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"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."
-Proverbs 15:27

VOL.9 NO. 197

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

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-as teachers strike in Bomi County



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Continental News

'Terminator' gets 30 years for DR Congo crimes

A former Congolese rebel leader has been sentenced to 30 years for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Bosco Ntaganda, nicknamed "Terminator", was convicted on 18 counts including murder, rape, sexual slavery and using child soldiers.

Judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) found in July that fighters loyal to Ntaganda had carried out gruesome massacres of civilians.

The sentence is the longest the ICC has handed down. As Ntaganda listened intently, judge Robert Fremr ran through an extensive list of atrocities carried out by Ntaganda's men, including rape and sexually enslavement of young children. Judge Fremr highlighted the case of a 13-year-old rape victim who underwent years of surgery and developed a long-lasting fear that caused her to drop out of school.

He told the defendant there were no real mitigating circumstance in his case, but said his crimes, "despite their

gravity and his degree of culpability", did not merit a life sentence. Ntaganda has already appealed against his conviction. Ntaganda was the first person to be convicted of sexual slavery by the ICC and overall the fourth person the court has convicted since its creation in 2002. The Rwanda-born 46-year-old former rebel was involved in numerous

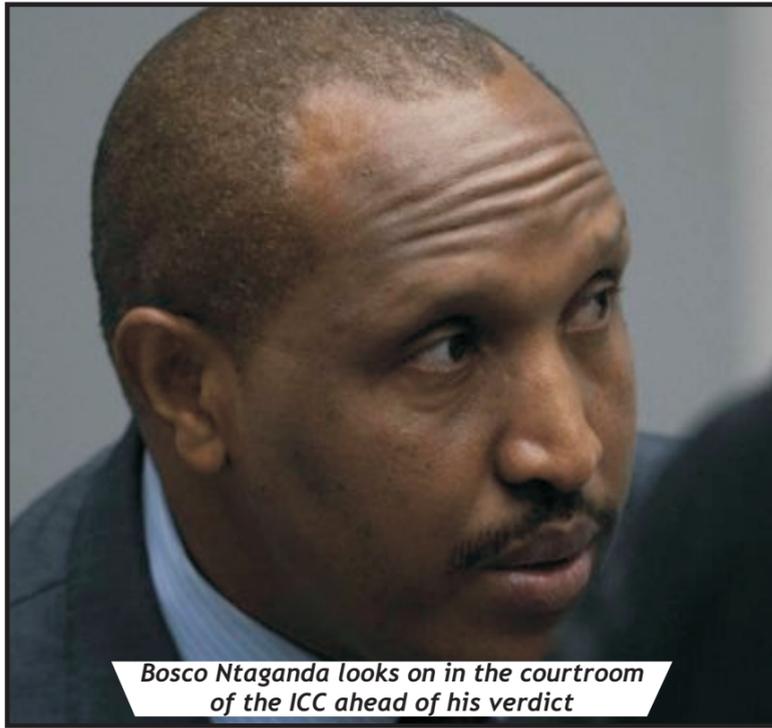
armed conflicts in both Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He surrendered at the US embassy in Rwanda in 2013. Analysts said it was an act of self-preservation, motivated by the danger he was in after losing a power-struggle within his M23 rebel group. Once famous for his pencil

moustache and penchant for cowboy hats, Bosco Ntaganda, in a red tie and dark suit, appeared a picture of calm conformity in court as the harrowing evidence against him was read out. The public gallery was packed - not with friends, family and supporters, but students, journalists and human rights groups keen to witness Ntaganda go down in history as the first person to be convicted by the ICC of sexual crimes. It was something of a victory for the victims, particularly the women, that the court recognised gender violence and acknowledged rape as a weapon of war.

Ntaganda was also the first suspect to voluntarily surrender to the court, but judges were not convinced he'd done the honourable thing. They believed he had flip-flopped between sides - fighting for the rebels, then the state army - and that when his luck in Congo was running out he surrendered to the Hague as simply an act of self-

preservation.

Next is the issue of reparations and how much compensation the ICC should award the survivors, many of whom risked their lives to testify and reveal Ntaganda's true face. In July, a three-judge bench found Ntaganda guilty on all 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the mineral-rich north-eastern region of Ituri between 2002 and 2003. Ntaganda was a "key leader" who gave orders to "target and kill civilians", Judge Fremr said in the ruling. Prosecutors had said Ntaganda was key in planning and running operations for the Union of Congolese Patriots (UCP) rebels and its military wing, the Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC). The armed group conducted attacks against people perceived not to belong to the Hema ethnic group, the ICC found. In one attack, fighters killed 49 captured people in a banana field behind a village using "sticks and batons as well as knives and machetes". BBC



Bosco Ntaganda looks on in the courtroom of the ICC ahead of his verdict

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Attack on mining convoy kills 37 in Burkina Faso

At least 37 people have been killed and 60 wounded in an attack on a mining company convoy in Burkina Faso, authorities say. Five buses carrying staff of Canadian firm Semafo were ambushed on Wednesday about 40km (24 miles) from the eastern town of Boungou,

reports say.

A military escort vehicle was reportedly struck by an explosive device before gunmen opened fire. It is said to be the third deadliest attack on Semafo staff in 15 months.

Burkina Faso has been wracked by an Islamist insurgency that has killed

hundreds of people in recent years. The military has struggled to contain violence that spilled over the border from neighbouring Mali. Following two attacks in August last year, the company updated its security measures near its two mines in the country, as well as the travel arrangements.

In a statement, it said that expatriate employees would travel between the capital, Ouagadougou, and the mine by helicopter. It added that Burkinabe employees would travel by road with a "ground military force... combined with a heightened escort presence". The latest attack happened on a road between Fada and its mine in Boungou, the company said.

Semafo said its operations had not been affected and offered condolences to the families of the victims, none of whom have been named.

"We are actively working with all levels of authorities to ensure the ongoing safety and

security of our employees, contractors and suppliers," the firm said. Once peaceful, Burkina Faso has been suffering from a rapidly deteriorating security situation. Since 2015, at least 500 people have been killed and nearly half a million people have been internally displaced. For most attacks, like this latest one, no group has come out to say it was responsible so it has been difficult to identify perpetrators.

However, at least three known militant groups operate in Burkina Faso: the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (linked to al-Qaeda), the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara Group and the locally-rooted Ansarul Islam.

These groups are not the only ones accused of violence in Burkina Faso: so-called self-defence groups and the security forces have both been accused of committing human rights violations.

Nearly a third of the country has been engulfed in violence and this week France announced a joint military operation with the Burkinabe army at the border with Mali and Niger.

For now, military efforts have failed to stem the violence and there is growing concern about this approach, with people saying more needs to be done to address the root causes of the conflict. The government is not only under pressure from its own people but also from neighbouring countries such as Ivory Coast and Ghana who are worried that the violence could spill over.

What's happening in Burkina Faso?

Jihadist attacks have increased in Burkina Faso since 2015. The conflict spread across the border from neighbouring Mali, where Islamist militants took over the north of the country in 2012 before the army backed by French troops pushed them out. But the authorities have not established full control over the region. Last month, 20 people were killed in an attack on a gold-mining site in the north of Burkina Faso.

Days later, thousands protested in the capital Ouagadougou to denounce violence in their country and the presence of foreign military forces in the region. BBC



Burkina Faso has been fighting a jihadist insurgency that has killed hundreds

EDITORIAL

Printing new banknotes is government's last hope

NEWS THAT THE two years old Coalition government of President George Manneh Weah has run short of banknotes, leaving commercial banks in Monrovia with no money to meet customers' demands is not only disappointing but scaring. The Government of Liberia is in an economic squeeze to the extent that it desperately needs money to pay salaries and fund its operations or risks shutdown.

HOW THE NEW administration reached this grey line in its first 24 months is the question many Liberians and perhaps international partners are seeking answers to. In the first 12 months of the government, financial expenditures of the President himself and many of his key officials, most whom have reneged in publicly declaring their assets raised suspicions of a looming crash in the operations of the state.

TODAY, THE REALITIES are beginning to unfold everywhere both in the public and private sectors, as the economy faces an imminent nose-dive. Employees of various state functionaries, including the Judiciary, the Legislature and even the Executive have not received salaries for the last three months or more.

PRESIDENT WEAH HAS formally written the Legislature, calling lawmakers, currently on annual break here to report at the Capitol to execute urgent matters of State, including approval for the printing of new Liberian banknotes to enable the government pay salaries.

ALREADY, RULING COALITION for Democratic Change lawmaker from Montserrado County District#8 Moses Acarous Gray has posted the printing of the new banknotes is a must to enable the administration to pay salary, particularly during these Christmas and New Year holidays when there will be a rush at various commercial banks for cash.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT should beware that merely printing banknotes does not immediately heal an economy that has been stifled by corruption, lack of transparency and bad policies. The ruling Coalition should have known that overly staffing or bloating the Civil Service with partisans would have inflated the wage bill hence, the need for sources of funding to accommodate the partisan employees.

IN THE SHORT run, the printing of new banknotes may bring some level of relief to the government in terms of easing the current pressure brought about by the huge demand for cash. But inflation could even go beyond three digits if other austerity measures, particularly in the monetary sector are not introduced and adhered to.

UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT sincerely sees the agriculture sector as one of the potential areas to invest for both cash and food crops, which may lead to self-sufficiency in food and eventually exportation, the economy would continue to stagnate.

SPECULATIONS ABOUND HERE that the banknotes are already printed, but we think that new banknotes in themselves would not resuscitate the economy if we don't swift from being an import-based to an export-based nation. This is important because it helps to generating badly needed foreign exchange.

BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT should weight the economic rationale of spending US\$31 million to print 35 billion Liberian banknotes that could become mere papers in the hands of citizens with no value to get essential goods on the shelf.

The
New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Pedro Sánchez

Catalonia, Spain, and Europe are Better Together

No state would ever allow the unilateral secession of a territory that forms part of its constitutional order. And no democrat should support the path taken by Catalonia's separatist leaders, who won less than 48% of the votes cast in regional elections.

MADRID - Above all, Europe is freedom, peace, and progress. We must move forward with these values and make Europe the leading model of integration and social justice that protects its citizens. The Europe we aspire to, the Europe we need, the Europe we are building is based on democratic stability within member states and cannot accept the unilateral breach of its integrity. The Europe we admire has been built on the principle of overlapping identities and equality for all citizens, and on the rejection of nationalist ideologies and extremism.

For this reason, the challenge of separatism in Catalonia, devised against and outside Spain's constitutional framework, and silencing the majority of Catalans who are against independence, is a challenge for Europe and Europeans. Preserving these values in Catalonia today means protecting the open and democratic Europe for which we stand.

Spain enshrined these values in 1978, when it created and ratified a fully democratic constitution. That historic document was endorsed by almost 88% of voters in a referendum. In Catalonia, support and turnout were even higher: some 90.5% of Catalans backed the new constitution.

Spain thus escaped the long and dark shadow of dictatorship and laid the foundations for a state based on the rule of law, comparable today with the long-established democracies of Western Europe. Individual freedoms, fought for and won by Spaniards of differing beliefs and backgrounds, including many Catalans, were restored. And the 1978 Constitution also provided an innovative and progressive answer to Spain's territorial diversity by treating it as an authentic asset worthy of recognition. Some 40 years later, the Democracy Index, published by The Economist, rates Spain as one of the world's 20 full democracies.

Contemporary Spain is Europe's second most decentralized country, and Catalonia enjoys some of the highest levels of regional self-governance on the continent, with wide-ranging devolved powers over crucial sectors such as media and public communication, health, education, and prisons.

Today, however, Catalonia is associated not only with the spirit of creativity and initiative, qualities that are broadly admired around the world, but also with a profound crisis, caused by the unilateral breach of Spain's constitutional order brought about by the region's separatist leaders in the autumn of 2017. Catalonia's leaders reneged on all the requirements and resolutions set out by the Constitutional Court, passed unconstitutional "disconnection" laws from the Spanish state, held an illegal referendum, and declared a purported Catalan Republic.

No state would ever allow the unilateral secession of a territory that forms part of its constitutional order. And no democrat should support the path taken by the separatist leaders, who won less than 48% of the votes cast in regional elections. Their fraudulent independence bid inflamed popular passions and, aided by the deliberate proliferation of fake news, encouraged a profound sense of injustice and confrontation with the rest of Spain. Where was the voice and the vote of those Catalans, the majority, who opposed independence? Where was the voice of those Spaniards who looked on, perplexed, at a direct breach of their Constitution's guarantees?

My government has distinguished itself by putting the expansion of rights and liberties first and foremost. International organizations have recognized the high standards we have set on issues such as gender equality. We would never, therefore, agree to even the smallest restriction of freedom of expression. The president of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalonia's

regional government) is a radical separatist, but he is neither prevented from expressing his views freely, nor impeded from defending them publicly, despite the pain and damage they cause to peaceful coexistence in Catalonia.

The same is true for separatist local councils and governments, and for associations that support independence. They may express their opinions as they wish, provided that, they do not promote and encourage criminal acts. All Spaniards are equal before the law, and the Constitution and democracy are inseparable realities.

Under Spain's democratic rule of law, the judiciary is fully independent and allows for the review of rulings by national and international authorities. The government respects and complies with all judicial decisions. This includes the Supreme Court's ruling against nine separatist leaders charged for the illegal acts they carried out in the autumn of 2017. In that case, the Court acted with the greatest transparency: the entire proceedings were televised live.

Reactions to the Supreme Court's ruling have been extremely diverse: while some believe it was too lenient in handing down prison sentences of between nine and 13 years, others have organized demonstrations against the verdict. While some of these protests have been peaceful, others have descended into extreme violence.

The rights to protest and to strike are fundamental pillars of our democracy, and I fully respect those Catalan citizens who have peacefully exercised this right. But the organized and intentional acts of violence that have occurred across Catalonia in recent weeks is something else altogether and in no way represent the region's tolerance and welcoming spirit.

The illegal effort to bring about Catalonia's independence has followed a roadmap that is all too familiar in today's Europe. It leads through a web of lies, spun by fake news and viral messaging, and serves to energize right-wing extremists and enemies of European integration. It is the same route taken by those elsewhere who divide societies by exploiting the rhetoric of reaction to encourage polarization and confrontation.

Recently, leaders of this movement, such as the president of the main pro-separatist association, have stated that violence may be necessary for their cause to receive greater attention. But if we have learned anything from Europe's painful and bloody history, it is that no political ambition can ever justify resorting to violence, much less the normalization of violence as a political tool.

There are different areas of dialogue to be explored if the separatist leaders abandon their unilateral path. We can speak and listen to each other without threats or belittlement. I know that there are open wounds, and that there is pain and frustration. But, despite this, there is an opportunity for hope, recognizing what we have achieved together and thinking about what we can do, together, to improve the wellbeing of all our citizens. For this to happen, however, the separatist leaders must return to the domain of the Constitution and respect for the rule of law.

My government has positioned Spain at the forefront of the project of European integration, and on the front line of the fight against our greatest global challenges. We are committed to the strengthening and expansion of rights and freedoms, and to the fight against inequality. These objectives transcend a nationalist vision, and we need Catalonia and Catalan society to help achieve them.



Lord, what is it we are hearing about this new money?

Dear Father:

Hmm, did I hear say we can get new money in our village within two weeks or my hearing thing spoil? Um but if da true then da will be 4G printing oo.

What do you mean my son, can't you see that no money in the village and so, so tear, tear money on the village market?

Father, but where the new money the people say they printed during the Old Lady time? I thought our big, big people no money got missing why they can't put it outside na instead of going to print new money again.

My son, haven't you heard?

Heard what Father?

Haven't you heard that the people who get the money are hiding it and don't want to bring it outside.

But Father, let me ask you something ya, because Flomo used to say the stranger that ask questions can't miss the road. If our people know that the new money did not go missing and it is still in our village why they can't just go for it and put it outside one time?

To me eh, the people talking like they know who all get the money so the best thing is to go to their houses and tell them to put it outside because 16 billion da na small money there for people to be keeping to their houses. Let them put it outside so people can stop suffering mehn.

Hmm, my son, I wish it was that simple.

What do you mean Father, are you saying you know other things that I don't know. I pray thee tell me what about this that is not that simple?

You see my son, the big, big people are just playing with your in this village here.

Umm, what do you mean Father?

My son, the people know that they can't find da money anywhere, and so they are just playing games with your.

Ehn, playing games with us abi? I hope they know how to play that game well oo, because I think they are playing it with themselves because trouble don't dey for their backyards.

Okay let say da na the missing money they are talking about. Let say they want to do new printing of new one, Father my heart na satisfy oo- I smell something. Look, just few days ago that other papay knockout from that place and they haven't put anybody there yet. So tell me who will sign da new money there?

Hayaka, you see where I coming from eh. So it means if they will print additional money in two weeks then it will be da money they say na missing. They will just print small and flood the village with it because it will be an opportunity for the people who have buried it in their houses to put it outside.

But if we see new money in two weeks with da papay who have just knockout from the place there then it means our man them fini printing da money ever since oo. Um, yes oo Father, then da na small wahala we inside so oo.

My son, it is better you wait and listen to see what the people will say. I know Father, but am confused. Is it that the money they want to print in two weeks is the one they say not missing or a totally new money. We the people of this fiefdom want to know, we are scare before water don pass gari.

OPINION

By Carlos Manuel Rodríguez & Alvaro Cedeno Molinari

Toward a Global Biodiversity Accord

SAN JOSE - Governments from around the world are already preparing for the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China. This is no ordinary gathering: its goal will be to conclude a new policy framework on biodiversity that works for all member states.

Although the CBD adopted the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2010, the international community has been decidedly ineffective in achieving them. Some countries that host vast extensions of rainforests spend up to 100 times more on subsidies that cause deforestation than on aid to prevent it, and the global picture may be even worse in other latitudes.

The next decade will show that we can no longer treat the destruction of nature as "business as usual." We are quickly approaching environmental and climatic tipping points that could trigger catastrophic feedback loops, making climate change impossible to reverse. A major report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services earlier this year shows that our current activities could lead to the extinction of up to one million species in the next few decades.

Given that such losses to biodiversity will jeopardize the future of humankind itself, the time for effective public and private leadership is now - or never. In developing a framework to align international policies and industrial practices, we should focus on ten key priorities that belong in any new CBD framework.

First, we must end the global trade in wildlife and endangered species, by making it illegal in both supplier and destination countries. As matters stand, the international community is doing nothing about this issue. Second, we need a global agreement on how to regulate high-seas industrial fishing, given that industry subsidies are currently contributing to unsustainable overfishing.

Third, we must put an immediate stop to industrial-scale logging and burning of primary forests, be they tropical, boreal, or temperate. Allowing such activities makes no sense. Industrial logging benefits neither governments nor indigenous communities, which should be permitted to farm and log their own lands sustainably.

A fourth, related priority is to ban deforestation across the board. In many countries, deforestation can be conducted legally simply by submitting a request for a change in land use on a given plot. Reaching a world of zero-deforestation commodities will require the support of private companies and consumers who are willing to make a change.

Fifth, we need all governments to adopt a carbon tax, without which we will be effectively promoting a market failure. Currently, we not only subsidize fossil fuels; we also fail to provide ample compensation for the carbon sequestration provided by tropical forests, agroforestry systems, mangroves, and wetlands. While carbon prices in voluntary markets averaged \$3 per ton of CO₂ equivalent in 2016, the global price should be in the order of \$40 per ton if we are to meet the reduction targets under the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Implementing a carbon tax might be politically complicated, but it makes perfect economic sense. Costa Rica introduced a carbon tax in 1997 that now generates \$32 million per year. Those funds are then used to provide environmental services to indigenous communities, farmers, and others who plant trees with the intention of increasing biomass in the productive landscape.

Sixth, we should adopt a new financial target for the international community's biodiversity efforts. We are currently investing a mere 0.08% of global GDP in natural conservation. If we can commit to mobilizing 1% of global GDP under the new framework, we will have the resources to meet all the other targets we set. Although conservation programs are a domestic matter for national governments, the target should be framed as a multilateral benchmark, given that biodiversity loss is a shared problem.

Seventh, we must stop - and reverse, if possible - PADDD (protected area downgrading, downsizing, degazettement) events. In the United States and elsewhere, the movement to deregulate protected lands, or to strip them of their protected status entirely, is well-funded and powerful. Obviously, such efforts pose a direct threat to all conservation efforts.

Eighth, we should aim to phase out single-use plastics before the end of the next decade, as the accumulation of non-biodegradable plastics is impeding many other conservation efforts. Ninth, in a similar vein, we need to start thinking about how we can tax pollution of all kinds. In too many cases, polluting is simply free. In the absence of any costs, the problem will only worsen.

Finally, governments urgently need to adopt green national accounting systems. Effective policymaking requires the best available data. Insofar as the current economic system fails to account for biodiversity loss, water pollution, and greenhouse-gas emissions, it is part of the problem, not the solution.

In pursuing a new global framework for biodiversity, we should heed the lesson of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations. The Paris agreement was made possible when countries realized it was in their own interest to commit to reducing their emissions. That understanding still has not taken hold among the CBD parties. We have between now and the gathering in Kunming to ensure that it does.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Media debates as Russia pushes into Africa

In an effort to get push its political and economic influence in Africa, Russia has begun identifying news outlets that could facilitate the distribution of its information products and contents (syndication of news reports) from Russian media organizations.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, this is the first significant step on media cooperation by official authorities to address the information gap between the two regions. The primary objectives are to promote its Russia's image more positively, overturn the negative perceptions among the public and to counteract anti-Russian propaganda mostly by western and European media in Africa.

Russia seeks a new image in Africa. On the other hand, Russian media continues presenting Africa as a region of diseases, conflicts and dangerous for business. At least, Africa's middle-class, approximately 380 million constitutes a huge consumer market, is more than Russia's population of 150 million and almost the same population size of the United States.

Indisputably, Africa also needs an excellent image among the Russian public. Russian experts and academics have consistently called for forging media cooperation as an instrument for promoting business opportunities and building positive perception, and offering knowledge about post-Soviet achievements in Russia and developments in Africa.

In an emailed interview, Professor Irina Abramova, Director of the Institute for African Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences, said in the eyes of the Russian political establishment and business community, Africa is still viewed as a continent of poverty, endless wars and epidemics, stuck in the pre-industrial stage of development, and surviving only thanks to international aid.

Meanwhile, there is a different Africa, she maintains, Africa with rapid economic growth, dynamic formation of democratic management systems, modern structures and institutions of a market economy, a major player in the market of natural and human resources, a key source of growth in global demands and profitable spheres of investment operations.

"The media should more actively inform Russians about the prospects for the development of the African continent, its history and culture. Unfortunately, the Russian man in the street does not know much about Africa," the director explained.

"For Africans, so far Russia is associated with the Soviet Union, the majority of Africans still have very warm feelings towards Russia. In general, the Russian Federation in Africa, and Africa in the Russian Federation are very poorly represented in the media. It is necessary to organize a special media entirely dedicated to Russia-Africa," Abramova said.

Honorary President of the Africa Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Editor-in-Chief of the Asia and Africa Today magazine, Professor Alexei Vasilyev, has also stressed that Russia and Africa have to raise media work so that people of both regions get to know much about each other.

"Measures are needed to enable us to better understand each other. Africa is different. As journalists, we have to report not only diseases, demonstrations and murders, but also about real achievements and successes (of the African continent)," he said.

TASS Director General, Sergei Mikhailov, noted that without African states it's impossible to cultivate international economic ties, stable development of international ties, and to build a stable and cohesive system of international security. Thus, cooperation between media outlets has to be one of the most active areas of developing ties with Africa.

Reports show that TASS plans to actively develop cooperation with its colleagues in Africa and give Africans a chance to familiarize themselves with developments in the world and on the African continent, which is different from most Western media. The Russian news agency plans to significantly increase the number of its bureaus in Sub-Saharan Africa, Mikhailov informed at the panel session themed "Russian-African Relations: The Role of Media" held in Sochi.

"We hope this will contribute to improving mutual understanding between Russian and African peoples. We want the events in Africa and vital issues of its development to again become top news," he added. The Russian Foreign Ministry supports the plan by the TASS news agency to open new offices across Africa in 2020 and urges the agency to go ahead with widening its African network, according to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov. He further suggested Angola, Guinea, Tanzania and Madagascar among the potential host countries for future TASS offices.

Over the years, media and policy experts have noted that nearly 30 years after the Soviet, Russia has not encouraged African media from south of Sahara in the Russian Federation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has largely ignored African media, south of Sahara. South Africa, Morocco and Egypt (the Maghreb region) are closer in their relationship to Russia.

Information presented at the Sochi summit explicitly confirmed this observation. Some 300 news bureaus from 60 countries are operating in Russia, including 800 correspondents and 400 technical personnel, while Africa represented by just three bureaus: South Africa, Egypt and Morocco, the Deputy Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, Artem Kozhin said at the panel discussion. According to him, this extremely low representation of African media hardly meets the level of dynamically developing relations. "We invite all interested parties to open news bureaus and expand media cooperation with Russia," Kozhin said.

Some are not ready to spend money by bringing Africa media to Russia. "We understand that getting to Moscow costs quite a bit of money, and this may well be too expensive for African newsrooms," Alexei Volin, Russia's Deputy Minister for Communications and Mass Media, said before making the pitch. He further emphasized that information cooperation was



By KesterKennKlomegah*

developing not the way it should be.

The ministry has put forward proposals on expanding cooperation with Africa, including exchanging information with Russia's state mass media, training courses for African journalists and trips of Russian specialists to Africa for training personnel. According to various reports by Roscongress, the organizer of the first Russia-Africa Summit held in October, Russian officials have expressed readiness to collaborate with African media and would be at the forefront to highlight post-Soviet economic and cultural reality and shape the African perception about Russia. Senior media professionals on the African side are highly qualified and have appreciable professional experience in their employment.

From Eurasia Review investigations, TASS is currently strengthening its foothold in Africa. For instance, in September it appointed Vitaly Makarchev as the head of Pretoria office in South Africa. Director General of the Maghreb Arab Press news agency Khalil Hachimilidrissi and FAAPA Secretary General Mohamed Anis have held talks earlier during the year with TASS First Deputy Director General Mikhail Gusman. The talks focused on widening media cooperation in Maghreb region.

Russian diplomats have also discussed media cooperation with Executive Director of Cabo Verdean News Agency Infopress, Jacqueline Furtado Carvalho; General Manager of Agence Congolaise de Presse, Anasth Wilfrid Mbossa; General Manager of Ghana News Agency, Albert Kofi Owusu, and Chief-Editor of the Seychelles News Agency, Rassin Vannier. General Manager of Ghana News Agency, Albert Kofi Owusu, told the New York Times that the proposal to distribute stories from TASS, the Russian state-controlled news service, to newspapers, websites and television stations in the West African region made sense, especially since his agency was already sharing Chinese state media reports. But, this has to be done within a framework agreement on cooperation for mutual benefits.

For decades, a number of foreign countries have been cooperating with African media and NGOs to push their strategic policy and business interests. For example, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation has fixed China-Africa Press Exchange Centre in Shanghai to encourage and promote exchange and visits between Chinese and African media.

Last May, China hosted the fifth Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation. A joint statement on further deepening exchanges and cooperation was adopted.

Similarly, the United States, European Union, and Asian States support African media enormously in their information and education activity, and with regular publications of economic and business reports to create public business awareness in Africa. They have adequately collaborated with African partners in attracting business to Africa.

Nevertheless, Moscow plans to boost its presence on the continent in the next four to five years. Aware of the common responsibility, Russia and Africa have to continue coordinating efforts at implementing the documents adopted at the summit since this meets the desires and aspirations of Russia and Africa.

As explicitly outlined in the joint declaration, both Russia and Africa have to begin pursuing the targeted goals such as:

- *facilitate the people-to-people contacts between Russia and African States using the potential of non-governmental organizations and various fora, including the youth ones.
- *encourage further exchanges, mutual learning and cooperation in culture and education.
- *facilitate the opening of Russian and African mass media hubs in the respective territories of African States and the Russian Federation.

Ultimately, these could be achieved by building on the existing friendly ties, as well as on the rich experience of multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation that serves the collective interests between the Russia and Africa.

*Report by KesterKennKlomegah, an independent researcher and freelance writer on Russia, Africa and BRICS. He is the author of the Geopolitical Handbook titled "Putin's African Dream and The New Dawn: Challenges and Emerging Opportunities" devoted to the first Russia-Africa Summit 2019.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Africa can be world's next economic hub

- Singapore's Senior Minister tells lecture audience

With the right policies and linkages, Africa can become an indispensable global economic hub, Singapore's Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam noted Tuesday, commending the continent's diverse economic potential.

Delivering this year's Kofi A. Annan Eminent Speakers' Lecture series at the African Development Bank headquarters in Abidjan, Shanmugaratnam outlined five strategies which must underpin the continent's transformation drive and efforts to build inclusive growth.

Africa must spread its economic openness by strongly showcasing specialisation along the production value chain and invest more boldly in social foundations. The continent must also maximise policy coherence and effectiveness, think in the long-term and maximise the benefits of global financial system, Shanmugaratnam told diplomats, students,

government representatives and senior Bank officials gathered in the Babacar Ndiaye auditorium.

The lecture, the third in a new series organised by the African Development Institute, had the theme: "Inclusive Growth: Learning from Experience, Partnering for the Future - How Africa and

Asia can work together for broad-based prosperity." He was accompanied by senior government officials from Singapore.

"There are challenges, but there are also opportunities. There is much more to be done," said Shanmugaratnam who is also Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Social Policies.

In order to build economic

resilience and create job opportunities for their bulging youth population, there must be stronger connectivity and economic interaction among developing regions, especially between Africa and Asia which share demographic similarities.

He noted that there is a significant interest by Singapore businesses in Africa which needs to be scaled up. "We need to take practical steps to spur this collaboration with more bilateral investment treaties that provide some assurance to investors."

Singapore is the eighth largest foreign investor in Africa. It invested around \$90 billion in the continent in 2018.

"We are in an unusual time globally - a time of unusual challenge where some of the basic beliefs of how the world prospect together are being challenged. But it's also a time of immense opportunities... in the international economy, in international finance and in international cooperation," the minister stated.

It is projected that in the next decade, Africa will have the largest working age population in the world, larger than China and India with about 1.1 billion people of working age population of between 15 and 64 years.

Shanmugaratnam said African leaders must prepare to take advantage of the strong bulging workforce, coupled with the high mobile technology penetration to

drive innovation for growth.

In his welcoming remarks, Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina noted that Africa could learn a lot from Singapore. He described Mr Shanmugaratnam as someone with expansive knowledge who was chosen because of his inspiring works in the Asian nation.

Adesina said the Eminent Lecture series was dedicated to Kofi Annan, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) in recognition of his contributions to humanity. Annan launched the UN millennium development goals.

"As we continue our efforts to do more, we want to learn from the impressive achievements of Singapore, and no one is better placed to discuss this and all of the things around Asia and Africa with us than Tharman Shanmugaratnam," he said. The African Development Bank launched the Eminent Speakers Lecture series in 2006 to provide a platform for a robust exchange of ideas to meet the challenges of African development.

Since then, the series has featured world-class speakers, politicians, top academics, businesspeople and civil society representatives, who have spoken on a diverse range of topics and issues, including economics, finance, regional integration, human development, the environment, and philosophy. **Press release**



FeJAL Disappointed Over Media Council's Intervention

The Female Journalists of Liberia (FeJAL) says it is gravely disappointed by the display of attitude exhibited by both the Elections Committee (EC) and the National Media Council (NMC) in handling the concerns raised by aspirant Facia Harris through team Harris as well as the Association in the pending Press Union of Liberia (PUL) leadership elections.

In its November 6, 2019 clarification, the NMC acknowledged that it did extend an invitation to Ms. Harris following her prior

complaint of October 26, 2019, and in a letter from the EC on November 4, 2019, it informed the NMC of its inability to appear before the council due some overwhelming electoral matters, which for us is another flimsy reason as Ms. Harris' complaint also borders on electoral matters.

FeJAL says it is indeed baffled that if the NMC had prior notice of the EC's absence at such crucial meeting, why did it not notify Team Harris and the concerned parties about the EC's excuse, yet had all parties present including the legal counsel of

Ms. Harris; which for us was a serious waste of time.

Now that the elections are expected to be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, which comes in a couple of days, FeJAL said it is using this medium to reiterate our disappointment over Ms. Harris's calculated disqualification from the process due to an obsolete law that even the EC is finding hard to justify and as such has cleverly boycotted all mitigation processes aimed at ensuring due process for the aggrieved by their gross absence from Tuesday, November 5, 2019 meeting scheduled by the NMC.

The group said the disqualification of Ms. Harris has no magnitude as her current position at the Information Commission clearly spells out the Terms of Reference for the position of a Director for Outreach and Sensitization, a position she currently occupies.

FeJAL states and still maintains that as Director for Outreach and Sensitization is in no way a Public Relations Officer position, as the EC has made the public to believe because the IIC has no such position in its TOR.

Team Harris has earlier informed the public that she would exhaust all means for a

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redress available in reference to the EC's decision to disqualify Ms. Harris on the grounds provided and FeJAL believes without doubt that she is on the right trajectory but the attitude of the NMC and the EC proved unacceptably that the Union is still in its state of gender insensitivity.

"For the NMC, which replaced the Grievance and Ethics Committee, now being the biggest platform for redress guarding against ethical issues from the public as well as "media-related" disputes, to provide an ill-packaged justification for not convening for its own called meeting further suggests to the Association that indeed the NMC's action was glaringly intentional, disrespectful and grossly provocative, again being cognizant of its own Standard Operating Procedure that it cannot convene until there is a quorum," FeJAL

noted.

The Association will not hesitate to state that the action of members of the NMC to play less interest in attending that Tuesday meeting when it bordered on "media-related issues" was not only a slap in the face of Team Harris but also a lack of cordiality amongst themselves and a deliberate insolence to FeJAL as a participating auxiliary in the pending elections.

"If that has been our male colleagues with an inch of concern during this period even the leadership would have given them ears as done recently in the case of Webster Cassell and others in time past. This attitude must stop because females make up a significant portion of the voters' roll and therefore that is an indication that they are a voice in the forward march of the Union," President Siatta Scott-Johnson decried.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

American educator urges parents at FCC Mission

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A veteran American female educator, Sister Melisa Knowlton urges parents whose children are attending the First Century Christian Mission (FCC) in Croizerville, Montserrado County to work with the newly inducted leadership of the Parents-Teachers Association to enhance their children's education.

She made the call while delivering the keynote address at the induction program on the school campus on Wednesday, 6 November.

The FCC Mission which has an enrolment of over 100 students, 50 of them deaf, is being supported by a group of American Philanthropists that desires a better future for Liberian children through the provision of education and health.

Sister Knowlton, who said she was pleased to be in Liberia due to the fact that some of her colleagues graduated from the FCC Mission, also called students of the Mission to persevere in



their education sojourn, adding that through their seriousness, God will send more American Philanthropists to assist the institution.

She promised that upon return to the United States of America, she would spread the wonderful news about the FCC Mission to encourage others residing in that part of the world to help support more Liberian children in their educational

and spiritual sojourn.

Sister Knowlton is in Liberia along with several other Americans to assess situations for themselves at the Mission for possible assistance.

In his induction remarks, the Chairman of the FCC Parents Teachers Association Mr. Richard Bobby frowned on parents who are in the habit of staying away from activities of the institution that borders on

their own interest.

Mr. Bobby assured that he and his corps of officials, including Messrs Philmon Carter, Vice Chairman; Richard Sumo, Secretary General; Ms. Blessing Smart, Chaplain; and Students Representative, Ms. Gwendalyn Padmore will uphold the confidence reposed in them.

The Principal of the FCC

Mission, Joseph B. Banna expressed gratitude to the visiting American delegation led by Mr. Bobby Moore for coming to the institution at the time it is contemplating on construction of a modern cafeteria for students.

He urged parents to pay more attention to their children's education by participating in every activity hosted on campus as a way of encouraging teachers who are molding the minds of the kids.

An Alumina of the Mission, Mr. Benjamin Brooks in remarks said, it's time the administration, parents, and alumina of the Mission to galvanize their merger resources to support the work of the Mission.

The occasion was later followed by ground breaking for the cafeteria project.

In a related development, three families whose kids attend the Mission, received mattresses and beds from an American Philanthropist, M. Mac Anthony Saker, who is also Chief Executive Officer of the Mission. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

UN Peace-Building Commission's delegation in Liberia

A High Level delegation from the UN Peace-Building Commission (PBC) arrived in Liberia Tuesday, October 5th on a joint peace building mission in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire.

The High level PBC delegation is taking a sub-regional peace tour, specifically in the MRU region from 3rd to 10th November 2019. The visiting Peace Building Commission (PBC)'s delegation is headed by Mr.

Oliver Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-building.

He is assisted by the Special Representative of the UN - Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, Dr. Mohamed IbnChambas.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the aim of the visit is to assess United Nations' support to the Peace-Building priorities in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote

d'Ivoire, as well as to explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation in support of cross-border issues, relevant Peace-building as well as sustaining peace challenges in the Mano River Union countries.

The release says the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa, Dr. Mohamed IbnChambas arrives in Liberia via UN Special Flight, UNO-450, at 5:45 pm. While Mr. Oliver Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-building Support and other members of the PBC delegation from Freetown, Sierra Leone, will arrive in Liberia the same day on the SN 243 Flight.

The high level visit will seek to discuss and highlight national and regional peace-building efforts, focusing on the linkages between peace-building priorities and development plans; discuss challenges and identify opportunities for further constructive engagements of the United Nations, including the PBC and PBF.

The release also states that the aim of the visit is to draw international attention and mobilize support, for Cross-Border and sub-regional Peace-Building priorities including strengthening partnerships

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The visit of Dr. Mohamed IbnChambas and members of the Joint UN high level team and their participations in these discussions will also provide an opportunity to strengthen coordination and coherence of UN support as well as to enhance synergies between the PBF and the PBC, the release further added.

Members of the delegation include H.E. Mr. Guillermo Fernandez de Soto, Chair of the PBC and Permanent Representative of Colombia; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees, Vice-Chair of the PBC and Permanent Representative of Egypt; H.E. Mr. Marc-Andre Blanchard, Chair of the PBC-Sierra Leone Configuration and Permanent Representative of Canada.

Other are H.E. Mr. OlofSkoog, Chair of the PBC-Liberia Configuration and Permanent Representative of Sweden; Amb. Dee-Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr., Permanent

Representative of Liberia to the UN; Ms. Natalia Arboleda, Expert, Permanent Mission of Colombia; Ms. Vanessa Wyeth, Expert, Permanent Mission of Canada, among others.

Meanwhile, the Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dee-Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr is currently in the country to accompany the high level visiting UN delegation here.

Since his appointment by President George Manneh Weah as Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Dee-Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr has continued to ably represent Liberia's interest at that august body, thereby engaging various bilateral and multilateral partners as well as regional institutions aimed at attracting investment and development assistance for Liberia.



United Nations
Peacebuilding

Français

RIA va construire un nouveau terminal de transit

Les négociations ont commencé pour la construction d'un nouveau terminal B de transit à l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA), ont annoncé les autorités. Il y a à peine trois mois, s'ouvrait un nouveau terminal A des passagers du même aéroport. La construction du nouveau terminal B constitue donc un atout majeur pour le plus grand aéroport du Libéria.

« Nous sommes également en quête de démolir l'ancien terminal pour la construction du terminal B, qui sera un terminal de transit. Les négociations sont en cours pour la construction », a déclaré brièvement le directeur général de RIA, Mgr John Allan Klayee, lors d'un entretien avec des journalistes avant une visite du nouvel aéroport.

Mgr Klayee, accompagné par son directeur adjoint chargé des affaires administratives, M. Martin J. Hayes, s'est dit confiant que la construction du nouveau terminal de transit B stimulera l'afflux des aéronefs et des passagers et restaurera la compétitivité du Libéria dans le secteur du transport aérien.

« La raison pour laquelle nous



voulons faire le terminal B est de l'utiliser comme une plaque tournante du transit, afin que nous puissions le ramener à l'endroit où nous étions auparavant et que cela stimulera le flux des passagers, ce qui stimulera également l'afflux des vols », a-t-il dit.

La discussion intervient dans le cadre d'un accord de partenariat entre RIA et l'aéroport Hartfield Jackson d'Atlanta, en Géorgie, alors que ce dernier envisage la construction d'un centre de réparation d'aéronefs à RIA pour assurer la maintenance et la vente

de pièces de rechange des aéronefs. Ce centre de services est actuellement limité sur le continent. Une fois construit, cela pourrait attirer les avions en détresse sur tout le continent et au-delà.

« Nous avons signé un accord de partenariat avec l'aéroport Hartfield Jackson. Ils sont intéressés par un partenariat avec RIA pour la construction d'un centre de maintenance des avions dans lequel ils vendront des pièces de rechange. Seule l'Afrique du Sud peut se vanter de ce type d'installation et si ce centre est construit ici, il attirera des opérateurs du monde entier et d'Afrique », a expliqué Mgr Klayee. La nouvelle intervient au moment où l'avion de ligne américain Delta, basé à Atlanta, a accepté de gérer les services de fret à la RIA, au lieu de reprendre immédiatement le transport des passagers. « Nous avons eu des discussions avec Delta Airline pour son retour, mais tout indique que Delta n'est pas prêt à revenir pour continuer à offrir des services passagers, mais ils sont plutôt

intéressés par le service de fret de l'aéroport. J'ai accepté leur proposition de commencer par le fret », a déclaré le directeur général, qui a en outre ajouté que les études de faisabilité devraient commencer lors d'une réunion de suivi en décembre.

Il était enthousiaste à l'idée que ces informations soient une bonne nouvelle pour le pays d'autant plus que des efforts sont déployés pour améliorer les services à l'aéroport afin d'attirer les avions en ligne.

Il a ajouté que les travaux de réhabilitation de la piste d'atterrissage (la plus longue de la sous-région) sont achevés et que les préoccupations concernant le nouveau terminal ont été résolues.

Le directeur général de RIA a déclaré que la réhabilitation de la piste a rétabli un niveau de confiance parmi les compagnies aériennes qui avaient autrefois abandonné leurs services en raison de la situation dans laquelle elles se trouvaient.

En l'état actuel des choses, Air France a accepté de reprendre ses vols ici et les négociations avec Air Turkish se poursuivent, a déclaré Bishop Klayee.

Cependant, malgré ces bonnes nouvelles, l'aéroport est confronté à un défi majeur, à savoir l'électricité. Les autorités brûlent 80 gallons de carburant diesel par heure et le directeur général a déclaré que le coût du carburant représente 80% des dépenses de l'aéroport.

Afin de résoudre ce problème énergétique, il a indiqué que des projets sont en cours pour la construction d'un barrage solaire qui électrifierait tout l'aéroport et ses environs. Il n'a pas dit quand le projet va commencer.

Il s'est également prononcé sur les préoccupations concernant le nouveau terminal en indiquant que le système d'égouts a été rectifié, et que des climatiseurs externes a été installés. Il a ajouté que l'une des raisons pour lesquelles les ponts à réaction ne sont pas utilisés pour le moment est que les opérateurs sont allés à l'étranger pour suivre une formation.

France : la ministre des Armées annonce la mort d'un chef jihadiste au Mali

Le Marocain Abou Abderahman al Maghrebi, alias Ali Maychou, considéré comme le numéro deux et leader religieux du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans (GSIM), organisation jihadiste reliée à Al-Qaïda, a été tué par les forces françaises au Mali début octobre, a annoncé mardi à l'AFP la ministre des Armées, Florence Parly, revenant d'une tournée dans le Sahel, où elle a fait différentes annonces.

C'est dans l'avion qui la ramenait du Mali - après une tournée dans la région - que Florence Parly a communiqué

l'information à l'Agence France-Presse. Le jihadiste a été tué « dans la nuit du 8 au 9 octobre » sur le sol malien en coordination avec les forces maliennes et un soutien américain, a-t-elle précisé.

Ali Maychou était « le deuxième terroriste le plus recherché au Sahel - y compris par les Américains », a poursuivi la ministre. Il avait rejoint Al-Qaïda au Maghreb islamique (AQMI) en 2012. Il en était devenu le leader spirituel avant de participer à la fondation du Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans (GSIM) en 2017 avec Iyad ag Ghali, le numéro

un de l'organisation dont il était le plus proche fidèle (et qui est en tête de la liste des personnes recherchées). Le GSIM a revendiqué les attaques récentes fin septembre début octobre contre les forces maliennes à Boukessi et Mondoro avec 40 militaires tués. Le groupe a aussi revendiqué l'attentat de Ouagadougou de mars 2018 (8 morts). Les attentats de Ouagadougou de 2016 (30 morts) et 2017 (19 morts) sont également l'œuvre d'Al-Qaïda.

« Il s'agit de la neutralisation d'un personnage très influent », a déclaré à l'AFP Florence Parly, au lendemain de sa visite au Burkina Faso, où elle a rencontré des forces spéciales françaises. Cerveau de l'expansion d'Al-Qaïda au Sahel, artisan de l'unité des katibas du sud au sein du GSIM, Ali Maychou est le deuxième personnage d'importance du GSIM tué cette année, après la mort de l'Algérien Djamel Okacha, alias Yahya Abou El Hamame en février.

Annnonce de nouveaux plans de combat Quelques heures auparavant, reçue par le président malien IBK, Florence Parly soulignait, malgré les difficultés critiques sur le terrain, des points marqués contre le terrorisme. « Hier encore, près de Boukessi, les armées maliennes ont avec succès mis la main sur une réserve d'armements, de carburant, de matériel », s'est-



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elle félicitée.

Mais il faut multiplier et mieux coordonner les opérations militaires dans le Sahel contre ces jihadistes. L'une de ces opérations est d'ailleurs en cours, a-t-elle indiquée : « Barkhane, les forces armées maliennes et burkinabè sont engagées dans une opération qui a commencé récemment. Et c'est un très grand effort ainsi consenti que d'avoir mobilisé des soldats en nombre pour participer à cette opération. » Avec le président malien, la ministre française des Armées a évoqué un autre plan à venir pour

la sécurisation du Sahel. A l'initiative de Paris, dès l'année prochaine, des forces spéciales européennes viendront ici au Mali en soutien à l'armée nationale dans son combat contre le terrorisme. L'unité attendue s'appellera « Tacouba », ou « Sabre » en tamasheq.

Opération conjointe dans la zone des trois frontières

Enfin, Florence Parly a annoncé le coup d'envoi d'une nouvelle opération militaire pour sécuriser la zone dite des trois frontières Burkina-Mali-Niger.

Français

Les mesures du G5 Sahel pour s'adapter à la recrudescence du terrorisme

Les ministres de la Défense et des Affaires étrangères des pays du G5 Sahel étaient en réunion mardi 5 novembre. Cette sixième session du conseil des ministres s'est tenue dans un contexte de recrudescence des attaques contre les forces armées burkinabè et maliennes.

Le conseil des ministres du G5 Sahel pense à une structuration du secrétariat permanent afin de l'adapter aux défis sécuritaires. Dans les semaines à venir, un redéploiement des bataillons sur les différents fuseaux va s'effectuer afin de rendre plus performante la force conjointe. Mais en attendant, les pays membres comptent multiplier les rencontres pour la recherche de nouveaux partenaires.

La Chine monte en puissance. Les Turcs sont présents avec une contribution de cinq millions de dollars en équipement. Un sommet est prévu en Arabie saoudite pour approfondir le contact avec le monde arabe, selon Maman Sambo Sidikou secrétaire permanent du G5 Sahel. En fait les pays du G5 Sahel souhaitent traiter directement avec le monde arabe, sans intermédiaire. Quant à la participation de la Russie, les discussions sont toujours en cours. « Je suis presque sûr que les Russes demanderont l'aval des Nations unies avant d'intervenir », explique un officier.

Sur plan militaire, le nouveau commandant a proposé une mise en commun des forces aériennes de tous les pays dans le cadre de la lutte contre le terrorisme. Un redéploiement du bataillon tchadien est à l'étude. Ce bataillon viendra renforcer le fuseau centre, c'est-à-dire la zone des trois frontières, Mali, Niger et Burkina.

Cette proposition est acceptée par le conseil, il ne reste que sa validation par les chefs d'État. « Il est nécessaire qu'on renforce ce fuseau central. Nous sommes en perte de vitesse dans ce fuseau » fait savoir un expert militaire. « Nous n'excluons pas cette option car la stratégie militaire

actuelle a montré ses limites », souligne Cherif Mahamat Zene, le chef de la diplomatie tchadienne.

Cela donnera plus de pouvoir et de possibilités au nouveau commandant sur le terrain selon un participant.

Lors d'un déplacement au Sahel ces 4 et 5 novembre, Florence Parly a annoncé le coup d'envoi d'une nouvelle opération militaire conjointe avec les forces burkinabè pour sécuriser la zone dite des trois frontières Burkina-Mali-Niger, une zone critique où les attaques terroristes se multiplient.

L'opération est baptisée Bourgou 4. Elle sera conduite par la force française Barkhane en collaboration avec deux compagnies burkinabè : l'objectif sécurisé la zone des trois frontières plongée dans une crise sécuritaire sans précédent... Une zone, a précisé la ministre française des Armées, dans laquelle on doit « porter l'effort ».

Ces derniers mois, les attaques attribuées aux groupes jihadistes s'y multiplient, les forces françaises vont donc opérer depuis le Niger et le Mali voisin, mais ce ne sera pas suffisant prévient Mathieu Pélerin Analyste Sahel à l'International Crisis Group.

« Quand vous regardez le rayon d'action des groupes jihadistes qui s'étend de Kidal jusqu'à la frontière entre le Burkina et la Côte d'Ivoire d'un côté, de la frontière Mali-Mauritanie jusqu'au lac Tchad de l'autre côté, Barkhane à elle seule ne peut pas faire face à tout ça. Et on a vu jusqu'ici qu'en dépit d'opérations couronnées de succès qui ont décimé un certain nombre de ces groupes depuis 2013, à chaque fois, les groupes réussissent à se reconstituer et grandissent, gagnent en intensité dans leurs opérations. Donc ce n'est pas de l'affichage, mais ce n'est pas suffisant. »

Depuis 2015, les attaques menées par les groupes jihadistes ont déjà fait plus de 600 morts militaires et civils dans le pays. À ce jour, les forces de défense burkinabè semblent bien en peine d'enrayer la menace terroriste dans la région des trois frontières.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Pedro Sánchez

La Catalogne, l'Espagne et l'Europe sont mieux ensemble

MADRID - Par-dessus de tout, l'Europe représente la liberté, la paix et le progrès. Nous devons promouvoir ces valeurs et faire de l'Europe le principal modèle d'intégration et de justice sociale qui protège ses citoyens. L'Europe à laquelle nous aspirons, l'Europe dont nous avons besoin, l'Europe que nous construisons est fondée sur la stabilité démocratique au sein des États membres et ne peut pas accepter la rupture unilatérale de son intégrité. L'Europe que nous admirons s'est construite sur le principe d'identités qui se recoupent, sur l'égalité pour tous les citoyens et sur le refus des idéologies nationalistes et de l'extrémisme.

Pour cette raison, le défi du séparatisme en Catalogne, conçu contre et en dehors du cadre constitutionnel de l'Espagne - et qui réduit au silence la majorité des Catalans qui sont contre l'indépendance - est un défi pour l'Europe et les Européens. La préservation de ces valeurs en Catalogne à l'heure actuelle signifie la protection de l'Europe ouverte et démocratique que nous représentons.

L'Espagne a consacré ces valeurs en 1978, lorsqu'elle a créé et ratifié une constitution démocratique complète. Ce document historique a été approuvé par près de 88 % des électeurs dans un référendum. En Catalogne, le soutien et la participation électorale ont été encore plus importants : environ 90,5 % des Catalans ont soutenu la nouvelle constitution.

L'Espagne a ainsi échappé au long cortège sombre de la dictature et a jeté les bases d'un État de droit, comparable aujourd'hui aux démocraties de longue date de l'Europe de l'Ouest. Les libertés individuelles, pour lesquelles les Espagnols de différentes croyances et de différentes origines, dont de nombreux Catalans, se sont battus et ont vaincu, ont été restaurées. La Constitution de 1978 a également fourni une réponse novatrice et progressiste de la diversité territoriale de l'Espagne en la tenant pour un authentique atout, digne d'être reconnu. Près de 40 ans plus tard, l'Indice de démocratie, publié par The Economist, classe l'Espagne au rang des 20 démocraties complètes du monde.

L'Espagne contemporaine est le deuxième pays le plus décentralisé d'Europe et la Catalogne jouit de certains des plus hauts niveaux d'autonomie régionale de gouvernance sur le continent, avec de larges pouvoirs dévolus à certains secteurs cruciaux, tels que les médias et la communication publique, la santé, l'éducation et les prisons.

Aujourd'hui cependant, la Catalogne a partie liée non seulement avec l'esprit de créativité et d'initiative, ces qualités qui sont largement admirées dans le monde entier, mais également avec une crise profonde, causée par la rupture unilatérale avec l'ordre constitutionnel de l'Espagne, déclenchée par les dirigeants séparatistes de la région à l'automne 2017. Les dirigeants de la Catalogne n'ont pas respecté toutes les exigences et les résolutions prises par la Cour constitutionnelle, ont adopté des lois anticonstitutionnelles de « déconnexion » vis à vis de l'État espagnol, ont organisé un référendum illégal et ont déclaré une prétendue République Catalane.

Aucun État ne permettra jamais une sécession unilatérale d'un territoire faisant partie de son ordre constitutionnel. Et aucun démocrate ne doit soutenir la ligne suivie par les dirigeants séparatistes, qui ont remporté moins de 48 % des suffrages exprimés aux élections régionales. Leur

indépendance frauduleuse a ravivé les passions populaires, et, aidée par la prolifération délibérée de fausses nouvelles, a encouragé un profond sentiment d'injustice et d'affrontement avec le reste de l'Espagne. Où était la voix et le vote de ces Catalans, la majorité d'entre eux, qui se sont opposés à l'indépendance ? Où était la voix de ces Espagnols qui ont assisté, perplexes, à une violation directe des garanties de leur Constitution ?

Mon gouvernement s'est distingué en mettant au premier plan le développement des droits et des libertés. Les organisations internationales ont reconnu les normes élevées que nous nous sommes fixées sur certaines questions comme l'égalité des sexes. Nous ne saurions jamais, par conséquent, accepter la moindre restriction de la liberté d'expression. Le président de la Generalitat de Catalunya (le gouvernement régional de la Catalogne) est un séparatiste radical, mais il n'est ni empêché d'exprimer ses opinions librement, ni empêché de les défendre publiquement, en dépit de la peine et les dommages qu'ils causent à la coexistence pacifique en Catalogne.

Il en va de même pour les conseils locaux et les gouvernements séparatistes et pour les associations qui soutiennent l'indépendance. Ils peuvent exprimer leurs opinions comme ils le désirent, à condition qu'ils n'en fassent pas la promotion ni qu'ils n'encouragent des actes criminels. Tous les Espagnols sont égaux devant la loi - et la Constitution et la démocratie sont des réalités inséparables.

En vertu de l'État de droit démocratique de l'Espagne, le pouvoir judiciaire est totalement indépendant et permet l'examen des règlements par les organes officiels nationaux et internationaux. Le gouvernement respecte et se conforme à toutes les décisions judiciaires. Cela comprend la décision de la Cour suprême contre neuf dirigeants séparatistes accusés d'actes illégaux commis à l'automne 2017. Dans cette affaire, la Cour a agi avec la plus grande transparence : l'ensemble des procédures a été retransmis en direct.

Les réactions à la décision de la Cour suprême ont été extrêmement diverses : alors que certains pensent qu'elle a été trop indulgente en prononçant des peines de prison entre 9 et 13 ans, d'autres ont organisé des manifestations contre ce verdict. Bien que certaines de ces manifestations aient été pacifiques, d'autres ont sombré dans une violence extrême.

Mon gouvernement a répondu à ce défi avec proportion et maîtrise. Je crois fermement que la modération est notre force. Nous avons réagi promptement pour rétablir la paix et la stabilité chez les citoyens de Catalogne, dont une majorité rejettent l'impasse instable actuelle. Nous avons également agi avec prudence pour réduire le risque lors des moments de tension au plus bas niveau possible. Nous ne devons pas oublier en outre les efforts exemplaires et le courage de la police catalane, avec l'appui de la police nationale, dans leur tâche de maintien de l'ordre à l'heure où leurs dirigeants de la région ont fait montre d'un mépris des lois caractérisé.

C'est un paradoxe absurde d'être témoin d'un président de la Generalitat qui fait peu de cas de la violence tout en dénonçant une force de police, qui agit sur ses ordres, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. C'est également une grave erreur. Je lui demande de condamner la violence totalement et sans réserve et d'entamer un dialogue avec les citoyens catalans qui ne veulent pas de l'indépendance, ainsi qu'avec les groupes qui ne sont pas pro-séparatistes. Il doit commencer à agir en tant que président de tous les Catalans, pas seulement de ceux qui partagent ses convictions politiques.

A REJOINDER

A REJOINDER

How a “Harvard Student” HellenMomoh was deceived and exposed by a faulty app “Grammarly”

My Official Response to Ms. HellenMomoh on her charges of Bullying, Plagiarism, and Grammatical Errors

This gone week was too tight and multitasking for me. I had a lot of personal and professional duties to accomplish in time. Hence, Ms. HellenMomoh had enough of amenities to woo or seduce a number of social media followers into pettiness. Let me take a few minutes to deconstruct her wild claims and frail charges which this CDC-led government is using as a spiteful propaganda against my person in various newspapers. This propaganda of me bullying women is too weak and mawkish to survive in any conscious environment.

Instead of proffering a more concrete antithesis or rebuttal to my 5-page letter I wrote to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about declining press freedom and democracy in Liberia, this government through Ms. Momoh chose to peddle in outright deceit and distort THE FACTS in an unimaginable pattern.

These are sentimental and unjust charges (injustaonera sentimental) from Ms. HellenMomoh against my person: Bullying - Plagiarism - and Grammar Errors. Did this “Student of Harvard” know what she was actually saying? This is a point to ponder over as Ms. Momoh struggles to inflate her fake academic stature and role in history at my expense. I am compelled to respond to Ms. Momoh not because we are academic or intellectual peers but because of these fundamental reasons cited below:

- 1) She has misrepresented THE FACTS about my person
- 2) She often claims to be a student of Harvard University which is untrue
- 3) She is being used by CDC as a mischievous conduit of distortion and distraction.

The faulty ‘grammar app’ didn’t only deceive Ms. HellenMomoh but exposed the height of her weakness and emptiness. This is a formal response to the feeble charges and wild claims made by her against my person:

- 1) I did not bully Inspector General Josephine Davies as claimed. Like I have done to a few public officials especially males, I only critiqued Ms. Davies’s grammar and cautioned her to step up because of her high-profile role as a senior official of government. Global icons and leading feminists like Hilary Clinton and Angela Merkel have been criticized for poor grammar and even misspelling.

It is normal to critique public officials, including women, for poor grammatical construct. This happens everywhere and in any academic society. In fact, it is a global phenomenal. Sadly, it is a taboo only in Liberia and is described or branded as BULLYING, ENVY, and HATRED. The Inspector General of MOCI was the very first female official in government for me to have publicly critiqued relative to poor grammar. It is sad that Ms. Momoh is yet to decipher or distinguish between CRITICISM and BULLYING.

She said ‘I have bullied women’. Where, when, and how besides me critiquing Ms. Davies’s grammar? Let me state for the record that the feminist theory or the doctrine of feminism does not immune or preclude women in leadership from criticisms. Where was HellenMomoh when Jestina Taylor and Telia Urey were bullied and physically attacked by pro-Weah fanatics while she (Hellen) campaigned for CDC Candidate PaulitaWie?

Where was HellenMomoh when Kula Fofana, Estelle Liberty, and TeteGebro were publicly abused and cyberbullied by CDCians and officials of this same government? I had to publicly come in their defense to put an end to these unwholesome attacks against them. I have written dozens of papers and analyses in defense of women, girls, and children.

I fought to save the eyes of a young woman who was going blind as a result of police brutality and I ensured she was given a resettlement package of over L\$150,000. Through my advocacy, millions of LRD were raised to sponsor young women in school. Global support to Liberian girls increased because of a letter I wrote to Malia and Sasha Obama in 2016. I have a feedback in my possession to prove this.

I have provoked and inspired UN Women and other pro-Women organizations to invest more in girls and women - and to put an end to rape and GBV through my write-ups and speeches. The records are endless to prove!

So, the charge of BULLYING levied against me by Ms. HellenMomoh is not only frail and pathetic, but has no basis. I have not and will never bully any woman. What I did to Josephine Davies was an open-minded critique intended to breed improvement. I addressed her as a public official, and not as a private citizen. As a public official, she represents us and her output/performance portrays the image of our Country. Hence, she must be up to the task!

Feminism does not tolerate incompetence. It emboldens EXCELLENCE and MERIT. I take no responsibility if my stance and thoughts were or have been misinterpreted by a self-proclaimed student of Harvard University.

- 2) Ms. Momoh was again deceived by this imprecise “grammar app” to have made another wild claim that my letter had “36 percent plagiarism”. This is the wittiest conclusion anyone can imagine from a so-called “research” conducted by Ms. Momoh. The vagueness of this other “research” is too aching to stomach.

In my 5-page write-up, I did reference or credit everyone, including authentic sources, I ever quoted. In my letter, I said what has been happening and outlined a number of verbal attacks against THE PRESS by some senior officials of government. For instance, I said, “President George M. Weah described critics and vocal media outlets as ENEMIES OF THE STATE in June 2018 while on a tour in Bong and Nimba Counties.”

How does this equate to plagiarism or “36 per cent plagiarism”? Probably, Ms. Momoh needs to reread and digest my letter from a more objective lens. With a 100% aid from a fake “grammar app”, Hellen claimed to have detected a number of plagiarized lines in my write-up. Sadly, she along with her borrowed brain (the faulty app) is yet to answer a number of



By Martin K. N. Kollie
Youth and Student Activist, martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com

hard questions I have asked and continue to ask:

- a) From whom did I plagiarize (original authors and authentic sources);
- b) When and where were my “plagiarized lines” first published;
- c) Does Ms. Momoh care to provide proof(s) to substantiate her wild and clueless claims?

The “app” failed Ms. Momoh on this one. At least this ‘app’ told her that I passed the “plagiarism test” by 64% which is even more pitiful on her part to surmise. I am not a genius and have never claimed to be one. How I hope Ms. Momoh could use her own brain instead of depending on an inaccurate app to deceive herself and her readership.

Even a student who doesn’t profess to be in Harvard University could do better. Hence, Hellen’s second charge of “PLAGIARISM” against me is malnourished and runs contrary to the principles of academia.

- 3) Again, Hellen’s app failed to identify and correct what she termed as “Grammatical Errors”. Can Hellen justify or defend what “Grammarly App” has given her as errors? Let me just deal with a few of those so-called “errors”.

For instance, Grammarly underlined in red “..emboldens peace” in my lines and said PRONOUN PROBLEM. Where is the pronoun or pronoun problem in “..emboldens peace”. “Emboldens” is a verb while “Peace” is a noun. For me, I will use my own brain to checkmate Hellen and ‘Grammarly App’.

I said “We implore you to bestow ‘same’ upon distinguished members of the Security Council..”. The “Grammarly App” underlined “same” and said DETERMINER USE IS INCORRECT. Is “same” in this sentence and context a Determiner? “Same” in this context is a pronoun substituting the noun or noun clause “..our compliments and best wishes..”.

Hellen’s app did not give her the appropriate corrections which is SAD on her part. This is what makes her ‘app’ fake and faulty. But I will release full corrections to the errors made by she and her ‘app’.

Hellen wrote, “...my research discovered 87 grammatical mistakes and 36 per cent plagiarism in your write-up.”

Ms. Momoh claimed to have done a research but she didn’t state or give credit to the source(s) of her research. This is the highest form of plagiarism. Does Ms. Momoh know the meaning of RESEARCH in fact? Are her conclusions and/or thoughts about my write-up based on systematic and creative investigation? Aren’t her discoveries and interpretations flawed? Of course they are. No genuine student of Harvard does research in this tragic manner.

Unable to refute the content of my letter and provide any reasonable defense for CDC though she continues to lie about her status as a student of Harvard University, Ms. Momoh shockingly embarked on a grammar spree by leeching on a faulty and imprecise grammar-checking tool “GRAMMARLY” or whatever robotic grammar checker she may have used.

This has even sized up Hellen’s brain. Now we know the source and size of her brain. Thanks to “GRAMMARLY” but does Hellen know what this app gave her as “errors” even though it did not give her the appropriate corrections to what it termed as errors? This self-proclaimed student of Harvard University seems to be a direct opposite of what this prestigious Ivy League University espouses or professes to be.

I just received two (2) separate invitations to serve as panelist from prominent pro-women and pro-children organizations (YOCEL and Protect the Children) as a result of my advocacy for women, children, and youth. So, how can I bully women or any woman for that matter?

I hope CDC can find someone stronger and better to respond to my analyses next time because Ms. Momoh is more of a juvenile to do so! Growth is gradual and not instantaneous. That’s why her brain had to wholly depend on a faulty grammar “app”. Any student who solely operates on a borrowed brain, especially one that is robotic (grammar app), cannot pride himself or herself with the accolade of an academic.

About The Author: Martin K. N. Kollie is a youth and student activist. He is an avowed defend of women and children’s rights. E-mail: martinkerkula1989@yahoo.com

French vessel sinks off Liberian Coast

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority has disclosed that a Liberian licensed French tuna fishing vessel 'AvelVor' has sunk some 180 nautical miles off Liberia's coast last week.

The vessel was on its way sailing to fishing grounds when, in the evening of October 27, it struck an unidentified underwater object.

The NaFAA release mentioned that 23 crew members, including ten Frenchmen and a fishery observer, were saved by three other Tuna Vessels.

According to a NaFAA press release, the hull of the vessel was breached, thereby enabling water to flood the engine room. The ship's pumps became incapable of controlling water ingress; as a result, the Captain ordered



his 23 crew members to abandon the vessel.

The entry report received by the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of NaFAA further disclosed that 20,000 kg of Tuna and Tuna-like species

were on board the French Tuna Vessel.

It is recalled that the AvelVor experienced a leakage in the night of October 27, 2019 in the Gulf of Guinea, 315 kilometers off the coast of

Liberia, following a water ingress in the engine room which could not be brought under control.

The NaFAA release further stated that three days after the vessel had sailed from Abidjan and was headed towards its fishing ground, some crew members heard a sound on the hull that could be a shock to an unidentified

floating object.

The bilge alarm of the engine room was triggered, and it flooded rapidly, so that the pumps could not cope with the incoming water, leading the Captain to have ordered abandonment of the vessel.

All day long on October 28, 2019, tug with additional pumps and a diver team was awaited eagerly, while the AvelVor continued to sink slowly.

In the early morning of October 29, 2019, it disappeared from the radar. Another tuna fishing vessel "Pendruc" remained in the area with part of the crew. At daylight there was no trace of the ship. The Pendruc recovered floating objects that could be dangerous for navigation.

Meanwhile, analysis done at the Liberia Fisheries Monitoring Center established that the vessel entered the Liberian Exclusive Economic Zone on October 26, 2019 at 23:09:32 UTC at this position Lat. 2° 8' 46" N. -Press release

Banknotes shortage intensifies

As the shortage of Liberian banknotes hit the economy, leaving commercial banks in the country with limited cash to meet depositors' demands, public school teachers in Bomi County, western have reportedly laid down chalk in demand of three months' salaries.

Report reaching the New Dawn from the county says despite several meetings held between the local office of

the Ministry of Education and aggrieved public school teachers, no resolution seems to be in sight.

Local correspondents on the ground narrate that teachers have been told to open accounts with commercial banks in the county in readiness to receive their monthly salaries, but having met said requirement, the government is yet to debit money into the teachers' accounts because of lack of

cash.

The situation is even worse in Monrovia, where customers pouring at ATM machines operated by commercial banks are unable to make withdrawals.

A female communication officer at one of the commercial banks operating in the country, the United Bank of Africa (UBA) confirmed the shortage and noted that the bank relies on the Central Bank of Liberia for regular supplies of cash for transaction purposes, but this has not been forthcoming.

She said as the result, the UBA Management has resorted to rationing payment to customers with a withdrawal ceiling of 100,000 Liberian dollars per day, while US\$ withdrawal is being restricted to \$12,000 daily.

However, most customers, who managed in receiving payment, are giving mutilated Liberian banknotes, and told the money comes from the Central Bank's vault.

Neither the Central Bank nor the Ministry of Finance that prepares salaries for public employees has made any official comment on the situation.



Starts from back page

UL students

Control (CDC), USAID, National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL), the NIH, among others.

Excited by the launch of the program, University of Liberia Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research Dr. Jonathan C. Taylor says one cannot [rule

out research] when talking about development, whether in the area of health - in terms of identifying and solving problems - or whether it is in other areas of economic and social development.

"So at the University of Liberia we are very anxious and very excited when we are able to be a part and to

partner with ... friends like from UCSF and other institutions in bringing into being programs and institutions that will help enhance the development of Liberia," Dr. Taylor says.

He thanks all those who have contributed towards the program, saying UL is fully supportive of the initiative.

Dr. Taylor says he believes that framework is in place both at the Ministry of Health

EU hands over

Starts from back page

Paynesville and Monrovia cities have also been strongly engaged in the EU-funded Waste-to-Energy project and supported Cities Alliance in identifying the locations for 10 pilot biogas units at household level. "Although a lot remains to be done, I see that both cities are striving to better manage the waste and create a cleaner living environment. The EU stands firmly behind you in this endeavour."

Small enterprises in Monrovia and Paynesville have experimented with recycling, composting and other revalorisation efforts, but have failed to become economically viable and environmentally sustainable, according to Mr. Kaspers.

He encourages the cities of Liberia in conjunction with the Government of Liberia to create an enabling environment for the private sector to step in and take over waste management and to work closely with relevant government agencies to ensure that highest possible environmental standards are enforced.

"I further wish to see them make use of the EU's additional support to recycling and composting initiatives in the city of Paynesville and Monrovia through a climate change resilient solid waste management implemented by CitiesAlliance", he adds.

and at the University of Liberia to ensure that students return after their studies, an apparent effort to alleviate fears by other speakers that students might abscond studies to stay in Sans Francisco.

Deputy Health Minister Matthew Tulay assures that the Ministry of Health will be a part of the vetting process to ensure that the wrong candidates are not selected.

Also touching on concerns raised about students absconding studies, Minister Tulay notes that as part of the vision statement normally as a requirement for admission in foreign universities, students would assure that they will come back and resolve the problem in their communities.

Mr. Tulay believes that anyone who successfully completes his or her area of study will not desire to remain in a foreign land.

"So unless you can really contribute to the solution of the problem of your community, you have not fulfilled, you have not succeeded in attesting or let say affirming your research statement," he says.

In a power point presentation earlier, UL Vice President for the College of Health Sciences Dr. Bernice Dahn says over the past years, discussions have been ongoing about how clinical research can be sustained in Liberia.

According to Dr. Dahn, if you

EU hands over equipment to Monrovia, Paynesville cities



EU Head of Cooperation Theodor Kaspers speaks at the occasion

The European Union Delegation in Liberia hands over several pieces of equipment, including five mini-tipper trucks and a landfill bulldozer to the City Corporations of Monrovia and Paynesville under the Cheesemanburg Landfill Urban Sanitation project.

Making the formal presentation, the EU Head of Cooperation here Theodor Kaspers recounts that between November

2018 and now, the CLUS project has handed over eight (8) large tipper trucks, three (3) Front-End-Loaders, four (4) Toyota Hilux Pick-Ups, Six (6) Tricycles, five (5) skip trucks, and Four (4) Motorbikes toward improving solid waste collection and disposal in Greater Monrovia.

"I am confident that with this equipment and the additional support the project provides, both cities should now be able to manage the waste flows in Monrovia and

Paynesville sustainability, effectively and in a timely manner", Mr. Kaspers says and notes that the Government of Liberia will fund the running costs of the equipment to ensure the cities are clean in a tripartite cooperation.

Mr. Kaspers: "I am confident that the city governments understand the value of the equipment we hand over today. Our aim is not only to reduce the rental costs but even more importantly to make the cities own the waste management."

He discloses that the EU contributes a total of 60 million euro (approximately 67million US dollar) to the Liberia Reconstruction Trust Fund, saying, "This money has been used by the World Bank to construct roads and build the necessary infrastructure for waste management including the landfill in Whein Town and the foreseen landfill in Cheesemanburg."

According to the EU Head of Cooperation, in the past months,

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UL students to compete for UCSF scholarship

By Winston W. Parley

Dozens of health sector students at the University of Liberia (UL) are expected to compete in a rigorous vetting process for two scholarship slots at the University of California, Sans Francisco (UCSF) in the United States of America, following official launch of a UL - UCSF scholarship program this week.



Through the scholarship program launched in the auditorium of the A.D. Dogliotti Medical College in Congo Town, 6 November, UCSF in collaborating with UL and other institutions, will provide training opportunities for Liberian scholars in the health sector.

The UCSF infectious disease training program for Liberian students is aimed at helping to support sustainable high

quality research across Liberia in finding solutions to health care needs here which could also be extended to the needs of the future generation.

Two finalists are expected to be selected for the program which is due to begin at the end of July 2020.

UL is partnering with UCSF, the United States Center for Disease

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