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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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Continental News

Zimbabwe arrests 100,000 for Covid-19 'breaches'

More than 105,000 people have been arrested in Zimbabwe since March for violating regulations aimed at curbing the spread of coronavirus, police say.

Around 1,000 were arrested in the last two days for "unnecessary movement" or for not wearing face masks, they add.

Restrictions have been eased slightly in the country, where more than 1,500 infections have been confirmed.

Critics accuse the government of using the measures to target the opposition and arrest activists, which it denies.

Opposition and civil society groups are mobilising for nationwide protests on 31 July to demand that President Emmerson Mnangagwa step down. Under current regulations, all Zimbabweans returning from abroad are required to remain in quarantine for three weeks at a government-approved facility. According to police, a total of 276 people had fled quarantine centres, including some who had tested



Police say they will get stricter to enforce restrictions aimed at containing Covid-19 infection rates

positive.

Almost 30 of them had been arrested, and would be taken to court for exposing their families and communities to the virus, police added. They included two men who had infected seven members of a family, state television reported.

Police say they intend to step up efforts to enforce regulations arguing that many people have become

complacent.

Drinking dens had opened and "beer-drinking binges" were being held in backyards, police said. "We'll be arresting all these violators," spokesman Paul Nyathi was quoted by state television as saying. Zimbabwe's lockdown measures to combat the spread of coronavirus have worsened the country's economic and political crisis.

The government expects the economy to shrink by 4.5% this year while annual inflation

surged to 785% in June.

There are calls for more protests against President Mnangagwa, who appears increasingly intolerant of criticism, BBC World Service Africa regional editor Will Ross reports.

If people take to the streets there are bound to be many more arrests, our editor adds. Meanwhile, in neighbouring South Africa, police had opened cases against more than 230,000 people who were accused of defying lockdown regulations, official statistics released in May show.

South Africa has so far recorded more than 320,000 cases and 4,600 deaths since March - the highest in Africa. Last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa warned that "the storm is upon us". BBC

Sudan military takes legal action to end 'insults'

The Sudanese army says it has started legal action against activists and journalists, accusing them of insulting the military.

In a statement, it said they had crossed "the bounds of patience".

Activists and rights groups

complain that the army has blocked investigations into the killing of scores of protesters in June last year.

The Sudanese military denies this, and says those who committed offences will be punished.

Last month, tens of thousands of people took to the

streets of several cities calling for faster reform and greater civilian rule.

Following the overthrow of long-serving ruler Omar al-Bashir in April last year, Sudan is being led by an interim government made up of senior military men and civilians. BBC

Sierra Leone deadly protest over power generator



The president has been in office since 2018

Officials in Sierra Leone say at least four people were killed and 10 others wounded when police opened fire on protesters in the northern town of Makeni.

Hundreds had gathered on Saturday to try to block the relocation of a power generator to Sierra Leone's international airport, fearing it would jeopardise the area's electricity supply.

Witnesses said the protesters attacked the local party offices of President Julius Maada Bio. A night-time curfew has been imposed on the town of more than 11,000 inhabitants.

Sierra Leone's energy ministry said Makeni's power supply was secure, blaming the unrest on what it called ill-motivated youths. BBC



Protesters hung up effigies of the military


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EDITORIAL

The leakages at the Ministry of Finance

THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE may never get to know clearly how much of their taxes paid into government coffers are leaking into pockets of unscrupulous individuals or officials thru illegal withdrawals from dormant GoL accounts with commercial banks here.

BUT IF ONGOING probe by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning into circumstances leading to the alleged withdrawals of L\$6 million and US\$68,000 respectively from various official accounts with one of the commercial banks in the country, GN Bank Liberia Limited, is anything to gauge by then the depth of the bleeding of the state coffers is deeper than image.

FINANCE MINISTRY AUTHORITIES are claiming innocence, and have called in the National Security Agency (NSA) to probe the syndicate, which they say occurred from "Unapplied Accounts" with GN Bank Liberia Limited.

FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCES are revealing that two checkbooks went missing recently from the Ministry specifically which department, we hope the NSA investigation will unravel the details. But it is said that those missing checkbooks were allegedly used to forge signatures of relevant authorities in withdrawing said amounts.

THE LEAKAGES ARE happening at a time the economy is in a serious nose-dive with businesses shrinking and laying off employees, while critical sectors such as health and education are in a quagmire amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

LIBERIA'S COMPTROLLER General Janga Augustus Kowo, whose office manages government checks, says it observed suspicious transactions of late, which prompted calling in the NSA to investigate. However, we may never know how many of such transactions may have slipped his watch and trickled into unscrupulous pockets, robbing the citizenry of their taxes.

SECONDLY, THE ISSUE of a government functionary such as the NSA probing another state institution, in this case, the Ministry of Finance that makes budgetary allocations for all other ministries and agencies, including the NSA itself, leaves a very thin line for honesty and transparency.

OUR APPREHENSION IS founded on the case involving the government General Auditing Commission auditing the US\$25 million mop up of excess liquidity, which was administered by the Technical Economic Management Team headed by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah, and the Central Bank of Liberia, shrouded in lack of transparency and accountability.

A SO-CALLED "smart account" subsequently commissioned by President George Manneh Weah into the US\$25 Million following public pressure is yet to produce findings despite clear and empirical evidence that the entire exercise was marred by serious discrepancies from start to end.

WE THEREFORE, WONDER how far and transparent would the NSA probe at the Finance Ministry go in unraveling the syndicate and bringing out all perpetrators (whether small or big fish) to face the law rather than probing on the surface and covering up.

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COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-ami

A Doomed Middle-East Peace

The late PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, was right to reject the peace proposal made at Camp David 20 years ago this month. It was in rejecting the so-called Clinton Parameters, proposed six months later, that he made a grave mistake, effectively burying the prospect of Palestinian statehood.

TEL AVIV - Twenty years ago this month, US President Bill Clinton invited Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat to a peace summit at Camp David, in a bold effort to resolve one of the longest-running conflicts of modern times. Though no agreement was reached, the summit, in which I participated, was not a failure: the framework it produced became the foundation upon which Clinton built his "peace parameters" - the most equitable and realistic rendition of a two-state solution ever created. Why did nothing come of them?

Under the so-called Clinton Parameters, a large swath of Israeli settlements would be dismantled, in order to create a Palestinian state encompassing 100% of the Gaza Strip and 97% of the West Bank. Territories would be transferred from Israel, in exchange for the land the Palestinians conceded in the West Bank.

The Palestinian state would include the Arab sections of Jerusalem, which would serve as its capital, while the Jewish sections of the city would become Israel's capital. This split would give the Palestinians sovereignty over al-Haram al-Sharif (which Jews call the Temple Mount), though Israelis would retain control over the Western Wall and its surrounding area.

A corridor would be created between Palestinian lands - Clinton called it a "permanent safe passage" - making the new state contiguous. Finally, Palestinian refugees would be able to choose to return without restrictions to the new state of Palestine, to return to the state of Israel with restrictions (as part of a family-reunification scheme), to resettle in a third country, and/or to receive financial compensation, funded by the international community.

Israeli negotiators wanted to translate the Parameters into an official settlement. That would have been a deal significantly better for the Palestinians than the one on offer at the Camp David summit. In fact, the improvement in terms vindicates Arafat's decision to reject Barak's proposals at Camp David.

But the Palestinians also resisted the Parameters, arguing that they should not be allowed to constrain future negotiations. During a last-ditch attempt to clinch an agreement in Taba, Egypt, Abu Ala, the chief Palestinian negotiator, admitted to us that Arafat was no longer interested in the offer. This was a devastating mistake, the consequences of which Palestinians suffer every day.

Arafat's decision can be explained less by a particular demand or concession than by the overarching, delusional, and self-defeating

worldview to which many Palestinians cling. As the late Fouad Ajami, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, wrote in a 2001 article, the Palestinians suffer from "an innate refusal to surrender to the logic of things, a belief that a mysterious higher power will always come to their rescue, as if the laws of history did not apply to them."

In a 2002 letter, one of Arafat's former ministers, Nabil Amr, condemned this approach. "There is something other than conspiracy that has made the whole world either stand against us or incapable of helping us. Because we have a just cause does not mean we are entitled to do what we want."

Throughout history, repressed nations have achieved liberation not because they had the right - human, legal, or divine - or because they held the moral high ground. Rather, they succeeded through a combination of wisdom, mettle, and restraint. Their emancipation rested on their ability to balance force and diplomacy, tenacity and compromise.

Energized by the scale of the Palestinian tragedy and the indulgence of the international community, Arafat never accepted that. Instead, he sought a deal that he knew was politically impossible for his Israeli interlocutors. This compulsive indifference to the political and strategic context destroyed the Palestinians' chances of securing a realistic, fair, and viable peace agreement - and not only in that moment. In fact, it may have doomed the Palestinian cause altogether.

"How many times," Amr continued in his letter, "did we accept, reject, and then accept? Our timing in saying yes or no was never good. How many times were we asked to do something that we could do but we did not do it? When this something became impossible, we begged the world to re-propose it to us." Amr seemed to recognize that the world would reach its limit, and the proposals would stop coming. Two decades after the Camp David summit, that is exactly what has happened.

Today, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict barely registers on the regional, let alone global, agenda. US President Donald Trump's administration put forward its own peace plan, but it is heavily tilted toward the Israelis. The rest of the world barely responded.

As for Israel, there are virtually no forces for peace to be found among its leadership. On the contrary, Israel has abandoned any semblance of empathy or compassion for the Palestinian plight. Instead, emboldened by his rogue alliance with Trump, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is now pursuing, more aggressively than ever, his hyper-nationalistic dream of effectively annexing Palestinian lands, by unilaterally "applying sovereignty" over them.

O-PED

By Angus Deaton

America's Compromised State

The lack of a coordinated national response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States has predictably resulted in an unmitigated economic and public-health disaster. The problem is and always has been that those in a position to do something about such crises do not speak for most Americans.

PRINCETON - A malevolent, incompetent Trump administration bears much of the blame for America's failure to control COVID-19. But there is an additional, less noticed cause: the Connecticut Compromise of 1787, which handicapped American democracy at its inception, and has since undercut Congress's response to the pandemic.

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787 small and large states disagreed about the basis of representation, with the former arguing for equality of states, and the latter for equality of people. The compromise was to establish a bicameral legislature, with one chamber for the people and one for the states. In the House of Representatives, people are represented in proportion to their numbers; in the Senate, each state has two senators, regardless of its population.

As a result, the four largest states today - California, Texas, Florida, and New York - hold only eight of 100 seats in the Senate, even though they account for one-third of the US population. Eight votes also go to the four smallest states - Wyoming, Alaska, Vermont, and North Dakota - which together contain 1% of the population.

Now consider income inequality, which is often measured by the Gini coefficient, with zero signifying perfect equality, and one indicating perfect inequality (a single person receives all income). The US Gini coefficient is 0.42 - the highest among rich countries. Yet if one were to apply the same metric of inequality to representation in the Senate, it would be an even larger 0.50. Voters in Wyoming have ten times as much voting power as voters in Texas do. And because legislation must pass both chambers, coalitions of small states can easily block measures that are in the interest of the vast majority of the population. The Senate frequently does precisely this.

The geographical distribution of COVID-19 cases and deaths is even less equal than the distribution of voting power in the Senate. As of July 8, 45% of the 125,000 recorded COVID-19 deaths were in just four states - New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Illinois - and 70% were in ten states. There have been deaths in all states; but the combined death toll for Alaska, Hawaii, Wyoming, and Montana is only around 80. The 25 least affected states have lost a total of 8,000 people - 6.4% of the national total.

When US President Donald Trump proclaimed a national emergency on March 13, the country went into lockdown more or less uniformly. The emergency was national, and Congress responded by passing four separate measures on a non-partisan basis. But over time, the state-by-state lockdowns gradually eased - both officially and unofficially - with much less uniformity than the original freeze. In places with low rates of infections and few deaths, people started moving around more freely compared to residents of states like New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, where people were dying or had died in large numbers. The Senate's appetite for more emergency spending rapidly dwindled.

On May 15, the Democratic-controlled House passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act on a mostly party-line vote. But the legislation has since made no progress in the Senate. The Republican majority in that chamber is a direct consequence of the Compromise of 1787, which awards a wildly disproportionate share of seats to rural, less-populated states that lean Republican.

Hence, the stage has long been set for a tragedy. Soon enough, the virus began to spread in the south and southwest, where low death rates had encouraged widespread nonchalance. Once policymakers realized that infections and deaths were spiraling upward, they tried to reverse the reopening process. But it appears they were too late, and now infections are once again threatening eastern states by way of travelers from southern and western states.

Lacking a national plan, let alone a constitution that would allow for central control, each state follows its own instincts and perceived interests, usually myopically. With free travel between states, the virus now will bounce back and forth across the country until a vaccine becomes available or herd immunity has been attained (assuming that lasting immunity is even possible).

As the deaths continue to rise in states that previously had fewer cases, the Senate will likely take up some version of the HEROES Act. This relief will be urgently needed, considering that unemployment benefits will run out at the end of this month, and the most affected states will soon run out of money. But it would have been needed less if the Senate had shown leadership earlier on. A coordinated national strategy for the lockdown might have resulted in a slower return to work, but it would have been more sustainable than the chaos now underway.¹

In any case, the contagion is shifting from "blue" (Democratic) to "red" (Republican) states. As of July 8, the ratio of deaths in the 26 states with Republican governors (compared to the 24 states with Democratic governors) had risen to 29%, from 22% in late March. Republican governors arguably have been more influenced than their Democratic counterparts by the pernicious disinformation issuing from the White House and its media allies. Demonstrating open contempt for scientific advice, a recent Wall Street Journal editorial mocked Harvard University as "one of the last institutions in America that haven't learned to be wary of making radical changes based on models from public health experts."¹

That said, I suspect matters would not have been very different if Democrats had replaced Republican state legislators and governors. The problem is the lack of a central, enforceable national strategy in a country with a federal system that is ultimately controlled by local authorities responding to their own needs and perceived risks. It was always going to be difficult to ask people to sacrifice for faraway others, in order to mitigate a risk they do not see in their own communities.¹

The power of the states was a problem in Philadelphia in 1787, and it remains a problem today. Inequality is often cited as the cause of many social ills. As if America's economic inequality weren't bad enough, its institutionalized representational inequality has now severely undermined the effectiveness of its democracy.

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OPINION

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

Keep Borders Open

One of the best ways for advanced economies to help poorer countries is to discourage restrictions on trade and immigration and encourage capital flows to countries that need them the most. And they have good reason to do so, as such policies would benefit rich countries as well.

NEW HAVEN - Until recently, we were regularly confronted with images of drowned migrants floating in the waters separating poorer countries from richer ones, from the Rio Grande to the Mediterranean. And although COVID-19 now dominates the news, the pandemic's economic fallout is likely to exacerbate the global inequalities that drive migration.

Many developing countries have so far weathered the pandemic relatively well in public-health terms, but they cannot avoid its economic spillovers. More than ever, poorer countries need the support and cooperation of advanced economies. But the developed world, overwhelmed by its own problems, is turning inward.

Examples of the new policy environment abound. In the United States, the current administration recently suspended new H-1B visas for skilled foreign workers until the end of 2020, and, until forced to backtrack, was threatening to deport international students who do not attend in-person classes this autumn. Meanwhile, European Union policymakers boasted that the bloc's ambitious COVID-19 stimulus package would be financed in line with a progressive European economic vision. But it includes carbon border taxes that will be anything but progressive, falling disproportionately on developing countries with lower environmental standards.

It is hard to imagine a more self-righteous justification of protectionism. Perhaps its only parallel is the US administration's assertion that prioritizing "the dignity of work" lay behind the requirement in the new US-Mexico-Canada Agreement that 40% of the value of an imported car be produced by workers who earn at least \$16 per hour.

This is not to give climate-change mitigation or worker protections short shrift. But protectionist measures like these will have no material impact on these important issues, and will hurt developing countries in their current hour of need.

One of the best ways for advanced economies to help poorer countries is to keep their borders open. In the short term, public-health risks may necessitate draconian measures to prevent the coronavirus from entering a country from abroad. But in the long run, developed countries should discourage restrictions on trade and immigration and encourage capital flows to economies that need them the most.¹

But why should rich countries help? Moral arguments aside, why should they not put their own interests first, especially given the domestic challenges they currently face?

At first glance, textbook economics seems to provide the answer: the point of trade is not to help your trading partner, but to help yourself. When countries specialize in what they do best, they produce more efficiently, resulting in increased output, more variety, better quality, and lower prices. All countries gain. Trade is not a zero-sum game. And a similar logic applies to immigration.

Appealing as this argument may be, it has lost its power in recent years. Decades of hyper-globalization have made advanced economies highly efficient, but this openness has also caused disruption. Some now argue that the incremental efficiency gains that advanced economies may achieve by further integrating with developing countries are not worth the associated disruption - especially given policymakers' past failures to address adverse effects satisfactorily.

In developing countries, by contrast, growth and efficiency remain important requisites for poverty reduction and development. A recent paper that I co-authored shows that nothing contributes to sustainable poverty reduction more than trade, especially when it is conducted with richer countries.¹

There are several other reasons why advanced economies have an interest in helping developing countries. For starters, current demographic and wealth imbalances between rich and poor regions seem unsustainable in the long run. The median age in Africa is 18; in Europe, it is 42, and 35 in North America. Africa's population is growing by 2.5% per year, meaning that it will double by 2050; annual population growth in Europe and North America is 0.06% and 0.6%, respectively. And average nominal GDP per capita in Africa in 2019 was about \$1,900, compared to \$29,000 in Europe and \$49,000 in North America.

Vast inequality is nothing new. But in today's increasingly interconnected world, the global poor have access to information as never before. No matter how high the rich world builds its walls, and how many migrant drownings it is willing to tolerate, desperate people will keep searching for a better life. Helping poorer countries to lift themselves out of poverty is the obvious way to ease this pressure.

Second, as Montesquieu and Adam Smith pointed out in the eighteenth century, trade and peace reinforce each other. In the twentieth century, the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community, and subsequently the EU, underpinned democracy and peace in Europe as much as it did economic prosperity. Promoting trade with developing countries may not make advanced economies much more efficient. But it will help to preserve peace and stability - arguably their most precious achievement over the past 70 years.

Third, advanced economies benefit from openness in other ways besides incremental efficiency gains. For example, Germany's largely export-based economic model depends on purchasing power in the rest of the world. With Africa projected to account for more than one-quarter of the world's population by 2050, increasing its citizens' purchasing power is good not only for the continent, but also for Germany and other Western economies.¹

Similarly, it is not clear whether America's dynamism and innovation would have been possible without immigration. About one-quarter of all US technology and engineering startups established between 2006 and 2012 had at least one immigrant co-founder, while immigrants to the US are almost twice as likely to become entrepreneurs as native-born citizens. Many other countries exhibit a similar pattern.

Finally, many people in advanced economies would like to see a fairer, more equal world in which a person's fate is not determined by where they were born - just as it should not be determined by their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Those trying to build a better world should therefore make it a priority to support the global poor, and not just the disadvantaged within their own country. And there is no more effective way to help them than by keeping borders open.

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LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

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The 54th Liberian Senate Is a National Embarrassment to Liberia's Hard-Earned Political Pride

Clr. NdbusuNwabudike's counterfeit Liberian citizenship was not a political dilemma for him, it was rather a truthful predicament itself that lies squarely at the political domains of a traitorous and two-faced 54th Liberian Senate that bows in perpetual shame and contrition. It is believed that the sacred animating principle of any nation lies squarely in the hands of its elected representatives, and the 54th Liberian Senate is no exception. The strong 30-Liberian Senators demonstrated a sign of a much deeper betrayal of public trust coupled with a potential double standard in their patriotic functions and duties when they validated the human presence of Clr. NdbusuNwabudike at the Capitol building.

The Senators when astray, confused and misguided in their patriotic functions or they had heedlessly taken permanent domicile in the pockets of Clr. NdbusuNwabudike's. It appears though the Senators are no longer interested in their sacred affidavit neither were they representing the very poor Liberians who voted them to the power that earned them an unthinkable nine-year term in public service. The Senators' patriotism to Mama Liberia and the very poor Liberians who made the sacrifice to make them who they are today in power, is gradually beginning to disappear because of the type of decisions the Senators make in the 54th House of Senate.

The Senators' political transactions in recent past surrounding Clr. NdbusuNwabudike's fiasco was not in total collaboration with their patriotic duties/responsibilities, policy orientation as law-mindedness state actors, and above all, the Senators' lack of considerable patriotism and truthfulness to Mama Liberia from the moment they employed Clr. NdbusuNwabudike, a notoriously known Nigerian national who turned to be a fake naturalized Liberian citizen overnight, was overwhelmingly employed by the 54th Liberian Senate first, as Chairman of Good Governance Commission, and second, as head of Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, LACC. He was accidentally considered by the 54th Senate for a hearing as NEC chairman which wasn't only devastatingly appalling, but a gross disgrace to the hard-earned political reputation of the 30-strong unpredictable Liberian Senators who will go down in history as a wretched ship.

Clr. Nwabudike is still lining his deep pockets with Liberian taxpayers money as Chairman of LACC while the 30-Senators are rather sleeping in their SUV trucks, relaxing in their well air-conditioned offices, eating American sauces along with American burgers/hot-dogs and simultaneously zipping red French wine in their untouchable bungalows while this hardened sociopolitical double-minded international complex personality continues to invade the sacred soul of our nation by collecting hard taxpayer money to feed himself, his wife, children and loved ones as legitimate and regular senior government employee of Liberia? The 30-Senators are nothing but an object of total embarrassment to Liberia's inherent patriotic commitment to service.

Political Hot-Fire believes that the so-called 30-Senators should be ashamed of themselves for willfully mortgaging the sovereignty of Mama Liberia in the hands of Clr.

NdbusuNwabudike. Probably there are thousands and thousands of Nwabudikes' out there who are direct beneficiaries of Liberian Taxpayer payroll through the work of an unfaithful Liberian Senators who can no longer be trusted as true representatives of the people of Liberia. In a country where foreigners are not only jamming the employment corridors of Mama Liberia with full supports of the Liberian Senate by and through questionable confirmation hearings. This is a clear indication that these types of politicians are weak-minded, potentially poor in their department, and lacks the necessary political Charisma to lead as a 54th law-making body, because of Clr. NdbusuNwabudike is still collecting taxpayer's checks as chair of LACC in Liberia?

No single Liberian who may have attained naturalization by coincident in neighboring African countries like Guinea, Sierra Leon, Ivory Coast can ever be opportune to be employed Head of those countries' Anti-Corruption Commissions, let alone to serve as heads of their Good Governance Commissions or to even be considered to serve as Chairpersons of their Election commissions. This will not even happen in faraway Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Togo, Benin, or any part of Africa, only Liberia is considered a political dump-site due to the feeble characteristics of Liberia's lawmakers who lack true patriotism and hard-earned acceptable reputation.

Political Hot-Fire has been told reliably that the 30 members of the 54th Liberian Senate two each from the 15 counties are normally selected based on the plurality of votes. The Senate is the upper house of the bicameral legislative branch of Liberia, and together with the House of Representatives comprise the Legislature of Liberia. Each of the fifteen counties is equally represented by two senators, elected to serve an unbelievable staggered nine-year term-Really?

These men and women are in the Senate were once among the multitude of countless and traumatized group of individuals who by an iota of change did manage to survive the bloody 16-years Liberian Civil carnage, but used multiple political tactics, strategies including lies and other man-made tricks to win the minds and souls of highly impoverished Liberians who later voted them into office for the sole purpose of sustaining their hold on perpetual power as another source of a quick employment opportunity with a grim hope of overcoming systemic poverty in Liberia by dancing with other counterfeit Liberians.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Change for a better Liberia

By Togba- Nah Tipoteh

Founding Leader, Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA)
Chairperson, Servants of Africa Fighting Epidemics (SAFE)

In the midst of a greed-driven corrupt State management environment, as declared by the immediate past and present State regimes, the masses of the people of Liberia continue to suffer from mass poverty while praying for the greed to end and change to come that can Make Liberia Better for All. The environment is filled with comments on what is wrong in State management but is empty on records of what an entity has done and is doing to Make Lives Better for All.

In the middle of this worsening poverty situation where two-thirds of the children in Liberia who should be in school are not in school and the children who go to school are learning about solving western problems rather than Liberian problems. Nearly 90 per cent of the people of Liberia remain poor, that is they live on less than four hundred Liberian dollars a day. Most of the people looking for money work can not find such work and the unemployment rate is now above 80 per cent, especially when Liberia continues to be faced with public health diseases such as lassa fever, ebola and the corona virus under an inappropriate and inadequate health delivery system characterized by the irrelevant curative health approach to health care. When there is no movement in the direction of ending greed, eliminating corruption and alleviating poverty, then people who love Liberia must not expect the persons who set fire to the House called Liberia to bring water to put out the fire. The fire will be put out by the people who did not set fire to the House.

This is exactly what happened during the ebola outbreak. The ebola outbreak ended when communities in Liberia took ownership of the anti-ebola process. How did the communities take ownership of the anti-ebola process? The communities took ownership of the anti-ebola process when honest Liberians carried the anti-ebola message to the communities in ways that the people understood the messages and became convinced that ebola was life-threatening, killing people and had to be stopped immediately.

The Community Ownership Approach can be seen in the work of a Liberian organization called Human Rights Group Saving Humanity (HRGSH), based in Tahn, Porkpa Statutory District, Grand Cape Mount County. For over ten years, HRGSH has been actively involved in helping the poor, especially children, youth, elderly and the physically challenged, to help themselves in the drive for better living standards. HRGSH is headed by Mr. GbanjahSeh of Grand Cape County.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia is the most important public entity in Liberia because it supervises the "election" of local and national decision-makers and actors. Whenever NEC is bad, bad persons get "elected" and bad State governance prevails, as seen in the situation in Liberia where the few rich get richer and the poor masses get poorer. This worsening situation becomes the pretext for violence, including civil war, led by few persons who take over State power with nothing better to show. Therefore, it is most important for the Rule of Law to prevail in order for good persons to get elected and violence to be prevented. The record shows that NEC continues to operate under the Rule of Outlaw rather than under the Rule of Law. Witness what happened when the NEC Chairman was taken to the Supreme Court because he is a citizen of the United States of America and this in violation of the Constitution of Liberia, which calls for a single citizenship. Liberian citizenship. The Supreme Court gave up, stating that it was not prepared to give a ruling on the case. Up to now, no ruling in the case has been made but "elections" are going on. During the immediate past General and Presidential Election, the NEC Chairman declared publicly that the voter registration roll was not needed, as only the voter registration card would suffice. The NEC Commissioner Jonathan Weedor publicly issued a two page statement disagreeing with the Chairman, indicating that his decision was not only illegal but was done unilaterally, by the Chairman and not by NEC. The NEC Chairman has been replaced by someone who never disagreed with him. Commissioner Weedor is no longer in NEC. Then, there is the situation where the damaged/flawed voting machines donated to NEC by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) were used in the 2017 election.

Despite all of these problems in NEC, it is important to not give up trying to do the right thing and that is to raise awareness about the indispensability of operating under the Rule of Law. So, it is most important for community-based organizations like HRGSH to keep operating to Save Liberia. From the UNDP and a few international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), HRGSH received funding in the amount of USD21,500 (twenty one thousand five hundred United States dollars) for work done in Voter Education and Election Monitoring. However, the average market value of the volunteer work done by HRGSH Personnel and Consultants amount to USD200,000 (two hundred thousand United States dollars), Only ten per cent of the financing of this work by HRGSH came from external sources. HRGSH continues to work mainly on the basis of utilizing its own human resources, bearing in mind that the principal resource for getting any good work done is human resource rather than financial resource. Other activities of HRGSH include the construction and management of a Community Radio Station, the construction and management of a Community Elementary School, and the construction and management of a Community Youth Vocational Training Center. Donor funding of the School and Center amount to USD20,000 (twenty thousand United States dollars) and USD118,260 (one hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred and sixty United States dollars), respectively. The average market value of the volunteer work of HRGSH Personnel and Consultants amount to nearly USD1,000,000 (one million United States dollars). Some greedy public officials have been harassing HRGSH to get access to the funds received, but HRGSH remains principled, unwilling to engage in corrupt practices. Through the mass media, these officials will be exposed and prevented from their unpatriotic activities.

The most important point being made here is that the way to solve the mass poverty problem in Liberia is to have a good or fair election system that supervises the election of local and national decision-makers and actors. The persons elected would be good because the people elected them on the basis of their publicly declared good record rather than on the basis of money and pressure from corrupt persons. As we approach the 173rd Anniversary of the Founding of Liberia on July 26, let the communities work together to set up a constitutionally correct NEC so that persons with publicly known good records of service to the people can be elected to get policies and practices into motion for eliminating mass poverty through the Rule of Law.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NaFAA employees undergo int'l training

More than 40 employees in different fields at the National Fisheries and Aquaculture NaFAA will this Monday July 20, 2020 begin an intensive international capacity building training in Monrovia. The participants will be certificated following the month international training program.

According to a press release issued in Monrovia, this followed a recent agreement entered into by Authorities of NaFAA in June

not limited to leadership and Managerial Skills, to involve 20-25 participants with the aimed of enabling participants adjust to the Manager's role with confidence, develop employee's skills in listening, asking questions, resolving conflict, giving and identifying key attitudes that they can develop to enhance their Managerial skills.

The pending training will enable employees use time management and planning techniques to maximize their success, develop a technique

statements, and introduction to interactive team working.

According to a NaFAA press release, JPCann Associates Limited will also provide training in creating and documenting a strategy map, aligning and cascading performance management framework, using scenarios in prioritizing and setting strategy and contingency.

The NaFAA release added that the employees will at the same time develop a strategic impact grip at which time they would be integrating BSC, budgets, programmed, risk management, business report and proposal writing with 15-20 Participants.

The NaFAA press release stated that its employees will also be trained in safety at workplace and the training will help teach participants how to understand the difference between a safety program and a safety culture using resources to help them understand the regulations in their area.

It will launch a safety committee, identify hazards and reduce them, apply hiring measures that can improve safety, explain what a safety training program will involve, identify groups particularly at risk for injury and know how to protect them, help their entity write, implement, and review a safety plan, respond to incidents and near misses and understand the basics of accident investigation and documentation.

Meanwhile, JPCann Associates Limited six different training programs will bring together more than 40 employees from the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority NaFAA and will last for one month.



2020 with a Ghanaian firm JPCann Associates Limited to provide six diverse training/consultancy services for its employees in Monrovia.

The international capacity training is sponsored under the European Union Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement. Due to COVID, the training will be conducted on a blended virtual platform by JPCann Associates from Ghana.

The scope of the training programs shall include and

for giving instructions that are clear and understood, understand the importance of developing and good relationships with employees and peers and learn ways to prioritize, plan, and manage their time.

NaFAA employees will also be drilled into public sector performance management, sing balanced scorecard. This training session will also target 20-25 participants who will be trained in maximizing business benefits, create and document vision

BFF petitions Lofa legislative caucus

Better Future Foundation (BFF), in collaboration with the Ziggida Development Association (ZDA) presented official written request to the Lofa County Legislative caucus for Legislative budgetary appropriation to aid the completion of the ZIGGIDA Health center in Zorzor District, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia.

The petition which done on the weekend, at the Capitol Building in Monrovia, recently request was received by Senator Stephen J. H. Zargo, Chairman of the

Lofa County Legislative Caucus. Senator Zargo commended the Citizens of Ziiggida Town, and the 3 Town Chiefs from the Republic of Guinea that participated in the November 29, 2019 groundbreaking, and cash donation made towards the health center construction in Ziggida Town in Liberia.

Senator Zargo assured BFF and the people of Ziggida that their resilience and determination for access to basic health care services will be conveyed to Members of the Lofa County Legislative Caucus, and the Government of

Liberia for appropriate support for the completion of the Health Center project, which elevation is currently at window level.

The BFF delegation included, Mr. Moses Ballah, President of the Ziggida Development Association, accompanied by five senior executive members of ZDA; who all expressed gratitude to BFF, on behalf of the citizens of Ziggida Town for the meaningful intervention and advocacy for the underprivileged.

Accountability Lab awards 2 Liberian artists

By Lewis S. Teh

Accountability Lab has awarded two Liberian artists for winning its Rap2Rep musical campaign.

Ms. Hellen Smith emerged as winner of the campaign, receiving a grand prize of US\$ 300, while Andrew Horton came second, taking away US\$ 200 at the award ceremony held on July 17, 2020, on Carey Street, Monrovia.

Ms. Janet M. Kamara said Rap2Rep is a campaign that is held under the auspices of Accountability Lab since 2015, basically using music as a tool for social change.

For the past four years the campaign has built an accountability hipco network that includes musicians of social and conscious music, who are passionate about using their performance to advocate for changes they

Liberians both established and emerging artists.

He praised the artists for their efforts, saying, "You have done a powerful work; this prevention and awareness music is just another remarkable result we can get when the United States and the Liberian people work together to pursue common goals. Raising awareness is a key mitigation strategy in any public health, and using the approach to entertain and sensitize the public to the risk, and danger of this virus while conveying conscious messages, changes behavior that can limit the spread of the virus."

According to Mr. Tanookpuwah, the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy is gratified to support Accountability Lab and the talent of the artists



want to see, noting that those artists are now some of the powerful voices addressing issues of corruption, civil engagement, voting rights, and youth empowerment, among others.

She said this year's campaign is heavily supported by the United States Embassy near Monrovia with focus on establishing a way to access information and advice to the community as well as how citizens can turn the curve against COVID-19 in Liberia. She said the impact of the coronavirus has been felt at many levels.

Speaking on behalf of the United States Embassy, Mr. Robert Tanookpuwah, Education and Cultural Affairs Assistant at the Public Affairs Section noted that it is a great thing to celebrate talented

through USAID and CDC Public health projects, which underscores the Mission commitment to working with Liberians in preventing spread of the virus.

Accountability lab is an institution that works with innovative people and organizations in Liberia to develop tools and encourage communities around them to make power-holders more responsible.

For his part, the Country Director for Accountability Lab Lawrence Yealue extolled the artists for a job well done. He said putting a group of talented Liberians together on a project is a tremendous work, and that getting young people to transform the country is not something so easy.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

HSI, partners celebrate Chimpanzee Day

The global animal protection charity Humane Society International (HSI) and partners in Liberia have celebrated World Chimpanzee Day in Monrovia, to honor chimpanzees and raise awareness about protecting these endangered animals worldwide.

In collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority and other local partners, HSI joined a mobile awareness and outreach campaign on July 14th, participating in an educational segment hosted on Truth FM 96.1 in Paynesville.

The goals of World

biomedical research.

HSI originally stepped in to take over direct care of the chimpanzees after learning they had been abandoned on the Marshall Islands without food or fresh water.

Since then, the organization has also partnered with numerous stakeholders in Liberia, including the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Forestry Development Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, and others to promote care, welfare, and conservation of wild and companion animals in Liberia.

World Chimpanzee Day on July 14th marks the 60th anniversary of the day world-renowned primatologist and UN

bushmeat, and the selling of infant chimpanzees as pets are all major threats to chimpanzees, seriously endangered throughout their home ranges in Africa. Not only do these activities compromise the welfare of the animals and exacerbate the decline in their numbers in the wild, it also poses serious health risks to humans.

Close, extended contact with wild animals, especially in wildlife markets, greatly increases the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans. There is a strong consensus that COVID-19 originated from a wildlife market in China - a stark reminder that the next pandemic is always a looming risk where there is trade in wildlife.

The Humane Society International team in Liberia works with 15 schools, 20 communities, and three police stations, where officers receive training on wildlife protection laws in Liberia.

The team also conducts outreach to six local markets and four local restaurants where bushmeat is prepared and sold. Furthermore, the team has a formal agreement in place with the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia to combat the illegal trades in bushmeat and living wildlife in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, and Nimba counties, respectively, all considered hotspots for these trades, particularly for the illegal consumption and trafficking of chimpanzees.

Liberia holds great potential for the preservation of chimpanzees in West Africa due to its large intact forests; however, increased hunting and live trafficking pose significant threats to their long-term survival.

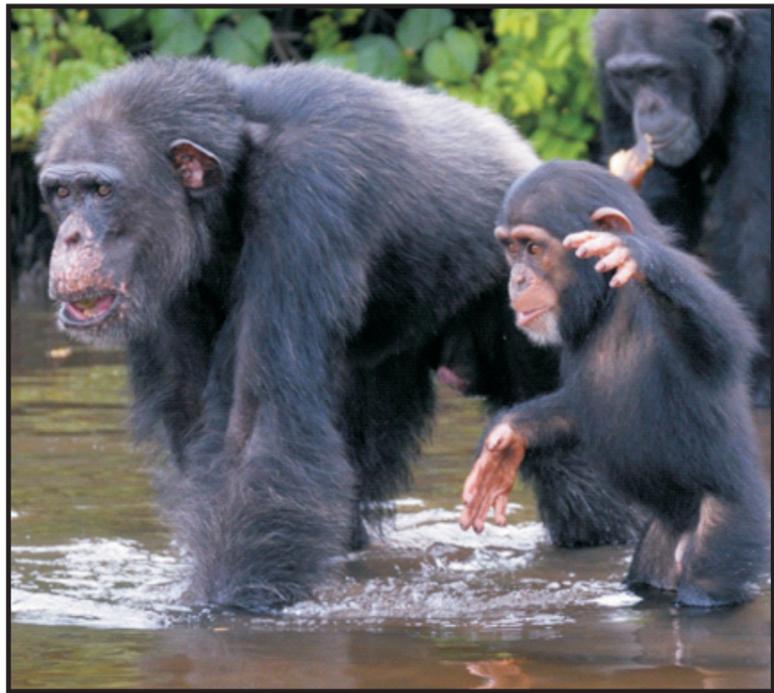
Humane Society International is proud to work with partners in Liberia to educate the public on the threats that wild chimpanzee's face and the importance of protecting and preserving this unique and treasured species.

Ambassador of Peace, Dr. Jane Goodall, first arrived in Gombe National Park, Tanzania to begin her groundbreaking research into wild chimpanzee behavior.

Dr. Goodall's work transformed the way the world understands chimpanzees and other animals, and she remains an influential advocate for chimpanzee conservation throughout Africa.

With the entire world reeling from the threat of COVID-19, World Chimpanzee Day provided Liberian advocates an opportunity to highlight the point that inappropriate interactions with animals are the root causes of pandemics.

Poaching, consumption of



Chimpanzee Day are to celebrate the closest living relatives in the animal kingdom, to raise awareness about the conservation threats they face in the wild, and to promote their proper care in captivity.

This year's messaging focused on wildlife laws in Liberia, and the link between COVID-19 and bushmeat.

HSI has worked to protect chimpanzees in Liberia since 2015 through its sanctuary project, Second Chance Chimpanzee Refuge Liberia. Caregivers at the sanctuary, all of them Liberians, provide care 365 days a year to more than 60 chimpanzees formerly used in invasive

You eat my eyes

Starts from back page

your own eyes water I can use," Professor Tokpa expressed.

He explained that since last Saturday, the government has been allegedly interfering with his phone calls and internet services, noting that his family continues to endure mental abuse and mental torture.

The long-time lecturer of Political Science and governance at the University of Liberia and University of Lagon in Ghana, said his sacrifice over the years for political transformation that has brought the Weah administration and ordinary Liberians to a place and enjoyment is being paid back with hate and embarrassment to him and his family.

According to him, since he

National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) for tempering with his COVID-19 test result for political reason.

He narrated that on Monday, July 6, he went to the testing center where his specimens were taken and was told to return on Wednesday for his result.

Professor Tokpa continued that when he went at the center on Wednesday, July 8, for his result, it was delayed on grounds that his specimens were taken to another testing center, so his result could not be found.

He said after the delay, on Friday, July 10, he received is test result, accompanied by an official certificate, proving that he was negative.



was prevented by health authorities from leaving the country to go the United States of America because of testing positive of the corona virus, health authorities here have not visited his home or pick him up for treatment center.

But the director-general of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Doctor Mosoka Fallah denied the allegation and referred The New Dawn to the Montserrado County Health Officer who couldn't be reached till press time.

Recently, Professor Alaric Tokpa, who also chairs the opposition National Democratic Coalition (NDC) accused the Coalition-led government through the

"I sent copy to my wife in the States as a proof that I was on my way to them for visit. I posted it on my social media page and informed all my friends around that my test was negative but while I was driving home, I received text from one of the health authorities, telling me that I was given different result and my official result came out positive," Professor Tokpa angrily explained.

Since July 10th his health status has been in a limbo, with the authorities not calling him back for observation and medical attention. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Cont'd from page 6

Accountability Lab

He said the competition targeted two persons who became first and second place winners, noting that the music industry in Liberia is growing, and "if you are a Liberian buying pirated work, you are committing bad action against local artist."

Meanwhile, speaking to

reporters following the ceremony, first place winner, Ms Hellen Smith expressed satisfaction, and thanked Accountability Lab for hosting the program something, she noted will promote competition among artists.

"I'm excited to be crowned winner of the Rap2Rep

campaign; I never thought of coming even close to winning especially, where there were big artists in the competition, but its God's doing and I'm grateful", Hellen expressed.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Encore un autre scandale financier, 500 000 \$ US disparaissent des caisses du Sénat

Plus de 500 000 dollars américains auraient disparu des caisses du Sénat. L'argent, qui fait partie du budget alloué à la chambre haute pour l'exercice fiscal 2019/2020, était réservé aux salaires des membres du personnel du Sénat libérien.

Les membres du personnel du Sénat libérien et de la Chambre des représentants ont manifesté mardi dernier leur colère pour n'avoir pas reçu depuis un an la composante en dollars libériens de leurs salaires.

Le porte-parole des employés du Sénat, Charles

Brown, a qualifié d'illégal le fait de réduire unilatéralement les salaires légitime du personnel, arguant qu'au contraire leur revenu mensuel devrait être soit amélioré ou maintenu comme tel.

Au cours d'un entretien avec ce quotidien à l'issue d'une réunion tendue, M. Brown a accusé la direction du Sénat d'avoir aucune intention de répondre aux préoccupations des travailleurs du sénat concernant leurs salaires. Selon lui, environ 600 travailleurs n'ont pas reçu leurs salaires depuis plusieurs mois. « Si vous ne pouvez pas améliorer la vie de vos employés, quelle vie allez-vous améliorer? », a-t-il dit.

Les membres du Sénat libérien ont vivement débattu mercredi dans la salle des conférences au cours de leur session ordinaire au sujet de la protestation des employés du



Prof. Wilson Tarpeh

Jamima Wolokoll

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

« La CBL n'a pas été autorisée à imprimer 10 milliards LD » (témoin à charge)

M. Emmanuel Nuquaye, ancien président de la Chambre des représentants et actuel directeur général de l'Autorité de l'Aviation du Libéria (LAA), a témoigné dans le cadre du procès relatif à la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens, déclarant que la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) n'a reçu aucune autorisation de la part du parlement pour imprimer 10 milliards de dollars LD supplémentaires.

« Comme nous l'avons clairement établi et que nous pouvons le voir par la lettre écrite à la CBL, aucune autorisation n'a été donnée sous la forme d'une lettre pour même créer un motif d'argumentation quant au mode d'autorisation que ce soit par lettre ou par résolution », a-t-il déclaré.

Plusieurs responsables de la CBL, y compris le Conseil des gouverneurs de la banque, sont accusés d'avoir imprimé 13 milliards de dollars libériens sans autorisation, et déclaré n'avoir imprimé que 10 milliards.

Tous les accusés, y compris l'ancien gouverneur exécutif

de la CBL Milton A. Weeks, David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio et Kollie Tamba, ont plaidé non coupables des accusations de vol de biens, sabotage économique, fraude, utilisation abusive des fonds publics, des biens ou des archives, vol ou décaissement illégal d'argent public, complot criminel et facilitation criminelle.

M. Nuquaye, qui a été président de la Chambre des représentants d'octobre 2016 à

janvier 2018, a laissé entendre que la Chambre des représentants n'a signé aucune résolution commune concernant l'impression de 10 milliards de dollars libériens, ajoutant qu'une telle résolution n'existe pas.

« Je n'ai aucune connaissance de l'impression de 10 milliards de dollars libériens », a dit l'ancien

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mr. Emmanuel Nuquaye

Éditorial

Enième scandale financier : Que donnera l'enquête en cours ? Rien

Il se peut que les contribuables libériens ne sachent à jamais le montant réel qui a fini par atterrir dans les poches des individus sans scrupules après les nouvelles des retraits illégaux et frauduleux d'une énorme somme d'argent des comptes du gouvernement auprès des banques commerciales.

Une enquête a été lancée au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement pour faire la lumière sur les circonstances qui entourent le retrait présumé de 6 millions de dollars libériens et 68 000 \$ US de divers comptes officiels auprès de l'une des banques commerciales du pays, GN Bank Liberia Limited. Ces derniers événements montrent combien le saignement des caisses de l'État est plus profond que ce que nous voyant en surface.

Les autorités du ministère des Finances qui clament leur innocence ont invité la National Security Agency (NSA) à enquêter sur « une organisation mafieuse qui, selon eux, auraient procédé à une série de retraits des "Comptes non appliqués" de l'État auprès GN Bank Liberia Limited.

À en croire certaines sources au ministère des Finances, le ministère s'est aperçu récemment de la disparition de deux chèquiers. Les malfrats se seraient servis de ces chèquiers en falsifiant les signatures des autorités compétentes pour procéder aux retraits.

Ce crime économique est commis précisément au moment où l'économie libérienne est en chute libre, où l'on assiste à un concert de licenciements massifs des employés, et où les secteurs critiques tels que la santé et l'éducation sont devenus impuissants face à la pandémie mondiale du COVID-19.

Le contrôleur général du Libéria, Janga Augustus Kowo, dont le bureau gère les chèques du gouvernement, a déclaré avoir observé récemment des transactions suspectes et invité la NSA à intervenir. Cependant, nous ne saurons peut-être jamais combien de ces transactions ont pu avoir lieu sous son regard ni le montant réel de l'impôt des contribuables a fini dans les poches des fonctionnaires sans scrupules, au grand dam du peuple.

Deuxièmement, le fait qu'une organisation gouvernementale comme la NSA mène une enquête dans une affaire qui implique une autre institution gouvernementale, le ministère des Finances, qui alloue des lignes budgétaires à tous les autres ministères et organismes, nous amène à entretenir peu d'espoir quant à la transparence dans cette affaire.

Nous avons encore en mémoire l'affaire de la gestion calamiteuse des 25 millions de dollars décaissés pour, dit-on, éponger l'excès de liquidités en circulation et la disparition mystérieuse de plusieurs milliards de dollars de la banque centrale. On ignore toujours le contenu du rapport d'enquête de la commission d'audit dans cet énième scandale économique qui impliquait l'équipe technique de gestion économique dirigée par le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel D. Tweah.

Le soi-disant « compte intelligent », commandé par la suite par le président George Manneh Weah à cause de la pression du public, n'a rien donné en dépit des preuves claires et empiriques qui démontrent que l'ensemble de l'exercice a été entaché de graves irrégularités du début à la fin.

Nous nous posons donc la question de savoir dans quelle mesure l'enquête de la NSA arrivera à exposer et démanteler la soi-disant organisation mafieuse qui règne en maître absolu au ministère des Finances et de la planification du développement et continue de dépouiller l'État du peu d'argent dont il dispose.

Français

Encore un autre scandale financier, 500 000 \$ US

parlement, demandant au Comité des voies, des moyens et des finances de rendre compte de plus de 500 000 dollars alloués aux salaires des membres du personnel.

Le sénateur du comté de Maryland, James Gble-bo Brown, a fait savoir que quand le comité sénatorial s'est rendu compte que le gouvernement avait supprimé la composante en dollars libériens des salaires des membres du personnel du parlement dans le cadre du programme d'harmonisation des salaires, la direction a puisé dans le budget interne plus de 500 000 \$ US pour alléger le fardeau économique des travailleurs.

Il s'est dit choqué par le fait que le montant n'ait pas été reflété dans le salaire net du personnel depuis juillet de l'année dernière.

Pourtant le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, qui a soumis un projet de budget national de

535 millions de dollars pour l'exercice fiscal 2020/2021 à la Chambre des représentants le mercredi 15 juillet, a précisé que son ministère n'a pas diminué les salaires, les indemnités et les autres avantages des membres du personnel du Capitole parce que l'Assemblée législative est un terrain politique, et que cela aurait créé plus des tensions politiques et une fracture entre le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement et la direction du parlement libérien.

Le ministre Tweah a déclaré à la plénière qu'à part le pouvoir législatif, tous les autres départements ont été affectés par la politique d'harmonisation salariale.

Pendant ce temps, le président de l'Association des fonctionnaires du Libéria, Johnson Moibah, a déclaré que la diminution des salaires des employés constitue une violation de la loi sur les finances publiques du Libéria, promettant que sa direction soutiendra les membres du personnel du Capitole.

« La CBL n'a pas été autorisée à imprimer

président de la chambre des représentants.

M. Nuquaye, candidat malheureux à la vice-présidence lors de la présidentielle de 2017 sur le ticket du Parti de l'unité (UP) avec l'ancien vice-président, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, dit qu'il n'a absolument aucune information sur l'impression des 10 milliards de dollars LD par la Banque centrale.

« Ce que je sais, c'est que des membres de la Chambre des représentants ont soulevé des préoccupations concernant l'argent mutilé en circulation après que la banque, avec l'autorisation du pouvoir législatif, a imprimé et mis en circulation 5 milliards de dollars LD pour remplacer les billets mutilés », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, l'Assemblée législative a envoyé une communication à la CBL, lui ordonnant de mettre en circulation des pièces de monnaie après que l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, le Dr Mills Jones, l'a informée de ce qu'il existe des pièces de monnaie dans le coffre-fort de la CBL.

« À ma connaissance, il n'y

a aucun paragraphe ou disposition dans cette communication qui autorise la CBL à imprimer 10 milliards de dollars libériens », a-t-il ajouté.

« NON. Le paragraphe n'autorisait pas l'impression de billets de banque supplémentaires. Si l'Assemblée législative avait envisagé d'imprimer des billets de banque supplémentaires, elle aurait... utilisé le mot « imprimer » au lieu de « introduire », a fait valoir M. Nuquaye.

Il a expliqué que par le mot « introduire » tel qu'il est utilisé au paragraphe trois, le parlement demandait à la CBL d'injecter dans l'économie des pièces de monnaie qui sont déjà disponibles et sont à la disposition de la CBL ».

Les responsables de la CBL sont jugés pour vol présumé de plusieurs milliards. Leur mise en accusation fait suite à une série de manifestations qui ont déclenché une enquête locale et internationale sur les allégations selon lesquelles l'argent avait disparu.

La cinquième accusée, Melisa A. Emeh, ne serait pas au Libéria et n'aurait pas été traduite en justice. Par

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Ben-ami

Une paix vouée à l'échec au Moyen-Orient

TEL AVIV - Il y a vingt ans ce mois-ci, le président américain Bill Clinton invitait le Premier ministre israélien Ehud Barak et le président de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine Yasser Arafat au sommet de la paix de Camp David, dans un effort audacieux de résolution de l'un des conflits les plus interminables de l'époque moderne. Si aucun accord n'a été trouvé, ce sommet auquel j'ai participé ne peut être qualifié d'échec, dans la mesure où le cadre mis en place est devenu le fondement sur lequel Clinton a pu bâtir ses « paramètres de la paix » - vision la plus équilibrée et la plus réaliste jamais adoptée autour d'une solution à deux États. Comment expliquer alors que cette vision n'ait pas abouti ?

En vertu des fameux Paramètres Clinton, il était question de démanteler une large partie des colonies israéliennes, afin de créer un État palestinien couvrant 100 % de la bande de Gaza et 97 % de la Cisjordanie. Les territoires devaient être restitués par Israël, en échange de terres concédées par les Palestiniens dans la bande de Gaza.

L'État palestinien devait inclure les zones arabes de Jérusalem, qui ferait office de capitale, tandis que les portions juives de la ville constitueraient la capitale d'Israël. Cette division devait conférer aux Palestiniens une souveraineté sur le Haram al-Sharif (que les juifs appellent le Mont du Temple), les Israéliens conservant toutefois le contrôle du Mur des Lamentations et de la zone environnante.

Il s'agissait de créer un corridor entre les terres palestiniennes - baptisé « permanent safe passage » par Clinton - afin que le nouvel État soit physiquement relié. Enfin, les réfugiés palestiniens pourraient avoir le choix entre regagner en toute liberté le nouvel État de Palestine, regagner l'État d'Israël avec certaines restrictions (dans le cadre d'un plan de regroupement familial), se réinstaller dans un pays tiers, et/ou percevoir une compensation financière assurée par la communauté internationale.

Les négociateurs israéliens souhaitaient que les Paramètres soient transcrits dans une déclaration officielle. Cette démarche aurait été encore plus favorable aux Palestiniens que l'accord proposé lors du sommet de Camp David. C'est d'ailleurs cette amélioration des modalités qui justifiera la décision d'Arafat de refuser les propositions de Barak à Camp David.

Mais les Palestiniens étaient d'un autre côté opposés aux Paramètres, considérant que ceux-ci ne sauraient contrairement les négociations futures. En marge d'une dernière tentative de conclusion d'un accord à Taba, en Egypte, le négociateur palestinien en chef Abu Ala nous confiera qu'Arafat n'était plus intéressé par la proposition. Ce sera une erreur dévastatrice, avec des conséquences dont souffrent encore les Palestiniens chaque jour.

La décision d'Arafat peut s'expliquer moins par une exigence ou une concession particulière que par une vision globale du monde déraisonnée et autodestructrice, à laquelle s'accrochent de nombreux Palestiniens. Comme l'a écrit dans un article de 2001 le regretté Fouad Ajami, qui était membre principal de la Hoover Institution de l'Université de Stanford, les Palestiniens souffrent « d'un refus inné d'accepter la logique des choses, d'un conviction selon laquelle une puissance supérieure mystérieuse viendra toujours à leur secours, comme si les règles de l'histoire ne s'appliquaient pas à eux ».

Dans une lettre ouverte de 2002, un ancien ministre d'Arafat, Nabil Amr, condamne cette approche. « Ce n'est pas pour des raisons de complot si le monde entier se dresse contre nous ou se montre incapable de nous aider. Ce n'est pas parce que notre cause est juste que nous sommes en droit de tout faire. »

Tout au long de l'histoire, des nations opprimées sont parvenues à la liberté non pas par droit humain, légal ou divin, ou parce qu'elles l'auraient emporté sur le plan de la morale. Elles ont gagné leur liberté en alliant sagesse, courage et retenue, leur émancipation reposant sur leur capacité à équilibrer force et diplomatie, ténacité et compromis.

Galvanisé par l'ampleur de la tragédie palestinienne et par l'indulgence de la communauté internationale, Arafat n'a jamais accepté cela. Il s'est davantage efforcé d'obtenir un accord qu'il savait politiquement inenvisageable pour ses interlocuteurs israéliens. C'est cette indifférence compulsive à l'égard du contexte politique et stratégique qui a anéanti les chances palestiniennes d'obtenir un accord de paix réaliste, juste et viable - et pas seulement à cette période. Il n'est pas même impossible que cette indifférence ait condamné l'ensemble de la cause palestinienne.

Amr poursuit dans sa lettre ouverte : « Combien de fois avons-nous accepté, puis repoussé, puis accepté à nouveau des propositions de compromis ? Jamais nous n'avons su dire oui, ou non, au bon moment. Combien de fois nous a-t-il été demandé de faire quelque chose qui était en notre pouvoir, et que nous n'avons pas fait ? Et quand cette solution est devenue impossible, nous avons exploré le monde de nous la proposer à nouveau. » Amr semblait avoir compris que le monde s'approchait d'une limite, et que les propositions risquaient de cesser. Vingt ans après le sommet de Camp David, c'est précisément la réalité que nous observons.

Aujourd'hui, le conflit israélo-palestinien figure à peine à l'agenda régional, et encore moins mondial. L'administration du président américain Donald Trump a proposé son propre plan de paix, très inéquitement favorable aux Israéliens. Le reste du monde a tout juste réagi.

Du côté d'Israël, quasiment aucune force favorable à la paix n'existe à la tête du pays. Au contraire, Israël semble avoir abandonné tout semblant d'empathie ou de compassion pour le drame palestinien. Poussé par son alliance douteuse avec le président Trump, le Premier ministre Benyamin Netanyahu poursuit désormais plus agressivement que jamais son rêve hyper-nationaliste d'annexion effective des terres palestiniennes, espérant « appliquer une souveraineté » sur elles de manière unilatérale.

Les Palestiniens vivant dans ces zones - dont 30 % de la Cisjordanie - se retrouveraient apatrides, ou au mieux « non définis » sur le plan politique. Or, comme l'a écrit Hannah Arendt, c'est « toujours avec les peuples apatrides » que certains font ce que bon leur semble - elle pensait évidemment aux juifs.

Mais si l'administration Clinton n'a pas su obtenir la paix il y a 20 ans, ce n'est pas seulement à cause de l'intransigeance d'Arafat. Les négociateurs américains ont en effet considéré l'accord comme une cause sentimentale, plutôt que comme un impératif de sécurité. C'est ce qui a transpiré dans les négociations, et ce qui a affaibli leur position. Maintenant que Netanyahu consolide son État d'apartheid, les Palestiniens ne suscitent plus aucune sentimentalité. Et quiconque s'attend à voir la Russie supplanter l'Amérique au statut de leader de la paix, via son influence régionale croissante, ferait bien de réfléchir davantage.

La solution à deux États est morte et enterrée. Quelle que soit la « solution » qui sera trouvée à l'avenir, elle émergera non pas d'un processus de paix ordonné, mais bien du chaos, qui par nature est impossible à prédire. Il pourrait s'agir d'une annexion unilatérale, d'un désengagement israélien soudain et brutal de certaines zones de Cisjordanie, voire d'un affrontement direct. Est ici à l'œuvre une véritable loi d'airain des conséquences inattendues.

TRIBUTE

TRIBUTE

A tribute to Mrs. Coop...Need to Know

By Amb. Medina A Wesseh

Amb. Eleanor H. Taylor Cooper was laid to Rest on Wednesday July 15, 2020 in the township of Caldwell with Funeral ceremonies being held at the Trinity Cathedral on Broad Street in Monrovia. I am currently away from home and my excuse, if there was need to make one or state one, would be laid at the base of the Corona Virus. It could not be at the foot but the base as this virus is confusing many but it is said not to be a living thing. That aside, travelling across borders and the restrictions of isolation for 14 days, if and when you do cross over, makes travel a new thing to fear. We thank God for small mercies especially as Eleanor, after a brief illness and treatment in the USA, returned to the only place she called home, last year to come and rest. We pray she finds eternal rest with our lord and heavenly father.

I was last in Monrovia in early March 2020. My assignment at the MRU since 2017 has made visits to Liberia few and far between. However whenever I am home after official duties, I tend to look for friends, buddies, associates, workmates, socio-political friends, hometown or women folks any and as time permits. Officials of Government and the diplomatic community are part of the Job line of activities I must meet whenever I am in Monrovia.

In mid-February this year I was on a 10 to 12 days visit to Liberia for two different missions. Again I planned and was determined to visit Mrs. Coop or Eleanor or Eleanor Cooper or Mrs. Cooper... "Anything goes" meaning its rough and we had to find a way out of a tight political corner. We had a rough start in-between campaign activities and official duties at the presidency. But the good natured person that Eleanor Cooper was and one who found her early calling as a teacher, she was destined to work with the rough the rugged and the rascals in life.

Anything goes or Need to know were amongst the many codes we would use to communicate in the office of the President, security EPS, protocol and the many who worked to ensure the President "balanced" her days between office paper work and public visitation in or out of the mansion.

The President hardly ever knew nine/tenth of the tensions and problems many people had to synchronize her schedule, her work and her security. We were each assigned tasked and in some instance clear job descriptions at the presidency and all were to ensure that the Presidency functioned optimally for the Leader of the nation to execute her vision or the platform upon which she was elected. Many days Mrs. Coop would sigh PHEW...and many a day Ethel's eyes would be rolling for some of those who it appears did not appear to have clear descriptions or were seen as "jumping all over the place". Many times we would have to conclude that politics has a lot of gray areas and where it seems clearly black or white some would shade it gray.

As the principal organizer and neat planner from old school, Mrs. Cooper as Deputy Chief of Protocol and later Chief of Protocol would quietly work with ease and grace. A life time teacher with a lesson plan. Must always plan for the day or week ahead. That we had it rough in the office which we used to say was very much like the school grounds but more "like recess period". No doubt she would say but there must be order after right. Right we would agree. That she just let it go, was part of her easy going unruffled character. I used to tell her, I stopped counting how many times she would say I SWEAR. When one more political rabbit was pulled from under her hat at the Presidency. So lord know, that I had to see her this time, as I heard she was mostly at her residence and taking each day, one day at a time.

I did make it on the day we planned and we reminisced. I left when I had made her laugh so hard and she was coughing and she was holding her sides and tears were rolling down her eyes. The more she said "you girl you still talking so, so foolishness" The more we laughed. I left her after a long laughter and she had eased off coughing. Said Good bye and that I would hit the road next day to Freetown. She smile and tweaked the fingers Ta Ta...

Then Jimmy told me how Ada had invited a few of her buddies to spend what was her last birthday. And oh, her "cousin"buddy Ms. Adelaide, peace be unto her gentle soul had already hit the road to Pearly Gates early this year. It was very natural group of Friends she had made and kept like family. Good School teachers and very good principles are rich with friends. That is all their reward for those who have a calling to teach and educate. Mrs. Coop I used to say, you saw many of my kind in school and hugged and loved them. We have come a long way to enjoy so much laughter. Life in the mansion and around the presidency has many, many sides and stories. We have told many stories of work perhaps to friends and families as and when they happen and some we make part of our keep sake. Over the years since I left the Presidency in 2009, we have had time to go over the many good sometimes rough days.

Mrs. Coop was a very organized and neat woman. I passed her by many times during the campaign to elect the woman who would later wear the historic title as the first democratically elected African president. We all worked on the team of Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who won and we went on to work with her as Madam President both in the Original Mansion and in the Foreign Ministry Mansion. Willis Knuckles, the penultimate organizer, once made a t-shirt EJS VETERANS...many people asked him for theirs for keep sake.

Amb. Eddie Dunn as Chief of protocol in the original Mansion was the direct supervisor of Eleanor Cooper who was then Deputy. She was very supportive and worked so well with all in those early days. Eddie as we all commonly called had his style and his swagger. Mrs. Coop had her Calm. As Director General of the Cabinet, I was coordinating the first Cabinet activities with then Minister of State for Presidential affairs Morris Dukuly. And it seemed to me then and for a long time during those first few weeks of life at the presidency, that the new ministers "thought" or "believed" it was cool to ask for appointment after 5 pm on their way home from office to see Her Excellency the President. The issues they had were many and varied and very important. I would listen and discuss and then would reach Minister Morris Dukuly and we would agree that the day was far gone but the issues were pressing and often critical. It was often agreed they could just come by for 5 or so minutes and "pick Chance" to see Madam President. And chance a great many of them picked.

So it was one day, I peeped in the waiting room at the original mansion and as was walking in to meet one of the ministers, I saw Chief of Protocol Eddie Dunn shaking his head, bewildered but still manage a smile. I went in there and came out horrified to see a full waiting room. I saw Mrs. Cooper somewhere in between and hollered at her for a brief moment... I cornered her... look Mrs. Cooper...y'all need to manage this evening flow... in one of my cynical moments she often reminded me even recently that I said something to the effect "that people remember Eddie Dunn had a night club, but this is not a pub. We work all day and we need to go home." I have small

children...and before I could go on Mrs. Cooper gave me a big laf...and said you just need to manager my dear." Really!! And that was how we worked a bit in jest and a bit of "madness" trying to put organization and structure around our new boss who did not know when to go home we all conclude. We even manage one more that she had a problem with sunlight. Since she hardly ever left the office before 8 or 9 pm except she was having a guest or guests at home or dinner or evening function.

It was this process of creating order and processes with state protocol that over the years had its highs and lows. Protocol organizes the Presidents activities and plans her public appearances among many gazillion things around the presidency. Who the Presidents Sees, when how long, where she goes and for how long. The what and the why's was where the political came in between. So there was the "political wing" of the presidency. By the time Willis Knuckles was Minister of State for Presidential affairs, the Political wing had developed a lot of order around the everyday people and business of government and governance. HE Madam President had tens and hundreds of people to see given the enormity of the task at hand taking over from the Interim Government of the NTGL. The road to building and sustaining peace for 12 years was a long one, and Mrs. Coop like the engineer supervisor on a road project, always had her pencil over her ears as it were. Mistakes erasers and some more mistakes and ok this is good. Progress on the path to building the peace and sustaining the peace there were many everyday laborers.

In creating order at time chaos ensued. One day Mrs. Coop who had always managed the calm and the cool...was pissed...And as I approached her innocently not knowing the rage...she threw the tempers at me. And by the end of the day of huff and puff I manage to remind her that I had heard she was a great school proprietor and administrator. I simply said you know you have some very rough students, and :some hard heady pekin them"...just see here like dat...yours will be to try to bring order but not like school yard where there is perfect decorum...just try and we will all like that. "We worked along rough and tough but always so pleasant like the teacher to greet all the students of various shades and characters.

In came Ms. Toles. Ethel and the pair just hit off so well. Each brought different strengths to work and assist the president. Their two pairs of hands appeared like 8 or at times 10 pairs to do so many things. They complimented each other and we all worked but not as if the story would end with "and they all lived happily ever after"...No. That is for the end of fairy tales. President work nah easy...President Work has many hands and feet that must be attached to one body and all move in the name of the President.

So there were moments when some meetings were arranged and called for by the President, it would be a matter of last minute notice perhaps I would get or that which protocol would get. And I remember one of such meetings and last minute decisions being made, I do not recall what last minutes decisions were made but the people or persons showed up. Security informed they were downstairs and that President had sent for them. The ADC I believe, knew of the arrivals. I knew the context and issues which the visit was being arranged but not much on the content for discussion. This wired up Mrs. Cooper and she give me "some lips" or "tongue lashing" in the office as the visitors took everyone by surprise.

Agnes Taylor is back!

The founding mother of the National Patriotic Party (NPP), the ex-wife of jailed former President Charles Taylor, Madam Agnes Reeves-Taylor has returned home following several years of exile.

Madam Taylor who returned home on the night of Wednesday July 15, 2020 was said to have been picked up by Bell Dunbar and whisked away to Careysburg on the Bell Dunbar's Farm.

She returned home seven months after charges of terrorism were dropped against her in the United Kingdom where she had resided for several years and taught at a UK University before her arrest and torture charges were levied and subsequently dropped against her.

Mrs. Taylor was charged in 2017 on eight counts which included conspiracy to commit torture by allegedly facilitating the rape of captive women by soldiers in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), the allegation of torture relating to inflicting "severe pain or suffering", including assaults on a 13-year-old boy, and a torture of a "pastor's wife" who had resisted being raped by one of



Charles Taylor's commanders.

According to reports, these offences were allegedly committed during the war here in 1990 but the case had delayed in the UK following several years of legal argument before it could reach the UK's Supreme Court.

Mrs. Taylor 54, at the time in 2017 was then working as a senior lecturer at the Coventry University before she was charged. Even though she denied all the allegations but was held in Bronzefield women's prison awaiting trial. The trial had been scheduled to

begin the following year, January 2018.

The case collapsed in December 2019 after prosecutors failed to pin Madam Taylor to the allegations levied against her.

In handling down his ruling at the time, the UK Judge said Madam Taylor could not be charged with torture as a crime against humanity or a war crime because the alleged offences took place in 1990 - before the relevant sections of the International Criminal Court Act were

introduced in 1991.

Mrs. Taylor left Liberia in 1992 and divorced Charles Taylor in 1996, before the end of the civil war. She had not left the UK since 2001, the court previously heard.

Prosecutors argued that she was acting in a de facto official capacity on behalf of armed group the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), said to have been formed by Charles Taylor and responsible for attacks on President Samuel Doe during the civil war.

In her defense case statement following her arrest in 2017, Ms Taylor said that at no time did she act in an official capacity for the NPFL and disputed that the NPFL was the de facto governmental authority in the relevant areas at the relevant times.

Ms Taylor is said to have had no contact with Charles Taylor since his conviction for aiding and abetting the commission of war crimes, for which he was sentenced to 50 years in jail.

But sources told this paper over the weekend, that Madam Taylor who is very popular among partisans of the NPP will be gladly welcome to restructure the party of her ex-husband.

She comes at a time the eternal bickering within the NPP has reached a crashing point with Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, another ex-wife of Mr. Taylor on one hand, while former Representative James Binney the embattled Chairman is heading another group.

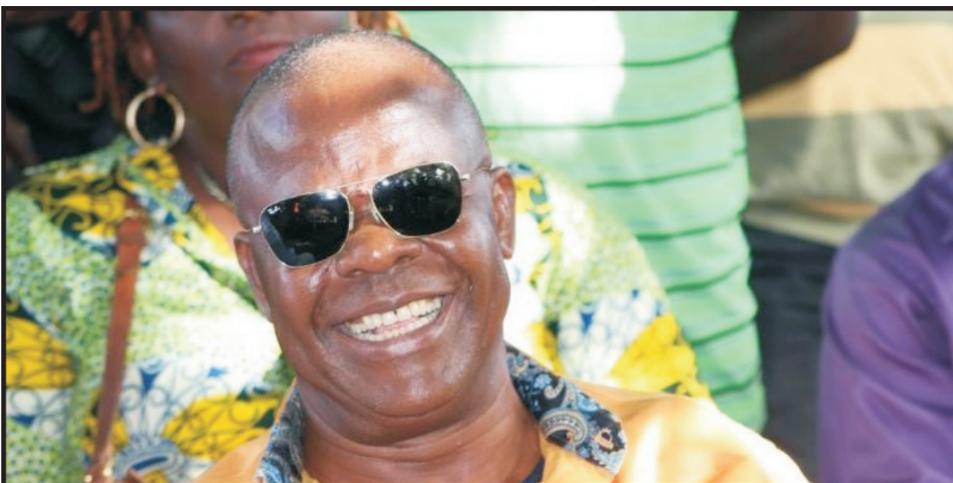
Our source said the James Binney group appears to be closer to Madam Agnes Taylor and in seconds welcome her to take over and revamp the NPP.

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Cyril Allen damns

Starts from back page



the NPP and became campaign manager for the Unity Party and Sando Johnson became the vice chairman of the All Liberian Party during the 2017 election when in fact, the NPP was struggling to make a political comeback following her national leadership role performance," he recounted

According to him, the party (NPP) does not know the relationship with senators who are flip-flopping, adding, to determine their popularity with the people is to go to primary.

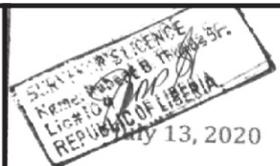
Commenting on speculations that the NPP has conducted primaries, ahead of the December 08 Special Senatorial election, Allan said the information is fake, clarifying, the party will not conduct primaries because it is a member of the ruling

Coalition.

He said the NPP is not featuring separate senatorial candidates, instead all political parties that are part of the CDC will participate in the primaries of the CDC and anyone emerging victorious would automatically become a CDC candidate, not an NPP candidate.

The Coalition for Democratic Change is a conglomeration of the National Patriotic Party, the Liberian People Democratic Party and the Congress for Democratic Change, which won the 2017 Presidential Election that ushered in President George Manneh Weah of the CDC, and his running-mate, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor of the NPP.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



SURVEY NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that the undersigned registered licensed surveyor Mr. Robert B. Thomas, Sr. has been duly authorized by Hon. Francis L.M. Horton to conduct a re-survey of two (2) acres of land in favor **AMANDA INTERNATIONAL INC.**

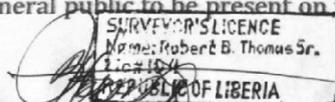
The said two (2) acres of land to be re-surveyed is lying and situated in Central Virginia, Montserrado County.

The re-survey will commence on Saturday the 24th day of July A.D. 2020 at the hour of 10:00A.M.

Therefore, all those have interest in said survey, are asked to come along with their deed(s), diagram(s) and area map, to be represented technically by surveyors as to avoid future land dispute.

This announcement should claim the attention of the following individuals and they are:

1. Atty. Yancy K. Horton
2. Community Chairman
3. Police Commander
4. Milton Gaye, Comptroller of the LNP
5. Josephine Washington 0775-654-741
6. STN
7. DGA
8. PV & MV
9. Maimah Vincent 0770-150-180/0886-900-545
10. John Tubman =MTT 0775-526-886-Gurley Mason
11. JKW =0777-003-961 Brumskine Traman
12. MMG
13. M.T.T
14. B.J.
15. T & E.O.
16. J.G.
17. Alice Robert Gerring
18. Mamia Ash of Clay Ash-Island
19. S. Togba Nyeswah
20. The general public to be present on the day of the above mentioned survey.

Signed: 
 Robert B. Thomas, Sr.
 Registered Land Surveyor
 Cell#:0770328528/0888328528

Cyril Allen damns grasshopper politicians



inconstancy," he observes.

Speaking in Harper City, Maryland County recently, Chief Allan, also chairman emeritus of the National Patriotic Party said senators of the NPP, including H. Dan Morais of Maryland, Armah Jallah of Gbarpolu County and Sando Johnson of Bomi County, won their respective seat on the ticket of the party, but left the NPP to support Unity Party former presidential candidate, Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

He noted that there are more senators, who are now moving to the ruling CDC because of personal interest.

"you see today there are more senators moving to the CDC, leaving the former ruling Unity Party and other political parties that they were part of, all because to seek their interest. For example, Senator Dan Morais became part of the Unity Party and campaign manager for Joseph Boakai; Armah Jallah also left

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

An official of the governing council of the Coalition for Democratic Change Chief Cyril Allen describes politicians moving from one political party to another as being constantly inconstant, at the detriment of the state and its people.

"I'm very concern about people jumping from party to another for their personal gains, there is personal movement of people all over the place to the party of the day, that's ruling establishment. You have to be constant. You see the most constant thing about some of these people is their constant



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You eat my eyes, I eat your ears

-Prof Alaric Tokpa tells Weah's government

By Ben P. Wessee

Professor Alaric Tokpa, whose COVID-19 test result was overturned recently at the national testing center has called on the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change government to stay clear off him or he would reintroduce the Moses Law (an eye for eye).

"To all grassroots of Liberia, your leader is under

attack; the attack is not from the health authorities; the attack is from the political community and political attacks are fought politically. I'm not a crazy man, so you want eat my eyes, I eat your ears," he threatened.

Mr. Tokpa spoke to reporters over the weekend at his residence in Lakpazee Community, Sinkor Monrovia, threatening to deal with the government here and those



behind his alleged mistreatment by health authorities.

"My body is my weapon, I get plenty weapons and they are very dangerous and poisonous but you, when you search all over my house, you will not find it and when you search on me, you're not going to find anything but my body is the weapon. You play with me; I give you what you asked for. If I want to wash your face, it's

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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