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The New Dawn

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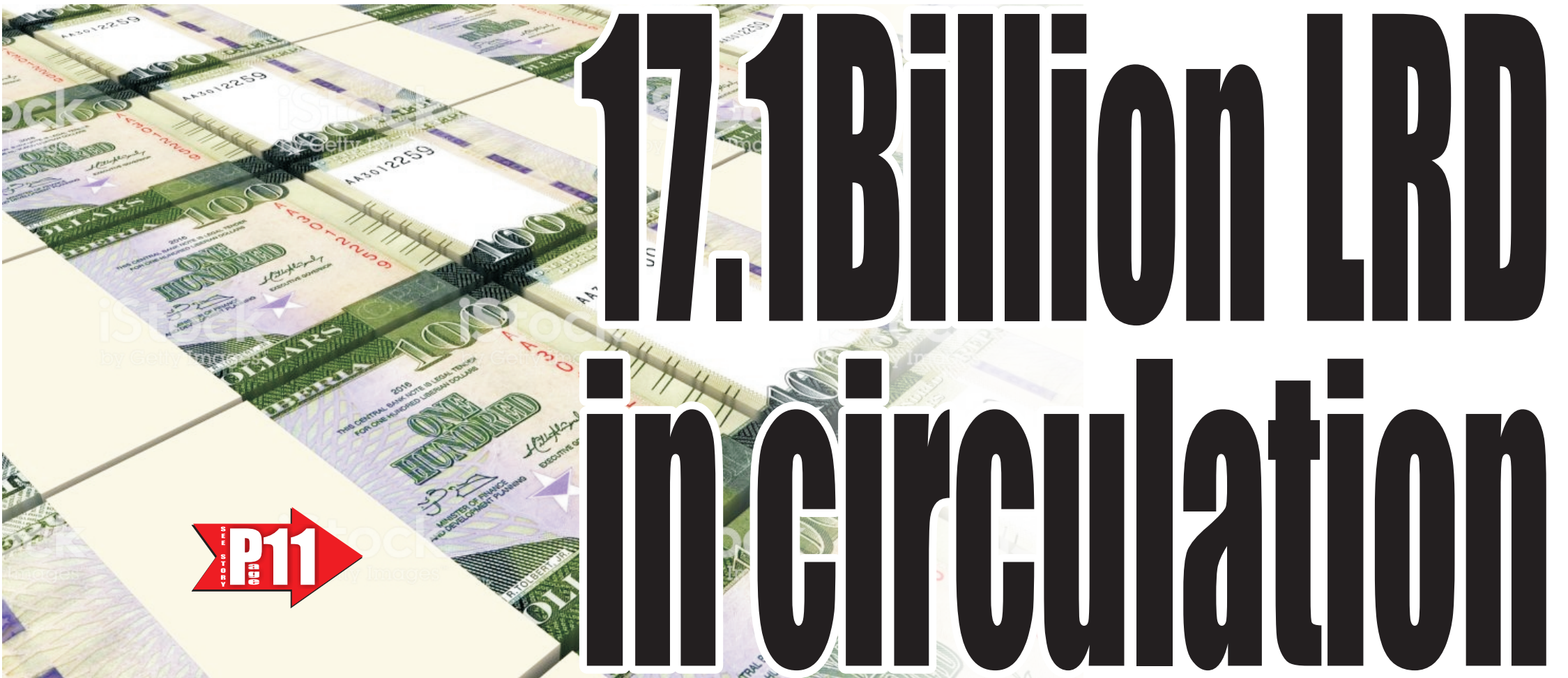
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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



-Finance Minister discloses

Senators face off

-several run to S/court



Pro-Tempore Albert Chie



Sen. Conmany Wesseh



Continental News

Gabon presidency admits leader Ali Bongo is seriously ill

Gabon's presidency admitted for the first time on Sunday that President Ali Bongo, hospitalised for nearly three weeks in Saudi Arabia, is in a serious condition but said his health is improving.

The 59-year-old leader was taken to hospital in the Saudi capital Riyadh on October 24 but his condition has now "greatly improved" and he is "recovering most of his functions," presidency spokesman Ike Ngouoni said.

Lack of official news -- along with memories of the secrecy-shrouded death of Bongo's father Omar Bongo in 2009 -- had sparked numerous rumours, including suggestions he was incapacitated or dead.

Following discomfort and "persistent vertigo... the first tests revealed bleeding which justified medical surgical care in a highly specialised sector," according to a medical bulletin from doctors treating Bongo, quoted by

Ngouoni.

Ali Bongo "was treated with appropriate and thorough support that has so far significantly improved his general condition," it said.

A foreign source close to Bongo and his French-born wife Sylvia told AFP on Wednesday that Bongo had

had a stroke.

- 'Encouraging' physical recovery -

The Bongo family has governed the oil-rich West African nation for five decades and long maintained close ties with former colonial master France under a system known as



Gabon's President Ali Bongo, shown here voting on October 6, served as foreign and defence minister during his father's rule (AFP Photo/Joel TATOU)

"Francafrrique".

Relations cooled after Ali Bongo was elected in 2009 following his father's death and French authorities launched a corruption investigation into the family's assets.

Gabon ranks 117 out of 180 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

"According to the medical team," Bongo is "gradually beginning a very encouraging phase of physical recovery," Ngouoni said without specifying Bongo's ailment.

The "head of state continues to perform his duties" and "the institutions of our republic are

functioning perfectly in strict compliance with the constitution," the spokesman added.

Gabon's official media watchdog on Friday said it had suspended a newspaper for three months for an article saying the country was on "autopilot" because of Bongo's hospitalisation.

L'Aube (Dawn) newspaper had run a story headlined "Gabon on (very dangerous) autopilot" and suggested that Prime Minister Lucie Mboussou would be appointed interim president.

The paper's editor, Orca Boudiandza Mouelle, was also banned from working for six months.-AFP

Cameroon drops 'fake news' prosecution

Ms Mefo is a star presenter and head of English news at Equinoxe TelevisionImage caption: Ms Mefo is a star presenter and head of English news at Equinoxe Television

Cameroon has stopped the trial of prominent Anglophone journalist, Mimi Mefo, who was accused of spreading fake news and terrorism after the intervention of President Paul

presenter and head of English news at the Douala-based media outlet that widely reports on the conflict in Cameroon's two English-speaking regions, South-West and North-West.

She was detained on 7 November after reporting on the killing of US missionary Charles Wesco on the outskirts of the north-western city of Bamenda.



Biya, her employer, privately-owned Equinoxe Television, has said.

It said the military tribunal had announced "a complete stop to the prosecution".

"The government commissioner simply reflected an instruction from the head of state, [President] Paul Biya," the report said.

Ms Mefo is the star

Mr Wesco's family blamed the Cameroonian army for his murder.

Ms Mefo was released on Saturday after three days at New Bell Central Prison in Douala following pressure from local and international human rights groups.

She thanked supporters for standing by her: BBC

Ethiopia 'arrests ex-head of military firm'

The former head of Ethiopia's military-run industrial firm, Metals and Engineering Corporation (Metec) has been arrested, a day after the attorney general said investigations had uncovered corruption at the company,

state-linked broadcaster Fana reports.

Maj Gen Kinfe Dagnew was taken into custody while trying to enter Sudan via the northern city of Humera in the Tigray region.

He is expected to appear in court not later than 48 hours

after his arrest, the report says.

Attorney-General Berhanu Tsegaye said on Monday that 28 suspects had been arrested over the corruption allegations at Metec.

The suspects were arraigned in court but the hearing was adjourned to 26 November.

Metec was one of the main contractors in the building of the \$4bn (£3bn) Grand Renaissance Dam before its contract was cancelled in August by reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Mr Berhanu alleged that officials at the firm embezzled public funds.

Another 36 former security and intelligence officials have also been arrested for alleged human rights abuses.

Ethiopia has been going through seismic changes since reformist Mr Abiy was appointed in April.

He has overseen the unbanning of political parties, released political prisoners and made peace with long-time foe Eritrea. BBC



Read The NewDawn Online Daily

EDITORIAL

Real Justice creeps into Liberia

FORMER UNITED STATES Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Stephen Rapp, is calling on Liberians, especially war victims to exercise patience as justice creeps its way into Liberia, in the wake of both national and international efforts to establish a war crimes tribunal for the country.

“I THINK IT is very important to prevent crimes, to deter, to protect our children, our grandchildren that we do make the decision for justice,” he says and notes, “Today I see the swelling of interest for justice to be delivered in country.”

AMBASSADOR RAPP AND Country Representative of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights Dr. Uchenna Emelonye, attended a justice conference in Monrovia last Friday at the Monrovia City Hall, and have both called for Liberia to set up a war crimes court to prosecute perpetrators of its civil war. Held on the theme, “Opportunities and Challenges for Truth and Justice in Liberia for Past Crimes”, the conference was the first ever in Liberia since the end of the TRC process, bringing together several local and international advocacy groups.

WE AGREE WITH the former Ambassador when he says the only way to prevent impunity and vicious circle of crimes in Liberia is by holding people accountable through fair processes.

BUT THIS IS the reality key actors and their collaborators are trying to evade by issuing vain threats, because they are rewarded with power, and believe they did nothing wrong at all.

THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Dr. Emelonye says a postwar society that does not promote justice and accountability, does not properly heal without scars, and warns that if the victim of today does not heal and forgive, there is a tendency that he or she will be the violator tomorrow.

THE CONFERENCE HELD in Monrovia should send a clear signal that perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Liberia have no place to hide, as time is running out. They must be made to account for their actions.

LIBERIANS SHOULD SEIZE this opportunity being availed by the international community to help stamp out impunity here. This is no witch-hunting, but an honest attempt to deliver justice to the hundreds of thousands of voiceless victims, many of whom are in their graves or are without graves, as their bodies were dumped by the roadside and feasted on by dogs.

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia that professes to champion the cause of the common people should demonstrate its commitment by working with the international community to having this war crimes tribunal set up for Liberia, for it would boost its image. For all good reasons, the rest of world believes President George Manneh Weah is in a suitable position to support the establishment of the tribunal because he is a former UNICEF Ambassador for peace.

REGRETTABLY, THE PRESIDENT appears to be reluctant, because he has many of the famous war crimes perpetrators in his government, who have given him political loyalty. The challenge is on Weah and his government to stand up to truth and justice now or never.

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COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Trump's Diminishing Power and Rising Rage

The coming months may be especially dangerous for America and the world. As US President Donald Trump's political position weakens and the obstacles facing him grow, his mental instability will pose an ever-greater danger.

NEW YORK - The drama of Donald Trump's presidency has centered around whether an extremist president would be able to carry out an extremist policy agenda against the will of the majority of Americans. So far the answer has been no, and the midterm elections make it far less likely. Yet Trump's rising frustrations could push him over the edge psychologically, with potentially harrowing consequences for American democracy and the world.

None of Trump's extremist policy ideas has received public support. The public opposed last year's Republican-backed corporate tax cut, Trump's effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), his proposed border wall with Mexico, the decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement, and the imposition of tariff increases on China, Europe, and others. At the same time, contrary to Trump's relentless promotion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas), the public favors investments in renewable energy and remaining in the Paris climate agreement.

Trump has tried to implement his radical agenda using three approaches. The first has been to rely on the Republican majorities in the two houses of Congress to pass legislation in the face of strong popular opposition. That approach succeeded once, with the 2017 corporate tax cut, because big Republican donors insisted on the measure, but it failed with Trump's attempt to repeal Obamacare, as three Republican senators balked.

The second approach has been to use executive orders to circumvent Congress. Here the courts have repeatedly intervened, most recently within days of the election, when a federal district court halted work on the Keystone XL Pipeline, a project strongly opposed by environmentalists, on the grounds that the Trump administration had failed to present a “reasoned explanation” for its actions. Trump repeatedly and dangerously oversteps his authority, and the courts keep pushing back.

Trump's third tactic has been to rally public opinion to his side. Yet, despite his frequent rallies, or perhaps because of them and their incendiary vulgarity, Trump's disapproval rating has exceeded his approval rating since the earliest days of his administration. His current overall disapproval rating is 54%, versus 40% approval, with strong approval from around 25% of the public. There has been no sustained move in Trump's direction.

In the midterm elections, which Trump himself described as a referendum on his presidency, the Democratic candidates for both the House and Senate vastly outpolled their Republican opponents. In the House races, Democrats received 53,314,159 votes nationally, compared with 48,439,810 for Republicans. In the Senate races, Democrats outpolled Republicans by 47,537,699 votes to 34,280,990.

Summing up votes by party for the three recent election cycles (2014, 2016, and 2018), Democratic Senate candidates outpolled Republican candidates by roughly 120 million to 100 million. Nonetheless, the Republicans hold a slight majority in the Senate, where each state is represented by two senators, regardless of the size of its population, because they tend to win their seats in less populous states, whereas Democrats prevail in the major coastal and Midwestern states. Wyoming, for example, elects two Republican

senators to represent its nearly 580,000 residents, while California's more than 39 million residents elect two Democratic senators. Democrats win more votes, but Republicans win more seats.

Without control of the House, however, Trump will no longer be able to enact any unpopular legislation. Only policies with bipartisan support will have a chance of passing both chambers.

On the economic front, Trump's trade policies will become even less popular in the months ahead as the American economy cools from the “sugar high” of the corporate tax cut, as growing uncertainty about global trade policy hamstrings business investment, and as both the budget deficit and interest rates rise. Trump's phony national-security justifications for raising tariffs will also be challenged politically and perhaps in the courts.

True, Trump will be able to continue appointing conservative federal judges and most likely win their confirmation in the Republican-majority Senate. And on issues of war and peace, Trump will operate with terrifyingly little oversight by Congress or the public, an affliction of the US political system since World War II. Trump, like his recent predecessors, will most likely keep America mired in wars in the Middle East and Africa, despite the lack of significant public understanding or support.

Nonetheless, there are three further reasons to believe that Trump's hold on power will weaken significantly in the coming months. First, Special Counsel Robert Mueller may very well document serious malfeasance by Trump, his family members, and/or his close advisers. Mueller kept a low profile in the run-up to the election. We will most likely hear from him soon.

Second, the House Democrats will begin to investigate Trump's taxes and personal business dealings, including through congressional subpoenas. There are strong reasons to believe that Trump has committed serious tax evasion (as the New York Times recently outlined) and has illegally enriched his family as president (a lawsuit that the courts have allowed to proceed alleges violations of the emoluments clause of the Constitution). Trump is likely to ignore or fight the subpoenas, setting the stage for a major political crisis.

Third, and most important, Trump is not merely an extremist politician. He suffers from what author Ian Hughes has recently called “a disordered mind,” filled with hate, paranoia, and narcissism. According to two close observers of Trump, the president's grip on reality “will likely continue to diminish” in the face of growing political obstacles, investigations into his taxes and business dealings, Mueller's findings, and an energized political opposition. We may already be seeing that in Trump's erratic and aggressive behavior since the election.¹

The coming months may be especially dangerous for America and the world. As Trump's political position weakens and the obstacles facing him grow, his mental instability will pose an ever-greater danger. He could explode in rage, fire Mueller, and perhaps try to launch a war or claim emergency powers in order to restore his authority. We have not yet seen Trump in full fury, but may do so soon, as his room for maneuver continues to narrow. In that case, much will depend on the performance of America's constitutional order.

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O-PED

By Shashi Tharoor

India's Deadly Air

NEW DELHI - A friend of mine, a diplomat returning home after less than three years' service in India, was asked at his exit medical examination how many packs a day he smoked. When he protested that he was a staunch non-smoker, the doctor commented that X-rays of his lungs showed otherwise. But my friend had never lit up. All he had done was breathe Delhi's air, three smoggy winters in a row.

It really is that bad. When November comes, India - and particularly its capital city - begins to choke on a thick blanket of smog that chokes lungs, corrodes throats, and impairs visibility.

It's not just Delhi's notorious diesel fumes from car and truck exhausts. There are also industrial factories spewing smoke, charcoal braziers on the sidewalks keeping pavement dwellers warm, coal stoves used by roadside chaiwallahs (tea-sellers), and even the agricultural stubble burned by farmers in the nearby states of Punjab and Haryana. All of these air pollutants sweep into the capital city, with vehicular emissions adding to the dust that Mother Nature has already bestowed on Delhi in abundance.

Delhi had just three "clean air days" in the whole of 2017. But the worst air quality is in winter, when polluted air meets winter fog and is trapped, giving Delhi a grayish opacity that reduces visibility, delays flights, and reduces the city's traffic to an even more polluting crawl.

The consequences are alarming. The number of premature deaths due to air pollution is rising. Poor air quality is now costing India at least 1% of GDP every year in respiratory diseases, reduced productivity, and increased hospitalization, and may be reducing Indians' lifespans by three years.

According to the "State of Global Air" report published by the Health Effects Institute, the absolute number of ozone-related deaths in India rose by a staggering 150% from 1990 to 2015. The economic implications of deteriorating air quality are equally ominous as well. A 2013 World Bank study estimated that welfare costs and lost labor income due to air pollution amounted to nearly 8.5% of India's GDP. Labor losses (in terms of number of man days, for example) due to air pollution totaled more than \$55 billion in 2013, and premature deaths are estimated to have cost the country an estimated \$505 billion, or roughly 7.6% of GDP.

Moreover, a recent study revealed that India's toxic air is also dissuading executives from accepting assignments in Delhi: people are turning down lucrative jobs in order to save their lungs.

In 2015, the New York Times' former South Asia correspondent, Gardiner Harris, explained that he was leaving his post prematurely because merely living in Delhi was damaging his children's health. Describing the asthmatic travails of his eight-year-old son, Harris wrote that Delhi is "suffering from a dire pediatric respiratory crisis," in which "nearly half of the city's 4.4 million schoolchildren have irreversible lung damage from the poisonous air." He and other expatriates were "pursuing our careers at our children's expense," and he concluded that it was "unethical for those who have a choice to willingly raise children here." So he picked up his kids and left India.

Most Indians don't have that choice. They must live with what the media often refer to as Delhi's "killer dust" - respirable suspended particulate matter that becomes lodged in the lungs and impairs our breathing. A study of Delhi schoolchildren between four and 17 years of age, conducted by the Kolkata-based Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, found that key indicators of respiratory health and lung function were 2-4 times worse than in schoolchildren elsewhere. And the damage was irreversible.

India needs to make improving air quality a national priority. It needs to create state and national action plans for clean air; set tough new targets for thermal power plant emissions, factory chimneys, and automobile exhausts; and establish a proper air pollution monitoring system.

And it needs to act fast. According to the World Health Organization, 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities and towns are in India. More than a million Indians are dying every year because of bad air.

In the face of this national catastrophe, the government's complacency is appalling, but not surprising. Public discussion of India's deteriorating air quality and its effects on human health - and thus awareness of the problem - is startlingly limited. India's politicians need to design an action plan that generates a groundswell of public pressure on the government to confront the issue head-on. The Indian public, so easily distracted by issues of identity politics like temple-building and rewriting history, should be demanding something far more fundamental: the ability to breathe.

The satirical songwriter Tom Lehrer famously warned listeners that if they visit an American city: "Just two things of which you must beware/ Don't drink the water and don't breathe the air." Updated for India, it is a perfect song for a crisis that has become an existential threat.

OPINION

By Elizabeth Radin, Miriam Rabkin & Wafaa El-Sadr

TB, NCDs, and the Lessons of HIV

NEW YORK - Global health is once again in the spotlight. In September, the United Nations General Assembly convened two high-level meetings - one on ending tuberculosis (TB), and the other on fighting noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). It was the first time ever that the UN featured two health crises so prominently on its annual agenda.

But with these discussions now over, the global health community must focus on securing the necessary political commitments to sustain international coordination and planning. One model worth emulating in the fight against both TB and NCDs is the approach taken to confront the HIV epidemic.

Since 2001, when the UN General Assembly hosted its first meeting on HIV/AIDS, the trajectory of the disease has shifted dramatically. Today, some 22 million people living with HIV are receiving treatment. As a result, annual AIDS deaths have fallen by half - from 1.9 million in 2003 to 940,000 in 2017 - while the rate of new infection has decreased by nearly half in several of the hardest-hit countries. Efforts to control TB and NCDs - which, like HIV/AIDS, place a heavy burden on low- and middle-income countries - can leverage the lessons learned from the response to HIV.

Three lessons in particular stand out. First, as the global AIDS response expanded, it faced the dual challenge of including hard-to-reach communities while continuing to support a growing number of patients receiving treatment. In response, HIV programs have evolved to offer services shaped by the preferences of patients. Such novel models of care also relieve the burden of large numbers of patients on health facilities and health workers.

For example, in several countries, stable patients who prefer to visit their health-care provider less often receive multi-month supplies of medications. In South Africa, where as many as 4.3 million people with HIV are receiving treatment, prescriptions can be refilled at pharmacist-managed vending machines. In Lesotho, where people may live hours from a health facility, HIV testing is offered in the home and, for those found to have HIV infection, community treatment is supported by local health workers.

A similar approach could be taken for TB and NCDs. For TB, this might mean longer gaps between checkups for patients who adhere to treatment and show no signs of drug resistance, while those experiencing side effects or who require more complex treatments could receive more intensive care. Likewise, patients with well-controlled NCDs who show no symptoms and are doing well on medications may need only occasional visits to a health-care provider, while those with more complicated cases could benefit from closer medical monitoring and counseling.

Second, HIV programs succeeded in part because they established goals for the entire "cascade of care" - from diagnosis to treatment. For example, the "90-90-90" targets set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) - in which 90% of people living with HIV have been diagnosed, 90% of those diagnosed with HIV are on treatment, and 90% of those on treatment are virally suppressed - helped focus the global AIDS response. In fact, models suggest that if these targets are achieved, HIV will no longer be a public-health threat by the year 2030.

Setting targets is useful for benchmarking progress and identifying coverage gaps. For example, in many countries, the largest gap in the coverage of HIV services is in diagnosis, particularly of men and young people. As a result, many programs now offer new options to reach these groups, such as confidential workplace testing and self-testing. Another gap is among populations that are disenfranchised and stigmatized in some countries, such as men who have sex with men.

Targets along the cascade could be similarly beneficial for controlling TB and NCDs. The Stop TB Partnership, for example, has proposed 90-(90)-90 treatment goals for the disease, although they have yet to be widely adopted. For NCDs, the focus is on achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 3.4, which calls for a one-third reduction in premature deaths from such illnesses by 2030. But the latter goal is not disaggregated along the NCD care cascade of diagnosis and treatment. For example, it would be useful for programs to monitor how many people with high blood pressure have been diagnosed and placed on treatment, what proportion of those on treatment have achieved blood-pressure control, and what treatment level would be required to reduce premature deaths by the desired target.

Finally, the AIDS effort was able to expand as a result of strong advocacy and collaborations that reshaped markets for diagnostic and treatment programs. By forecasting medication needs, aggregating orders, and promoting competition, in combination with intense advocacy, policymakers and providers were able to secure market efficiencies. The resulting economies of scale allowed suppliers to shift from low-volume, high-margin solutions to high-volume, low-margin profit models. As a result, these efforts reduced the cost of annual HIV treatments from more than \$10,000 per patient in 2001 to less than \$100 in 2016.

Likewise, controlling TB and NCDs will require making medications more convenient and affordable. While the TB response has leveraged strategic partnerships to expand coverage, large gaps remain, the largest being treatments for children and patients with drug-resistant TB. For NCDs, companies like Novartis, Pfizer, and the Indian drug maker Cipla have made efforts to bring affordable medicines to patients in Africa. But while donations may help stimulate initial demand, a more deliberate market approach will be needed to achieve price reductions. A multisectoral coalition launched in 2017 could help drive efficiencies, but it will need additional support to succeed.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, recently called on governments to increase their leadership and investments in health systems to fight TB and NCDs. But while more resources are no doubt needed, they must be accompanied by sound strategies that engage communities, guide programming, and scale up prevention and care. Best of all, with the AIDS response blueprint already in hand, there is no need to reinvent the wheel.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA GOVERNANCE COMMISSION

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www.governancecommissionlr.org

Cell #: 0886518969 / 0777989155

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR

Job Title: DRIVER

The Governance Commission located on 9th Street Sinkor, is seeking to hire a qualified Liberian for the position of **DRIVER**, in supporting the work of the Commission. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

Job Summary:

Under the Supervision of the **Chief Driver**, or an appropriate designated proxy, he/she is responsible to providing skilled minor mechanical services with specific responsibility to identifying repair and/or replacement needs; performing repairs and preventive maintenance; ensuring completion of duties in accordance with work standards; providing information on the proper uses of equipment; assisting other Drivers and ensuring that tools and materials are available at job site.

Scope of Work:

To drive and maintain the Governance Commission's vehicle in accordance with the Commission's vehicle usage policy; and as directed by assigned Supervisor.

As Driver assigned to the Public Sector Mandate Area, your duties include but not limited to the following:

- Report to Assigned commissioner or Senior staff for pick up to work on time;
- Vehicle driven as assigned;
- Ensure that assigned Vehicle is cleaned interior, exterior, maintained at all times and minor repairs carried out; major mechanical faults reported;
- Basic vehicle records maintained; Vehicle safely kept;
- Be available at a moment's notice by your assigned commissioner or senior staff on time;
- Assist with getting their luggage in and out of vehicle;
- Inform your supervisor (**Chief Driver or Proxy**) on vehicle servicing time;

(i) Minimum Qualifications and Experience

- Candidate must be a Liberian;
- A High School Graduate or its equivalent ;
- Valid Driver's License;
- Minimum of 12 years driving experience.

(ii) Behavioral and skills Competences

- Basic Knowledge of mechanical and vehicle maintenance;
- Clean driving record;
- Time Management and Flexibility;
- Active Listener;
- With good eyesight;
- Must have good oral communications skills;
- Must be able to follow instructions and take directions via two-way radio or by phone;
- Must have working knowledge of vehicle safety and control systems;
- Speaking — talking to others to convey information effectively.

Duty Station: Monrovia, Liberia

Start Date: December 3, 2018

Salary commensurate with qualification and experience

The Commission now invites eligible candidates to apply.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS: November 21, 2018

Application and CV with Supporting Documents and contact cell phone numbers should be submitted to the below address:

Maima M. Roberts
Human Resource Director Governance Commission
9th Street, Sinkor
P.O.Box 1757,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: 231886518969/0776356864/0886575542/0777989155
Email: maima_roberts@yahoo.com, mohammedkonneh2002@yahoo.com
mroberts@governancecommissionlr.org

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY APPLICANTS SHORTLISTED WILL BE CONTACTED .



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Notification of Extension for the Submission of Bids

4. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) anticipates funds from the Government of Liberia through budgetary allocations and intends to use portion of it to fund eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of the below listed non-consulting services:

No	Contract Package	IFB No	First Publication Date	Initial Submission Date	New Submission Date
1	Provision of Catering Services	IFB No. MFDP/SBA/NCB/05/18-19	October 3, 2018	October 31, 2018	November 14, 2018
2	Provision of Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services	IFB No. MFDP/SBA/NCB/02/18-19	October 3, 2018	October 31, 2018	November 14, 2018

5. Submission of Bids have now been extended to the Dates mentioned above and must be delivered to the address below **before or at 2:00 PM.** respectively. Bid validity periods must remain the same as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet.

6. Bids will be opened on the new submission dates as specified above in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend and the public in general, at the address indicated below:

Procurement Unit
3rd Floor, Room 045
Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
P. O. Box 9013
Broad Street & Mechlin Streets
100 Monrovia 10 Liberia
Mobile Number: +231 88 657 9455 / 88 075 3568

Eric B. Arkoi
Director of Procurement

Approved:
Hon. Rebecca Younger McGill
Deputy Minister for Administration

Judge Mardea Tarr-Chenoweth stresses respect for rule of law

The Resident Judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit in Margibi County calls on citizens to respect the rule of law.

Judge Mardea Tarr - Chenoweth stresses there can be no peaceful society without adhering to the rule of law.

According to the Liberia News Agency (LINA), Judge Chenoweth made the call on Monday, 12 November in Kakata when she delivered her charge at the 13th Judicial Circuit Court during the opening of the November Term of Court.

She notes that it was very disheartening to see citizens manhandling court officers, who had gone to effect court's orders in Johnsonville sometimes ago.

The Judge laments that it is totally unacceptable by not having respect for the court, something she says puts the country in a difficult position to win the trust of investors coming to do business in Liberia.

Speaking on the theme: "Respect for the Rule of Law, an obligation for every citizen", Judge Chenoweth says when the rule of law that is meant to govern everyone is not respected, it's bound to have serious hitches that could lead to lawlessness.

"Where are we headed to when the court cannot enforce judgment passed by it after adjudicating cases, and interest of aggrieved citizens that are seeking justice is being thwarted by others that have no respect for the court's decision", Judge Chenoweth

further laments.

She emphasizes the Judiciary is the conduit that stabilizes the country for everyone, so it is imperative that all respect rule of law at all time, not some time.

"It is very much unfair and unacceptable for citizens to brutalize police and court officers who are simply effecting orders from the court on judgment handed down in a case only to circumvent justice."

In response to the Judge's Charge, Margibi County Attorney Counselor Deddeh J. Wilson, who is Dean of the Local Bar and principal representative of the Ministry Justice in the county, promises to work along with the court in ensuring the rule of law is respected and upheld.

Cllr. Wilson also vows to work along with the court to ensure that justice is dispensed without fear or favor during the November A.D 2018 term of court in Margibi County.

She says if citizens one another's rights, the prison would not be overcrowded, as communities will be very peaceful and everyone will live in total harmony.

"The way forward is to justice and not reverting to mob justice or other acts that are not in conformity with the rule of law", Counselor Wilson notes.

About 59 cases, including 47 criminal cases and 12 civil cases are on the trial docket for the November term of court.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia's future rests with young people

--Minister Tweah

By Lewis S. Teh

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah says the future of Liberia rests on the shoulders of its young people and students across the country, noting that their participation cannot be excluded if Liberia will witness massive transformation.

Minister Tweah spoke recently at the Executive Pavilion on Ashmun Street in Monrovia at the program marking the Fourth Postwar induction and inauguration ceremony of the newly elected officers of the Liberia National Students Union (LINSU).

According to Minister Tweah, it is the behavior, values and mode of the youth and students here that will transform this country into what its citizens desire to see.

Delivering the keynote address, Minister Tweah

retrospected on his activities during his days as a student leader at the University of Liberia, recalling that LINSU

used to be in the bag of student leader who is now National Security Advisor Jefferson Karmo.

He admonishes that the new LINSU should not do the

political bidding of any governing party, or political administration.

Minister Tweah urges the new leadership not to avail its national contribution through press releases, or political protest.

He urges LINSU to stand for their country from conviction, and not to do things because politicians are paying them.

For his part, the newly elected president of LINSU

Mohamed Kamara promised to work closely with the key government institutions and partners to address issue affecting the students and young people across the country.

He says the new LINSU leadership will not subject itself to press release only, but will put the interest of the institution first above all.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah

"Liberia losing manpower"

-As Zogoes protest for rehabilitation outside Weah's office

By Winston W. Parley

Young Liberians victims of drug addiction staged a peaceful protest outside President George Manneh Weah's office Monday, 12 November demanding establishment of rehabilitation center, as their coordinator warns that Liberia is losing manpower over the growing number of drug addicts here.

"Liberia is losing manpower. These are the very young people who will build this country, if we cannot address it now then we say when? If not the pro - poor government than who?" Mr. James Koryor, Executive Director of Consolidated Youth

for Peace and Development told the NewDawn outside President Weah's temporary office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia.

These drug addicts, most of whom are engaged in car loading, picking on dumpsites, sleeping at unprotected cemeteries and involved in other uncomfortable street activities to sustain their drug habit are referred to here as Zogoes, an unofficial nomenclature identifying wayward folks here.

"All of them on drugs right now, let me tell you. No, they have not stopped, nowhere to go, that is why we are calling for a national rehabilitation program," says Mr. Koryor.

Under a national

rehabilitation program, Mr. Koryor says he wants government to get these young people treated at hospitals, taught some skills and get them reintegrated into society.

While some of the protesting Zogoes were being interviewed, some of them comprising males and females were in the background saying: "Zogoes are heroes."

Their spokesman Mr. Koryor laments that the young men and women are tired of abusing drugs and have seen the need to call on government for national rehabilitation program for them.

He says they are dying on a daily basis, and much more could happen if drugs abuse is not addressed here by government.

According to him, there are thousands of young people engaged in drug abuse, and some of them are even making kids in the ghettos.

One of the Zogoes interviewed, Ephrim Freeman says he wants President Weah to look into their case by establishing a rehabilitation center so that it will be used to get them off the street to stop.

Freeman says he has been sleeping at the Palm Grove Cemetery on Center Street for more than 10 years.

He says as a result of the live they are living, he and his peers have been sleeping at the cemetery without fear that any evil could befall

them.

Since 2004, Freeman says he has been abusing drugs and nothing has changed.

According to him, he graduated from St. Matthew High School in Logan Town on Bushrod Island and he has two children.

He says out of peer pressure, he got into drug

abuse but he now finds it difficult to leave it, thus pleading with President Weah to come on with strong drug laws and create rehabilitation center to take them off the street.

"You know this life, when you are getting into this life, you can't really



Bong County concludes 2018/19 County Council Sitting

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Delegates from across Bong County have concluded a meeting to decide the appropriations of development funds for the county.

The council is the highest decision-making body of the county, where stakeholders of the county converge to discuss appropriations of funds destined for the county.

They have made appropriations based on expected income from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in the tune of 1,999,750.08.

Meetings for the previous three years never took place after delays and the lack of funds.

The County sitting brought together eight of Bong County's nine lawmakers and commissioners, including over hundred delegates, eminent citizens and media observers.

At the sitting, the previous county administration that served the Unity Party (UP) led - government submitted debts owed contractors in an amount of 2, 577, 0843 .33 to the current county administration under the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) -led government.

The Bong County Administration has submitted to the delegates an expected income of US\$1,999,750.08 from the Finance Ministry.

It was followed by the submission of development proposals by delegates to the

Council Sitting for consideration and subsequent adoptions to form part of the development packages for the fiscal year 2018/2019 in accordance with Budget Law of Liberia.

At the County Sitting, US\$50,000 was allotted for the renovation of the Superintendent Compound, and 46,000 for Bong County administrative expenses, US\$75,870 for the Project Management Committee operational budget and 15,000 allotted for all community radio stations in the County.

Others include 65,000 for the Bong County Technical College operational funds; US\$75,000 for support to Bong County Sports Team; re-activation of Madam Suakoko Scholarship, US\$100,000; Disabled Community, US\$10,000; Bong County Library project, 75,000; and US\$ 60,000 for Drugs support to CB Dumbur Maternity Hospital, among others.

At the end of the sitting, the Chairman of the Bong County Legislative Caucus Senator Henry Willie Yallah extended commendations to the delegates for taking their time to decide major developments of the County.

Sen. Yallah admonished the Project Management Committee to be robust in making sure that allotted monies are used for their intended purposes.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GOL launches open budget initiative in Buchanan

By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) officially launched the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Open Budget Initiative (OBI) recently in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

According to the MFDP, the launch of the OBI is intended to create awareness that will draw the public knowledge of the process and promote access to the fiscal documents.

Addressing the audience at the start of the launch, Assistant Director for OBI Johnson S.N. Williams, told residents that the budget awareness initiative is a government priority and is aligned with President George Weah's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) that was recently launched in Ganta, Nimba County.

Assistant Director Williams indicated that the budget awareness will be held across the country to enable citizens



have access and build their knowledge of the fiscal documents.

He said the MFDP will interact with different sectors including the Legislature, Executive Branch, budget technicians, service providers and civil society organizations in the country.

According to him, budgets are resources that are allocated based on policy decisions of the country.

The Director also said that the national budget is made up of two components which include strategy planning and operational planning.

Launching the OBI on behalf

of Minister Samuel Tweah, Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Samora P.Z. Wolokollie said the launch of the fiscal year 2018/19 is the first edition of the citizen's guide to the national budget of the Weah government.

According to Wolokollie, the Weah led- government recognizes some progress made by previous government and appreciates the commitment for a certain level of fiscal transparency and accountability.

"Today, we renew that commitment and pledge our government's fullest support to sustain the gain made in these directions," he said.

Mr. Wolokollie noted that it is important to respite that this the current government has inherited a challenged economy and continues to face serious economic challenges.

Wolokollie said these challenges have been confronting the country's economy since 2008, when the world economic meltdown affected the export commodities, such as iron ore, rubber, timber, gold and diamonds.

"Additionally, we continue to face system decline in the value of our Liberian dollar against the foreign currency. In simple sense, we continue to face an increase in our exchange rates," he continued.

He said government has recognized these challenges and is determined to tackle down on them.

According to him, government took some drastic action in reducing some recurrent expenditures and investing more into capital projects that would better the lives of the people.

He said these measures are aimed at implementing sound microeconomic, financial, fiscal policy which will boost revenue collections so that government can provide the needed services.

To achieve these goals, Wolokollie said the FY2018/19 budget is expected to collect US\$570.148 million.

For his part, a representative from the office of the Buchanan City Mayor, Moses D. Haynes, applauded the Government through the MFDP and the budget department for taking the budget forum discussion to them.

The Open Budget Initiative is a global research and advocacy program to promote public access to budget information and adoption of account budget systems.

The open forum was attended by students and school authorities, and the team from the Ministry of Finance and Development planning.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Boakai opens SRDC regional office -Urges diaspora Liberians

By Emmanuel Mondaye & Ethel A. Tweh

Former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai has officially opened the first regional office of the Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus (SRDC) in Liberia, calling on descendants of free slaves to trace their roots through research.

He made the call recently in Paynesville when he launched the SRDC and the SEHWAH-Liberia Incorporated, a non-profit organization founded in 2014 during the Ebola crisis.

During the event, Mr. Boakai

urged Liberians in the diaspora to do more for their country.

During the event, Mr. Boakai made a call on descendants of free slaves to trace their roots through research.

The first regional office of the SRDC is situated next to the old Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC) building, opposite the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Paynesville, Montserrado County.

Boakai says he was gratified to serve as chief launcher of

the SRDC regional office which serves as the medium through which descendants of free slaves can trace their backgrounds.

He notes that the SRDC regional office is the first of its kind since the country was established in 1847, adding that he will continuously work with the leadership of the SRDC to ensure that its dream becomes a reality in Africa.

The former Liberian Vice President indicates that there are many Africans taken to different parts of the world by their masters and today they have forgotten about their roots because there is not sufficient information to their disposal.

With the opening of the first regional office in Liberia, he notes that every descendant of freed slaves should see it as the greatest opportunity and access to tracing their roots and getting first hand information that will pave the way for them to return home.

Meanwhile, Mr. Boakai says Liberians in the diaspora need to double up their contributions to the transformation of their country by bringing back expertise they have acquired abroad.

He says the time is now for Liberians both in country and abroad to put national development first.

The former Liberian vice



#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

president however criticizes the act of other compatriots leaving the country and finding new life elsewhere, forgetting their root.

"You who have children abroad should understand that no matter the condition, Liberia is your home and you should educate your kids about where you came from," he says.

According to him, Liberians everywhere around the world do have the capability to make meaningful contributions in Liberia, and as such, they should be empowered and given the chance to ensure the growth and progress of their country.

Mr. Boakia pledges his commitment to the organization by ensuring that the momentum and other developments of the organization go across Liberia, because it is about time "we

support our own."

"We are ready to work with you, and bring onboard other partners that do have a great feeling for their country," Boakia concludes.

For her part, the Executive Director of SEHWAH Liberia Inc., a Liberian non-for-profit organization, Madam Louise Warmenwoah McMillian provided brief history of SEHWAH Liberia Inc.

She disclosed that the organization promotes sustainable development, through building cultural heritage initiatives and advocacy for women and children in Liberia.

According to her, SEHWAH was founded in 2014 during Ebola crisis here, playing a crucial role in winning the battle against the Ebola disease.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

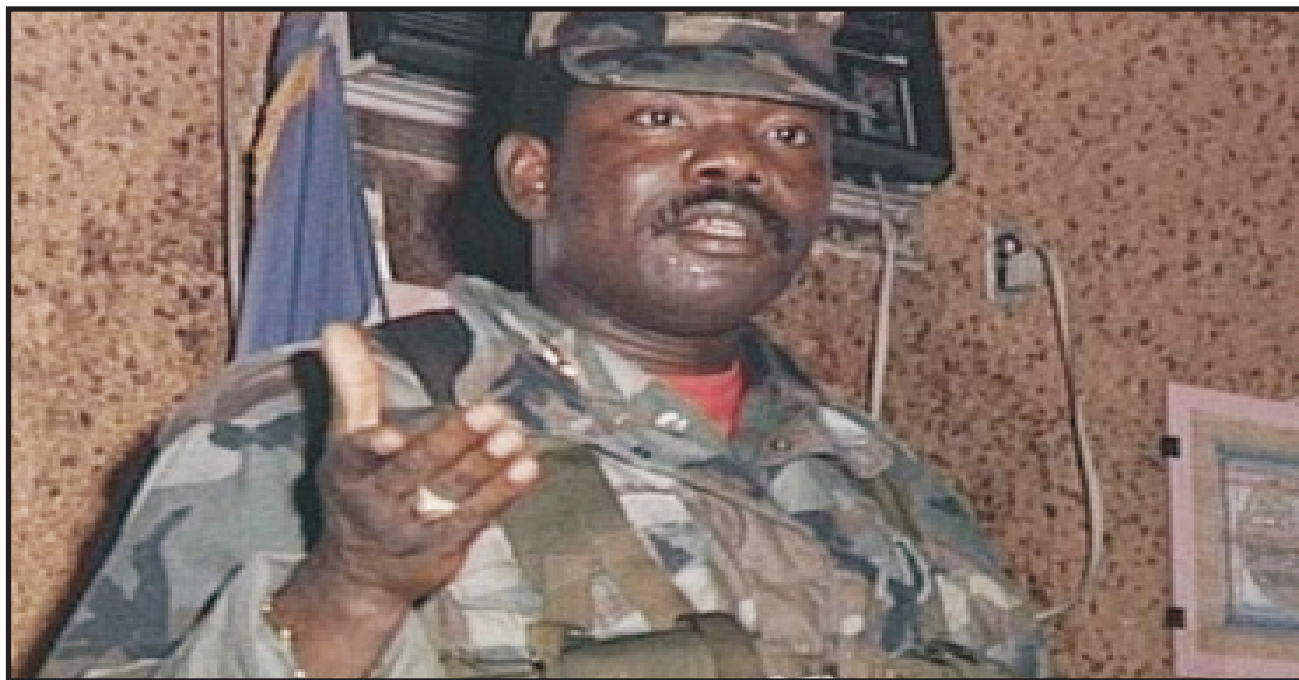
Français

Prince Johnson veut la peau des militants du Tribunal spécial pour le Libéria

Le Sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, ancien chef rebelle et principal suspect des crimes de guerre, semble de plus en plus paranoïaque face à l'accentuation de la campagne pour la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques pour le Libéria. Il promet une forte résistance et menace de faire la peau aux principaux militants de l'établissement du tribunal spécial, parmi lesquels des collègues législateurs.

Le sénateur du comté de Nimba, qui s'est séparé de Charles Taylor pour former le Front national patriotique indépendant du Libéria (INPFL) qui a capturé et mutilé à mort le président Samuel Kanyon Doe en 1990, menace de déclarer la guerre à tous ceux qui soutiennent la campagne pour la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques.

Plus de 300 000 libériens ont été tués dans la série de guerre qui s'est déclenchée le 25 décembre 1989 avant de



prendre fin en septembre 2003.

La Commission Vérité et Réconciliation du Libéria (TRC) a indexé Prince Johnson Alias PYJ et d'autres chefs de guerre comme auteurs présumés des crimes de guerre odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité commis pendant la guerre civile dans le pays et appelé à des poursuites judiciaires.

Prince Johnson jure poursuivre jusque dans leurs logis les représentants Larry P.

Younquoi et Samuel G. Korga et le juriste Tiawan Gongloe pour avoir soutenu la lutte pour l'établissement d'un tribunal spécial chargé de juger les auteurs présumés des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité. Les personnes citées ci-haut sont ses proches parents tous originaires du comté de Nimba.

Il a réitéré ses menaces lorsque des groupes de Libériens, qui se disent

victimes d'atrocités, ont manifesté lundi 12 novembre devant l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia et dans les principales rues de la capitale pour réclamer justice. La manifestation de lundi a été précédée d'une conférence nationale sur la justice. Elle s'est tenue le vendredi 9 novembre à l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia. Elle avait pour but de rassembler plus de soutien en faveur de la création d'un tribunal spécial des crimes de guerre et des crimes économiques pour le pays. Organisé conjointement par plusieurs groupes locaux et internationaux, à savoir notamment le projet de justice mondiale et de recherche, le Centre américain pour la justice et la responsabilité (CJA), les avocats pour les droits de l'homme et Human Rights Watch, le forum a été marqué par la présence de M. Stephen Rapp, ancien ambassadeur itinérant des États-Unis pour la justice pénale dans le monde, et M. Uchenna Emelonye, représentant du Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme dans le

pays.

Les deux responsables ont exprimé leur soutien à la création d'un tribunal spécial afin de lutter contre l'impunité et d'éviter une répétition de la violence. « Nous sommes conscients que pour prévenir les atrocités futures - meurtres, viols, incendies et destructions de maisons, de communautés et de moyens de subsistance - il faut que les responsables, du moins les principaux acteurs de ces crimes, aient à rendre des comptes », a déclaré l'ambassadeur Rapp.

Mais le sénateur PYJ a publiquement menacé à plusieurs reprises de faire échec à toute tentative de le faire arrêter avec une telle force pouvant entraîner un regain de violence au Libéria. Il a menacé de déployer des hommes armés de fusils à canon unique dans les buissons pour résister à son arrestation.

Parallèlement, le sénateur Johnson a ordonné à la police de Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, et à ses partisans d'arrêter un certain Emmanuel Wongen, pour l'avoir accusé de former des rebelles dans le comté.

S'exprimant récemment sur une station de radio communautaire à Ganta, Emmanuel a accusé PYJ d'avoir entraîné des hommes pour résister à son arrestation en cas de besoin.

Depuis qu'il a fait cette déclaration, les forces de sécurité de l'État à Nimba n'ont pas encore invité publiquement Emmanuel Wongen pour être interrogé. Elles se sont plutôt rendues dans sa plantation et ont arrêté son fils Perry D. Wongen, âgé de 17 ans, ainsi que d'autres personnes pour que ces derniers montrent où se trouvait Emmanuel.

Les toxicomanes réclament un programme de réhabilitation et de réinsertion sociale

De jeunes délinquants Libériens victimes d'abus de drogue ont organisé une manifestation pacifique devant le bureau du Président George Manneh Weah le lundi 12 novembre, exigeant la création d'un centre de réadaptation. Le coordinateur des jeunes délinquants a averti que le Libéria est en train de perdre son capital humain en

raison de la prolifération des substances toxiques et l'augmentation du nombre de consommateurs.

« Le Libéria perd de la main-d'œuvre. Ce sont ces jeunes qui vont construire ce pays. Si nous ne pouvons pas remédier à cette situation dès maintenant, nous nous demandons quand cela aura

lieu ? », a déclaré M. James Koryor, directeur exécutif de Jeunesse consolidée pour la paix et le développement au quotidien NewDawn devant le bureau temporaire du président Weah au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia.

Ces jeunes drogués qui, pour assouvir leur dépendance à la drogue, se livrent à de petites activités tels que le chargement des voitures, la fouille des dépotoirs et d'autres activités illégales dans la rue, sont communément appelés Zogos. La plupart d'entre eux dorment à la belle étoile dans les cimetières.

« Ils se droguent tous en ce moment. Ils n'ont pas cessé. Ils n'ont nulle part où aller, c'est pourquoi nous appelons à un programme national de réhabilitation », a déclaré M. Koryor. Le programme national de réadaptation consistera de faire soigner ces jeunes dans des hôpitaux, de leur enseigner certaines compétences et vertus et de

les réinsérer dans la société, selon Koryor.

« Les Zogos sont des héros », chantaient les toxicomanes lors de la protestation. Il s'agissait pour la plupart des jeunes garçons et des jeunes filles.

Ils disent en avoir marre de la toxicomanie et avoir

compris la nécessité d'appeler le gouvernement à la rescousse.

« Nous mourons tous les jours et beaucoup risquent d'arriver si le gouvernement ne se penche pas sur la question de l'abus de drogues », ont-ils déploré par la voix de leur porte-parole.



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Français

Procès Gbagbo : la fiabilité des sources remise en cause par la défense

Laurent Gbagbo est donc de retour à la barre de la Cour pénale internationale. L'ancien président de Côte d'Ivoire est dans le box des accusés, aux côtés de Charles Blé Goudé, l'ex-leader des Jeunes patriotes. Tous deux sont poursuivis pour crime contre l'humanité. Les dernières audiences ont permis à la défense de plaider l'acquittement et d'exposer son argument principal, le manque de fiabilité du dossier du procureur.

Pour la défense, le dossier du procureur comporte de nombreuses anomalies, à commencer par une définition de sa thèse qui n'est pas établie, manque de preuves pour définir l'existence d'un plan commun établi par un cercle restreint de l'ancien président, qui aurait commis des violences pour se maintenir au pouvoir. Des preuves, qui de manière générale, sont peu fiables et dont l'authenticité est largement remise en question par la défense.

Cette dernière journée d'audience a mis en lumière

explique Me Jennifer Naouri, avocate de la défense.

Des documents douteux pour la défense

La défense doute donc de l'authenticité de nombreux documents militaires, du registre de la résidence, et de papiers d'état civil fournis par l'accusation.

Exemple pour Me Naouri avec le permis d'inhumer d'une victime établi par la mairie d'Abobo : « Ce permis d'inhumer est daté du 3 mars 2011. Comment est-il possible qu'un permis d'inhumer ait été délivré le 3 mars 2011, alors que la mairie était fermée ? Ce document qui pouvait paraître authentique est, à l'évidence, un faux qui a l'air d'un vrai. Et si ce permis d'inhumer est un faux, qu'en est-il des autres documents qui ont le cachet de la mairie d'Abobo ? »

La défense pointe aussi du doigt le manque de crédibilité des preuves utilisées par l'accusation pour prouver qu'il y a eu des tirs de mortiers sur le marché Siaka Koné le 17 mars 2011. Pour elle, les vidéos montrées par le procureur ne sont pas fiables : ces vidéos, souligne la défense, n'ont pas



une question importante : comment trouver des sources fiables en période de crise ? Un point déjà soulevé par le procureur qui assure que ses sources, replacées dans leur contexte, ont de la valeur. Mais aux yeux de la défense, il s'agit là d'une faille. Les avocats de Laurent Gbagbo en sont convaincus : le bureau du procureur a eu libre accès aux personnes ressources dès 2011. Ils remettent en question la proximité entre les autorités et l'équipe du procureur.

« Il ressort clairement que le procureur a collaboré étroitement avec les autorités ivoiriennes pour mener ses enquêtes dès 2011. Nous savons que Jean-Pierre Mignard, avocat d'Alassane Ouattara, a transmis au procureur le 21 mars 2011, donc en plein milieu de la crise, un rapport sur la situation humanitaire en Côte d'Ivoire, établi à la demande d'Alassane Ouattara »,

été authentifiées.

« Certaines pièces sont falsifiées », « ce sont des montages », affirme Me Jennifer Naouri, qui n'hésite pas à parler de manque de rigueur du procureur. Ce dernier, souligne Me Naouri, n'a pas jugé utile de mener des tests ADN sur les corps de victimes. Face à ces critiques, le substitut du procureur, Eric MacDonald, reste de marbre, enfoncé dans son fauteuil.

Dans cet état d'esprit, la défense estime que le dossier ne tient pas. Et qu'il est bien difficile de prouver la responsabilité de son client dans les violences survenues en 2010 et 2011. Et dans la galerie, qui surplombe la salle d'audience, les fidèles de l'ancien président ivoirien, n'hésitent pas à éclater de rire par moments, affichant leur soulagement.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

Trump : ses pouvoirs en baisse, sa colère grandissante

NEW YORK - Le drame de la présidence de Donald Trump se noue autour de la question de savoir si un président extrémiste est en mesure de mettre en œuvre un ordre du jour de mesures extrémistes, contre la volonté de la majorité des Américains. Jusqu'à présent, la réponse a été non et les élections de mi-mandat ont rendu cela beaucoup moins probable. Pourtant les frustrations de plus en plus grandes exercées sur Trump pourraient le pousser à bout sur le plan psychologique, ce qui pourrait avoir de terribles conséquences pour la démocratie américaine et pour le monde entier.

Aucune des mesures extrémistes de Trump n'a reçu le soutien public. L'opinion publique s'est opposée aux réductions d'impôts soutenues par les Républicains l'an dernier, à l'effort de Trump en vue d'abroger la Loi sur les soins abordables (Obamacare), sa proposition de construire un mur le long de la frontière avec le Mexique, la décision de se retirer de l'accord nucléaire avec l'Iran et l'imposition d'augmentations des droits de douane sur la Chine, l'Europe et d'autres. En même temps, contrairement à la promotion implacable par Trump des combustibles fossiles (charbon, pétrole, gaz), l'opinion publique est favorable aux investissements dans les énergies renouvelables et préférerait rester au sein de l'Accord climatique de Paris.

Trump tente de mettre en œuvre son programme radical en utilisant trois approches. La première consiste à compter sur la majorité républicaine dans les deux chambres du Congrès pour faire adopter une loi face à une forte opposition populaire. Cette approche a réussi une fois, avec les réductions d'impôts de 2017, parce que de grands donateurs Républicains ont pesé sur la mesure, mais elle a échoué avec la tentative de Trump d'abroger Obamacare, mesure contre laquelle trois sénateurs républicains ont rechigné.

La deuxième approche a consisté à utiliser des décrets présidentiels pour contourner le Congrès. Les tribunaux sont alors intervenus à maintes reprises, dernièrement dans les jours qui ont suivi les élections, quand un tribunal fédéral de district a interrompu les travaux sur le pipeline Keystone XL, un projet fortement contesté par les écologistes, au motif que l'administration Trump n'a pas réussi à présenter une « explication motivée » de ses actions. Trump outrepassa ses pouvoirs dangereusement et de manière répétée - et les tribunaux continuent de le repousser dans ses efforts.

La troisième tactique de Trump consiste à mobiliser l'opinion publique de son côté. Pourtant malgré ses fréquents rassemblements, ou peut-être à cause d'eux et de leur vulgarité incendiaire, la cote de désapprobation de Trump a dépassé sa cote d'approbation depuis les premiers jours de son administration. Sa cote de désapprobation globale actuelle est de 54 %, contre 40 % d'approbation, avec une forte approbation de l'ordre de 25 % de la population. Il n'y a pas de mouvement soutenu dans la direction de Trump.

Lors des élections de mi-mandat, que Trump a décrites lui-même comme un référendum sur sa présidence, les candidats Démocrates à la Chambre et au Sénat ont largement dépassé leurs adversaires Républicains. Dans les courses à la Chambre, les Démocrates ont reçu 53 314 159 voix à l'échelle nationale, par rapport à 48 439 810 pour les Républicains. Dans les courses au Sénat, les Démocrates ont devancé les Républicains par 47 537 699 voix contre 34 280 990.

En résumé, lors des votes par parti pour les trois derniers cycles électoraux (2014, 2016 et 2018), les candidats Démocrates au Sénat ont dépassé les candidats Républicains d'environ 120 millions de votes contre 100 millions. Néanmoins, les Républicains détiennent une infime majorité au Sénat, où chaque État est représenté par deux sénateurs, sans considération de la taille de sa population, parce qu'ils ont tendance à gagner leurs sièges dans les États moins peuplés, alors que les Démocrates l'emportent dans les principaux États du Midwest et de la côte. Le Wyoming, par exemple, élit deux sénateurs Républicains pour représenter près de

580 000 habitants, tandis que plus de 39 millions d'habitants en Californie élisent deux sénateurs démocrates. Les Démocrates gagnent davantage de votes, mais les Républicains gagnent davantage de sièges.

Toutefois, sans le contrôle de la Chambre, Trump ne sera plus en mesure d'adopter des lois impopulaires. Seules des politiques ayant le soutien des deux partis auront la chance de passer les deux chambres.

Sur le plan économique, la politique commerciale de Trump va devenir encore moins populaire dans les mois à venir, alors que l'économie américaine se remet de la « montée d'adrénaline » des réductions d'impôt pour les entreprises, alors que l'incertitude croissante au sujet de la politique commerciale mondiale paralyse les investissements des entreprises au moment même où augmentent le déficit budgétaire et les taux d'intérêt. Les fausses justifications de sécurité nationale de Trump pour augmenter les droits de douane seront également remises en cause politiquement et peut-être devant les tribunaux.

Certes Trump pourra continuer à nommer des juges fédéraux conservateurs et plus susceptibles d'obtenir leur confirmation face à un Sénat à majorité républicaine. Et sur les questions de guerre et de paix, Trump fonctionnera avec épouvantablement peu de surveillance par le Congrès ou l'opinion publique, une affliction du système politique américain depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Trump, comme ses récents prédécesseurs, va très probablement laisser l'Amérique s'embourber dans des guerres au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique, en dépit du manque de compréhension ou de soutien significatif de la part de l'opinion.

Néanmoins il y a trois autres raisons de croire que le contrôle de Trump sur le pouvoir va s'affaiblir considérablement dans les mois qui viennent. Premièrement, le Procureur Spécial Robert Mueller pourrait très bien fournir les preuves de graves méfaits commis par Trump, par des membres de sa famille et/ou par ses proches conseillers. Mueller a gardé un profil bas durant la course aux élections. Il est probable qu'il fasse parler de lui très bientôt.

Deuxièmement, les Démocrates de la Chambre vont commencer à enquêter sur les impôts et les affaires personnelles de Trump, notamment par des assignations du Congrès. Il y a fort à parier que Trump ait commis d'importantes fraudes fiscales (comme le New York Times l'a récemment décrit) et qu'il ait illégalement enrichi sa famille en tant que président (une action en justice que les tribunaux ont autorisé à poursuivre allégué d'infractions à la clause des émoluments de la Constitution). Trump risque d'ignorer ou de se battre contre les citations à comparaître, ouvrant ainsi la voie à une crise politique majeure.

Troisièmement, fait plus important encore, Trump n'est pas seulement un homme politique extrémiste. Il souffre de ce que Ian Hughes a récemment appelé « un esprit dérangé », rempli de haine, de paranoïa et de narcissisme. Selon deux proches observateurs de Trump, la prise du président sur la réalité « va probablement continuer à diminuer » dans la perspective d'obstacles politiques de plus en plus nombreux, d'enquêtes sur ses impôts et ses affaires, des découvertes de Mueller et d'une opposition politique sous haute tension. Nous avons peut-être déjà assisté à cela dans le comportement erratique et agressif de Trump depuis les élections.

Les mois à venir risquent d'être particulièrement dangereux pour l'Amérique et le monde. Alors que la position politique de Trump s'affaiblit et que les obstacles se rapprochent de lui, son instabilité mentale va entraîner un danger de plus en plus grand. Il pourrait exploser de rage, renvoyer Mueller et peut-être essayer de se lancer dans une guerre ou demander des pouvoirs d'urgence afin de rétablir son autorité. Nous n'avons pas encore vu Trump en pleine fureur, mais cela pourrait se produire bientôt, à l'heure où sa marge de manœuvre continue de fondre. Dans ce cas, bien des choses vont dépendre de la performance de l'ordre constitutionnel de l'Amérique.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Commerce disposes more contaminated goods

The Inspectorate Division at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry disposes more contaminated goods in the

country.

The Inspector General of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Josephine Davis and her team were out in the field,

dumping inconsumable goods that pose danger to human health.

This time around, a 40-foot container of rotten pig tails was disposed of at the Monrovia City Corporation dumping site in Whein Town, Paynesville outside Monrovia.

The expired goods were turned over to the Commerce and Industry Ministry by Cheatous Brothers Company in Saye Town, Bushrod Island.

Since her appointment, Madam Davis has been robust in raiding shelves of contaminated goods.

She has repeatedly sounded a caveat that business houses that will refuse to clear expired goods from their shelves or warehouses will meet the full weight of the law.

Madam Davis therefore, thanks the Cheatous Brothers Company management for alerting the Commerce and Industry Ministry about the expired goods and calls on other businesses to alert in similar manner. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Man, 23, drowns in Margibi

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr. in Margibi

A 23-year-old man from the Methodist Community in Weala, Margibi County drowns in the Borlor River in Margibi while enroute to implement a contract along with some friends.

The late Watee Kiamue, who was popularly known as TI, drowned recently.

According to friends of the deceased, Watee drowned while crossing the river after four of his colleagues made their way across the river by swimming.

They claim they advised him to stay where he was until they could find a way to help him, but he decided to help himself by jumping into the river to swim, though he lacked the skill.

Watee, according to his colleagues, got on an old wood lying in the water and made his way in the middle of the Borlor River which is now rising due to heavy downpour in the area, but got afraid and decided to return when he got confused, losing balance thus, drowning.

They immediately took the

news to the others, including family members and a rescue team was sent to search for him in the river the same day but was nowhere to be found.

However, two days later the body was found around the same area by men who were in search of him, including community watch forum members of Weala and

ordinary residents.

The body was already decomposing, but a 15-man jury team collaborating with the community watch forum and the Liberia National Police Weala Detachment headed by Francis Kelemue interred the remains of Watee near the river with the consent of his family in line with tradition.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



The floating body of the late Watee Kiamue

WFP begins nutrition sensitive workshop in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The World Food Programme (WFP) has begun a three - day Smallholder Agriculture Development Project Nutrition Sensitive Workshop in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SHAD-P) is a Japanese Government food aid initiative through the WFP that aims at supporting smallholder farmers in Liberia.

The project's main goal is to promote resilient agriculture practices for staple food production.

Speaking in an interview with reporters at the opening of the workshop recently, WFP Nutrition Program Officer Samuel Kopi said the objective of the training is to strengthen Smallholder farmers' knowledge on sustainable food system and its contribution to optimal nutrition.

According to Mr. Kopi, the training will also enhance the knowledge and skills of rural women in the production of high nutrient crops, improve understanding food diversification and discuss methods of food production, handling, preparation, storage and diversification.

The training has 60 participants that were drawn from a pool of key stakeholders including the relevant line ministries (Agriculture, Health and Internal Affairs), and key partners include WFP, Samaritan Purse and the Bong County Technical College.

Key facilitators at the workshop are from the WFP Nutrition and are being assisted by the cooperating

partners' nutrition team to cover other sensitive modules.

Mr. Kopi told our Bong County correspondent that additional facilitating support will come from the County Health and Agriculture Departments, relevant to the local context.

He says the two main components of the project focus on consolidating gains in the agriculture sector, by promoting, sustaining lowland rice assets through food-based transfer as incentives and to promote diet diversification through the production of secondary staple crops.

Some of these secondary staple crops include legumes (cassava, cowpeas, maize and groundnuts) to curtail the effects of malnutrition as well as reduce the maternal health risks of adolescent females suffering from under-nutrition.

Also speaking to our correspondent, Bong County nutrient focal person J. Adadius Dayi stated that the workshop is very important on grounds that it will help to make some awareness on his job in the County.

According to him, people in Liberia do not have much time for fruits, adding that Liberians only care for rice which has much sugar that affects the body.

He says with the workshop, participants will be able to understand the importance of balanced diet and how it helps to give the body nutrient.

Mr. Dayi wants the participants to help spread the messages across, adding that it will also make others to understand and get the concept. **--Edited by Winston**

"Liberia losing

Cont'd from page 6

know. But when you get into it, it is very hard to leave," Freeman explains.

"You can take a day to get into it, but to move from inside it can take you almost seven, eight years," he says further.

Freeman says he regrets the years he has wasted in abusing drugs.

Another Zogoe interviewed, 32 year old man Gabriel Logan, says he graduated from high school since 2005, and adds that he has been abusing drugs for 27

years now.

He says he has an eight year - old daughter, and he is tired of using drug substances because it is not helpful for him.

He pleads with government to help take them somewhere for some time to enable them to stop drug abuse.

According to their petition that carries a theme: "Zogos are Heroes," the drug abusers say over 80 percent of substance users in Liberia are young people between the ages of 13 to 35 years.

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Senators face off

By Winston W. Parley

Senators have drawn a battle line as a bloc of them opposing what they describe as unconstitutional approach to remove embattle Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh's have filed a petition before the Supreme Court for a stay order on further proceedings in to the impeachment process.

The Senators want the Superior Court to declare as unconstitutional the amendment of Rule 63 of the Senate Standing Rules by majority Senators, which would empower them impeach Ja'neh.

"...Petitioners pray this Honorable Court for respondents to stay further proceedings on the matter out of which the petition grew; grant Petitioners' petition by declaring the action taken by the respondents to amend Rule 63 and the amended rule unconstitutional..." the Senators say in their petition filed 9 November 2018 before the Supreme Court.

In the petition titled: "The Constitutionality amendment of the Senate Rules to provide for impeachment," Senators Comany B. Wesseh, Daniel Naathen, Milton Teahjay and Oscar Cooper are challenging the action of 19 other Senators at the Supreme Court



Minister Samuel Tweah

following a majority vote amending Rule 63 of the Senate Rules just to ease the way to impeach Justice Ja'neh.

But the key contention of the four Senators objecting to Justice Ja'neh's impeachment is that their majority colleagues have acted contrary to the clear mandate of Article 43 of Liberia's Constitution regarding the Legislature's authority to prescribe the procedure for impeachment proceedings.

They are therefore challenging the decision of the majority Senators including Saah Joseph, Jonathan Kaipay, J. Gbleh-bo Brown, H. Dan Morias, Varney G. Sherman, A.

Marshall Dennis, G. Alphonso Gaye, Prince Y. Johnson and Thomas Grupee, Henry Yallah and Henrique Tokpa.

The other senators include George T. Tengbeh, Morris G. Saytumah, Sando Dazoe Johnson, Albert T. Chie, Peter S. Coleman, Jim Tornonlah, Dallas A.V. Gueh and Matthew Jaye.

Without a prescribed procedure for impeachment process by the Legislature as required in Article 43 of the Constitution, the House of Representatives drafted, passed and submitted to the Senate an article of impeachment against Justice Ja'neh based on ruling CDC

Representatives Moses Acarus Gray and Thomas Fallah's claims of proved misconduct.

The House's action led the Senate to amend Rule 63 of its standing rules enable Senators proceed with the impeachment trial.

By amending the Senate's rule, the opposing Senators are alarmed that their majority colleagues have arrogated to the Senate "the authority and power" to prescribe the procedure for impeachment "to the exclusion of the House of Representatives."

"Petitioners say the action of the Senate and its product, the amended Senate rule to provide for impeachment are unconstitutional and pray this Honorable Court to so declared," the petitioners, represented by Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe and other lawyers say.

Additionally, the opposing Senators say the "unconstitutionality" of the amended Senate rule to provide for impeachment cannot be cured, even by the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

Part of their arguments is that the House of Representatives cannot legally draft, approve or amend rules for the conduct of any activity of the Senate because it is a separate layer of the Legislature.

The senators are warning that any attempt by their colleagues in the Senate to have the House of Representatives concur with the action of the majority senators, the affirmative response by the House of Representatives would also be unconstitutional.

They insist that the Constitution here prohibits the

submission of any citizen or resident to any law that was not in effect at the time of the offense that the person is accused of to have committed, citing Article 21.

"Consequently, Petitioners say the amendment of the Senate Rules to provide for the impeachment of Justice Ja'neh is unconstitutional. Petitioners so pray that this Court so declares," they add.

According to the petitioners, the sole purpose of amending Rule 63 of the Liberian Senate was to adopt a procedure to enable the Liberian Senate conduct a hearing on the impeachment of Justice Ja'neh since there was no procedure at the Senate prior to Ja'neh's impeachment move by the House of Representatives.

The petitioners conclude that they are prepared to work together with their colleagues and members of the House of Representatives to prescribe the rules to govern the procedure and process of impeachment of all public officials, but they have a duty to ensure that the action of the Senate conforms to the Constitution.

Already, the House of Representatives has defied the Supreme Court's stay order to appear for the hearing of a petition of a writ of prohibition filed by Justice Ja'neh against his impeachment.

However, the Executive branch is dramatically using its legal arm, the Justice Ministry to fight on the side of the defiant lawmakers to ensure that Justice Ja'neh is impeached, even though the Supreme Court had simply asked the Ministry to argue on the side of the law in the case.

17.1Billion LRD in circulation

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister tells the Senate here that 17.1 billion Liberians Dollars are currently in circulation across the country after he disputed the alleged missing of 16 billion Liberian banknotes printed and brought into the country.

Minister Samuel Tweah was thrown out of that august body last week in his first appearance after he confused senators with complicated graphs and lectures about the country's economic and

financial health.

Appearing at the Capitol before full plenary of the Liberian Senate on Tuesday, November 13, Minister Tweah discloses that the Liberian government currently has 17.1 billion Liberian dollars in circulation and the rest are being mopped up by the Central Bank of Liberia in consultation with the government's Economic Management Team to control the local currency against the United States dollars.

He says the essence of the mopping up strategy is to

reduce influx and surplus of local currency in the market, which has been a major contributing factor for the skyrocketing exchange rate between the Liberian dollar and the United States dollar.

When asked by Margibi County Senator Oscar Cooper to clearly state how much of the Liberian dollars is on the market, he says the government is battling to control the Liberian dollars against the U.S. dollar as vendors dictate the exchange rate.

Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay complains of commercial banks reportedly refusing to release huge sum of Liberian dollars on grounds that there is limited local currency in the country.

But Tweah cleverly evades the question and instead, says the government had used US\$15 million from the US\$25 million announced by President George Manneh Weah to mop up the excessive local currency.

Over dozen Senators last Tuesday, November 7, made public their strong disagreement over a three-page report from the Economic Management Team (EMT) on

Africa's general

Starts from back page

be achieved when people place giving at the center and how much change one individual can affect.

She also revealed that she is

the state of the economy; the alleged missing 16 billion LRD and the status of the infusion of the supposed US\$25 million into the economy to strengthen the Liberian dollar.

The angry lawmakers, including Senators Thomas Grupee, Matthew Jaye, Varney Sherman, Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence, Henrique Tokpa, J. Gbleh-bo Brown and Dan Morais, complained the report lacked detailed explanations on the specifics about the economy, but instead, was filled with financial graphs which they do not comprehend to interpret to their various constituents, who elected them.

Meanwhile, the Economic Management Team was sent back to properly prepare and reappear next Tuesday. At Yesterday's appearance, the

in Liberia to spread the word of God, dispel the negative impression people have about white garment churches and also visit important historical sites and personalities here.

Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, Mr. Nathaniel Patray, did not show up, neither did he sent a representative, thereby making the presentation challenging for the entire team.

Both Minister Tweah and Executive Governor Patray maintain no 16 billion is missing, saying all moneys printed and brought into the country are in the vaults of the CBL and in circulation.

A Presidential Investigative Team is probing the missing 16 billion besides forensic investigators hired by USAID to conduct a scoping mission that could ascertain the basic facts of the alleged missing currency in Liberia and determine to what extent a broader mission would be needed. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Pro-Tempore Albert Chie



Sen. Conmany Wesseh

Real reward interim boss Solari with permanent contract



Interim Real Madrid manager Santiago Solari was appointed permanent coach on Monday after overseeing a startling upturn in the European champions' fortunes since he stepped in to replace Julen Lopetegui.

"Everything is in order. Real Madrid have worked out his contract and there are no problems," the Spanish football federation stated.

Solari has led Real to four

wins out of four since being installed on a caretaker basis following Lopetegui's abrupt sacking last month.

And with 15 goals scored and only two conceded he has established the best ever start for a Real manager.

After thrashing Melilla in the Copa del Rey, they won 5-0 away to Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League, between victories over Real Valladolid and Celta Vigo in La Liga.

The upturn has left Madrid

only four points adrift of league leaders Barcelona and on the brink of qualification for the last 16 in Europe.

Solari, who spent five years playing for Real, was promoted from his role in charge of Castilla, the club's B team, after Lopetegui had overseen a miserable run that included just one victory in seven games.

The last of those, a 5-1 thumping at the hands of Barcelona, proved the final straw for club president Florentino Perez but the team have rebounded under their new coach.

Solari is Perez's 13th manager in 15 seasons across two separate periods at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"He has done excellently," Madrid club director Emilio Butragueno said on Sunday night. "We are very happy with how things have gone."

Few could argue with the results, which have now earned Solari the chance to prove himself over a longer period.

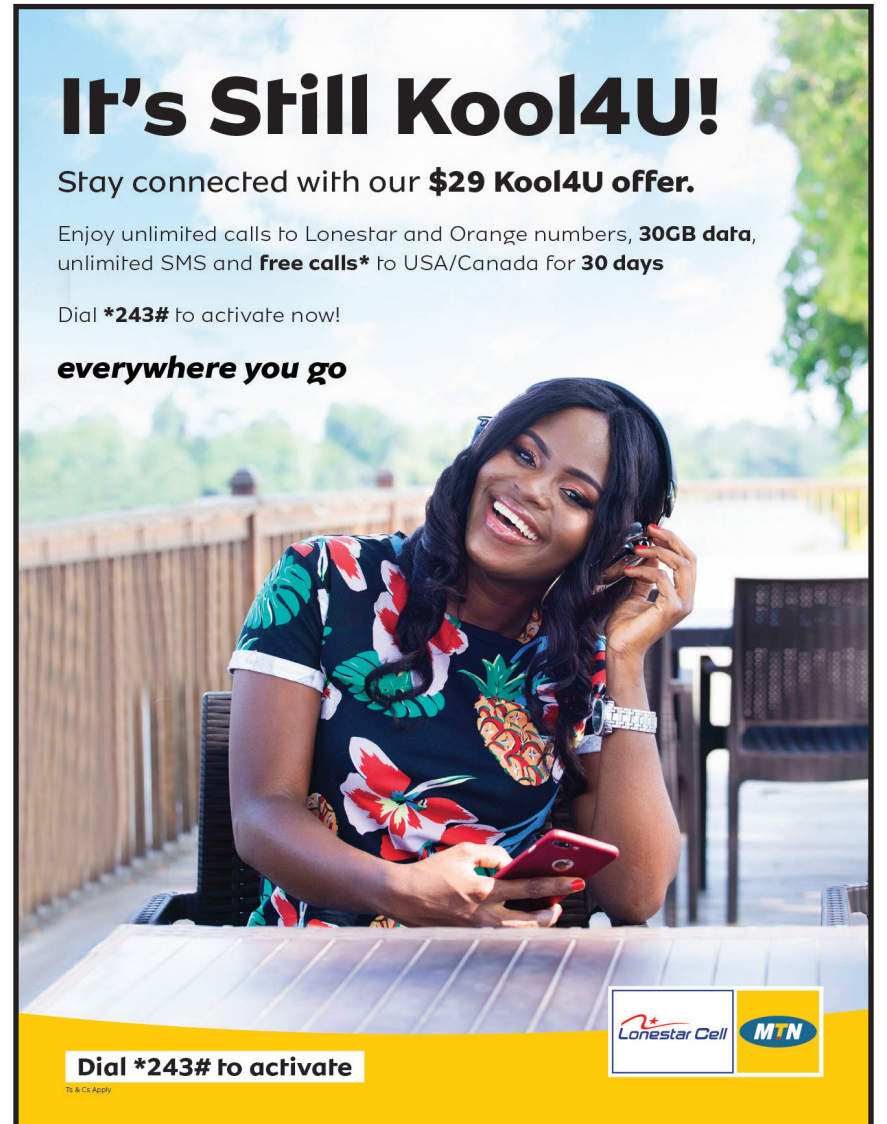
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Africa's general philanthropist arrives in Liberia

A Nigerian clergy and philanthropist Rev. Mother Esther Abimbola Ajayi is in Liberia on a three-day visit. She is widely known as Africa's most generous philanthropist and Founder/CEO of the Esther Ajayi Foundation.

The amazing preacher, who is General Overseer of the Love Of Christ Generation (C&S) Church based in Clapham, London has touched lives with various charitable activities in

Nigeria, Ghana, the UK, USA, Israel and Turkey. She is expected to spread her message of love and hope during the visit to Liberia.

Speaking on her Liberian sojourn, Rev. Mother Ajayi noted: "Everybody who knows me is aware that happiness is my attitude and giving is in my character. God has been kind to me in this life and I believe that you have to give as much as you can to put smiles on peoples' faces. I want to be a bridge

between the rich and the poor."

"When this year began, we launched the #1millionlives project where we vowed to support various charities and impact the lives of at least one million people in 2018. The foundation will provide support and resources for issues and causes dear to my heart such as homelessness, moving people out of poverty, rehabilitation of offenders, as well as supporting some other deserving causes and projects," she stated.

According to Rev. Ajayi, the aim of her Foundation is not only to become a world-class humanitarian and philanthropic organization, but also to inspire, raise and support a new generation of givers, saying, "I am really excited about this visit to Liberia."

With a focus on philanthropy, volunteerism, and making a difference in the world, Reverend Esther believes in the power of what can



Rev. Mother Esther Abimbola Ajayi

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