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Continental News

Rwanda agrees to take in hundreds of migrants

Rwanda has agreed to take in hundreds of African migrants who are currently being held in Libyan detention centres. A joint agreement between the government, the UN refugee agency (UNHRC) and the African Union (AU) was announced on Tuesday.

An initial group of 500 people will be evacuated by aeroplane to Rwanda in the coming weeks, a statement said. That group, which includes children and vulnerable young people, is mainly made up of refugees from the Horn of Africa. Thousands of migrants head to Libya each year to try and make the dangerous crossing over the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. Those who fail are often held in detention centres. According to the UN, about 4,700 people urgently need to be moved to safety from these centres where conditions are said to be dire. Germaine Kamayirese,

Rwanda's minister of refugee affairs, denied that the country was being paid to take in the migrants. "It is just a humanitarian action," she told reporters in the capital, Kigali. "Any African should aim

to do the same. I don't agree with those who are saying Rwanda has received any money from anyone". The policy of housing migrants within Africa is used by the European Union to stop

migrants from arriving on its shores.

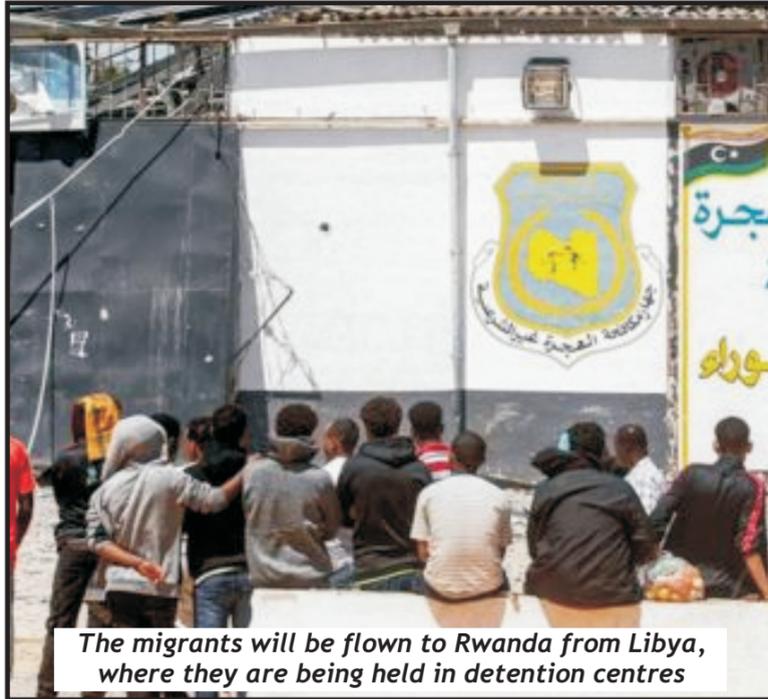
Camille Le Coz, from the Migration Policy Institute, told the BBC that a similar deal exists between the EU and Niger. Migrants are often held in Niger as they wait to be processed and granted passage to Europe.

In July, the UN called for the dismantling of all detention centres for refugees in Libya. It said the facilities were not fit to house migrants. Detainees in various centres have described routine torture, rape,

malnutrition and the spread of diseases like tuberculosis due to the conditions they are forced to endure. Campaign group Amnesty International has called conditions "horrific" and "inhuman".

Last month, Libya announced plans to shut down three of its biggest migration detention centres in Misrata, Tajoura and Khoms.

Organisations that monitor the situation in Libya fear these closures may lead to even more overcrowding in the remaining centres. BBC



The migrants will be flown to Rwanda from Libya, where they are being held in detention centres

Nigeria denies detaining thousands of children

Nigeria has denied allegations it has detained thousands of children for suspected links to Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

A report released by US-based group Human Rights Watch says children have been held for years in "horrific conditions".

The group has urged the country to release the children.

But the military said the report was "false", saying

they were treated as "victims of war and not as suspects".

While the army does detain women and children they say have been indoctrinated by Boko Haram, the children are "adequately fed, profiled and de-radicalised before their release". Boko Haram militants have been waging an insurgency in north-east Nigeria since 2009.

More than 30,000 people have died in the uprising, which has now crossed borders into Cameroon, Chad and

Niger. Human Rights Watch (HRW) released their report on Tuesday. It claims the military has been arresting and detaining children as young as five "with little or no evidence". Most are then reportedly transferred to Giwa military barracks in the town of Maiduguri.

Children interviewed by HRW who spent time in the camp described "squalid, severely overcrowded conditions". None of those 32 children said they had been taken before a court or a judge, and none knew what they had been charged with. None, moreover, said they had had contact with family outside their detention centre. Detainees were threatened or even beaten by soldiers, some children said, while soldiers reportedly made advances to female soldiers or took them out of their cells for extended periods. One girl in the report says females in her cell became pregnant during their imprisonment. HRW says it does not know the total number currently in detention. According to UN figures cited in the report, the military took more than 3,600 children between January 2013 and March 2019.

Kenyan 'hero policeman' praised for teaching maths

A Kenyan police officer is being praised for teaching pupils whose teachers failed to turn up for work after a non-governmental organisation posted a photo of him in class on Facebook. The Education

"After getting permission from the headteacher, Mulumia, a trained teacher, got into class five and started teaching mathematics."

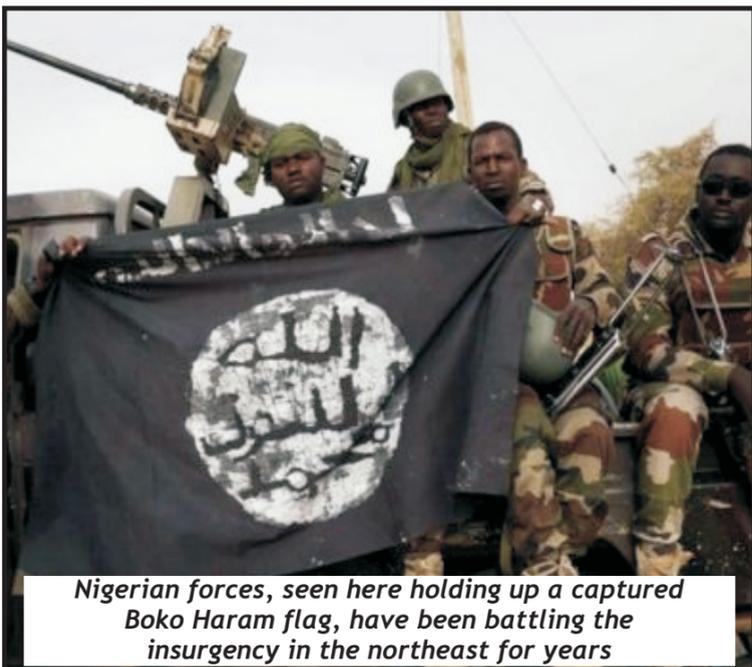
It said that there had been a series of attacks in the area by bandits, which had left several people dead.



Development Trust said Jairus Mulumia was found teaching a class at Forole Primary School, which is near Kenya's border with Ethiopia. "When our team visited the school last week, some teachers had not reported due to insecurity obtaining in the area. The pupils were idle in class," the NGO said.

The officer was part of a team deployed to the school to provide security for pupils.

Many Kenyans have taken to social media commending Mr Mulumia's efforts, one person calling him an unsung hero of our time: BBC



Nigerian forces, seen here holding up a captured Boko Haram flag, have been battling the insurgency in the northeast for years

The report praises the release of at least 2,200 children so far, and acknowledges the "important steps" the government has taken to protect children's rights. But HRW calls on the authorities to immediately release all the detained minors and to implement a UN protocol ensuring the rapid handover of detained children to protection services, so they can return to their families. Nigeria's Defence Headquarters insisted that "no children are kept and tortured

in any detention facility". "The children caught in the act of terrorism are moved to safe facilities... where they are de-radicalised, rehabilitated and reintegrated into the society," a statement said. It described the Nigerian military as "professional", insisted the arrests were not arbitrary but "intelligence driven", and said the military is engaged in a war in the north-east with terrorists "globally recognised for the most inhuman and callous attacks on humanity". BBC

EDITORIAL

Echo from the Economic Dialogue

STAKEHOLDERS AND LIBERIANS in general from the just-ended National Economic Dialogue have, among others, called for the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia, including full implementation of recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

THE THREE-DAY DISCUSSIONS also highlighted four critical areas: Mobilization and management of public finance; promoting investment and growing private sector business; tracking existing high unemployment rate among the youthful population, coupled with shortage of appropriate skills; sustaining the peace and promoting genuine reconciliation.

LIBERIANS ARE GRADUALLY becoming unanimous here on calls for the establishment of the court to stamp out culture of impunity by bringing to book perpetrators of heinous crimes and crimes against humanity. Pressure has come from the international partners, including United States Congressional members and Diaspora-based Liberians for constitution of the court.

RECENTLY, CATHOLIC BISHOPS in Liberia issued a statement, similarly joining calls to end impunity by setting up of the court so that people would account for their deeds to serve as deterrence.

THE FORMER CHAIR of the TRC, Cllr. Jerome Verdier currently residing in the United States, describes Liberia, under President George Manneh Weah's rule as "gangsters' paradise" where lawlessness and state-sponsored violence is brewing under the President's watch.

PRESIDENT WEAH HIMSELF is visibly unwilling to have such court established under his administration. His government has embarked on remobilizing ex-rebel generals and ex-fighters to operate as non-state actors with the sole mission of consolidating his grip on power.

BESIDES, SOME OF his key political allies and loyalists, including the erratic leader of the disbanded rebels Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, vehemently oppose such court for Liberia, for fear of being dragged before it.

BUT DOES THE President have a choice, really? He doesn't, no matter his dislike. Now that the call is coming from not just ordinary citizens, but stakeholders, the government would have to listen, because justice is the foundation on which any economy strides.

IF THE CURRENT economic woes of Liberia are to be revised, we should set our priorities right by first obtaining and maintaining trust of our foreign partners. The world is now a global village and how we live as a people, affect our neighbors.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE CALL from the National Economic Dialogue for war and economic crimes court reaffirms which trajectory the government should take to reverse this creeping but silent isolation and subsequently rescue our ailing economy from total collapse.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Robert J. Barro

Trump's Mercantilist Mess

When US President Donald Trump boasted that trade wars are "easy to win" in March 2018, it was convenient to dismiss the remark as a rhetorical flourish. Yet it is now clear that Trump meant it, because he genuinely believes the bizarre and anachronistic macroeconomic theories underlying his approach.

CAMBRIDGE - When US President Donald Trump quipped in March 2018 that "trade wars are good, and easy to win," many dismissed his remark as a mostly harmless rhetorical flourish. But was it?

The reason that countries participate in international trade is to get imports - consumer goods, intermediate goods used in production, and capital equipment - in exchange for exports. Framed this way, exports are simply the goods that Americans are willing to part with to acquire something they want or need.

But international trade also boosts, on net, the size of the overall economic pie, because it means that countries can focus on doing whatever they do best, producing goods in areas where they are relatively more productive. According to David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage, countries' relative strengths derive from differences in factor endowments. And, as economists Paul Krugman and Elhanan Helpman showed in the 1980s, countries' relative strengths are also related to their investments in various areas of specialization.

By embracing a primitive mercantilist model in which exports are "good" and imports are "bad," Trump has reversed this impeccable economic logic. In a mercantilist model, an excess of exports over imports contributes to national wealth through the accumulation of paper claims (previously gold). This seems to be what Trump has in mind when he complains that China is draining \$500 billion per year from the US economy, mostly by exchanging Chinese goods for US Treasury bonds. Needless to say, it is hard to see how receiving a lot of high-quality goods at low cost amounts to "losing."

Trump seems to be relying on a theory advanced by his trade adviser Peter Navarro, who has noticed that imports appear with a minus sign in the identity relationship satisfied by GDP. (That is, GDP equals consumption plus domestic investment plus exports less imports.) He concluded that a tariff-induced reduction in imports will lead magically to an increase in domestic production (GDP), which meets the demand previously serviced by imports. Never mind that the certainty of retaliation will lead to a contraction in overall international trade and US GDP. (As an aside, I hope that Navarro did not learn his international macroeconomics while getting a PhD at Harvard University in the early 1980s under Richard Caves, who had very different ideas.)

Now, it is certainly true that China restricts international trade and imposes high costs on foreign investment, often by forcing foreign businesses to transfer technology to their Chinese partners. The outright theft of technology by Chinese entities is also an

important issue. It would be better for the world - and almost surely for China, too - if these restrictive practices were curtailed. Yet if the US's objective is to reduce trade barriers, imposing tariffs on Chinese imports is a strange way to go about it.

To be sure, there was a moment a few months ago when China seemed willing to adopt significant reforms as part of a deal to avoid tit-for-tat tariffs. But even then, there was something odd about the proposed arrangement: the Trump administration wanted a quantitative list of specific US exports that China would import in greater volume.¹

The Chinese, of course, were happy to proceed this way, because it is in keeping with a command-and-control form of economic governance. But the American approach is supposed to be different. Recognizing that we do not know whether additional Chinese purchases should take the form of agricultural goods, Ford pickup trucks, or Boeing airplanes (which used to be viewed as reliable), the United States should be advocating a general reduction in tariffs and other trade restrictions so that the market can decide what goods should be produced and exchanged.

In any event, it now seems likely that the US will be left with an enduring trade war, implying long-term costs for American consumers and businesses. Despite still-favorable effects from the 2017 tax reform and the administration's cuts to harmful regulations, growth is weakening, and Trump has tried - futilely - to pin the blame on the US Federal Reserve and unproductive US companies. The real problem is Trump's approach to trade policy, which is far worse than that of his predecessor, and could well push the US economy into recession.

The problem, more broadly, is that the US political establishment has reached a consensus that something must be done to curb China's restrictive trade practices. Yet sometimes it is better to live with a situation that falls short of the ideal.

As for Trump, he seems genuinely to love tariffs, because they impede "bad" imports and raise revenue. Unlike many other economic arguments that he has made, his advocacy for tariffs is apparently sincere, and his commitment to the policy thus irrevocable. But that makes it hard to see how the US can strike a satisfactory trade deal with China. Worse, Trump may further expand his use of tariffs as negotiating tools vis-à-vis many other countries.

All told, I would not say that Trump has the lowest "economics IQ" among recent presidents. But there is clearly a large gap between what he knows and what he thinks he knows. Because it is the latter that determines US trade policy, America has a serious problem on its hands.

O-PED

By Barry Eichengreen

Did Dudley Do Right?

HANALEI, HAWAII - William Dudley, the immediate past president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, recently stirred up a hornet's nest when he called for the Fed to consider the impact of its policies on the 2020 presidential election. In fact, Dudley performed a valuable public service by observing that Fed policy can influence politics, sometimes with profound implications for the course of the United States. But that doesn't mean his recommendations were on target.

Dudley's logic was straightforward. If the Fed cuts interest rates in response to Donald Trump's disruptive trade-policy actions, the president may be encouraged to resort to more of the same. Trump believes that the US and China are locked in a trade war to the death. But he also has acknowledged that the stock market reacts negatively to his tariff threats, that trade-related uncertainty weakens growth, and that this damages his reelection prospects.

The worry is that if the Fed loosens policy, thereby minimizing an uncertainty-induced slowdown in investment and growth, Trump will feel free to escalate his China-focused trade attacks. As Dudley put it, the Fed should make "abundantly clear that Trump will own the consequences of his actions."

The question is what exactly making it "abundantly clear" entails. Federal Reserve officials can explain that the president's actions are forcing them to lower interest rates in order to fulfill their dual mandate of stable inflation and maximum employment. They can warn of the collateral damage of low interest rates, which harm Americans living on fixed incomes and raise financial stability risks by encouraging investors to stretch for yield. The Fed should flag these undesirable consequences without hesitation.

Fed officials should also emphasize that monetary loosening cannot fully neutralize the effects of trade-policy uncertainty. Many investments, once undertaken, are reversible only with difficulty, to the extent that they're reversible at all. Investments predicated on the existence of global supply chains will be rendered worthless by a full-blown trade war. Equally, investments in local production, predicated on ongoing trade conflict, can turn out to be costly mistakes if commercial peace unexpectedly breaks out.

When trade policy is uncertain, miscalculations like these are unavoidable. Companies therefore have an incentive to delay investing until that uncertainty is resolved - whatever the level of interest rates. The central bank needs to remind Trump that it can't entirely offset the macroeconomic impact of his trade war, no matter how much he wishes this to be so.

Dudley's most provocative remark was that "there's even an argument that the election itself falls within the Fed's purview." Seeming to suggest that the Fed should seek to influence electoral outcomes, this comment ignited ferocious criticism, and Dudley subsequently walked it back. Fed officials "should never be motivated by political considerations or deliberately set monetary policy with the goal of influencing an election," he clarified.

But Fed policies do influence elections, and this indisputable fact has consequences for the central bank. Policy-rate reductions that head off an impending recession make Trump's reelection more likely. In turn, his reelection implies slower growth in the medium term, insofar as it means continued erratic policies, commercial conflict, and uncertainty. How should a Federal Reserve, whose mandate extends to ensuring "maximum employment," trade off short-term employment gains against longer-term employment losses?

This is a difficult question, not least because the Humphrey-Hawkins Act, which gives the Fed its mandate, specifies no timeframe for achieving it or a discount rate at which current gains can be weighed against future losses. But that conversation is unavoidable. Or at least it should be.

Much of this discussion can take place in private. But imagine now that the Democrats nominate a 2020 candidate with very different trade-policy predilections. Fed staff and governors will then have to formulate economic forecasts that describe two different paths for the economy depending on the outcome of the election. The Fed, as an agency accountable to the Congress, will face pressure to make these forecasts public. Once can well imagine the resulting tweetstorm of opprobrium accusing the central bank of partisanship and worse.

Should the Fed suppress or fudge its forecasts in order to appear apolitical? Doing so would be a dereliction of duty, which is to forecast economic scenarios and formulate policy accordingly.

The Bank of England faced an analogous dilemma when opining on the implications of Brexit for the British economy, and it was subjected to withering political attacks. Political flak and discomfort are part of the job description - and unavoidable when making public forecasts under such circumstances. Politicians will impugn central bankers' impartiality. Unavoidably, controversy and reputational damage will follow.

In speaking out, Dudley conveyed another important message: the brickbats are worth bearing. Were the Fed to pull its punches about the obvious risks US fiscal and trade policies now pose to the US economy, the reputational damage it would suffer would be infinitely worse.

OPINION

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Who Lost Argentina, Again?

CERNOBBIO - Investors and economic observers have begun to ask the same question that I posed in an article published 18 years ago: "Who lost Argentina?" In late 2001, the country was in the grips of an intensifying blame game, and would soon default on its debt obligations, fall into a deep recession, and suffer a lasting blow to its international credibility. This time around, many of the same contenders for the roles of victim and accuser are back, but others have joined them. Intentionally or not, all are reprising an avoidable tragedy.

After a poor primary-election outcome, Argentinian President Mauricio Macri finds himself running for another term under economic and financial conditions that he promised would never return. The country has imposed capital controls and announced a reprofiling of its debt payments. Its sovereign debt has been downgraded deeper into junk territory by Moody's, and to selective default by Standard & Poor's. A deep recession is underway, inflation is very high, and an increase in poverty is sure to follow.

It has not even been four years since Macri took office and began pursuing a reform agenda that was widely praised by the international community. But since then, the country has run into trouble and become the recipient of record-breaking support from the International Monetary Fund.

Argentina has fallen back into crisis for the simple reason that not enough has changed since the last debacle. As such, the country's economic and financial foundations have remained vulnerable to both internal and external shocks.

Although they have been committed to an ambitious reform program, Argentina's economic and financial authorities have also made several avoidable mistakes. Fiscal discipline and structural reforms have been unevenly applied, and the central bank has squandered its credibility at key moments.

More to the point, Argentinian authorities succumbed to the same temptation that tripped up their predecessors. In an effort to compensate for slower-than-expected improvements in domestic capacity, they permitted excessive foreign-currency debt, aggravating what economists call the "original sin": a significant currency mismatch between assets and liabilities, as well as between revenues and debt servicing.

Worse, this debt was underwritten not just by experienced emerging-market investors, but also by "tourist investors" seeking returns above what was available in their home markets. The latter tend to lack sufficient knowledge of the asset class into which they are venturing, and thus are notorious for contributing to price overshoots - both on the way up and the way down.

Undeterred by Argentina's history of chronic volatility and episodic illiquidity - including eight prior defaults - creditors gobbled up as much debt as the country and its companies would issue, including an oversubscribed 100-year bond that raised \$2.75 billion at an interest rate of just 7.9%. In doing so, they drove the yields of Argentine debt well below what economic, financial, and liquidity conditions warranted, which encouraged Argentine entities to issue even more bonds despite the weakening fundamentals.

The search for higher yields has been encouraged by unusually loose monetary policies - ultra-low (and, in the case of the European Central Bank, negative) policy rates and quantitative easing - in advanced economies. Systemically important central banks (the Bank of Japan, the US Federal Reserve, and the ECB) thus have become the latest players in the old Argentine blame game.

Moreover, influenced by years of strong central-bank support for asset markets, investors have been conditioned to expect ample and predictable liquidity - a consistent "common global factor" - to compensate for all sorts of individual credit weaknesses. And this phenomenon has been accentuated by the proliferation of passive investing, with the majority of indices heavily favoring outstanding market values (hence, the more debt an emerging market issues, like Argentina, the higher its weight in many indices becomes).

Then there is the IMF, which readily stepped in once again to assist Argentina when domestic-policy slippages made investors nervous in 2018. So far, Argentina has received \$44 billion under the IMF's largest-ever funding arrangement. Yet, since day one, the IMF's program has been criticized for its assumptions about Argentina's growth prospects and its path to longer-term financial viability. As it happens, the same issues plagued the IMF's previous efforts to Argentina, including in the particularly messy lead-up to the 2001 default.

As in Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, almost everyone involved has had a hand in Argentina's ongoing economic and financial debacle, and all are victims themselves, having suffered reputational harm and, in some cases, financial losses. Yet those costs pale in comparison to what the Argentine people will face if their government does not move quickly - in cooperation with private creditors and the IMF - to reverse the economic and financial deterioration.

Whoever prevails at next month's presidential election, Argentina's government must reject the notion that its only choice is between accepting and refusing all demands from the IMF and external creditors. Like Brazil under then-President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva in 2002, Argentina needs to embark on a third path, by developing a homegrown adjustment and reform program that places greater emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable segments of society. With sufficient buy-in from domestic constituencies, such a program would provide an incentive-aligned path for Argentina to pursue its recovery in cooperation with creditors and the IMF.

Given the downturn in the global economy and the rising risk of global financial volatility, there is no time to waste. Everyone with a stake in Argentina has a role to play in preventing a repeat of the depression and disorderly default of the early 2000s. Managing a domestic-led recovery will not be easy, but it is achievable - and far better than the alternatives.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Russia and Africa to Boost Trade

By Kester Kenn Klomegah

Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that trade between Russia and Africa would grow further as more and more African partners continued to show interest in having Russians in the economic sectors in Africa.

“Our African partners are interested in Russian business working more actively there. This provides greater competition between the companies from Western countries, China, and Russia. With competition for developing mineral resources in Africa, it is easier and cheaper for our African colleagues to choose partners,” he told the staff and students at Moscow State Institute of International Affairs early September.

Soviet Union and Africa had very close and, in many respects, allied relations with most of the African countries during the decolonization of Africa. For obvious reasons, the Soviet Union ceased to exist in 1991. As a result, Russia has to struggle through many internal and external difficulties. The past few years, it is still struggling to survive both the United States and European sanctions.

“Of course, relations with many foreign countries have faded into the background compared with the challenges the country had to deal with in order to preserve its statehood. As we regained our statehood and control over the country, and the economy and the social sphere began to develop, Russian businesses began to look at promising projects abroad, and we began to return to Africa. This process has been ongoing for the past 15 years,” Lavrov further said about post-Soviet Russia's relations with Africa.

“Overall, we are, of course, far from the absolute figures characterizing trade and investment cooperation between the African countries and, say, China. However, our trade grew by 17 per cent over the past year (which is a sizable number) to over US\$20 billion and it continues to grow,” he informed the fully-packed auditorium.

Five years ago, precisely in May 2014, Lavrov said in a speech posted to the official website: “we attach special significance to deepening our trade and investment cooperation with the African States. Russia provides African countries with extensive preferences in trade. At the same time, it is evident that the significant potential of our economic cooperation is far from being exhausted and much remains to be done so that Russian and African partners know more about each other's capacities and needs.”

Reports, however, show that Russia has started strengthening its economic cooperation by opening trade missions with the responsibility of providing sustainable business services and plans to facilitate import-export trade in a number of African countries. Besides all that, Russia has embarked on “Doing Business in Africa” campaign to encourage Russian businesses to take advantage of growing trade and investment opportunities in Africa.

Statistics on Africa's trade with foreign countries vary largely. For example, the total United States two-way trade in Africa has actually fallen off in recent years, to about US\$60 billion, far eclipsed by the European Union with over US\$200 billion, and also China more than US\$200 billion, according to Africa in Focus post by the Brookings Institution.

According to the African Development Bank, Africa's economy is growing faster than those of any other regions. Nearly half of Africa's countries are now classified as middle income countries, the numbers of Africans living below the poverty line fell to 39 percent as compared to 51 percent in 2016, and around 350 million of Africa's one billion people are now earning good incomes - rising consumerism - that

makes trade profitable.

As far back in October 2007, Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry posted an official report on its website that traditional products from least developed countries (including Africa) would be exempted from import tariffs. The legislation stipulates that the traditional goods are eligible for preferential customs and tariffs treatment.

While Russia announced this preferential tariff regime for developing countries, which also granted duty-free access for African products, potential African exporters either failed to take advantage of it or were unaware of the advantageous terms for boosting trade.

Analyzing the present market landscape of Africa, Russia can export its technology and compete on equal terms with China, India and other prominent players. On the other hand, Russia lacks the competitive advantage in terms of finished industrial (manufactured) products that African consumers obtain from Asian countries such as China, India, Japan and South Korea.

Charles Robertson, Global Chief Economist at Renaissance Capital, thinks that the major problem is incentives. China has two major incentives to invest in Africa. First, China needs to buy resources, while Russia



does not. Second, Chinese exports are suitable for Africa - whether it is textiles or iPads, goods made in China can be sold in Africa. Russia exports little except oil and has (roughly 2/3 of exports), steel and metals (which is either not cost effective to sell in Africa, or again is the same as Africa is selling) and military weapons.

Keir Giles, an Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London, told me that “there are some more fundamental problems which Russia would need to overcome to boost its trade turnover with the region. The majority of this vast amount of trade with China simply cannot be competed with by Russia. A large part of African exports to China by value is made up of oil, which Russia does not need to import. And a large part of China's exports to Africa are consumer goods, which Russia doesn't really produce.”

He explains further that trade in foodstuffs in both directions suffers similar challenges, which are unlikely to be affected by the current politically-motivated Russian ban on foods from the European Union, the United States and Australia. In effect, in sharp contrast to China, the make-up of Russian exports has not really developed since the end of the Soviet Union and still long as that continues, the scope for ongoing trading with most African nations is going to be severely

consists mostly of oil, gas, arms and raw materials. For as long as that continues, the scope for ongoing trading with most African nations is going to be severely limited.

Academic experts, who have researched Russia's foreign policy in Africa, at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute for African Studies, have reiterated that Russia's exports to Africa can be possible only after the country's industrial based experiences a more qualitative change and introducing tariff preferences for trade with African partners.

“The situation in Russian-African foreign trade will change for the better, if Russian industry undergoes rapid technological modernization, the state provides Russian businessmen systematic and meaningful support, and small and medium businesses receive wider access to foreign economic cooperation with Africa,” according to Professor Aleksey Vasiliyev, President of the Institute for African Studies and the first appointed Special Presidential Representative to Africa.

Quite recently, Dr. Gideon Shoo, Media Business Consultant based in Kilimanjaro Region in Tanzania, explained in an interview discussion with me that Russian companies need to prove their superiority in the business spheres and African governments have to make it easier for Russian companies to set up and operate in their countries.

“Russian financial institutions can offer credit support that will allow them to localize their production in Africa's industrial zones, especially southern and eastern African regions that show some stability and have good investment and business incentives. In order to operate more effectively, Russians have to risk by investing, recognize the importance of cooperation on key investment issues and to work closely on the challenges and opportunities on the continent,” he added.

On the other hand, Dr. Shoo noted that Russia is, so far, a closed market to many African countries. It is difficult to access the Russian market. However, African countries have to look to new emerging markets for export products, make efforts to negotiate for access to these markets. This can be another aspect of the economic cooperation and great business opportunity for both regions.

Nearly all the experts have acknowledged here that import and export trade have been slow due to multiple reasons including inadequate knowledge of trade procedures, complicated certification procedures, expensive logistics, security and guarantee issues, rules and regulations as well as the existing market conditions.

By looking at and revising the rules and regulations, the situation about Russia's presence in Africa and Africa's presence in Russia could change. All that is necessary here is for Russia and Africa to make consistent efforts to look for new ways, practical efforts at removing existing obstacles that have impeded trade over the years.

For decades, Russia has been looking for effective ways to promote multifaceted ties and new strategies for cooperation in economic areas in Africa. Now, Kremlin will hold the first Russia-Africa Summit with high hopes of enhancing multifaceted ties, trying to reshape the existing relationships and significantly roll out ways to increase effectiveness of cooperation between Russia and Africa.

During the past decades, a number of foreign countries notably China, the United States, European Union, India, France, Turkey, Japan, and South Korea have held gatherings of this kind in that format. The idea to hold a Russia-Africa Summit was initiated by President Vladimir Putin at the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit in Johannesburg in July 2018.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate invites Education boss -over tuition hike

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has invited the Minister of Education, Professor Ansu Sonii, to appear before full plenary on Thursday, 12 September to discuss the hike in tuition and other related fees charged by schools in the

country. hike in tuition at a time of economic hardship in the country.

Through the communication, Mr. Dillon indicates that the Ministry of Education's Academic Calendar for 2019/2020 school year has commenced, but most parents are unable to

high cost.

Tuition and other fees have also increased sharply, worsening the economic challenges faced by most parents and sponsors in meeting their obligations up to the time the school year has started.

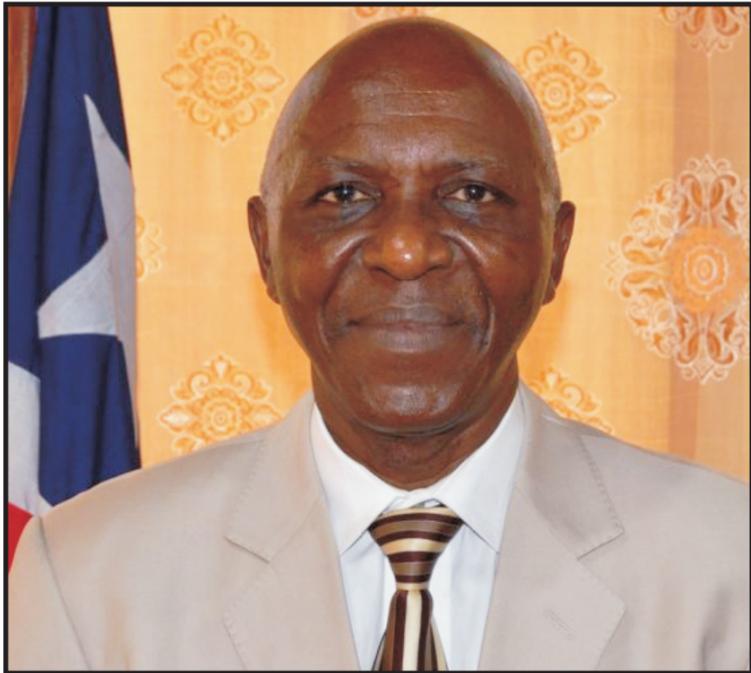
Sen. Dillon observes that the cost for a set of uniforms at most schools is between US\$75.00 to US\$100, while school fees for some schools are as high as US\$1,000.

According to the Montserrado Senator, the Education Minister, who reportedly owns a school himself, needs to inform plenary on the rationale for such act and what needs to be done to intervene where necessary.

Following the reading of the communication, Sinoe County Sen. Augustine Chea made a motion that the communication be received and sent to the Committee on Education.

But Sen. Chea's motion was defeated by a vote taken by plenary, prompting a new motion by Margibi County Sen. Oscar Cooper, seeking the appearance of Minister Sonii before plenary on Thursday, 12 September.

Sen. Cooper describes the issue as a matter of urgency and sensitivity.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



country.

In a communication written by Montserrado Country Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon, he requests plenary to invite Minister Sonii to discuss before Senate Plenary the

enroll their children due to the sharp hike in fees.

Schools here have made it compelling for parents or guardians to purchase their kids' uniforms made and sold by school authorities at very

Gov't urged to restore 3-day 'free call promotion'

By Lewis S. Teh

Following government's new measures replacing unlimited three days call promotion earlier offered by private telecom companies here by far less minutes voice call, citizens are gearing up to stage a peaceful assembly at the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) in Paynesville to demand that the previous promotion be restored.

Appearing on Joy FM Monday, 9 September, the lead campaigner of the protest Mr. John Kerman said there is a need for the government to bring back the three days call promotion to ease the burden faced by the masses.

"You came under the mantra of change for hope, where is the change that citizens are witnessing?" Mr. Kerman wonders.

Mr. Kerman seeks' citizens' support in drawing LTA's attention to bring back the three days free call.

He notes that the decision of the government through the LTA and GSM companies to cut off the "three days free calls" campaign is abrupt and not in the interest of the country.

Rather, Mr. Kerman believes that the decision brings additional burden upon the suffering people.

"Our protest is to send a signal to the government that the people are dissatisfied with its recent decision on the cancellation of the three days free calls," he adds.

He continues that the assembly at the LTA is not intended to cause chaos or demonstrate, clarifying that it is meant to bring relief to the suffering masses here.

He argues that the essence of government collecting taxes is to develop the country and improve the living conditions of its people.

But he notes that when the government collects taxes and cannot improve the people's living condition, then citizens have to encourage the government to ensure that their conditions are improved.

The termination of the three days unlimited call according to the LTA, was a request from the mobile network operators to stop "price war" in the sector.

The regulatory entity explains that the request necessitated LTA's Order 0016-02-25-19 to introduce new floor prices that would compensate for the lack of market mechanism and ensure market stability.

The LTA indicates that its measure is in response to call for intervention by MNOs to stop predatory pricing wars which have stifled the sector's growth and plummeted revenue significantly.

The LTA market research indicators suggest the sector's instability and anti-competitive behavior as a major factor.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Remove Gabriel Nyenkan from LEITI -CENTAL urges President Weah

The Liberian integrity group, Center for Transparency and Accountability calls on President George Manneh Weah to reverse the illegal appointment of Mr. Gabriel Nyenkan as Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative or LEITI.

In a press statement issued here Tuesday, 10 September this would allow the Multistakeholders Steering Group (MSG) to independently recruit a new Head of Secretariat for LEITI and other key staff to help restore the institution's sanctity and declining image.

CENTAL notes that LEITI has been and remains a key pillar of Liberia's integrity system and must be allowed to independently play such critical role, moving forward.

Mr. Nyenkan, accompanied by armed police, forcibly took office at LEITI in 2018, following his appointment by

President Weah in flagrant violation of Chapter 6.3d of the LEITI Act of 2009.

Section 6.3d of the LEITI Act says, "The power to recruit the Head of Secretariat, Deputy and other staff members of the LEITI Secretariat therefore lies with the MSG, which should

comprise of members of the legislature, CSOs and the Executive."

Since his ascendancy, the integrity group says its attention has been drawn to continuous negative developments at the LEITI that have undermined the entity's independence and lowered stakeholders' confidence in its activities and processes.



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"Since the appointment of the current leadership, against Chapter 6.3e of the LEITI Act of 2009, LEITI has been engulfed by controversies and gross underperformance. The illegal change in leadership and institutional brain drain, caused by undue significant changes in personnel, resulted to the institution's failure to publish its report for the fiscal period ending June 2016 within the 1 July 2018 deadline", the statement reads.

CENTAL further observes that as a consequence,

Liberia's membership with the Global Movement was suspended in September 2018.

"Disturbingly, also, at a recent news conference, a visiting Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) delegation said Liberia risks being delisted from the group's process if 'significant corrective measures' are not implemented in a timely manner to revive the institution and improve governance of the Extractive sector", CENTAL warns. **Press Statement**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Commerce Ministry, FAO sign US\$348,000 project

A two-year Technical Cooperation Program intended to strengthen National Food Control System by ensuring food safety and trade improvement in Liberia has been officially signed between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The signing took place at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) in Monrovia Tuesday, September 10, 2019, and was preceded by the formulation of close consultations and support from other line Ministries and Agencies of the Liberian government, including Health, Agriculture and the Liberia Chambers of Commerce.

A Commerce Ministry release says the 24-month Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) has a budget of US\$348,000.00.

FAO Representative to Liberia, Mariatou Njie, says the Project was formulated as a result of a discussion held between Liberia's Foreign Minister, Gbehzohngar Findley and FAO Director General in October 2018, about food security and food safety in Liberia.

"I therefore would like to congratulate Honorable Findley for the approval of this very important project." Madam Njie expresses.

She says food safety has a critical role in ensuring food stays safe at every stage of its chain; from production to harvest, processing, storage, and distribution, and all the way to preparation and consumption.

She observes that the TCP's close alignment with Pillar 2 of the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and with FAO's

Strategic Objective 4, will enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural food systems.

The FAO Country Representative also discloses that the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) is in line with her Organization's Country Program Framework (CPF) Output 1.2 Systems, established for effective monitoring and surveillance food security through FAO support.

Commerce and Industry Minister, Wilson K. Tarpeh says the CDC-led Government has

invested the little it has in the National Standards Laboratory to ensure effective quality standards.

Prof. Tarpeh notes that as a result of efforts being made to improve the National Standards Laboratory, the Government, through the Commerce Ministry was able to discover rotten food items, 200 tons of contaminated meat with the most recent being the discovery of 2,754 barrels of contaminated pig feed.

"The Commerce Ministry was able to pick it up with this kind of intervention and now we're going to strengthen our capacity and this is why we are happy that this particular intervention is being made." Minister Tarpeh asserts.

Speaking further, he lauds the FAO for the US\$348,000.00 grant and expresses Government's appreciation for the gesture.

"We are glad for this intervention, Madam Njie, and want to thank the FAO and through the entire United Nations system for this important support. This project is what we call soil to

stomach and you the professionals in this area would call it food safety, it covers everything from soil to stomach; that is the entire food chain and so what this intervention has done will enhance or deepen our commitment in this Ministry to ensure that all food items that come into the Liberian economy and commerce are of minimum standard", he emphasizes.

The objective of the Project includes addressing key challenges in Liberia's food control system and several other areas through strengthened capacity, including inspection methods and approaches; application of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System; meat inspection, food sampling, monitoring, and surveillance.

Other components are: food processing technologies; food control management; compliance and enforcement; risk analysis; Codex and International Agreements. - **Press Release**



(L-R, FAO Country Rep. Madam Njie and Minister Tarpeh)

ECOWAS Parliament convenes Thursday

By Bridgett Milton

Members of the ECOWAS Parliament have arrived in Liberia to commence an extraordinary legislative session in Monrovia.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) Monday, 9 September, the Speaker of the regional

legislative group Ambassador Moustapha Cissé Lo said he is glad to be back in Liberia again for the first extraordinary session of the Parliament outside of Nigeria.

According to Ambassador Cissé Lo, he considers Liberia as his second home and looks forward to a fruitful session.

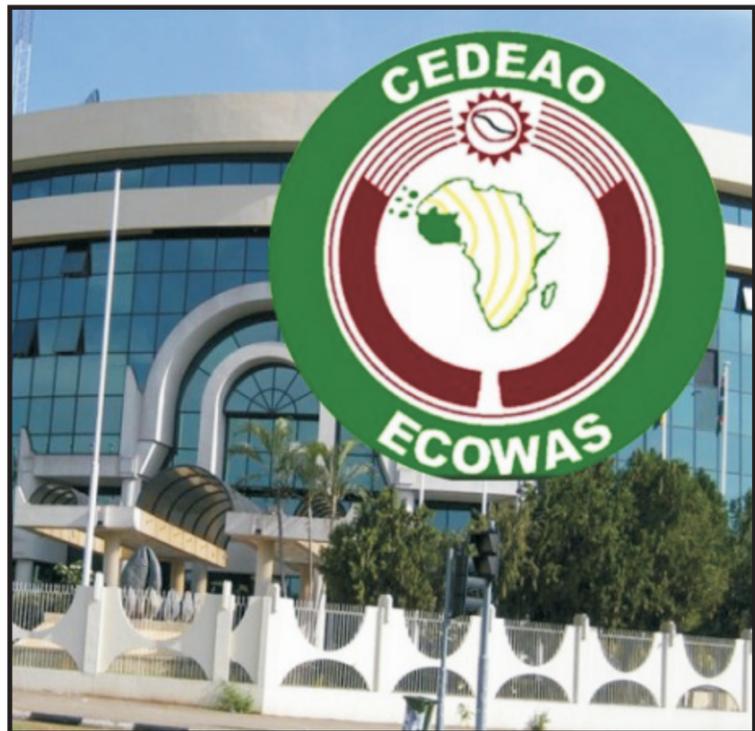
Also speaking to reporters at the RIA, the head of the Liberian delegation to the

ECOWAS Parliament Rep. Edwin M. Snowe says, the extra sitting is being characterized by several activities, including a parliamentary seminar on Transhumance and Intercommunity Conflicts in the ECOWAS region and ECOWAS Parliamentary Women Forum with Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

Rep. Snowe discloses that Vice President Taylor will officially open the seminar on Transhumance and Intercommunity Conflicts in the ECOWAS Region on Thursday, September 12.

Additionally, Rep. Snowe says Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Deputy Commissioner Asatu Bah-Kenneth and the Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), Tolbert Nyenswah are expected to make presentations on transhumance activities.

Snowe concludes that on Monday, the ECOWAS Parliament's second extraordinary session will officially open with a keynote address by President George Manneh Weah as guest of honor.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



LISGIS trains journalists on LDHS

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Over 30 Liberian Journalists representing various media institutions complete a one-day professional development workshop at the head office of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geospatial Information or LISGIS in Monrovia.

LISGIS Director General Professor Francis Wreh says, the essence of the training is to provide basic skills and knowledge on reporting the Liberia Demographic Health Survey.

He notes that only the media can assist LISGIS in disseminating information contained in report released by the institution to avoid discrepancy in the data, adding that LISGIS goals can be achieved based on accurate reportage of its data.

Prof. Wreh explains that reporting correct data on the LDHS will also enable Liberians to understand that the statistics contained in LISGIS report is correct and there is no need to add or subtract from it.

He adds that LISGIS oversees the 2019-2020 DHS survey but in partnership with several international partners namely, the United States Agency for International Development

(USAID), World Health Organization (WHO), United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and UNFPA to collect specific data information on several aspects of life.

LISGIS Director of Public Affairs Varfee Holmes, presenting on Liberia Demographic Health Survey History, looks at the importance of data, how the LDHS helps Liberia, key findings from past surveys, significant programs introduced because of past surveys, key contacts for the 2019 LDHS, among others.

He reminds that journalists reporting LISGIS data would depend on the level of research made and information secured based on specific figures and percentages contain in survey findings that should not be tempered with.

LDHS Project Coordinator Germue Gbawoquiya, giving Technical Overview of the 2019 survey, assets that the survey considered the number of people in households, ages, gender marital status, source of drinking, sanitation, number of children per woman of childbearing age, family size, age at first birth, age at first marriage, age at first sexual intercourse, family planning

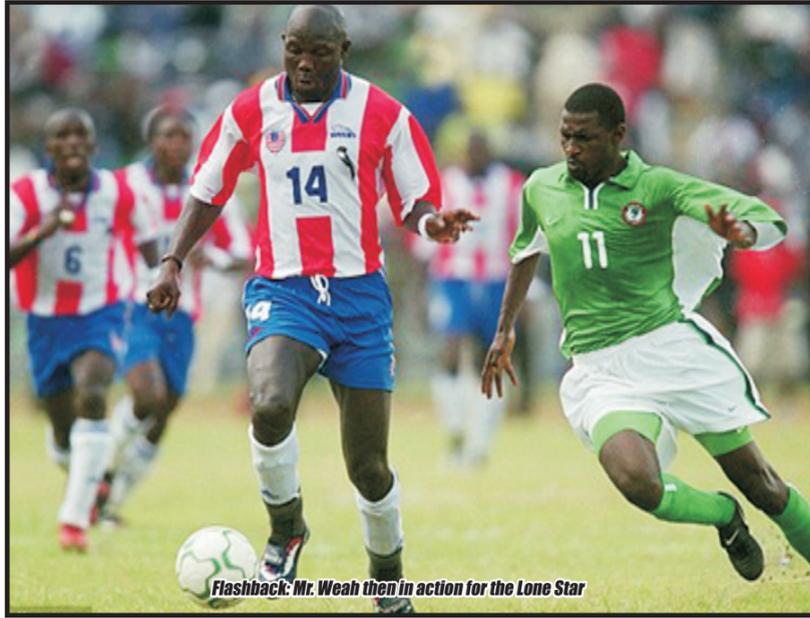
Français

« C'est Samuel Doe qui a fait de moi ce que je suis », le président Weah

« Si je suis ce que je suis aujourd'hui, c'est grâce à l'amour que le président assassiné, Samuel Doe, avait pour les joueurs de l'équipe nationale de football du Libéria, Lone Star », a indiqué George MannehWeah, icône libérienne du football, élu président.

M. Weah, qui a acquis une renommée internationale en tant que meilleur footballeur d'Afrique et l'un des meilleurs du monde avant de se lancer dans la politique, a rappelé qu'il était le plus jeune joueur libérien à avoir voyagé dans plusieurs régions du monde, y compris dans d'autres pays africains et en Europe, sous le regard vigilant de feu Président Doe.

Doe, qui est parmi les présidents libériens passionnés de sport, a été brutalement assassiné pendant la guerre civile par l'ancien général du groupe rebelle Front patriotique



Flashback: Mr. Weah then in action for the Lone Star



Flashback: Slain Pres. Doe dubbed 'The Skipper'

national Indépendant du Libéria (INPFL), Prince Yormie Johnson, aujourd'hui sénateur du comté de Nimba.

Le sénateur Johnson est maintenant un allié politique clé du président Weah, qui lui a politiquement offert le comté de Nimba pour assurer sa victoire au second tour de

l'élection présidentielle de 2017 face au candidat de l'ancien parti au pouvoir.

Le président Weah a déclaré qu'il est ce qu'il est aujourd'hui grâce au regretté président Doe. Il a fait la révélation le lundi 9 septembre à l'hôtel de ville de Monrovia, lors d'un message

qu'il a livré aux pèlerins musulmans libériens qui venaient d'arriver d'Arabie saoudite où ils avaient effectué leur pèlerinage.

Il a loué Dieu pour le retour en toute sécurité des 324 pèlerins dans le pays. Le Président a raconté qu'au cours d'une visite, il avait demandé à un de ses amis ce qu'il (Weah) pouvait faire pour lui en tant que président du Libéria, et le souhait de ce dernier était de permettre aux Libériens de se rendre en Arabie saoudite.

Le président Weah a souligné que les musulmans et les chrétiens du Libéria n'ont d'autre choix que de vivre ensemble comme des frères, soulignant que le conflit civil qui avait ravagé le Libéria n'a pas fait de distinction entre musulmans et chrétiens.

Il s'est félicité des principaux représentants du gouvernement et de leurs partenaires pour leur soutien,

lequel soutien a permis aux musulmans d'effectuer leur pèlerinage.

La représentante du district 4 du comté de Lofa, Mariama Fofana, a également félicité le président Weah pour avoir rendu possible le départ des musulmans libériens en pèlerinage cette année.

Elle a ajouté que « le président Weah se souviendra toujours de son rôle paternel, permettant ainsi aux Libériens des 15 subdivisions politiques du pays d'aller en Arabie saoudite et de participer au programme sacré ».

La députée de Lofa a fait observer que pour la première fois dans l'histoire du Libéria, 324 Libériens, sous l'impulsion du président Weah, ont pu se rendre à La Mecque pour effectuer leur Hadj.

Selon elle, 324 Libériens ont pu se rendre en Terre Sainte à La Mecque sur les 365 personnes initialement prévues. Elle s'est donc félicitée et a exprimé sa gratitude à l'endroit des autres partenaires qui ont collaboré avec le ministre des Affaires intérieures, Varney Sirleaf, pour rendre possible le pèlerinage à La Mecque. Elle a profité de l'occasion pour exhorter ses frères musulmans à continuer à intercéder pour le président, le gouvernement et le peuple libérien.

Certains des musulmans libériens de retour dans leur pays ont témoigné individuellement de leurs expériences à la Mecque, louant Dieu pour leur voyage et leur retour en toute sécurité dans le pays.

Afrique du Sud : la société civile se mobilise contre les violences xénophobes

Face aux vagues d'attaques xénophobes, récurrentes dans le pays depuis 2008, des organisations sud-africaines ont décidé de se regrouper au sein d'une coalition pour présenter un front uni.

Les violences à l'égard des ressortissants étrangers continuent, principalement dans la ville de Johannesburg. Des attaques ont fait dimanche soir deux nouveaux morts, et des magasins ont à nouveau été

vandalisés. Le Nigeria prévoit de rapatrier 600 de ses ressortissants à partir de mercredi.

Face à cette situation, des syndicats, des militants, des associations ont tenu à exprimer publiquement leur honte vis-à-vis de la situation, comme Teboho Mashota, de l'organisation des avocats pour les droits de l'homme : « Nous sommes honteux, car après 25 ans de démocratie, voilà où nous en sommes.

Nous continuons à nous battre entre nous. Cela ne peut pas se produire, pas au nom de tous les Sud-Africains. Il faut que cela cesse. Tous les 4 ans, on se retrouve au même point ».

Frustration

Pour Mamelwe Sebei, président d'un syndicat de travailleurs de différentes industries, les étrangers sont des proies faciles pour des Sud-Africains frustrés par la situation économique. « Pour nous, ces attaques xénophobes sont des attaques contre la classe ouvrière, dit-il. Ce ne sont pas n'importe quels migrants qui sont ciblés, mais les plus pauvres. Tout cela est lié à un chômage et une pauvreté qui augmentent, ce qui pousse à s'en prendre aux migrants comme boucs émissaires, ce qui permet de faire oublier les échecs du système. »

Demande de prise de position

La police préfère parler de criminalité plutôt que d'attaques xénophobes. La coalition demande une prise de position plus ferme des pouvoirs publics, comme l'explique son porte-parole,

Anthony Williams : « Nous voulons que l'État prenne toutes ses responsabilités. Nous voulons qu'ils arrêtent avec leur déni qu'il n'y a pas de xénophobie dans le pays. Nous voulons que le système

judiciaire prenne les choses en main, et poursuive chacun des attaquants ».

Une grande marche est prévue samedi, en solidarité avec les victimes de ces violences.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

Éditorial

Le forum économique appelle à la création d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre

A l'issue du forum économique national qui vient de s'achever, les parties prenantes et les Libériens en général ont notamment appelé à la création d'un tribunal de crimes de guerre et crimes économiques pour le Libéria, y compris la mise en œuvre intégrale des recommandations de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation.

Les discussions de trois jours ont également mis en évidence quatre domaines critiques : la mobilisation et la gestion des finances publiques ; promouvoir les investissements et la croissance des entreprises du secteur privé ; surveiller le taux de chômage élevé des jeunes associé à la pénurie de compétences appropriées ; maintenir la paix et promouvoir une réconciliation véritable.

Les Libériens se rallient progressivement pour réclamer à l'unanimité la création d'un tribunal afin de mettre un terme à la culture de l'impunité et poursuivre les auteurs des crimes odieux et des crimes contre l'humanité. Des partenaires internationaux aussi mettent la pression, c'est le cas notamment des membres du Congrès américain et des Libériens basés dans la diaspora.

Récemment, les évêques catholiques du Libéria ont publié une déclaration, réitérant le même appel, celui de procéder à la création d'un tribunal pénal pour les crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité, afin dit-on, de mettre fin à l'impunité. Ce tribunal permettra aux criminels de guerre de rendre compte de leurs actes odieux et servira également d'un moyen de dissuasion.

L'ancien président de la CVR, Me Jerome Verdier, qui réside actuellement aux États-Unis, a décrit le Libéria sous l'autorité du président George Manneh Weah comme un « paradis pour les gangsters, où les hors-la-loi sont parrainés par l'État et règnent en maîtres sous le regard satisfait du président ».

Le président Weah lui-même refuse visiblement la création d'un tel tribunal sous son administration. Son gouvernement a au contraire décidé de remobiliser les anciens généraux rebelles et les anciens combattants pour qu'ils agissent en tant qu'acteurs non étatiques avec pour seule mission de renforcer son emprise sur le pouvoir.

D'ailleurs, certains de ses principaux alliés et loyalistes politiques, dont le chef erratique des anciens rebelles, Prince Yormie Johnson, du Front patriotique Indépendant du Libéria (INPFL), s'opposent avec véhémence à ce tribunal, de peur qu'ils n'y soient traînés.

Mais le président a-t-il vraiment le choix ? Il ne le veut pas, peu importe son aversion. Maintenant que l'appel ne vient pas seulement des citoyens ordinaires, mais aussi des parties prenantes, le gouvernement devrait écouter, car la justice est le fondement de la relance et du développement économique de tous les pays du monde.

Si ce régime veut vraiment résoudre les difficultés économiques auxquelles le Libéria est confronté actuellement, il faut qu'il définisse correctement ses priorités en cherchant à gagner et maintenir la confiance de nos partenaires étrangers. Le monde est maintenant un village planétaire et notre façon de vivre en tant que peuple affecte nos voisins.

En conséquence, l'appel du forum économique national à un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et les crimes économiques réaffirme la trajectoire que devrait prendre le gouvernement pour renverser cet isolement rampant mais silencieux et sauver ainsi notre économie et empêcher qu'elle s'effondre totalement.

COMMENTAIRE

By Robert J. Barro

Le désordre mercantiliste de Trump

CAMBRIDGE - Lorsque le président américain a lancé sur le ton de la plaisanterie en mars 2018 « les guerres commerciales sont une bonne chose, et elles sont faciles à gagner », beaucoup ont considéré cette remarque comme une déclaration de plus, sans grande importance. Est-ce vraiment le cas ?

Si les pays du monde prennent part au commerce international, c'est pour importer - produits de consommation, biens intermédiaires utilisés dans la production, et biens d'équipement - en échange de leurs exportations. Vu sous cet angle, les exportations correspondent simplement aux biens dont les Américains entendent se séparer pour acquérir d'autres biens de leur choix, ou dont ils ont besoin.

Mais le commerce international augmente également sur une base nette la taille du gâteau économique global, puisqu'il implique que les États se concentrent sur ce qu'ils font de mieux, et qu'ils produisent des biens dans des domaines où ils se montrent relativement plus productifs. Selon la théorie de l'avantage comparatif de David Ricardo, les points forts relatifs des États découlent de différences dans leurs dotations en facteurs. Et comme l'ont démontré les économistes Paul Krugman et Elhanan Helpman dans les années 1980, ces points forts sont également liés aux investissements des États dans divers domaines de spécialisation.

En adoptant un modèle mercantiliste dans lequel les exportations sont une « bonne » chose, et les importations une « mauvaise », Trump renverse cette logique économique implacable. Dans un modèle mercantiliste, un excédent d'exportations par rapport aux importations contribue à la richesse nationale via l'accumulation de créances sur le papier (auparavant sous forme d'or). C'est ce que Trump semble avoir à l'esprit lorsqu'il accuse la Chine de drainer chaque année 500 milliards \$ hors de l'économie américaine, principalement en échangeant des produits chinois contre des obligations du Trésor américain. Il est pourtant difficile de concevoir que l'obtention d'une grande quantité de biens de haute qualité à bas coût équivaille à être « perdant ».

Trump semble miser sur une théorie avancée par son conseiller au commerce Peter Navarro, lequel relève que les importations présentent un signe négatif dans la relation d'identité satisfaite par le PIB (qui est égal à la consommation plus l'investissement domestique, plus les exportations moins les importations). Il en conclut qu'une réduction des importations induite par les taxes douanières conduira par magie à une augmentation de la production domestique (PIB), répondant ainsi à la demande auparavant assurée par les importations. Selon cette conception, peu importe que la certitude de représailles conduise à une contraction du commerce international global et du PIB américain (soit dit en passant, j'espère que Navarro n'a pas appris la macroéconomie internationale à l'époque de l'obtention de son PhD à l'Université d'Harvard au début des années 1980, sous la direction de Richard Caves, qui défendait des idées très différentes).

Il est vrai que la Chine retient le commerce international, et impose des coûts élevés à l'investissement étranger, bien souvent en contraignant les entreprises étrangères à des transferts technologiques en direction de leurs partenaires chinois. Le vol pur et simple de technologies par les entités chinoises constitue

également une problématique majeure. Il serait bon pour tout le monde - et certainement pour la Chine elle-même - que ces pratiques restrictives soient limitées. Pour autant, si l'objectif des États-Unis consiste à réduire les barrières au commerce, l'imposition de droits de douanes sur les importations chinoises est un étrange moyen d'y parvenir.

Il y a quelques mois, la Chine semblait certes disposée à adopter des réformes significatives dans le cadre d'un accord visant à lui éviter une escalade des taxes douanières. Mais même à cette période, il y avait quelque chose d'étrange dans l'accord proposé : l'administration Trump réclamait une liste quantitative d'exportations américaines spécifiques que la Chine importerait en plus grands volumes.

Les Chinois étaient bien entendu satisfaits de procéder de cette manière, qui s'inscrivait en phase avec une forme de gouvernance économique de commandement et de contrôle. L'approche américaine est toutefois censée être différente. Dans la mesure où nous ne savons pas si les achats chinois supplémentaires devraient prendre la forme de produits agricoles, de pickups Ford ou d'avions Boeing (qui étaient autrefois considérés comme fiables), les États-Unis devraient promouvoir une baisse générale des droits de douanes et autres restrictions au commerce, de sorte que le marché puisse décider des biens qui devraient être produits et échangés.

En tout état de cause, il semble désormais probable que l'Amérique se soit engagée dans une guerre commerciale durable, synonyme de coûts à long terme pour les entreprises et les consommateurs américains. En dépit des effets aujourd'hui encore favorables de la réforme fiscale de 2017 et de la levée de réglementations néfastes par l'administration, la croissance fléchit actuellement. Trump tente de manière futile de rejeter la faute sur la Réserve fédérale et sur les entreprises improductives d'Amérique. Or, le vrai problème réside dans l'approche de Trump en matière de politique commerciale, qui est bien plus mauvaise que celle de son prédécesseur, et qui risque de pousser l'économie américaine vers la récession.

Plus largement, le problème réside en ce que l'establishment politique américain a forgé un consensus selon lequel quelque chose doit être fait pour lutter contre les pratiques commerciales restrictives de la Chine. Or, le mieux est parfois l'ennemi du bien.

Quant à Trump, les tarifs douaniers semblent réellement lui plaire, puisqu'ils empêcheraient les « mauvaises » importations, tout en élevant les revenus. Contrairement à de nombreux autres arguments économiques avancés par le président américain, son plaidoyer en faveur des taxes douanières apparaît sincère, et son attachement à ce type de politique par conséquent irrévocable. Ceci conduit toutefois à entrevoir difficilement comment les États-Unis pourraient atteindre un accord commercial satisfaisant avec la Chine. Pire encore, Trump pourrait bien user des droits de douanes comme d'un outil de négociation vis-à-vis de nombreux autres pays.

En somme, je ne dirais pas que Trump présente le plus faible « QI économique » parmi les présidents récents. Il existe toutefois clairement un fossé entre ce qu'il sait et ce qu'il croit savoir. Et dans la mesure où c'est ce deuxième pan qui détermine la politique commerciale des États-Unis, l'Amérique a un sérieux problème entre les mains.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Analysis of Contemporary Liberia's Foreign Policy and Its Development Impact

According to Adam Watson (1982), national reputation is fundamentally an instrument of power which also signifies a nation's power strength. It all about having a good name in the world of nations and it reflects and affects the country's standing in the global arena. It refers to the collective judgments of a foreign country's image and characters that are then used to predict or explain a nation's culture, policy, conduct, and future behavior. National reputation, along with economic resources, is a pivotal force in international relations.

The opinion of the given nation as expressed by foreign publics is one of the reliable indicators of a nation's reputation in the international sphere. Having the desired image and reputation can often be of greater use than a significant increment of economic power. This is because nation's reputational capital may affect the country's ability to build coalitions and alliances to achieve international political objectives, to influence perceptions and purchase decisions, and to attract foreign investments (Adam Watson, 1982).

The 2005 general elections was the dedicated period of the state and its people, the collective judgments of the country's image and characters was then used to predict or explain a nation's political situation, policy, conduct, and future behavior, while national reputation became a pivotal force in international relations, as condition later improved for the better due to foreign intervention.

Based on a critical analysis of President Weah's doctrine outlined in his inaugurate address, one can state that Liberia's foreign policy in the 21st century under the current administration is towards a peaceful international environment of long term stability, security, coexistence, mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality and collaboration with countries of the world. Liberia has also established and maintained various types of partnerships with global powers and multilateral organizations, properly handling its relations with all major forces of the world including the U.S., China, Japan, France, European Union, UN, IMF, World Bank, African Union, ECOWAS, and G77. Liberia pursues an independent foreign policy of peace, respect for sovereignty.

Liberia promotes friendly and cooperative relations with all the other states on the basis of the principles of coexistence. Some of the dividends of President Weah foreign relations include the presentation of letters of credence by ambassadors accredited to Liberia, the presence of foreign embassies and missions near Monrovia, foreign aid assistance from friendly countries and multilateral institutions and organizations including continue support towards road rehabilitations, constructions of infrastructure such as public building, support towards electricity and water supply, security, funding towards social institutions such as health and education, especially budgetary support, among others.

Analysis of Liberian foreign relations shows that Liberia foreign policy opposed to the practices of the big countries bullying the small states and the strong oppressing the weak states; it calls for the setting of disputes and conflicts through talks and consultation and by seeking common ground. From the point of the nation's foreign policy objective, Liberia does not impose its own will upon others and acts in the fundamental interests of the Liberian people and the common interests of all people throughout the globe.

In these connections, Liberia's international image and reputation are improving, the country has strengthened relationship and cooperation with developing and developed states, which has always been the cornerstone of the nation's foreign relations. Today, Liberia still remains a standing member of the United Nations, AU, ECOWAS, and a stable environment. The country's foreign policy, international relations and diplomacy, have always fulfill its international duty to the world evident as must actively supported the movements for national independence and liberation of African states, the establishment of numerous global institution and organizations, and a standing signatory to international treaties, conventions, instruments and the just struggle of the people across the world. Liberia

has regained its status and the nation's reputation in the international sphere due to the role of ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf's distinctive international relations and foreign policy. Madam Johnson-Sirleaf has since left the political scene, with President George Weah in charge of the affairs of the state.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Liberia's Foreign Policy is firmly rooted in its political ideology of liberalism, democracy, and capitalism. This foundation is copied after the pattern adopted by the United States of America from where the founding fathers of Liberia had come as ex-slaves and free men color. Generally speaking, the guiding principles of Liberia's foreign policy has been the maintenance of national security and the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the promotion of peace and harmony based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and unity in the national community based on the virtue of liberal democracy.

The fundamental thrust of Liberia's foreign policy objective before the Tubman era was predominantly the maintenance of national independence. Since the Tubman administration to date, the foreign policy objective of the country, in addition to the maintenance of national independence has been the devotion to economic, social and political development. Liberia's survival as a state in the face of difficult challenges posed by colonial powers like Great Britain and France have been the skill and maturity with which her leaders conducted her foreign policy and foreign relations (MOFA, 2018). Thus the mastery of the act of diplomacy has remained the hallmark, and one of the most credible achievements of Liberia in the comity of nations.

Just like Madam Sirleaf, President Weah's diplomatic modus operandi and interactions with actors in the international sphere has produced dividends and tangibles visible through the countless international good wills and the participation of the President at international acclaimed gathering such as FOCAC, TICAD, UN General assembly, AU and ECOWAS Summits, where Liberia's needs have been propounded. The visitations of several presidents and other high profile leaders of foreign governments, states, and multilateral institutions, demonstrate the nation's reputation in the international sphere among the comity of nations. Such unique international relations and diplomacy have given rise to the nation's foreign policy objectives, with the visible dividends including international goodwill, developmental programs, and constructions of multimillion public facilities such as newly constructed RIA terminal and Ministerial complex by the People's Republic of China.

The Weah's foreign relations has witnessed some dividends including the protection of nation's image abroad that one can present Liberia passport at any port of entry without being discriminating against or harassment, maintains Liberian diplomatic missions abroad and role in international organizations, and the presentations of official letters of credence by foreign states missions accredited near Monrovia. The former government of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and President George Weah's administration desired credit for the unique displayed of diplomacy, foreign policy, and international relations.

These core issues of international goodwill and development projects are linked to general domestic policy for their pursuit is dependent not only on Liberia's foreign policy with her neighbors and countries which Liberia maintained its diplomatic ties with, but also Liberia's internal political stability and security. President Weah administration has inherited a task of removing a greater number of poverty-stricken Liberians from abject poverty, provide electricity and safe drinking water to the greater population, ensure paved roads across the country, and create jobs and quality education and affordable health care, among other pressing necessities.

Other areas on the domestic front include the ongoing construction of the famous 14 Military Hospital, the Construction of feeder community roads and construction of housing units in Grand Kru County, the



By: Josephus Moses Gray
Assistant Professor of International
Studies/ graymoses@yahoo.com

continuation of the former regime major projects such a major roads, ministerial complex, the new terminal at RIA, tuition weaver at all public universities and colleges, pavement of WAEC's fees. Other areas of gains including keeping the country stable, peace and security, rule of law and justice and human rights protection.

In his thrilling inauguration address, President George Weah said: "I am a humble today to be at this stadium that made me, I have spent many years of my life in this stadium, but today is a feeling like no other, I strive to be excellent, and I can be successful. The exciting speech was greeted with thousands of Liberians waving flags and dancing through the various streets and communities across the country while others from the homes and entertainment centers followed the historic occasion via radio and televisions transmission. In an astute speech of optimism, President Weah used the remarkable inauguration to set forth his administration foreign policy and domestic agenda constructively as he reached out to friendly countries and Liberia's international partners especially to Washington, Beijing, European Union, ECOWAS, African Union, United Nations, World Bank International Monetary Fund and Arab League countries, among others.

Further analysis of the inaugural address showed that President Weah's foreign policy to some degree is contrary to that of former president Johnson-Sirleaf regime's foreign policy. Ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf's doctrine was focused on poverty reduction strategy, while President Weah's major doctrine is the people-centered oriented pro-poor agenda. The deviation of the two leaders' foreign policies is mainly in the areas of implementation, projection and strategic areas of focus. However, both leaders' foreign policies centered on the cultivation of cordial friendly relations with governments, the United Nations, Multilateral institutions, regional and continent bodies and members of the global system.

An analysis of the inaugural address shows that the CDC led-government foreign policy is formulated solely for national interests and its primary and obvious objectives entailed the maintenance of national security and the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the promotion of peace and harmony based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and respect for international orders. It also centered on securing the much-needed strategic partnerships with international players. It can be recalled that during the occasion, the president reiterated that his administration will build on the gains made by the former regime of Johnson-Sirleaf especially in the areas of free speech and press freedom, stability, and peaceful co-existence but vowed to root out corruption. President Weah used the profound address to praise his predecessor Johnson-Sirleaf for laying the foundations on which he said Liberians can now stand in peace, stressing that "United, Liberians are certain to succeed as a nation, warning that divided we are certain to fall.

TO BE CONTINUED

Gov't to layoff 4000 employees

By Othello B. Garblah

The Government of Liberia says it has planned to layoff about 4000 employees, suspends new recruitment programs at ministries and agencies throughout the country amidst a debate over a new measure to harmonize civil servants' salaries here.

The current number of government employees is around 72,000, while the actual number of civil servants on government payroll is about 43, 800. The rest of the 28, 200 are individuals who were one way or the other recruited through political connections and were being pay through

salary harmonization scheme would put an end to the various kinds of allowances into one salary-meaning those in government employ who had only benefited from special allowances will now be placed on the payroll discouraging the allowance system which had been implemented at the discretions of ministers and heads of government agencies to bloat the numbers of government employees.

He said at present the planned harmonization program is intended to harmonize salaries across the central government over a projected period of time. By this it means if a director earn

grade."

He said with the new system being put in place, it will be difficult for anyone in any of the government sector ministry or agency to carry out a unilateral recruitment as has been done in the past.

He said the suspension of the government recruitment means that whenever there is a retirement, there will be no new recruitment rather an upward adjustment of staff.

However, Mr. Thompson indicated that the suspension of recruitment and the downward adjustment in some civil servants' salaries does not affect the security sector, health and education (teachers).

The current salary arrangement shows a huge disparity with some genitors at certain ministries and agencies who were recruited through political connections earning more than what a director at another ministry of agency earns.

Mr. S. Emmanuel Lloyd, Assistant Director Strategy Development and Forecasting at the Budget Policy Section said right now for anyone to get on central government payroll will be very difficult. He said the retirement of the 4000 employees from government is intended to free the payroll.

Asked while people are complaining about their salaries being drastically cut, he said what civil servants are receiving in their salary accounts are 35% of the earnings which are in Liberian Dollars, while the remaining 65% is being pay in United States Dollars and Finance officials have asked those employees without the USD account to open same for the transfer of their USD salary component.

He said while other sectors have been negatively affected the security sector, health and education have receive a boost, saying an extra USD135 has been added across the board for the security officers.



the allowance system.

As the country's national budget stands, 56 % of the US\$530million accounts for salaries alone, while the remaining 44% are spread over foreign and domestic debts, social benefits, subsidies, developmental projects among others.

This comes at the time the economic situation in the country gets tougher as the government struggles to put in place austerity measures to reduce its wage bill.

Mr. James A. Thompson, Deputy Director General at the Civil Service Agency told senior journalists at a retreat here Tuesday that the new

a total of say USD3000 per month that amount will be reduced by about US\$1000 putting his final salary at 2000, while another who is at the same level but earns say USD\$500, will be reduced by 5%.

He said over a protracted period the employee with the USD475 per month will receive a gradual increase until he is brought on par with the one earning USD2000.

"The harmonization is not a full harmonization," he said adding, "if we were to do a full harmonization it would require about USD180 million to bring every employee at the same level depending on their

Leave the comfort of Monrovia -Lawmaker chides colleagues

By Bridgett Milton

Sinoe County district#2 Representative J. Nagbe Sloh challenges his colleagues to leave their comfort zones in Monrovia and visit their respective constituents in districts across the country.

He says the dignity that comes with being a lawmaker is more with the people, so it is important for members of the legislature to remain

connected with their various districts.

Sloh warns that if lawmakers are not acquainted with problems confronting their people, they stand a difficult chance in helping to solve such challenges and at the same time get re-elected.

The Sinoe County lawmaker made the challenge Monday, 9 September when the Patriotic Consciousness Association of Liberia (PACA) certificated him

for the level of work done in his district.

According to the lawmaker, since his public life, it was the first time to receive public recognition from a very popular organization.

He vows to continue to fight in the Capitol to make sure the right law is passed, noting that the LRD16billion saga, many people think that it has been swept under the carpet, but as long as he is alive, he will continue to talk about it.

Presenting the certificate,

Liberia, America

Starts from back page

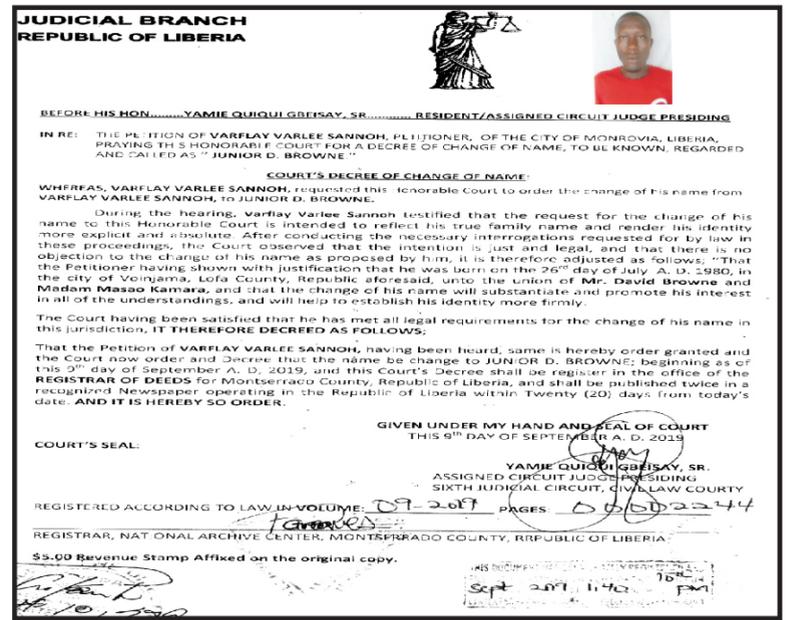
Richmond appreciated President Weah's leadership on the issue of trafficking, including domestic trafficking, which President Weah condemned in a video message released in December 2018.

During his visit, Ambassador Richmond also met with civil society organizations active in working to monitor trafficking cases, to help victims of trafficking, and to bring perpetrators to justice. He participated in a meeting of the Liberian government's interagency TIP Task Force, led by Minister of Labor Moses Kollie and comprised of multiple ministries and agencies which are statutory members of the Task Force. Ambassador Richmond also had the opportunity to meet with Liberian prosecutors from the Ministry of Justice.

He concluded his visit to Liberia by delivering a speech entitled "Freedom is the Foundation" on September 10 at the University of Liberia's "Lux Talk" forum. In his remarks, Ambassador Richmond noted, "There are many cultural practices that are wrong and even illegal within that culture. Chattel slavery was once cultural and legal in the United States - that

didn't make it right or excuse it. We can all think of aspects of our culture that need to improve and change. Liberia's law is clear that human trafficking is wrong and illegal."

Ambassador Richmond leads the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office), the focal point of the Department's global efforts to combat modern slavery through the prosecution of traffickers, the protection of victims, and the prevention of human trafficking by objectively analyzing government efforts and identifying global trends, engaging in and supporting strategic bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, targeting foreign assistance to build sustainable capacity of governments and civil society, advancing the coordination of federal anti-trafficking policies across agencies, managing and leveraging operational resources to achieve strategic priorities, and engaging and partnering with civil society, the private sector, and the public to advance the fight against human trafficking, says the U.S. Embassy here.



Representative J. Nagbe Sloh

PACA Chairman E. Frederick Baye said since Sloh became a lawmaker; the organization has been following his work in his

district, which he is pleased about leading to the recognition.

Liberia, America discuss human trafficking



UL Vice President for University Relations Norris Tweah with Amb. John Richmond

U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) John Cotton Richmond visited Liberia from September 9-10 to meet with diverse stakeholders in the country's fight against human trafficking and discuss the country's efforts to address this universal human rights

violation, also known as modern day slavery, in Liberia.

According to the United States Embassy near Monrovia, Ambassador Richmond Monday, September 9, met with President George M. Weah, along with key members of his cabinet and heads of civilian security agencies.

President Weah and Ambassador Richmond discussed Liberia's recently completed (TIP) National Action Plan and the country's Tier 2 Watch List ranking in the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report on government efforts to combat trafficking. Ambassador



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Arsenal made a big mistake when they sold Alex Iwobi to Everton

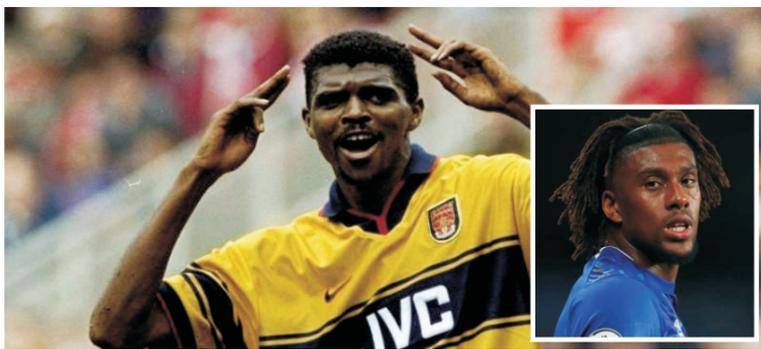
That is the view of Gunners legend Nwankwo Kanu, who believes his former club should have done all they could to hold on to a player they had developed since he was eight.

Iwobi left the Emirates on deadline day, switching north London for Merseyside in a deal that could eventually total £40 million (\$49m).

It was a transfer that came

out of the blue, with Everton switching their attention to Iwobi after seeing bids for

Wilfried Zaha repeatedly knocked back by Crystal Palace.



Arsenal rejected Everton's initial offer for Iwobi, which was closer to £30m (\$37m), but accepted the second when it arrived in the final hours of the transfer window.

It was a deal the Gunners hierarchy felt was a good one for the club, with the offer arriving at the end of a window that had seen Arsenal commit to over £140m (\$173m) worth of transfers - including a club-record £72m (\$89m) fee for Nicolas Pepe.

But for Kanu, the decision to cash in on the 23-year-old was the wrong one.

"I would say they made a mistake, 100 per cent," the Nigeria hero told Goal. "Why they let him go, I don't know.

"He's a boy who, in and out, is Arsenal. He always wanted to do his best for the club. He loves the club, but not only that he can play football.

"What he brings week in, week out, the fans need to appreciate that.

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