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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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VOL. 8 NO. 183

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018

PRICE LD\$40.00



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Continental News

Nigeria imposes travel ban on 'high-profile' graft suspects

Nigeria on Saturday ordered its security agencies to put some 50 high-profile graft suspects on a watch list and prevent them from leaving the country.

A presidency statement said the move was to ensure the implementation of an executive order (EO6) which empowers President Muhammadu Buhari to temporarily seize and forbid access to any suspicious assets.

"To this end...Nigeria Immigration Service and other security agencies have placed no fewer than 50 high-profile persons directly affected by EO6 on watch-list and restricted them from leaving the country pending the determination of their cases," it said.

"Also, the financial transactions of these persons of interest are being monitored by the relevant agencies to ensure that the assets are not dissipated," it

added.

Buhari got the nod to implement the executive order this week after the opposition lost a court bid to stop its implementation.

The presidency did not disclose the names of those

affected by the order, but members of the opposition were believed to be the target.

Buhari who came to power in 2015 on an anti-corruption platform, has accused the regime of ex-

president Goodluck Jonathan of large-scale looting of the treasury.

Many opposition figures are on trial for corruption offences, but there have been no notable convictions.

Buhari will seek a second term in elections in February

but faces a formidable challenge from former vice president Atiku Abubakar, the candidate of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Dozens of candidates from other fringe parties are also bidding to oust Buhari from power. -AFP



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, pictured August 2018, ordered graft suspects to be placed on watch lists, with members of opposing parties believed to be the targets (AFP Photo/PIUS UTOMI EKPEI)

Egypt court upholds death sentences for three suspected militants

An Egyptian court on Sunday upheld death sentences for three people for establishing and running a militant group known as Ansar al-Sharia, two judicial sources and state news agency MENA said.

The charges included killing at least 10 police officers and attempting to kill more in a series of attacks

on suspected Islamists since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi led the overthrow of former president Mohamed Mursi of the now banned Muslim Brotherhood.

Authorities say a crackdown on dissent and freedoms is directed at terrorists and saboteurs trying to undermine the state.



between August 2013 and May 2014. The court upheld sentences issued in August. The decision can be appealed within 60 days.

Four people were sentenced to life in prison while seven received 15-year prison terms, the sources said. Nine of the 23 defendants were acquitted.

Egypt has cracked down

Death sentences have been handed down to hundreds of Islamists, including Muslim Brotherhood supporters and members.

Last month, 75 were sentenced to death over a 2013 sit-in which ended with security forces killing hundreds of protesters. -Reuters

Man executed on Somalia blast anniversary

A man convicted of involvement in the deadliest bomb attack in Somalia's history has been executed on the first anniversary of the blast.

Hassan Adan Isak drove one of the vehicles involved in the attack on the capital, Mogadishu, a court ruled.

Nearly 600 people were

killed when a truck filled with explosives was detonated at one of the busiest intersections in the city.

A commemorative ceremony was held at the intersection on Sunday.

It has been renamed 14 October junction in memory of those who died there.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, although correspondents say all indications are that the militant Islamist al-Shabab group was responsible.

Saturday evening saw two suicide bombers kill 20 people in the town of Baidoa, in the south west of the country. Dozens were



Media caption 'My husband's body was never found'

injured.

Al-Shabab said it had carried out the attack.

Meanwhile, the first commercial flight between the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and Mogadishu in 41 years has taken place.

A plane from private

airline Ethiopia National Airways landed at the Somali capital's Aden Adde airport on Saturday, the first of a planned four flights a week,

It is the latest sign of improving relations between the two neighbouring Horn of Africa countries. -BBC

EDITORIAL

The U.S. probe is highly welcome

DISCLOSURE BY THE U.S. Embassy in Liberia, through USAID that it has reached out to independent, internationally recognized firms with specialization in forensic investigations to conduct a scoping mission that could ascertain the basic facts surrounding the alleged missing currency in Liberia is welcome news.

IN A STATEMENT here last Wednesday, 10 October the U.S. Embassy says this would determine to what extent a broader mission would be needed, and that it is its assessment that such a report would be the most credible and effective means to quickly determining the scale of the problem, and would be an appropriate means for the United States to support the Liberian government's and citizens' desire to understand the allegations and facts.

WE BELIEVE THIS is the most transparent approach in reaching to the bottom of this national disgrace that confronts our nation and places its credibility and image in jeopardy.

THE U.S.'S INITIATIVE will no doubt lend transparency and credibility to the investigative process, especially in the wake of conflicting statements from all levels of the Government of Liberia.

AT ONE INSTANT, the government thru the Ministry of Justice acknowledges ongoing investigation "surrounding the arrival of containers and bags of moneys into the country, by and thru the Freeport of Monrovia and the Roberts International Airport, and that initial findings indicate that the containers and bags of moneys allegedly arrived between November 2017, prior to the inauguration of the current Government, and August 2018."

THE GOVERNMENT PROBE went further by placing travel ban on "people of interest" from the leaving the country. But at another instant, President George Manneh Weah publicly announced no money is missing even, having earlier said ongoing investigation would get to the root and anyone found liable would be brought to book.

IN THE SUDDEN twist of accounts to the public, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah damned Information Minister Lenn Eugene Nagbe for revealing 16 billion Liberian dollars reportedly missing. Tweah instead put the total amount of money in question at 15.5 billion, but maintains that no money went missing. Subsequently, the Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Nathaniel Patray corroborates the Finance boss that no money is missing.

"THE CENTRAL BANK of Liberia wants to clarify to the general public and our partners in progress that there is no 16 billion Liberian Dollars missing, as has been erroneously reported in the media. The CBL has no records showing that monies printed and under its authority have not yet been delivered into its reserve vaults. Records from Crane Currency of Sweden, which was contracted to print the money, show that Crane delivered L\$15.5 billion through the Freeport of Monrovia and the Roberts International Airport between 2016 and 2018, and that all these monies were logged by the CBL and delivered into the reserve vaults of the CBL", Governor Patray maintains.

AND SO AMID the constant shifting of accounts despite an ongoing investigation that is yet to come out with any preliminary findings, Liberians are engulfed by anxiety and confusion. They are struggling with which version to take, particularly versions that are shifting every now and then.

THIS IS WHERE intervention by the Americans is highly welcome and should be embraced by all patriotic Liberians. All we are interested in are the facts, and nothing else, but the facts.

HOWEVER, WE CAN only hope the Government of Liberia that invited the U.S. Government to assist with the ongoing investigation would cooperate fully, for the statement from the U.S. Embassy says to ensure the effectiveness and integrity of the process, the American and Liberian governments have both agreed that the independent forensic investigators will conduct their work with full access to information needed and without the imposition of additional actors from the government, civil society, or international partners.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., Crown Hill-Broad Street,
Adjacent Afriland Bank Monrovia-Liberia.

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COMMENTARY

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

People vs. Money in America's Midterm Elections

We will soon find out whether US voters matter more than the money flowing into the Republican Party's coffers. America's political and economic future, and most likely the peace and prosperity of the entire world, depends on the answer.

NEW YORK - All eyes are on the United States as November's Congressional elections approach. The outcome will answer many alarming questions raised two years ago, when Donald Trump won the presidential election.

Will the US electorate declare that Trump is not what America is about? Will voters renounce his racism, misogyny, nativism, and protectionism? Will they say that his "America First" rejection of the international rule of law is not what the US stands for? Or will they make it clear that Trump's win was not a historical accident resulting from a Republican primary process that produced a flawed nominee and a Democratic primary process that produced Trump's ideal opponent?

As America's future hangs in the balance, impassioned debates about what caused the 2016 outcome are more than academic. At stake is how the Democratic Party - and similar parties of the left in Europe - should position themselves to win the most votes. Should they lean toward the center or focus on mobilizing young, progressive, and enthusiastic newcomers?

There are good reasons to believe that the latter course is more likely to bring electoral success and stymie the dangers posed by Trump.

American voter turnout is abysmal, and worse in non-presidential-election years. In 2010, just 41.8% of the electorate voted. In 2014, only 36.7% of eligible voters cast ballots, according to data from the United States Elections Project. Democratic turnout is even worse, although it appears to be on the upswing this election cycle.

People often say they don't vote because they think it makes no difference: the two parties are as similar as Tweedledee and Tweedledum. Trump has shown that's not true. The Republicans who abandoned all pretense of fiscal rectitude and voted last year for a massive tax cut for billionaires and corporations have shown it's not true. And the Republican senators who rallied behind the nomination of US Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, despite his misleading testimony and entirely credible evidence of past sexual misbehavior, have shown it's not true.

But the Democrats are also responsible for voter apathy. The party must overcome a long history of collusion with the right, from President Bill Clinton's capital gains tax cut (which enriched the top 1%) and financial market deregulation (which helped bring on the Great Recession), to the 2008 bank bailout (which offered too little to displaced workers and homeowners facing foreclosure). Over the

last quarter-century, the party has sometimes seemed more focused on winning the support of those who live on capital gains than those who live on wages. Many stay-at-home voters complain that the Democrats are relying on attacks on Trump, rather than putting forward a real alternative.

The thirst for a different kind of contender is evident in voter support for progressive candidates like former presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders and New York's 28-year-old Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who recently defeated the fourth-ranking Democrat in the US House of Representatives in a party primary.

Progressives like Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez have managed to present an attractive message to the voters whom Democrats must mobilize to win. They seek to restore access to a middle-class life by providing decent, well-paying jobs, reestablishing a sense of financial security, and ensuring access to quality education - without the chokehold of student debt that so many graduates currently face - and decent health care, regardless of pre-existing medical conditions. They call for affordable housing and a secure retirement in which the elderly are not preyed on by an avaricious financial sector. And they seek a more dynamic, competitive, and fair-market economy by curbing the excesses of market power, financialization, and globalization, and by strengthening workers' bargaining power.

These perquisites of a middle-class life are attainable. They were affordable a half-century ago, when the country was substantially poorer than it is today; and they are affordable now. In fact, neither America's economy nor its democracy can afford not to bolster the middle class. Government policies and programs - including public options for health insurance, supplementary retirement benefits, or mortgages - are crucial to realizing this vision.

I am encouraged by the outpouring of support for these progressive proposals and the political leaders who support them. In a normal democracy, these ideas would, I am confident, prevail. But US politics has been corrupted by money, gerrymandering and massive attempts at disenfranchisement. The 2017 tax bill was nothing short of a bribe to corporations and the wealthy to pour their financial resources into the 2018 election. Statistics show that money matters enormously in American politics.

Even with a flawed democracy - including a concerted effort to prevent some from voting - the power of the American electorate matters. We will soon find out whether it matters more than the money flowing into the Republican Party's coffers. America's political and economic future, and most likely the peace and prosperity of the entire world, depends on the answer.

O-PED

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

The New Disappeared

NEW YORK - From the military juntas that ruled Argentina and Chile in the 1970s and 1980s to Joseph Stalin's iron-fisted regime in the Soviet Union, dictatorships have a long history of making their detractors "disappear." Today, this sinister practice seems to be making a comeback.

Under the military regimes in Chile or Argentina, a person might be tossed into the sea from a helicopter, never to be found. They might be killed and then burned beyond recognition or coated in lime, to accelerate decomposition, and buried in an unmarked grave.

In Stalin's Soviet Union, someone could be picked up and taken to the Lubyanka (the KGB headquarters) or some other nightmarish facility at any moment. During the purges of the 1930s and later, members of the Communist Party were particularly vulnerable, and millions of Soviet citizens disappeared forever in prisons or the gulag.

Today, modern authoritarians are reviving such behavior, suddenly and covertly snatching people, including well-known figures and high-ranking officials, to be detained or worse. In many cases, the "vanished" do eventually resurface, but with an apparently transformed perspective on their past work or the government that detained them. Here, China and Saudi Arabia stand out - though they are by no means alone - for orchestrating a series of increasingly brazen abductions or vanishings of their detractors.

China was behind last month's disappearance of Interpol President Meng Hongwei on a trip from France, where Interpol is based, to Beijing, where he also served as vice minister of public security. Meng's abduction was particularly shocking, because many Chinese trumpeted his 2016 appointment to Interpol's highest post - which made him the first Chinese citizen to lead a major global institution - as a sign that the country had finally arrived at the top tier of the international order.

Yet Chinese President Xi Jinping was willing simply to throw away that public relations victory. Eventually, it was announced that Meng had been detained and was being investigated for bribery. The decision, justified as part of China's ongoing anti-corruption campaign - an endeavor that critics say is a cover for eliminating political figures disloyal to Xi - revealed an utter lack of regard, or even contempt, for world opinion.

In fact, Xi is something of a serial kidnapper. Since he came to power in 2012, all sorts of people - from small-scale book publishers in Hong Kong (including some holders of non-Chinese citizenship) to Chinese business leaders - have been covertly kidnapped and returned to China. After a long period of silence and seclusion, they emerged to renounce their past work.

That is what happened to Fan Bingbing, China's biggest movie star, who disappeared last July, when her previously very active account on the Sina Weibo social media platform (China's answer to Twitter) suddenly went silent. No one knew what happened, but it was assumed that the government had something to do with it, and businesses with which she had spokesperson deals cut ties with her.

Finally, Fan resurfaced earlier this month, issuing a groveling apology for having evaded taxes, for which she will now face massive fines. Tellingly, her statement included plenty of praise for the Communist Party of China, which she credited for her success as an actress. It was all depressingly familiar, recalling as it did the pathetic confessions of Nikolai Bukharin, the editor of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, and others during Stalin's purges.

Saudi Arabia has also executed a series of high-profile, politically motivated kidnappings. Last year, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the detention of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who was on an official visit to Riyadh. Hariri was isolated even from his bodyguards and forced to resign. Weeks later, and evidently enlightened to his captors' satisfaction, he was permitted to return to Lebanon and resume his role as its elected leader.

Then, last week, Jamal Khashoggi, an exiled Saudi journalist, vanished after entering Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul to obtain a document confirming his divorce, so that he could marry a Turkish woman the next day. His fiancée waited at the consulate's entrance; he never reemerged.

Khashoggi's disappearance is further evidence of how little regard today's authoritarians have for national borders when it comes to silencing their detractors. Precisely what happened to Khashoggi is still unknown, but Turkey's government, led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has insisted that he was killed while in the consulate.

According to the Turkish authorities, two teams, totaling 15 people, flew from Riyadh to Istanbul on the day of Khashoggi's appointment and left within hours. This, too, is grimly familiar to Russians: Stalin also had special assassination teams, one of which carried out the murder in Mexico of his archenemy, Leon Trotsky. Unsurprisingly, the Saudis have denied any wrongdoing. Khashoggi, they claim, left the consulate.

Russia's own experience with government-orchestrated disappearances is not limited to the past. President Vladimir Putin's regime has also been known to target detractors for elimination on foreign soil, as allegedly happened with the nerve-agent attack on the former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the United Kingdom in March.

The question is whether autocrats' contempt for borders or sovereignty in silencing opponents is worth the cost. In the majority of the Western world, Putin is regarded as an outcast, Xi is flirting with a similar loss of credibility, and Prince Mohammed's reputation as a reformer has been severely damaged, perhaps beyond repair. All of them may soon face a realization like that of Joseph Fouché, Napoleon's police chief, after the abduction and sham trial of the Duke of Enghien: "It was worse than a crime; it was a mistake."

OPINION

By Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

Winning the War on Tuberculosis

JOHANNESBURG - The world is finally waking up to the threat posed by one of the most overlooked diseases of our time. Last month, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) hosted the first-ever high-level meeting on tuberculosis (TB) to explore options for international eradication efforts. But, as welcome as this new global focus is, the fact remains that the road to beating TB begins in Africa.

Simply put, TB remains one of the deadliest epidemics in Africa today, and one-quarter of all TB deaths worldwide occur there. In 2016, some 417,000 people on the continent succumbed to the disease. Recent outbreaks of multidrug-resistant TB and extensively drug-resistant TB in South Africa, Mozambique, and Ghana could push the annual death toll even higher. These pockets of the bacterium, now completely immune to antimicrobial treatment, mean that the challenge of global eradication has become even more daunting.

Part of the reason for TB's persistence is the vulnerability of the populations it infects. For starters, TB is among the leading killers of HIV-positive people, claiming some 40% of those who die from HIV. This poses dangers for non-HIV patients as well, especially those with suppressed immune systems, young children, and infants.

Eradication is also difficult because TB is a highly contagious airborne bacterium; people living and working in close quarters - such as miners, prisoners, migrants, and refugees - suffer the highest rates of infection. Finally, because TB prevalence is closely linked to poverty and social marginalization, reaching those most at risk is not always easy.

Infectious diseases have no borders, and as African countries deepen their trade ties and intra-Africa migration grows, the threat of regional pandemics will only increase. This makes it all the more critical that Africa begin developing a multi-sector, integrated approach to containing, controlling, and eventually eradicating public-health challenges like TB.

To this end, one approach that African governments could emulate is the TB management strategy in place for the continent's mining sector, an inter-agency plan devised in 2014 by the Southern African Development Community. Although this so-called "harmonized" approach applies to a commercial industry, its focus on coordinating with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) - African Union states grouped for economic integration - could serve as a model for more effective collective action on TB containment.

But before a specific framework can be agreed upon, three issues require urgent attention. First, African health-care planners and disease specialists must set country, regional, and local containment targets. For example, setting goals for reductions in new TB infections would enable health officials to measure more accurately the impact of their strategies.

Moreover, to end TB completely, Africa will need new and sustained financial commitments from the public and private sectors. And, finally, disease-control strategies must be designed to support the economic and health-care priorities of the RECs. At the moment, most state and regional health-care systems lack funding and human resources. African policymakers must therefore develop systems for prevention, diagnosis, and care that help governments share the disease burden and ensure that treatment protocols are consistent across regions.

To be sure, there are some positive trends in the fight against TB. Global infection rates are falling by about 2% annually, and even African countries hit by TB still managed a 4% decline in infections from 2013 to 2017. And, with organizations like the World Health Organization and the African Union beginning to produce roadmaps for TB eradication, it is clear that momentum is steadily building.

Still, sustaining this progress in Africa will require significant regional coordination, not to mention a lot more money. Most vaccines and medications are currently too expensive for the majority of Africans. But even those lucky enough to obtain treatment - usually a six- to eight-month course of powerful antibiotics - still face a 20% chance of relapse.

The goal of eradicating TB is within reach; the recent gathering at the UNGA marked a critical turning point in the world's war on the disease. But even as commitments are made and declarations signed, we must remember that in Africa, the battle is far from over.

ANALYSIS

Pres. Weah's show of rare leadership in L\$16bn approach

By Sherman C. Seequeh

Just under ten months, the political administration has come under the pernicious volleys of cynicism and negative propaganda. This is something naturally expected, not only because any political regime is inherently politically susceptible to civil dissent, but also because the December 26 presidential election has left on the political landscape deep scars of irking hurts and venoms.

Thus, the controversial L\$16 billion was expected to be the ideal compost and *raison d'être* by particularly political cynics grimly determined to capitalize the situation to ignite and inflame uproarious civil dissents, appeal to public hate and sensitivities in a bid to dwarf the administration's popularity.

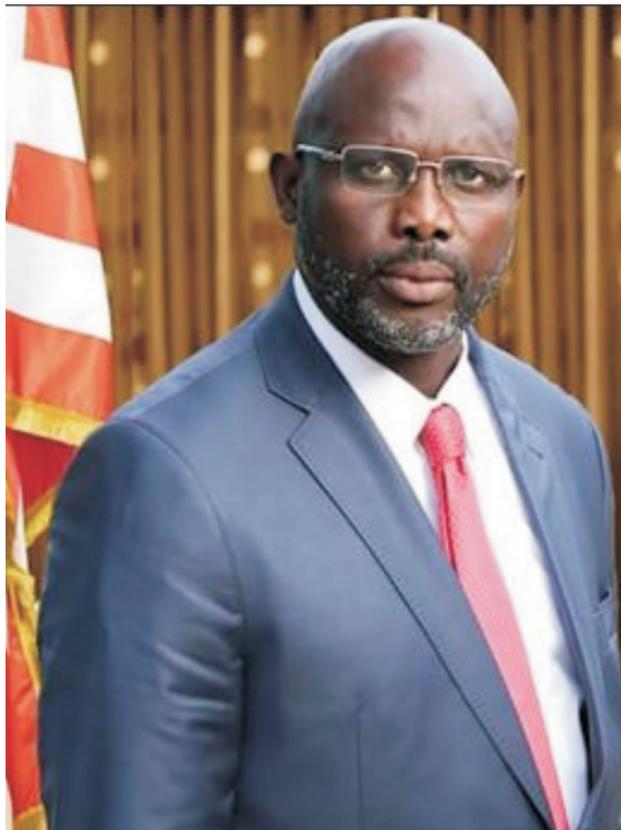
Admittedly, there are sincere and somewhat patriotic citizens who got furious over the mere news of the evaporation of L\$16 billion. Amid rising tides of financial and economic challenges in the country, any citizen would automatically be concerned, and even get angry, just hearing about any news—factual or rumored—of the disappearance of such a colossal amount of money.

But in all the controversy, there are certain critical things most people are least concerned about. Firstly, there is something mischievous lurking beneath the \$16b-triggered public uproar which unsuspecting citizens, including supporters of the ruling party, are not deciphering: the generalization of guilty sentence across government. The folks from the other side of the political istle are shrewdly working out and pivoting propaganda ploys that indict every government official. The goal is to sufficiently taint the government in its entirety, and when they succeed in leaving no official of the current administration untainted, it helps them in not only increasing their chances to delegitimize the Government, making it unpopular and rejected by the masses, but it also reverts public attention to themselves as political messiahs on the bloc, worthy of election anytime soon.

Secondly, despite President Weah's explicit and persistent demonstration of the unusual presidential character in the L\$16 billion saga, there are still attempts on the part of cynics and detractors to muddle his naturally clean apparel.

Three actions are a firm reliance for the clarity of thoughts and rigidity which President George Manneh Weah brings to national leadership in the fight against corruption and impunity and as an assurance and confidence-building in the alleged missing billions. First, at his inauguration ceremonies, he made it clear that "we will assemble the government committed to fighting for the ideas that have inspired our campaign, and dedicated to delivering for the Liberian people. Those chosen to serve will and must be dedicated to the ideas of grassroots, social transformation. Person looking to cheat the Liberian people through the menace of corruption will have no place in my administration."

The second assurance of his anti-corruption stance was when news of the alleged disappearance hit the public. In that statement, which he delivered before departing for the United Nations General Assembly, the President reiterated his anti-graft position: "I ask all citizens to be PATIENT and those involved in the investigation to be cooperative. I'm confident that in the end, we will come to a logical conclusion into the



circumstances surrounding this money and if anyone is caught in any financial malfeasance, they will be held accountable to the full extent of the law." And when he returned from the UNGA, after he had officially invited national and international actors to help in the investigation, he reaffirmed his wiliness to get to the bottom of the investigation, vowing to leave the law unleash its venomous onslaught on convicts.

Deeds Beyond Rhetoric

The third expression of unwavering commitment by President Weah to prove himself beyond all reasonable doubts that he comes to the national leadership with iron resolve to making the difference in fighting graft, waste and plunder is this: his personal invitation of independent sources, both national and international, to help unravel whatever mystery there is in the \$16 billion controversy.

This is neither a small political step to take by any sitting president nor is it typical in Liberia's political governance system.

Departing From the Immediate Past

Just a few years ago, for instance, the nation saw the fall of the Liberian economy epitomized in total bankruptcy of the then government's most potent sector, the oil sector, presided over by the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL). Conservative economists posited at the time that the NOCAL insolvency left over US\$500m in thin air.

Also in the last years before the advent of the Weah administration, the General Auditing Commission put at the behest of the Presidency and the 53rd Legislature nearly 70 audit reports replete with tons of material evidential discoveries bordering waste and pillages. Combined, those wastes and pillages were conservatively put at nearly US\$1 billion.

We also cannot forget some 66 audit reports of international and multinational concession agreements, which were audited by an international firm which came to the conclusion that only two of

the 66 were done consistent with acceptable standard. Kickbacks, exchange of hands under the table was the order of the processes that brought about 48 major concession agreements by the past administration.

There was also the case of an unaccounted for US\$15b at the Ministry of Finance uncovered by the General Auditing Commission few years ago. When challenged on the merits of the audit findings on the \$15 million, the then Auditor General, anti-corruption czar John Sembe Morlue retorted that if an international auditing firm were hired to review his findings and that firm came out with findings contradicting his, he would resign his post and refund the European Union all the salaries and benefits he had earned over the three years of his stewardship at the GAC.

In other words, in this country, not too far from where we are, the nation had helplessly seen the evaporation, the pillage and the loot of billions of offshore monies by officials of government who were sufficiently empirically identified, documented along with the exact trails of their nasty misdeeds.

Those who closely follow those huge trails of industrious-scale corruption, graft and theft would all recall that the LACC, the GAC, the IAA and the media put forth clear and variable trails of vicious kleptocracy that was raging at the time. And there was enormous public outcries and calls for action.

But in all that, what did Liberians and the international community watching see? The presidency took responsibility not only for the hundreds of millions that evaporated at NOCAL, but also put her neck on the chopping board for nearly a billions of US Dollars lost to corruption at many government ministries and agencies. The Morlu-headed GAC was viciously fought with the cruelest weapons in the arsenal of Government at the combined vented fury of the Presidency and a well-determined cabal of scoundrels.

What Is George Weah Doing in a Near-Similar Situation?

In addition to public statements averring the iron resolve of his administration if not of him personally to allow the rule of law and punitive actions unleashed in the current alleged corruption debacle, the current president has sworn publically that even his dead mother (peace be to her ashes) would not be spared the dragnet of justice. He said there would be no hiding place for culprits and convicts.

Not only that. President Weah has ensured, perhaps against the advice of lukewarm advisors to calm down, inviting and aggressively imploring international investigators and even local independent experts to participate in the investigation of the L\$16 billion. Not only does this unusual mustering of puritanical character bring independence, transparency and believability in the investigation progress and its outcome, it also makes the current President a rare Liberian leader in the fight against corruption and graft.

President Weah could have taken responsibility as was done in the past. He could have put his neck on the chopping board for his lieutenants. He would not have initiated the investigation from the onset as to ignite the media reportage that came about later on. But his big heart for Liberia, his sense of innocence and his drive to keep the promise to Liberian people, "I will not let you down," and that corruption would be fought by deeds and not by words, drove him to voluntarily emitting the embers of transparency and credibility into the L\$16 billion saga.

How else can a national leader demonstrate unfeigned patriotism, rare responsibility and upright seriousness in a pro-poor transformation context?

Editor's Note: The views expressed in this article are solely and wholly that of the author and not of the New Dawn's.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS, INEC discuss preparations for NIGERIA'S 2019 polls

A delegation of the ECOWAS Commission has met with the leadership of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to discuss preparations for the country's 2019 general elections and how to step up support to the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC), the umbrella organisation of election management bodies in the region.

The ECOWAS delegation led by the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Gen. Francis Behanzin was received by the INEC team lead by the Chairman Prof Mahmood Yakubu, who is also President of the ECONEC governing board.

The Commissioner commended INEC for its work, noting that organising elections in a big country such as Nigeria involved challenges, especially security.

He reaffirmed ECOWAS' support to INEC and Nigeria in accordance with the Commission's mandate for assistance to member States organising elections.

On the activities of ECONEC, which was set up by ECOWAS in 2008 to promote credible elections in the region, Gen. Behanzin,

the support of the Federal Government of Nigeria and with other stakeholders playing their part.

success of such a task required collective efforts and cooperation of all stakeholders, since INEC could

March 2017, including Needs Assessment, Mid-term review/electoral follow-up and solidarity missions to member States, and the launch of a regional study on the cost of elections.

Consistent with its mandate, he said, ECONEC has also continued to assist and advocate for support to its members, adding that last April in Abuja, the Network co-organised with INEC and the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) an international conference on the use of technology in elections.

The ECOWAS Commission's delegation at the meeting on Thursday, 10th October, included Brig.-Gen. Usman Abdulmumuni Yusuf, the Chief of Staff of ECOWAS Standby Force, Dr. Remi Ajibewa, Director of Political Affairs, Mrs Onyinye Onwuka, Head of Political and International Affairs Division, and Mr Francis Oke, Head of Electoral Assistance Division, who is also the ECONEC Permanent Secretary. -Press Release



reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to redeem the financial support pledged to the Network.

Prof Yakubu, who was accompanied by other senior INEC officials, including Commissioners, reiterated INEC's readiness to deliver credible elections in 2019 with

Underscoring the huge task of organising elections in Nigeria with large population, the INEC Chair noted that the more than 84.2 million registered voters in the country were more than those of several African countries combined.

To this end, he said the

not do it alone.

Prof Yakubu briefed the ECOWAS delegation on the activities of ECONEC since he assumed the presidency in

Take part in Liberia's development efforts

- Ivorian Ambassador urges compatriots

By Valery Guhena

"Respect the laws of this land that welcome you open heartedly and participate in its development efforts through work," Ivorian Ambassador to Liberia and Sierra Leone, Dr Feni Kouakou told Ivorian

planned visits to meet with Ivorians living in Liberia, interact with them and offer some words of encouragement.

The choice of Bentol City is not a coincidence as this city,

reinforced in the 70s when Adolphus Tolbert married Désirée Delafosse, goddaughter of Houphouët-Boigny, first president of the Ivory Coast.

According to sources, Houphouët often came to Liberia, precisely in Bentol, to rest for some time.

But this friendship was blurred in the 80s. Houphouët was angry with slain Liberian President Samuel Doe for two reasons.

Not only did he overthrow and killed his friend, President William Tolbert, who offered him vast fields for plantations in Liberia, but also because Doe had his son, who was also his son-in-law, Adolphus Tolbert, executed following the failed coup of General Thomas Quiwonkpa in 1985.

The Ivorian diplomat was first received by local authorities in the city, specifically by the mayor of Bentol City, Martha Woheel, to whom he paid a courtesy call.

The Mayor welcomed the visit, which she says is the first of its kind since her appointment by President George Manneh Weah in March 2018.

"You are my first guess since I took over. Welcome and make yourself at home," she says and recalls the good relations of

which is the hometown of the assassinated former Liberian President William Tolbert, is a symbol for the diplomatic and fraternal relations between Liberia and the Ivory Coast.

These relations were



nationals in Bentol City, Montserrado County over the weekend.

The Ivorian diplomat made the call during a visit to compatriots residing in Bentol City.

It is the first of a series of

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friendship that existed between the Ivory Coast of Houphouët Boigny and the city of Bentol.

According to her, a street in the city bears the name of Houphouët Boigny.

However, she expresses her frustration over the fact that, Bentol City, despite being the capital of Montserrado County, has been abandoned by the government of Liberia.

For his part, Amb. Kouakou, expresses his joy for the warm welcome he received.

He also thanked the local authorities, the government and the people of Liberia for accepting Ivorians, most of whom are refugees, in Liberia.

The exchange of pleasantries was followed by a meeting with his compatriots in Bentol at which time they expressed various concerns.

They informed him of the various activities they have embarked upon here such as farming and raising chickens, but are confronted by resource constraints to expand their farms. Others said they are engaged in teaching, trade and construction.

They also indicate that they have good relations with Liberian citizens who treat them like brothers and have made land available to them to cultivate their crops.

In response, the Ambassador encourages his compatriots and exhorts them to work hard, to be disciplined, to respect the laws of their host country and especially to be united.

According to him, when they are united, they will be strong, adding that: "With union, you can accomplish great things."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LoneStar MTN digitizes WAEC fees payment

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's telecommunication giant, LoneStar Cell MTN has announced the digitization of payment of fees for the West African Examination Council (WAEC) here, using its Mobile Money platform to cut down the stress of students queuing in banking halls.

The official launching ceremony was performed Friday, 12 October by Education Minister Prof. D. Ansu Sonii at an event

compare itself with others.

Prof. Sonni says it is not just the money flow, but he attaches particular importance to the number of students that have registered without having to go to the school anymore.

"I think that's a big advantage," he says, and continues that government may eventually request private schools here as well to see if they find it fit to have this mobile money service.

He notes that the mobile

students there will not have to stand in line anymore.

According to him, there is opportunity for LoneStar Cell MTN "we shall deal with" whoever takes advantage of the opportunity.

In special remarks, the head of WAEC national office Mr. Dale C. Gbotoe says making payments to WAEC through the mobile money platform is one of the means by which the institution is going to provide valid...services to customers.

"So I want to call on the public to take maximum advantage of this glorious opportunity," he says.

Mr. Gbotoe appreciates MTN for partnering with WAEC to bring to realization one of the dreams of the institution.

Earlier, LoneStar Cell MTN Product and Services Manager for Mobile Money, Mr. Prince D. Chesson says the company engaged WAEC and it persevered to get WAEC agree to digitize the payment of WAEC fees.

"This implementation will allow subscribers from and around the entire country ... pay their WAEC fees. You do not need to stand in long queues in banking halls," he says.

Mr. Chesson discloses that the current fees for WAEC re-sit exams is \$5,000.00, and all an individual needs to do is to have an MTN wallet, load money onto it, visit any MTN agent and follow the steps to pay.

According to him, the company has some 4,000 agents in the counties, and most of those agents have people working for them.

At the launching exercise, there was a live performance to demonstrate the steps leading to paying WAEC fees through mobile money with MTN.

Liberia offers last chance for WAEC

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Education Minister Prof. D. Ansu Sonii says there will be no additional plead for senior students to re-sit the West African Examination Council (WAEC) exams after January 2019, encouraging all with academic deficiencies to take advantage of the "final plead."

Launching a new platform provided by one of Liberia's leading telecommunication giants on Friday, 12 October that digitizes the payment of WAEC fees, Minister Sonii says January 2019 is the only time available in Liberia for 12 graders who had academic

WAEC authorities reported that only 11,544 candidates (33.85%) passed successfully. The exam was administered at 216 centers from 3 April to 20 April 2018.

But according to the Education Minister Sonii, there will be absolutely no additional plead "after the final plead that brings us to January 2019" to do re-sitter here.

He encourages students in this category to take advantage of this deadline, saying he understands that this January is the final one for all Liberian students who sat



Education Minister Prof. D. Ansu Sonii

organized by the mobile giant at WAEC head office Congo Town.

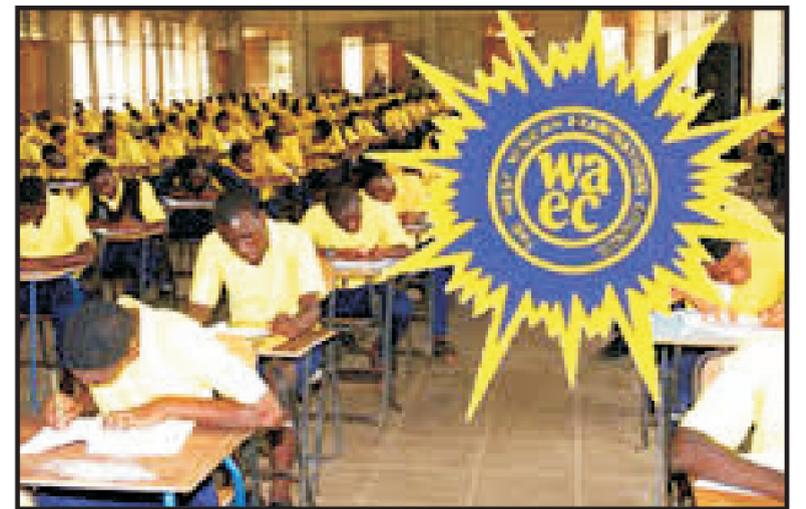
"On that note, I'm again very privileged the second time around to launch the LoneStar - WAEC Mobile Money registration program as of today," Minister Sonii says at the event.

The Education Minister expresses profound thanks to LoneStar Cell MTN and all of its staff for the new program introduced here, saying Liberia will eventually

money service could help to get registration going on smoothly and cut down the lot of confusion experienced.

"Nobody has to anymore sit and count \$5,000.00," he adds, and applauds LoneStar Cell MTN for the kind of innovation it brings on the education platform that makes things a lot easier.

Minister Sonii adds that he is pleased also that students at the University of Liberia are able to do registration electronically, which means



deficiencies to do their re-sitter.

"If you are attempting to re-sit any course, this January is the only time you have in this Republic to register and take the re-sitter. Beyond January, you will only be taking WASSCE (West African Senior School Certificate Examinations) whether or not you like it," he warns.

This year, the result released by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) in Monrovia showed mass failure in the 2018 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

Out of a total of 33,979 candidates that sat the exams,

WACE the previous year and did not succeed.

Also speaking at the launch of the LoneStar Cell MTN - WAEC Mobile Money service, WAEC national head Mr. Dale C. Gbotoe says the exam is meant for those who sat the old tests.

He warns that the re-sitter is not meant for students currently in school or who have not reached certain age.

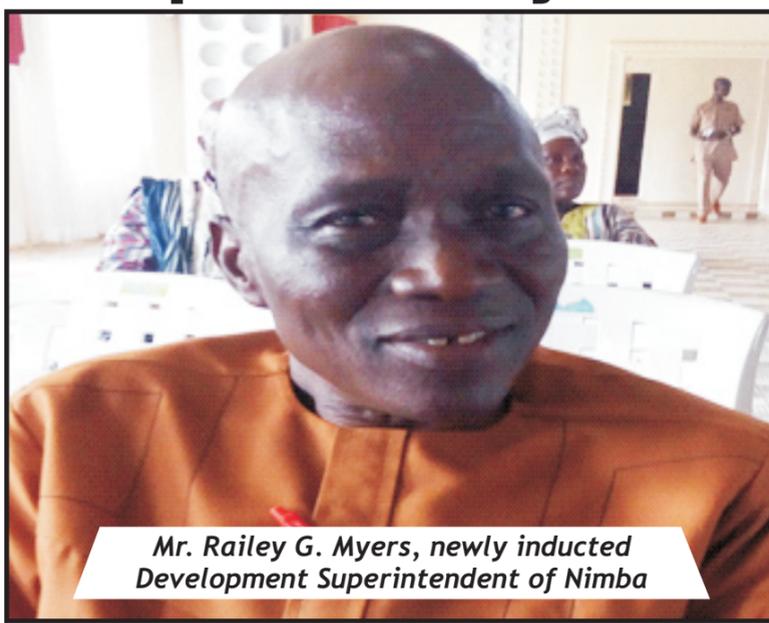
"Like the Minister said, this exam is meant for a targeted group of people," he says, adding that if the exam is not meant for an individual and they pay money to the mobile money service, it will be a free payment to WAEC.

Deputy MIA boss wants peace and unity in Nimba

By Thomas Domas/Nimba

Deputy Minister of Internal for Research and Planning Olayee S. Collins calls on newly inducted development superintendent of Nimba County to work with citizens of the county in promoting peace and unity among them.

He emphasizes that peace and unity are the bedrocks upon which a nation grows, and the Weah-lead administration is committed to promoting peace and unity across the country as a



Mr. Railey G. Myers, newly inducted Development Superintendent of Nimba

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foundation for development and progress.

Deputy Minister Collins also urges Development Superintendent Railey G. Myers to get in involved in activities that will promote peace, unity and development among the people.

In response,

Superintendent Myers pledges to work with the county administration and the people of Nimba to push development.

He vows to take development to all 720 towns in Nimba County. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

L'Ambassadeur Ivoirien exhorte ses compatriotes au travail et au respect des lois libériennes

« Respectez les lois de ce pays et participez à son développement par le travail », c'est en substance le conseil que l'Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de la République de Côte d'Ivoire près de la République du Libéria et de la Sierra Léone, SEM Dr Féni KOUAKOU, a donné aux ressortissants ivoiriens de Bentol City, dans le comté de Montserrado, lors d'une visite au cours du weekend dernier.

La visite du diplomate ivoirien à ses compatriotes vivant à Bentol, qui est la capitale provinciale du comté de Montserrado, est la première d'une série de visites qu'il a décidé d'effectuer afin de rencontrer tous les ivoiriens vivant sur le territoire libérien, pour les voir de prêt, échanger avec eux et leur prodiguer de beaux conseils.

Le choix de la ville de Bentol City n'est pas un fait du hasard car cette ville, qui est la ville natale de l'ancien président libérien William Tolbert assassiné, est un symbole pour les relations diplomatiques et

fraternelles entre le Libéria et la Côte d'Ivoire. Les relations entre les deux pays furent renforcées dans les années 70 lorsque Adolphus Tolbert a marié Désirée Delafosse, filleule d'Houphouët-Boigny, premier président de la Côte d'Ivoire. Selon des sources, Houphouët venait souvent au Libéria, notamment à Bentol pour s'y reposer. Mais cette

amitié fut brouillée dans les années 80s. Houphouët en voulait à Samuel Doe pour deux raisons. Celui-ci a non seulement renversé et tué son ami le président William Tolbert qui lui aurait offert de vastes champs de plantation au Libéria, mais aussi parce que Doe a fait exécuter son fils, qui était aussi son beau-fils, Adolphus Tolbert, qui avait

participé au coup d'Etat raté du général Thomas Quiwonkpa en 1985.

Le diplomate ivoirien a été d'abord reçu par les autorités locales de la ville, plus précisément par Mme le maire de Bentol City, Martha Woheel, à qui il a rendu une visite de courtoisie.

Mme le maire s'est félicitée de la visite qui, selon elle, est la première de son genre depuis sa nomination par le président Weah en mars 2018. « Vous êtes mon premier hôte depuis que je suis arrivée aux affaires. Soyez le bienvenu et faites comme chez vous », a-t-elle dit avant de rappeler les bonnes relations d'amitié qui existaient entre la Côte d'Ivoire de Houphouët Boigny et la ville de Bentol. Selon elle, une rue de la ville porte le nom de Houphouët Boigny.

« J'ai toutefois un pincement au cœur car cette grande ville historique a été abandonnée par le gouvernement du Libéria. Aujourd'hui, il n'y a rien ici, pourtant, c'est la capitale du comté de Montserrado, ce n'est pas Monrovia, mais on fait tout à Monrovia », a-t-elle regretté.

L'Ambassadeur de la Côte d'Ivoire, SEM Féni KOUAKOU, s'est félicité de l'accueil chaleureux qui lui a été réservé. Il a aussi dit merci aux autorités locales, au gouvernement et au peuple du Libéria pour avoir accepté les ivoiriens, dont la plupart sont des réfugiés, sur le territoire libérien.

Il s'est ensuite entretenu avec ses compatriotes. Lors de la réunion, les ressortissants ivoiriens de Bentol, ont fait part de leurs préoccupations. Certains ont dit qu'ils font de l'agriculture et de l'élevage des poulets, mais ils n'ont pas assez de moyens pour développer leurs activités, tandis que d'autres ont dit évoluer dans l'enseignement, le commerce ou encore dans le bâtiment. Ils ont aussi fait savoir qu'ils entretiennent de bonnes relations avec les citoyens libériens qui les traitent comme des frères et qui ont mis à leur disposition des terres pour cultiver des champs. En réponse, l'Ambassadeur les a encouragés et les a exhortés au travail, à la discipline, au respect des lois de leur pays d'accueil et surtout à l'union et à la solidarité, car l'union fait la force. « Avec l'union, vous pouvez accomplir de grandes choses », a-t-il dit.

Il leur a aussi demandé de

faire confiance en eux-mêmes. « Trois personnes interviennent dans la vie de l'homme pour réussir ; il y a toi-même, Dieu et les autres. Dieu englobe le tout car il te donne la vie et force et inspire les autres pour te venir en aide. Mais a part Dieu, tu es la personne la plus importante pour ta réussite, car Dieu bénit tout le monde, mais c'est à toi de tirer profit de cette bénédiction », a-t-il dit.

De la mairie, le Chef de Mission est allé à pied visiter les foyers de certains ivoiriens pour se faire une idée plus fidèle de leurs conditions de vie dans cette partie du pays. Au cours de la visite guidée il a demandé aux ivoiriens d'être assez responsables et de ne pas vivre au dépend des autres car ils ont des comptes à rendre quand ils retourneront dans leur pays. « Vous êtes venus ici pour gagner votre vie, alors soyez responsables, mettez-vous au travail et ne vous livrez pas à la merci des autres », a-t-il dit. Il a également échangé avec des proches de l'ancien Président Tolbert.

Le diplomate ivoirien a ensuite partagé un repas avec les ressortissants ivoiriens, le personnel de la mairie de la ville de Bentol et d'autres libériens dans l'enceinte de la mairie. Mais bien avant le repas, il a eu un tête-à-tête avec Mme le maire. Même si rien n'a filtré des discussions à huis-clos, tout porte à croire que les deux personnalités auraient discuté du renouvellement des relations amicales qui existaient entre Bentol City et la Côte d'Ivoire.

Au cours du repas, le diplomate ivoirien a réitéré son appel aux ivoiriens de Bentol et de tout le Libéria à obéir aux lois de leur pays d'accueil et à participer à son développement. Il a aussi fait part de sa vision de la sous-région, la CEDEAO, surtout des pays de l'Union du Fleuve Mano, en insistant sur la disparition des frontières entre ces pays pour une intégration totale. Il a présenté un don symbolique constitué de riz et d'une enveloppe au ressortissants ivoiriens. A la mairie de Bentol, il a fait un don de 10 galons de carburant pour alimenter leur groupe électrogène.

La visite s'est achevée dans une ambiance de convivialité avec des pas de danse que l'Ambassadeur et Mme le maire de Bentol ont esquissés sous les ovations des libériens et des ressortissants ivoiriens présents.



Liberia : un responsable d'ONG américaine violait les jeunes filles à sa charge

Le site d'investigation a mis en lumière, les agissements de certains responsables de l'ONG américaine, notamment le cofondateur de l'ONG, Macintosh Johnson. L'enquête de ProPublica a révélé que M Johnson, a abusé

plusieurs filles au Libéria, pays où opérait l'ONG. L'ONG avait une école implantée dans un bidonville de Monrovia et c'est dans ce lieu que le responsable de l'ONG abusait sexuellement de très jeunes filles, âgées pour la plupart de 10 ans. Macintosh Johnson, qui

est décédé en 2016, était infecté par le VIH Sida et il est à craindre qu'il ait transmis le virus à ces jeunes victimes.

Il avait été dénoncé par des jeunes filles puis arrêté. Son jugement qui aurait dû avoir lieu en 2015, avait été repoussé en 2016, année de sa mort. L'association More Than Me, œuvrait essentiellement dans le domaine de l'éducation. Elle avait construit près de 18 écoles dans tout le Libéria et celle de la capitale Monrovia fut ouverte en 2013

L'association a réagi à ces révélations à travers son site internet. Elle s'est dit profondément et immensément désolés, puis d'ajouter : « A toutes les filles qui ont été violées par Macintosh Johnson en 2014 et auparavant : nous avons échoué avec vous. Nous avons donné à Johnson un pouvoir qu'il a exploité en abusant des enfants (...) Notre direction aurait dû reconnaître les signaux plus tôt »



Français

Impasse politique en Guinée : l'opposition annonce une série de manif dans tout le pays

L'opposition républicaine annonce deux journées "villes mortes" le lundi et mardi à Conakry et dans les villes de l'intérieur du pays, suivies d'une manifestation jeudi.

C'est pour protester, dit-elle, contre l'installation sélective des exécutifs communaux par le ministère de l'Administration du Territoire. L'annonce a été faite ce samedi 13 octobre par les opposants au régime d'Alpha Condé au sortir d'une plénière extraordinaire tenue au quartier général de l'UFDG.

« Nous avons noté la recrudescence et la persistance de la violation de la loi et de l'accord politique du 8 août dans le processus de mise en place des exécutifs communaux. Comme vous le savez le ministère de l'Administration du Territoire avait arrêté

C'est-à-dire, le lundi et le mardi pour que les Guinéens se mobilisent pour arrêter cette machine du gouvernement de monsieur Alpha Condé qui est en train de saper les bases de la démocratie et de violer le code des collectivités et le code électoral », a indiqué Cellou Dalein Diallo avant de demander une forte mobilisation des militants de l'opposition sur toute l'étendue du territoire national pour la réussite de ces séries de protestations qui débutent par ces deux journées ville mortes et qui seront suivies d'une manifestation de rue, le jeudi prochain.

« Nous ne pouvons plus restés indifférents, nous demandons à tous les Guinéens de se mobiliser dans toutes les préfectures qui le peuvent de se mobiliser pour arrêter ce gouvernement et ce parti qui



l'installation des exécutifs communaux jusqu'à nouvel ordre. C'était un bluff ! Ils ont continué de manière sélective. Comment il procède lorsque le RPG leur dit qu'il est prêt nous avons acheté les consciences, retourné les élus de l'opposition, allons maintenant rapidement mettre en place les exécutifs. Il le fait dans une totale illégalité. C'est ainsi que vous avez appris la mise en place des exécutifs de Manéah, dans certaines sous-préfectures de Kissidougou et un peu partout où le RPG a réussi à s'octroyer le quorum nécessaire pour l'élection du maire. Il appelle l'Administration pour qu'il l'installe sans aucun programme. De ce fait, nous avons annoncé une journée "ville morte", le mardi. Maintenant, c'est deux journées "villes mortes".

est en train de saper complètement notre démocratie », a lancé le chef de file de l'opposition.

La marche de l'opposition se tiendra sur l'autoroute Fidel Castro entre la Tannerie et l'Esplanade du Palais du peuple. Concernant la mise en place d'une plateforme qui réunira la société civile et les politiques pour contrecarrer les velléités d'un troisième mandat, le président de L'UFDG précise qu'ils sont très avancés et que les consultations sont pratiquement terminées. « On attend la convocation d'une réunion où on va créer cette plateforme pour s'opposer au coup de force à la Cour Constitutionnelle mais également aux velléités de troisième mandat pour Alpha Condé », a conclu le président de l'Union des Forces démocratiques de Guinée.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joseph E. Stiglitz

Élections américaines de mi-mandat : le pouvoir des électeurs contre celui de l'argent

NEW YORK - Aux États-Unis, tous les regards se tournent actuellement vers les prochaines élections du Congrès de novembre. L'issue du scrutin apportera des réponses à de nombreuses questions alarmantes soulevées il y a deux ans, lorsque Donald Trump a remporté l'élection présidentielle.

Les électeurs américains jugeront-ils que Trump ne correspond pas à ce qu'est l'Amérique ? Refuseront-ils le racisme, la misogynie, l'identitarisme et le protectionnisme qu'incarne le président ? Feront-ils savoir que son « Amérique d'abord », caractérisée par le rejet de la primauté du droit international, ne correspond pas à ce que représentent les États-Unis ? Ou confirmeront-ils au contraire que la victoire de Trump n'est pas un simple accident de l'histoire lié à un processus des primaires républicaines qui aurait abouti à la désignation d'un candidat inapte, ainsi qu'à des primaires démocrates qui auraient précisément mis en avant l'adversaire idéal de Trump ?

À l'heure où l'avenir de l'Amérique est en jeu, les débats passionnés autour des causes du résultat de 2016 transcendent le domaine universitaire. La question consiste à déterminer comment le Parti démocrate - et ses semblables de la gauche en Europe - doivent se positionner pour remporter le plus de voix. Doivent-ils s'orienter vers le centre, ou s'efforcer de mobiliser des nouveaux arrivants jeunes, progressistes et enthousiastes ?

De bonnes raisons conduisent à considérer cette deuxième option comme plus susceptible d'aboutir à une réussite électorale, et de contrer les dangers soulevés par Trump.

Le taux de participation des électeurs américains est catastrophique, et plus faible encore en périodes d'élections non présidentielles. En 2010, seuls 41,8 % des électeurs ont voté. En 2014, seuls 36,7 % des électeurs inscrits se sont rendus aux urnes, d'après les données du United States Elections Project. La participation démocrate est encore plus faible, bien qu'elle semble en hausse en cette période électorale.

Beaucoup de gens expliquent ne pas se rendre aux urnes car ils pensent que leur vote ne changera rien : les deux partis seraient aussi similaires que Tweedledee and Tweedledum. Trump a démontré que cela n'était pas vrai. Les Républicains qui ont abandonné toute prétention de discipline budgétaire, en votant l'an dernier pour une baisse d'impôts massive en faveur des milliardaires et des grandes sociétés, ont prouvé que cela n'était pas vrai. Et les sénateurs républicains qui ont soutenu la désignation de Brett Kavanaugh à la Cour suprême des États-Unis, en dépit de ses explications confuses face à des preuves tout à fait crédibles de comportements passés sexuellement répréhensibles, ont prouvé que cela n'était pas vrai.

Mais les Démocrates sont eux aussi responsables de l'apathie des électeurs. Le parti doit surmonter un long passé de collusion avec la droite, qu'il s'agisse de la baisse de l'impôt sur les plus-values appliquée par le président Bill Clinton (qui a enrichi le top 1 %), de la déréglementation des marchés financiers (qui a contribué à l'apparition de la Grande Récession), ou encore des sauvetages bancaires de 2008 (qui ont insuffisamment bénéficié aux travailleurs déplacés et aux propriétaires menacés par la saisie de leur maison). Ces 25 dernières années, le parti a parfois semblé préférer gagner le soutien de ceux qui

vivent grâce aux plus-values que le soutien de ceux qui vivent grâce à un salaire. De nombreux électeurs abstentionnistes déplorent par ailleurs que les Démocrates se contentent d'attaquer Trump, plutôt que de proposer une véritable alternative.

Le désir de voir apparaître des candidats d'un genre nouveau s'observe clairement dans le soutien des électeurs à des postulants progressistes tels que l'ancien sénateur candidat à la présidentielle Bernie Sanders, ou encore la New-Yorkaise de 28 ans Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, qui l'a récemment emporté sur un poids lourd démocrate à la Chambre des représentants américains dans le cadre d'une primaire du parti.

Les progressistes tels que Sanders et Ocasio-Cortez sont parvenus à formuler un message attractif auprès des électeurs qu'il appartient aux Démocrates de mobiliser pour l'emporter. Ils entendent permettre de nouveau l'accès à une existence de classe moyenne, en assurant des emplois décents et correctement rémunérés, en rétablissant un sentiment de sécurité financière, et en garantissant l'accès à une éducation de qualité - sans l'étranglement que la dette étudiante exerce actuellement sur de si nombreux jeunes diplômés - ainsi qu'à une couverture santé convenable, quels que soient les problèmes médicaux préexistants. Ils œuvrent pour un logement abordable et pour une retraite sûre, dans le cadre de laquelle les personnes âgées ne seraient pas les proies de l'avarice du secteur financier. Ils veulent enfin atteindre une économie de marché plus dynamique, plus compétitive et plus équitable, en atténuant les excès de la puissance du marché, de la financiarisation et de la mondialisation, ainsi qu'en renforçant le pouvoir de négociation des travailleurs.

Ces avantages d'une existence de classe moyenne sont atteignables. L'Amérique pouvait se les permettre il y a un demi-siècle, lorsque le pays était beaucoup moins fortuné qu'actuellement ; et l'Amérique le peut encore aujourd'hui. En réalité, ni l'économie, ni la démocratie des États-Unis ne peuvent se permettre de ne pas soutenir la classe moyenne. Les politiques et programmes gouvernementaux - notamment des possibilités publiques d'assurance santé, de prestations de retraite complémentaires, ou de prêts hypothécaires - sont indispensables à la concrétisation de cette vision.

Je trouve encourageante la vague de soutien en faveur de ces propositions progressistes et des acteurs politiques qui les incarnent. Dans une démocratie normale, je suis persuadé que ces idées l'emporteraient. Seulement voilà, la politique américaine est compromise par l'argent, le redécoupage électoral et les tentatives massives de privation des droits. La loi fiscale de 2017 n'est rien d'autre qu'une démarche de soudoiment des grandes sociétés et des plus fortunés, qui les appelle à inonder de ressources financières l'élection de 2018. Comme le démontrent les statistiques, l'argent pèse considérablement dans la politique américaine.

Même dans une démocratie compromise - marquée par un effort concerté visant à empêcher certains de voter - le pouvoir des électeurs américains importe encore. Nous découvrirons bientôt s'il l'emporte sur le pouvoir de l'argent qui inonde les caisses du Parti républicain. L'avenir politique et économique des États-Unis, et très certainement la paix et la prospérité du monde entier, dépendent de la réponse à cette question.

FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

By: Jones Octavious Mallay, Esq.
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Firestone Enslaves 6,000 Liberian Workers under President Weah?

The 6,000 Liberian breadwinners and their families at the Firestone rubber plantation company are being recourse like modern day captives by the Firestone money eating authorities. These Liberian wage earners are currently working under a calamitous and inhumane working condition who are being viewed as lesser humans in their native land Liberia—this cannot happen even in the United States.

Let it be comprehensibly said that the great United States of America doesn't acquiesce any person or group of persons or a company or group of companies to affix their signatures to a butcher or a bitter cut-throat 99-years contract for a land in Margibi county for a least at 6 cents per acre or its renewal phase at 37-years, and 50 cents per acre. The US government doesn't support such a diabolical and dangerous bad labor practices or would indulge the perseverance of any American company in Africa to manipulate Liberian workers in a fashion that is willfully poisoning underground waters and other reliable water sources that is killing marine life with the Firestone escaping a gross-impunity without justice being executed against the Firestone company.

This revealing and pathetic situation currently ruining the 6,000 strong workers in Firestone Margibi County cannot be buried quietly by the Firestone authorities. The Firestone company has numerous rubber plantation sites all over Liberia in the name of job creation and the improvement of a better living condition of the Firestone dying workers.

The below gross human rights abuses and modern day-slavery sanctioned by the Firestone company with the Weah's government doing absolutely nothing about such a disastrous working condition in Margibi County is not only pathetic but politically deceptive. Though, President Weah did not help in pioneering the signing of the so-called 37-years contract with the payment of 6 cents per acre per land nor did he actively participate in such agreement in the past, President Weah is realistically to rescue the 6,000 Firestone's workers from such a terrible menacing of a self-made death trap ugly situation that lies squarely at the doorsteps of those slowly dying 6,000 workers.

6,000 Firestone tippers enslaved conditions:

1. Facts gathered from ten workers who asked to be anonymous, disclosed that 4,600 out of the 6,000 workers are casual laborers with no fix salaries, no insurance, no medical benefit, no saving. They are three times subject to severe workplace abuses by Firestone plantation authorities.
2. The anonymous weary workers revealed how they are living in prison-like house cages, with prison windows, small prison doors and very small prison-like toilets in each apartment. The workers lived side-by-side with dangerous crawling creatures each night from the rubber plantation such as rats, raccoons, cockroaches, deer, bush pigs and crawling insects etc
3. The Liberia tippers are forced to be awake between 6: am to 5:30 am in the morning each day against their will. They are compelled to walk 2hrs., or would cover over 5-kilometers of distance while walking sleeping and talking to themselves. The workers will work from 6; am to 6: pm which is an abuse of their labor rights and bad labor practices. Most, especially the casual laborers are denied shelters when it is raining. They are forced to work under the torrential rain till night falls.
4. The Firestone workers walked between 10 to 15 miles each day sometimes barefooted to tip rubbers, some of them get exposed to dangerous chemicals with no compensation. They go blind and are asked by the Firestone company to vacate their

prison-like houses in shame an in disgrace.

5. The source further disclosed that they are deprived of adequate electricity, pure drinking water, and ample night time security. Most of them relied heavily on contaminated and unsaved well-waters for their daily use which sometimes makes them very ill.
6. The sources revealed that most tippers sleep in darkness, no electricity. It was also revealed that the living condition at Firestone is appalling and deplorable. Most of the houses that they lived in (the workers) are either broken or are falling apart. Some of the prison-like houses do not have floors, some workers are forced to live a very, very and very dangerous living condition thus exposing them to more and more health risks in Firestone.
7. One tipper is compelled to tap about 1,500 rubber trees a day on a 750 tree which is direct enslavement and gross abuse of tipper rights in Firestone.

Exposing Firestone Dangerous Chemicals:

Thousands and thousands of Liberians living in Firestone are exposed to "dangerous "endocrine disruptor chemicals" This dangerous chemical affects tipper's lunch where tippers are three times likely to develop a sudden nerve break down and subsequently



develop early cancer disease.

The Firestone's authorities are secretly using another strange dangerous chemical unknown to the government of Liberia that poses health-danger to the 6,000-workforce in Firestone. For example, the use of Arsenic, Perchlorate, Dioxins DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane, HCB, Dacthal (dimethyl tetrachloro terephthalate), or DCPA and MtBE. These chemicals are used secretly and dumped in Liberian water bodies in Margibi county that would continue to affect the health of other Liberians downstream of other water sources.

Mercury Chemical:

Mercury chemical is extremely toxic. This chemical can cause brain damage, blindness, nerve damage, cognitive disability, impairment of motor functions, headaches, weakness, muscle atrophy, tremors, mood swings, memory loss, and skin rashes, and the people of Firestone are being exposed to this dangerous chemical. PCBs is also another dangerous chemical that destroys the central nervous system of children and elderly people and the workforce of Firestone are exposed to this chemical.

Environmental degradation:

The Firestone Company is willfully destroying the Liberian soil by creating environmental danger, poisoning of marine life and making water unsaved due to the use of hazardous and unguided disposal of

hundreds of dangerous chemicals. These chemicals also leave behind the lead in drinking large drinking water for the population of Margibi County and Firestone. The poisoning of the water bodies/Soils is killing Liberian marine three times each day.

The water bodies, creeks, and streams are seriously contaminated by the hazardous chemical used by Firestone Company, for example, the chemicals named Dimethylamine, Tetramethyl thiuram is very dangerous to fish and crab. The residue of these chemicals is often dumped in Liberian water which has continued to kill marine life like frogs etc., and other living marines in those water bodies.

The soils in Firestone is also contaminated with dangerous chemicals, which has continued to affect safe underground water. Liberian women do not go finishing any longer in Firestone. They do not fetch water from their wells and creeks and stream any longer, because the water is contaminated by Firestone rubber production chemicals. Another secret money-making venture of Firestone includes the production of furniture, timbers, intercropping, mining of diamond, gold logging that violates the terms and agreements in the MDA coupled with very bad labor practices, poor living conditions among others. rubber production chemicals. Another secret money-making venture of Firestone includes the production of furniture, timbers, intercropping, mining of diamond, gold logging that violates the terms and agreements in the MDA coupled with very bad labor practices, poor living conditions among others.

But here is the true political puzzle. President Weah did witness the signing of the 37-years Firestone contracts when he served as Montserrat County's Senator that is the reason why the ball is currently in his court. Will President Weah join the Firestone's company morally corrupt hegemony to slaughter the 6,000 workers, or will the president join the 6,000 workers in Firestone to fight against the deplorable that has existed from generation to generation in Firestone? Or is President Weah going to receive the usual normal cuts and tips from the Firestone authorities at the detriment of the 6,000 workers who are dying slowly at the endangerment of the Firestone land that is being poised every day with Firestone dangerous rubbers' chemicals and hundreds and hundreds of Firestone tippers are sick and dying regularly from the dangerous chemicals that are produced slowly by the Firestone authorities?

Does President Weah know the facts surrounding the potential enslavement of the 6,000 strong Firestone tippers who are dying slowly in Margibi? Firestone has 6,000 employees who are virtually the Whiteman's modern slaves on their own land in a number of painful ways: Firestone was formed by the late Harvey Firestone (An American) on August 3rd, 1900; it is a 119-years old company at present. Firestone has 6,000 workers, 4,500 are casual laborers.

The Firestone Company in 2004 worth 2.09 billion dollars in the US at the expense of Liberians tippers. The 1,500 gets an hourly wage of between \$8.50 and \$12.50. Firestone six top management team make over 350,000 annually while Liberian tippers get peanuts of between \$8 and \$ 12.50. Rubber processed in the US yield multiples' different produce that the agreement doesn't cover. Firestone has created over 40,000 well-paid jobs in the US for over 40,000 personnel and not even a single American makes \$8 or \$12.50 an hour at Firestone offices in the US, not even the cleaners or the janitors. Firestone uses the income of the rubber to reinvest in the multi-billion dollars project other than rubber. Firestone produced 10 million tires each year, which represents 25 percent of America total output.

LP descends on CDC

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

Opposition Liberty Party (LP) has descended on the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chairman Mulbah Morlu and the Liberian government on the alleged missing money here.

Speaking Sunday, 14 October at a press conference, LP Acting Chairman Senator Steve Zargo voiced concern over how government officials here are allegedly buying homes in neighboring countries in less than nine months of the CDC led - administration.

President George Manneh Weah, the Central Bank of Liberia and Finance Minister Samuel Tweah say no money is missing.

But the administration has set up a special investigative team to probe the claims of missing money, while also inviting international partners including the U.S. to help with the investigation.

However, Sen. Zargo says barely nine months of being in leadership, the CDC led - government has produced the biggest financial scandal ever in the history of the country, making specific reference to the alleged missing \$15.5 billion Liberian Dollars.

The Lofa Senator and LP executive notes that given the alleged irregularities and frauds that marred the 2017 elections, Liberians thought that once a new leadership had taken over on the mantra of change, the country would have headed in an entirely new direction.

He charges that unfortunately, the emergence of the CDC government has allegedly revived and elevated the nightmare that Liberians experienced with corruption during previous administrations.

“From the President to the Minister of Finance; from the Minister of Finance to the Justice Minister; from the



Justice Minister to the Minister of Information; from the Minister of Information to the Chairman of the CDC, on to the Mayor of the City of Monrovia, and the list goes on, there has been a stream of uncoordinated utterances embedded with lies and distortions of information,” Sen. Zargo claims.

Sen. Zargo claims that the case of the more than \$15 billion Liberian Dollars is presenting a graphic picture of how the CDC government is walking itself into the pit.

According to him, the Board of Governors at the Central Bank has undermined the work of the investigative team by releasing what is supposed to be its internal report that points to accountability of all printed banknotes brought into the country.

According to the LP executive, the Central Bank is an institution that remains fundamental to the pronounced investigation.

“As a party that commits itself to the rule of law, we issued a statement on September 25, 2018, drawing the government’s attention to the need for a well-structured, prompt and independent

investigation into this matter so as to salvage the image of our country,” says Sen. Zargo.

According to him, such step would win the confidence of Liberia’s international partners, mainly financial institutions to which this country looks for development assistance.

“This, for us, is a hallmark of a matured opposition,” he adds.

He says while waiting to see

the government take a honest lead in unraveling what now stands as a national puzzle, “a grand scheme apparently intended to distort, confuse and finally bury the case to the bottom of the deep sea, is being dished up by operatives of the ruling

CDC.”

The opposition Liberty Party says in his ‘ill-fated’ characteristic manner, the CDC’s Morlu recently opined that the opposition party (LP) must be a subject of investigation because it brought into the country a fleet of vehicles during the 2017 campaign period.

In responding to the CDC chairman’s allegation, the Liberty Party says it has never exercised any control over the vault of the Central Bank before.

“We do not have any authority to order the printing of banknotes. We don’t control the ports of entry (Roberts Field and the Freeport of Monrovia). How then could we have taken portion of your more than LRD15 billion to buy pick-ups?” Sen. Zargo ponders.

Meanwhile, Liberty Party lauds the United States government for the offer of experts to help the country determine circumstances surrounding the alleged missing containers of money.

The opposition party, formerly of three - time defeated presidential candidate Cllr. Charles Brumskine, points out that the

government should now take seize of the obligation of availing the foreign experts all the comfort they may need to do their job effectively.

Liberty Party says it looks up to the work of the international team of investigators, calling on the government of President George Manneh Weah to move swiftly and make some interventions in the difficult situations the Liberian people face at this time.

The party recommends to the government that there should be short term efforts aimed at job creation to put some money into the pockets of young people.

Furthering its recommendation, the LP says government should consider a micro-credit initiative so that mothers would have an opportunity to earn some money to send their children to school.

It calls on government to meet with the commercial transport unions in an effort to come up with realistic transport fares within and outside the city, and to also step up its monitoring mechanism of hospitals, pharmacies and clinics in an effort to intervene in the high costs of drugs and other health-related services.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Lonestar Cell MTN launches WAEC payments Mobile Money

Lonestar Cell MTN has launched in partnership with the Liberian West African Examination Council (WAEC), the digitalized WAEC fees payment process via its Mobile Money service.

According to the GSM giant, the service will enable 9th and 12th grade students, parents, sponsors and guardians to pay the WAEC fees with ease, from anywhere and at any time; affecting over 30,000 Junior and Senior High School students.

The company said subscribers

can access the service by dialing *156# and following the prompts. Payment can be made in either LRD or USD. Non-Mobile Money subscribers wishing to access the service can visit any of our service centers with a valid photo ID to register for MTN Mobile Money.

“As Liberia’s leading GSM Company, we are constantly striving to provide convenience and ease for our subscribers through innovation and technological advancement,” the company said in an official press release.



University of Liberia
Republic of Liberia
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia

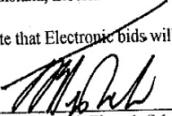
**Section I. INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
(Printing and Delivery of Souvenir Items)
IFB No.: UL/NCB/017/18/19**

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its internally generated revenue for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and intends to apply it towards the printing and delivery of souvenir items for its 99th Commencement Convocation in Louisiana, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the printing and delivery of the souvenir items.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
- Specifications and quantity:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure
1.	Printing and Delivery of Souvenir Items	Assorted	pieces
- Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration
 - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
 - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registrar
 - Past performance records in the last 4 years for similar job including the names and contact details of at-least three (3) clients
 - Bids must be duly signed by the bidder or person authorized on behalf of the bidder.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain copy of the bidding document from the Procurement Department, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, AC1 - 09, University of Liberia for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) beginning September 17 - October 10, 2018, between the hours 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Mondays to Fridays and inspect sample of the souvenir items.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security valid for 90 days in the form of a bank guarantee in the amount of US\$2,000.00 (Two Thousand United States Dollars) from a reputable commercial bank operating under the laws of Liberia.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., October 10, 2018, and bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on October 10, 2018, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Room #: AC1-01, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:
In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
“SEALED BID FOR THE PRINTING AND DELIVERY OF SOUVENIR ITEMS”
REF: IFB No.: UL/NCB/017/18/19.

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder’s address

In the middle of the envelope, print the address below:
Procurement Department
Administrative Complex Building
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia
- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: 
Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)
DIRECTOR
Procurement Department, UL

Approved: 
Atsuo Norris Owen
Vice President, UL Relations

Thierry Henry named new Monaco coach



Former Arsenal star Thierry Henry was on Saturday named as Monaco coach, the struggling Ligue 1 club announced.

The 41-year-old French World Cup winner, who had been working as an assistant coach for the Belgian national team since 2016, signed a contract with Monaco through until June 2021.

The former striker will be joined by Joao Carlos Valado Tralhao, under-23 coach at Benfica, and Patrick Kwame

Ampadu, coach at the Arsenal Academy.

Henry replaces Leonardo Jardim, who was sacked in midweek following a string of poor results that left Monaco languishing in 18th in France's Ligue 1.

Henry knows Monaco well having graduated from their youth system and making his professional debut for the Principality club in 1994.

He notably scored seven goals in the 1997-8 Champions League as the Monaco team of

the time, then coached by Arsene Wenger, reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Juventus.

"First of all, I thank AS Monaco for giving me the opportunity to coach the team of this club which is so special to me," Henry said.

"I am very happy to come back to AS Monaco and extremely determined to meet the challenges ahead. I can not wait to meet the players to start working together."

After spending five seasons as a player with Monaco, Henry went on to play for Juventus, Arsenal, Barcelona and the New York Red Bulls.

He scored 51 goals in 123 appearances for France, winning not only the 1998 World Cup but also Euro 2000.

Monaco chief executive officer Vadim Vasilyev, said Henry could "count on our trust and all our support to bring a new dynamic to the team and carry out the mission".

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PSG want Wenger to replace sporting director Henrique

Paris Saint-Germain are reportedly looking to make a big change upstairs. The French giants are hoping to entice former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger to become their new general manager after the January transfer window, suggests ESPN's Jonathan Johnson.

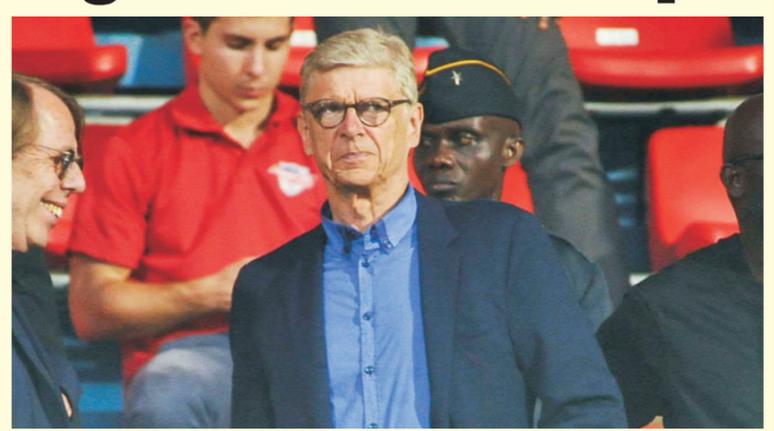
Les Parisiens are thought to be looking to ditch current chief Antero Henrique, with

the Portuguese sporting director coming under fire for his transfer policy - notably failing to secure primary targets such as Chelsea engine N'Golo Kante - and his working methods.

Henrique's relationship with head coach Thomas Tuchel is thought to be frayed at best, while PSG captain Thiago Silva reportedly replied "ask Antero" when questioned about his side's unorthodox

midfield lineup in the Champions League defeat to Liverpool last month.

The final straw may have been being beaten to the punch by AC Milan director Leonardo in the race for Flamengo prodigy Lucas Paqueta. Henrique was intending to activate a €50-million release clause in January, reports Johnson, before Leonardo negotiated down the price significantly.



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