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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#

Beachside property not for Poor people **-Pres. Weah**



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Pres. Weah



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“Sick Senators”

-Sen. Naatehn brands colleagues



Continental News

Cameroon kidnap: Army searches for pupils

An army search operation is under way in Cameroon to rescue dozens of people kidnapped from a boarding school.

At least 79 students and three others were seized on Monday in Bamenda, the capital of the North-West region, a government official has told the BBC.

The government and English-speaking separatists have accused each other of orchestrating the kidnapping.

Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions have been hit by a secessionist rebellion in recent years.

Regional governor Adolphe Lele L'Afrique Deben Tchoffo blamed separatist militias for the kidnapping.

But English-speaking separatists are accusing the government of staging the kidnapping, as an attempt to discredit their cause.

The authorities have

declared a ban on vehicles driving between most districts of the North-West region.

What do we know so far?

Militias, who have been demanding the

independence of the two English-speaking regions, have called for a school boycott.

But no rebel group has said it carried out the kidnapping of the students

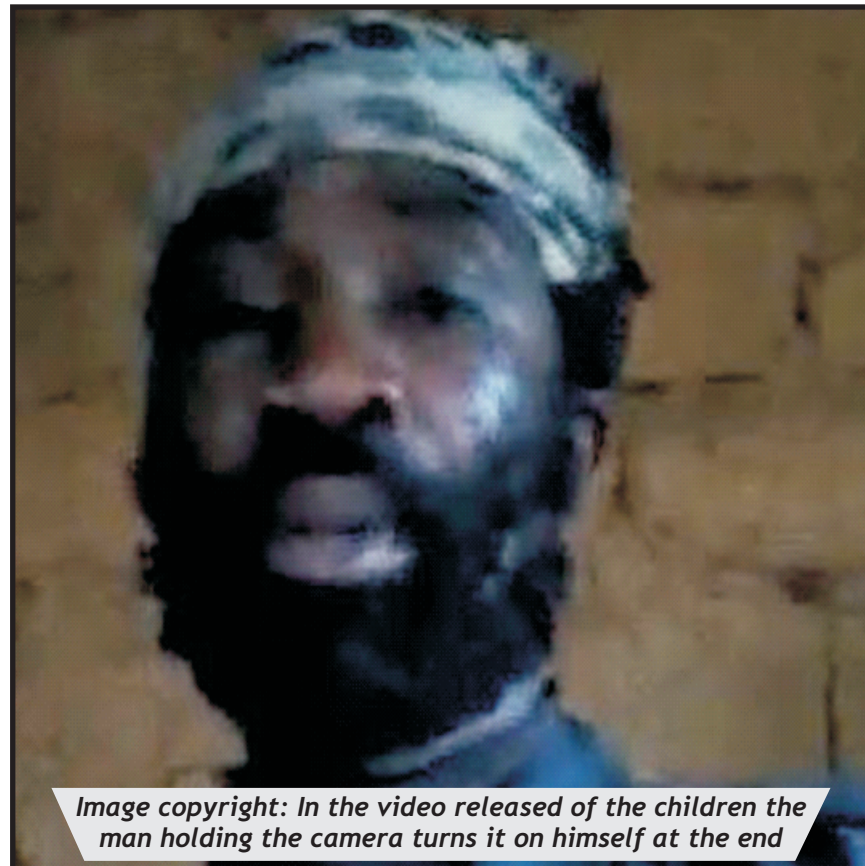


Image copyright: In the video released of the children the man holding the camera turns it on himself at the end

and the principal at Bamenda's Presbyterian Secondary School, which has pupils aged between 10 and 14.

A video of some of the children, believed to have been filmed by one of the kidnappers, is being shared on social media.

The students, all boys and crammed into a tiny room, all look nervous as the person holding the camera orders them to say their names and where they are from.

They also repeat the phrase: "I was taken from school last night by the Amba boys, I don't know where I am."

Amba is short for Ambazonia, the name of the new country that the

separatists want to create.

The majority French-speaking government has blamed separatist militias for the abductions. Anglophone separatist leaders have denied responsibility.

One rebel group, the so-called Ambazonia Governing Council, issued a statement on social media hitting out at government "infiltrators and saboteurs" who it says are "planted... within the Ambazonia independence cause".

Another group, MoRisc, claims the "glaring French accent" of the man heard speaking in the alleged video of the kidnap is proof that "pro-Biya [government] gunmen are to blame".-BBC

Nigeria trade unions suspend wage strike



Trade unions in Nigeria have suspended a general strike planned to take place on Tuesday.

They say they have reached a last-minute agreement over the national minimum wage.

The Nigerian Labour

Congress said a committee set up with the government was recommending a new monthly minimum wage of 30,000 naira (\$83;£63).

Since 2011 the minimum wage in Nigeria has been set at 18,000 naira (\$50) a month.-BBC

Uganda activist held for 'abusing Museveni'

Police in Uganda will decide today whether to charge Ugandan academic and feminist activist, Stella Nyanzi, with crimes concerning an "offensive" post on Facebook.

She made offensive statements against President Yoweri Museveni and his late mother, Vincent Ssekatte, the spokesperson for the police's Criminal Investigations Department said.

Her lawyers, however, say that they have not been officially informed of the charges she's facing.

Ms Nyanzi, who has a big following on social media, has become famous for championing the cause of the underprivileged and speaking out for the rights of women.

But her colourfully worded and graphic posts have continued to land her on the wrong side of the law. She is still facing charges for calling the President Museveni "a pair of buttocks".

Ms Nyanzi was suspended from her job at Makerere University, where she was a research fellow, in March 2017.

At the time, she staged a one-woman nude protest outside her office.

She had insulted First Lady Janet Museveni who is also the minister of education, accusing her of



Ms Nyanzi is already facing charges for calling President Museveni a "a pair of buttocks" Image caption: Ms Nyanzi is already facing charges for calling President Museveni a "a pair of buttocks"

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failing to do her job properly.

But last month, a tribunal set up to investigate her suspension ordered she be

reinstated with immediate effect, and all salary arrears

EDITORIAL

Liberia doesn't need referendum for war crimes tribunal

LIBERIA'S MINISTER OF Foreign Affairs Milton Gbehzongar Findley thinks a referendum is necessary in determining whether or not, the country should establish a war crimes tribunal to prosecute former warlords and ex-fighters who committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity during the Liberian Civil War. But we respectfully differ with the Minister that Liberians should go to referendum to bring war and economic criminals to book.

MINISTER FINDLEY REPORTEDLY said on a local radio talk show in Monrovia that a referendum is the most likely option to deciding on establishing any war crimes court for Liberia.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT there are Liberians who want the war crimes court but also what are the results from the majority of the people of the country? Do we go to a referendum for this? Let's go to a referendum. If people are not happy then let's advocate for a referendum for the Liberian people to decide the way forward on this matter", Findley said on a recent talk show.

HIS COMMENT SEEMS to suggest Liberians first need to vote on adhering to international criminal law that has no status of limitation. In other words, whether majority of Liberians are supportive or against prosecution of people who allegedly committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity such as massacres and other mass killings that occurred here, they have no choice because it's beyond the jurisdiction of Liberia.

WE MUST CONFORM as a member of the comity of nations, for how could we have, as a nation, turned to the international community for help after butchering one another for more than a decade and now want to brush aside sincere effort by the very international community to help us keep impunity in check? It is just not understandable, but highly deceitful to want to portray such posture.

LEST WE FORGET, it took huge resources and human sacrifice of the international community to ensure cessation of hostilities, disarmament of belligerent armed factions, and conduct of free, fair democratic elections to restore Liberia as member of the comity of nations and the corresponding peace we enjoy today. And a key foundation for genuine and sustainable peace in any nation is justice, which we shouldn't ignore.

THIS IS WHY U.S. Congressman Representative Don Donovan terms Foreign Minister Findley's proposition as not only vague, but falls short of a genuine and robust commitment to establishing a war crimes tribunal for Liberia.

IN A RECENT letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, as published in Monrovia, Congressman Donovan reminds that from 1991 to 2002, civil war devastated both Liberia and Sierra Leone, and the violence took the lives of over 200,000 people, displaced over 1,000,000 persons and saw horrific cases of murder, amputation, mass rape, and other human rights abuses, saying, "The heinous crimes that occurred during this time are unspeakable, yet many of the perpetrators hold positions in Liberia's government.

SPECIFICALLY, HE POINTS that with the presence of Senator Prince Y. Johnson and others, the world is watching Liberia's slowly creep backwards towards the murderous mayhem of its civil war era, and crave intervention of the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of State to encourage Monrovia to establish a war crimes tribunal for the country.

WE AGREED WITH Representative Donovan that the last thing the rest of the world, wants to see in Liberia is the cycle of violence start yet again. He fears that is exactly what would happen should the perpetrators of vicious crimes be allowed to escape responsibility, as Liberia's Foreign Minister Milton Gbehzongar Findley seems to be insinuating by calling for a referendum to establish a war crime tribunal.

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COMMENTARY

By Ashoka Mody

Angela Merkel's Tragedy

History dealt German Chancellor Angela Merkel massive challenges: a series of eurozone crises that drove wedges between Europeans; social fragmentation fueled by economic tensions; and the largest migration wave since World War II. Rather than resolve them, however, she chose merely to manage them.

BERLIN - What we care about most is often our undoing. So it was for Angela Merkel, who recently announced her intention to step down as leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in December and as Germany's chancellor in 2021.

History placed Merkel amid raging storms: a series of eurozone crises that drove wedges between Europeans; economic tensions at home that fueled social fragmentation; and the largest migration wave since World War II, which intensified European and domestic anxieties. But, rather than rocking the boat, risking her survival, she chose temporary fixes that let the vulnerabilities fester.

Perhaps her nail-biting ascent to the chancellorship conditioned her. In the September 2005 election, she enjoyed a large early lead in opinion polls. Then-Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had failed to bring down the unemployment rate, which stood at almost 12%, and his Social Democratic Party had lost a string of state elections. Yet Merkel's poor communication of her policy priorities, together with a lackluster debate performance, nearly cost her the election.

In subsequent elections, Merkel refused to campaign on substantive policy matters. In 2009, her campaign was deliberately boring and banal, embracing - however reluctantly - her opponents' characterization of her as a "Mutti," an unflattering stereotype of a mother managing the family home. In 2013, she bolstered the Mutti image with the slogan "You know me."

Having established no clear policy platform, Merkel has governed largely without a mandate. After each election, various interest groups have hoped that she would adopt a position favorably aligned with their particular preferences. But she knew that refusing to do so was precisely what had enabled her to survive.

Merkel's preference for muddling through has been apparent in her approach to eurozone reform. She has long known that fixing the monetary union would require her to issue a politically risky call for financial sacrifice by Germans. The call was risky, because the former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the man who single-handedly carried the euro across the finish line, had promised that no sacrifice would be required.

Hence, for fear of alienating Germans, Merkel has consistently done the minimum to hold the eurozone together. She agreed - after an agonizing delay - to a joint European Union-International Monetary Fund lending package to Greece in May 2010. That led to the creation of a more permanent bailout facility, the European Stability Mechanism.

Moreover, during the euro's existential crisis in July 2012, Merkel supported European Central Bank President Mario Draghi's initiative to create an "outright monetary transactions" mechanism, whereby the ECB could purchase the bonds of struggling eurozone countries. Although these fixes helped to prevent the eurozone from collapsing, they were not enough to ensure the monetary union's long-term resilience - a failing that has left the eurozone vulnerable to Italy's brewing crisis.

Merkel was felled by the one principled stand she took. In 2015, with Europe being inundated by asylum seekers and economic migrants, Merkel

announced an open-door policy for Syrian refugees. When Hungary's nationalist prime minister, Viktor Orbán, suggested that Germany should build a fence to keep migrants out, she flashed rare (and raw) emotion. Recalling her East German upbringing, she said, "I lived a long time behind a fence. It is not something I wish to do again."

Merkel's humanity won her praise from the international community. But, at home, opposition to her refugee policy gathered momentum. The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), created in February 2013 to oppose the euro, gained a new lease on life as a strident nationalist anti-migration party, siphoning supporters from Merkel's CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

In 2016, Merkel successfully eased migration pressure on Europe by securing a deal to keep migrants in Turkey. But the deal remains highly controversial, not least because of humanitarian concerns. With the same model being applied elsewhere, migrants are at increasing risk.

Although Merkel's characteristically dull campaign approach won her a fourth term as chancellor last year, her electoral base has weakened considerably - a trend that has been reinforced by domestic economic failures. Merkel has to cope with the legacy of Schröder's controversial labor-market and welfare reforms, which, among other things, made it easier to fire workers and, by reducing unemployment benefits, forced many unemployed people to take insecure jobs with few benefits. The reforms helped to reduce the jobless rate, but at the cost of stagnant inflation-adjusted wages and widespread personal financial stress.

To be sure, rising inequality, wage stagnation, and working-class frustration are evident across the developed world. Merkel, like her counterparts elsewhere, did little to address the problems. This is not because Merkel lacked vision: in April 2010, she described a Germany powered by improved education and innovation. Only a society that advanced technologically, she concluded, could provide decent opportunities for all.

But, unwilling to challenge the domestic political consensus on fiscal austerity, Merkel refused to invest in Germany's future, say, by repairing decaying infrastructure and upgrading educational opportunities. Instead, she made flailing efforts to protect the increasingly obsolete diesel technology base of Germany's car producers. Such delays in reinvigorating the country's auto industry could drag down the entire economy.

Merkel's failure to reverse social fragmentation led to rising support for the AfD. In the 2017 election, AfD voters tended to be men between the ages of 30 and 59 with only secondary education or vocational training, working blue-collar jobs - often with little job security - in small cities and rural areas. Many such voters once supported the CDU and CSU, but were attracted by the AfD's nationalist, xenophobic platform. The CDU has been weakened, and Merkel's hold over her own party has eroded. It is time for her to step down.

Merkel held the ship steady, but the storms continued to rage. Amid continuing widespread popular frustration and political turmoil, future chancellors could easily be swept away.

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O-PED

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

Can American Democracy Come Back?

NEW YORK - The United States has long held itself up as a bastion of democracy. It has promoted democracy around the world. It fought, at great cost, for democracy against fascism in Europe during World War II. Now the fight has come home.

America's credentials as a democracy were always slightly blemished. The US was founded as a representative democracy, but only a small fraction of its citizens - mostly white male property owners - were eligible to vote. After the abolition of slavery, the white people of America's South struggled for nearly a century to keep African-Americans from voting, using poll taxes and literacy tests, for example, to make casting a ballot inaccessible to the poor. Their voting rights were guaranteed nearly a half-century after the enfranchisement of women in 1920.

Democracies rightly constrain majority domination, which is why they enshrine certain basic rights that cannot be denied. But in the US, this has been turned on its head. The minority is dominating the majority, with little regard for their political and economic rights. A majority of Americans want gun control, an increase in the minimum wage, guaranteed access to health insurance, and better regulation of the banks that brought on the 2008 crisis. Yet all of these goals seem unattainable.

Part of the reason for that is rooted in the US Constitution. Two of the three presidents elected in this century assumed office despite having lost the popular vote. Were it not for the Electoral College, included in the Constitution at the insistence of the less populous slave states, Al Gore would have become president in 2000, and Hillary Clinton in 2016.

But the Republican Party's reliance on voter suppression, gerrymandering, and similar efforts at electoral manipulation have also contributed to ensuring that the will of the majority is thwarted. The party's approach is perhaps understandable: after all, shifting demographics have put the Republicans at an electoral disadvantage. A majority of Americans will soon be nonwhite, and a twenty-first-century world and economy cannot be reconciled with a male-dominated society. And the urban areas where the majority of Americans live, whether in the North or the South, have learned the value of diversity.

Voters in these areas of growth and dynamism have also seen the role that government can and must play to bring about shared prosperity. They have abandoned the shibboleths of the past, sometimes almost overnight. In a democratic society, therefore, the only way a minority - whether it's large corporations trying to exploit workers and consumers, banks trying to exploit borrowers, or those mired in the past trying to recreate a bygone world - can retain their economic and political dominance is by undermining democracy itself.

That strategy includes many tactics. Aside from supporting selective immigration, Republican officials have sought to prevent likely Democratic voters from registering. Many Republican-controlled states have instituted burdensome identification requirements at polling stations. And some local governments have purged such voters from electoral rolls, reduced the number of polling stations, or shortened their hours of operation.

It's striking how difficult America makes it to vote, to exercise the basic right of citizenship. The US is one of the few democracies to hold elections on a workday, rather than a Sunday, obviously making it more difficult for working people to vote. This contrasts with other democracies, like Australia, where citizens are required to vote, or with some states, like Oregon, which have made it easier to vote through mail-in ballots.

Moreover, a system of mass incarceration that continues to target African-Americans has historically served a triple function. Aside from providing cheap labor and driving down wages (even today, as Columbia University's Michael Poyker points out, some 5% of America's industrial output is produced by inmates), this system was designed to deny those convicted of a crime the right to vote.

When all else fails, Republicans seek to tie elected governments' hands, in part by packing the federal courts with judges who can be counted on to strike down policies that their donors and supporters oppose. Important recent books, such as Duke University historian Nancy MacLean's *Democracy in Chains* and University of Oregon political scientist Gordon Lafer's *The One Percent Solution*, trace the intellectual origins and organizational mechanisms of the Republicans' assault on democracy.

America's ideals of freedom, democracy, and justice for all may never have been fully realized, but now they are under open attack. Democracy has become rule of, by, and for the few; and justice for all is available to all who are white and can afford it.

Of course, this is not just an American problem. All over the world, strongmen with little commitment to democracy have taken power: Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey, Viktor Orbán in Hungary, Jaroslaw Kaczynski in Poland, and now Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil. Some, looking at the past, say that this, too, will pass. Think of all the nasty dictators in the 1930s. Think of those, like Salazar in Portugal and Franco in Spain, who survived into the post-World War II era. They are all gone now.

A moment's reflection, though, should remind us of those dictatorships' human toll. And Americans must confront the fact that their president, Donald Trump, has been aiding and abetting today's crop of budding despots.

That is only one of the many reasons why it is so important this year to have a Democratic Congress that can provide a check against Trump's authoritarian tendencies, and to elect state and local officials who will restore the vote to all those entitled to it. Democracy is under attack, and we all have an obligation to do what we can - wherever we are - to save it.

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OPINION

By Akinwumi A. Adesina

Investors' Bright Future in Africa

ABIDJAN - For any investor interested in Africa, there is only one place to be this week: Johannesburg. When the three-day Africa Investment Forum opens on November 7, a total of 61 deals with an estimated value of more than \$40 billion will be featured in "Boardroom Sessions," while another \$28 billion will be showcased to investors at the "Gallery Walk" marketplace.

The deals are curated from a total of 230 projects worth over \$208 billion, spanning sectors such as energy, infrastructure, transport and utilities, industry, agriculture, information and communications technology, telecoms, water and sanitation, financial services, health, education, hospitality and tourism, housing, and aviation.

Risk, or at least the perception of it, has long been a major impediment to attracting foreign direct investment in Africa. But the African Development Bank (AfDB) is tackling this problem head-on by removing barriers that have stemmed the flow of investment finance into the continent. The transaction-based Africa Investment Forum is the most important step in this process.

By bringing together multilateral financial institutions, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and private investors, the AfDB aims to create a mechanism to reduce market, political, and financial risks, and in the process improve the ease of doing business. As part of this effort, the investment forum will prioritize public-private partnerships and private-sector deals. The message we aim to deliver is simple: Africa is open for business.

African economies offer tremendous opportunities, especially in energy; infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports; and agriculture, minerals, oil, and gas. But Africa must turn this potential into streams of wealth for greater prosperity on the continent.

Achieving that requires supportive government policies. In every country, the AfDB is engaging with policymakers to improve the legal and regulatory environment and create a more predictable business climate.

These efforts are already paying off. For example, interest in \$50 billion worth of investment-ready projects that we made available for pre-Forum screening has been higher than anticipated.

We are delighted that several multilateral financial institutions - including the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank - are cooperating with the AfDB on this effort. Many major financial institutions within Africa - including the Afrexim Bank, the Africa Finance Corporation, the Trade and Development Bank, Africa50, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa - are also involved. For the first time, these major global and regional financial institutions are cooperating to help de-risk investment projects at scale.

Of course, pledges of partnership are not the only reason for optimism; economic trends are also strong. For starters, real GDP growth is forecast to be 3.5% this year and 4% in 2019. Today, Africa includes five of the world's ten fastest-growing economies.

Africa has also become the world's second-most attractive investment destination. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, inward foreign direct investment (FDI) is expected to increase by about 20% this year, to \$50 billion, from \$42 billion in 2017.

Finally, Africa's pension funds, insurance funds, and sovereign wealth funds are collectively valued at more than \$1 trillion dollars. If Africa could leverage this wealth to attract just 1% of all global assets under management, estimated to total more than \$131 trillion, the continent's need for \$130-170 billion in annual infrastructure investment could be met. As matters currently stand, Africa faces an annual financing gap of \$68-108 billion.

Africa has a huge population to drive consumer demand, a rising middle class, a dynamic youth population, and rapidly reforming governments that are keen to attract these investments. The Africa Investment Forum will provide what has been missing so far: a safe, stable marketplace to accelerate deals.

As anyone traveling to Johannesburg this week will see, Africa is doing its part to transform the investment landscape. The Africa Investment Forum's goal is simple: provide a smooth runway for investments in Africa. What we need now are investors who are ready to seize the tremendous opportunities in Africa - and at the continent's premier investment marketplace.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah orders rebid

-In Harper basin oil and gas exploration

President George Manneh Weah has mandated relevant institutions to work out necessary modalities for a successful reopening of the Harper Basin for oil & gas exploration.

According to an Executive Mansion release issued

sector. Also, President Weah has directed and advised the relevant institutions to develop appropriate frameworks to enhance and facilitate the successful hosting of the 2019 Bid Rounds, the release says.

The Executive Mansion



President George Manneh Weah

Tuesday, 6 November, the government announces that it will be hosting a Bid Round in 2019 for the Harper Basin exploration, and wishes to encourage interested companies to take advantage of the groundbreaking opportunities to invest in the

recalls that in his inaugural address in January, President Weah declared that Liberia was open for business, appealing to international partners to come and invest in Liberia.

The President once again reiterates that Liberia is open

and prepared for business, the Mansion adds in the release.

It says the declaration was informed, as it is today, by the poor state of the economy that President Weah's government inherited.

"It was also intended to reawaken the confidence of the international community and the larger business world, to have faith in the government's ability to confront the problems in order to put the economy back on the trajectory of growth," the release indicates.

Consequently, it says the president has been working tirelessly with partners to identify and develop frameworks to revive the economy and eventually bring relief to the Liberian people.

In the view of the President, one area of significant interest and relevance in reviving the economy is Liberia's oil and gas sector, which remains largely untapped and has the potential to rekindle and brighten the path to prosperity.

The Executive Mansion indicates that it is in keeping with this conviction that the government resuscitated, through a thorough review process, the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL), by appointing a new management team, and restructuring the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA). --Press release

Amb. Nyenabo supports cancellation of tenure posts

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia's Ambassador to Belgium Isaac Nyenabo says the situation that necessitated the establishment of tenure positions in Liberia no longer exists, so President George Manneh Weah is right in canceling tenure posts.

Speaking on Monday, 05 November via mobile phone from Belgium on Truth FM 96.1,

Commission (NEC), and Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), among others were created with tenure positions.

According to Ambassador Nyenabo, tenure positions violate Article 56 of the Constitution of Liberia, noting that tenure positions at the established agencies of government were as a result of



Ambassador Isaac Nyenabo

he says during the transitional period, about 18 different autonomous agencies, including the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC), Liberia Revenue Authority ((LRA), Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA), National Fisheries, General Auditing Commission (GAC), National Elections

breakdown of law and order, and the economy of the country.

He says the international community decided to work with the government in creating tenure positions to conform to present day's reality, but since the situation that had necessitated it does not exist, there was no need to keep



Scare tactics

-Pro- impeachment lawmaker reacts to Sen. Wesseh

By Winston W. Parley

River Cess County Senator Dallas Gweh says it's "scare tactics," suggestion by River Gee County Senator Comany Wesseh that to impeach Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh illegally has a danger of throwing Liberia into chaos.

"...So we are not here to bow down to scare tactics," Sen. Gweh said Tuesday, 6 November on OK FM in response to Senator Wesseh's argument that was aired earlier on Monday on the same platform that the illegal legislative process has potential to cause chaos here.

The Senate has amended Rule 63 of its standing rules that addresses impeachment in the face of bitter division among members of the Liberian Senate on the subject of impeaching Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh over allegations of corruption, proved misconduct and other

charges.

Sen. Gweh argues that to equate the issue of amending the Senate's rule to a danger of the country is "a scare tactics."

"So I think we cannot dignify that ..., that got nothing to do

with national issue. That's our internal Senate standing rule," Sen. Gweh emphasizes.

He says Rule 63 is what guides the Senate and it is the procedure they follow when they are practicing their legislative activities.

He also argues that Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution



Senator Comany Wesseh

gives power to the House of Representatives to prepare the bill of impeachment, saying how they do it can never be questioned by the Senate.

Sen. Gweh's comment comes in the wake of River Gee County Sen. Comany Wesseh's warning aired on Monday, 5 November the danger of illegally impeaching Associate Justice Ja'neh.

Sen. Wesseh warned that it has the propensity to throw Liberia into chaos when those expressing disagreement react with "unconstitutional" actions.

"This war in Liberia, if you listened to all the different factions, they said that something was done unconstitutionally. When Mr. Doe made his coup de state, he said, they said misuse of power, this that, corruption, and all of that and people were killed," Sen. Wesseh recalled during a live talk show at OK FM in Monrovia Monday, 5 November.

According to him, when you

do things that are wrong, there are other people who express their disagreement by fighting back on it "unconstitutionally."

He says the action of his colleagues on Capitol Hill is not just wrong, but it also has the potential to throw Liberia into chaos and more confusion.

Sen. Wesseh says "as we speak," there is no impeachment procedure set by the Legislature (House of Representatives and Senate combined); and everything that was done in the House of Representatives was not in conformity with the law.

Ruling party CDC lawmakers Rep. Moses Acarus Gray and Rep. Thomas Fallah have been leading the campaign to impeach Ja'neh over claims of corruption, proved misconduct and other charges.

The House has drafted, passed and forwarded to the Senate, an impeachment bill against Justice Ja'neh, in defiance to a Supreme Court stay order that followed Ja'neh's petition for a writ of prohibition.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

KORLUBU Surgeons Association to conduct Neurosurgery in Liberia

By Ethel A. Tweh

The president of the KORLUBU Surgeons Association Marj Ratel, has disclosed plans by the association to partner with the Ministry of Health to provide neurosurgical services to needed Liberians.

Speaking recently at an acquaintance visit with Information Minister Eugene Nagbe in Monrovia, Ratel stated that she and her colleagues are happy to know that they can contribute to the lives of people in Liberia.

The association consists of neurosurgeons, nurses, biomedical engineers, among other professionals in the sector.

Members of the KORLUBU team to Liberia are from Canada, the United States of America, Nigeria and Sweden, and the team is expected to conduct brain and spine surgeries, and other operations.

Ratel says the team also consists of the Criminal Science Foundation Project Management Team (CSFPMT), which is involved with exploration of the



County.

Ratel emphasizes the need for more Liberians to be trained as neurosurgeons so as to inspire more people to come and help the country.

She urges Liberians to get involved in nation-building by supporting the development agenda of the country, adding, "I can't do everything but I can do something to support my country."

Ratel further discloses that the CSFPMT is proactively involved with the establishment of a Paretic

return in January next year to begin discussions with the Ministry of Health for the construction of the Paretic Clinic in the country.

Also speaking during the visit, Dan Miulli, a neurosurgeon, notes that Liberia needs about 16 neurosurgeons to cater to neurosurgical operations in the country.

"We need more neuroscientists, more health providers in order to build the health system of Liberia," he notes.

will also provide training that will sustain the program in Liberia, adding, "We will continue to come back, we will continue to help."

For his part, Information Minister Eugene Nagbe commends the effort of Dr. Alvin Nah Doe, who is the only neurosurgeon in Liberia, in ensuring the visitation of the KORLUBU Surgeons Association

to Liberia.

Nagbe thanks the association for the intervention in the health sector of Liberia, adding that the Government of Liberia is more focused on building the capacity of health practitioners in the country.

"If you don't have professionals in the health sector, it is very difficult for you to have a good health system," Nagbe emphasizes.

He notes that Liberia lacks specialized professionals in the health sector, expressing optimism that the intervention of the association will provide great benefits to the nation's health sector.

Nagbe indicates that the Government of Liberia is interested in exploring avenues that will enable Liberians to obtain the requisite training in various areas so that they can specialize in the health profession.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

#To empower Liberians, enforce the exclusive Liberians business act.#

EMT kicked

Starts from back page

export of local commodities and improvement of the business climate.

According to Minister Tweah, the business climate of the country has declined greatly and it is binding on President George Manneh Weah's administration to improve it for a better economy.

But Nimba County Senator Thomas Grupee alarmed that the presentation should be documented, saying Minister Tweah should speak from a prepared report so that Senators can read it later after the session.

In addition, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kanga Lawrence described the report as substandard and below best international practice.

Senator Lawrence says the Senate should not allow Minister Tweah to continue with presentation on grounds that the report is a clear signal of disrespect to that august body.

According to her, the communication that summoned the EMT states that the presidential economic team should submit its report days ahead before the team's appearance in chambers.

To the contrary, she says the EMT appeared and later distributed the three - page report among Senators while session was in full swing.

Minister Tweah, without delay, apologized to the Senators for the misstep on the part of the EMT and prayed that the EMT is pardoned.

He says the EMT will remain respectful to the Senators.

Despite his apology, the Plenary of the Senate insisted that the EMT be sent back for proper preparation.

Meanwhile, River Cess County Senator Dallas Gueh proffered a motion requesting that the EMT provide richer and detailed presentation on the economy on Tuesday, 13 November.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Amb. Nyenabo supports

Starts from page 5

these tenure positions in government.

He argues that President George Weah's petition to the 54th Legislature, calling for repeal of tenure positions in the government is in the right direction, because it sets the stage for the government to further enhance his development agenda.

Ambassador Nyenabo, a former senator of Grand Gedeh County, says the presence of tenure positions under the Weah-led government would create serious bottlenecks for the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity, if individuals appointed to those positions did not perform well.

He urges the National

Legislature to revisit the existing tenure positions to enhance the nation's development agenda, which is to provide better social, economic and culture benefits for the citizenry.

Meanwhile, several callers on the talk show agreed with the Ambassador, but they stressed that the legislature under former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf erred by not placing timelines to all tenure positions created by her.

They argue that since former President Sirleaf allegedly failed to attach timelines to tenure positions, they cannot fit into today's government because they lack the basis for which they were created.--Editing by Jonathan Browne

Sen. Tokpa clarifies health speculations

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

County Senator Dr. Henrique Flomo Tokpa has described as untrue, speculations that he traveled to the United States of America for medical treatment.

Dr. Tokpa left for the US following his election as Bong County Senatorial in a by - election, sparking controversy in the County as others thought that he had traveled to attend to health issues.

But contrary to the speculation, the former Cuttington University president recently told reporters in the county that he did not go to the US for treatment as been perceived by others.

Instead, he says he traveled to the US to lobby on behalf of the people of Bong County.

He says it is important that he fulfills promises he made to the electorate during the

campaign period, stressing that such promises will quickly be fulfilled based on the support of international partners.

According to him, Bong County stands to benefit a lot from his recent trip, naming the strengthening of the Maryland Sister City relations and medical materials as some of those things that Bong County will benefit in the soonest possible time.

When quizzed about how he

is going to reconcile the County leadership as promised during the campaign, Dr Tokpa says reconciliation is a process and not an event.

He told reporters that with the level of experience he has

in leadership, he will gradually reconcile the caucus. He maintains that when it is done, Bong County will move forward in development.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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LRA extends tax education to Firestone High School

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) takes its tax awareness campaign to students of the Firestone Senior High School in Harbel, Margibi County.

According to the LRA, the initiative held in collaboration with the Firestone School System, is intended to educate students about the importance of tax payment and its benefits. About 2,000 students participated in the engagement.

Speaking during the tax awareness, LRA Senior Officer for Information, Education & Inquiry Gabi Azzam encouraged the students to take keen interest in learning about the procedures and processes of tax payment as they grow up to become future taxpayers.

He informed them that tax payment is a civic obligation of all citizens including residents who are income earners, property or business owners.

"Once you have properties like land, house or farm, own a business or you are working and earning an income more than 70-thousand Liberian Dollars yearly, you must pay your taxes to government," Mr. Azzam asserts.



A student of the Firestone Senior High School asking a question during the tax awareness event

He explains that taxes collected by government are used to build new roads, enhance service delivery, support the health and educational sectors, provide national security and pay government workers, among other services. He lectured the students on the steps involved in obtaining a tax identification number (a unique taxpayer's ID) as well as tax kinds and their payment dates.

Mr. Azzam thanks the Firestone School System for

inviting the LRA to educate its students about tax payment and assures commitment of the Authority to continuing similar engagement with the students, once called.

In remarks, the principal of the Firestone Senior High School D. Mulbah Gayflor, thanks the LRA for the tax awareness event and praises the Authority for extending its activities to the school. He indicates that tax education for students helps to increase their understanding about taxation and its related

benefits.

"Tax education is very important especially for the young people, because if we have a taxpaying citizenry, we have the potential of becoming a develop country. If our students here will all grow up to become taxpayers, I think we have the potential of becoming a better nation," Principal Mulbah underscores.

The President of the Firestone Senior High School Student Council Government, Student Kollie Flomo, lauds the LRA for extending tax education to the school.

"We are grateful for this opportunity provided us by the LRA, and we can assure you that we will pay our taxes when we become independent in the future," he notes. Student Flomo stresses the involvement of everyone in tax payment as seen to Liberia's development.

"Tax payment is important because when we all pay our taxes, the government will use it to development our country."

At the same time, the Liberia Revenue Authority has presented assorted tax educational brochures containing information about tax categories and payment processes to the Firestone Senior High School.

Receiving the materials, the Coordinator of Extra Curriculum of the Firestone School System Marbue

Call for reintroduction of Revolving Drugs Fund

Stakeholders from a just-ended National Dialogue on Health Financing Reform in Liberia are calling for the reintroduction of the Revolving Drugs Fund

superintendents, legislators, civil society organizations and faith-based institutions, say when reintroduced, the RDF will ease problems of drug

The RDF was one of the mechanisms introduced in 1985 by the Government of Liberia to ensure availability of essential medicines and enhance health quality at all public facilities.

It was built on community ownership, stewardship and mutual accountability and used to greatly address issues of drugs and medical supply.

In a 14-count resolution at the end of a three-day dialogue recently, participants note that the current free healthcare policy introduced by the previous administration is not effective, and as such, a minimum cost recovery fee should be instituted.

"That the current free health care policy poses challenges to the achievement of universal healthcare, as such cost recovery fees at minimum cost be instituted at all public facilities where feasible and effective; there will be human rights-based exemption for key population and the criteria for exemption from cost recovery fees be reviewed periodically to ensure that poor and vulnerable populations maintain equitable access to

services as a human right following the introduction of compulsory national social health insurance scheme", the resolution reads.

Among other things, it also calls on government to establish a separate institution by law to manage the Liberia Health Equity Fund and allocates percentage of domestic tax revenues as well as initiates other innovative financing mechanisms, to support the health sector financial reform.

The three-day health financing discussants also plead that government allocates a seed fund for the initiation of the RDF mechanism.

The resolution was presented to the government through the Ministry of Health at the climax of the national dialogue on health financing reform held recently in Ganta, Nimba County.

Receiving the document, Deputy Health Minister for Planning, Vaifee Tulay, described it as a significant step towards reforming the nation's health sector.

Mr. Tulay assured the

participants that the Ministry will seek full endorsement of the Executive for implementation.

He dismissed views that the document for health sector reform may not be endorsed; adding, "Let us not be skeptical."

The dialogue highlighted current challenges in the health system, including limited financial resources, drugs and medical supplies at public health facilities.

Presentations were made on three major functions of health financing, including resource mobilization, risk pooling and strategic purchasing.

The dialogue also featured series of panel discussions led by an array of experts in the health sector, focusing on the RDF and user fees for service with focus on lessons learned from pre-war Liberia, building consensus and lessons learned from the West African Region and the Joint Learning Network for Universal Coverage (JIN) and faith-based organizations. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



(RDF) in all public health facilities.

A press release from the Ministry of Health says stakeholders, including county health officers,

shortage and increase threat of drug resistance as the Fund ensures availability of quality medicines and medical supplies in public health institutions.

Français

Ouverture à Abidjan du Forum annuel des organismes africains de financement de la recherche

Le Forum annuel des organismes africains de financement de la recherche, s'est ouvert lundi soir à Abidjan, autour du thème : « Nouvelles approches pour le financement de la recherche en Afrique », a constaté APA sur place dans la capitale économique ivoirienne. La rencontre d'Abidjan est la première en Afrique de l'Ouest. Elle réunit, du 5 au 9 novembre 2018, les organismes de financement de la recherche, les représentants des institutions internationales et du secteur privé, ainsi que les partenaires au développement.

Le ministre ivoirien de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la recherche scientifique, Albert Toikeusse Mabri, qui a procédé à l'ouverture des assises, a fait observer que « le financement régulier et pérenne de la recherche demeure une priorité et un défi à relever pour les pays africains en général ».

Il a invité les participants, à travers le thème qui selon lui est d'actualité, à « identifier de nouvelles approches pour le financement de la recherche et de l'innovation technique en Afrique ». Et ce, en vue de

la promotion de la recherche sur le continent.

Ce forum se tient avec l'appui de l'Initiative des Conseils subventionnaires de la recherche en Afrique subsaharienne qui regroupe 16 pays dont l'Afrique du Sud.

Il vise à renforcer les capacités des organismes de financement de la recherche en Afrique subsaharienne pour mieux gérer la recherche.

Ce forum a en outre pour but d'aider les administrateurs de recherche à concevoir des programmes de recherche fondés sur des indicateurs solides et fiables, de promouvoir l'échange d'expériences entre le secteur privé africain et la recherche, puis de renforcer le partenariat entre les organismes de financement de la recherche en Afrique.

La rencontre se tient également en partenariat avec le Fonds national pour la recherche de l'Afrique du Sud. Une série d'événements majeurs est d'ailleurs prévue durant ces cinq jours, entre autres le Meeting de l'alliance des universités et des centres de recherche d'Afrique.

Il est aussi prévu au menu, des exposés du Conseil mondial de la recherche sur des approches de financement de la recherche, ainsi qu'un symposium sur l'énergie solaire et une cérémonie de célébration des meilleures jeunes filles scientifiques de Côte d'Ivoire. Le financement de la recherche est assuré en Côte d'Ivoire par le Programme national d'appui stratégique à la

recherche scientifique (Pasres), fruit de la coopération avec la Suisse, ainsi que le Fonds interprofessionnel pour la recherche et le Conseil agricole (Firca) qui vise les questions agronomiques.

L'Etat ivoirien a en outre mis en place, avec l'appui du Pasres, un Fonds national pour la science, la technologie et l'innovation, permettant de doter la Côte d'Ivoire d'un nouvel organisme de financement de la recherche scientifique et de l'innovation technologique.

M. Mabri a remercié le Conseil mondial de la recherche, qui prend une part active à ce forum, de même que les représentants des organismes de financement de l'Allemagne, du Brésil et de l'Argentine qui sont venus à la rencontre d'Abidjan.

Son ministère, dira-t-il, a signé il y a quelques jours, un partenariat avec une université aux États-Unis en vue d'engager le Programme des médicaments pour tous, un projet qui vise à travers la recherche à réduire les coûts des médicaments en Côte d'Ivoire.

La Côte d'Ivoire est à travers le Programme d'appui stratégique à la recherche scientifique (Pasres), membre du Conseil mondial de la recherche depuis mai 2018.



Weah encourage les jeunes entrepreneurs Libériens

Le président George Manneh Weah s'est dit fier de voir des jeunes ingénieurs libériens prendre le relais. C'était lors d'une visite d'un certain nombre chantiers ici à Monrovia et dans ces environs, le lundi 5 novembre.

Lors d'un entretien avec un jeune ingénieur libérien travaillant avec le PNUD sur le projet de défense côtière à New Kru Town, le président Weah a exhorté les entrepreneurs à continuer de faire leur travail, soulignant que c'est une bonne chose de

voir des jeunes prendre la relève et travailler comme des ingénieurs.

« Nous sommes fiers et j'espère que vous continuerez à donner de la force et à donner de l'espoir à notre peuple », a-t-il déclaré.

Le président Weah a fait savoir que son travail consiste à inspecter les sites et à encourager les entrepreneurs à continuer ce qu'ils font. Il a réitéré son engagement à transformer la localité en une zone économique et y installer des restaurants.

Le président Weah a inspecté les chantiers de Clara Town, de Doe Community, de Logan Town Road, de la défense côtière à New Kru Town, de Vokar Mission Road à Paynesville et de Chuckie Taylor Road à Congo Town.

Comme d'habitude, le président Weah a bénéficié d'un accueil chaleureux de la part des habitants des différentes communautés où il s'est rendu lundi. Il s'agit



Articles traduits

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principalement des jeunes qui lui disaient merci pour les projets en cours.

M. John Nyemah Natt, un jeune ingénieur libérien, a déclaré au président Weah, lors de leur conversation sur le site du projet de défense du littoral de New Kru Town

que : « nous faisons de notre mieux pour que le rêve du président Weah devienne une réalité. Nous veillons à ce que le président ait de bonnes nouvelles de notre part concernant le projet à la fin du mois de novembre ».

Français

Décès de Sangaré : Le message poignant de Gbagbo depuis La Haye

C'est dans les geôles de La Haye que Laurent Gbagbo a appris la mort d'Aboudramane Sangaré, son compagnon de lutte. Dans une lettre, l'ancien président a rendu hommage à ce cadre discret du Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI). Privé de sa liberté mais pas de sa plume, Laurent Gbagbo a rédigé une lettre pour honorer la mémoire d'Aboudramane Sangaré, son ami et compagnon de lutte mort il y a quelques jours. « Que de combats n'avons-nous pas menés ensemble, que de misère n'avons-nous pas partagée ensemble ; que de souffrances n'avons-nous pas connues ensemble, mais aussi que de rêves n'avons-nous pas caressés et de joies ne sommes-nous pas communiquées mutuellement.



Inséparables, nous sommes unis par un destin commun que notre foi en la démocratie, comme meilleur mode de gestion des contradictions inhérentes à toutes les communautés humaines, nous a imposé » a-t-il écrit. Pour cet objectif poursuit-il, « nous avons fait esprit ensemble dans une sorte d'osmose qui nous permet de nous transférer nos idées de façon commutative, même quand nous sommes séparés physiquement. Cette fusion d'esprit, dans deux corps différents, nous a permis, grâce à l'alternance dans l'action, de déjouer les différents et nombreux pièges de l'adversaire. Ainsi quand ne suis ici et que tu n'es pas ici, tu y es aussi » affirme M Gbagbo. L'ancien président ivoirien a par ailleurs loué la

loyauté du disparu et à sa fidélité aux idéaux du parti. Depuis 1971 Aboudramane Sangaré a été de tous les combats. De la palmeraie de Dabou en 1988 au congrès de Moossou en 2018, il est resté le gardien fidèle du FPI, témoigne l'ancien président ivoirien. Je tiendrai jusqu'au bout. Je te le dois. Laurent Gbagbo n'a pas occulté la discrétion et l'humilité de son camarade de lutte. A l'en croire, tout autorisait Sangaré à réclamer la primauté mais il a toujours refusé de solliciter une quelconque prime particulière. Il était pour les militants du FPI, le gardien du temple. Un rôle qu'il a su bien jouer selon Laurent Gbagbo, malgré les torrents et les tempêtes qui ont secoué ce temple. «

Quand tout semblait compromis ton calme et ta sérénité ont toujours donné espoir » indique l'ancien président ivoirien qui souligne la réputation d'honnêteté et d'incorruptibilité d'Aboudramane Sangaré. Une réputation qui ne s'éteindra jamais et qui constituent le plus grand témoignage de la vie du disparu. Laurent Gbagbo a enfin promis à son ami de garder le cap et de poursuivre le combat. « Je t'entends me dire, Laurent n'abandonne pas. Sang, je te promets, au nom de notre engagement commun, jamais je n'abandonnerai. Je reste à la tâche, même privé de liberté. Je tiendrai jusqu'au bout. Je te le dois » a-t-il conclu.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ashoka Mody

La tragédie d'Angela Merkel

BERLIN - Ce sont souvent les choses auxquelles nous tenons le plus qui finissent par causer notre perte. C'est le cas pour Angela Merkel, qui a récemment annoncé son intention de quitter en décembre ses fonctions de leader de l'Union chrétienne-démocrate (CDU), et en 2021 le poste de chancelière allemande.

L'histoire a placé bien des tempêtes sur la route de Merkel : une série de crises de la zone euro qui ont semé la discorde parmi les Européens, des tensions économiques intérieures créatrices de fragmentation sociale, sans oublier la plus grande vague migratoire observée depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, qui a intensifié les inquiétudes européennes et nationales. Mais plutôt que d'agiter le navire et de prendre des risques pour sa survie, la chancelière a privilégié des correctifs temporaires, qui ont conduit les vulnérabilités à supprimer.

Peut-être Merkel a-t-elle été conditionnée par son accession de justesse au poste de chancelière. Lors de l'élection de septembre 2005, elle bénéficie rapidement d'une avance importante dans les sondages d'opinion. À l'époque, le chancelier Gerhard Schröder n'est pas parvenu à réduire le taux de chômage, qui s'élève alors à 12 %, et son Parti social-démocrate vient de perdre une série d'élections fédérales. La mauvaise communication de Merkel quant à ses priorités politiques, ainsi que ses tièdes performances dans les débats, coûteront pourtant presque la victoire à la candidate.

Lors des élections suivantes, Merkel refusera de faire campagne sur des thèmes politiques majeurs. En 2009, sa campagne sera volontairement banale et insipide, donnant raison malgré la chancelière aux opposants qui la surnomment alors « Mutti », stéréotype peu flatteur faisant référence à la mère au foyer. En 2013, elle renforcera encore davantage son image de Mutti à travers sa formule « Vous me connaissez ».

N'ayant jamais fixé de programme politique clair, Merkel a pour l'essentiel gouverné sans mandat. Après chaque élection, les différents groupes d'intérêts ont espéré qu'elle adopte une position favorablement alignée avec leurs volontés particulières. Mais la chancelière a toujours su que c'est en refusant de le faire qu'elle assurerait précisément sa survie.

La préférence de Merkel pour la navigation à vue s'est observée dans l'approche de la chancelière sur la réforme de la zone euro. Elle savait depuis longtemps que l'union monétaire exigerait qu'elle lance un appel politiquement risqué à certains sacrifices financiers de la part des Allemands. Cet appel était périlleux dans la mesure où l'ancien chancelier Helmut Kohl, qui avait porté à lui seul l'euro jusqu'à la ligne d'arrivée, avait promis qu'aucun sacrifice ne serait nécessaire.

Ainsi, craignant de se mettre les Allemands à dos, Merkel a toujours fait le minimum pour maintenir l'intégrité de la zone euro. En mai 2010, après une attente insoutenable, elle consent enfin à l'enveloppe de prêts conjointe de la part de l'Union européenne et du Fonds monétaire international pour la Grèce, ce qui conduira à la création d'une facilité de sauvetage plus permanente, le Mécanisme européen de stabilité.

Par ailleurs, en période de crise existentielle de l'euro en juillet 2012, Merkel soutient l'initiative du président de la Banque centrale européenne Mario Draghi pour la création d'un mécanisme d'« opérations monétaire sur titres », permettant à la BCE de procéder à l'achat d'actions de pays de la zone euro en difficulté. Même si ces correctifs contribueront à empêcher l'effondrement de la zone euro, ils ne suffiront pas à garantir la résilience de l'union monétaire à long terme - échec qui rend la zone euro vulnérable à cette crise qui couve aujourd'hui en Italie.

La chute de Merkel a été précipitée par l'unique position de principe que la chancelière ait jamais prise. En 2015, dans une Europe submergée par les demandeurs d'asile et migrants économiques, Merkel

annonce une politique de porte ouverte aux réfugiés syriens. Lorsque le Premier ministre nationaliste hongrois Viktor Orbán suggérera à l'Allemagne de dresser une barrière à l'entrée des migrants, elle laissera entrevoir une émotion rare (et profonde). Rappelant avoir grandi en Allemagne de l'Est, elle déclarera ainsi : « J'ai longtemps vécu derrière une barrière. Ce n'est pas quelque chose que j'entends reproduire. »

Les qualités d'humanité d'Angela Merkel lui vaudront les louanges de la communauté internationale. En Allemagne, en revanche, l'opposition à sa politique d'accueil des réfugiés gagnera en puissance. L'Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), créé en février 2013 en hostilité à l'euro, prendra un nouveau souffle en tant qu'influent parti nationaliste anti-immigration, siphonnant les électeurs de la CDU de Merkel et de son parti-sœur bavarois, l'Union chrétienne-sociale.

En 2016, Merkel est parvenue à alléger la pression migratoire exercée sur l'Europe, en obtenant un accord pour le maintien des migrants en Turquie. Cet accord demeure cependant très controversé, notamment pour des raisons humanitaires. Ce même modèle étant aujourd'hui appliqué ailleurs, les migrants sont exposés à un risque croissant.

Bien que l'approche de campagne insipide et caractéristique de Merkel lui ait permis de remporter un quatrième mandat de chancelière l'an dernier, sa base électorale s'est considérablement réduite - tendance renforcée par des échecs économiques intérieurs. Merkel doit faire face à l'héritage des réformes controversées de Schröder autour du marché du travail et des prestations sociales, qui ont notamment facilité le licenciement des travailleurs, et qui, en réduisant les indemnités de chômage, ont contraint de nombreux chômeurs à accepter des emplois précaires faibles en prestations. Ces réformes ont certes contribué à réduire le taux de chômage, mais au prix de salaires stagnants ajustés à l'inflation, et d'un stress généralisé sur le plan des finances des individus.

Bien entendu, creusement des inégalités, stagnation des salaires et frustration de la classe ouvrière s'observent aujourd'hui dans les pays développés. À l'instar de ses homologues étrangers, Merkel n'a pas beaucoup œuvré par résoudre les problèmes. Ce n'est pas qu'elle manque de vision ; en avril 2010, elle décrivait une future Allemagne fondée sur une meilleure éducation et innovation. Seule une société du progrès technologique, avait-elle conclu, pourrait offrir des opportunités décentes pour tous.

Seulement voilà, en refusant de s'attaquer au consensus politique intérieur autour de l'austérité budgétaire, la chancelière a refusé d'investir dans le futur de l'Allemagne, investissements qui auraient pu viser par exemple à restaurer des infrastructures vieillissantes, et à moderniser les opportunités éducatives. Au lieu de cela, Merkel s'est débattue pour préserver le diesel, base technologique de plus en plus obsolète des constructeurs automobiles d'Allemagne. Ces retards dans la redynamisation de l'industrie automobile du pays pourraient bien peser sur l'économie entière.

L'échec de Merkel dans l'inversion de la fragmentation sociale a conduit au soutien croissant des électeurs en faveur de l'AfD. Lors des élections de 2017, les électeurs de l'AfD étaient généralement des hommes de 30 à 59 ans, issus du secondaire ou de l'apprentissage, exerçant un emploi de col bleu - n'offrant souvent qu'une faible sécurité de l'emploi - dans de petites villes et en zones rurales. Nombre de ces électeurs avaient autrefois soutenu la CDU et la CSU, mais avaient été attirés par les idées nationalistes et xénophobes de l'AfD. La CDU est aujourd'hui affaiblie, de même que s'érode l'autorité de Merkel sur son propre parti. Il est temps pour elle de se retirer.

Angela Merkel a su tenir le navire, mais les tempêtes continuent de frapper. Sur fond de frustration populaire généralisée, persistante, et d'agitation politique, les futurs chanceliers pourraient facilement être emportés.

ARTICLES

George Kpaku-Gbeh Weah: Stepping out obsessed with concrete things

By Sherman C. Sherman

Old-lady Jessie Mentee Marston, 81, finally overcame feelings of feebleness in her body. For nearly ten minutes, her frail, weak body suppressed her burning attempt to make her desired move. Already, she found herself swallowed up in a crowd of hysteric young people. She just couldn't make a move—at least abruptly. So, Old-lady JM, as she's fondly called, had settled down with stretching her both arms up in vacant air, making a V[ee] out of her hands while they remain stretched up before bringing them down softly on her laps—all in the name of dancing. Suddenly, she pulled herself out of the bodily weakness, wended her way through crowd enveloping her, and dashed herself in the full glare of President George Kpaku-Kpeh Tarpeh Weah and his helmeted entourage. She was now panting uncontrollably with excitement—dancing tenderly. “Get on my back, George Weah! Come and get on my back, my son!” Jessie Mentee Marston, shouted rather hilariously, stooping her body against the direction President Weah and convey stood marveling at the octogenarian.

That was a live spontaneous drama on a damp-looking day in early October. The President did not sign up from the office that day. This was becoming a habit, setting out directly from home, apparently fearing entrapment by streams of unending morning visitors. Even before the in-house media got to know, the whistling presidential convoy was noisily entering the northwestern suburb of Bardnersville, veering its way from the Dry-Rice-Market community area before settling for a short groundbreaking ceremony in Lower Johnsonville.

“My son, if you do this kind of job for us in Johnsonville—if you fix this road—oh my God, George Manneh Weah, if you fix this road...” Old-lady JM's last words were now inaudible. Apparently choked by emotions, she was gingerly cuddled out of the scene, as streams of tears quickened on her cheeks.

And she was right to shed tears—actually, tears of joy. Anyone who sees or experience the Johnsonville Road in its current form, the stretch of route from the Bardnersville Estate highway to Mount Barclay Police depot area, would shed tears. It's hardly different much from days of Stone Age. This laterite route has not experienced repairs for over three years. Overused by heavy trucks and other vehicles, the route has fallen to huge erosions, deep ditches and intruding vegetation turfs, that it could be mistaken for abandoned farm-to-market road inside Foya, Lofa County. It is a complete deathtrap.

The horrible conditions of the Johnsonville route, which is targeted by President George Weah not for the traditional laterite refurbishment but for asphalt pavement, are just emblematic of terrible road conditions everywhere in Monrovia and the countryside.

Certainly, it must have been for the likes of Old-Lady JM—be it in Johnsonville, Montserrado County, or Gbokon-Jedeh in Sinoe County, or Vahum in Lofa that Kpaku-Gbeh Tarpeh Weah declared on January 22: “My greatest contribution to this country as President may not lie in the eloquence of my speeches, but will definitely lie in the quality of the decisions that I will make over the next six years to advance the lives of poor Liberians. I intend to construct the greatest machinery of pro-poor governance in the history of this country.”

No matter what IMF or World Bank may say about

Liberia's macroeconomic statistics or Liberia's GDP today; no matter what the opposition may say is their panacea for Paradise Liberia or about the GDP of the country, the President is seemingly obsessed with something else: Liberia's GHHP or Gross Human Happiness Product. Nothing better produces the country's GHHP than roads—not just any roads but paved or tarmac roads that connect communities and countries.

The President has said repeatedly that the terrible state of urban and rural roads constitute a national emergency, stressing that good roads constitute the fulcrum of national development. Paved road connectivity creates jobs. It attracts direct foreign investment. It bolsters in-country trade and commerce. It excites agricultural production. It empowers farmers. It reduces cost for country-produced goods. It plummets transport fares. It decongests urban traffic. It facilitates ready access and critical supplies to health centers. It reduces untimely death. It improves better housing as cost for material across country becomes affordable. Good roads sustain national security and peace. It is

for signals from protocol advisors or the mouth of busybodies, the President would be stepping out in works outfit—in field garments—as he seeks results from the implementation of pro-poor projects daily. Because, left with Gbaku-gbeh, he would be in jean trousers and t-shirt, in office and out of office, as a way of accentuating his obsession for practical work and matching his regular long treks on dusty or muddy roads under construction with the appropriate outfit. “I feel a direct personal attachment to these pro-poor projects,” he quipped, taking some rest against a convoy vehicle after over 30 minutes of trek on a road project. “When I ordered the re-roofing of several houses in Clara Town, I did so knowing and experiencing very well a home that leaked and was heavily moisture. I know what it means when drops of rains fall on you while at sleep or while you have an important guest. All this plays on me and therefore defines my approach to these critical projects.”

In the view of Gbaku-Gbe, if you do not have a personal experience with life in squalor, or in other words, if you have little no experience with poverty and how it stings the human soul, there is a high



inextricably tied to stability and it is a trigger for personal and national joy. Thus, the President thinks road connectivity is the chief stimulant of GDP or GHHP.

The difference between George Forky Klon Jlahleh Gbah-ku Gbeh Tarpeh Manneh Weah and the rest of them is, unlike others, he is overly obsessed with the practicalities of presidential duties. The passion to see concrete things done, and done now, is extremely highly and rarely ingrained in him. His instant mental designs of a glorious Liberia are what he wants, and works to see, turned into tangible reality. This has got him sleepless, often out of office, fanning around contractors near and far, not only to see what is being done—and quickly and that nothing is standing in the way of contractors, but also to encourage contractors and residents of project areas work together to speed up with pro-poor projects across the country.

In a sense, he's leaving rhetoric with the rhetoricians and the politicians. He's deliberately stepping out in the field—nearly every day—leaving behind cozy, flashy office trappings and passions for figures and graphs with the statisticians. Perhaps had it not been

tendency by some national leaders to flirt and romanticize with national policies and projects that address the felt needs of the ordinary people or that benefits all citizens across the economic istle.

What makes the current national leader so obsessed with roads, roads and roads, and with pro-poor housing units, and with free education even for college-going Liberians is because these twin endeavors make national GDP more sensible and justified and break the chains of impoverishment holding up the final liberation of all Liberians to becoming true participants in national affairs.

As the 24th President steps into communities and the jungles of Liberia to see firsthand and monitor government projects under the pro-poor agenda, there would be many Old-lady Jessie Mentee Marston who will get overwhelmed as tons of people-centered projects get underway. Certainly, the will be gracious to offer their backs for Forkey Klon Jlahleh Gbaku-gbeh to ride on, their symbolic expression of joy and appreciation for him and all that he's doing in just a short while.

Beachside property not for Poor people

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah has told people living along the beaches here that beachside properties are very expensive and are not for poor and vulnerable people but for middle class.

“The beaches are very expensive, but we have vulnerable people that have the opportunity to live on beach. And you know to live on beach around the world is expensive. You are to be a middle class ...,” Mr. Weah said Tuesday, 6 November.

Speaking at the opening of the High Level Inception Meeting of the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilient Project (MMCRP), Mr. Weah said there is a need to create economic zones in the country for people.

He says this is one of the reasons why he has made investment in developing the coastal areas a priority.

According to him, government is determined to protect Liberia’s seashores, and there are experts around the world that are willing to

help invest in coastal defense projects.

He underscores the importance of the Legislature

develop Liberia in the time he has to rule, whether it is within six or twelve years.

He notes that Liberia has so



and Liberia’s partners giving their support and working together to achieve this plan of protecting Liberia’s seashores.

He says his plan is to

much resources and its people must not sit and see the country go down the sea, urging the need to invest more for the nation’s development.

“Sick Senators”

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

In an apparent outrageous mood, Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Flomo Naatehn has branded his colleagues as “Sick Senators” for their action seeking to impeach Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja’neh.

Justice Ja’neh faces accusation of alleged corruption, proved misconduct and other charges, but some lawmakers are opposed to the processes leading to his impeachment on grounds that they are illegal.

Speaking in plenary Tuesday, 6 November at the Capitol, Sen. Naatehn described the action of his colleagues regarding Ja’neh’s

impeachment plot as “uncomfortable, indecent and ungovernable.”

The Gbarpolu County Senator fears that his colleagues’ action brings the image of the august body to public dispute.

He says the sickened attitude of the Senate is reportedly based on the alleged “dictatorial leadership” of Pro Tempore Albert Chie.

According to him, some senators at the Legislature have made Pro - Tempore Chie a dictator overnight.

Senator Naatehn’s argument has been that Article 43 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution says that rules of

impeachment shall be created by the Legislature and not only the House of Senate.

Currently, the Senate’s Chambers has passed the amendment to Rule 63 of their standing rules which speak to impeachment proceedings.

But Sen. Naatehn laments that both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate should have crafted the rule and procedurals of impeachment instead of Senate alone taking upon itself the task to do so.

Article 43 of the Constitution says the power to prepare a bill of impeachment is vested solely in the House of Representatives, and the power to try all impeachments is vested solely in the Senate.

It partly says no person shall be impeached but by the concurrence of two-thirds of the total membership of the Senate.

The Constitution says the Legislature (which means Senate and House combined) shall prescribe the procedure for impeachment proceedings which shall be in conformity with the requirements of due process of law.

Supporting Naatehn’s argument, Lofa County Senator Steve Zargo says the “wrongful action” of Pro - Tempore Chie is based on field study.

“The Pro - Tempore studied rocks, so he’s behaving like rock to us, unlike me who studied sociology and

President Weah encourages the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to go out and find investors to invest in this venture to make it economically viable.

He says government’s intervention is not just about protecting the sea shores, but he wants to see electricity, bar, restaurants along these coastal areas and create an economic zone that will benefit the people.

President Weah expresses thanks to partners including the UNDP and the EPA for believing in protecting the environment.

Earlier, EPA Executive Director Mr. Nathaniel Blama alerted that food in Liberia is reducing due to climate change, indicating further that the urban cities have been threatened by massive erosion.

Due to climate change, Mr. Blama says study has proven that agriculture production in Africa will drop if “we” go above two degree temperature.

According to him, coastal erosion, agriculture, health, forestry and biodiversity are areas that will be badly affected due to climate change.

In terms of food security, he says obviously it will be affected and production will drop by almost 40 percent.

Mr. Blama says roads deplete faster because of climate change, and it’s even going to deepen more and Liberia’s GDP will decline.

However, Mr. Blama notes that government submitted a funding proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), but the proposal fell short of certain technical details so there was a request for Liberia to redo it.

To facilitate the study, Mr. Blama says GCF further provided over \$800,000.00 to redo to Liberia.

Already, he says government has hired CDR, which has done preliminary study and made a presentation

during a recent meeting at the C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

By the end of February 2019, the EPA says it hopes that this study would have concluded, and also hopes to get funding approved by end of June next year.

The agreement should be signed between government and Green Climate Fund by September 2019, and actual works are expected to commence in December 2019, according to the EPA boss.

In his presentation, CDR Founder and CEO Rep. Mr. Dirk Heijboer identifies five hotspots for massive erosion in Montserrado County, which include Hotel Africa, New Kru Town, West Point, Barclay Training Center (BCT) to Capitol Hill and Bernard Beach to John F. Kennedy (JFK) Hospital.

He says these stretches combined are about 13 to 14 kilometers, noting that it was a quite intensive study but they got a good result.

He emphasizes that Hotel Africa needs attention because a lot of the facilities have disappeared in the ocean due to erosion.

Similarly, he acknowledges that work is ongoing in New Kru Town, but more still needs to be done there.

UN Systems Coordinator here in Liberia Mr. Yaucob El Hillo says the issue of erosion is not a problem for Liberia alone, saying he understands that the entire West Coast of Africa is under threat.

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers pledges the support of the Legislature, saying they will do their best in ensuring the reclaiming of Liberia and reserving it for posterity.

Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill expresses President Weah’s support and commitment to protecting coastal areas. --Edited by Othello B. Garblah



criminology,” Sen. Zargo says.

“This kind of leadership will continue for some time because I told you people during the Pro - Tempore election that this man cannot be good leader, but nobody listened,” Senator Zargo continues.

The Lofa Senator attempted contesting against Pro - Tempore Chie during the Senate leadership election.

Meanwhile, the Plenary of the Senate voted overwhelmingly Tuesday for the amendments in Rule 63 of the Senate Rule which is expected to be used as guide for the impeachment proceedings against Justice

Ja’neh.

21 Senators voted in favor of the amendment, while five senators voted against it.

Those that voted against the amendment include Gbarpolu County Senators Armah Jallah and Daniel Naatehn; Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh and Margibi County Senator Oscar Cooper.

With the conclusion of the rule of impeachment, the Senate through its secretariat will now invite the defendant of charges and the proceedings will commence. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

EMT kicked out of senate



Minister Samuel Tweah

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The presidential Economic Management Team (EMT) was kicked out of the Liberian Senate chambers on Capitol Hill Tuesday, 6 November for Team's "lack of proper preparation" during its appearance at the Senate.

The plenary which is the highest decision-making body of the Liberian Senate, had invited the EMT to appear

Tuesday, 6 November to provide detailed information on economic issues, including the reported missing billions of local currency.

The Senate sought to establish from the EMT how much money was printed, who gave the authorization of the printing, and explanation on the infusion of US\$25 million into the Liberian economy.

The Senate also wanted details on the impact on the

market as well as the high cost of living and how can these issues be handled professionally.

To the dismay of the Senators, the Team appeared Tuesday with what Lofa County Senator Steve Zargo described as "three - flying sheets" as a report to the Senators and had sweet-talking Finance Minister and EMT Chair Samuel Tweah taking the stage to lecture.

The EMT is headed by Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, Co-chaired by Central Bank Executive Governor Nathaniel Patray with other members including Liberia Revenue Authority Commissioner General Mr. Thomas Doe Nah and Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson Tarpeh.

Minister Tweah began his presentation by flagging that the economic crisis of the country does not have any economic textbook for quick fix.

Instead, he says government is encouraging

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Conor discusses Mayweather fight

Conor McGregor isn't one for holding back - and he certainly hasn't hours after old foe Floyd Mayweather announced his latest fight.

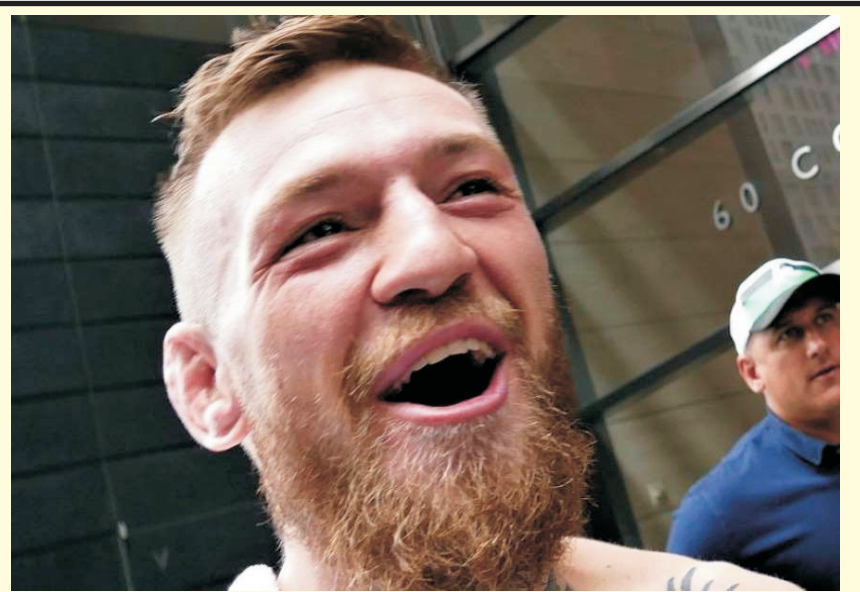
Mayweather Jr will make a sensational return to the ring on New Year's Eve when he takes on unbeaten kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa in Japan. The rules for the fight with Mayweather's surprise opponent - who has

not lost in 27 contests - are yet to be determined. Taking on a largely unknown kickboxer? The Notorious had to have his say on that... Hours later his Instagram, the Irishman said: "Is that a tracksuit or a sauna suit Floyd haha wtf. Is it hot in Tokyo or what's the story here? that climate change is no joke f**k me hahah."

"What in the f**k is going on here? Who's this little p**k next to you? That's mad s**t."

"Like something out of rush hour 5 or something. Chris Tucker and Jackie f**king Chan back in this b*tch. F**king brilliant. "Mad little bastard you are Floyd. Fair f**ks to you mate. No lie. Fk it."

Mayweather is expected to pocket another multi-million dollar fortune from his December 31 contest at the Saitama Super Arena, in which he revealed the shock news at a press conference overnight.



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