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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#



Former Pres. Charles Taylor

Taylor not free **-RSCSL clarifies**

Remove VP Taylor **-CDC Lawmaker demands**



VP Jewel Howard Taylor



Continental News

Grace Mugabe faces South Africa arrest warrant

South African prosecutors have issued an arrest warrant for Zimbabwe's ex-first lady, Grace Mugabe, for allegedly assaulting a model in 2017, police say.

The move comes after a court annulled her diplomatic immunity in July.

South Africa's government was criticised for letting Mrs Mugabe leave the country after the alleged assault.

Gabriella Engels accused Mrs Mugabe of beating the "hell out of me" with an electric extension cord in a hotel room in Johannesburg.

Mrs Mugabe said at the time that she had acted in self-defence after the "intoxicated and unhinged" model attacked her in the room where her two sons lived.

Police spokesman Vishnu Naidoo said on Wednesday: "I can confirm that a warrant for the arrest of Grace Mugabe was issued last Thursday."

He said police were

seeking the assistance of Interpol to enforce the warrant.

It is unclear why the reporting of the warrant was delayed and there has been no response yet from Mrs Mugabe or Zimbabwean authorities.

Lobby group AfriForum,

which has been pursuing the case, welcomed the arrest warrant.

"It seems that justice is going to take place and we are looking forward to this matter going forward," South Africa's Times Live website quoted AfriForum CEO Kallie Kriel as saying.



Image copyright REUTERS : Robert Mugabe was ousted after being accused of planning to hand power to his wife, Grace

It is unclear whether South Africa will push for Mrs Mugabe's extradition.

The Mugabe family owns properties in South Africa.

The alleged assault took place about three months before the military takeover in Zimbabwe, which saw Robert Mugabe resign as president after 37 years in power.

What happened in Johannesburg?

The alleged assault took place in August 2017 after Mrs Mugabe found Ms Engels with her two sons, Robert and

Chatunga, in a hotel room in Sandton, a wealthy suburb in the city's north.

The then first lady was in South Africa to be treated for an ankle injury, Zimbabwean media reported.

Ms Engels released an image of a head injury online. "When Grace entered I had no idea who she was," she told South African's News24 at the time.

"She walked in with an extension cord and just started beating me with it. She flipped and just kept beating me with the plug.

Gunmen kill Nigeria's ex-defence chief



Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh retired in 2015

A former defence chief in Nigeria has been killed in an ambush outside the capital, Abuja.

Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh died from gunshot wounds in an attack on his vehicle by unknown gunmen.

Air force spokesman Ibikunle Daramola said in a statement that Badeh's vehicle "was attacked while returning from his farm along Abuja-Keffi Road".

It is unclear whether it was a targeted or random killing.

Badeh served as chief of defence staff under former President Goodluck Jonathan, who stepped down in 2015, and was on trial for money-laundering - allegations he denied.

Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) alleges he diverted Nigeria Air Force funds for his personal use.

His defence team had been expected to present their case in January, Nigeria's Guardian.-BBC

Tanzania's opposition unite against 'the Bulldozer'

Tanzania's six main political parties have agreed to work together to fight rising "authoritarianism" in the country.

After a two-day meeting on the island of Zanzibar, leaders and top officials of the parties issued a joint statement criticising President John Magufuli for overseeing what they said

was a repressive government that branded critics as "unpatriotic traitors".

Mr Magufuli, nicknamed "the Bulldozer", came to power in 2015 and was initially praised for his anti-corruption stance, but critics have since accused him of growing intolerance.

His government has banned some media

organisations for what it deems as their anti-government coverage and harassed opposition leaders and activists.

The opposition statement, issued on Tuesday, said:

Quote Message: The historic meeting here in Zanzibar is a reflection of the extent to which the democratic and human rights situation in our country has

changed, thereby leading to unprecedented actions on our side in response."

The historic meeting here in Zanzibar is a reflection of the extent to which the democratic and human rights situation in our country has changed, thereby leading to unprecedented actions on our side in response."

It also highlighted the banning of parliament proceedings coverage and the curbing of opposition activities:

Quote Message: "The situation is no longer tolerable. Enough is enough!"

"The situation is no longer

tolerable. Enough is enough!"

The opposition leaders said two of their colleagues, one in jail and another in hospital after an assassination attempt, supported their statement.

Next year would be a time to reclaim "our democracy and taking back our powers and rights as enshrined in the constitution", the statement added.

To do this the leaders said they planned to hold public rallies across Tanzania and said the government should take them to court if it thought their activities were unlawful.-BBC



Image caption: The opposition leaders said their meeting was historic

EDITORIAL

Liberians crave for Pro-Poor Rice

THE CURRENT UNCONTROLLABLE craving by Liberians for the Pro-Poor Rice brought in the country recently in the quantity of 80,000 bags is not only sickening, but laughable.

MANY MONROVIA RESIDENTS are complaining that the rice is not available in stores for sale, while others claim the consignment is being re-bagged to be sold at a higher price, including reports of unscrupulous business people smuggling it to neighboring countries.

BUT HERE IS the plain reality: simple elementary economic principles stipulate that when supply does not meet demand, scarcity comes in. And this is the reality we face. No amount of yearning for the Pro-Poor Rice can change anything in the short run as long as supply remains constant at 80,000 bags.

IN HONEST, WHAT can 80,000 bags of rice do to 4.5 million people? It is nothing but a drop in the bucket, given our insatiable taste for rice. We are gathering that sale of the rice is being rationed from market to market. But this will not address the current demand either.

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia says it has established partnership with a so-called private importer, TRH Trading, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to import rice and sell at a reduced price of US\$950 and US\$10, respectively below the current price of US\$17.

THIS MEANS IN order to offset the official US\$17 for a 25kg bag of rice in the Liberian market, government and its partner would need about 4 million bags of Pro-Poor Rice.

HOWEVER, EVEN IF this were to happen, it does not in any way help the economy of this country, for we consistently maintain that agriculture is the only sustainable strategy in feeding our population. We must grow rice at a large scale and place value on local production against imported rice. There is no other workable strategy.

THE CURRENT EXERCISE is nothing but mere attempt at scoring political gains, which is shortsighted and unsustainable. We are hearing that the Weah administration intends to take some of the Pro-Poor Rice upcountry to villagers. This would be the greatest mistake! By such action, the government would be discouraging hardworking farmers.

INSTEAD OF IMPORTING rice for villagers, we call on the Ministry of Agriculture to roll out its agenda for the agricultural sector, which should be a priority by now.

IT IS A SHAME that as a nation of 171 years, we Liberians would scramble for broken parboiled rice imported from India. It's too sad! With a 60 percent youthful population, this country is ripe for agro investment. All that is needed is visionary leadership.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT seems to be sending wrong signals that it would regret later, because if the so-called Pro-Poor Rice would not be available for the market, the Weah administration should get ready for the tongue-lashing it tries to avoid.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Robert Skidelsky

The Continuing Agony of Brexit

Those who are calling for a second referendum on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union overlook an inconvenient truth: Leavers detest the EU more intensely than Remainers love it. So we must hope that Prime Minister Theresa May gets her amicable divorce when Parliament finally votes on it in January.

LONDON - So British Prime Minister Theresa May lives to fight another day. The Conservative Party in the House of Commons reaffirmed its confidence in her leadership by a far-from-resounding 200-117 vote. It is hard to think of another British prime minister whose leadership has been in such continuous crisis. Not so much an iron lady as a stubborn and dogged one, May has begun another round of effort to extract a few further concessions from European leaders to make her divorce agreement more palatable to her party, if not a majority of the public.

The British people decided in June 2016 to leave the European Union, by a slim 51.9%-48.1% margin in a national referendum. After invoking Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon, the United Kingdom is due to leave on March 29, 2019. But the Irish question, the Conservative Party's internal politics, and parliamentary arithmetic have made the Brexit process anything but straightforward.

The UK and the Republic of Ireland share a land border separating the latter, which will remain in the EU, from Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK. Brexit, therefore, would leave Northern Ireland outside the EU's customs union, and the Irish Republic inside it. Hence May's agonized efforts to secure a deal that prevents a "hard" border with customs checks.

This is not just a matter of economic convenience. It is literally a matter of life and death. When Ireland won its independence from Britain in 1922, six mainly Protestant counties remained in the UK under a system of devolved government. Two legacies of the truncated United Kingdom survived: free trade and free movement of labor between Britain and the new Irish state.

The incomplete victory over Britain rankled in the predominantly Catholic Republic of Ireland; until 1999, the Irish constitution included a commitment to the "reintegration" of the whole island. At the same time, Northern Ireland's dwindling Protestant majority clung ever more fervently to the British connection. Following three decades of violent conflict between the province's Irish nationalist and Protestant groups, resulting in over 3,600 deaths, the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 established a Unionist-Nationalist power-sharing executive in Northern Ireland, along with a British-Irish Council as a nod to harmonious relations with the Irish Republic.

Any hardening of the frontier would jeopardize the fragile peace secured by the Good Friday Agreement. If the power-sharing agreement breaks down, men of violence on both sides would be waiting in the wings. To avoid this outcome, May's plan provides for Britain to leave the EU but remain "temporarily" in the customs union, pending the negotiation of a free-trade agreement with the EU, with the "backstop" of a guaranteed open border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, come what may.

As if this weren't bad enough, Parliament is split

between those who want to leave and those who want to remain. This cleavage cuts across the ruling Conservative and opposition Labour parties.

The Remainers fall into three groups: those on the left who see the EU's "social market" approach as a source of protection for British workers; business and financial interests who count the economic costs of Brexit; and idealists who want Britain to play a constructive role in the political unification of Europe. The Leavers also comprise three groups: Thatcherites who view Brussels as a "super-state" bent on stifling free enterprise; a partly overlapping group that envisages Britain as an independent part of a global free-trade system; and the "left-behinds" who want to preserve Britain's cultural identity and keep out foreigners.

The parliamentary arithmetic matters, despite the referendum result, because May was forced to concede that Parliament would have the last word on any deal she reached. This has given Remainers hope of reversing the 2016 outcome in a second "people's vote."

The composition of parliamentary forces reflects May's disastrous decision to call a snap general election in 2017, which resulted in her losing a Conservative majority. And the 317 Conservative MPs who remain are split about 200-100 between those who back May's proposed Brexit plan and those who want Britain to "crash out" without a deal.

Support for May's deal from the opposition - 257 Labour MPs, 35 Scottish Nationalists, and a few others - is uncertain, at best. Likewise, the ten MPs of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, on whose support the government now depends, are torn between wanting free trade with the South and fear of being sucked into the Irish Republic if and when the rest of Britain leaves the customs union. The DUP has denounced all talk of a special arrangement or "backstop" to enable Northern Ireland to remain in the customs union in lieu of a UK-EU free-trade deal.

Given the divisions in her own party, May will be forced to depend on Labour MPs to get her agreement through Parliament. No one knows how Labour MPs will vote, and the incentives facing the party are mixed. On the one hand, voting with the Leavers to scupper May's deal would probably lead to a general election, which Labour could win. On the other hand, Jeremy Corbyn, the party's leader, can have no great appetite to accept the poisoned chalice that May would pass on to him.

There's an understandable temptation to say, "If Parliament can't decide, let's throw it back to the people." But there's no clarity about what exactly "the people" would be asked. It is playing with fire to seek a second vote on the ground that you did not like the result of the first one. And there's one further issue to bear in mind: Leavers detest the EU more intensely than Remainers love it. If the Remainers win a second vote, a passionate resentment will sour British politics for years. So we must hope that May gets her amicable divorce when Parliament finally votes on it in January.

O-PED

By Winnie Byanyima

Globalization 4.0 for Whom?

DAVOS - Imagine a world in which women and girls have their rights respected, climate change receives the attention it so urgently requires, and poverty has been eliminated. Never before have we had the means that we have now to make this vision a reality. In Africa, for example, I am excited to see how off-grid solar energy is expanding rapidly. In Kenya, mobile banking has significantly improved financial inclusion, particularly for poor women.

These and other technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) have the potential to boost productivity, incomes, and leisure time for workers, while also decarbonizing our economies and freeing women from the hold of unremunerated care work. But, to realize this potential, we will have to adopt an entirely new approach to globalization.

The World Economic Forum's theme for its annual meeting in Davos next month is Globalization 4.0, which comprises many of the competing narratives now shaping our world. In the dominant narrative of the last 40 years, GDP was king, and countries pursued deregulation, loosened capital controls, cut corporate taxes, and liberalized their labor markets.

The eruption of popular anger that has roiled many countries' politics in recent years is rooted in the failure of that neoliberal model. But there is no economic law requiring globalization to be a race to the bottom. On the contrary, for humanity to have any hope at all, Globalization 4.0 must break with neoliberalism for good.

I fear that business and government elites gathering in Davos do not seem to have grasped this fully. Until they do, globalization will continue to fuel inequality and sow discontent around the world.

Rising inequality threatens much of the progress that we have made over the past half-century. While the world's richest 1% took home 82% of all new wealth last year, the World Bank reports that the "decline in poverty rates has slowed, raising concerns about achieving the goal of ending poverty by 2030." Even more shocking, extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is actually increasing; and almost half of all people worldwide are one medical bill or crop failure away from destitution.

These realities will persist as long as billionaires in Silicon Valley, Africa, and elsewhere are writing the future narrative of globalization. We need new stories to challenge the status quo. Consider that of Budi, a shrimp-processing worker in Southeast Asia who must peel 950 shrimp per hour to earn a minimum wage. It would take Budi more than 5,000 years to earn what a US supermarket CEO makes in one year.

Or, consider the women farmers in my village of Ruti, Uganda, who wonder if economic growth will ever result in free, quality education for their kids. Rich countries owe much of their prosperity to universal education. But in developing countries around the world, fees charged by for-profit schools are driving families deeper into poverty.

One person whose story must be heard is Berta Cáceres, an indigenous-rights leader in Honduras who was assassinated in March 2016 for resisting a destructive hydroelectric dam project. In November, a court ruled that Cáceres's murder was carried out with the knowledge and consent of executives from Desa, the corporation behind the dam.

When globalization has no rules or referees, the bullies will always win. Even research by the International Monetary Fund now shows that financial globalization has led to "significant increases in inequality," as has increased trade in some developing countries. Likewise, climate change is symptomatic of a grossly unequal economy in which the rich exploit the environment for private gain.

Globalization 4.0 must offer a new narrative to replace the abusive, extractive, and sexist neoliberalism of the past few decades. We will need far more cooperation among governments to rewrite the rules of finance, trade, wages, and taxation. Only then can we ensure that the 4IR benefits ordinary people.

To that end, we should welcome pioneering new technologies, but we should also ask tough questions about their ownership and the interests they serve, especially as new monopolies emerge. We will need a smart mix of incentives, public ownership, and regulation to manage the changes that are upon us.

We will also need a new approach to taxation and public spending. The richest households and corporations have avoided paying their fair share for too long, while also stymieing meaningful reform. It was particularly disappointing to see business leaders at the last Davos meeting celebrating US President Donald Trump's trillion-dollar tax cuts. If well-meaning elites are serious about ushering in a more inclusive form of globalization, they will need to back their words with deeds.

Multilateralism remains the only way to manage these policy challenges. But the framework for international cooperation must become much more democratic, feminist, and people-centered. When discussing the future trajectory of globalization, a woman smallholder farmer in Nakuru, Kenya, should be valued just as much as a corporate executive in Manhattan. We need multilateral institutions that can rein in corporate abuse and steel civil society against rising authoritarianism.

Responsive, bold leadership from national governments will also be needed to manage Globalization 4.0. Rather than simply trying to manipulate citizens' anger, politicians need to understand and address the root causes of their discontent.

Fortunately, such leaders are not mythical creatures. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is tackling inequality with a combination of taxes on the wealthy and corporations, a higher minimum wage, and increased social spending. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also has an ambitious agenda to reduce inequality, and she has made citizens' wellbeing a central metric of her government's success. And Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has openly embraced a feminist global-development policy.

These leaders are living proof that globalization can be managed in a way that benefits everyone. They put those beholden to toxic neoliberalism to shame, and they offer hope that a more human global economy is within reach.

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OPINION

By Aryeh Neier

A Life Lived for Human Rights

NEW YORK - In her 1993 memoir, *The Thaw Generation: Coming of Age in the Post-Stalin Era*, Lyudmila Alexeyeva points out that there is no good Russian word for "dissident." A term that was sometimes used in its place translates as "otherwise thinkers." Over time, the Soviet press adopted the English term, referring to disidenty. Alexeyeva, who died this month at the age of 91, certainly fell into that category.

A historian by training, Alexeyeva was widely recognized as Russia's foremost human-rights advocate. In 1976, 20 years after Nikita Khrushchev's "secret speech" denouncing Stalin's crimes, Alexeyeva was among the founders of the Moscow Helsinki Group, focused on monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Accords, which had been concluded the previous year by 35 governments from Europe and North America.

The goal of the Accords, largely the result of the Soviet Union's initiative, was to improve relations between the Cold War antagonists - and, for Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, to formalize international recognition of post-World War II national borders. The Soviets were so eager for an agreement that they accepted provisions that, barely noticed at the time, incorporated the principal post-WWII international human-rights norms. Through the Helsinki Accords, the Soviet Union effectively agreed to be bound by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which it had previously refused to endorse.

Brezhnev was so pleased that he had gotten the Helsinki Accords approved that he had the text published in full in the Communist Party's official newspaper, *Pravda*. That is how Alexeyeva and her fellow disidenty noticed the human-rights provisions of the agreement. So they established the Moscow Helsinki Group to monitor the Soviet government's compliance and report violations.

The tiny organization had an outsize historic significance. According to Robert Gates, who became Director of the CIA in 1991, in the midst of the Soviet Union's death throes, those who monitored compliance with the Helsinki Accords may have done more to bring down the Soviet empire than the CIA itself.

Of course, the Kremlin did not take the Moscow Helsinki Group's actions lightly. Members of the group - including its chair, physicist Yuri Orlov - were imprisoned. Alexeyeva was given the choice of prison or exile, and chose exile in the United States, where she continued to play an important role in defending human rights in the Soviet Union.

At that time, a couple of colleagues and I responded to the imprisonment of the Moscow Helsinki Group's members, as well as other disidenty, by establishing Helsinki Watch, a US-based organization focused on freeing them. Alexeyeva was invaluable to our efforts, as she delivered for us detailed, reliable information on what was happening to her comrades.

Over the next decade, as Helsinki Watch evolved into the globally recognized group Human Rights Watch, Alexeyeva's contributions continued to bear fruit. As an historian, she was committed to getting the facts right and ensuring that we had sufficient context. Her approach helped to shape Human Rights Watch's research methodology, which has proved vital to our reputation for responding to developments not only rapidly, but also appropriately, based on accurate information. As director of the nascent Human Rights Watch, I relied heavily on Alexeyeva, who also became my friend.

In the late 1980s, when Mikhail Gorbachev began freeing disidenty from prison, Alexeyeva returned to Moscow, where she revived the Moscow Helsinki Group, which had been forced to suspend its activities in 1982, because almost all of its members had been in prison or exile. Since then, the organization has done battle with the Russian government time and again, including standing up to the ever-more despotic Vladimir Putin.

Under Putin, the challenge of upholding human rights in Russia has remained acute. The Kremlin has effectively prohibited some foreign donors, including the Open Society Foundations, from issuing grants in Russia, and has implemented a requirement that organizations receiving any foreign funding declare themselves to be "foreign agents" - essentially, spies.

Such policies have hit the Moscow Helsinki Group hard, because it was forced to choose losing much of its funding and, in turn, its staff. Yet the group has persisted.

Though Alexeyeva criticized Putin, he manifested a grudging respect for her, perhaps because he viewed her as a Russian patriot. On one occasion, Putin's annual meeting with human-rights leaders coincided with her birthday, so he brought her a bouquet of flowers. He congratulated her again on her 90th birthday.

I doubt that Alexeyeva was much moved by such gestures. But they reflect the respect she commanded, and her commitment to conducting herself in a civil manner even when dealing with her opponents. She knew what she stood for, and so do the many people who benefited from her tireless efforts to protect human rights.

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally H. Gaye Cell#: 0886726282 Email:sh0770291004@gmail.com



The Government of Liberia in partnership with a private investor, imported 80,000 bags of rice, dubbed Pro-Poor Rice for sale at US\$950 and US\$10, respectively. But demand is huge and the quantity is insufficient. In this spot-check, the New Dawn asks whether this strategy by the government is effective.



Prince Dowaye

"For me, I knew that this rice was going to go out of the market soon because the rice that came in the country was very small for the country. Some people were buying four to five bags because of the price. We need to be careful of this cheap propaganda. Even if the pro-poor rice were in the market, what does it have to do with other rice in the market?"

Presently, we have an open rice market, rice importers are still going on with competitive business that is now making the rice market good. Nobody will ever go against this idea because it will bring competition to drop the price that we all will embrace."



Mavoline Doe

"I support the ideal of Pro-Poor Rice, but how could the government bring in the country 80,000 bags or 4,000 metric tons of 25kg of the Pro-Poor rice from India to be sold on the Liberia market without thinking about the people? We import rice from foreign country and act as though it is a better way to improve the agriculture sector. The

Government of Liberia should open large scale farming areas across the country in counties that have rich soil for rice production. As long as we continue this process of importing rice, Liberia will find it difficult to feel herself, and because of the price, more people will go for it. The government should import rice that is more than the population to be able to get some in stores."

James Zokar

"This government is simply telling Liberians and the world that rice remains a serious political commodity. If the rice was [grown] in Liberia, and people working to get local rice, it will not go out of the market soon. That's why the imported rice from India is being named and term as pro-poor rice. Will the government continue to import the Indian pro-poor rice? I also feel that government is diverting the minds of the people from the missing billions crisis. I want to recommend that government throw its financial weight in the Agriculture sector, so to avoid using political strategies, which may not work all the time."



Emmanuel Ross

"The rice is on the market but people are keeping it in their stores just for people to buy the other rice, waiting to sell it at higher price when time comes. I say this because just this morning, I saw the Pro-Poor Rice in one store around my place and the guy said somebody bought them. So, if one man bought more than 50 bags of this Pro-Poor Rice, then what will the big people in government do? We Liberians are our own problem in this country, all in the name of spoiling the government to the people, but we are the same people feeling it."



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Welcome To The New World



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Pres. Weah extols UN's continuous support to Liberia

President George Manneh Weah is lauding the United Nations for its continuous support to Liberia over the years.

President Weah notes the United Nations, through its

and timely interventions aimed at propelling the country's development.

The Liberian leader spoke here Tuesday, 18 December when he received a letter of accreditation from UN Secretary General António

disarmament process.

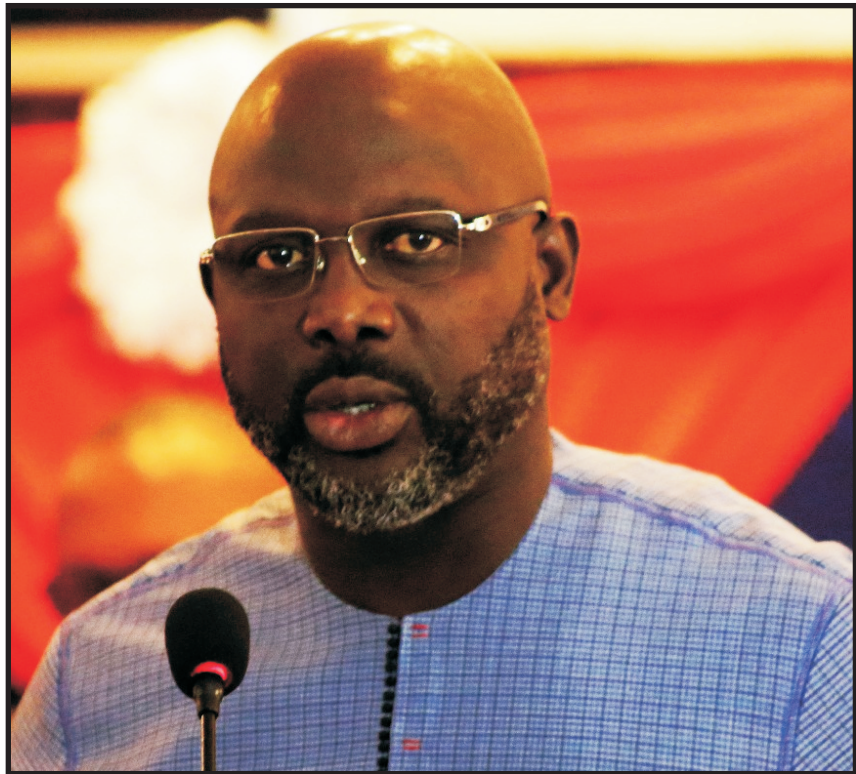
He indicates that his government is delighted to receive the letter of accreditation at the time Liberia is turning a new page of development to improve the lives of its citizens.

President Weah informs the UN official that his government would exert all efforts to improve the living condition of Liberians, particularly improving the agricultural sector of the country.

"If you see what has been invested in agriculture, there is no need for this country to be looking around for food to feed its people," he adds.

In a brief response, Ambassador Hillo thanks President Weah for his government's development agenda. He committed the United Nations to working with the government in actualizing the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

He stresses it was important for all Liberians to work collectively towards implementing the national development agenda, adding, "Liberia's improvement should not be left with national government alone, but must involve all Liberians." -Press Release



development partners, has done so much in sustaining Liberia's peace, democracy and infrastructure development.

According to a release, the President says his government is grateful for the UN's critical

Guterres, extending the tenure of Ambassador Yacoub El Hillo, as Assistant Secretary General. President Weah particularly references the UN's role in ending the Liberian civil war, including carrying out a successful

Youth and Sports Minister praises China for support

Liberia's Minister of Youth and Sports D. Zeogar Wilson extols the Government and People of China for standing by Liberia in its human resource development objectives especially, thru the Shandong Foreign Trade Vocational College.

Minister Wilson notes that the young people of Liberia, who are direct beneficiaries of the Chinese assistance, and Liberians in general, will always remember China Aid to Liberia.

He says although

serious consideration on how graduates of the Chinese program can apply their skills to generate income to sustain themselves and their families.

Speaking on the Topic: "TVET, a Viable Path for Youth Entrepreneurship", he says the Government of Liberia is committed to providing opportunities for the advancement of young people, emphasizing that technical and vocational must lead the way as avenue for young people to improve themselves.

He continues that part of the commitment is to provide



Minister of Youth and Sports D. Zeogar Wilson

Agencies hold policy dialogue

By Lewis S. Teh

The Governance Commission (CG) in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has conducted a one - day policy dialogue in Monrovia.

It brought together major stakeholders to discuss issues relating to the Artisanal Mining sector of Liberia on Wednesday, 19 December.

The one day policy dialogue was held under the theme: "The Effective Management of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM)" to enhance economic growth and development here in Liberia.

At the dialogue, GC Commissioner Ms. Elizabeth Dorkin indicated that the Government of Liberia over the years has found difficulties in properly governing the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining sector.

This sector is being recognized by the World Bank as a mechanism of poverty alleviation in developing countries.

The new GC Commissioner reveals that the dialogue



focused on four key thematic areas.

They include managing Artisanal and Small-scale Mining sector in Liberia for effective revenue generation, the Restructuring of Liberia Artisanal and Small - scale Mining sector and its integration into the value chain taxation.

She names the other areas as environment damage and related health impacts of Artisanal and Small- scale Mining sector.

Commissioner Dorkin told the audience that Artisanal and Small-scale Mining is an essential component of development and a major source for revenue for rural communities.

She explains how it provides income for investment to enhance job opportunities under the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP) of President Weah.

"The development of the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining sector will contribute

challenging, these are exciting times, as technical, and vocational training is gaining a fresh look and commitment in the country.

Speaking recently during the graduation of 120 youth at the Monrovia Vocational Training Center in Paynesville after completion of various skills training under the Shan Dong Foreign Trade Vocational College, he discloses the Government of Liberia is reforming the TVET sector through support from the European Union, UNESCO and ChinaAid, respectively.

Minister Wilson says government has seen assistance provided by international partners, adding that as government works to improve the sector, it is giving

learning opportunities through market-driven TVET as focus of transforming and modernizing the sector.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, a graduate of the electricity department Leon Z. M. Harris, notes that with support from government, private agencies, NGOs and private individuals, they would not let go the knowledge acquired by making sure to give back to vocational schools in the country.

Leon appeals to government not to abandon them in the streets, but to utilize their skills thru employment. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

to job creation, economic growth and increase in government revenue under this regime," she adds.

For his part the Deputy Minister for Operations at the Ministry of Mines and Energy Mr. Emmanuel O. Sherman expressed delight over the conduct of the dialogue.

Serving as proxy Minister Gelster E. Murray, Mr. Sherman applauded the GC, and said Artisanal and Small-scale

Mining sector (ASM) is experiencing an exponential growth in Liberia due to the rising value of precious minerals commodities and the increase and quest to improve the lifestyle of citizens.

Mr. Sherman however laments that management of the ASM sector is characterized by many challenges, expressing confidence that the gathering for the dialogue will achieve it's intended purpose.

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AEL turns over project to gov't

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Association of Evangelicals of Liberia (AEL) has officially turned over to the Liberian Government the total number of thirty one hand-pumps, seven latrines and ten handwashing facilities in Zota District, Bong County. AEL, is a Christian organization that seeks to ensure the reduction of poverty and the spread of waterborne diseases.

The organization has been erecting the facilities over the past three years in 19 communities in the District with support from Mission Alliance, a Norwegian - based organization.

AEL is the largest network of Churches and agencies of evangelical persuasion in Liberia responding to human need with spiritual guidance, compassion and practical care.

Its vision is a Liberian Church that is faithful to God's calling to love as Christ loves - evidenced by its practical, holistic and compassionate response to human need.

Prior to the extension of



Staffs of AEL

AEL's humanitarian services in the District, 80% of the residents had no access to safe drinking water, a situation that led to the increase of diarrhea and other waterborne diseases in the area.

Some residents of Zota, especially children between the ages of three and eight have died as a result of drinking unsafe water.

Since the construction of the hand-pumps, residents of the area are now living happily

and using the safe water for drinking and other domestic purposes.

AEL's Wash Officer and Acting General Secretary Rev. Ebenezer M. Binda urges community dwellers to put in place measures that will ensure the full maintenance of the erected facilities.

He also appeals to government through the local authorities to constitute measures that will ensure the constant monitoring of the

facilities.

At the same time, Mission Alliance Representative to Liberia and Sierra Leone Rune Ouward expresses happiness over the level of work AEL has done.

He pledges his institution's fullest support to the improvement of the County.

Bong County Superintendent Esther Yamah Walker extended commendations to AEL and Mission Alliance, promising to

collaborate with the direct beneficiaries of the facilities.

For their part, Representatives of the 19 communities lavished praises on AEL and described the ceremony as a beginning of a new day in their lives.

"I am very happy for what AEL has done for us, we been suffering for safe drinking water here, and seeing that AEL has constructed one in our Town is something we want to say thank you for," Mr. Flomo Moah, a resident of Kollieta told journalists.

Also speaking, Madam Korto Gohoteh, a mother of five children whose husband died during the Ebola crisis noted that since AEL constructed the hand pump in Yorwee, the challenges they used to face have been eased.

She recalls that they used to fetch water from the creek, and her children really used to get sick.

"But since AEL brought the water, none of them have experienced sickness and I am happy for that," she says.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Taylor faction contradicts Biney

By Emmanuel Mondaye

National Patriotic Party (NPP) Chairman Mr. John Gray says prior to the split in the NPP, embattled former Secretary General James Biney signed the party's amended constitution which

Commission (NEC) which falls out of the crisis within the former ruling party of imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

According to Mr. Gray, the NPP's amended Constitution empowers the executive committee to expel party

each controlling a faction of the NPP.

Biney was still battling his expulsion from the NPP when he and his loyalists retaliated by expelling Madam Taylor as party standard bearer, a decision she challenges.

Mr. Biney is claiming



was later used by the National Executive Committee to expel him (Biney).

The former Liberian Vice President testified Wednesday, 19 December at ongoing hearing at the National Elections

officials and members, adding that Biney is a signatory to it.

Mr. Biney and former President Taylor's estranged wife, Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor are fighting for control of the party, with

wrongful expulsion from the NPP by the Taylor faction.

Some of the instruments presented to Mr. Gray by the hearing officer includes a copy of the NPP's 2016 Amended Constitution, complaint, resolution of the

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

National Executive Committee and guidelines, among others.

He confirms these instruments as legitimate, and discloses that the expelled party Secretary General Mr. Biney was given due process.

Biney has denied this claim, saying he was never provided due process.

Mr. Gray testifies that Mr. Biney was written to by the Grievance and Ethics Committee, requesting his appearance, but he allegedly failed to honor the committee's invitation.

The witness says several other options were put forth by the committee, affording Mr. Biney the opportunity to defend himself but also allegedly refused to appear to make his case.

Gray narrates that to the

surprise of the NPP, Biney decided to single handedly conduct his own convention in Bantol City outside of the party National Executive Committee's endorsement.

He says this action contravenes the NPP Constitution. The witness continues that Biney's refusal to appear for the investigation necessitated a judgment by default against him in keeping with the party's guidelines and constitution.

The Chairman of NPP's Grievance and Ethics Committee that probed Mr. Biney is expected to testify in the case.

Meanwhile, the Taylor faction NPP's lawyers have requested the NEC to place a mark of identification on all the instruments confirmed in

Français

Brumskine revient-il en politique ?

L'opposant historique et leader politique symbolique du Parti de la Liberté, Maître Charles Walker Brumskine, qui semble toujours avoir une emprise ferme sur la politique libérienne, a publié son message de Noël, appelant les responsables gouvernementaux actuels à bien servir le pays et son peuple en mettant le manteau du leader serviteur.

Trois fois candidat malheureux aux élections présidentielles libériennes, Me Brumskine a refait surface le lundi 17 décembre au siège du Parti de la Liberté, à Monrovia, pour officier l'illumination du sapin de Noël du parti et livrer son message de Noël aux Libériens du monde entier.

Apparemment, en raison de la présence de l'homme fort que les militants du parti appellent affectueusement « le porteur de vision », la direction du parti a veillé à



ce que tous les présidents régionaux furent présents. Les jeunes partisans zélés n'ont pas tari d'éloges, de cris de bataille et de chants de campagne, tandis que les femmes dansaient au rythme de la musique vernaculaire Bassa dédiée à Me Brumskine.

Vêtu d'un pantalon bleu marine et d'une chemise rayée à manches longues et accompagné de sa femme Estelle Brumskine et du président du parti, le sénateur Steve Zargo du comté de Lofa, Me Brumskine a déclaré : « L'esprit de Noël

nous apprend à placer l'intérêt de la famille, celui de la communauté et celui de la nation au-dessus de notre intérêt personnel. »

A Brumskine de continuer : « Ceux dans notre pays que Dieu a permis, au cours de cette phase de notre voyage national, d'être en charge de la gestion de l'Etat, du pouvoir judiciaire, policier et / ou économique, ne réussiront à bien servir notre pays et tout son peuple que s'ils suivent simplement l'exemple de l'esprit original, ultime et véritable de Noël, d'un leader serviteur qui incarne la plénitude de Noël ».

Les locaux du siège du Parti de la Liberté ont été décorés aux couleurs du parti (vert et blanc) et les

partisans ont mis leurs t-shirts pour la campagne présidentielle de 2017 ornés de l'effigie Me Brumskine et de son ancien colistier Harrison Karnwea.

Montant sur l'estrade, l'avocat international renommé a déclaré : « quand les Libériens rejoignent les chrétiens du monde entier pour célébrer Noël, les fêtes apportent la paix et la bonne volonté à tous les hommes », puis ajouté que l'esprit de Noël enseigne aux Libériens à faire passer l'intérêt de la famille, de la communauté et de la nation avant l'intérêt personnel.

Selon lui, l'esprit de Noël ne consiste pas à déterminer le pouvoir qu'on peut accumuler ou le pouvoir qu'on peut exercer sur les autres, mais à quel point le pouvoir peut être utilisé pour autonomiser les autres.

A l'issue de la bataille juridico-politique lors des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2017, Me Brumskine a quitté le Parti de la Liberté qui avait pris la troisième place au premier tour du scrutin, derrière le Parti de l'Unité (ancien parti au pouvoir) et la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), qui est actuellement au pouvoir.

Pour rappel, l'action en justice intentée devant la Cour suprême du Libéria par le parti de la liberté à l'issue du premier tour de l'élection présidentielle suite à des allégations de fraudes massives a été rejetée faute de preuves suffisantes. Me Brumskine plaide pour une reprise totale du scrutin.

Les sénateurs ont-ils vraiment peur du président Weah ?

Les législateurs, en particulier les sénateurs, hésiteraient de parler des problèmes qui touchent leurs électeurs de peur qu'ils ne s'exposent à la colère du président de la république et ne perdent le soutien de ce dernier lors des élections sénatoriales de 2020, à en

croire le sénateur Sando Johnson.

« Combien d'entre nous parlons en ce moment ? Parce que, surtout au Sénat, les gens sont inquiets. Ils ne parlent pas parce qu'ils disent que les élections sénatoriales de 2020 sont proches », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson

sur une radio locale à Monrovia le mardi 18 décembre.

Selon lui, 15 membres du Sénat libérien veulent se faire réélire en 2020, c'est pourquoi aucun d'entre eux ne pense pas à la façon dont le pays évolue et à ce qui se passe.

« Ils sont préoccupés par la réélection », affirme-t-il, avant d'avertir ses collègues du risque ne pas être réélus si, à cause de leur silence sur les questions d'ordre national, rien ne marche chez leurs électeurs.

« Donc, voilà où nous en sommes. Le Sénat ne sera pas actif pour le moment en raison des élections de 2020 », a-t-il poursuivi.

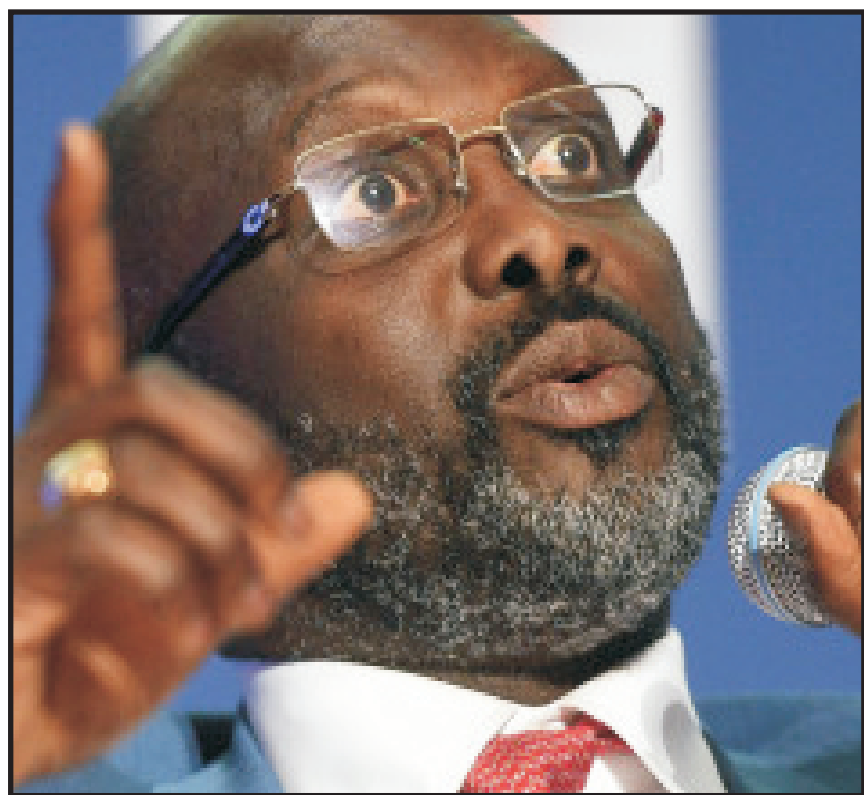
Le sénateur du comté de Bomi s'est indigné du fait que les législateurs aient besoin que le président lève leurs mains lors des campagnes électorales pour espérer gagner les cœurs des électeurs, tout en mettant en garde qu'à l'heure

actuelle, la population n'est pas heureuse.

Au sénateur d'admettre que les gens ont parfois raison d'accuser les législateurs, en particulier le Sénat, de ne pas parler au nom de ceux qui les ont élus. « Les choses vont mal et vous gardez le silence, vous ne faites rien parce que vous

voulez être élus en 2020, ils vont voter contre vous », ajoute-t-il.

Le sénateur Johnson encourage ses collègues à devenir plus forts et à défendre leurs citoyens, exprimant la conviction que s'ils ne font pas ce qui est juste, ils feront également mal paraître le président.



Articles traduits

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Français

Une ONG de lutte contre la migration clandestine inaugure son siège à Conakry

A l'occasion de l'anniversaire internationale de la migration célébrée le 18 décembre de chaque année, l'Organisation Guinéenne pour la Lutte Contre la Migration Irrégulière (OGMI) a inauguré ce mardi son siège à Conakry sis au quartier Bellevue marché 2 dans la commune de Dixinn. La cérémonie a marqué la représentation de certaines organisations internationales qui interviennent dans la lutte contre la migration clandestine dans le monde. Notamment l'OIM et le PNUD. Cette jeune structure regroupe des jeunes guinéens qui ont tenté l'exil de façon clandestine mais malheureusement qui n'ont pas réussi leur rêve de se retrouver vers l'hexagone. Après avoir vécu une mésaventure en voulant traverser la méditerranée, ces jeunes sont rentrés au bercail, grâce à l'appui de l'organisation internationale

Libye, j'ai beaucoup souffert dans le désert. J'ai été emprisonné à maintes reprises avant d'être libéré. On nous maltraitait là-bas, même pour gagner à manger, ce n'était pas facile. On nous faisait travailler dur. On violait les filles n'importe comment. Finalement, j'ai décidé de chercher comment rentrer en Guinée et grâce à l'OIM, j'ai pu me retourner. Si on me demandait de le refaire, je ne le ferai pas parce que je sais ce que j'ai traversé. A un moment donné, j'avais cru que j'allais mourir. Dieu merci aujourd'hui, je suis de retour et je compte désormais travailler dans mon pays et pour mon pays », a témoigné un migrant

Pour sa part le président de l'OGMI, dans cette aventure, ils ont connu tant de mésaventures, des travaux inhumains avec un maigre salaire ou pas de salaire du tout, ils ont connu



pour les migrations (OIM).

Une fois au pays, ces jeunes se sont retrouvés pour créer cette structure qui va désormais intervenir dans le cadre de la lutte contre la migration clandestine. Elle permettra de faire des sensibilisations aux près des jeunes guinéens de ne pas tenter de faire la migration de façon illégale en les expliquant aussi les effets et conséquence de ce phénomène. Elle contribuera également à conseiller des jeunes de monter des projets dont elle appuiera aux près des institutions à trouver des bailleurs de fond.

Avant de rentrer dans le but du sujet, la cérémonie a débuté par la projection d'un film où des migrants retournés témoignent les difficultés qu'ils ont rencontré dans le désert et dans la méditerranée de la Libye en voulant traverser pour l'Europe.

« Quand je suis parti en

des injures, des blessures, ils ont fait des mois voire des années en prison.

« Nous les hommes, on a connu des tortures, les femmes ont connu des viols. Nous avons connu des exploitations sans pareilles, vendus comme des esclaves, les coups que nous avons subi matin, midi, soir pour la simple raison fait que nous sommes des migrants, à la recherche du bien être pour nous et nos familles. Ils nous ont traité de clandestins, juste parce que nous sommes des étrangers sur leurs terres », a renchéri Elhadj Mohamed Diallo.

Au-delà de cette initiative avec des migrants retournés, l'Organisation Guinéenne pour la Lutte Contre la Migration Irrégulière (OGMI) comptent élargir leur structure avec les non-migrants pour faire éviter ceux-ci aussi de tenter un jour de voyager de façon illégale.

COMMENTAIRE

By Robert Skidelsky

Les affres sans fin du Brexit

LONDRES - Le Premier ministre britannique Theresa May va finalement continuer à se battre. Le Parti Conservateur à la Chambre des Communes lui a renouvelé son vote de confiance à la direction du parti par un vote de 200 voix contre 117 - ce qui n'a rien d'une victoire retentissante. Quel autre Premier ministre britannique a connu une telle crise continue durant son mandat ? Celle qui n'est pas tant une dame de fer qu'une dame entêtée et tenace s'est lancée dans nouvelle série d'efforts en vue de soutirer quelques concessions supplémentaires aux dirigeants européens, pour rendre son divorce plus acceptable pour son parti, sinon pour la majorité de l'opinion publique.

Les citoyens britanniques ont décidé en juin 2016 de quitter l'Union européenne, par un très faible écart de 51,9 % et 48,1 % lors d'un référendum national. Après avoir invoqué l'Article 50 du Traité de Lisbonne, le gouvernement du Royaume-Uni doit quitter l'Union européenne le 29 mars 2019. Mais la question irlandaise, la politique intérieure du Parti Conservateur et les calculs parlementaires ont franchement compliqué le processus du Brexit.

Le Royaume-Uni et la République d'Irlande ont une frontière terrestre qui sépare cette dernière, qui restera dans l'Union européenne, de l'Irlande du Nord, qui fait partie du Royaume-Uni. Le Brexit, de ce fait, va laisser l'Irlande du Nord en dehors de l'union douanière de l'UE et conserver la République d'Irlande à l'intérieur de cette union. D'où les efforts angoissés de May en vue d'obtenir un accord qui empêche une frontière avec des contrôles douaniers « durs ».

Il ne s'agit pas là d'une simple question de commodité économique. C'est littéralement une question de vie ou de mort. Lorsque l'Irlande a obtenu son indépendance du Royaume-Uni en 1922, six comtés principalement protestants sont restés au sein du Royaume-Uni en vertu d'un système de décentralisation. Deux héritages de ce Royaume-Uni tronqué ont survécu : le libre-échange et la libre circulation de la main-d'œuvre entre la Grande-Bretagne et le nouvel État irlandais.

La victoire incomplète sur la Grande-Bretagne irritait majoritairement la République catholique d'Irlande : jusqu'en 1999, la constitution irlandaise comprenait un engagement à la « réintégration » de la totalité de l'île. En même temps, la baisse d'effectif de la majorité protestante en Irlande du Nord se cramponnait avec d'autant plus de ferveur à la connexion britannique. Après trois décennies de conflit violent entre les nationalistes irlandais de la province et les groupes protestants, qui ont fait plus 3 600 morts, l'Accord du Vendredi Saint en 1998 a établi un exécutif fondé sur le partage du pouvoir entre nationalistes et unionistes en Irlande du Nord, avec un Conseil britannico-irlandais comme clin d'œil à des relations harmonieuses avec la République d'Irlande.

Tout durcissement de la frontière ruinerait la paix fragile garantie par l'Accord du Vendredi Saint. En cas d'échec de cet accord de partage du pouvoir, des hommes violents dans les deux camps attendent leur heure en coulisses. Pour éviter cela, le projet de May prévoit que la Grande-Bretagne quitte l'Union européenne, mais reste « temporairement » dans l'union douanière, dans l'attente de la négociation d'un accord de libre-échange avec l'UE, avec le « filet de sécurité » d'une ouverture garantie de la frontière entre l'Irlande du Nord et la République irlandaise, quoi qu'il arrive.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, le Parlement est divisé entre ceux qui veulent partir et ceux qui veulent rester. Ce clivage traverse le Parti

Conservateur au pouvoir et le Parti travailliste dans l'opposition.

Les Remainers se divisent en trois groupes : ceux à gauche qui considèrent l'approche « de marché social » de l'UE comme une source de protection pour les travailleurs britanniques ; les intérêts commerciaux et financiers qui prennent en compte les coûts économiques du Brexit ; et les idéalistes qui veulent que la Grande-Bretagne joue un rôle constructif dans l'unification politique de l'Europe. Les Leavers comprennent également trois groupes : les Thatcheriens qui considèrent Bruxelles comme un « super-État » qui entend étouffer la libre entreprise ; un groupe aux intérêts partiellement convergents, qui considère la Grande-Bretagne comme une partie indépendante d'un système de libre-échange mondial ; et les « laissés pour compte », qui veulent préserver l'identité culturelle de la Grande-Bretagne et tenir les étrangers à l'écart.

Les calculs parlementaires ont leur importance, malgré le résultat du référendum, car May a été forcée d'admettre que le Parlement aurait le dernier mot sur tout accord négocié. Cela a donné aux Remainers un espoir d'inverser le résultat de 2016 par un second vote des citoyens.

La composition des forces parlementaires reflète la décision désastreuse de May d'organiser des élections législatives anticipées en 2017, ce qui lui a valu de faire perdre la majorité au Parti Conservateur. Et les 317 députés conservateurs qui restent divisés à 200 contre 100 entre ceux qui soutiennent le plan de Brexit proposé par May et ceux qui veulent que la Grande-Bretagne « sorte » sans un accord.

Le soutien en faveur de l'accord de May de l'opposition - 257 travaillistes, 35 nationalistes écossais et quelques autres - est incertain, au mieux. De même, les dix députés du Parti d'Union Démocratique d'Irlande du Nord, dont le soutien rend possible le gouvernement actuel de May, sont tiraillés entre un désir de libre-échange avec le Sud et la crainte d'être aspirés par la République d'Irlande si et quand le reste de la Grande-Bretagne quittera l'union douanière. Le Parti d'Union Démocratique a dénoncé tous les discours d'arrangement spécial ou de « filet de sécurité » pour permettre à l'Irlande du Nord de demeurer dans l'union douanière, à la place d'un accord de libre-échange entre le Royaume-Uni et l'UE.

Étant donné les divisions au sein de son propre parti, May est obligée de dépendre des Travaillistes pour faire passer son accord au Parlement. Personne ne sait comment les Travaillistes vont voter et les mesures incitatives auxquelles fait face le parti sont mitigées. D'une part, voter avec les Leavers pour saborder l'accord de May va probablement conduire à des élections législatives, que le Parti Travailliste pourrait remporter. D'autre part, Jeremy Corbyn, le chef du parti, n'est pas très enclin à accepter le cadeau empoisonné dont il risque d'hériter.

Il y a une tentation compréhensible de dire : « Si le Parlement ne peut pas décider, laissons les citoyens décider. » Mais personne ne sait exactement quelle sera la question posée aux « citoyens ». Demander un deuxième vote au motif que le résultat du premier ne vous convient pas est une façon de jouer avec le feu. Il y a en outre une question plus à garder en tête : les Leavers détestent plus intensément l'UE que les Remainers ne l'aiment. Si les Remainers remportent un second vote, un ressentiment passionné va empoisonner la politique britannique pendant des années. Il faut donc espérer que May obtienne son divorce à l'amiable lorsque le Parlement votera fin janvier.

ARTICLES

A critical analysis on the increase of rape in Liberia

By; Jackson David

Unbearable acts continue to impede our society after an enormous awareness being carried out. Upon following the difference social media posts and media discussions, it has finally raised an alarm of a recurrent Gang Raped again that led to the demise of a 15 years old girl in person of Vivian Wreh, of the New Georgia Community.

Vivian who said to have gone for party didn't return until her body was discovered dead in the sand just a stone throw away from home.

According to information from health practitioners told the late Vivian Mother that she was temper with both in her anus and virginal. This is so atrocious on the part of boys who are in the constant habit of committing such

Being cognizant of the fact that government and other civil society organizations have over the years developed programs through conferences, workshops, seminars, jingles, radio talkshows, and newspaper on eradicating violence against women and girls but the problem is still echoing if there's hasn't been anything done. Upon a critical research and finding of solutions to these unbearable acts in our society thus far; I have come to a conclusion of the mistake that we keep evolving by empowering girls and ignoring the boys.

We keep empowering the girl child for decades & ignore the boy which isn't solving the problem. That's short-sightedness in my view.

A keen look at society makes me confirm that boys are equally vulnerable and swayed into crime. These guys

addict husband will make life miserable for her at home. She may be a successful public figure but will wet her pillow with tears every night.

As we empower the girl child and ignore the guys, let's not forget that the drug addicts, fraudsters and gamblers who are not being empowered today are their future husbands.

I look forward to seeing seminars, conferences and workshops organized ONLY for boys as I see many around restricted to the girl child. If we continue like this, we shall have future wives whose husbands have been past rapists, addicts, and criminals who got into such vices not because they loved to but because they never received the empowerment their wives received while they were young.



YALI Cohort 10 fellow, and a student of the United Methodist University

crime! I robustly condemn the act of rape and will see to it that those perpetrators being brought to justice through our continue engagements with stakeholders, government officials, and policy makers for the right of women in Liberia and the world at-large. Unfortunately, our Liberia's society had been predominately infected by rapes due to weak justice system and lack of trained security workforce which we see as a major challenged for our girls.

Violence against women and Girls are pretentiously against their Human Rights. Any attempt or failing to achieve goal five of the SDGs could lead us to a crashing moment. No matter how you interpret it- socially, economically, legally- girls and women in Liberia have been abused with an increased in number each year. Almost one-third of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner.

that you ignored today's are the perpetrators of the acts committed. How many girls smoke marijuana in incomplete buildings in our neighborhoods? How many girls take tramadol and become a nuisance to society? How many girls carry arms during violent political revolutions? How many girls are arrested for rape crimes and armed robbery attacks? How many girls practice scamming? It's the boys of course. Yet the same girls we keep EMPOWERING are the girlfriends and future wives of these guys we fail to empower today. Unfortunately, society is the first to cast a stone at some of these guys who have never had the opportunity to be empowered like the ladies. What a pity!

You may educate the girl child and give her the best of resources society can offer, but when she marries a violent fellow or drug addict (who was not empowered as a youth), she cannot have a fruitful career. Her drug

If girl child empowerment programs have reduced the rate of unwanted pregnancies, abortions, prostitution and other vices among women, then male child empowerment can also reduce the rate of marijuana, tramadol and rape cases in our society today.

Let's join our hands to see that the boy child also receives attention and empowerment as the girl child. An empowered woman may reject the marriage proposal of an addict but won't use her acquired values to stop him from abusing her sexually or otherwise. It's time that we look at the future of our youths from a balanced perspective, leaving no stone unturned.

Taylor not free

Officials of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) have denied a rumor circulating on social media to the effect that former President Charles Taylor has been released from prison.

Mr. Taylor, now 70, was sentenced in May 2012, to 50 years in jail at age 64, by the then UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), after being found guilty of aiding and abetting rebels in Sierra Leone during the 1991-2002 civil war in that country.

In an email to this paper on Wednesday December 19, 2018, Mr. Peter C. Andersen, Press officer of the RSCSL, which is an offshoot of the SCSL told the New Dawn that the news is false and that Mr. Taylor is continuing to serve his 50-year sentence for war crimes against humanity.

During the trial the prosecution had wanted an 80-year prison term to reflect the severity of the crimes and the key role that Taylor had in facilitating the rebels, while his defense team had hoped that judges would had taken into consideration the fact that Taylor has a family and is a father of 14 children and an



educated man.

The RSCSL, official comment comes amid public concerns and concerns from former witnesses of the UN back war crimes court that Mr. Taylor had been released.

Mr. Taylor, according to judges at the then UN-backed tribunal sitting in The Hague said his leadership role and exploitation of the conflict to extract so-called "blood diamonds" meant he deserved

one of the longest prison sentences handed down so far by the court.

The former Liberian President, whose estranged wife is the current Vice President of Liberia was convicted in April 2012 on 11 counts of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity, when supporting rebels between 1996 and 2002 in return for conflict gems.

The crimes included

murder, rape, sexual slavery, recruiting child soldiers, enforced amputations and pillage.

Taylor's conviction was upheld on September 26, 2013, following a failed appeal three

weeks after he was transferred from The Hague to a UK prison.

In June 2014, a challenge by Mr. Taylor's lawyers against his incarceration in UK was overturned on January 30, 2015, by the Residual Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL), which took over the mandate of the SCSL in December 2013.

Taylor's defense team had argued that the United Kingdom violated his international human rights when the government denied his wife and children visas to visit. They cited international standards of detention in UN resolutions, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and UK law, the defense said that Taylor's right to a family life has been violated.

They had further argued one of the most basic conditions of humane detention is that a prisoner be allowed to have contact with family members while in custody. **-Writes Othello B. Garblah**

Remove VP Taylor

By Bridgett Milton

Congress for Democratic Change lawmaker Solomon Claudius George, accuses Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor of hijacking people from their positions, thus, calling for her removal from government.

Representative George claims hijackers are in the government, removing people from their positions, prominent among them is Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, calling for her removal.

He says Vice President Taylor should understand that

the ruling Coalition government did not promise the people of Liberia that after taking power, it would hijack them from their positions, as Ms Taylor is allegedly involved.

Representative George made the call here Sunday, December 16, while holding a constituency meeting at the Wells Hairston High School in Monrovia, the first since he was re-elected in 2017.

The call by the CDC lawmaker comes amidst serious deteriorating relationship between Vice President Taylor and President

George Manneh Weah with various accounts saturating front pages of local dailies.

Vice President Taylor, who was picked by Mr. Weah as running mate during the 2017 Presidential and Representatives Elections, has been involved in several missteps since her ascendancy.

Immediately following her ascendancy as Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Taylor, a former Senator of Bong County, summarily dismissed chiefs from the county, after threatening them with dismissal if they did not join the governing Coalition for Democratic Change. But President Weah intervened subsequently, ordering the Minister of Internal Affairs to reinstate the chiefs.

The former First Lady is currently in court for using police power to remove the elected President of the Liberia Marketing Association Alice Yeebahn, accusing the Yeebahn administration of alleged corruption.

As if these were not enough, VP Taylor had reportedly diverted funds from the National Lotteries, to her personal charity, which led President Weah to take oversight of the entity despite her denial. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Weah launches US\$3m

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the lowest in the Liberian financial market, with flexible collateral requirement and payment procedure over time.

Continuing, President Weah states that "the launch of this scheme is just another milestone in helping you overcome poverty and become masters of your own destinies."

He reassures Liberian businesses that his government would prioritize their interest and offer programs to help them become more competitive.

"Today is the launch of the Liberian Business Development Fund (LBDF); we are here today to witness a promise fulfilled. The LBDF has been established by my government as a multimillion loan scheme exclusively for Liberian businesses and micro-finance institutions," he says.

He discloses that Liberians will have borrowing access to the LBDF to enable them produce goods and services for the domestic market.

"My desire is to strengthen and support you—the Liberian

business community—so that ordinary business people will be able to move from sidewalks to stores," he further discloses.

He admonishes potential borrowers that the loans are not free money and that they must exercise responsibility and seriousness in repaying their loans on time in order to create access for other Liberians who may want to borrow.

He says the micro-loan scheme will be available and accessible in all the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia and will be intended for vulnerable business struggling to recover and compete.

The President uses the occasion to assure Liberians that his government would use every available cent on developing the country.

"I want to say this to the Liberian people: when I was a professional soccer player, I used my own money for your benefit and to develop you. Certainly, I will use your money on you to develop our country," he avers. **--Press release**

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

Weah launches US\$3m Pro-Poor loan scheme



President George Manneh Weah has launched a US\$3 million Pro-Poor Loan scheme aimed at empowering struggling Liberian businesses surmount their longtime spectators' role in the Liberian economy.

The Executive Mansion says the launching of the US\$3 million micro finance loan scheme for Liberian businesses Wednesday, 19 December heralds concrete steps by the President to place citizens into a controlling position of the economy.

It recalls that during the 2017 elections campaign and in Mr. Weah's inaugural speech in January, he promised that he would enunciate policies and programs towards the empowerment of Liberians to take custody of the economy and not be mere spectators.

In brief remarks at Redlight community in Paynesville, President Weah said one of his greatest desires has been to find ways by which Liberian-owned businesses would benefit from loans to move them from low to high business levels, from market to manufacturing.

"Since I took over as President of the Republic, there have been so many programs and occasions in which I have participated to support and advance the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, our national development plan," he says.

According to President Weah, the interest rate on the loan scheme is pro-poor in nature, one of



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Public Service Announcement

The New Dawn will take its usual annual break beginning December 24, 2018 to return on the newsstand immediately January 4, 2019. We thank our many loyal readers and subscribers for standing by us in 2018 despite a rather tough business climate. We look forward to a very peaceful and prosperous New Year. Merry Christmas.

The Management

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

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

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