter les principes d'équité, de liberté et de pluralité dans l'optique de l'éthique et de la déontologie en matière d'information.

M. Touré s'est dit convaincu que les conclusions et recommandations de la rencontre permettront de donner des indications sur le formatage d'un schéma de coopération ambitieux, à la hauteur de la vision que l'Afrique est en droit d'attendre de ses médias.

Tout comme lui, le Commissaire chargé des Télécommunications et des Technologies de l'Information de la Commission de la Cedeao, Dr Zouli Bonkoungou, représentant le président de l'institution, Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, parrain de l'événement, s'est félicité de ces assises qui contribueront, selon lui, à la création d'un cadre devant favoriser le partage de l'information et l'intégration régionale.

Il a émis le souhait de voir la réunion constituer une excellente opportunité pour les radios et télévisions de l'espace communautaire de collaborer davantage entre elles d'une part, et avec la Cedeao d'autre part, afin d'assurer une meilleure visibilité des activités et des réalisations de l'organisation régionale.

« Je suis persuadé qu'elle sera le début d'une collaboration durable et bénéfique aussi bien pour radios et télévisions publiques ouest-africaines, que pour les

différentes Institutions de la Cedeao. En effet, l'un des principaux obstacles aux efforts d'intégration de la Cedeao est la faible connaissance des programmes, des activités et des objectifs de l'Organisation régionale par ses citoyens », a souligné Dr Zouli Bonkoungou.

Il s'est dit convaincu que les objectifs du séminaire que sont la valorisation des offres éditoriales régionales, la mise en place de réseau de correspondants et l'assistance mutuelle entre les radios et télévisions publiques de l'espace communautaire favoriseront le traitement et la diffusion de sujets relatifs à l'intégration régionale, à la paix, à la sécurité, à la stabilité et à la démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le directeur général de la radiodiffusion télévision ivoirienne (RTI), Ahmadou Bakayoko, s'est interrogé sur la part de ces sujets dans les programmes des radios et télévisions communautaires.

« Lorsqu'on comptabilise les informations au niveau des radios et télévisions, il y a très peu d'informations sous régionales dans les programmes, et nous ne savons pas ce qui se passe dans la région », a-t-il fait savoir.

Il a indiqué que cette rencontre se propose de combler ce gap d'informations dans un environnement concurrentiel marqué par des transformations technologiques, économiques et une exigence de plus en plus accrue des auditeurs et des spectateurs.

« Nous devons apprendre à jouer collectif pour être meilleurs en vue de disposer de contenus qualitatifs », a-t-il précisé, soulignant que ce séminaire vise à échanger autour des expériences en vue de la mise en place d'un cadre de coopération. Ceci à travers des offres éditoriales régionales, un cadre d'assistance mutuelle et la création d'un réseau de correspondants à l'issue des travaux.

Le séminaire régional sur les programmes d'information des radios et télévisions publiques ouest-africaines, regroupe les responsables et représentants de ces organes de presse.

Il est organisé par la RTI sous le parrainage de la Cedeao, avec pour ambition de créer un partenariat entre les acteurs pour « un meilleur traitement » des événements de l'espace communautaire.

La rencontre regroupe une trentaine de participants venus du Bénin, de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Burkina Faso, de la Gambie, du Ghana, de la Guinée, de la Guinée-Bissau, du Liberia, du Mali, du Nigeria, du Sénégal et du Togo.

COMMENTAIRE

By Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser

Le chant des sirènes du populisme de gauche

SANTIAGO - Les partis sociaux-démocrates du monde entier sont en difficulté. Lors des élections présidentielles de 2017 en France, le candidat des socialistes - autrefois le grand parti de la gauche française - n'a reçu que 6 % des voix et le parti a été contraint depuis à vendre son siège dans la très chic rue de Solferino à Paris.

De même, le Parti social-démocrate allemand (SPD) n'a obtenu que 20 % des voix lors les élections fédérales à l'automne dernier - le pire résultat de ce parti depuis l'après-guerre. Et le Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol (PSOE) a obtenu un peu plus de 20 % des voix lors des élections législatives de 2015 et 2016, soit la moitié de son score il y a dix ans de cela.

Entre-temps, dans chacun de ces pays, les partis populistes de gauche se sont saisis d'une part importante des votes. Vingt pour cent des électeurs français ont voté pour le parti de Jean-Luc Mélenchon La France Insoumise en 2017 ; 9 % des Allemands ont voté pour Die Linke (La Gauche) et 21 % des Espagnols ont soutenu Podemos.

Un nombre de plus en plus grand d'experts et d'universitaires croient maintenant que le populisme de gauche est la meilleure stratégie pour un retour de la gauche au pouvoir. Ils mettent en œuvre des mesures en ce sens, visant à aider les « perdants » de la mondialisation néolibérale. Dans son nouveau livre Pour un populisme de gauche, Chantal Mouffe de l'Université de Westminster affirme que « le populisme de gauche, compris comme une stratégie discursive de construction de la frontière politique entre 'le peuple' et 'l'oligarchie', constitue dans la conjoncture actuelle, le type de politique nécessaire pour retrouver et approfondir la démocratie. »

Curieusement, Mouffe consacre un chapitre entier à tirer les leçons du thatchérisme, puis néglige ensuite de nombreux exemples concrets de gouvernements populistes de gauche au cours des dernières années. Il s'agit principalement de la présidence de Rafael Correa en Équateur de 2007 à 2017, du régime de plus en plus brutal de Hugo Chávez et de son successeur Nicolás Maduro au Venezuela et de l'administration du Président Evo Morales en Bolivie.

Mouffe limite donc son analyse à l'Europe de l'Ouest. Malgré certaines ressemblances, elle croit que les différentes variétés du populisme de gauche à travers le monde « doivent être appréhendées en fonction de leurs différents contextes. » Mais s'il est vrai que les branches du populisme de gauche des pays d'Amérique latine et d'Europe occidentale ne sont pas identiques, il est impossible de les dissocier. Après tout, les populistes de gauche d'Europe de l'Ouest se sont souvent inspirés de leurs homologues d'Amérique latine.

Par exemple, Íñigo Errejón, l'architecte de la stratégie électorale d'origine de Podemos, a écrit sa thèse de doctorat sur la montée en puissance de Morales, qu'il admire ouvertement. De même, Mélenchon a maintes fois défendu le chavisme et le régime de Maduro. Et dans son

programme électoral de 2017, il a proposé que la France rejoigne l'Alliance bolivarienne pour les peuples de notre Amérique, une institution intergouvernementale créée par feu le dictateur cubain Fidel Castro et Chávez en 2004.

En 2016, Mouffe et Errejón ont corédigé un livre dans lequel ils discutent de l'expérience de la Bolivie sous Morales. Et dans son nouveau livre, elle cite Mélenchon dans ses remerciements, même si elle omet les racines latino-américaines du populisme de gauche en Europe de l'Ouest.

Pourtant, l'examen du bilan du populisme radical de gauche en Amérique latine contemporaine est accablant. Un bref examen de la littérature savante montre que ces forces ont dévasté les démocraties de leur pays depuis le début du siècle.

Lorsque Correa, Chávez et Morales sont arrivés au pouvoir, ils ont immédiatement mis en application une réforme de la constitution par voie de référendum. Dans chaque pays, les nouvelles constitutions non seulement diminué le pouvoir des anciennes élites, mais ont également sérieusement limité la capacité des partis d'opposition à rivaliser sur un pied d'égalité. Le directeur exécutif de la Division des Amériques de Human Rights Watch a formulé plusieurs avertissements au cours de la dernière décennie quant à la détérioration de l'État de droit sous Correa, Chávez/Maduro et Morales.

Le Venezuela se distingue à cet égard. Le pouvoir judiciaire a perdu son indépendance, la corruption est endémique et l'inflation est hors de contrôle. Comme l'a récemment rapporté le directeur d'Amnesty International Amériques, « les habitants du Venezuela fuient une situation terrible qui a transformé des problèmes de santé traitables en questions de vie ou de mort. » Sous Maduro, « les services de santé de base se sont effondrés et la recherche de médicaments de base est une lutte constante, qui ne laisse pas d'autre choix à des millions de gens que de chercher à se faire soigner à l'étranger. »

De toute évidence, l'expérience récente de l'Amérique latine avec le populisme de gauche n'est rien de moins que catastrophique. Ceux qui la défendent comme un moyen « de retrouver et d'approfondir la démocratie » feraient bien de reconnaître cette réalité. Dans mes propres recherches, j'ai toujours insisté sur l'importance d'examiner la relation entre le populisme et la démocratie de manière empirique. La raison en est simple : si le populisme peut renforcer la démocratie, il peut aussi représenter une grave menace à son encontre.

Un examen objectif empirique de l'expérience de la Bolivie, de l'Équateur et du Venezuela démontre que le prix à payer pour des politiques populistes prétendument inclusives est trop élevé. Morales, Correa et Maduro ont causé des dommages durables aux normes démocratiques et aux institutions de leur pays. Maduro, en particulier, a montré que le prix à payer pour aider les soi-disant « perdants » peut conduire à créer un plus grand nombre d'entre eux.

OPINION - ED

The Search for Truth and Justice Must not Undermine Liberia's Fragile Peace

By Caroline Bowah Brown

I remain an advocate for justice and truly want accountability for the heinous crimes committed in Liberia. Yes, I do but I am also of the opinion that doing so must be thought through carefully. The search for truth and justice must be carried out without jeopardizing the fragile peace we enjoy in this moment. It must be done while ensuring our safety.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia was established to promote national peace, unity, security and reconciliation and hold perpetrators accountable for the atrocities committed. About eleven years ago, the Commission completed its work and handed over its report to former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for implementation. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf made no overtures towards implementing the recommendations of the TRC. The UN and other international organizations took no action against Madam Sirleaf for her failure to do so. In fact, she was awarded several accolades from the same international community; one of them being the Nobel Peace award and later the Mo Ibrahim Award after she stepped down from political office. What double standards. The international community was extremely tolerant towards her government and no pressure was mounted on her to implement the recommendations of the TRC.

As part of its support to the peace process, the UNMIL was under obligation to ensure the Liberian Government implement the recommendations of the TRC report. According to the 1st United Nations Security Council 1509 (2003) that established the mission, it was mandated to "support all parties to cease all human rights violations and atrocities against the Liberian population, and stresses the need to bring to justice those responsible." After 15 years, the UNMIL closed down its Liberian operation



governmental organizations demanding the Liberian government "undertake fair and credible prosecutions of international crimes committed during its two civil wars". The statement was submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

On September 8, 2018, the US Congress introduced a resolution for the full implementation of the TRC recommendations. Interestingly this is the first concrete action taken by the US government since the completion of the TRC's work. No such action was ever taken during the tenure of Madam Sirleaf's government. This makes one wonder why after more than eleven years they choose this moment to begin to pursue the implementation of the TRC recommendations. What does the US Congress aim to achieve, what is the real motive for

and the US in particular, ready to create the conditions to guarantee our safety and stability? What commitments are they making if Liberia once again finds herself in a state of instability while implementing the TRC recommendations?

Bearing in mind that some of the alleged perpetrators hold a great deal of power and have amassed personal wealth, it is important to consider how this power and influence might be used to resist the TRC implementation. The risk of such a process destabilizing the country is high and this is the reason why such a process should have been conducted while the UNMIL force was still stationed in Liberia. The UNMIL mission could have supported the judicial accountability process before their mission ended.

In closing, it is important for the Government of Liberia to be very clear about how the leadership wants to proceed with the non-judicial and judicial process for transitional justice in Liberia. They must be in the driver's seat and show the Liberian people that they mean to act on this in a measured and responsible way. Many are hurt, many need reparations and many need to be reconciled.

As I write this I am reflecting on a day in 2003 when we had nowhere to run and I had to carry my one year old baby and choose which of our few belongings to carry. Today he is 16 years old and will soon be completing high school. I imagine a bright future for him. This future can only be guaranteed by a peaceful country. This is the aspiration of many Liberians. We do need closure to this chapter. Of course we need justice but it must NOT be detrimental to the fragile peace. We look forward to the Government position on this and it must not be driven by an international agenda. Never again!

Ms. Caroline Bowah Brown is an Economist, Gender Specialist and a leader in civil society movement in Liberia and currently serves as the Country Director for medica Liberia, and a lecturer at the Department of the Economics, University of Liberia. In 2008, Ms. Brown was appointed by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to serve as member of the Veterans Bureau. Most of her work is in the areas of gender, peacebuilding, security sector reform and transitional justice. She has a Masters Degree in Economic Policy Management from Makerere University in Uganda.



without achieving one of its key mandates, which was to support the Government to bring to justice those responsible for committing atrocities in Liberia.

Shortly after the election of the new Government of President Weah, there have been increasing calls for judicial accountability for war crimes from various sources including social media and other spaces. Similarly, on July 5, 2018, Human Rights Watch put out a statement supported by Seventy six Liberian, African, and international non-

this action? In the first place the new government is still in its infancy and only now starting to organize itself and implement the mandate given to it by the Liberian people. For me, it is too early and not timely for the US Congress to burden the Liberian government with such demands. We vividly remember how the US Embassy shut its gates and watched from the Atlantic shore while millions of Liberians were being killed, raped, tortured etc. If Liberia is forced to implement these recommendations, is the international community

Misunderstanding at Capitol

By Bridgett Milton

Embattled Speaker Bhofal Chambers concedes here for the very first time that the 54th Legislature, particularly the House has been rift by persistent misunderstanding and disagreement, impeding smooth legislative functions during its first sitting.

Addressing legislative reporters Friday, 14 September at the Capitol before departing for annual break, Chambers, who have faced intense battle from his colleagues to have him ousted, laments misunderstanding among lawmakers has been a major challenge during their first sitting.

However, he says they are now trying to understand one another in the 72 members House of Representatives with hurdles he did not detail being surmounted.

Speaker Chambers had barely taken seat as head of the 54th Liberian Legislature when his apparent lack of knowledge of legislative functions and proceedings

were exposed much to public disgust, while presiding over the swearing-in ceremony of George Manneh Weah as 24th President of Liberia in the jam-packed Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium in Paynesville City on 22 January.

Since then he continues to face immense criticisms over his leadership style with

frantic efforts among his colleagues to have him replaced by Grand Kru County Representative Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Kofa, who recently joined the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

The media advisor in the Office of the Speaker, Bobby Addison confirmed to this paper recently there is an

internal plot to remove his boss.

Speaking to the NEWDAWN on 4th September via mobile phone, Addison, who had called to deny a story published in the paper under the banner "Stinks take over House" advised the New Dawn Management not to be misled, disclosing that some lawmakers are seeking the removal of Speaker Chambers, his boss.

But Chambers himself sounded rather optimistic over the weekend when lauded his colleagues for their collective effort, which according to him, has today made that august body not to be branded by the public as a brown envelope House.

He says during their first

sitting, they passed 15 bills with 38 in committee rooms, including 10 petitions received.

Speaker Chambers adds that while on annual break, 15 lawmakers representing each of the 15 counties would work with the leadership on Capitol Hill to govern the affairs of the House in coordination with the Executive branch of Government for smooth running of the state.

He claims in the spirit of good governance they have been up to the task and performed their duties in good taste.

Members of the House are expected to return at the capitol on January 14, 2019. -
Editing by Jonathan Browne



CDC hails Fahngon as hero

The Revolutionary Youth League of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) has condemned the recent incarceration of convicted Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon by the House of Representatives following contempt charge hearing.

At the CDC party headquarters over the weekend, the ruling party Youth League condemned in the strongest term the creeping menace of 'divide and rule' allegedly being played by Bomi County Representative Edwin Snowe.

Mr. Fahngon was jailed last week following a contempt hearing which was called by the House of Representatives

over the convict's recent show of disrespect and insults to Representative Snowe.

Mr. Fahngon shared with his social media followers a live video recording in which he denounces Representative Snowe as a lawmaker, points finger to the lawmaker's face and insults him, among others.

The Youth League says it sees the Legislature as a collaborating partner in promoting the Government's Pro-poor agenda.

But it however condemns individual who are sowing seeds of discord among ruling CDC partisans.

The Youth League calls on all its members and the young people of Liberia to be steadfast and not allow agent

of provocateurs to get them going against each other.

The CDC Youth League fears that it was the same chicanery that took former ruling Unity Party (UP) to its grave today.

Meanwhile, the Youth League has called on the government and all political actors to put aside their differences and to strive together to make the country great.

The National Secretary General of the Youth League, Emmanuel Mulbah Johnson, has commended government under the stewardship of President George Manneh Weah for the unprecedented level of democratic truisms exhibited thus far which has seen the uninterrupted exercise of the separation of power.

According to him, President Weah has continued to demonstrate his sincere sense of upholding the Constitution of Liberia.

He stresses the need to have a united front as government in order to foster a concrete state of governance and usher developmental approach for the wellbeing of the Liberian people cannot be overemphasized.

He observes that for too long as a nation, Liberians have allowed cheap politics, pettiness and self-interested quest to outshine and outlive the true essence of being in political authorities, which is seeking the general welfare of the people.



Brutal murder

Starts from back page

Kusee Armstrong expressed regret over the death of Watta Binda and described the situation as a sad day for Yekeulleh District and Bong County.

Mr. Armstrong who is a member of the parliament, states that the act of atrocity needs to be abolished in Liberia.

According to him, justice delay means justice denial, noting that if the police should be seen as good people in Liberia, they need to investigate the matter quickly.

But he urges his compatriots to remain calm as the police probe the matter.--
Edited by Winston W. Parley

SHAD-P empowers

Cont'd from page 6

assures.

Food distribution also occurred same day in Meleke community, near Gbarnga. Next day, Thursday, 13 September, distributions were held elsewhere including Dahn and Blameyea communities.

Lowland sites visited Thursday by WFP and Samaritan's Purse included Gbarnga's millionaire quarter, Dahn, Suakoko, Gbondoi, and SKT communities where rehabilitation of old lowland assets and creation of new ones were rapidly progressing.

Implemented through Samaritan's Purse Liberia, the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SHAD-P) is funded by the Government

of Japan to enhance agriculture and capacity building of smallholder producers, while aiming to support the Government's strategies of fighting poverty and food insecurity through staple food production.

Overall ownership and supervision of the six-month project is with the Government of Liberia. The effort is also geared towards assisting rural women and youth from approximately 1,200 households to become sustainable farmers and gradually increasing access to improved farming inputs and agro-processing technologies, among others.

Gender authorities

Cont'd from page 6

it is committed to ensuring that allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse is thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators, if found to have engaged in sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, through an investigation, be duly prosecuted under the laws of the country.

To this end, MGCSF said it is working to expand its workplace and community-

based reporting network for sexual exploitation and abuses in order to ensure that further information on any new or past allegations is communicated as soon as possible. We would also like to assure all victims that MGCSF fully stands with you in your pursuit of justice because every victim deserves justice and the fullest support of the society.

Brutal murder in Bong



Body of the late Watta Binda

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

A woman has been brutally murdered in Bong County and her body parts extracted, our correspondent says.

Police in Bong County have launched an investigation in to the murder of victim Watta Binda, a resident of the County.

Her lifeless body was found with parts missing on Sunday,

16 September at the backyard of her residence in Gbartala, lower Bong County.

Our correspondent says there has been no suspect arrested so far, but the Bong the police detachment in the county has since launched an investigation in to the matter.

The situation has brought total fear among residents of Yelequellah District.

Some of those who knew

the victim told our correspondent that she was a very potential lady and was always willing to learn.

Meanwhile, the Mano River Union Youth Parliament, Bong County chapter has given two weeks to the police to investigate the matter and bring perpetrators to justice.

Speaking to our correspondent,



MTN MoMo

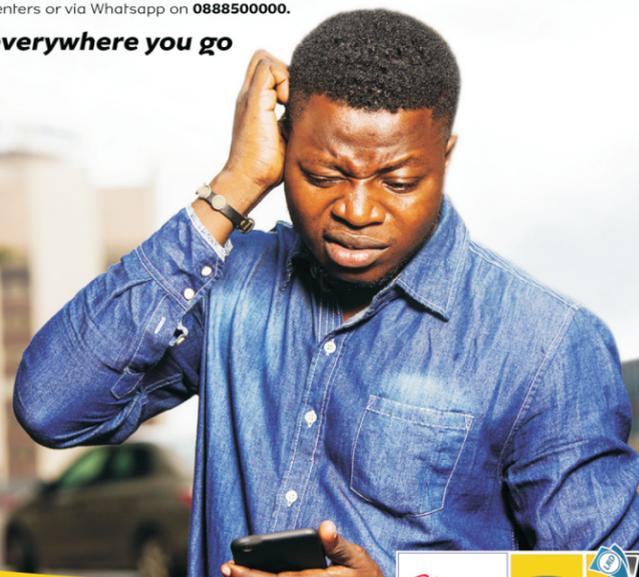
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Ronaldo gets off the mark for Juventus

Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first competitive goal for Italian champions Juventus and then added a second in Sunday's fourth Serie A game of the season, against Sassuolo in Turin.

The 33-year-old tapped in on the line after a goalmouth scramble on 50 minutes, and added a second 15 minutes later to give the reigning

seven-time champions a 2-0 lead.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was the star signing of the summer transfer period, arriving amid great pomp and ceremony following a 100 million euro (\$117 million) deal from Real Madrid.

Coach Massimiliano Allegri had said before the match he was not concerned that Ronaldo has failed to find the net despite 23 shots at goal in

the team's three wins out of three so far this season.

"I don't expect Ronaldo to do more or less than what he did in the first three games," said Allegri.

"I believe tomorrow could be his day."

Ronaldo scored 44 goals for Real Madrid last season including 15 in the Champions League on the way to a third straight title.



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