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# The New Dawn

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Speaker Bhofal Chambers



Deputy Prince Moye

# Speaker, deputy face opposition

**P11**

# Unnecessary attacks against PYJ

**-says senatorial hopeful**



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson

**P11**

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# Continental News

## Church accused of covering up priest's abuse

The Vatican is investigating a Kenyan man's claim that his father is an Italian missionary priest who impregnated his mother when she was 16, a case that highlights how the Catholic Church is reckoning with Africa's legacy of sexual abuse and priests fathering children.

Gerald Erebon has been an outcast of sorts for all of his 30 years: Tall and light-skinned with wavy hair, Erebon looks nothing like the dark-skinned Kenyan man listed as his father on his birth certificate, or like his black mother and siblings.

Erebon, his family and villagers in remote Archer's Post, Kenya say that's because he is the son of the Rev. Mario Lacchin, an 83-year-old Italian priest of the Consolata Missionaries religious order who ministered in Archer's Post in the 1980s.

"According to my birth certificate, it is like I am

living a wrong life, a lie," Erebon told The Associated Press in a series of interviews in Nairobi and Archer's Post. "I just want to have my identity, my history."

Lacchin denies he is Erebon's father, and has

refused to take a paternity test. His religious superiors haven't forced him, but arranged a series of three meetings this year between Erebon and Lacchin in hopes of establishing a dialogue between them.

The Vatican stepped in and opened an investigation after Erebon's claim was brought to its attention in May by an advocate for children of priests, Vincent Doyle. Doyle did so after obtaining the birth certificates of Erebon and his late mother, Sabina Losirkale, which showed she had just turned 16 when she conceived in 1988. In Kenya, the legal age of consent was and is 18. Amid the torrent of sex abuse accusations that have rocked the Catholic priesthood, little attention has been paid to the pregnancies resulting from those illicit acts. And nowhere is this a more glaring issue than in Africa, where the flouting of celibacy by priests is a known, long-standing problem.

The continent has long lagged behind the United States, Europe and Australia in confronting the problem of priests having sex with children, given the church's priorities here have focused on fighting poverty, conflict and traffickers who sell children off to war or work.

Recently, East African bishops established regional child protection standards and

guidelines to prevent child sexual abuse. And in parts of Francophone West Africa, the Catholic Church has launched safeguarding programs for society at large. Those initiatives, though, are relatively new, scattershot and underfunded.

Lacchin encountered Sabina Losirkale when she was a student at the Gir Gir Primary School in Archer's Post, a dusty town on the highway to Ethiopia. Growing up in the 1970s and '80s, the Losirkale girls and two cousins were often left on their own; their parents were poor shepherds and spent days away from home, seeking pasture in the bush for their animals.

Starting about a year before she turned 16, Sabina skipped afterschool sports to go to the priests' quarters to do housework, cooking and cleaning for the parish priests.

Her sister, Scolastica Losirkale, recalls she would sometimes see Sabina and Lacchin hugging as they said goodbye. Other times, Scolastica said, Sabina would come home from Lacchin's house crying and asking for Scolastica to fetch water so she could bathe. Some nights she didn't come home at all. AFP



Gerald Erebon sits with his aunt, Scolastica Apayo, as she holds a phone displaying a photo

## Policeman 'stoned to death' in Malawi

Police in Malawi have named an officer killed on Tuesday during clashes with anti-government protesters in Msundwe - a trading outpost west of the capital city, Lilongwe.

Police spokesman James Kadadzerab told news agency

AFP that officer Usumani Imedi had been stoned to death and "killed by rioters and criminals".

He was among officers who confronted demonstrators who had blocked the main road in Msundwe, an opposition stronghold, to stop supporters of President Peter Mutharika's

from attending his first rally in the city since his controversial election win in May.

Opposition supporters have been angered by how the electoral commission handled the vote, alleging it was full of irregularities.

Homeland Security Minister Nicholas Dausi said that other road users had asked for the police to intervene after the protesters blocked the busy road.

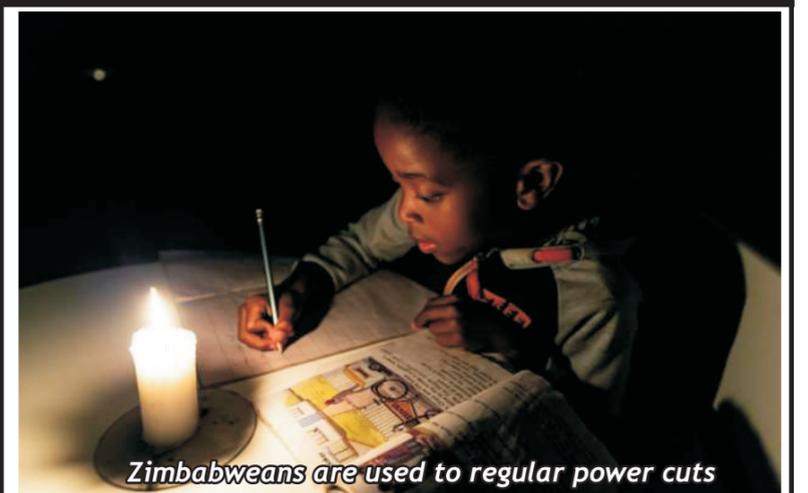
"When the police arrived, they started stoning them to the extent that we have lost one police officer". Police fired teargas to disperse the demonstrators but they "kept regrouping and they fought back with stones... in the ensuing chaos, they cornered one policeman whom they stoned to death," an eyewitness told AFP.

At least 12 people have been arrested and many more are likely to be detained, local Nation newspaper reports. President Mutharika later held the rally in the capital and appealed for calm in the country, saying: "This is our country. Let's not burn it down." BBC



Police have been clashing with protesters angered by the results of the May presidential elections

## Zimbabwe electricity price shoots up by 320%



Zimbabweans are used to regular power cuts

Zimbabwe's power regulator has increased the average electricity price by 320%.

The decision was taken to allow it to ramp up production and improve supplies amid daily power cuts. Essentially, the electricity company needs more money to pay for things like diesel to power the generators.

Zimbabwe is grappling with the worst economic crisis since the 2017 coup which unseated President Robert Mugabe.

The increase in electricity prices - the second in the past three months - has angered Zimbabweans who are already struggling with sharp increases in the prices of fuel and basic goods. The government says rolling power outages, which last up to 18 hours a day, have affected mines, factories and households.

It says the power shortages, combined with a devastating drought, mean Zimbabwe's struggling economy is set to shrink this year. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Women don't need exclusive seats

**VICE PRESIDENT JEWEL** Howard Taylor is lead campaigner for the affirmative action bill at the legislature that seeks 15 seats exclusively for women. We don't think such law is necessary. Elected posts are for public service and the best way to ascend there is thru competitive contest, rather than creating allowance for one sex.

**THE PREPONDERANT OF** this bill, Veep Taylor, is a former senator, who served twice in the Liberian Senate up to her selection by Congress for Democratic Change Standard Bearer George Manneh Weah as running mate for the presidency during the 2017 elections, which they won on a Coalition ticket.

**MADAM TAYLOR CONTESTED** for the senate in Bong County and won twice in a male-dominated race. Even President George Weah's predecessor Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won the presidency in 2005 against nearly two dozen male-dominated candidates. Both women leaders enjoyed no special privilege in politics.

**AT A RECENT** retreat with the legislature, President George Manneh Weah submitted eight propositions to amend certain sections of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, including Article 80 to create additional seats in the House of Representatives to be contested exclusively by women.

**SO, WHY NOW** the advocacy for exclusive allocation for women? What is the beauty of going into a competition when seats are already reserved for a particular sex whether it is merited or not?

**WE APPLAUD THE** Liberian Senate for overwhelmingly voting against the so-called affirmative action bill that seeks 15 additional seats to be contested exclusively by women.

**SENATE PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE** Albert Chie notes that while the currently male-dominated Liberian Senate generally believes in affirmative action, unanimous opinion is that allotment of 15 senatorial seats exclusively for women is not an appropriate remedy to empowering women politically, especially, in the face of prevailing economic constraints.

**THE GOVERNMENT WAGE** bill is overstretched currently, with monthly salary payment for employees seems nearly impossible, as even legislators at the Capitol are in arrears for two to three months.

**CREATING 15 ADDITIONAL** seats exclusively for women would take the legislature from 103 lawmakers (30 Senators and 73 Representatives) to 118, which means appropriating additional budgetary allocations for salaries, incentives and benefits, among others.

**THE CRY OF** the Liberian people is not underrepresentation but lack of sincere and committed leadership to prioritize their welfare.

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# COMMENTARY

By Roger E.A. Farmer

## Why We Need More Economists

*The economics profession should not be so defensive toward critics who blame it for rising inequality. Insights from the dismal science - and in particular economists' advocacy of market-based policies to boost prosperity - have proven their worth many times over.*

**L**ONDON - In a recent commentary in The New York Times, Binyamin Appelbaum placed the blame for increasing inequality in the United States squarely at the feet of economists. He cited the work, among others, of the Nobel laureate economist Robert Lucas, who directed policymakers' attention toward the problem of growth and away from redistribution. Appelbaum also cited statistics on life expectancy in the US, which has fallen in recent years, owing partly to higher rates of drug abuse and suicide among economically disadvantaged groups.

But economists have not ignored the problem of inequality - far from it. Inequality has become a central research area in economics over the past decade, and has entered the public discourse in the US because of the penetrating work like that of Princeton's Anne Case and Nobel laureate economist Angus Deaton. Moreover, there has been increasing collaboration between economists and other researchers from both the social and physical sciences - an approach I actively support through my involvement with the Rebuilding Macroeconomics project at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research in the United Kingdom.

The economics profession should not be so defensive in the face of criticism like Appelbaum's. Economists are not omniscient, of course. But insights from the dismal science - and in particular the advocacy of market-based policies to boost prosperity - have proven their worth many times over.

When I began working in the field of macroeconomics in the 1980s, the discipline was still dominated by Keynesian models. The questions we addressed then are now coming back into fashion: What causes business cycles? Is there a tradeoff between unemployment and inflation? How can we design economic policies to improve the performance of the economy and prevent recessions?

But in the two decades from the late 1980s to the Great Recession of 2008, macroeconomists shifted their focus away from business cycles and toward economic growth. And the influence of University of Chicago-based economists like Lucas was an important reason for that shift.

I still recall the whispers at the summer meetings of the US National Bureau of Economic Research in the mid-1980s that "Lucas is working on development." This was unthinkable at the time: mathematical economists and economic theorists ruled the roost, and development economics was well down the pecking order of respectable fields.

Yet in a remarkable 1988 article, Lucas stressed the importance of understanding why the economies of Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan had, by the 1980s, far outperformed others that had been at a similar stage of development two or three decades

earlier. "The consequences for human welfare involved in questions like these are simply staggering," Lucas wrote. "Once one starts to think about them, it is hard to think about anything else." That 1988 paper was instrumental in altering the research aspirations of several subsequent cohorts of young economists.

Although I do not always see eye to eye with my Chicago colleagues, they were right to advocate market-based policies as a means of stimulating growth. Markets are not perfect, but a system that rewards people differentially for their insights and efforts is more effective than any other known form of social organization at pulling human beings out of poverty - as illustrated by the chart below from Max Roser and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina at the University of Oxford. A rising tide really does lift all boats.

If reducing inequality were the overriding priority, then perhaps the answer would be to move away from capitalist market economies and toward socialist or communist systems. As Karl Marx argued: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." But that approach was tried in the twentieth century, notably in the Soviet Union and in China under Mao Zedong, and the outcome in both cases was appalling. To blame inequality and other problems arising from rapid globalization on the institution of the market could lead to a step backward.

Market capitalism was also thought to be doomed in the early twentieth century, owing to the kind of crushing inequality that is resurfacing today. Yet reports of its demise, like those of Mark Twain's, were greatly exaggerated. Markets' resilience reflects their remarkable effectiveness at solving apparently intractable social problems. But they operate within political and institutional constraints that evolve as policymakers learn from their mistakes.

For example, the deregulation of capital markets in the 1980s went too far. True, deregulation resulted in massive gains and, on balance, reduced inequality rather than increasing it. But those gains went to urban elites in the West and to rural peasants in China and India. As I argue in my book, *Prosperity for All*, there is surely a better institutional design that can preserve two centuries of democratic progress.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Western democracies evolved systems of political rights that allowed working- and middle-class citizens to share in the benefits of markets. But global capital flows have steadily eroded those rights, because they overwhelm the ability of democracies to retain the benefits of market exchange for their citizens.

The solution is not to get rid of free markets, but rather to redesign institutions. And to get that right, we don't need fewer economists; we need more.

## O-PED

By Dani Rodrik

# Democracy on a Knife-Edge

**C**AMBRIDGE - In Mohammed Hanif's novel *Red Birds*, an American bomber pilot crashes his plane in the Arabian desert and is stranded among the locals in a nearby refugee camp. He finds himself talking about thieves with a local shopkeeper. "Our government is the biggest thief," he explains. "It steals from the living, it steals from the dead." The shopkeeper replies, "Thank God we don't have that problem. We

This little vignette just about summarizes the key message of Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson's new book, *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*. Acemoglu and Robinson's thesis is that prospects for freedom and prosperity balance on a knife-edge between state oppression and the lawlessness and violence that society so often inflicts on itself. Give the state too much of an upper hand over society, and you have despotism. Render the state weak vis-à-vis society, and you get anarchy.

As the book's title signals, there is only a "narrow corridor" between these two dystopias, a slender path that only a few countries, mostly in the industrialized West, have managed to find. Furthermore, getting on the path does not guarantee staying on it. Acemoglu and Robinson emphasize that unless civil society remains vigilant and is able to mobilize against would-be autocrats, authoritarian regress always remains a possibility.

Acemoglu and Robinson's new book builds on their previous blockbuster, *Why Nations Fail*. In that book and other writings, they identified what they call "inclusive institutions" as the principal driver of economic and political progress. These institutions, such as secure property rights and the rule of law, are accessible to all (or most) citizens and do not favor a narrow group of elites over the rest of society.

One country that has always given the Acemoglu-Robinson thesis some trouble is China. The Communist Party of China's monopoly of political power, the country's rampant corruption, and the ease with which the Party's economic competitors and political opponents can be dispossessed hardly smack of inclusive institutions. Yet it is undeniable that over the last four decades the Chinese regime has achieved unprecedented rates of economic growth and the most impressive reduction in poverty in recorded history.

In *Why Nations Fail*, Acemoglu and Robinson argued that Chinese economic growth will run out of steam unless extractive political institutions give way to inclusive institutions. They double down on this thesis in *The Narrow Corridor*. They characterize China as a country where a strong state has dominated society for almost two and a half millennia. Having spent so much time outside the corridor, they argue, it is unlikely that China can make a smooth entry back in. Neither political reform nor continued rapid economic growth seems likely.

The other large country that now seems to sit ill at ease with the original Acemoglu-Robinson thesis is the United States. At the time *Why Nations Fail* was written, many still considered the US a prime example of inclusive institutions - a country that got rich and became democratic through the development of secure property rights and the rule of law. Today, the income distribution of the US is as skewed as in any plutocracy. And the country's representative political institutions, under attack from a demagogue, look decidedly brittle.

*The Narrow Corridor* seems to be written in part to provide an account of the apparent fragility of liberal democracies. The authors coin the term "Red Queen Effect" to denote the ever-continuing struggle to uphold open political institutions. Like the character in the Lewis Carroll book, civil society has to run ever faster to keep up with authoritarian leaders and restrain their despotic tendencies.

The ability of civil society to stand up to "Leviathan" may in turn depend on social divisions and their evolution. Democracy typically emerges from the rise of popular groups that can challenge the power of the elites or from splits among elites. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, industrialization, world wars, and de-colonization led to the mobilization of such groups. Ruling elites acceded to their opponents' demands that the franchise be extended, without property qualifications, (usually) to all males. In return, the newly enfranchised groups accepted limits on their ability to expropriate property holders. In short, voting rights were exchanged for property rights.

But, as I discuss in joint work with Sharun Mukand, liberal democracy requires more: rights that protect minorities (what we may call civil rights). The defining characteristic of the political settlement that generates democracy is that it excludes the main beneficiary of civil rights - minorities - from the bargaining table. These minorities have neither resources (like the elite) nor numbers (like the majority) behind them. The political settlement thus favors an impoverished kind of democracy - what one might call electoral democracy - over liberal democracy.

This helps explain why liberal democracy is such a rare beast. The failure to protect minority rights is a readily understood consequence of the political logic behind the emergence of democracy. What requires explanation is not the relative rarity of liberal democracy, but its existence. The surprise is not that few democracies are liberal, but that there are any liberal democracies at all.

This is hardly a comforting conclusion at a time when liberal democracy seems very much under threat, even in those parts of the world where it seems to have been permanently entrenched. But by appreciating the fragility of liberal democracy, we can perhaps avoid the lassitude induced by taking it for.

## OPINION

By Bennett Ramberg

# Whither Nuclear-Arms Control?

**L**OS ANGELES - Is nuclear-arms control unraveling? The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) has collapsed, the 2015 Iran nuclear deal is teetering, and North Korea has continued to expand its nuclear and ballistic-missile arsenal. Worse, it is unclear whether the United States will stick with the New START Treaty when it expires in 2021. That agreement limits (at 3,000) the number of strategic weapons Russia and the US have pointed at each other.

Fortunately, history offers some solace. During and after the Cold War, periods of arms-control breakdown were typically followed by phases of reconstruction. But reversing course is never easy. When it comes to bringing Russia, Iran, and North Korea into compliance, past experience shows that there are limits to what can be accomplished by leveraging alliances or pursuing military action. The remaining options are economic sanctions - which are effective only up to a point - and a further arms buildup, to induce renewed negotiations.

To be sure, alliances historically have played an important role in nuclear nonproliferation. In Europe, the US-NATO nuclear umbrella prevented the bomb from spreading beyond Britain and France. When US intelligence agencies learned in the 1970s and 1980s that South Korea and Taiwan had secret nuclear-weapons programs, America threatened to withdraw its military and economic support, and the programs eventually were shut down.

But intra-alliance pressure has no role to play with respect to loners like North Korea, Russia, and Iran. Despite China's military alliance and occasional summitry with North Korea, it has little influence over Kim Jong-un's nuclear ambitions. And while Britain, China, France, Germany, and Russia may yet be able to pressure the US into renewing dialogue with Iran, their efforts have yielded no results so far.

The use of force in nuclear-arms control has long been contemplated, but rarely pursued, owing to the risks of retaliation or radiological fallout. When these risks are absent, military action becomes attractive. In 1981 and 2007, Israel bombed suspected Iraqi and Syrian nuclear reactors under construction, without blowback. In the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the US Air Force struck Iraq's concealed enrichment plants with impunity. But this is not an option against Russia and North Korea today. A strike on Russia's contraband intermediate-range missile arsenal or on North Korea's nuclear program could bring about the very scenario that arms control is supposed to prevent: nuclear war.

Iran's situation is different. Fearing further Iranian enrichment activities, the US could, in theory, fashion a limited strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, on the assumption that the threat of further US action would deter an Iranian response. But Iran is not Iraq or Syria. Either directly or through its various regional proxies, Iran could unleash a wave of aggression against US interests, as demonstrated by the recent attack on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure. US policymakers would have to weigh this risk seriously.

Barring effective alliance pressure or military action, another option historically has been to build up one's own arsenal. In the early 1960s, America resumed nuclear-weapons tests in response to the Soviet Union's violation of the 1958 test moratorium; and this paved the way for the 1963 Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Similarly, the INF was agreed after the US deployed intermediate-range missiles in Europe in response to Moscow's introduction of such weapons. In each case, both sides concluded that tit-for-tat buildups had only increased their insecurity.

But in today's climate, using nuclear escalation to induce another round of arms-control negotiations would yield only mixed results. The US could try to intimidate the North Koreans by returning to South Korea the nuclear weapons that it removed in 1991. But given that Kim associates the bomb with his own survival, such a move would likely ratchet up tensions on the Korean Peninsula and raise China's ire. The better way to prevent nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula, then, is classic deterrence, leveraging America's offshore nuclear umbrella and onshore conventional weapons. At the same time, continued North Korean-US diplomatic dialogue - if not relations - would reduce the risk of a conflict arising from some miscalculation or misunderstanding.

By contrast, the recent US test of an intermediate-range land-based cruise missile, together with US plans to develop an intermediate-range ballistic missile, fits with the historic pattern of using an arms buildup to refocus the Kremlin's attention on arms control. By the same token, the US may see fit to introduce land-based intermediate-range nuclear weapons in East Asia to temper China's nuclear expansion.

Iran, by contrast, has no nuclear arsenal to ramp up or bargain down. Rather, it has a nuclear-enrichment breakout capacity that the US wants to eliminate. Hence, the US is tightening sanctions, increasing its military presence in the Persian Gulf, and launching cyberattacks to break Iran's will. In response, Iran has increased enrichment, disrupted oil shipping in the Persian Gulf, attacked Saudi oil infrastructure, and threatened US interests and allies across the Middle East. The question now is whether brinkmanship will lead to a conflict or a mutual drawdown that would allow for renewed arms-control talks, as in the earlier US-Soviet cases.

In these unsettling times, it is natural to wonder whether arms control has run its course. Although most nuclear nonproliferation and test-ban treaties remain in place, the global arms-control regime is under strain. Nonetheless, in its many iterations, it has shown remarkable resilience over time. That resilience will be tested repeatedly in the months - if not years - to come.

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

Last week's standoff between protesting youth and riot police at the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital Junction in Congo Town, Monrovia over the release of an alleged rape victim Ms Justina Taylor, who was receiving medication there, has sparked public reaction in Monrovia. Protesters erected roadblocks at the junction, which leads a major route to town, preventing both pedestrians and vehicles from entering or leaving the capital after news broke that the police were preventing Ms. Taylor, who had an appointment with the United States Embassy near Monrovia for visa interview to seek further medication abroad, from leaving the hospital's premises until she had provided a written statement. But the police later said the protesters acted based on false alarm, as there was no plan to arrest or prevent Justina from exiting the hospital. She was eventually placed in the care of her lawyer and rights groups until otherwise order. The New Dawn asks some residents of Monrovia to give their views on the incident that briefly brought that outskirts of the capital to standstill, as compiled below.



**Rachel Toe**

"It is very sad to see group of heartless people hidden under the banners of advocacy, creating civil disobedience in Liberia all the time. You check it up, 90 percent of them that is in this no birth certificate, least to talk about passport but the REBELS AND ARMS DEALER you are supporting and wanting to kill your own people again, got money at your detriment and they are well equipped. While you were killing yourselves,

they were drinking champagne and eating chicken; you were in the sun, creating problems for others.

Those who listened to their so-called heroes, and jumped on the street; remember this post, you will continue to make heroes regime after the other because the problem in Liberia is not a quick fix."



**James Toes**

"Conscious Liberians have solid credence to Justine Taylor's revelation. You guys can deny it, but we strongly believe her. Our intelligence, a few months ago, points to unwavering desire to bring in arms in a bid to subdue protestors. When the arms arrived, I knew it. We are pretty sure denials were to be expressed; you guys would never say yes to what Justine had said. Additionally,

Weah's stooge, Kojjee, facilitated recruitment of foreign thugs through Ivory Coast. We also heard about the training of terrorists to intimidate potential critics thereby guaranteeing President Weah's desire to sit comfortably as President for life. We are watching every move he and his cronies are engaged in. So, what Justina had revealed corroborates what we already knew. This is why we hold an undoubted credence to her revelation. The only thing we can assure you is that take us serious on what we say. Let me reiterate: If you hurt or murder any Liberian, you shall face justice. And when we shall get ready for you, you have nowhere to hide. You can say whatever trash, but we shall see."

"I heard you say natives had been used to undermine another native, President George Weah. On the contrary, George Weah and people like you are the ones against natives' rule. These are few of the reasons: (1) President George Weah claimed to have taken over a broke economy but in no time he began to construct and reconstruct his properties at a 4G speed. That wasn't being smart of him. (2) In no time he began to ride private jet. That was not also a wise move.



(3) He could not give a comprehensive report to his fellow natives on the usage of the 10M that was given by France upon his visit to the country. He further worsened the situation when he failed to give a transparent report or take appropriate action in the \$25m saga. (4) George Weah and Mulbah Morlu public announcement on radio that people are planning to assassinate the President further scares away investors on grounds that the country is not safe, thereby bringing unbearable suffering to his fellow natives. (5) Lastly, your sycophantic attitude is destroying native rule."

**Princess Aicha Konneh.**

"My question is if she was raped and the government is after her life, as they are saying then why post her photos from hospital? Or this is just a game to show that this government doesn't care. In my mind, if what they are saying is that government wants her killed, but now they have done that because those so-called people who're acting like they love Justine Taylor are the ones posting all on facebook of her every move.



Let's stop this hate and see what we all can do for the country than letting some people to be used."



"We Liberians just want things done our way. Where is the car that dropped her at the station? How she got in the car? If they are saying she was raped, where is the hospital report, and I see no reason of us Liberians making big issue of this Justina Taylor story."

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

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**Gov't demands judge's recusal in trafficking case**

By Winston W. Parley

The prosecution here is demanding Criminal Court "B" Judge Ceaineh Clinton Johnson's recusal from a trafficking in person case, accusing the judge of allegedly demonstrating "lack of cool neutrality that is required of all Judges for their fair and impartial trial of cases."

Part of the reasons behind the government's demand for Judge Johnson's recusal is a claim that during hearing on Tuesday, 8 October, she denied a prosecution question directed at its witness, Police Detective Zebedee Saywayne.

In the motion filed by State lawyer Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh, the prosecution indicates that it had asked its witness Detective Saywayne whether or not he ever interacted with or had any information concerning defendant Marian Morgan, but the judge denied the question.



Defendants Marian Morgan, Edwin Walker and Ernest Urey are on trial at Criminal Court "B" for alleged trafficking in person.

Five witnesses have been produced in the case as at the time the prosecution had filed its motion for the Judge's

recusal.

The State argues that the denial of its question by the judge clearly suggests her "impartiality and the discredit brought to these proceedings."

Movant contends that its question is in the pale of the direct examination whose

office is to solicit from the certain knowledge of the witness.

The judge having allegedly denied prosecution's question whether witness Saywayne had interacted with defendant Morgan, Cllr. Wesseh alleges that Judge Johnson "was heard asking questions that suggested" that she was "already preempting the acquittal of the Respondents."

Further, the State lawyer says the judge is allegedly thriving on rumors, narrating how she allegedly queried one of the prosecuting attorneys after the Tuesday session on 8 October.

In Judge Johnson's alleged query with the prosecuting attorney, the Motion details how she stated that a government witnesses Marthaline Johnson had

remarked that some of the defendants to include Edwin Walker and Marian Morgan had boasted that they had money and could influence the judge's decisions.

The government believes that this annoyed Judge Johnson to the extent that she allegedly remarked that she and the prosecution would "rub shoulders".

According to Cllr. Wesseh's motion, prosecution once tried to place on the records of the court that its witness Mathrline Johnson complained of being assaulted by co-defendant Morgan after one of the court's sessions, but Judge Johnson allegedly denied the prosecution's request.

Besides, Cllr. Wesseh claims that Judge Johnson did nothing to investigate the complaint.

"That all of these unwarranted actions, prejudicial statements and Your Honor's refusal to sign the minutes of the last sitting, despite prosecution's attempt to get the said minutes have summed up the interests of Your Honor in these proceedings and demonstrates your lack of cool neutrality that is required of all Judges for their fair and impartial trial of cases," he says.

Citing Judicial Canon 10 of the Republic of Liberia, Cllr. Wesseh says a judge should be temperate, attentive and impartial since the judge is to administer the law.

"This motion is being filed in good faith and not merely for delaying and baffling these proceedings," he concludes.

**CILSS trains regional journalists on Transhumance Conflict**

Conflict associated with Transhumance and livestock trade is intensifying in the Sahel and West Africa; as such, the Coordinator representing the Executive Secretary of CILSS Mrs Maty BA-DIAO, PRAPS is calling on regional journalists to create necessary awareness aimed at alleviating the tension.

Transhumance is a seasonal movement of livestock between mountain and lowland areas either under the care of herders or in company of owners.

Hundreds of people have died as a result of

misinformation about transhumance and livestock trade in recent years. Panellists say the Accra training is part of a wider regional effort to unite local communities by resolving the issues that threaten peaceful co-existence.

The weeklong training on the side-lines of the 6th edition of the high-level regional meeting for a transboundary transhumance between the Sahel and the coastal countries is bringing together 16 journalists from 13 countries, including Liberia, Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote D' Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea,

Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad and Togo.

She said the intent is to bring together media actors (written press, web media, radio and TV) of the Sahel and the coastal countries to explain the mobile operating systems and the involved stakeholders, in order to avoid conflict associated with transhumance and livestock trade in the region.

Also in attendance are experts from implementing and supporting partners, including CILSS, PEPISAO, PREDIP and PEPISAO, among others.

Speaking during the start of the sensitization and training workshop for journalists on transhumance and livestock trade in West Africa, Madam BA-DIAO said if the region is to be peaceful, journalists should take the lead in creating awareness among the populace.

She indicated that eliminating the stereotype associated with cattle raising and having ordinary people understand the positive benefits associated with it, remains cardinal for peaceful coexistence.

In most areas according to her, the negative perception of pastoralism is partly fuelled by some media thereby leading to resistance by ordinary citizens.



Meanwhile, the panellists are seeking legal framework to addressing the negative impacts of moving livestock from one country to another (transhumance), as well as create an enabling environment.

When allowed to freely go on, the practice of Transhumance and livestock trade can contribute to revenue generation and economic boom, according to them.

For instance, they indicated

that pastoralists moving in the region with livestock will have to pay taxes to countries they are going, creates a parallel economy by the supply of high protein foods (milk, meat), manure(for soil fertilisation) and energy (transport, water extraction, animal traction).

The practice also reduces cost associated with the importation of frozen goods which has got some level of effect on human consumption, among others.



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**NHA chief consented to recording**

**-State witness says**

By Winston W. Parley

Prosecution's first witness Mr. Rafael Wilson has told a cross examination session with the defense team that National Housing Authority (NHA) Managing Director defendant Duannah Siryon allegedly acknowledged to be recorded while receiving money from one Augustine Weah.

Testifying Wednesday, 9 October at Court "C", Witness Wilson told the defense that you can also hear from the audio recording that defendant Augustine Weah informed defendant Siryon that he was recording the NHA boss as to the money received by him (Siryon) and the conversation being held between them.

"In one of the offices of the National Housing Authority, you could also hear in the audio, the defendants discussing the unfair distribution of the USD\$80,000 which Siryon received ...," witness Wilson continues.

Mr. Siryon was NHA managing director, working along with co-defendants Tugbeh C. Tugbeh, NHA Deputy Director for

Administration and Isaac Roberts, NHA Deputy Director for Technical Services when they were arrested, investigated and charged.

They were arrested following some alleged

company GELPAZ-IMMO.

The NHA officials are facing charges of alleged economic sabotage, theft of property, bribery, misapplication of entrusted property and criminal conspiracy.

Their charges came amid a claim of allegedly taking bribes

the charges.

According to witness Wilson, defendant Siryon allegedly US\$80,000, adding that this was also testified to and confirmed by defendant Augustine Weah.

He details that defendant Weah admitted receiving USD\$20,000 from defendant Siryon out of the US\$80,000.

According to him, the basis

of the investigation was US\$19,000 [that came into the country], but notes that the three defendants - Siryon, Tugbeh and Robert - were brought to court in reference to the US\$80,000 and the other amount received in Burkina Fasso.



transactions that also involved one Augustine Weah, an alleged chief executive officer of Guss Group of Companies and one Emmanuel Tapsoba, a coordinator of Burkina Fasso - based

in connection to the construction of thousands of housing units for which the Liberian government and GELPAZ-IMMO had reached agreement.

The defendants have denied

**Housing forum attracts foreign countries**

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Liberia's First National Housing Forum (NHF) since 1960 has attracted several European and African countries that are hoping to invest in the housing and real estate business here.

The forum kicked off Wednesday, 9 October at the Millennium Guest House and Suites in Oldest Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

The National Housing Authority (NHA) in partnership with Farafina Investment Group Inc., convened the three - day forum under the Theme: "Providing Housing For

housing units along the Monrovia-Roberts Field Highway.

She says a total of 61,000 housing units will be delivered within five years.

The NHA boss however pleads for support for the entity to achieve its plan for the development of modern cities.

She concludes that the NHA has managed to construct 2,180 housing units, adding that the current national housing demand by 2030 is projected at 512,000 units.

Representatives of the



The People Is Our Priority".

France, Belgium, Italy, Malaysia, Ivory Coast, Benin, Burkina Faso, and some commercial banks are attending the forum aimed at seeking business venture in the housing sector in Liberia.

Addressing the forum, NHA Managing Director Madam Cecelia Cuffy-Brown stressed that the government under President George M. Weah's leadership, places housing among its main priorities.

She notes that government has been able to commence the construction of 5000

Techno Construction of Italy, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin, Malaysia and others have given their experiences regarding housing units projects, with some calling on the NHA authorities to enforce the country's zoning law.

The forum will further feature the NHA technical department, partners, banking institutions, construction companies, diaspora community, building material stores and dealers.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

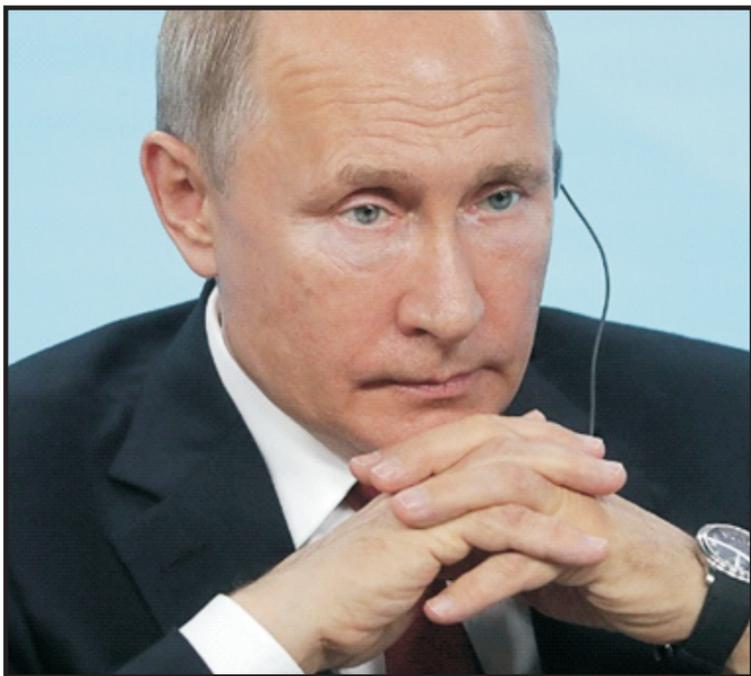
**Russian President Sends Message to Participants in First Russia-Africa Economic Forum**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent a message to participants in the first Russia-Africa Economic Forum, which will be held in Sochi on 23-24 October 2019 on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Summit. The events will be the largest of their kind in the history of Russia-Africa relations.

In his message, the President specifically highlighted the importance of developing cooperation between countries and the positive experience that has been gained from developing joint projects: "Russian-African relations, which have traditionally been friendly and partner-like, have intensified significantly in

recent years both at the bilateral level and in various multilateral formats. We have not only managed to preserve the experience gained from fruitful cooperation in the past, but have also achieved new major successes. Positive trends have been seen in trade turnover numbers and in the investment flows, and joint projects are being developed in the extractive industry, agriculture, healthcare, and education. Russian companies are ready to offer our African partners their scientific and technological developments and experience in modernizing energy, transport, and communication infrastructure."

Putin also expressed confidence that the Forum will become a unique platform for the discussion and adoption of constructive decisions that aim to enhance cooperation: "I hope that new areas and forms of cooperation will be outlined during the Forum and promising joint initiatives will be put forward that will help take Russian-African collaboration to a whole new level and develop our economies and the prosperity of our peoples."



# Français

## Le TWP veut exhumer le corps de Tolbert

Le grand vieux parti True Whig Party (TWP) fait part de son intention de réclamer au gouvernement libérien et ses partenaires internationaux la dépouille mortelle du 19<sup>e</sup> président du Libéria, William R. Tolbert, reversé dans un coup d'Etat sanglant il y a près de quarante ans.

Le président William R. Tolbert et d'autres personnes furent froidement abattus en 1980 par hommes armés et enterrés dans une fosse commune quelques heures après le coup d'Etat militaire qui a changé le cours de l'histoire de la politique libérienne.

Le coup d'Etat a été organisé le 12 avril 1980 par 17 soldats des Forces armées libériennes, dirigés par le sergent-chef Samuel Kanyon Doe, qui a ébranlé la paix dans la première république indépendante d'Afrique.

Treize responsables du

régime Tolbert ont été jugés par un tribunal militaire, déclarés coupables de corruption généralisée, d'abus de pouvoir et de népotisme. Ils ont été exécutés par la suite

par peloton d'exécution.

Le sergent Doe, qui est immédiatement devenu chef de l'Etat, a formé le Conseil de rédemption du peuple (PRC), qui a dirigé le pays pendant

cinq ans avant d'organiser des élections en 1985, sous sa surveillance.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié à Monrovia à l'occasion de la célébration de son 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire, le TWP a fait part de sa volonté de réactualiser sa politique d'unification et d'intégration avec une série de programmes échelonnés sur une période d'un an, du 8 octobre 2019 au 8 octobre 2020, dans le cadre du concept : "Un temps pour guérir." Le parti a également l'intention d'identifier et de construire un parc national commémoratif pour honorer tous les anciens présidents libériens et les victimes des conflits civils dans le pays.

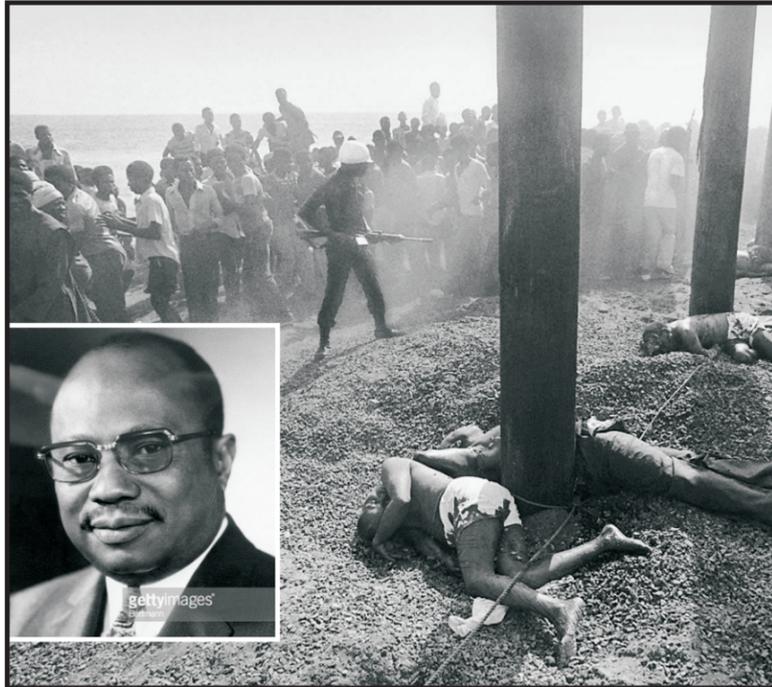
« Selon le TWP, une bibliothèque et un musée présidentiels seront construits dans le parc pour constituer un centre d'études et de recherches sur l'histoire, la politique et la culture libériennes », indique le communiqué.

Le TWP a dit envisager également de solliciter une assistance pour compléter le monument de l'unification nationale situé sur la Providence Island à Monrovia, à l'initiative du défunt président

Tolbert, en tant que symbole de l'unité nationale.

Dans le même temps, pour susciter la réconciliation nationale, le TWP recherchera la coopération du gouvernement, des partis politiques, des partenaires internationaux et des organisations de la société civile afin de convoquer une semaine de symposium national sur l'ethnicité, l'identité et le développement national afin de contribuer à la résolution des méfiances ethniques historiques et des barrières tribales qui continuent de diviser les Libériens.

Selon le communiqué, le True Whig Party a été fondé le 8 octobre 1869 à Clay-Ashland, dans le comté de Montserrado, en tant que premier parti politique de l'opposition populaire à s'opposer au parti républicain qui était au pouvoir, dominé par le mulâtre américano-libérien. En 1970, il a vaincu le Parti républicain, mais un an après, son premier leader, le président Edward Jerome Roye, a été destitué et tué à l'endroit même où se trouvait son siège national et où le bâtiment E.J. Roye a ensuite été construit.



## Procès de Gbagbo: Ce que veut Me Altit

On s'y attendait plus depuis le dépôt par le Bureau du procureur, il y a deux semaines, d'une requête en appel de la décision d'acquiescement et de libération de la Chambre préliminaire prise le 15 janvier dernier en faveur des ex-dirigeants ivoirien comparissant devant la Cour pénale internationale (Cpi).

L'avocat de l'ex-chef de l'Etat, Laurent Gbagbo a décidé de monter au créneau et d'engager une contre-offensive contre cette

requête de Fatou Bensouda. Me Emmanuel Altit met la pression sur les juges en charge du dossier de son client.

Il a déposé devant la CPI, ce lundi 8 octobre 2019, une demande de remise en liberté « sans condition » de l'ex-tenant du pouvoir en Côte d'Ivoire. En ligne de mire, l'avocat français vise la fin de la procédure d'appel concernant Laurent Gbagbo. Une procédure qu'il juge juridiquement et factuellement infondée,

exigeant la mise en liberté immédiate et sans condition du mis en cause.

Dans sa visée, Me Altit ne veut pas que son client, dirigeant politique, soit contraint encore par les procédures judiciaires à louper les échéances électorales de 2020 à venir. La Défense de Laurent Gbagbo ne s'en cache pas et le dit clairement dans sa réaction à la requête de Bensouda.

Pour lui en effet, le maintien du régime restrictif



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de liberté aurait, dans ce contexte, pour conséquence d'interdire à Laurent Gbagbo de jouer un rôle dans la vie publique et dans la réconciliation de son pays.

« Cela lui interdirait par exemple de participer d'une manière ou d'une autre à l'élection présidentielle à venir. Il pourrait en effet, à la demande de responsables politiques du pays, être amené à participer à la campagne ou même, par hypothèse, à poser sa propre candidature », souligne Emmanuel Altit pour qui à l'approche de ces échéances, il est plus crucial que soient respectés les droits de Laurent Gbagbo, notamment ses droits civils et politiques de citoyen ivoirien, au

moment où s'ouvre une période politique importante pour le pays et pour la réconciliation. A savoir celle de la préparation de l'élection présidentielle de 2020. ,

Cette requête de la défense de l'ex-président ivoirien obligerait les juges de la Chambre d'appel de la Cpi à réagir dans un délai limité pour donner une réponse. Ce qui est, en réalité, le but poursuivi par Emmanuel Altit et son équipe afin d'accélérer les procédures et aller à une clôture diligente du dossier Gbagbo et Blé Goudé. Le tout, pour permettre à ces deux ex-dirigeants ivoiriens de retrouver le marigot politique de leur pays où ils pourraient jouer un rôle de premier rang.

# Français

## Le gouvernement et les partenaires signent le document de recensement de 2021

Le gouvernement du Libéria et ses partenaires ont signé le document de projet de recensement national de la population et du logement de 2021 à Monrovia pour un coût estimé à 18,9 millions de dollars.

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, qui préside le conseil d'administration de l'Institut libérien de la statistique et des services de géo-information (LISGIS) et le directeur général de LISGIS, le professeur Francis Wreh, ont signé pour le gouvernement, tandis que le coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies le Dr Bannet Ndyabangi, représentant résident du FNUAP au Libéria, et Ingrid Wetterqvist, ambassadrice de Suède au Libéria, ont signé pour leurs institutions et leur gouvernement respectifs.

Le gouvernement du Canada a versé 17 millions de dollars américains au projet de recensement national de la population et de l'habitat, tandis que la contribution du gouvernement du Libéria est de 6 millions de dollars américains. L'opération va commencer officiellement en mars 2021.

Dans son allocution prononcée après la cérémonie de signature tenue dans la salle de conférence LISGIS à Monrovia, le ministre Tweah s'est félicité de ce que le gouvernement et ses partenaires aient réalisé le document, qui, a-t-il noté, « a été retardé pour une bonne raison afin de veiller à ce que les choses soient bien faites ».

Il a remercié le Gouvernement suédois pour son importante contribution, ainsi que le Groupe de la Banque mondiale et d'autres partenaires, et fait part de la détermination du Gouvernement libérien à s'acquitter de sa contribution de 46 millions de dollars US avec un budget initial de 3 millions de dollars.

Le Dr Ndyabangi, coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies et chef du FNUAP, a décrit le document de projet de recensement comme une étape importante de la coopération entre le GED et le FNUAP.

« Nous espérons sincèrement que les efforts de collaboration que nous avons réalisés jusqu'à

présent se poursuivront et que nous pourrions travailler collectivement à mettre le pays sur la bonne voie pour atteindre pleinement les objectifs du programme de recensement », a-t-il déclaré.

En février 2017, les représentants des Nations Unies au Libéria ont accepté de travailler ensemble à la réalisation d'un recensement crédible pour le Libéria, a-t-il déclaré. Un comité technique des Nations Unies a donc été formé. Ce comité comprend un personnel technique de divers organismes des Nations Unies.

« La coopération s'inscrit dans l'esprit de la réforme de l'ONU et des principes de la Déclaration de Paris et d'Accra, à l'appui des efforts visant à améliorer la qualité de la vie de la population du Libéria. Le FNUAP, en tant que membre des Nations Unies au Libéria, a réorienté son aide au développement avec le plan de développement du Gouvernement en période de consolidation de la paix et de la sécurité, ainsi que le renforcement de la gouvernance démocratique en vue de parvenir au développement durable du pays », a assuré le Dr Ndyabangi.

Un représentant de l'ambassade de Suède au Libéria, qui s'est exprimé au nom de l'ambassadrice Ingrid Wetterqvist, qui se trouverait hors du pays, a exhorté le gouvernement du Libéria à respecter son engagement en faveur du processus de recensement, car il s'agit d'un programme dirigé par le gouvernement.

Le Professeur Wreh, Directeur général de LISGIS, a rappelé, quant à lui, que le Libéria a réalisé 172 ans quatre recensements, le premier en 1962 (1,2 million d'habitants), le second en 1974 (une population de 1,5 million d'habitants), le troisième en 1984 (une population de 2,1 millions d'habitants) et le plus récent en 2008 (3,1 millions d'habitants).

Les autres partenaires présents à la cérémonie, notamment le gouvernement d'Irlande et la CEDEAO, ont notamment annoncé leur soutien au programme de recensement destiné à produire des données de qualité pour la planification de l'économie et du développement.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Roger E.A. Farmer

## Nous avons besoin de davantage d'économistes

LONDRES - Dans un récent article du New York Times, Binyamin Appelbaum pointe la responsabilité des économistes dans le creusement des inégalités aux USA. Il cite entre autres le prix Nobel d'économie Robert Lucas qui a détourné l'attention des responsables politiques de la question de la redistribution des richesses pour qu'ils se focalisent sur la croissance. Appelbaum cite aussi des statistiques sur l'espérance de vie aux USA qui baisse depuis quelques années, notamment en raison de l'abus de médicaments et des suicides parmi les groupes désavantagés sur le plan économique.

Pourtant les économistes n'ignorent pas les inégalités, loin de là. Elles sont devenues un domaine de recherche central au cours de la dernière décennie et elles font maintenant l'objet d'un débat public aux USA grâce à des études approfondies comme celle d'Anne Case de l'université de Princeton ou du Prix Nobel d'économie Angus Deaton. Par ailleurs, les économistes travaillent de plus en plus sur ce sujet avec des chercheurs en sciences sociales et des physiciens. C'est une stratégie que je soutiens activement par mon engagement dans le projet Rebuilding Macroeconomics de l'Institut national de recherche économique et sociale du Royaume-Uni.

Face aux critiques comme celles d'Appelbaum, les économistes ne devaient pas se mettre sur la défensive. Ils ne sont évidemment pas omniscients, mais ils ont fait preuve à multiples reprises de perspicacité, en particulier en montrant l'efficacité de l'économie de marché pour encourager la prospérité.

Quand j'ai commencé à travailler en macroéconomie dans les années 1980, cette discipline était encore dominée par les modèles keynésiens. Les questions que nous nous posions alors retrouvent aujourd'hui toute leur actualité : Quelles sont les causes du cycle des affaires ? Faut-il choisir entre inflation et chômage ? Comment concevoir une politique qui améliore le fonctionnement de l'économie et prévienne la récession ?

Par la suite, entre la fin des années 1980 et la Grande récession de 2008, les macroéconomistes se sont détournés de l'étude du cycle des affaires pour se pencher sur la croissance économique. Ce basculement est dû en grande partie à l'influence d'économistes de l'École de Chicago comme Lucas.

Je me souviens encore qu'au milieu des années 1980, lors de l'école d'été du Bureau national de recherche économique américain il se murmurait que "Lucas travaille sur le développement". C'était incroyable à cette époque, car les économistes férus de math et les théoriciens de l'économie faisaient alors la pluie et le beau temps, tandis que l'économie du développement était totalement négligée.

Néanmoins, dans un article remarquable publié en 1988, Lucas insistait sur la nécessité de comprendre le succès économique de Hong Kong, de Singapour, de la Corée du Sud et de Taiwan - des pays et des territoires qui dans les

années 1980 en ont largement dépassé d'autres qui 20 ou 30 ans avant en étaient au même stade de développement. Selon lui, ce genre de questions est fondamental pour la prospérité de l'humanité, et "une fois que l'on y pense, il est difficile de penser à autre chose". Son article a joué un rôle clé pour orienter dans un autre sens les travaux des générations d'économistes qui ont suivi.

Je ne suis pas toujours d'accord avec mes collègues de Chicago, mais ils avaient raison de défendre le libre-échange comme moyen pour stimuler la croissance. Les marchés ne sont pas parfaits ; cependant, un système qui récompense chacun en fonction de ses efforts et de sa perspicacité est plus efficace que toute autre forme d'organisation sociale pour extraire les êtres humains de la pauvreté - ainsi que le montre le graphe ci-dessous réalisé par Max Roser et Esteban Ortiz-Ospina de l'université d'Oxford. La marée haute soulève tous les bateaux.

Si la réduction des inégalités était la priorité des priorités, la réponse serait peut-être de passer du capitalisme et de l'économie de marché au socialisme ou au communisme. Ainsi que Marx l'a dit, "De chacun en fonction de ses moyens, à chacun en fonction de ses besoins". Mais cette idée a été appliquée au 20<sup>e</sup> siècle, notamment en Union soviétique et en Chine sous Mao Tsé Toung, et cela a conduit à des résultats désastreux. Mettre sur le compte du marché les inégalités et les autres problèmes dus à une mondialisation rapide pourrait conduire à un retour en arrière.

En raison d'inégalités écrasantes, au début du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle on croyait aussi que c'en était fini de l'économie de marché, mais il n'en a rien été. Et aujourd'hui, malgré le creusement des inégalités, il en sera sans doute de même. La résilience des marchés traduit leur efficacité pour résoudre des problèmes sociaux apparemment insolubles. Mais ils sont soumis à des contraintes politiques et institutionnelles qui évoluent quand les responsables politiques tirent les leçons de leurs erreurs.

Ainsi, au cours des années 1980, la dérégulation des marchés financiers est allée trop loin. Néanmoins, elle s'est traduite par une légère tendance à la baisse des inégalités et elle a permis des bénéfices considérables - qui sont allés aux élites urbaines occidentales et aux paysans indiens et chinois. Ainsi que je le dis dans mon livre, Prosperity for All, il pourrait sûrement y avoir une meilleure structure institutionnelle qui puisse préserver deux siècles de progrès démocratique.

Au 19<sup>e</sup> et au 20<sup>e</sup> siècle, les démocraties occidentales ont développé des droits politiques qui ont permis aux classes laborieuses et aux classes moyennes de bénéficier de l'économie de marché. Mais le volume des flux financiers mondiaux est devenu tel qu'il a réduit peu à peu ces droits en érodant la capacité des démocraties à utiliser l'économie de marché au profit de leurs citoyens.

La solution n'est pas de mettre fin au libre-échange, mais de restructurer les institutions. Et pour cela, il nous faut davantage d'économistes !

## ANALYSIS

## ANALYSIS

# Analysis: U. S., Liberia's Contemporary Relations and its Socio-economic Development Impact

By: Josephus Moses Gray

According to the Treasury Department (2010) report, on June 29, 2010 the Secretary of Treasury, Mr. Paulson congratulated Liberia under the leadership of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for successfully establishing a track record of good performance under programs designed to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction resulting in debt relief from the international community. Reaching "completion point" under the Enhanced Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) recognizes Liberia's performance under its International Monetary Fund (IMF) program and its excellent progress on adopting and implementing economic reforms in the face of a challenging economic environment both domestically and internationally (Treasury Department, 2010).

"Today's decision marks a major achievement in Liberia's progress towards economic sustainability and the international community's recognition of that progress. This is a great milestone for Liberia" (Treasury Department, 2010). The Under Secretary for International Affairs, Lael Brainard announced the relief of Liberia's debt burden is crucial to Liberia's recovery after years of violence and civil war and to allow Liberia to move forward in rebuilding its economy and in light of its achievement under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative.

The United States is committed to working with Liberians to rebuild and recover from the devastating impact of the Ebola epidemic on their livelihoods, health, and families and that the U.S. is ensuring that the new capabilities drawn from the response efforts, including laboratory systems, surveillance, and health care workers trained in infection prevention and control, remain and bolster the Liberian capacity to implement the Global Health Security Agenda to prevent, detect, and respond to future threats (Whitehouse, 2011).

Washington has noted that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has made major efforts to identify eligible U.S. investors willing to invest in Liberia in the aftermath of the devastating civil war. The agency provided long-term loans and risk insurance to realize those investments and has been able to build a portfolio of loans that now includes a school, a small and medium enterprise loan company, and housing (U.S. Embassy, 2018). In 2013, Liberia was selected as one of the initial six focus countries under President Obama's Power Africa Initiative. Under our partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, Liberia's Rural and Renewable Energy Agency, and the World Bank, our goal is to increase energy service to as many as 800,000 Liberian households and businesses (Whitehouse, 2011).

Whitehouse (2011) report has revealed that since 2005, the U.S. government has invested over \$519 million toward the development of the Justice Sector and Liberia national police including the Armed Forces of Liberia and security sector assistance to Liberia. According to the States Department (1998) country report, the U.S. had a long history of intervening in Liberia's internal affairs, occasionally sending naval vessels to help the Americo-Liberians, who comprised the ruling minority, put down five insurrections by indigenous tribes.

President William Howard Taft devoted a considerable portion of his First Annual Message to Congress (December 7, 1909) to the Liberian question, noting the close historical ties between the two countries that gave an opening for a wider intervention (Whitehouse, 1995).

In his First Annual Message to Congress on December 7, 1909, President William Howard Taft said: "It will be remembered that the interest of the United States in the Republic of Liberia springs from the historical fact of the foundation of the Republic by the colonization of American citizens of the African race. In an early treaty with Liberia, there is a provision under which the United States may be called upon for advice or assistance. The U.S. foreign aid assistance to Liberia include the 1912 international loan of \$ 1.7 million, against which Liberia had to agree to four Western powers- America, Britain, France and Germany to control Liberian government revenues for 14 years, until 1926.

The U.S. also assisted Liberia on other fronts by establishing and supporting of the border police to stabilize the border with Sierra Leone and checked French ambitions to annex more Liberian territory (sources). In support of the

U.S., Liberia declared war on Germany and expelled its resident German merchants, who constituted the country's largest investors and trading partners - Liberia suffered economically as a result territory (Treasury Department, 2007). While in 1926, during the administration of Charles D.B. King, Liberian government-approved Firestone Rubber Company concession agreement.

U.S. assistance is focused on consolidating democratic progress; improving capacity, transparency, and accountability of governance institutions; promoting broad-based, market-driven economic growth; improving access to high-quality education and health services; and professionalizing Liberia's military and civilian security forces, while helping Liberia build capacity to plan, implement, and sustain its own development efforts in each sector (State Department, 2016). According to the State Department (2018) publication, Liberia is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. The country's revenues come primarily from rubber and iron ore exports, and revenues from its maritime registry program.

The report further explained that Liberia's U.S.-owned and -operated shipping and corporate registry is the world's second-largest. U.S. exports to Liberia include agricultural products (with rice as the leading category), vehicles, machinery, optic and medical instruments, and textiles. The main imports from Liberia to the United States are rubber and allied products; other imports include wood, art and antiques, palm oil, and diamonds. The United States and Liberia have signed a trade and investment framework agreement. "A smart man changes his approach as circumstance changes; a wise person alters his means as times evolve." quoted an ancient Chinese pundit (Jinping, 2017). The new theories and practices of Liberia foreign relations need to create a diplomatic space for the inclusion of eight important essentials to enhance the new demands of international order reference to international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy.

Particularly, the contemporary Liberian foreign policy needs to be shifted to consider the aspects of other areas: reinforce the quality and effective interactions with friendly countries and international players by open wider to the international sphere; give equal importance to domestic and external demands, and take active part in global governance. Secondly, institute targeted measures to reach specific international institutions, organizations and states for the wellbeing of the Liberian nation. It is also important for the government to reduce the capacity and weed out inferior capacity, strengthen vocational training aspects in placed to improve the quality and structure of the inferior capacity since all the citizens do not have the needed capacity for an academic work.

Research has shown that poverty can be reduced through education by making available high school education to all and take steps to narrow the gaps in educational resources between rural and urban areas. The policy should promote new innovation to drive development, and narrow the development gap between the rural and urban geographical areas. To achieve this, factors of production need to be considered to balance the consumption demands on the economy. Besides the rule of law, order measures needs to be put into place to systematic deal with the waves of crimes by addressing the root causes and harmful effects.

The nation's poverty reduction strategies should make sure that there is a social cushion to meet basic needs of the population, identify and focus on the critical needs. Social services for senior citizens, handicapped, sightless, take measures to control risks and protect the lives and properties of the population. Since Liberia's independence, it has gone through several major turbulences in its development drive from the perspectives of political, economic, social and environment, including time and management. For years, the nation fell behind when nations began to rise, instead the state disintegrate, when the nation failed to seize the opportunity to reject war and keep progress in place. As a result, Liberia is an entire an impoverished, backward and torn apart by years of senseless but devastated war.

Edwin Barclay served as foreign minister and secretary of state of Liberia in the government of Charles D.B. King from



The Author

1920 until 1930. He became President of Liberia in 1930 when President King and Vice President Allen Yancy resigned because of a scandal (Fernado-po). He was elected in his own right for the first time in 1931. Under his administration, Barclay's foreign policy was geared towards opening up the Liberian economy to foreign investors.

Great times make great people. President Edward Barclay was a devoted Christian and statesman who ascended from the historic struggles of the Liberian-nation. President Barclay's noble charisma remains fresh in the recollections of many who followed his style of leadership. His charisma theories and practices will always serve as a driving path of stimulation towards the nation's foreign relations. In the face of domestic and international political antipathy, Barclay was calm with a firm faith in the profound understanding of the importance of convictions and principles he formulated Liberia's foreign policy based on national interests. The successes of Liberian foreign policy and international relations today would have been impossible without Barclay's ideals, which in a contemporary Liberia serve as a guiding principle of national interests as the basis of nation's foreign policy.

In conformity with his principles that empty talk harms a leadership and by extension the states while hard work and good policy pay and make a state flourish, his administration overcomes extended formidable difficulties and explored innovated paths by knocking on the doors of friendly nations for foreign assistance. President Barclay's art of leadership is noted for pioneering Liberia's foreign relations, which is today being carried out, although great adjustments have been effected since the world changes every day, and modern technology particularly have been advanced swiftly.

Acting like a woman with a bound foot, President Tubman presented himself to the global powers as their own and played to their whims and commands; his experiment helped him to break into the hegemony of the global actors. Under his leadership and outside assistance, reform to the nation's foreign relations immediate took effect, consolidating his art of hegemony leadership by integrating western orientation experimentation into his style, eliminated some of Barclay's foreign policy strategies and blaze new trails to enrich capitalism framed on his open door dogma.

Perhaps in his inclusive thinking of development fashions of the modern world, President Tubman made a series of major decisions of strategic importance to the long-term development of the country, based on forecast into the trends of global happening since the situations across the world were changing rapidly. During his 27-year of presidential career, he intimidated and humiliated his political adversaries and journalists. But yet, he was darling of the West, he exhibited the indomitable courage to fully involved in the formation of germane international organizations, including the United Nations, Organization of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the independence of dozen of sovereign states both in Africa and out of the continent.

TO BE CONTINUE

# Speaker, deputy face opposition

By Bridgett Milton

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers and his deputy Prince Moye are being threatened with removal from their respective positions by other members of the House of Representatives over the duo's alleged refusal to reduce their salaries in line with government's harmonization exercise.

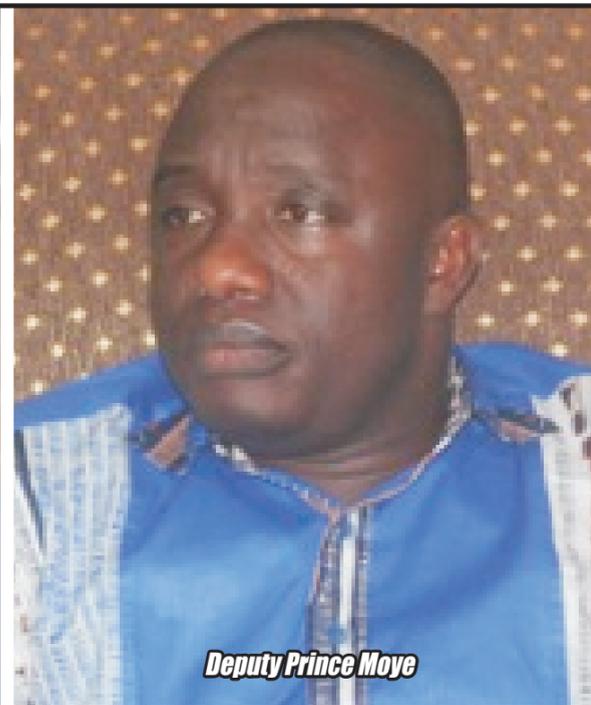
Legislative reporters were informed Wednesday, 9 October that salaries for members of the House of Representatives will be cut from US\$8,500 to US\$5,600, but Speaker Chambers has refused to cut his salary which is allegedly in the tune of US\$29,000.

Rep. Hanson Kiazolu of Montserrado County District #17; Rep. Francis S. Dopoh of River Gee County District #3; Rep. Ellen Attoh Werh of Margibi County and Rostonlyn S. Dennis of Montserrado County District #4 are leading the campaign for Chambers and Moye to join other lawmakers in reducing their huge earnings.

The aggrieved lawmaker's threat remove Chambers and Moye from offices comes



Speaker Bhofal Chambers



Deputy Prince Moye

after both Representatives and members the Liberian Senate had their huge earnings cut during the scrutinization of the National Budget for its passage.

In a conversation with legislative reporters on Wednesday, the concerned Representatives said they and the people of Liberia have been seeking the reduction of lawmakers' salaries.

After reducing their salaries, the four lawmakers

indicate that they will not sit and see Speaker Chambers and Deputy Speaker Moye continue to make the same salaries they made prior to the harmonization exercise that has affected other lawmakers.

The Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led-government of which Chambers and Moye are stalwarts brought about the harmonization exercise in the wake of financial constraints facing the regime.

According to Kiazolu, lawmakers have agreed to cut their salaries by 31%. He says while he welcomes the deduction in their salaries, they however captured that the Speaker and the Deputy

Speaker are against the deduction.

He adds that even the Judiciary has accepted the harmonization exercise and had its salary reduced by 16%.

On the contrary, Rep. Kiazolu notes that the leadership of the House of Representatives has decided not to reduce its salary, noting that this is not in the interest of the Liberian people.

Also speaking, Rep. Francis S. Dopoh warns that they will lobby with other Representatives to remove Chambers and Moye if they continue to receive the same pay they were receiving ahead of the harmonization exercise.

According to him, Chambers and Moye will be removed because they are not in the interest of the Liberian people.

For her part, Rep. Ellen Attoh Werh says it is unfair and unjust for the House to agree as a body that it will be affected by the harmonization exercise,

## Unnecessary attacks against PYJ

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Senatorial aspirant for Nimba County Taa Wongbe says incumbent Senator Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba is a victim of unnecessary attacks from Liberians in the wake of calls for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for the country.

Senator Johnson is leader of the disbanded Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) rebels that killed President Samuel Kanyon Doe on September 09, 1990 at the Freeport of Monrovia during the heat of the Liberian Civil

War.

He is recommended for prosecution by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission along with several other key actors of the civil crises.

But Mr. Wongbe observes that political actors in Liberia are creating a scenario that Sen. Johnson is already guilty before any formal indictment for his role in the 14-year conflict ahead of the establishment of said court, something, he says is unfair.

Speaking in an interview on Wednesday, October 09, at his office in Fiamah, Monrovia, Wongbe, who seeks his county's senatorial seat in the

2020 Special Senatorial Election thru the opposition Alternative National Congress party argues that his kinsman Sen. Johnson was not the only actor in the war, but Liberians keep pointing accusing fingers at him.

Recently, River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh told PYJ to take full responsibility for the murder of Doe, and stop involving the people of Nimba or bragging that he defended them thru his actions.

However, Wongbe counters that Senator Johnson also played a humanitarian role during war years, recounting that former rebel leader rescued and protected over 300 Liberian children and had food cheaper on his Caldwell base, outside Monrovia.

He continues that the leader of the former INPFL ensured that vault of the formerly National Bank of Liberia, now the Central Bank of Liberia was kept intact.

According to him, many Liberians, including former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, businessman Benoni Urey, Grand Gedeh County Representative George Borley, among others were key players, but Liberians refuse to name them in the establishment of the court.

He claims that indeed, the people of Nimba were redeemed by forces loyal to

## GAC aims towards

Starts from back page

AFROSAI-Es capacity Assessment.

She notes that another justification for the stakeholders' initiatives is to certify and meet the legitimate status for the AFROSAI-Es requirement for being an independent and autonomous Supreme Audit Institution, adding, "This means a SAI must have attained requirements and checklists of five thematic domains.

They include Independent and legal Framework, organization and management; Human Resources, Audit Standards and Methodology, and Communication and Stakeholder Management,

respectively.

Keep objectives are to inform and educate stakeholders of the GAC's institutional challenges and successes, enhance GAC-stakeholders' relations; fulfill and enhance the quality of GAC's core values, initiate outreach plan, and integrate recommendations from stakeholders that directly support components of the GAC's 2016-2020 Plan.

Meanwhile, AU stresses financial and operational independence of the General Auditing Commission for effective service delivery, which requires auditees working in line with UN Resolution 66.209. -Story by Jonathan Browne



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson

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the former Field Marshall, PYJ.

Commenting on the current proposition on dual citizenship, he welcomes the ideal but cautions, there should be restrictions on high profile positions in government, including the Presidency and Vice Presidency, Chief Justice and Associate Justices, Speaker and Senate President Pro-

Tempore, among others.

On his quest for the senate, Wongbe says he has been engaged with the people of his native Nimba and building political blocks, ahead of next year's poll, in which he is poised to face incumbent Thomas Grupee and Representative Jeremiah Koug along with other aspirants.

## GAC aims towards Level 3



GAC Boss Yusador Saadatu Gaye

The General Auditing Commission says its ultimate target is to hit 3.7 mark after AFROSAI's capacity assessment and evaluation, especially recent stakeholders' engagements. Liberia's Auditor-General Madam Yusador Saadatu Gaye describes stakeholders' relation as a major

component of the General Auditing Commission's technical and professional service delivery to national government and the citizenry. "The quest for more stakeholder engagements and interactions is imperative because of a host of internal and external factors", she says, noting that certain

institutional goals cannot be met, deliverables and successes achieved and status cannot be attained without actively and persistently working with actors that contribute to the growth and national development process of Liberia.

AG Gaye made the assertion during a post-events news conference held Wednesday, 09 October at the GAC in Monrovia.

"For us to have these consultative workshops, one must thank the European Union (EU). Some of the things that helped us to get to this level, they are providing them", she acknowledges.

She says based on AGROSAI-E Institutional Capacity Building Framework (ICBF) a Supreme Audit Institution or SAI's ultimate level for achievement is Level-4 on which route the GAC currently treads.

The Auditor-General says the GAC as a Supermen Audit Institution was lastly rated 2.9 at level 3 after the 2017



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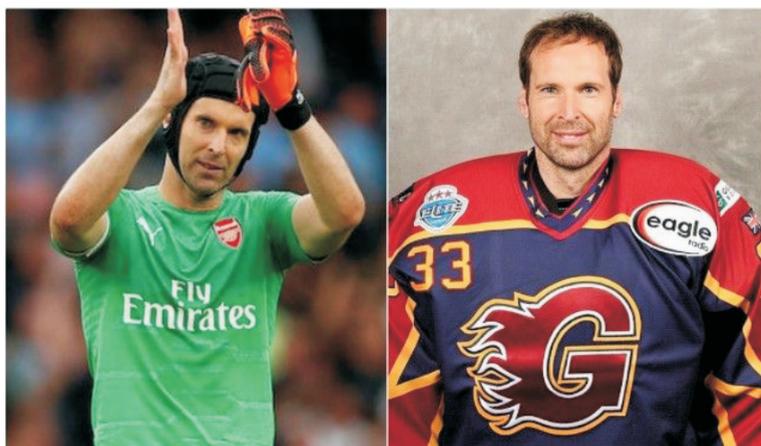


## Petr Cech makes bizarre move to sign for ice hockey team

Former Chelsea and Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech has swapped grass for ice by signing for National Ice Hockey League team Guildford Phoenix as a goaltender.

The Czech, a big fan of the sport, has got his skates on after working on his game since retiring from football.

"I hope I can help this young team achieve their goals," Cech, 37, said.



"After 20 years of professional football, this is going to be a wonderful experience for me to play the game I loved to watch and play as a kid."

Cech, who arrived in Britain in 2004 having signed for the Blues, adopted top-flight Elite Ice Hockey League side Guildford Flames as his team.

Guildford Phoenix play in the second tier of British ice hockey. Cech, who made 124 appearances for the Czech

Republic, won four Premier League titles, five FA Cups, three League Cups, the Champions League and Europa League during his time as a footballer in England. He will be the Phoenix's third-choice keeper, and will train when his Chelsea schedule allows.

Posting on Twitter on Wednesday night after the announcement, he said: "Some people seem to think I've changed my job. No I didn't."

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