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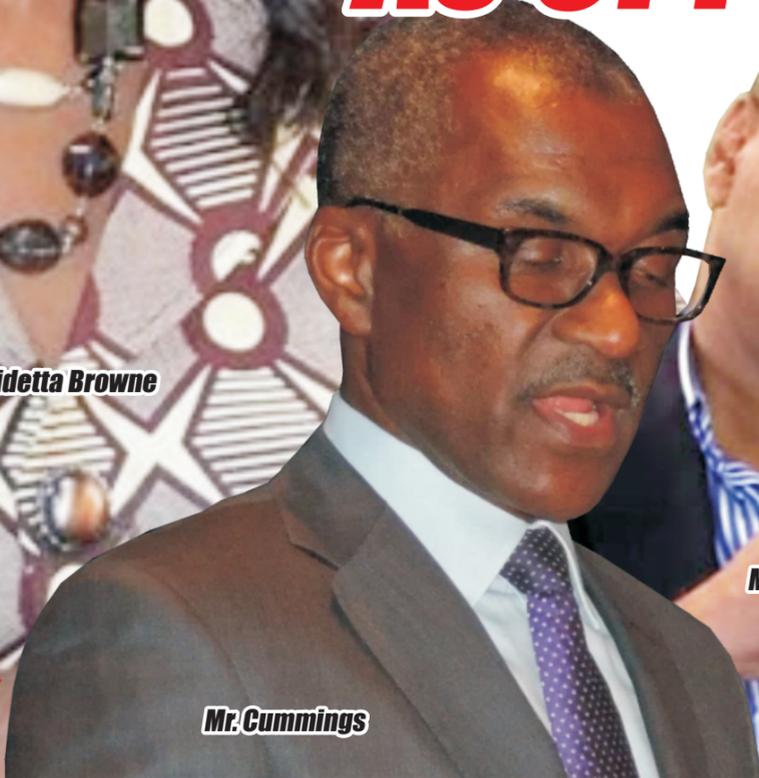
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Drama awaits NEC

-As CPP heads to court



NEC Boss, Mrs. Davidetta Browne



Mr. Cummings



Mr. Urey



Sen. Karnga-Lawrence



Ex-VP Boakai

P11

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Continental News

Cameroon Security Surround Opposition Leader's House, Teargas Protesters

Cameroon police have surrounded the home of opposition leader Maurice Kamto and detained an unknown number of his supporters. Kamto, who accuses President Paul Biya of stealing the 2018 presidential election from him, called for protests Tuesday against regional elections and Biya's leadership of the country. Authorities deployed riot police and troops, some of whom used tear gas on the protesters. The opposition Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) says riot police and military troops on Monday night forced themselves into the home of party leader Maurice Kamto.

The secretary-general of the CRM, Christopher Ndong, says police detained a number of their supporters, including Alain Forgues, the party's legal advisor.

"They [police] arrested professor Forgues and some militants [supporters] who were there," he said. "They had some beatings and Kamto

told them that they would not stop him. So, we are going to march. We are not afraid of arrest because we know what we are doing is within the ambit of the constitution. It is our right to manifest and our march is peaceful."

Ndong says police detained an unknown number of people

and took them to unknown locations.

CRM leader Kamto, he says, was neither beaten nor detained. But security has surrounded his home and there is concern that if he leaves, he could be arrested.

Ndong says police also detained opposition

supporters in Cameroon's coastal city of Douala, where they used teargas on protesters, and in towns in the west and north. Despite the detentions and heavy security, many protesters assembled at intersections early Tuesday, some of them calling for Biya to step down.

Biya has been president since 1982, making him one of Africa's longest-serving leaders. Bookseller Thomas Ekwelle, 55, says not even riot police will stop him from freely expressing himself and protesting peacefully. "If you look up there, there are anti-riot police. About 70 of them carrying guns and teargas. It is a sign of intimidation," he said. "Many people will close their shops to go on the streets because it is too much. Somebody cannot take captivity of the country for more than 40 years."

Kamto called for the protests to pressure Biya to

stop regional elections scheduled for November 6.

He claims the electoral code favors only Biya, who the opposition blames for the separatist conflict in Cameroon's western regions.

The conflict between anglophone rebels and Cameroon's military has left at least 3,000 people dead since 2017. Kamto has called for weekly protests until Biya cancels the polls.

Cameroon government spokesperson Rene Emmanuel Sadi says Kamto's party wants to start a revolt in the country.

"The government considers that the CRM, which has voluntarily put itself outside the political game, and which moreover cannot claim any representation within the republican institutions, cannot grant itself the rights or the legitimacy vested in the president of the republic, His Excellency Paul Biya alone, to determine the national



Cameroonian opposition leader Maurice Kamto (L) sits in the back of a car as he is driven away on October 5, 2019, the day of his release from prison in Yaounde.

Mali Junta Picks Former Defense Minister as Transitional President

The junta that overthrew Mali's president last month said Monday that former defense minister and retired Col. Maj. Bah N'Daw will be the president during the transition period.

Bah N'Daw was appointed by a 30-person panel set up by the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP), the junta that has ruled Mali since soldiers overthrew President Ibrahim

Boubacar Keita on Aug. 18.

CNSP chief Col. Assimi Goïta made the announcement on national television.

The new president is expected to serve as head of state for several months before civilians return to power. Goïta said he has been appointed transitional vice president.

"The swearing-in ceremony will take place on Friday, Sept. 25," he said.

These announcements came after several weeks of debate

among Malians over whether the transitional government will be led by civilians or the military.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has been pressuring the junta to quickly name leaders for the transition.

On Sept. 18, Goïta traveled to Niamey, Niger, where he met the current president of ECOWAS, President Mahamadou Issoufou. VOA



Malian Defense Minister Bah N'Daw, right, and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian meet in Bamako, July 16, 2014. Bah N'Daw was appointed president of Mali during the transition period.

EU imposes sanctions over Libya arms embargo



Turkey has been supporting the UN-recognised government in Tripoli

The European Union has imposed sanctions on three companies for violating the UN arms embargo on Libya. A meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels resolved that the sanctions imposed include an asset freeze for the three companies.

Two individuals were also sanctioned for human rights abuses in Libya.

"These new listings show the EU's strategic use of its sanctions regime and ability to react to developments on the ground in support of the political process and to deter past and present perpetrators from further violations," the EU said in a statement.

The three companies are from Turkey, Kazakhstan and Jordan respectively, the AFP news agency reports.

A United Nations report seen early this month accused Russia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other states of blatantly defying the international arms embargo on Libya.

Libya has been torn by violence since long-time ruler Col Muammar Gaddafi was deposed in 2011 by Nato-backed forces.

The UAE backs renegade Gen Khalifa Haftar, while the Turkish government supports his rivals in the government based in Tripoli. BBC

EDITORIAL

Replacing striking health workers is counter-productive

THE GOVERNMENT OF President George Weah has resorted to recruiting new health practitioners, including army personnel to replace striking health workers demanding hazard benefits and salary increment, which may not be the right approach to addressing challenges faced by citizens sacrificing in the poorly managed health sector.

IN A GOVERNMENT statement, Liberia's Information Minister Lenn Eugene Nagbe said the Ministry of Health has been instructed to solicit applications from "qualified health workers of various grades, including nurses, nurse aides, midwives and laboratory technicians" to replace aggrieved health workers.

WE LIKE TO state categorically that the path being taken by the government may not provide permanent solutions to mountains of challenges, ranging from poor work conditions, lack of supplies, delayed salaries and incentives, among others that professionals in the health sector continue to endure.

IN THE FIRST place, the current strike is not the first by health workers. In their previous protest, the government and aggrieved health workers dialogued and reached a common ground with the protesters returning to work. We wonder why this insensitivity posture by the state this time around.

THIS IRON-CLAD APPROACH comes at the time the country is still grappling with the deadly Corona virus, which has killed nearly a thousand people, most of them, doctors and nurses. They died, while trying to save lives without proper tools such as PPEs and other gadgets.

IN FACT, WE recalled vividly that the health workers downed tools between May and June this year and the Minister of Health Doctor Wilehmina Jallah intervened, which led to their return to work.

LET'S FACE IT. Health practitioners on the Continent earn very little unlike politicians and loyalists in government. Yet, they spend long hours on the job without benefit of holidays or breaks to spend quality time with family members.

MINISTER NAGBE TALKS about volunteers receiving first preference in the recruitment exercise. But would this improve the appalling conditions at the various hospitals and health facilities across the country? It would not be long before disillusion surface again, once conditions remain the same.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL go down in history as the first Liberian government to tell health workers seeking solutions to their plight to go to hell when ruling party candidates are ditching out millions on pre-campaign activities.

WHERE IS THE much-heralded ruling CDC slogan of "power to the people" or where is the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development? Are these mere rhetoric?

WE CALL ON the government to remain engaged with the protesting health workers until a common ground can be found instead of adapting a draconian posture that would soon boomerang.

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COMMENTARY

By Josep Borrell

The EU Stands With the UN

Phrases like the "multilateral system" and "the rules-based international order" seem vague and lack the ring of "America First" or "Take Back Control." But they stand for something very concrete and real - not least the choice between peace and war.

BRUSSELS - In any normal year, I would be in New York City now for the annual opening of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The event represents the greatest concentration of global policymakers in one place and is the high point on the diplomatic calendar. But this year is far from normal, and "UNGA week" is going virtual with events held online - a familiar format for us all in recent months.

This is unfortunate for several reasons. It is the UN's 75th anniversary, and one would have wished for a better way to mark the occasion. Moreover, the state of the world is such that the multilateral system, with the UN at its core, is being challenged like never before - and just when we need it the most.

Indeed, never has the supply of multilateral solutions been so scarce, and demand for them so high. Every day we see how narrow nationalism and strategic rivalries, especially between the United States and China, are paralyzing the UN Security Council and the wider international system. From climate change and arms control to maritime security, human rights, and beyond, global cooperation has been weakened, international agreements abandoned, and international law undermined or selectively applied.

For Europeans, this is deeply unsettling. But the unfolding crisis of multilateralism is not a problem only for Europeans: everyone's security and rights are in jeopardy. Phrases like the "multilateral system" and "the rules-based international order" seem vague and lack the ring of "America First" or "Take Back Control." But they stand for something very concrete and real: the choice between peace and war, free societies and closed ones, and an economy built on sustainable development and one that fuels widening inequalities and runaway climate change.

A world governed by agreed rules is the very basis of our shared security, freedoms, and prosperity. A rule-based international order makes states secure, keeps people free and companies willing to invest, and ensures that the Earth's environment is protected. The alternative - "might makes right" - has been tried for most of human history, and its horrific record is the best argument for the multilateral system. Unfortunately, it is increasingly being tried again, with the results visible to all.

This is not the approach of the EU. We will continue to believe in and support the UN. We do so not just rhetorically, but also politically and financially, as well as diplomatically, by trying to act as a bridge-builder in the Security Council.

When others were trying to pull apart the World Health Organization at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the EU that led the negotiations resulting in an agreement to set up an independent inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus. We are also the biggest donor to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), established to ensure that the world gets a reliable vaccine as soon as possible and that it is treated as a global public good.

The EU pays one-quarter of the UN budget. It is often said that Europe punches below its weight geopolitically. But in terms of multilateral engagement, it finances well above its weight.

With our crisis management operations, we operate hand in hand with the UN on stabilization and reconstruction in many conflict zones, from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, and from the Balkans to the Middle East. In the toughest war zones and humanitarian crises, you will find the EU and the UN working together.

Europeans have pushed hard for an international climate agreement and do our best to keep it alive. We are relentless in trying to protect biodiversity, access to clean water, and other natural resources.

For us, these contributions are investments in global security and prosperity - and thus in our own security and prosperity. We know that we can be safe, healthy, and secure only if our neighbors are, too. What is true of individuals is also true of countries.

Even if we face strong headwinds, the EU will stay the course in support of finding common solutions. This is often difficult and tiring, but we are always ready to discuss how to make the system more effective, more legitimate, and more fit for purpose; both with like-minded partners and those with whom we disagree. Multilateralism today must be different from that of the twentieth century: power has shifted and the challenges are no longer the same.

Much of what will shape our future - cyberspace data analytics, artificial intelligence, biogenetics, autonomous vehicles, and much else - is emerging in a regulatory vacuum. We must fill it with agreed rules, norms, and standards, and ensure they are applied - including in contexts where the major stakeholders are not governments.

The EU's bottom line is this: reform should take place by design, not by destruction. We must revitalize the system, not abandon it. So, this week and beyond, we will uphold the spirit of the UNGA and defend multilateralism, which all countries so badly need. A world without the UN would endanger us all.

O-PED

By Jeremy Adelman
& Andrew Thompson

The New History Wars

The movement to remove public monuments to imperialists and slave owners is now in full swing. But to satisfy its stated purpose, those demanding recognition will have to meet their rivals halfway, acknowledging that it is not easy to see pillars of one's sense of identity become a source of shame.

PRINCETON - The contest over national symbols and stories is shifting into higher gear as the drive to topple statuary and rename institutions moves past the usual suspects of Cecil Rhodes, Woodrow Wilson, Confederate generals, and Belgium's King Leopold II.

The British Museum, for example, has removed from prominent display a bust of its slave-owning founder, Sir Hans Sloane. "We have pushed him off the pedestal," observes the museum's director, Hartwig Fischer. Similarly, just a week earlier, a desecrated statue of Voltaire in Paris's tony 6th arrondissement was whisked away for its own protection.

Everywhere, it seems, cultural artifacts that once hid in plain sight are being scrutinized for their connections to empire or slavery. But even when those deemed worthy of removal are gone, the Great Reckoning will not be over.

In fact, the current trend seems to be moving us even further away from a genuine reconciliation with the past. Instead of producing new, inclusive stories of peoplehood, we are witnessing a violent clash of public narratives and a backlash against what some see as decolonization run amok. This contest is on full display ahead of the US elections this November. "Sorry liberals!" one pro-Trump group recently tweeted, "How to be Anti-White 101 is permanently cancelled!"

In any case, those who would seek a new consensus after the statues have already come down tend to miss a basic point in the debate over national history. Reckoning with the past is not a discrete event, but rather an ongoing process, especially when it comes to dealing with deep, systemic injuries. Throwing statues into harbors might play well in the media, but rarely do such acts resolve the underlying issues.

Moreover, there is a deeper history to the current cultural impasse, and it shows that quick fixes will not come easily. Many of the statues that have been called into question were installed at a time when Western countries defined themselves largely through territorial ambition. In that sense, the white imperialists who dominate our public squares have always been beacons of a highly selective gaze. Their presence tells us more about the people who erected them than about the subjects themselves.

We are now caught between an outdated style of patriotism and a fatigued pluralist alternative. The old national narrative that drove the boom in monuments was born in the heyday of empire and burnished in the twentieth century's world wars, when founding heroes and myths served as a unifying force. But starting in the 1960s, civil-rights movements, feminism, and an influx of immigrants pushed Western societies to become more inclusive, and the old emblems of patriotism looked increasingly outré.

The idea underpinning the pluralist alternative that supplanted the old patriotic narrative was to let many stories bloom, to bring new voices to the fore, and to embrace diversity as the path to coexistence. But pluralism never commanded the same power as the old narrative had. Tolerance seldom led to recognition - to seeing the world through others' eyes - and, as long as the emblems of the old order stood on their pedestals, marginalized groups' objections were bound to intensify. When the weak consensus around globalization broke down following the 2008 financial crisis, so, too, did the fragile pluralist framework.

Now, we face an impasse. Entrenched defenders of the old patriotic story feel their world slipping away, while advocates of a new pantheon view the previous one as a source of arbitrary hierarchy rather than unity. Feeling bruised and victimized, each side has weaponized history, creating a my-story-versus-your-story, winner-takes-all standoff.

The Great Statue Reckoning has served as a lightning rod for wider societal frustrations. Even without the COVID-19 pandemic, the last decade had snuffed out any sense of progress toward a new, brighter future as political, generational, and geographic polarization deepened.

How can we break the impasse? The purpose of museums, like universities, should be to promote an open and inclusive yet critical dialogue about the past. Because this requires the exchange of competing narratives, it is not a "safe space." But nor can such an exchange occur without a mutual recognition of others' grievances and losses.

If we are to avoid becoming prisoners of the past, we must acknowledge that what some see as a tale of conquest and discovery, others see as a story of domination and exploitation. It is no coincidence that the contested statues are overwhelmingly white and male. For black people, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups, living under the stony gaze of asserted superiority is now simply intolerable.

As long as the old patriot narrative endures, critics and challengers will forever have to ask to be admitted and tolerated, and to request monuments of their own, provided there is space for them. Far from representing recognition, such accommodation serves as a cunning way to leave the symbolic hierarchy intact.

But recognition is a two-way street. While traditional patriotic champions must confront how their myths deny others, their critics need to acknowledge the difficulty the fallen now face: seeing one's own narrative being toppled. It is not easy to accept that a longstanding source of pride should suddenly become an object of shame. It is understandable that advocates of the old narrative would resist this change. Letting the old symbols go is a sacrifice worthy of acknowledgment.

Of course, there will be arguments over whose act of recognition shows the biggest heart. Is it the old patriot, asked to view a heroic general as someone else's oppressor? Or is it the oppressed, asked to see that they are not the only ones paying a price for overcoming the

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OPINION

By Anne O. Krueger

Trump's Spectacular Trade Failure

Since coming to office in early 2017, US President Donald Trump has assumed that America could secure better "deals" with trading partners around the world by negotiating with them bilaterally. But after three and a half years, the evidence is clear: US trade policy has achieved the opposite of Trump's stated goals.

WASHINGTON, DC - Since World War II, the global economy has performed beyond the wildest dreams of its post-war architects, yielding unprecedented gains in health, education, living standards, poverty reduction, and wealth. Central to this success was the growth and liberalization of international trade, which was made possible with US leadership in the creation and stewardship of an open multilateral trading system.

That system - enshrined first through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and then in the World Trade Organization - established international rule of law over global commerce, non-discrimination among trading partners, and a forum for negotiating tariff reductions and the removal of other trade barriers. The WTO succeeded the GATT in January 1995, and by 2000, average tariffs on manufacturers in advanced economies were about 2%, far below the levels of 1948. International trade had grown from around 20% of global GDP in the early post-war years to 39% in 1990 and 58% in 2018.

But the open multilateral trading system has been severely eroded over the past few years. The dollar value of world trade fell by 3% in 2019, even as world GDP was still rising. This reversal was largely the result of America's shift toward bilateralism and protectionism since the beginning of US President Donald Trump's term in January 2017. Trump seems to believe that the United States is powerful enough to secure better "deals" by negotiating (read: bullying) with trading partners one on one. But while the US is indeed a large trading country, it actually accounts for only 4% of the world's population and less than one-fifth of global GDP. Those numbers alone justify skepticism about the effectiveness of Trumpian bilateral browbeating.

Moreover, enough time has elapsed that we can now subject Trump's approach to the microscope. His stated aims when he came to office were to reduce US bilateral trade imbalances and remove or reduce trade barriers and tariffs against American goods, thereby increasing US exports. None of these goals has been achieved.

Bilateral and overall trade deficits cannot be remedied through protectionism, and both indicators have actually worsened under Trump. The overall US trade deficit rose from \$750 billion in 2016 to \$864 billion in 2019, and has now reached its highest level since July 2008. And US exports to China, the main target of Trump's "America First" trade policy, have risen by only 1.8% in the year to August 2020, while Chinese exports to the US have risen by a whopping 20%, thereby increasing the bilateral trade deficit.

As is always the case in trade wars, both countries have lost from the tit-for-tat tariff increases. American consumers now must pay more for many goods from China, and the US has had to pay out some \$28 billion in compensation to American farmers. Numerous US businesses have been forced to pay more for inputs, and have consequently lost market share to foreign competitors who now have a cost advantage. And, predictably, China has raised its own import tariffs on American goods, undermining US exports.

Similarly, the Trump administration's "renegotiation" of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) were supposedly meant to address "new issues" like the rise of the digital economy. And yet, these issues had already been included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiated by Barack Obama's administration, which Trump immediately abandoned upon taking office. Having concluded a similar free-trade agreement without the US - the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) - the remaining members of the original agreement now enjoy duty-free access to one another's markets, while the US is subject to higher tariffs vis-à-vis these countries.

So, far from reducing the barriers faced by US exports, Trump has managed to increase them almost across the board. Under the TPP, American wheat producers would have been spared Japan's 38% tariff on all wheat imports. But now that the TPP has been replaced by the CPTPP, Canadian and Australian wheat exporters to Japan are subject to lower tariffs than their US counterparts. Making matters worse for US producers, Japan and the European Union have since concluded a free-trade agreement that eliminates duties on autos and other goods.

The list of Trump's "own goals" goes on. Sweeping tariffs on US steel and aluminum imports (which initially included those from its NAFTA trading partners) have merely disadvantaged American steel-using industries. But iron and steel employment has fallen over the past two years.

Even though almost every US ally has been on the receiving end of US demands for changes in trade relations, very little has been achieved. The primary changes to NAFTA were in automobiles and parts, and the effect was merely to increase protection against imports from Mexico.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Trump administration has severely undermined the WTO by blocking the appointment of new judges to its appeals panel, thus rendering the dispute settlement mechanism non-operational. The WTO is a global institution whose 164 members account for 96.4% of world trade and 96.7% of world GDP. The world desperately needs it to function properly.

The Trump administration would have had a much greater chance of success if it had addressed outstanding trade issues through the WTO. Forming alliances with likeminded trading countries and amending the WTO's rules multilaterally has long been more effective than pursuing narrow, piecemeal objectives unilaterally. Trump's bilateralism and rejection of the WTO has undermined the entire international trading system and inflicted great harm on US firms and households.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Reviving a Monastery for Community Development

By Lamia Radi
Rabat, Morocco

In Morocco's Middle Atlas Mountains near the town of Azrou, travelers come for hiking or to see the famed Barbary macaque apes in the Cedar Forest. Near Azrou, nestled high in the mountains and overlooking the green valleys below, the Toumliline Monastery was established by a group of French monks in 1952 because it was "suitably remote for contemplation," as noted by a *Time's* journalist in 1969. Pressured at first by colonial authorities to try to convert the local Amazigh tribesmen to Christianity, the monks refused, explaining that it would cause the people to be "outcasts in their own country." Instead, they planted an orchard.

Morocco has long been a place where East meets West. There are churches, cathedrals, and other Christian sites. Yet, due to the changing political climate of the 1960s, the once thriving monastery of 40 dwindled down to 7 and to three and finally closed in 1968. Before that, it was a place open to people of all beliefs. The monastery welcomed students and local villagers for practical training in how to deal with differences of opinion. It was the site that brought together those of the Abrahamic faiths - the "Three Religions of the Book" - to find shared values and common ground. From the French Jewish philosopher, Emmanuel Levinas, to the local farmers, hundreds of people from different religions, ethnicities, continents, and social statuses gathered to debate how different faiths could live together and interact for the benefit of the majority.

Today, the High Atlas Foundation, the Association Mimouna and the Foundation Memories for the Future work all together and with the local people to restore this once-vital part of the community for economic and cultural development. Through several planned projects, the site will concretely and symbolically teach us the lessons of openness, compassion, and cooperation.

They will gather the recollections of the region's inhabitants for preservation of the important interfaith dialogues that took place at the monastery, adapting them for transmission to new



generations.

With the monastery as a base for trekking tours, visitors will have the opportunity to experience sleeping in the monks' rehabilitated living quarters and visit the small museum that will be created with a permanent photo exhibition, cultural tourism activities that will aid the local economy. By connecting to existing structures in the region, the project will gradually expand and diversify.

Visitors will also be treated to local honey for consumption or purchase when the monks' bee-breeding program is reintroduced in partnership with a Moroccan association. This project will train local youngsters in the techniques of honey production as a sustainable venture.

Another project will train youth to be "global guides" to transmit to visitors important information about nature and the local ecosystems as well as the history of the monastery and the monks who lived there, how they interacted with the local communities, and the interfaith dialogues that took place within the monastery's walls. Both projects for Moroccan youth honor the history of the monastery as an orphanage and place of teaching Islam to the young children, as meaningful today as it was in the past.

Partners in developing these tourist activities include the Ministry of Tourism and the city of Azrou, its institutions and local associations. The Ministry of Culture has also recently opened a small museum in Azrou dedicated to the history, culture, fauna, and flora of the region. In addition, a women's cooperative that produces handmade carpets is supported by a collaboration between the nearby Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane and the Azrou Center for Local Community Development.

The crown jewel of the plan is to restore the monastery's two famous gardens, one botanical - to heal the body with medicinal plants - and one Buddhist - to heal the mind with meditation. HAF's partnership includes training in arboriculture skills and planting a fruit tree nursery with local seeds, a formerly significant agricultural activity benefiting farming families of this region. Taking care of the site long term will provide jobs to local gardeners as well.

Together, these partnerships and projects represent the rich heritage of the area and the philosophy that was the foundation of the monks who sought a place to meaningfully live their faith. With the revival of the Monastery at Toumliline, the people will enjoy the "fruits of community" planted in that long-ago orchard.

Lamia Radi, President of the foundation, is a political scientist and a career diplomat. This project has been developed by the Memories for the Future Foundation, a Moroccan NGO founded in 2008 that is dedicated to countering radical and violent ideologies in the Maghreb through the revitalization of interfaith sites and meaningful historical events.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC targets 300,000 new voters

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says it is anticipating additional 300,000 newly registered voters to be added to the already over one million voters during the ongoing voters' roll update exercise.

Speaking at a press conference, Tuesday September 22, at the

raining season, the commission projection is 300,000 and that the commission is sure of reaching the targeted number.

The Voter Roll Update exercise, which commenced on September 1, 2020, is proceeding according to schedule after a challenging start. The exercise is in its final stages and it will conclude on Friday, September 25, 2020, Madam Lansanah announced

remains on course, some challenges, such as crowdedness at some of the urban centers still persist, but the NEC is doing everything possible to mitigate these challenges as we progress to the conclusion to the exercise," Chairperson Lansanah said.

She told the conference that the candidate nomination exercise for the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Elections has ended. The exercise, which began on September 11, 2020 ended since, Monday, September 21, 2020, at 5:00PM as scheduled.

Speaking on the issue of trucking voters from point to another, Madam Lansanah said the NEC is deeply concerned about reports of trucking.

She added that the electoral house wish to reiterate that trucking is prohibited under Chapter 10.1(a) of the New Elections Law and is punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment of up to six months.

According to the new Elections Law Chapter 10.1 (a), "The following acts shall constitute malfeasance, punishable under this chapter: (a) Influencing or attempt to influence the results of any election; (b) Emitting or refusal to sign the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Civil Law Court summons Gender Minister, others

By Ben P. Wese

The Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice has summoned Gender Minister Williametta Saydee Tarr and the Independent Information Commission through Commissioner Mark Bedor-Wla Freeman to appear on 2 October in relation to a motion for summary judgment filed by Cllr. Findley Karnga.

According to a court document, Cllr. Findley Karnga filed the action for judicial review against Minister Tarr,

indicated that the respondent was served on 6 July 2020.

"That, movant says since the date of the service [of the] writ on the second respondent as indicated supra, it is more than the statutory time of ten days, thus barring second respondent from responding to allegations of the writ," Cllr. Karnga says.

He suggests that Minister Williametta Saydee Tarr and Hassan Karmeh should individually and jointly be held responsible for willfully denying access to the



Commission's headquarters in Monrovia, NEC's Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah along with the entire board of commissioners said despite the challenges of posed by bad road networks and the

during the press interaction.

"The NEC wishes to remind all Liberians that the Voter Roll Update will not be extended, as doing so will mean changing the Election Date of December 8, 2020. While the process



Gender Minister Williametta Saydee Tarr

"Liberia democracy under threat"

--Senatorial Aspirant

By Lewis S. Teh

Montserrado County Senatorial Aspirant Sheikh Mustapha Kouyateh says Liberia's democracy is undergoing serious threat from bad politicians who are desperate to enrich themselves through public offices.

Speaking during his endorsement program by a group of young people in Logan Town on 21 September, Mr. Kouyateh said electoral violence and voter trucking are factors that are leading to the threat.

"If we say you are well known, and popular in your constituency then why truck people? The idea of trucking simply means you are a total stranger that wants to enrich yourself at the expense of the ordinary people," he argues.

The senatorial aspirant notes that he is aware that Liberia is not lacking leadership because he thinks there are young people who are more qualified than some



public servants.

In accepting his endorsement from the young people, Mr. Kouyateh assures that he will not give promises which he cannot fulfill, noting that the House of Senate is a house that will focus on bills and good policy.

According to him, when elected as Senator, he will lobby

with his colleagues in the Senate to pass "Access Verification Bill" which will compel every citizen to give account of their wealth and properties and enable the country to have checks and balances.

Further, Mr. Kouyateh says he will introduce another bill in the interest of the young

noting that she was served a writ and she received it without making return to a writ of summon.

His motion before the court comes in the wake of a claim against Minister Tarr of allegedly withholding information requested, allegedly violating the public right to for the consumption of the requested information.

The court document details that Cllr. Karnga requests court to take judicial notice of the Sheriff's returns, which

requested information.

Additionally Cllr. Karnga wants the court to fine them LD\$5,000 for gross infringement and further orders the two respondents to pay USD\$5,000 for the payment of attorney fee.

According to him, withholding of information by the respondents violates public utility for the consumption of the information requested.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

people to be called the National Youth Service Bill which when passed, will compel every young person including students to pursue compulsory education, whether in colleges or at vocational schools.

Upon graduation from school, Mr. Kouyateh notes that students will take up one year youth service [assignment] in any county for a youth service, something he says will enable them to possibly be recruited by the government into public office.

During the program in Logan Town, Mr. Aloysius S. Weseh, a youth leader, said

his decision to support and endorse Mr. Kouyateh is based on his platform which includes advocacy for youth empowerment, quality health services for women and children as well as Mr. Kouyateh's tangibles in the county.

Mr. Weseh says it was about time the people of Montserrado, particularly the younger generation, stand for their future by casting their ballot based on candidates' platform and not for the sake of big names or the bags of rice and cash.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah calls on UN to be more equitable

President George Manneh Weah has suggested in a pre-recorded address to the United Nations' 75th Anniversary that the future he wants for the world body is a UN that is more equitable and inclusive.

During the event observed Monday, 21 September, Mr.

with emphasis on the pillars and principles enshrined in its Charter, and must also continue to respond to global challenges with the overarching goal of "Leaving No One Behind".

"Let us all, therefore, take urgent and concrete actions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the timely attainment of the Sustainable

Through its many humanitarian agencies, he says, the United Nations has been very effective in the advancement and development of humanity, and the protection of human rights and the vulnerable in society.

Over the years since its founding, however, President Weah notes that there have been the constantly changing dynamics of international configurations of power and influence, as well as shifting alliances, which have given rise to the need to re-examine and perhaps re-define the mission and vision of the United Nations.

He stresses the need for the United Nations to re-examine and perhaps re-define its mission and vision so that it can become more relevant and responsive to the new realities.

Accordingly, in 2015, he says further that the United Nations established a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) to replace the former Millennium Development Goals, with an Agenda to achieve these goals by the year 2030.

"They are meant to be a roadmap for our collective efforts to bring peace and prosperity to all mankind," he adds.

Today, he says already five years into the 15-year Agenda, the UN has paused to

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Weah said "We must have an inclusive society so that no one is left behind; and all member states must do their part in order to ensure that the UN is relevant to everyone."

According to him, the United Nations that is needed is expected to continue to deliver on its commitments,

Development Goals," he urges.

Mr. Weah renews Liberia's commitment to the United Nations, saying the country strongly believes that, in spite of its imperfections and shortcomings, the United Nations is still the most effective forum for ensuring international peace and security.

ALJA condemns targeted attacks on Liberia's opposition

The Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) says the current wave of targeted physical attacks on opposition Liberian politicians by alleged supporters of the Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) are detrimental to Liberia's peace and stability, and the rule of law.

ALJA says the repeated orchestration and the execution of physical attacks on opposition Liberian

condemned in the strongest term individuals believed to be supporters of the CDC for the September 13, 2020, threat on the life of Montserrado County Senator, Abraham Darius Dillion, and his supporters in District-16 based in Montserrado County.

Senator Dillion was speaking at a political rally organized by his supporters in the St. Paul Bridge Community in Montserrado County when a man believed to be a CDC



Joe Mason: National President

politicians; and the disruption of their political rallies by individuals believed to be supporters of the CDC and President George Manneh Weah run contrary to the principle of peaceful coexistence.

The Association says these attacks, are polarizing Liberians; and they have the proclivity of plunging Liberia into another civil war. ALJA in a press release issued on September 21, 2020,

supporter, reportedly armed with a tear gas canister and a knife tried to bulldoze his way to where the Senator was speaking. ALJA said had it not been for the swift intervention of the Senator's bodyguards and supporters, the individual would have physically attacked the Senator. ALJA maintained that this action endangered the life of the Senator and those of his supporters that attended the rally.

House invites LWSC boss

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has invited the Managing Director at the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) Duannah A. Kamara to appear before full plenary on Thursday, 24 September to show reason why he has refused to supply water to the people of Johnsonville.

The invitation follows a communication sent to the House Plenary by Montserrado County Electoral District #2 Representative Jimmy W. Smith.

Rep. Smith says on behalf of his people he has written to Mr. Kamara on three occasions and has held discussions with Kamara's office concerning LWSC's social corporate obligations to the township.

Smith notes that he has even presented a business proposal, but there has been no response from the

Managing Director.

According to the Montserrado lawmaker, the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation has refused to supply water to the township of Johnsonville despite using the land space of the township,

thereby stopping the township from generating revenue.

Smith indicates that he wants LWSC to appear before the House Plenary to answer why it should not live up to its social corporate responsibility and to show



LWSC Boss, Duannah A. Kamara

cause why the Managing Director has refused to live up to his promise which resulted in a protest for water.

The lawmaker recalls that during the protest for water, the LWSC boss promised the people that they were going to get water in two hours.

He adds that as recently as September 28 and 29 2019, a financial instrument for urban water supply project of which LWSC is allegedly a beneficiary, was introduced at the Legislature.

According to him, he seized the opportunity to remind and bring to the attention of his colleagues the plight of the people of the township of

Johnsonville concerning LWSC's social corporate obligations which are in line with the relationship between a profitable corporation and affected communities.

He discloses that during a meeting at the LWSC office, another serious issue that is causing serious damage to the Jacob Town, St. Francis Road was also brought to his attention, but nothing has been done up to now.

The Montserrado county lawmaker says he sees this as a total disregard to the leadership of the township of Johnsonville and the office of Electoral District #2.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Affaire SaahKemayah : le Sénat interrompt l'audience de confirmation et ouvre une enquête

Le Sénat libérien a interrompu l'audience de confirmation du diplomate Dee-Maxwell SaahKemayah, et ouvert une enquête pour faire la lumière sur des allégations qui mettent en cause l'homme nommé récemment ministre des Affaires étrangères par le président de la république.

Le ministre des affaires étrangères désigné est accusé par Wynee Cummings Wilson d'harcèlements sexuels.

Le Comité sénatorial des relations étrangères a ouvert une enquête sur l'allégation de Mme Cummings Wilson contre l'ambassadeur Kemayah à la suite des récentes manifestations contre le viol qui semblent avoir mis le Libéria en état d'alerte sur les violences sexuelles.

Le 11 septembre, le président George Manneh Weah déclarait le viol comme une urgence nationale, environ deux semaines après que des manifestations contre le viol ont eu lieu pendant trois jours de suite, auxquelles ont pris part

femmes, hommes et enfants venus de tous les horizons. Parmi les manifestants figurait l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Dans le cadre de l'urgence nationale contre le viol, le président Weah a également annoncé la nomination d'un procureur spécial pour viol et la création d'un registre national des délinquants sexuels.

Avant que l'audience de confirmation du Sénat de M.

Kemayah ne puisse commencer lundi, la cour du Capitole était remplie de différents groupes de supporters tenant des pancartes, félicitant le président George Manneh Weah d'avoir nommé Kemayah au poste de ministre des Affaires étrangères. Parmi ces groupes figuraient la Fédération de la jeunesse

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La difficile succession de Rwagasore : l'affaire Casablanca et Monrovia

On vous parlait récemment du caractère éphémère des gouvernements du Burundi indépendant et monarchique. Si certaines raisons pour expliquer cette instabilité ont été évoquées, il faut aussi dire que la succession désastreuse du héros de l'indépendance n'y est pas étrangère. Le point.

On le disait tantôt. La succession du fils de Mwambutsa n'a pas été une douce sinécure. Au contraire, son assassinat a déclenché une course effrénée vers le contrôle du pouvoir. Une course qui ne sera pas sans dégénérer en conflits politiques aux lourdes conséquences. Preuve de ce conflit, les divergences qui opposèrent le camp Muhirwa-

Bamina à celui de Siryuyumusi-Mirerekano, divisant par là le Parlement en ailes Casablanca et Monrovia dans un premier temps avant de basculer dans une dimension ethnique dans un second temps.

En effet, pour venir à bout de ces rivalités, le roi tentera un arbitrage. Sans succès, car, deux ans après, en septembre 1964, les divisions en deux tendances irréductibles éclatèrent au grand jour. De façon significative, et c'est ce qu'écrit Aude Laroque, elles se qualifièrent par des références étrangères, à savoir les capitales des deux grands courants qui divisaient alors le panafricanisme : la tendance de « Monrovia », dite modérée et pro-occidentale, rassemblant le plus de Bahutu ; les Batutsi se retrouvèrent essentiellement sous l'étiquette progressiste de « Casablanca ».

Acteur et figure marquante de cette scission au sein de l'Uprona, Paul Mirerekano est aux côtés de Rwagasore quand ce dernier lance le

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Le CCE se dit préoccupé par la « commercialisation » de la démocratie libérienne

Le principal groupe d'observation des élections au Libéria, le Comité de coordination des élections (ECC), s'est inquiété de ce qu'il considère comme vente de la démocratie dans le pays. Le CCE a fait observer que depuis le début de la mise à jour des listes électorales, le processus s'est caractérisé par « la commercialisation de notre démocratie par le camionnage des électeurs et des incitations financières ». S'adressant à une conférence de presse à Monrovia le vendredi 18 septembre 2020, le groupe d'observation électorale a considéré la commercialisation du système électoral comme une violation de la nouvelle loi électorale du Libéria.

Cela, a déclaré le CCE, a créé

numéro de code de centre 03071 et à l'hôtel de ville de Klay avec le code de centre 03043, circonscription électorale numéro 2. Un autre incident a été signalé dans le comté de Bomi, circonscription électorale 1 Moses Vincent Compound avec le code 03075 où la violence, le harcèlement et l'intimidation ont perturbé l'opération d'enregistrement des nouveaux électeurs.

Le CCE a condamné le camionnage des électeurs et souhaite informer le public qu'un tel acte contrevient à l'article 10.1a de la nouvelle loi électorale qui interdit le camionnage des électeurs et que cette pratique constitue une infraction électorale et est passible d'une amende ou d'une peine



un environnement propice au déclenchement de la violence électorale, notamment dans les comtés de Grand Cape Mount et de Bomi, et a accru les tensions politiques inutiles dans le pays.

Oscar Bloh, le président du comité de coordination des élections a cependant confirmé que la révision a commencé dans tout le pays mais le processus n'a pas commencé simultanément le 11 septembre 2020 dans l'ensemble des 73 circonscriptions électorales. Selon Bloh, les observateurs du CCE ont signalé le camionnage d'électeurs de Montserrado à Bomi, en particulier dans le district numéro un. Un cas concret était dans le district numéro un, à l'école secondaire CH Dwey avec le

d'emprisonnement d'au plus six (6) mois ou les deux.

Le CCE a en outre indiqué que le camionnage des électeurs, qui s'accompagne d'avantages financiers et d'autres formes d'incitations financières pour mobiliser un soutien, sont des tentatives calculées de la part des politiciens d'influencer indûment le résultat des élections du 8 décembre 2020. Ces pratiques équivalent à la commercialisation de la démocratie fragile du Libéria et portent atteinte aux principes d'intégrité électorale, de crédibilité et de représentation légitime des citoyens à l'Assemblée nationale.

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Français

Affaire SaahKemayah : le Sénat interrompt

libérienne.

Cependant, un groupe de femmes qui s'était prononcé contre la confirmation de M. Kemayah sur la base de l'allégation faite contre lui n'a pas été autorisé à accéder aux locaux, bien que leurs groupes rivaux aient été autorisés. Lors de la comparution de Kemayah devant le Sénat, la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, NyonbleeKangar - Lawrence, a déclaré que l'audience de confirmation devrait être interrompue. Elle a dit avoir voté auparavant pour que le candidat soit confirmé lorsqu'il a été nommé Ministre adjoint de l'administration au Ministère des affaires étrangères et également Représentant spécial auprès des Nations Unies. La sénatrice Lawrence a également dit que le candidat Kemayah est qualifié pour le poste de ministre des Affaires étrangères, mais ce poste est un poste d'intégrité et que quiconque l'occupe devrait être exempt de tout soupçon.

Elle a demandé que l'audience de confirmation soit suspendue jusqu'à ce que l'enquête soit terminée afin de sauver la réputation du

candidat.

Ayant pris également la parole, le sénateur CommanyWesseh du comté de River Gee a dit que le Sénat doit s'assurer que le ministre des Affaires étrangères est une personne qui ait une probité morale et qui puisse légitimement représenter le peuple du Libéria. Il a dit regretter que beaucoup de candidats à la confirmation aient été retirés par le président après leur échec, tandis que d'autres soient restés aux postes qu'ils occupaient auparavant, alors que les questions soulevées contre eux sont restées sans réponse. Le sénateur de River Gee a aussi demandé à l'exécutif de prendre en considération certains commentaires qui ressortent lorsque les candidats comparaissent devant le Sénat pour confirmation. « L'audience de confirmation devrait faire l'objet d'une diligence raisonnable », a-t-il dit.

« Je ne veux pas que des sentiments nous lient, je ne veux pas que nous entendions des choses qui n'ont pas été testées. J'exhorte donc le Sénat à défendre la justice, et pour défendre la justice, il faut rechercher la vérité.

La difficile succession de Rwagasore :

parti Uprona. Un temps parti et resté au Congo, il rentre avec une volonté de prendre la direction du parti, à la suite d'une promesse que Rwagasore lui aurait faite. Une promesse toutefois jusqu'ici non corroborée. Mais pour le professeur Evariste Ngayimpinda, que Rwagasore aurait eu l'idée de confier la direction du parti à Mirerekano n'a rien d'impossible. Ceci, d'autant plus qu'il l'avait énormément servi et jouissait de l'estime de tous les militants, de la base au sommet. Il n'y a cependant pas de preuves formelles de cette promesse. Et d'ajouter qu'il n'est certes pas exclu qu'André Muhirwa, de sa propre initiative et ambitions personnelles, aurait cherché à éloigner Mirerekano.

Cap exil

Cette rivalité entre les deux hommes, Muhirwa et Mirerekano fait vite de virer à l'extrême. Dès la fin 1961, c'est un Mirerekano qui reprochera au gouvernement Muhirwa, successeur de Rwagasore, de ne pas appliquer le programme politique de ce dernier.

Le 25 août 1962, il convoque un meeting au stade prince Louis Rwagasore.

Il évoque la nécessité des élections, accusant Muhirwa de conduire le pays à la détérioration politique. Pour avoir organisé ce meeting, Mirerekano est arrêté avant d'être libéré par une cinquantaine de gendarmes qui l'escortent jusqu'à son habitation. Nous sommes le 25 août 1962.

Au final, dans un congrès tenu à Muramvya pour élire le patron de l'Uprona, c'est Joseph Bamina, de la même ethnie que Mirerekano qui est élu à l'issue d'une élection dans laquelle les délégués de Ruyigi et Rutana favorables à Mirerekano ne participent pas. Après cette défaite, rien ne sera comme avant pour ce fils de Muramvya. Il n'assistera plus aux réunions du comité central issu de ces élections. Arrêté le 26 février sur ordre du parquet général avant d'être relâché le 1er mars faute de preuves, il finit par se réfugier d'abord à Uvira, puis au Rwanda en juin 1964.

De quoi dire à Ngayimpinda que ce virage marque une rupture définitive au sein du parti Uprona. Une rupture qui affectera l'assemblée, de même que les équipes gouvernementales qui allaient suivre comme on l'évoquait ici.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Josep Borrell

L'UE se tient aux côtés des Nations unies

BRUXELLES - En temps normal, je me trouverais actuellement à New York pour l'ouverture de l'Assemblée générale annuelle des Nations unies (AGNU). C'est l'événement qui concentre le plus grand nombre de décideurs politiques mondiaux en un seul lieu et le temps fort du calendrier diplomatique. Mais cette année est loin d'être normale, et la "semaine de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies" se tient de façon virtuelle, les débats se déroulant en ligne, exercice auquel nous avons tous été rompus ces derniers mois.

C'est regrettable pour plusieurs raisons. L'ONU célèbre cette année son 75e anniversaire, et l'on aurait souhaité meilleure façon de marquer un tel anniversaire. En outre, dans l'état actuel du monde le système multilatéral, dont les Nations unies constituent le cœur, est plus contesté que jamais. Juste au moment pourtant où nous en avons le plus besoin.

En effet, jamais l'offre de solutions multilatérales n'a été si limitée, et la demande si forte. Chaque jour nous montre à quel point le nationalisme étroit et les rivalités stratégiques, en particulier celle qui oppose les États-Unis et la Chine, paralysent le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies et, plus largement, l'ensemble du système international. Depuis le changement climatique et la maîtrise des armements jusqu'à la sécurité maritime en passant par les droits humains, et au-delà, la coopération mondiale est affaiblie, les accords internationaux abandonnés et le droit international mis à mal ou appliqué de manière très sélective.

Pour les Européens, cet état de fait est profondément préoccupant. Mais la crise actuelle du multilatéralisme est un problème qui ne concerne pas uniquement les Européens: ce sont la sécurité et les droits de tous qui sont menacés. Certes, des formules telles que le "système multilatéral" et l'"ordre international fondé sur des règles" peuvent sembler vagues et ne sonnent pas autant que "America first" ou "Take back control" #

". Mais elles représentent quelque chose de très concret et bien réel: le choix entre la paix et la guerre, entre des sociétés ouvertes et fermées, ou encore entre une économie fondée sur le développement durable et une économie qui contribue au creusement des inégalités et à un changement climatique incontrôlable.

Un monde régi par des règles définies d'un commun accord constitue la base même de notre sécurité, de nos libertés et de notre prospérité. Un ordre international fondé sur des règles rend les États plus sûrs, préserve la liberté des citoyens, incite les entreprises à investir et permet de protéger l'environnement. L'alternative - "la loi du plus fort" - a été mise en oeuvre durant la plus grande partie de l'histoire de l'humanité, et son terrible bilan est le meilleur argument en faveur d'un système multilatéral. Malheureusement, on y recourt à nouveau de plus en plus souvent, avec les résultats que chacun peut constater.

Telle n'est pas l'approche de l'UE. Nous continuerons à croire dans les Nations unies et à les soutenir. Et ce pas uniquement dans les discours: nous les soutenons également sur les plans politique et financier, ainsi que sur le terrain diplomatique, en essayant de jouer un rôle de passerelle au sein du Conseil de sécurité.

Tandis que d'autres tentaient de démanteler

l'Organisation mondiale de la santé au plus fort de la pandémie de COVID-19, c'est l'UE qui a mené les négociations qui ont abouti à un accord en faveur d'une enquête indépendante sur les origines du coronavirus. Nous sommes en outre le principal donateur pour le mécanisme en faveur d'un accès mondial aux vaccins contre la COVID-19 (COVAX), mis en place afin que le monde entier puisse obtenir un vaccin fiable le plus vite possible et que celui-ci soit traité comme un bien public mondial.

L'UE contribue à hauteur du quart du budget des Nations unies. On dit souvent que l'Europe ne pèse pas de tout son poids géopolitique. Mais, en termes d'engagement multilatéral, elle finance bien au-delà de son poids.

Dans nos opérations de gestion de crise, nous agissons main dans la main avec les Nations unies en matière de stabilisation et de reconstruction dans de nombreuses zones de conflit, du Sahel à la Corne de l'Afrique, des Balkans au Proche-Orient. Dans les pires zones de guerre et les plus grandes crises humanitaires, l'UE et les Nations unies œuvrent de concert.

Les Européens se sont battus aussi pour obtenir un accord international sur le climat, et nous faisons de notre mieux pour le préserver. Nous nous employons sans relâche à protéger la biodiversité, l'accès à l'eau potable ainsi que les autres ressources naturelles.

Pour nous, ces contributions sont des investissements dans la sécurité et la prospérité au niveau mondial, et, partant, dans notre propre sécurité et notre propre prospérité. Nous savons que notre sécurité et notre santé ne peuvent être assurées que si celles de nos voisins le sont également. Ce qui vaut pour les personnes vaut aussi pour les pays.

Même si nous faisons face à de forts vents contraires, l'UE gardera le cap pour trouver des solutions communes. Cela s'avère souvent difficile et éprouvant, mais nous sommes toujours prêts à discuter des moyens de rendre le système multilatéral plus efficace, plus légitime et plus adapté aux enjeux, tant avec les partenaires qui partagent les mêmes valeurs que nous qu'avec ceux avec lesquels nous sommes en désaccord. Le multilatéralisme d'aujourd'hui doit être différent de celui du vingtième siècle: les rapports de force ont évolué et les défis ne sont plus les mêmes.

Une grande partie de ce qui façonnera notre avenir, qu'il s'agisse de la gestion des données dans le cyberspace, de l'intelligence artificielle, de la biogénétique, des véhicules autonomes, et de bien d'autres choses encore, se déploie dans un grand vide réglementaire. Nous devons combler ce dernier par la définition en commun de règles et de normes, tout en veillant à ce que celles-ci soient effectivement appliquées, y compris dans des contextes où les principaux acteurs concernés ne sont pas des gouvernements.

Au bout du compte ce qui importe pour l'UE, c'est que la réforme du multilatéralisme doit se faire par le biais d'une construction et non par sa destruction. Nous devons revitaliser le système, et non l'abandonner. Dès lors, cette semaine et au-delà, nous maintiendrons l'esprit de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies et défendrons le multilatéralisme dont tous les pays ont tant besoin. Un monde sans Nations unies nous mettrait tous en danger.

SPECIAL

ARTICLE

Atty. Jackson complains Justice Korkpor -Wants US deny corrupt Judges Visa

Liberia's outgoing Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) based in London, the United Kingdom, Atty. Isaac W. Jackson, Jr. is calling on the United States Government through its Embassy near Monrovia to deny visas to Liberian Justices and Judges deemed to be corrupt as was done in the case of Mr. Andrew Wonploe, former Director of Passport.

"For Liberia's fledgling democracy to grow in strength, the international community needs to help prevent the re-emergence of a puppet Supreme Court in the country", Jackson stressed.

According to a release issued in Monrovia, Atty. Jackson recalls that the U.S State Department reports have repeatedly criticized the Judiciary for being corrupt, emphasizing that only an independent judiciary will produce a better Liberia; not a corrupt and compromised Court.

At the same time, the Liberian Permanent Rep to the IMO has written a formal letter of complaint to

Jackson, in reciting the attribution made to him in the April 22, 2019 edition of FrontPageAfrica Newspaper relative to Chief Justice Korkpor's claim of being insulted by him, the Chief Justice imputed to him words that he (Jackson) neither said nor were reported by the newspaper.

The former deputy information minister says these steps are the first geared towards seeking the intervention of the ECOWAS Court into the matter he termed as injustice and violation of his Constitutional as well as human rights.

According to the release, Atty. Jackson has instructed his team of lawyers, headed by Cllr. Finley Yujay Karngar, to take his grievances to the Abuja-based ECOWAS Court which exclusively deals with human rights issues in the West African Sub-region,

The Supreme Court of Liberia earlier this month denied Atty. Jackson's petition for a prohibition on his removal as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the IMO, bringing to a closure a two-year legal battle which

FrontPageAfrica Newspaper, he (Jackson) was justly entitled to be heard (due process of law) before the decision to suspend his license was reached as stated in the Supreme Court's Opinion.

"That I was served no NOTICE from the Supreme Court regarding contempt charges against me. Also, I was given no opportunity to mount a defence against Chief Justice, Korkpor's allegation of being insulted by me. That contrary to judicial canons 9 and 28, the Chief Justice proceeded to bundle the two cases - the one which I brought before the Court against the all-powerful Executive, and the other which the Honorable Chief Justice himself placed before the Court, and without the benefit of hearing from me, persuaded his honorable colleagues that I was guilty as he had charged", he continues in his letter of complaint.

Jackson's letter of complaint also accuses Chief Justice Korkpor of taking absolutely no action to penalize the Executive for disobeying and disregarding the Supreme Court's Order to renew he and his family diplomatic passports despite his best efforts to draw the attention of His Honor, the Chief Justice and the Honorable Supreme Court to the willful and blatant disregard of its directives issued to the Executive through the Offices of the Solicitor General on April 16, 2019. He argues that in many jurisdictions, the blatant and publicly challenging refusal to comply with and disregard for the decision and directive of a court, let alone the highest court in the land, will be considered grounds for criminal contempt. However, Jackson says the reverse is happened in his case, in that, he and his family are still without renewed diplomatic passports as the Supreme Court looks on helplessly.

Atty. Jackson, according to the release, has described as the most dangerous and strange departure from the principles of natural justice the conduct of His Honor, Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, Sr: "I respectfully request an investigation be conducted into the matter which I have faithfully and truthfully submitted before the Judicial Inquiry Commission", he concludes in his letter.

It can be recalled that on May 20, 2019, His Honor, Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, Sr. rudely interrupted and stopped the President of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe, while in speech-flight for criticizing the Supreme Court's decision that impeached former Associate Justice KabinehJan'eh.

The situation drew barrage of criticisms against the Chief Justice, with one renowned lawyer who, on the basis of anonymity state, "It has never happened in the history of the LNBA since its formation in 1907 for any Chief Justice to stop a Bar President's speech no matter how unpleasant that speech is as in the case of Gongloe". The legal luminary went on to further challenge any historian to prove him wrong and show the record or the reference.

Atty. Jackson had contested that his appointment on September 23, 2016 as Liberia's Permanent Rep to the IMO would only expire in September of 2021 as a five-year tenured position in keeping with the Maritime Act of 2010 and Article 89 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution.

Upon his ascendancy to the presidency, President George M. Weah named Mr. Moses Owen Browne to the post as a replacement for Atty. Jackson in flagrant disregard to the Maritime Act of 2010.

Atty. Jackson then filed a Writ of Prohibition at the Supreme Court of Liberia, protesting the President's appointment. Upon conducting preliminary hearings into the Case, on July 23, 2018, the Supreme Court issued a Stay Order, requesting all parties to return to status quo ante. However, the Executive refused to abide by the Stay Order with apparent impunity, in that, Jackson and his Family diplomatic passports were never renewed till the case was decided September 4, 2020.



the Judicial Inquiry Commission, accusing Chief Justice Korkpor of violating the principles of natural justice, Judicial Canons 9, 10, 11, 16 and 28, as well as Article 20 (a) of the Constitution of Liberia.

In his letter dated September 21, 2020, Jackson says that contrary to Judicial canons, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 28, His Honor, Chief Justice Korkpor proceeded to suspend his license to practice law based on a mere newspaper reportage - a suspension, and threat of permanent disbarment, announced in an Opinion which at the same time sided with the Executive to dismiss him from serving as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), ensuring that he return home with his family unemployed, and effectively without a form of professional livelihood to support and care for himself, his wife, and his three innocent children.

Also, in his letter, Jackson accused Chief Justice Korkpor for violating the rule-of-thumb regarding the use of quotation marks. According to Atty.

now grants the George Weah led-administration the greenlight to recall him.

He was at the same time suspended from the practice of law for one calendar year due to what the Supreme Court Bench considered as invectives by him on the Chief Justice during the course of the hearing.

But Atty. Jackson said that contrary to the judicial oath, and to the agreeable silence of the four other distinguished Honorable Members of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice ordained himself, in obvious repudiation of the principles of natural justice, to be his accuser, judge and punisher, all at the same time.

According to Atty. Jackson, lawyers are not only trained to accept a Court's Opinion; they're also expected to disagree with a Court's ruling, and to state politely their disagreements.

In his grievances to the Judicial Inquiry Commission, the outgoing Permanent Rep to the IMO, among other issues, stated that no matter how, in the opinion and words of the Chief Justice, "egregious, unprovoked, assault and insult" the attribution made to him in the

Drama awaits NEC

A political drama awaits the National Election Commission (NEC), as the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) is expected to file legal actions

Supreme Court ruling and the June 2020 Resolution by the Legislature.

The CPP notes that more besides the electoral body refusal to clean up the voters'



against that electoral body today over what it claims as a "blatant refusal" by the NEC to clean up the Final Voters' Roll as mandated in a 2017

roll it has engaged in a voter roll update that is characterized by fraud at every level which is only piling up the messiness of the voter roll.

"In view of the above, the legal team of the CPP will on Wednesday September 23, 2020 file series of legal actions against the NEC," the CCP reveals in a statement issued Monday night.

The statement notes that the four political leaders (Alexander B. Cummings, Benoni W. Urey, Nyonblee Kargwe Lawrwnce and Joseph N. Boakai), members of the CPP Legislative Caucus, candidates for the CPP in the December 8 senatorial election and leaders of the four constituent parties will escort the legal team to the court.

"Immediately following the filing of the legal action, the four political leaders of the CPP and their entourage will proceed to the Headquarters of the CPP/ANC where they will hold a very major PRESS CONFERENCE. The press conference will be addressed by the political leaders," the statement continues.

The CPP has asked its partisans to assemble at the Headquarters of the ANC for the press conference.

NEC targets

Cont'd from page 6

register or other document which is required to be signed in connection with any election without just cause.

Detailing her argument furthered, Madam Lansanah intimated while the NEC is not clothed with authority to impose criminal penalties, the Commission frowns on the trucking of citizens for political purpose, and calls on all involved in this practice to immediately desist.

"Let it be known that a person who is trucked to another area is also in violation of Chapter 3 of the NEW Elections Law, which states that a person must register to vote in the area where he or she ordinarily resides and if established, consistent with due process of law, that a

person was trucked in this regard, his or her name will be removed from the voter roll and turned over to the Ministry of Justice for further action," she said.

Meanwhile, Madam Browne announced that the three propositions for the Referendum will be represented by symbols.

"I am pleased to report that the three symbols have been vetted by stakeholders and the Board of Commissioners has approved them for printing and posting through the 19 magisterial areas across Liberia. The symbols will be subjects of nation-wide voter education for the Referendum," she added. -
Edited by Othello B. Garblah

Weah calls on

Cont'd from page 6

observe this SDG Moment, and to take stock of the progress so far along this important roadmap.

With only ten (10) years left, he says it is already clear that "we will have to re-double our efforts and accelerate our actions in many areas if we are to attain any or all of these lofty goals by the end of this decade."

In so doing, President Weah urges the need to take into account the fact that the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has not only slowed progress, but has also exposed in many ways the vulnerabilities and shortcomings of the current international world order.

According to him, the impact is especially felt in the areas of income inequality, poverty reduction, and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as discrimination against women and girls.

"It is important, therefore, that in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our search for solutions will be guided within the framework of these Global Goals, in a manner that will accelerate our transition to more sustainable and inclusive economies," he says.

In confronting these new challenges, he notes that multilateralism, international cooperation, and global solidarity will become increasingly important in addressing the complex problems the world now has to grapple with.

Mr. Weah continues that the extent of that cooperation will determine how rapidly Member States, especially developing nations, will recover from the impact of COVID-19 and endeavor to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. -
Press release

Starts from back page

Senators fuss

down well with another Grand Kru County Senator, Dr. Peter Sonpon Coleman, who took a swap at Sen. Wesseh, saying when he and others like him were enjoying the past administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, he did not speak against some of the challenges they are now considering as 'bad governance'.

He slammed Sen. Wesseh saying, it is unfair for a sitting senator to mock officials that were confirmed by senators in the public glare.

In response to Sen. Coleman, Sen. Wesseh said,

Coleman should be prepared to provide his professional services to many citizens in the near future if the pending election ends in violence and violence could return him (Coleman) to the hospital to serve Liberians instead of being in the senate.

Sen. Wesseh's statement did not go down well with the Grand Kru County senator as he responded harshly saying former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf reportedly cheated others in the 2014 River Gee special election to allow Senator Wesseh come through as victor.

That prompted Sen. Wesseh

to request an explanation from Coleman about the death of late River Gee County Senator Isaac Johnson, who died doing surgery conducted by him (Sen. Dr. Coleman) at his private Malag Clinic during the early days of former Johnson Sirleaf administration.

The exchanges created serious tensions between the two senators; it took Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipee and Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay to quiet the bitter exchanges. -
Edited by Othello B. Garblah

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EITI boss decries

export value of natural resources. Liberia joined the EITI regime in 2008, becoming its 14th member.

The one-day Police Dialogue, held under the auspices of the Governance Commission, brought together stakeholders, international partners Civil Society members. Other panelists at the high table were Minister of Mines and Energy Gesler E. Murray and Auditor General, Madam Yusador S. Gaye.

GC Acting Executive Director Ms Cecelia Flomo

describes the theme of the dialogue as critical to the core of the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity, PADP.

Second panelist, Mines and Energy Minister Gesler E. Murray reiterates concerns about illicit Alluvial mining activities across the countries by foreigners, most of them assisted by local authorities and citizens.

He says these illegal miners are of various nationalities including Ghanaians, Burkinabes, Nigerians, Togolese and Chinese, among others, and

they are being accommodated by chiefs and traditional leaders who give their daughters to them in marriage.

He points to lack of capacity and resources to addressing the situation and recommends need for both soft and hardware devices, including drones, 4-Wheel Drive vehicles, among others to pursue the illegal migrants.

However, third panelist - Liberia's Auditor General Madam Yusador S. Gaye, seems not to be happy over the slow manner in which the

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country is proceeding in its commitment to accountability and transparency, saying "We are little bite backward; it is difficult to get documentation."

She says with Liberia having

50 percent of West Africa's rain forest along with other natural endowments, the country ought to do more in ensuring its citizens benefit from these resources. -
Story by Jonathan Browne

Senators fuss over NEC appearances

-as Pro-temp claims the Commissioners are too busy to appear



Pro tempore, Senator Albert Chie

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Senators Conmany Wesseh and Peter Coleman were entangled in war of words Tuesday September 22, after Senate President Pro tempore, Senator Albert Chie said the board of commissioners and the entire authorities at the National Elections Commission (NEC)

were too busy currently to appear before the full plenary of the Liberian Senate.

The purpose of their proposed appearance is to provide update or detailed information as it relates to the reported electoral violence and trucking of voters' from one point to another by aspirants.

This was after the Senate's committee on elections and

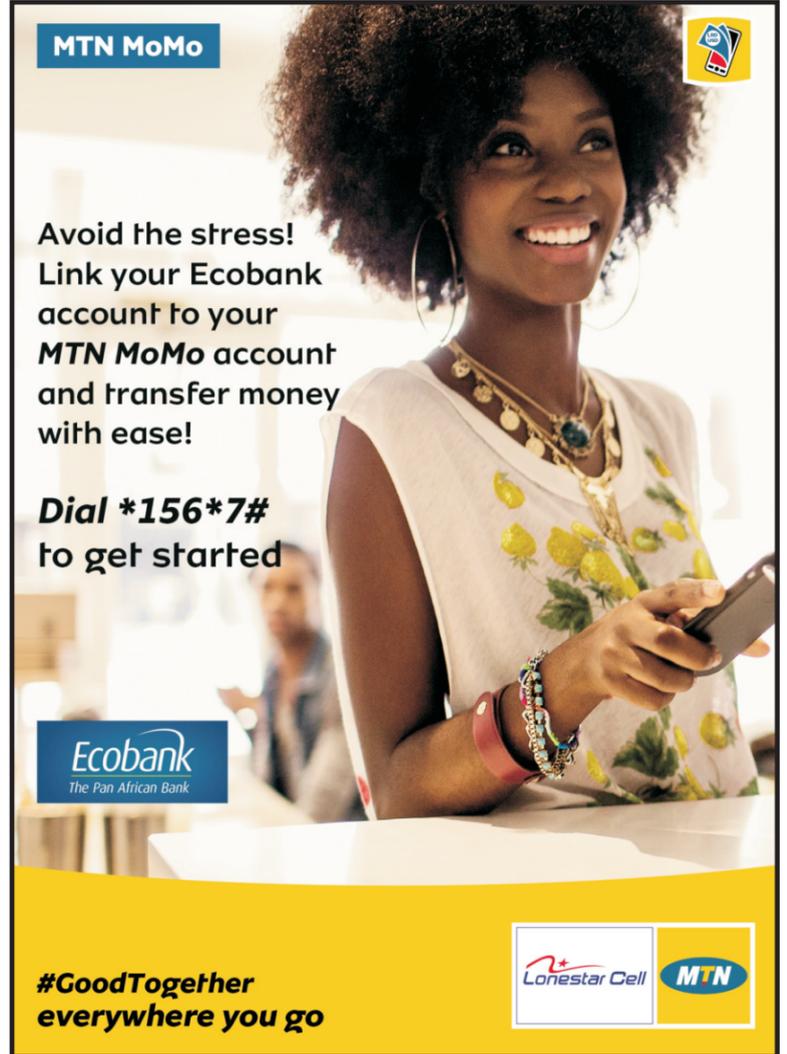
inauguration headed by Bong County Senator, Dr. Henrique Tokpah presented a report highlighting some of the challenges facing the ongoing voters' roll update exercise.

But Chie, who is also a Senator from Grand Kru County remained firm and said with the voters' roll update which is a nationwide exercise, it would be an injustice to the electoral house to call them every time for hearing.

As the debate about the invitation to the NEC intensifies on the Senate's floor, River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh in what appears to be a mockery noted that those appointed and subsequently confirmed by the senate are effective and the process of election is on course and there's no need of fear.

But his comment did not go

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LEITI boss decries lack of access to information

Difficulties in accessing information from government ministries and agencies is said to be hindering the reporting duty of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative or LEITI, Officer-In-Charge Jeffery Nukata Yates, discloses here.

Serving as Lead Panelist Tuesday, 22 September at a Policy Dialogue on Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the

Management of Extractive Industries to Enhance National Development in Liberia held in Monrovia, Mr. Yates disclosed that ministries and agencies often renege in making available relevant information that should enhance LEITI's reporting process.

He explains that the primary mandate of LEITI is to verify payments made to government by concession companies, ensure they are accounted for and utilized for the entire citizenry.



LEITI O-In-C Jeffery Nukata Yates with Auditor-General Madam Yusador S. Gaye

O-I-C Yates recommends a need for adequate effort towards production and export data and to appoint focus persons in various ministries and agencies who will be exclusively responsible to collaborate with the LEITI in its reporting process.

Under the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative principles, member countries are required to declare production value and

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