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# The New Dawn

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# Passport wahhala

## *-Rope hauling bush*



Pres. Weah



Ex Foreign Min. Findley



Ex-Liberian passport director Andrew Wonplo



Sen. Kargua-Lawrence

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# Continental News

## Sources: Nigeria Convoy Attack Death Toll Rises to 30

The death toll from a jihadist attack on the convoy of the regional governor in northeast Nigeria has risen to 30, security sources said Saturday.

Two sources told AFP fatalities from the attack Friday in restive Borno state had doubled as more bodies were found and now included 12 policemen, five soldiers, four members of a government-backed militia and nine civilians.

"The tally has increased to 30 as many bodies were picked in the surrounding areas after the attack," one of the sources said, adding that "many people were injured".

Sources had earlier told AFP that a convoy transporting Borno Governor Babagana Umara Zulum came under attack from insurgents Friday near the town of Baga on the shores of Lake Chad.

A second security source gave the same death toll of 30 from the assault and said the militants seized eight vehicles.

"The terrorists made away with an armored personnel carrier, a gun truck and six sports utility vehicles in the convoy," the source said.

Police confirmed in a statement that the attack by suspected jihadists on the "security convoy" had killed eight policemen and three government-backed militia

members.

It said 13 other people had been wounded and the attack had been "successfully repelled". Zulum -- who sources said was unhurt in the attack -- had flown to the area to prepare for the return of residents displaced from Baga by the conflict.

He was driving in the

convoy accompanied by government officials under tight security towards Baga ahead of the arrival of the returnees.

The IS-affiliated Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group maintains most of its camps on islands in Lake Chad and the region is known as a bastion for the jihadists.

The militant group has recently intensified attacks on military and civilian targets in the region.

In July Zulum's convoy came under gun attack from ISWAP outside Baga, forcing him to cancel his trip to the town.

The decade-long insurgency in northeast Nigeria has killed 36,000 people and forced over 2 million from their homes.

Most of the displaced have been housed into squalid camps where they depend on food handouts from international charities.

Local authorities have been encouraging the displaced to go back to their homes despite concern from aid agencies of the security risks.

ISWAP splintered from the main Boko Haram group in 2016 and has gone on to be the dominant insurgent force in the region. VOA



## Minister's pay docked for using air force plane

South Africa's president has docked three months of the defence minister's pay after she allowed governing party officials to fly on an air force plane to Zimbabwe with her on 9 September.

Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula was accused of misusing state resources for party political business.

The defence force had

argued she was on official business and had simply given the other passengers a lift.

But President Cyril Ramaphosa called it an "error of judgement".

Ms Mapisa-Nqakula had been travelling to Zimbabwe's capital Harare for a scheduled meeting to discuss regional issues.

The delegation from South Africa's governing party - the African National Congress (ANC)

- was meanwhile going there for crisis talks with Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF party aimed at helping tackle the country's political and economic woes.

But opposition politicians were extremely critical of the fact that she let the ANC delegation hitch a lift with her.

Mr Ramaphosa, who in coming to power had pledged to clean up the ANC's reputation after a decade of corruption scandals, said that by giving the ANC delegates a lift on the plane, she had not acted "in the best interest of good governance".

As a result, he said he had decided to dock Ms Mapisa-Nqakula's pay, with the money going to a fund to help fight coronavirus.

In response, the opposition Democratic Alliance party said Mr Ramaphosa had not gone far enough, characterising the punishment as a slap on the wrist.

The issue could be discussed further in parliament amid some calls for her to be sacked. BBC

## Islamist militants kill 18 in north-eastern Nigeria

The Nigerian military says 18 people have been left dead after an ambush on a government convoy in the north-east of the country.

It said four soldiers, 10 police officers and four civilians were killed in the attack targeting Borno state officials on Friday.

The Islamic State (IS) group said it was behind the attack, claiming 30 people had been killed.

The military has been battling Islamist militants for

way to finalise arrangements for displaced people to return to Baga when they were ambushed.

Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum was in an earlier convoy and was not hurt, the state government said.

The BBC's Ishaq Khalid, in the Nigerian capital Abuja, says the attack could signify that rural areas are still not safe enough for displaced people to return.

More than 30,000 people have been killed and millions



more than a decade. The militants planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on the road from the town of Baga, said Maj Gen John Eneche, the spokesperson of the Nigerian Defence Headquarters, in a statement. Troops later captured a gun truck from the militants and recovered two police vehicles the attackers had seized, the statement said.

The officials were on their

have had to flee their homes because of the insurgency by Islamist militants Boko Haram.

They launched their military operation in 2009 and their attacks have spread from north-eastern Nigeria to neighbouring countries Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

One faction broke away in 2016 and now fights under the banner of a group called Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). BBC



Ms Mapisa-Nqakula's salary will be put into a fund to help fight coronavirus

# 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.

# COMMENTARY

By Jan-werner Mueller

## Democrats Must Finally Play Hardball

*Generally speaking, responding to violations of democratic norms with rule-breaking of one's own simply hastens the erosion of the entire system. But the situation in the United States today shows that there are rare occasions when the only way to save democracy is to fight fire with fire.*

**B**ERLIN - Around the world, right-wing populists are hollowing out democracy and the rule of law. But unlike many twentieth-century dictators, today's aspiring authoritarians have tried to preserve the façade of the institutions they are destroying, which creates a dilemma for opposition parties. Should they play by the rules of a game that is rigged against them, or should they start writing their own rules and risk accusations of being liberal democracy's real gravediggers?

The conventional wisdom has been that violating norms simply accelerates the destruction of democracy. But constitutional hardball is appropriate under specific circumstances. When autocratic legalists use the letter of the law to violate the spirit of democratic institutions, their opponents should do the opposite.

In many countries under right-wing populist rule - think of Hungary or Poland - there is no unified opposition, and parties can propose a variety of policies as alternatives to what the government offers (and not everything that a right-wing populist regime does is authoritarian per se). But when basic political principles are at stake, the opposition absolutely must unite and clearly signal to citizens that the situation has moved beyond run-of-the-mill political disagreement.

In the United States, the Republican Party's effort to abolish the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") is cruel and incoherent, but it predates Donald Trump's presidency, and its success would not represent the end of American democracy. By contrast, the Trump administration's brazen defiance of congressional oversight is not just a case of "politics as usual," but rather an attack on what the political philosopher John Rawls called "constitutional essentials."

To be sure, distinguishing between ordinary policy disputes and threats to the system is more of an art than a science. If it is done convincingly, it can stanch the spread of cynicism among the electorate. But such a strategy assumes that citizens can be persuaded with arguments about constitutional commitments that all democrats ought to share.

That is a perilous assumption, given that media pluralism has been radically reduced in many countries. Under Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, attacks on independent television stations and newspapers are now commonplace. And in the US, Republican voters have cocooned themselves in a media ecosystem dominated by Fox News and other right-wing propaganda channels.

But even if all voters were receiving accurate information, some still might be inclined to put partisanship above the protection of liberal democratic institutions. One of the most depressing findings in political science in recent years is that citizens often put their partisanship first even when they recognize that right-wing populists pose a threat to democracy. In other words, they are ready and willing to trade away democracy itself to satisfy personal policy or ideological preferences.

Such cynicism is not a reason for opposition parties to give up on appealing to voters' consciences. But it does require the opposition to recognize that its audience includes not just potentially persuadable voters, but also right-wing populists and their opportunistic allies. In addressing the latter group, the point is not to shame the shameless, but to fight

fire with fire.

In the US, for example, Republicans have benefited from a clear asymmetry. While the GOP will do anything to claim and hold on to power, Democrats have remained committed to the spirit of the rules, even holding out hope for bipartisanship. But if Republicans believed that the Democrats, too, would start pushing the limits, they might change their own political calculus.

Consider the dilemma Democrats now face following the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In rushing to fill the vacant seat with a conservative hardliner, Senate Republicans are not even pretending to preserve any consistency with the positions they took in 2016, when they flat-out refused to consider President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, citing that year's coming presidential election.

Democrats must recognize that today's Republican Party is not only anti-Democrat but also anti-democratic. Republicans have pledged fealty to an authoritarian leader and no longer even feign interest in solving actual problems - they could not even be bothered to offer a platform at this year's Republican National Convention. With its highly unpopular, plutocratic economic policies and reliance on white resentment, the GOP has fully committed to being a minority party, which is why it has sought to entrench itself in non-majoritarian institutions like the Senate (where rural voters hold vastly disproportionate power) and the courts. Nor is it above blatant voter suppression to prevent non-whites from casting ballots.

If the Democrats want to force Republicans to act differently, they must sanction every one of these norm violations severely. If the Republicans try to ram through a Supreme Court nominee within the next few weeks, the Democrats should bring Senate business to a halt by objecting to all routine unanimous consent requests; they also should be drafting credible plans to expand the size of the Supreme Court in the event that they return to power.

Would these hardball tactics deepen the country's political polarization and trigger a downward spiral of norm violations? Polarization could hardly be deeper than it already is. But, more to the point, not all norms are the same, or even properly normative. Trump broke the "norm" of having a pet (usually a dog) in the White House, but that is hardly a matter of fundamental democratic principles.

By contrast, there are Democratic proposals to make the Senate more representative by abolishing the filibuster and granting statehood to Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. These measures absolutely would reflect democratic principles, and they would be fully justified in the name of equality and freedom, as would stronger protections for voting rights. Of course, Trump's chief enabler, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, views any such pro-democracy proposal as a partisan power grab. But that is because he can think in no other terms. He is fully committed to the tyranny of the minority - the very outcome that America's founders sought to prevent.

Yes, the decision to play constitutional hardball must never be taken lightly. But it must be taken when fastidious adherence to norms for the sake of democracy hands democracy's enemies certain victory.

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## O-PED

By Nancy Birdsall

## The Curse of Falling Expectations

*When a society goes from broadly shared growth to a state of malaise or decline, the ensuing pain is not just economic but psychological. Now that tens of millions of people in developing countries are suffering precisely such a reversal of fortune, the political fallout is sure to be tumultuous.*

WASHINGTON, DC - Until COVID-19, many people in the developing world felt good about their futures. Overall, developing countries had recovered quickly from the 2009-10 Great Recession, and many - especially in Africa and Latin America - were enjoying the benefits of China's ever-growing demand for oil, minerals, and agricultural commodities. Expectations were rising.

Not so in the US, where the benefits of economic growth since the 1980s have been funneled to the already rich, with the middle class and the poor increasingly falling behind. Many analysts attribute the rise of the populist right and US President Donald Trump's election in 2016 to these trends. While the middle class has shrunk, a growing cohort of working-class white people has fallen into despair. Many are angry and frustrated over globalization-induced job loss, government neglect in the face of an opioid epidemic, underfunded social programs, and even profit-driven capitalism itself. (The interesting exception to working-class malaise is among black and Hispanic people, who have become more optimistic about the future as they close the gap with working-class whites.)

The end of rising expectations in America came slowly, over the course of many decades following the post-war boom, during which longstanding political institutions and established norms made the US liberal-democratic system relatively resilient. But in the current century, social cohesion (at least for whites) and a shared sense of moral progress began to decay, leaving the body politic increasingly vulnerable to the appeal of illiberal populism (and worse).

This experience holds lessons for developing countries. Dashed expectations are bad not only for individuals' health and wellbeing, but also for a society's ability to build and sustain democratic norms and institutions.

Economic growth in the developing world has generally been stronger and steadier than in the US for more than a generation. China and India took off in the 1990s, and most other developing regions followed suit by the early 2000s, including - most dramatically - Sub-Saharan Africa. This growth has been inclusive enough to lift tens of millions of people out of extreme poverty (\$1.90 per day), yet it has not necessarily secured their place in the middle class. Instead, there is a massive new class of "strugglers" whose families get by on \$4-10 per day per person.

Though strugglers are better off than the poor, they lack regular paychecks and social insurance, and are thus vulnerable to household shocks such as a health crisis or a sudden loss of employment. Most are self-employed or informal workers in the food, transportation (ride-hail drivers), and retail sectors within expanding urban centers. Comprising more than three billion people in developing countries, they are both ambitious in pursuing a better future and anxious about the constant risk of falling back into poverty.

Over time, economic growth has lifted some strugglers (most likely those with some secondary education) into a large and fast-growing middle class, with daily incomes of \$10-50 per person. Still, working-class struggler households predominate in the developing world, making up about 60% of people, with middle-class households constituting another 20%, and the extremely poor and the rich accounting for about 12% and 8%, respectively. Among these, it is the struggler and new-middle-class households that face the greatest risk from the pandemic-induced macroeconomic shocks that developing countries are experiencing.

Andy Sumner of King's College London and his co-authors estimate that a COVID-19-induced contraction in developing countries of 10% of 2020 GDP would push about 180 million people below the \$1.90/day extreme poverty threshold. And while the World Bank has based its own estimates on smaller, country-specific GDP contractions averaging 5%, it still warns that 70-100 million people could fall into extreme poverty.

Meanwhile, the poorest of the pre-pandemic strugglers may suddenly find themselves among the "extreme poor," and an even larger number of the remaining strugglers - almost 400 million, based on World Bank estimates - are vulnerable to sharp income declines during the current recession. Add another 50 million people in middle-class households who are likely to become strugglers, and as many as 450 million people - more than the entire US population - are at risk.

What does it mean for millions of people suddenly to find themselves worse off than they had expected, through no fault of their own? Latin America's experience shows that when a vocal and demanding citizenry suffers a sharp reversal of expectations, the result is US-style social tension and political polarization. In 2014-15, growth across the region began to flag badly, averaging below 1% per year, which implies negative per capita growth. As a result, conditions that were tolerable when the economic pie was growing suddenly became less so.

In the five years since, huge protests have erupted in Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador, most of them over official corruption and the insider privileges enjoyed by political and corporate elites. Only in relatively well-off Chile were protesters successful in achieving progressive change.

In the shadow of COVID-19, the developing world is experiencing severe political and financial pressures. Without their own tradable currencies, these countries cannot borrow from future citizens (as the United States and the European Union can) to meet their immediate needs.

Given the risks of fraying social cohesion, political instability, and recrudescing autocracy and populism, the International Monetary Fund and multilateral banks need to offer far larger lending programs for middle-income countries. These should be simple and straightforward, designed to finance immediate cash transfers to ensure that children in poor and struggling households do not go hungry and abandon school permanently. Such investments are necessary to reap the returns in future human capital upon which development ultimately depends.

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## OPINION

By Jean Pisani-ferry

## Europe's Recovery Gamble

*If the European Union's new recovery program succeeds, it may ultimately pave the way for the establishment of a fiscal union. But if the EU funds fail to deliver on the plan's stated goals, or if political interests prevail over economic necessity, federal aspirations will be dashed for a generation.*

PARIS - To help their pandemic-hit economies recover, European Union leaders agreed in July to borrow €750 billion (\$876 billion) to finance €390 billion in grants and €360 billion in loans to the bloc's member states. The program, called Next Generation EU, was rightly hailed as a major breakthrough: never before had the EU borrowed to finance expenditures, let alone transfers to member states.

But the program and its Recovery and Resilience Facility, which will disburse most of the funds, amount to a high-risk gamble. If the plan succeeds, it will surely pave the way to further initiatives, and perhaps ultimately to a fiscal union alongside the monetary union established two decades ago. But if the program fails to deliver on stated goals, if political interests prevail over economic necessity, federal aspirations will be dashed for a generation.

The first question regards the size of the program. Although €390 billion in grants may look like a large sum of money, it actually amounts to less than 3% of EU GDP, to be spent over several years.

Jason Furman, a former chairman of US President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, reckons that the US government's fiscal response to the 2008 global financial crisis amounted to \$1.6 trillion, or about 10% of GDP. That was 3-4 times more, in response to a much milder shock. On the whole, therefore, individual countries remain in charge of warding off the pandemic blow.

Actually, the fiscal support already committed by leading EU member states represents 7-12% of national GDP - and significantly more is in the pipeline. Nonetheless, the EU grants could make a big difference for some countries still reeling from the euro crisis. Transfers net of expected repayments should be worth 4% of GDP for Spain, 5% for Portugal, and 8% for Greece, according to ECB calculations. This is more than the 2.6% of GDP in aid that the US granted to Europe under the Marshall Plan. If invested shrewdly, such amounts could change the recipient countries' economic fate.

The next question concerns speed. In the spring of this year, EU economies entered free fall. They have now recovered from their troughs, but are still operating at about 5% below capacity. Given the new wave of infections, and rising unemployment, the immediate issue is whether these economies' growth momentum will endure or weaken.

Should Europe's recovery falter, a vicious circle of precautionary savings and worsening expectations could ensue, possibly leading to a double-dip recession. The appropriate strategy is therefore to make budgetary support contingent on the pace of the recovery. Money should be available now and disbursed quickly in case of need.

But make no mistake: the EU support package will come only later. Before its money can start to be spent, the bloc must agree on priorities, procedures, and conditions, which inevitably takes time. Less than 10% of the money is expected to be paid out in 2021, according to the ECB. As matters stand, therefore, responsibility for sustaining the recovery remains with the EU's member states. Even in 2022, it will be too early to pass the baton to the EU and wind down national stimulus packages. The temptation of early fiscal consolidation must be resisted.

Rather than seeking to engineer a Keynesian cyclical demand boost, the goal of Next Generation EU is in fact structural: to chart a new economic development path. The scheme aims to increase economic resilience, support the transition to a carbon-free economy, accelerate digitalization, and mitigate the social and regional fallout from the pandemic crisis. That brings us to the third question: not how quickly EU money will reach southern Europe, but whether it will help tackle long-standing curses, such as low productivity, structural unemployment, inequality, and reliance on carbon-intensive technologies.

The EU is clear on this point, and the European Commission recently set out the type of investment and reform plans member states are expected to devise in order to access the money. Although national governments will have the initiative in drawing up plans, they will have to return to the drawing board if the EU deems the projects too vague or soft to be effective. This could prove politically explosive in countries such as Italy, whose prime minister, Giuseppe Conte, fought for days and nights at the July summit against northern EU members' efforts to condition financial support on predefined reforms.

The proposed compromise is sensible but fragile. Member states' plans will be rated against their stated goals and overall objectives such as growth, job creation, and resilience, while disbursement will be conditional on recipient countries achieving agreed milestones and targets. This arrangement involves neither political conditionality ("first reform your pensions, then we can talk") nor rubber-stamping ("here's the money, please tell us what you do with it"). Rather, it is meant to be a contract whereby money is intended to serve certain goals, and the EU checks that the conditions to achieve them are in place.

But heated controversies are to be expected if the Commission does its job, rejects ineffective plans, and delays disbursements when milestones and targets are not met. The risk is that the process ends up in a bureaucratic squabble that the public cannot decipher, but which provides ammunition to populists.

To avoid falling into this trap, the EU will have to strike the right balance between intrusiveness and indulgence. It should select for each recipient a few targets and criteria that are specific, clear, and nearly indisputable; and it should be ready to fight for these yardsticks. It will also need to scrutinize the allocation of funds, and quickly raise a red flag in case of embezzlement. As Bruegel's Guntram Wolff has pointed out, evidence of corruption would be lethal for Europe's grand ambitions.

Thomas Edison famously said that genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Inspiration was behind the July decision. Now, Europe should start sweating for a good cause.

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September, 2020  
PSA/LRA-07/FY20-21

### REVENUE NOTICE

**Topic:** Enforcement of Customs Brokers License

**Attention:** Customs Brokerage Firms and Individual Customs Brokers

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) hereby announces that effective October 1, 2020, only Customs Brokerage firms and/or individual Customs Brokers that are in possession of a valid and current license issued by the LRA is authorized to do clearing and forwarding business within the Republic of Liberia.

Access to the LRA Customs Department System (ASYCUDA World) will be automatically unavailable to any Broker or Brokerage Firm who license has expired. In addition to the above action, any person found in violation of their license issued under the authority of the Liberia Revenue Authority will be subject to further sanctions as enshrined in the Regulation.

This directive is in accordance with sections 3.1, 3.2 5.0 & 16.0 of the Regulation Concerning Customs Brokers Licensing and Administration, Regulation Requirements and Procedures promulgated by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and Published by Authority of the Government of Liberia in the Liberia Official Gazette on June 7, 2017.

All ports users including security, customs officers, port personnel and the public are kindly requested to report violators to the LRA through the Office of Professional Responsibility Section using the following numbers: 0888572572/0770572572 or by email to [oprs@lra.gov.lr](mailto:oprs@lra.gov.lr).

**Signed:**  
**Thomas Doe Nah**  
**Commissioner General**  
**Liberia Revenue Authority**

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**EMMANUEL BILL SAYUE** **J. KENNEDY PEABODY** **ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE**

THE PETITION OF EMMANUEL BILL SAYUE OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER TRAVING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED, AS "SALLY SAYUE"

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:** 00005679

EMMANUEL BILL SAYUE filed a Petition through his legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of his name to "SALLY SAYUE"

During the hearing, the Petitioner's testified that the change of his name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect his true family name and render his identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of his name proposed by him is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that he was born on DECEMBER 25, 1999 in KIPABLEE, NIMBA COUNTY, Republic of Liberia unto the union of MR. BROOKS SAYUE and MISS. MALANYOU TAYWO respectively, all of the City of Monrovia, Montserado County, Republic of Liberia and that the Change of name will substantially promote his interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being Satisfied that he has met all legal requirements for the Change of his Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREEED as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard be and same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name EMMANUEL BILL SAYUE be changed to "SALLY SAYUE" Beginning this 15th day of SEPTEMBER A.D. 2020.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2020

**J. KENNEDY PEABODY**  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 09-2020 PAGE(S) 00006679

**J. Peabody**  
REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT.CO, R. L.

THIS DECREE HAS BEEN LEGALLY REGISTERED AND FILED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON THIS DAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10:00 AM

**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**LIBERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE (LIS)**  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA

**CONFIRMATION CLEARANCE**

This confirms that **Mr. Ansu NyKamara**, of the City of Monrovia, Montserado County, Liberia reported to the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) reference to his missing Liberian passport with number **L 187714** issued in Monrovia. As an attestation, please see (**Interpol Confirmation Clearance**). We at LIS have inserted said information into our damaged/lost/stolen passport database.

In view thereof, this is for your official information as it constitutes our official attestation of the above mentioned fact and request that you render him any assistance as it relates to he missing passport.

Given under my hand and seal this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of September A. D. 2020, in the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia.

**Robert W. Budy, Sr.**  
COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION



With Jones Mallay [fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com](mailto:fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com)

## Is Amb. Kamayah the Cutting-Edge Alleged Sexual Predator on the Bloc?

**A**mb. Dee Maxwell SaahKamayah, Sr. was Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He once served as Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was once appointed to the Joint Transition Team, taskforce with helping to ensure the smooth transition of Liberia's Presidency from Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to George Weah. Today, Amb. Kamayah is one of the many accused sexual perpetrators in the recent past by one Ms. C. Wilson.

Interestingly, Amb. Kamayah is working assiduously overtime to clear his name and defend his reputation after being named as Liberia's Foreign Minister designated by Pres. Weah. The Ambassador is currently in a terrible damage control mode with Madam Cummings Wilson keeping the pressure on him on grounds of serious sexual deposition. Notably, if Amb. Kemaya, Sr. is acquitted or not his reputation as at now is forthwith incompatible to the hard-earned image of Liberia's quick-witted Foreign-Service duties and responsibilities in view of such a disgraceful allegation. Given the titanic and unacceptable rape episode sweeping across the length and breadth of Mama Liberia at an unprecedented imagination, it is 100 times practically difficult if not impossible for any levelheaded Liberian to easily ignore or dismiss Ms. Wilson's allegation against Amb. Kamayah. One would easily believe Ms. Wilson. It appears that the anti-rape demonstrators, sympathizers, and well-wishers did not abandon their busy and sacred duties and other meaningful engagements simply to take onto the streets of Monrovia to showcase and/ or cause so much apprehension or to exhibit their individual's attire, they were out there for real a business-this is to fight against sexual predator.

The demonstrators were telling the rest of Liberia about the ongoing seriousness and ugliness of rape, and gang rape seriously permeating by bad actors in the Liberian society. The anti-rape groups are determined to consciously and viciously fight for innocent girls and women alike in towns and cities across Liberia.

There is 99% of an iota of truth in Ms. Wilson's allegation because sex for a job in Liberia is notoriously rampant among most Liberian government officials according to some sources familiar with sexual exploitation cases in Liberia. Furthermore, multiple sources familiar with these analyses, have also revealed that most Liberian men often seek a huge sexual favor from innocent girls who are bent on seeking a job or asking for financial help either to pay school fees or make ends meet.

Several ladies at home and abroad confided in "Political Hot-Fire" in recent past that sexual favor in Liberia is no longer rampant, but rather contagious in the Liberian society where poverty has taken hold on the lives of many innocent young girls who parents are either unable to look after them and/or had lost everything they once owned in life or are simply old to work.

Those innocent girls are forced against their will to layout with much older Liberian men of their daddy's ages either to feed their families and/ or go to school, so the Wilson story shouldn't be dismissed, there are promising possibilities that it may have occurred given the notorious nature of the loose life-style of most Liberian men at home and abroad.

Other close sources also revealed that the Liberian Police Force is in the business of compromising rape cases and releasing most of the perpetrators at the displeasure of grieving families on grounds that there is no convincing hard evidence to convict rape perpetrators in Liberia, which is sad. The Weah's government shouldn't simply concentrate on enforcing the proclaim state of emergency for rape involving the creation of a special court and establishing a sex offender registrar, but the President should ensure that the court executes the rape laws on the book (Rape Law of section 2:14.70 which specifically referred to gang rape and qualified it as a first-degree felony crime with 10-years behind bars and the President should instruct his Justice Minister Musa Dean to ensure that the laws are workable through the courts in Liberia.

If President Weah is sincere about his 'state of emergency' on rape, the President should first look at the 803 cases between January 2015 through March 2016 reported by the United Nations Mission in Liberia. He should also probe the Gender Ministry's report on the 667 sexual assault cases on babies, girls, and women and 43 girls and women who were reportedly raped and gang rape in various parts of Liberia. The President should take the initiative to punish the predators who vandalized the 3-year old baby by using a blade to temper with her private parts to create penetration.

President Weah as part of his 'state of emergency' should set up a presidential hotline for innocent girls and women to report all cases related to sexual assault across Liberia and passed an executive order for the special protection of girls, babies, and women from the hand of men's brutality, flogging, killing of women, and other gruesome activities against all innocent girls, babies, women, and children across Liberia. President Weah should dismiss, arrest, and persecute any government officials engaged in the sexual exploitation of innocent girls, women, and babies across Liberia starting with Amb. Kamayah.

Liberian men seeking sexual favor from innocent young girls for grades in school, for a job at both private and government setting, or for business, for land, for rent, for financial assistance, for registration, for scholarships at the Ministry of Education, should be punished severely by the rape law. The Liberian Foreign Affairs Ministry is not only unique, but it is a very delicate institution that should be protecting the hard-earned image of Liberia, Amb. Kamaya has already been accused, with such accusation hanging over his head could damage the good image of Liberia even if he is acquitted from the alleged sexual allegation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# CPP drags NEC to Supreme Court

By Ben P. Wese

In pursuit of a full cleanup of the 2017 Voters Roll, the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) has dragged the National Elections Commission (NEC) before the

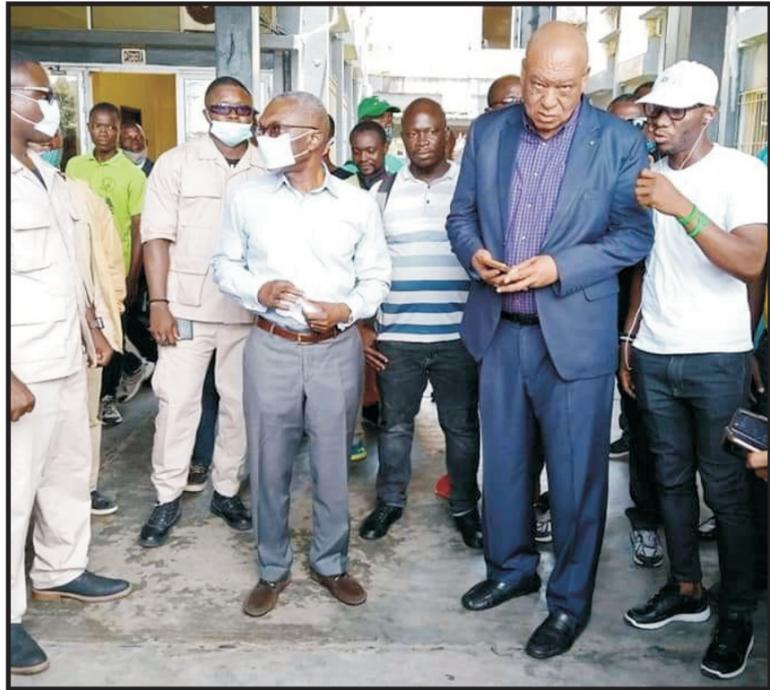
The CPP led by Chairman Alexander B. Cummings and other party leaders and partisans stormed the grounds of the Temple of Justice, causing a heated standoff over the weekend between the opposition and state securities

preparation for the December 2020 Senatorial Election, with some reports suggesting mass voters' trucking and some potential voters engaging in multiple registrations and obtaining multiple voter cards.

CPP which is comprised of former ruling Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, Liberty Party and All Liberian Party, says a clear and credible Voters Roll is an indispensable prerequisite for the conduct of free, fair and transparent democratic elections.

Instead of cleaning up the voters roll, the CPP alleges that the NEC has with the approval of the government, unilaterally announced and embarked on a mobile voters roll update with focus on Liberian of voting age including those who have attained the age of 18 years and above.

Further, it says the NEC has focused on those who have relocated from previous voting places to another, those who have lost their voting cards and those who didn't register during the last voter registration in 2017.



Supreme Court, seeking the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus against the electoral body and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led Government.

assigned at the Temple of Justice. Things came later under control.

The move came over the weekend at a time there have been dissents against the Voter Roll Update (VRU) in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# President Weah honors 15 Traditional Chiefs

By Lewis S. Teh

For playing a cardinal role in maintaining the peace of Liberia, President George Manneh Weah has honored 15 Traditional Chiefs and Elders as well as Chairladies across the country.

During the ceremony held recently, President Weah said his decision to bestow honor upon the traditional chiefs and elders is due to the role they played individually in maintaining the peace in their various counties.

Presenting gifts on behalf of President Weah to the chiefs and elders at the office of the Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders over the weekend, Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Kojee said President Weah is concerned about the numerous contributions made by the chiefs and elders here.

"We have come to the realization that the peace of this country lies in the hands of our Chiefs and Elders, it is based upon this that President Weah thought to recognize their efforts," Kojee says.

Among other things, each of the chiefs and elders were given gowns, hat, and stake to walk with, while the Chairladies were given

lappers, umbrella and gowns, among other things.

In response, members of the Chiefs and Elders and all the 15 chairladies representing the 15 counties extolled President Weah for the kind gesture and promised to continue doing what is right for the peace of the country.

The head of the Chiefs and Elders, Chief Zanzar Karwar, says the decision of President Weah to invite all the chiefs from the 15 sub - political division of Liberia is a sign of a good leadership ability.

"When you have a good and God - fearing leader, than no number of threats can harm the country," Chief Karwar says. He extends heartfelt sentiments to President Weah and his government for being very instrumental and providing them the necessary gifts.

Chief Karwar calls on his members to continue protecting the peace of the country through their advocacy in their various counties. — Edited by Winston W. Parley



# "Census impacts service delivery at grassroots level"

—President Weah says

President George Manneh Weah has underscored the importance of national census, stressing that it directly impacts socioeconomic service delivery for citizens at the grassroots level.

Launching the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2021 at the Ministerial Complex Friday, 25 September Mr. Weah noted that statistics are important for planning and implementing development programs.

"If you cannot measure accurately then you will not be able to manage the fair distribution of resources and delivery of services," he says.

To address poverty effectively, he says "we must use targeted interventions that can be measured, and consult the people about their

President Weah indicates that since it is not every government that could conduct a census, the NPHC will be a part of his legacy to the people and country.

"In addition to fulfilling this crucial constitutional requirement, the crux of our commitment on this issue is to ensure that development is equitable and in the public interest", he says, and urges citizens to fully cooperate with the exercise as it is for the general good of all.

To support a nation's development efforts, he says timely, relevant, sufficient and reliable data-sets are required, and the major foundation of this is the census.

"A census is usually the largest peacetime undertaking of a government. Because it is very involving and costly, a census is normally conducted only once every 10 years, but



own development."

"It is therefore crucial that we mobilize the entire population to come forward and be counted, so that the results of Census 2021 can be used as a tool to improve service delivery."

After the census, President Weah says there will be accurate data for the formulation of policy as well as implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The results from the census, according to him, will provide a unique opportunity to realign development strategies, policies and programs.

In Liberia, the conduct of a census is guided by a constitutional provision that mandates the Executive Branch of Government to undertake the exercise.

its products and tools could be used for over a decade."

He acknowledges that undertaking such a huge national exercise needs a considerable amount of technical, financial and logistical resources.

"At this time of our development, with a pandemic looming large, Government cannot provide all the necessary inputs. But we have tried to make the census program happen by doing whatever we can to facilitate the implementation process," President Weah continues.

He says in May 2019, his Government pledged US\$3 million towards the census budget and provided US\$700,000 plus L\$48 million as seed money to set up a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Pres. Weah says negative narratives undermine Liberia's tourism potential**

President George Manneh Weah says unpatriotic comments and unfavorable narratives about Liberia are undermining factors for the country's promising tourism potential.

Acknowledging that Liberia harbors a vast

to the country.

He made the comments Saturday, 26 September at programs marking the observance of World Tourism Day on the historic Providence Island.

According to President Weah, there are countless

employment need of a country," he stresses.

"Everywhere and every region in this country has an exhibition of tourist sites that could add to the development drive of Liberia," he adds.

According to Mr. Weah, God has blessed Liberia with vast potential for tourism from which this country could attract many investors and visitors, but naysayers and their anti-peace comments are doing more harm to the country.

He calls on Liberians to stop portraying their own country negatively to the outside world, and also encourages the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism to, along with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, explore and effectuate programs and actions germane to revitalizing the country's tourism sector.

He particularly calls for the complete resuscitation of the Providence Island in order to reflect its true historical relevance.

"The Providence Island should be a hotspot for tourists in Liberia because the history of Liberia's founding evolves around it," President Weah says, adding: "We have everything here that we need

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



potential for tourism and its prospects for employment and development, Mr. Weah notes that persistent threats to peace and harmony deliberately framed and propagated by some citizens discourage investors and visitors interested in coming

natural and historical sites in Liberia that could be compared to other wonders of the world and which could serve as melting pot of the country's tourism sector.

"Tourism is good for business and for development, particularly in addressing the

**They want to**

*Starts from back page*

was there flagging women's issues.

Kemayah says when confirmed, he will address the issue of the Liberian Passport and also ask for the intervention of the American government to prove the matter, saying that the passport issue is key on his

the lady and indicated that the Foreign Ministry will launch an investigation into the matter.

In response, Mr. Kemayah says this has not happened. Meanwhile a communication authorized by Minister Fahnbulleh has been circulating on social media, suggesting that the Ministry



agenda.

Liberian authorities have indicted 11 persons including former Director of Passport and Visas Andrew Wonplo over allegation of illegally selling the country's vital travel documents to non-citizens.

Meanwhile, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon says upon receipt of Madam Wilson's allegation against Mr. Kemayah, Acting Minister Fahnbulleh replied

will contact Mr. Kemayah to obtain his response to the allegation levied by Madam Cummings.

Kemayah says since the first Senate confirmation hearing was halted to give a due process, the lady must be made to appear before the Senate in order to ask the relevant questions so that the accused and accuser can be given due process.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

**Notre Dame University College of Liberia Licensed To Operate**

The National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) in Liberia has granted License to the Notre Dame University College of Liberia (NDUCL) to operate as a higher education institution in Liberia.

The Notre Dame University College of Liberia offers an array of relevant marketplace courses leading to the baccalaureate degree.

The NDUCL provides high quality education that would train innovative, highly motivational, and well-rounded citizens that will influence and impact the fields of education, business, the social sciences and technology.

In a press statement released over the weekend, the NDUCL said it has lined up a national and international team of qualified educators, seasoned administrators, and dedicated staff who have over 30 years of combined



**Rev. Dr. Maroun Zogheib-Founder/President**

experience in a variety of academic and professional disciplines.

It noted that its faculty members are passionate individuals who are dedicated to ongoing research in their respect fields and bring with

them a diverse wealth of knowledge and skills. The University authorities added that they are committed to average class sizes to provide a good faculty-student ratio and allow for faculty to provide focused

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individualized teaching-learning experiences.

This intentional faculty-student ratio, the release continued, nurtures the student to serve and lead with respect, dignity and integrity, with an overriding aim to graduate individuals committed to critical thinking and civic responsibility. The

Notre Dame University encourages and upholds freedom of speech and respect for diversity.

The University authorities assured potential students and parents desiring very high standard and intentional quality college education to enroll.—*Press release.*

# Français

## La ministre de l'agriculture présente un plan triennal

La Ministre libérienne de l'agriculture du Libéria, Jeanie Milly Cooper, a projeté un programme agricole de trois ans pour lutter contre la malnutrition dans le pays.

Lors d'une audience sur le budget devant les comités mixtes de l'Assemblée législative libérienne sur les voies, les moyens, les finances et le budget au cours du week-end, la ministre Cooper a révélé que le ministère de l'agriculture a élaboré un plan stratégique de trois ans. Ce plan prévoit la validation de six programmes de mobilisation pour la mise en œuvre de la deuxième étape, la mise à jour des programmes du ministère pour répondre aux réalités actuelles, en opérationnalisant les actes approuvés du secteur, y compris les semences, la sécurité alimentaire, les engrais et en validant la stratégie nationale de développement du riz.

Parlant des défis, elle a déclaré que le ministère de l'Agriculture est confronté à la faible participation du

secteur privé, à la faible prestation de services de conseil technique et de vulgarisation, des techniciens insuffisants, un soutien logistique inexistant, des infrastructures routières limitées et un manque d'installations de traitement après récolte.

Elle a déclaré qu'actuellement le rapport entre les agents de vulgarisation et des

agriculteurs est de 1 sur 35000. Elle a aussi fait croire que le soutien budgétaire insuffisant entrave la capacité du ministère à mettre en œuvre les activités agricoles planifiées et empêche le personnel technique de fournir les services techniques et de vulgarisation nécessaires aux clients.

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## La CPP approuve la candidature d'Edith Goongloe-Weh

Qualifiant les primaires de la CPP (Collaboration des Partis Politiques) dans la ville de Sanniquellie de mauvais exemple pour la démocratie libérienne, le chef de file de l'opposition et leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), Alexander B. Cummings, a déclaré que Mme Edith Goongloe-Weh a été choisie

comme candidate de la plateforme de l'opposition à l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Nimba.

M. Cummings a expliqué que la décision de permettre à Mme Goongloe-Weh de se présenter sur le ticket de la CPP à Nimba fait partie des nombreux sacrifices que l'ANC a dû faire pour maintenir les quatre partis de l'opposition ensemble.

«Je reconnais que ce n'est pas une situation idéale et qu'elle est difficile. Cependant, nous devons faire des compromis pour que la CPP reste unie et solide. Je suis donc reconnaissant que Taa Wongbe de l'ANC ait accepté de mettre le Libéria au-dessus de tout et de faire le sacrifice», a dit Cummings dans un communiqué spécial publié ce week-end.

Des affrontements violents avaient éclaté le dimanche 6 septembre 2020, après que les délégués de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), du Parti de l'unité (UP), du Parti de la liberté (LP) et du Parti libérien (ALP), se sont réunis à Sanniquellie pour tenir une primaire pour élire un candidat pour représenter la coalition à Nimba aux élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020. Les deux candidats en lice à la primaire étaient Mme Goongloe-Weh du Parti de la Liberté et M. Taa Wongbe de l'ANC.

A la suite de ces événements, la CPP a créé un comité d'examen

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## Éditorial

### Grogne sociale : licencier les agents de santé en grève n'est pas la solution

Le Président George Weah croit pouvoir résoudre pour de bon le problème du secteur de la santé en recrutant de nouveaux professionnels de la santé pour remplacer les travailleurs qui exigent des indemnités de risque et une augmentation de salaire. Cette approche n'est pas la bonne approche pour relever les défis auxquels sont confrontés les citoyens qui se sacrifient dans un secteur mal géré.

Dans une déclaration, le ministre libérien de l'Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, a déclaré que le ministère de la Santé avait reçu pour instruction de solliciter des candidatures « d'agents de santé qualifiés de différents niveaux, y compris des infirmières, des aides-soignantes, des sages-femmes et des techniciens de laboratoire » pour remplacer les agents de santé en grève.

Nous voudrions affirmer ici de manière catégorique que la voie empruntée par le gouvernement ne peut pas résoudre les nombreux défis auxquels sont confrontés les travailleurs de la santé, allant des mauvaises conditions de travail, au manque de fournitures, en passant par le retard des salaires et des primes.

En premier lieu, la grève actuelle n'est pas la première du genre. Lors de leur précédente manifestation, le gouvernement et les agents de santé lésés ont dialogué et ont trouvé un terrain d'entente. On se demande pourquoi cette posture d'insensibilité de l'Etat cette fois-ci.

Cette approche à toute épreuve intervient au moment où le pays est toujours aux prises avec le virus mortel du Coronavirus, qui a tué près d'un millier de personnes, la plupart d'entre elles, des médecins et des infirmières. Ils sont morts en essayant de sauver des vies sans les outils appropriés tels que les EPI et autres gadgets.

En fait, nous avons rappelé avec éclat que les agents de santé ont abattu des outils entre mai et juin de cette année et que la ministre de la Santé, le docteur Wilehmina Jallah, est intervenue, ce qui a conduit à leur retour au travail.

Avouons-le. Les praticiens de la santé sur le continent gagnent très peu contrairement aux politiciens et aux loyalistes au gouvernement. Pourtant, ils passent de longues heures au travail sans bénéficier de vacances ou de pauses pour passer du temps de qualité avec leurs familles.

Selon le ministre Nagbe, les volontaires seront prioritaires dans ce recrutement. Mais cela améliorerait-il les conditions épouvantables dans les divers hôpitaux et établissements de santé du pays ? Il ne faudra pas longtemps pour que les désillusions refont surface, tant que les conditions resteront les mêmes.

Cette administration restera dans l'histoire comme le premier gouvernement libérien à dire aux agents de santé cherchant des solutions à leur sort d'aller en enfer lorsque les candidats du parti au pouvoir gaspillent des millions de dollars dans des activités de pré-campagne.

Où est passé le slogan de la coalition au pouvoir (CDC), « le pouvoir au peuple » ? Ou est passé le programme pour les pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement ? S'agissait-il d'une pure rhétorique ?

Nous appelons le gouvernement à rester engagé avec les travailleurs de la santé qui protestent jusqu'à ce qu'un terrain d'entente puisse être trouvé au lieu d'adopter une posture draconienne qui ferait bientôt du boomerang.

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# Français

## La ministre de l'agriculture

Soulignant ses grandes priorités, Mme Cooper a évoqué le partenariat public-privé pour introduire des initiatives de financement agricole innovantes. C'est selon elle, un moyen de lutter contre l'insolvabilité dans le secteur agricole et la faible liquidité dans le secteur bancaire qui devrait être résolue par l'injection directe de liquidités par le biais de l'agro-industrie. L'investissement incorpore des systèmes de partage des risques et des modèles de financement ruraux et des petites et moyennes entreprises (PME).

Elle a déclaré que le ministère, sous sa direction, cherche à stimuler la production locale de cultures de base - riz, manioc, huiles comestibles, haricots, légumes - pour atténuer les ralentissements imminents du

commerce mondial et les pires effets de la récession mondiale, tout en public-privé. Le partenariat qui utilise l'infrastructure existante et le potentiel inexploité pour la production agricole est élargi pour répondre à la demande.

Selon elle, le caoutchouc, le manioc, le palmier à huile, le riz sont quatre sous-secteurs en passe de s'industrialiser.

« Un stimulant pour les agro-transformateurs transformera les cultures et les matières premières en produits alimentaires prêts à la consommation ou, dans le cas du caoutchouc, en produits finis. Des usines de transformation du riz, du manioc, de l'huile de palme seront mises en place ; et une usine de mélange de caoutchouc permettra la production locale de produits à valeur ajoutée. »

## La CPP approuve

indépendant (IRP) pour enquêter sur le déroulement de la primaire sénatoriale du comté de Nimba. L'IRP a invalidé le résultat, tout en indiquant que le processus était défectueux et manquait de crédibilité.

Reconnaissant que la primaire n'apas été gérée correctement, provoqué une violence sanglante et la division et causé une grande douleur et un embarras au sein de la CPP, Cummings a insisté sur l'importance du fait que les parties restent ensemble pour affronter « la direction inepte du président George Weah ».

« En tant que chef de la CPP, je suis préoccupé par l'issue des primaires et j'accepte la douloureuse

vérité de l'IRP. Aujourd'hui, je renouvelle ma condamnation de la violence et du processus primaire de Nimba car il était défectueux et je considère donc que son résultat est invalide. Je réitère ma position et reste ferme qu'aucun candidat n'a remporté la primaire de Nimba. Dans ces circonstances, il peut être logique de permettre à chacun des candidats (TaaWongbe et Edith Gongloe-Weh) de se présenter librement en tant que candidats indépendants s'ils le souhaitent. Et ce choix leur appartient. Mais en tant que chef politique de la CPP et de l'ANC, j'accepte de permettre à Mme Gongloe-Wehde représenter la CPP à Nimba », a dit Cummings.

## Côte d'Ivoire : l'opposition déjà organisée contre Ouattara ? Ce qui se trame en coulisses

Pas d'élection présidentielle le 31 octobre prochain. Sur 44 dossiers de candidatures déposées, seulement quatre (04) ont été déclarées aptes. Il s'agit des candidatures du chef de l'Etat sortant, Alassane Ouattara (candidat du RHDP), d'Henri Konan Bédié (candidat du PDCI), de Pascal Affi N'guessan (candidat du FPI), et de Kouadio Konan Bertin dit KKB (candidat indépendant).

Le lundi 14 septembre 2020, le Conseil constitutionnel a livré la liste définitive des candidatures à la présidentielle du 31

octobre prochain. Sur 44 dossiers de candidatures déposées, seulement quatre (04) ont été déclarées aptes. Il s'agit des candidatures du chef de l'Etat sortant, Alassane Ouattara (candidat du RHDP), d'Henri Konan Bédié (candidat du PDCI), de Pascal Affi N'guessan (candidat du FPI), et de Kouadio Konan Bertin dit KKB (candidat indépendant).

Parmi les 40 autres candidatures rejetées, se trouvent celles d'acteurs politiques, non des moindres, à savoir l'ancien président Laurent Gbagbo, Guillaume Soro (leader de GPS), Albert MabriToikeusse (Président de l'UDPCI).

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jan-werner Mueller

## Les Démocrates doivent désormais jouer l'agressivité

**B**ERLIN - Partout à travers le monde, les populistes de droite mettent actuellement à mal la démocratie et l'État de droit. À la différence toutefois de nombreux dictateurs du XXe siècle, les aspirants despotes d'aujourd'hui tentent de préserver la façade des institutions qu'ils détruisent, ce qui crée un dilemme pour les partis d'opposition. Ces partis doivent-ils jouer le jeu alors même que les règles deviennent truquées à leur encontre, ou doivent-ils commencer à écrire leurs propres règles, au risque d'être accusés d'agir en fossoyeurs de la démocratie libérale ?

Il est a priori considéré qu'enfreindre les règles ne peut qu'accélérer la destruction de la démocratie. Une certaine agressivité constitutionnelle peut néanmoins se révéler appropriée dans certaines circonstances. Lorsque les légalistes autocrates exploitent le droit à la lettre pour violer l'esprit des institutions démocratiques, leurs opposants doivent agir à l'extrémité inverse.

Au sein de nombreux pays gouvernés par la droite populiste - tels que la Hongrie ou la Pologne - il n'existe pas d'opposition unifiée, et les partis proposent diverses mesures alternatives par rapport à ce qu'applique le gouvernement (sachant que tout ce que décide un régime populiste de droite n'est pas nécessairement autoritaire en soi). Mais lorsque les principes politiques de base deviennent menacés, il est absolument crucial que l'opposition s'unisse pour signaler clairement aux citoyens que la situation dépasse le cadre normal d'un désaccord politique.

Aux États-Unis, les efforts conduits par le Parti républicain pour abolir le Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (« l'Obamacare ») sont à la fois incohérents et cruels, mais font en même temps du mal à la présidence de Donald Trump, et cette suppression ne constituerait pas la fin de la démocratie américaine. En revanche, la défiance éhontée de l'administration Trump à l'égard de sa surveillance par le Congrès ne constitue pas une « politique comme une autre », mais bien une attaque contre ce que le philosophe politique John Rawls appelait « l'essence constitutionnelle ».

Certes, établir la distinction entre une politique ordinaire et une menace pour le système est davantage un art qu'une science exacte. Mené de façon convaincante, cet exercice peut permettre d'endiguer la propagation du cynisme parmi les électeurs. Une telle stratégie présuppose toutefois qu'il soit possible de persuader les citoyens via des arguments relatifs aux engagements constitutionnels que tous les démocrates doivent partager.

Or, c'est un postulat risqué, dans la mesure où le pluralisme des médias se trouve nettement réduit dans de nombreux pays. Dans la Hongrie du Premier ministre Viktor Orbán, et la Turquie du président Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les assauts contre les chaînes de télévision et les journaux indépendants sont devenus monnaie courante. De même, aux États-Unis, les électeurs républicains se cocoonent dans un écosystème médiatique dominé par Fox News et autres chaînes de propagande de droite.

Et même si tous les électeurs recevaient des informations authentiques, certains pourraient encore avoir tendance à placer l'esprit partisan au-dessus de la préservation des institutions démocratiques libérales. Parmi les découvertes les plus regrettables de ces dernières années en sciences politiques, on observe que les citoyens font souvent passer leurs convictions partisans avant toute autre considération, même lorsqu'ils reconnaissent que la droite populiste représente une menace pour la démocratie. Autrement dit, ils sont prêts et disposés à troquer la démocratie elle-même contre la satisfaction de leurs préférences politiques et idéologiques personnelles.

Ce cynisme ne saurait justifier que les partis d'opposition renoncent à faire appel à la conscience des électeurs. L'opposition doit comprendre que son public n'inclut pas seulement les électeurs potentiellement persuadables, mais également les sympathisants de la droite populiste et de ses alliés opportunistes. Dans son approche de cette deuxième catégorie d'électeurs, il ne

doit pas s'agir pour l'opposition d'éveiller la honte chez ceux qui n'en ressentent aucune, mais de combattre le feu par le feu.

Aux États-Unis, par exemple, les Républicains bénéficient d'une nette asymétrie. Là où la droite est prête à tout pour maintenir son emprise sur le pouvoir, les Démocrates demeurent respectueux de l'esprit des règles, jusqu'à renoncer aux espoirs de collaboration bipartite. Si en revanche les Républicains constataient que les Démocrates commençaient eux aussi à repousser les limites, ils pourraient bien revoir leur propre calcul politique.

Songez au dilemme auquel les Démocrates sont actuellement confrontés avec le décès de la juge à la Cour suprême Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Dans leur précipitation pour installer à ce poste vacant un conservateur pur et dur, les Républicains du Sénat ne font pas même semblant de chercher à préserver une cohérence par rapport à leur position de 2016, lorsqu'ils avaient d'emblée refusé de considérer la candidate du président Barack Obama à la Cour suprême, Merrick Garland, en faisant valoir l'imminence de l'élection présidentielle cette année-là.

Les Démocrates doivent reconnaître que le Parti républicain d'aujourd'hui n'est plus seulement antidémocrate, mais également antidémocratique. Les Républicains ont fait allégeance à un dirigeant autoritaire, et ne feignent même plus de s'intéresser à la résolution des problèmes concrets - eux qui n'ont même pas pris la peine de proposer un programme lors de la Convention nationale républicaine de cette année. À travers ses mesures économiques ploutocratiques très impopulaires et son recours à la rancœur blanche, le Bon vieux parti s'est pleinement résolu à devenir une force politique minoritaire, ce qui explique pourquoi il cherche à consolider sa place au sein d'institutions non majoritaires telles que le Sénat (où les électeurs ruraux disposent d'un pouvoir largement disproportionné) et les Cours. Il n'hésite même plus à tenter de supprimer des votes pour empêcher les non-Blancs d'exprimer leur voix.

Si les Démocrates entendent conduire les Républicains à agir différemment, il va leur falloir sanctionner sévèrement chacune des ces violations des règles. Si les Républicains tentent de pousser pour l'installation d'un nouveau juge à la Cour suprême dans les prochaines semaines, les Démocrates devront stopper les démarches du Sénat en s'opposant à toutes les décisions habituelles qui exigent l'unanimité, ainsi qu'élaborer un plan crédible d'augmentation de la taille de la Cour suprême dans le cas où ils reprendraient le pouvoir.

Ce choix de l'agressivité risquerait-il d'accentuer la polarisation politique du pays, et d'engendrer une spirale infernale de violation des règles ? La polarisation peut difficilement être pire que ce qu'elle est aujourd'hui. Mais plus important encore, toutes les normes ne sont pas du même niveau, ni même à proprement parler normatives. Si Trump a enfreint la « norme » consistant à accueillir un animal de compagnie (généralement un chien) à la Maison-Blanche, nous sommes ici bien loin d'une question de principes démocratiques fondamentaux.

De l'autre côté, les Démocrates proposent par exemple de conférer davantage de représentativité au Sénat en supprimant le procédé du « filibuster », ainsi qu'en octroyant le statut d'État à Porto Rico et Washington, DC. Ces mesures s'inscriraient parfaitement en phase avec les principes démocratiques, se justifieraient pleinement au nom de l'égalité et de la liberté, et renforceraient la protection du droit de vote. Évidemment, le chef de la majorité républicaine au Sénat Mitch McConnell, principal acolyte de Trump, considère ces propositions pro-démocratie comme une tentative partisane de coup de force, puisqu'il est incapable d'y voir autre chose, lui qui œuvre pour la tyrannie de la minorité - une situation que les fondateurs de l'Amérique entendaient précisément éviter.

Non, la décision de jouer l'agressivité sur le plan constitutionnel ne doit pas être prise à la légère. Mais elle doit être prise lorsque l'adhésion fastidieuse aux normes, pour le bien de la démocratie, offre aux ennemis de la démocratie une victoire certaine.

# Coleman's outburst meets critical reply

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Grand Kru County senator Dr. Peter Sonpon Coleman's verbal attacks on River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh during a regular session last at the Senate has met a critical reply.

Unhappy that the Liberian Senate did not do more in providing funds for the pending elections as well as confirming nominees for the NEC, Senate Wesseh, in a mockery suggests that NEC officials confirmed by the Senate are effective and the election process is on course and there's no need of fear.

Ahead of the NEC officials'

Additionally, he notes that the confirmation hearing of the current NEC Board did not take into consideration experience of the commissioners.

Of the seven commissioners, he says only two have wealth of experience while the rest of the five are learning on the job.

Yet Wesseh says members of the Senate confirmed all without conducting further vetting process, warning that this leads to a huge fear of lack of confidence in the entire senatorial election process.

He cautions that if much attention is not given and if the process is not taken seriously, it could lead to violence, a situation that he notes will

Committee on Elections and Inauguration headed by Bong County Senator, Dr. Henrique Tokpah's report highlighting some of the challenges facing the ongoing voters' roll update exercise.

As the debate about the NEC's invitation intensified on the Senate's floor, River Gee County Senator Conmany Wesseh suggests 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.

Senator Wesseh says Senator Peter Coleman should be prepared to provide his professional services to many citizens in the near future if the pending election ends in violence and it returns Coleman to the hospital to serve Liberians instead of being in the Senate.

But his comments did not go down well with Senator Peter Sonpon Coleman, who claims that when Wesseh and others were enjoying former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's administration, he did not speak against some of the challenges they are now considering as 'bad governance'.

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

Senator Coleman claims that former President 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 following surgery conducted by Senator Coleman at his private Malag Clinic during the early days of former President Sirleaf's administration.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# "Census impacts

Cont'd from page 6

Census Basket Fund to be managed by United Nations Population Fund (UNPF).

In support of these efforts, he says government has received further contributions to the Census Basket Fund from several international partners.

He thanks the Government and People of Sweden, through their Embassy near Monrovia, for making the first contribution and remaining

the highest contributor to the census budget by a US\$7.8 million contribution.

President Weah observes that Census information has a direct impact on service delivery for people at the grassroots level, stressing "because statistics are important for planning and implementing development programs."—*Press release*

# Pres. Weah says

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to utilize and rekindle our tourism sector."

He recalls those days as an adolescent when he used to visit the Island from his nearby Gibraltar Community to learn the arts of dance and watching the exhibition of cultural skills by young people.

He also reminds every Liberian that the responsibility of keeping and maintaining the country's rich heritage rests on each citizen.

Apart from the Providence Island, President Weah recalls that there are other historical sites across the country, including the Kpatawee Water Fall in Bong County, Wonderful Rock in Sasstown, Grand Kru County, and many other areas that do not only represent the heritage of the nation but also as stimulants for a prosperous tourism business in the country.

He however warns that the

country cannot realize its tourism potentials when Liberians don't make peace a reality.

He urges Liberians to always speak well about their country and engage themselves into practices that attract tourists, as "no one wants to go to a county where they see and hear war drums, animosity, protests."

He also encourages writers and educators to produce books and accounts that portray Liberia's rich heritage, something he promises his government would invest in.

President Weah also thanks the head of the National Traditional Council of Liberia, Chief ZanzarKarwar, who served as guest speaker during this year's program, for delivering what he calls an "insightful speech that highlighted the country's heritage".—*Press release*



Dr. Peter Sonpon Coleman

proposed appearance before the Senate to provide update on reported electoral violence and trucking of voters by aspirants, Senator Wesseh suggests that the Liberian Senate failed to provide funding to the National Elections Commission for smooth operation.

He suggests that the Legislature should have provided funding to NEC's immediate past board of commissioners, but there were claims that any fund sent to NEC at the time would have been corrupted by the commission.

prevent all senators from doing their works as lawmakers.

According to Senator Wesseh, only Dr. Coleman who is medical practitioner will be working at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center where victims of the violence will be treated.

When Senator Coleman was contacted via mobile phone to provide further explanations, his phone rang endlessly on several occasions.

The NEC was due to provide update on reported electoral violence and trucking of voters from one point to another by aspirants.

The decision to invite the NEC followed the Senate's

# VRU exercise partially extended

-NEC discloses  
By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

National Elections Commission (NEC) chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah says the Voter Roll Update (VRU) exercise which commenced on 11 September is scheduled to end on 29 September, instead of the original date of 25 September on which it should have ended at 5:00 PM.

Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia Friday evening, 25 September, Madam Lassanah stated that the extension is intended to process eligible citizens in Gbarpolu, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Cess, River Gee and Sinoe counties that were affected by delay in the VRU exercise.

She says the NEC is under obligation to make up for those centers that were not covered or did not start on the assigned dates, occasioned by logistical

challenges due to bad roads.

"For those isolated cases, the VRU teams are being deployed and will conduct the VRU exercise from now to the 29th [of] September 2020 to process eligible citizens," she discloses.

For the rest of the country, Madam Lassanah explains that the VRU exercise ended Friday, 25 September at 5:00 P.M.

The NEC boss reassures Liberians that the VRU

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exercise that ran from September 11 to 25 was intended to collect raw data about potential registrants which will be processed through NEC's data management system.

According to her, the final registration roll (FRR) will be announced after the data cleansing process, which includes de-duplication and the exhibition of the provisional voter roll.

During the exhibition, she says the provisional voter roll will be posted at all 2,080 precincts across the country for vetting.

The NEC boss extends sincere thanks and appreciation to the Liberian people for their participation in the VRU exercise, and also thanks the Government of Liberia for funding the exercise.

"We are also grateful to the VRU staff who worked under

very difficult conditions (in the rain and mud) to execute this project," she notes.

She applauds NEC technical and administrative staff for their sacrificial services during the exercise, as well as the roles played by the various actors including political parties, civil society organizations, religious groups, the media as well as local and traditional leaders to ensure that VRU process ran smoothly to its end.

she has also applauded the international partners including the United Nations System in Liberia, the European Union and the United States Agency for International Development, Sweden, Irish Aid and the Economic Community of West African States for their continued moral and technical support.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# Passport wahala

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

**F**ormer Foreign Affairs Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley under whose nose Liberian passports were allegedly sold to foreigners is now blaming his opponent for holding him accountable for the alleged sales of the passports.

The Liberian Government recently reopened investigations into the sales of Liberian passports to aliens, days after the United States Government sanctioned former Passport Director Andrew Wonplo and family from traveling to the U.S over corruption allegations which involved the sales of Liberian Passports to foreigners.

The government had initially dropped charged against Wonplo, but barley two weeks ago an arrest order was issued for him and several other individuals.

Wonplo is said to be on the

Findley described Sen. Karngar Lawrence as a “criminal” for believing in claims being made by Wonplo who is currently on the run.

Findley who described himself as blameless in the entire passport scandal despite having oversight responsibility over that division at the foreign ministry, argued that at no point in time, did he ever mandates the former passport director to issue passport to foreigners or aliens.

Findley further argued that for every Liberian passport given out, the bearer gos through the proper channels which include vetting to establish proof of citizenship. He said for the former director to be running away from justice and at the same time accusing people who serve diligently will not be accepted by him or his campaign team.

He diverted from the allegation saying Sen. Karngar Lawrence who has lost political grip over Grand Bassa County

implications for the country including compromising Liberia's international standing and reputation, and dangerously risk every Liberian holding a passport including officials and diplomats.

The passports are linked to the West African Sub-region. Each passport designates its holder as representing the broader West African space. To criminally sell these passports, as it is being alleged, to international criminals and terrorists, is to risk our credibility in ECOWAS, and undermine the regional standing and in and off them, as if the allegations are not bad enough, the public space is being inundated with information that links the highest offices of the country responsible to maintain Liberia's good image and protect the country's international reputation - the Office of the President and that of the Minister of Foreign

# CPP drags NEC to

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It notes that the integrity of the Voters Roll or the FRR used for the 2017 general and presidential elections was challenged by the Unity Party (UP) and Liberty Party (LP).

Following UP and LP's challenge, the CPP recalls that the Supreme Court acknowledged several irregularities in the voter roll and ordered the NEC to conduct a full cleanup of the roll in consultation with and information to the political parties.

But the CPP insists that with callous disregard of the consequences, the NEC has failed, neglected and refused to clean up the voters roll as ordered by the Supreme Court, mandated by the Liberian Senate, the House of Representatives and recommended by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

According to the CPP, since the exhibition of the provisional voters roll was carried out on the 12th of June 2017, the total valid registered voters viewed in the database was 2,045,483.

From this analysis, CPP says the ECOWAS report concluded that between the time of the

exhibition of the FRR and declaring the FRR, a total of 138,146 records were added to the voters roll.

The CPP laments that there is no evidence up to date that these additional 138,146 voters added to the FRR have been removed from the voters roll.

It says the findings of a technical team deployed to Liberia by ECOWAS clearly showed that the 2017 Voters roll was defective and could not form a basis for free, fair and credible elections.

The CPP further claims that the conclusion is compelling and inescapable that 170,000 suspected duplicates were never extracted from the voters roll and remain there up to date, rendering the FRR defective and unfit to lay a basis for elections.

It notes that if 170,000 suspected duplicates were removed from the provisional registration roll, the total number of the voters on the FRR ought to have been 2,012,956 and not 2,183,629 voters as reported by NEC on its final voters roll on 11 September 2017.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



defensive accusing higher ups including President George Weah and Foreign Ministry officials of being involved in the issuance of said passports to foreigners and not him.

His accusations has not only raised bigger eyebrows but has opened a Pandora box with blames being shifted on the Justice Ministry which initially refused to prosecute Wonplo thereby dropping charges.

Former Foreign Minister Findley in a press release issued last week denied any involvement in what is now being speculated as one of the biggest scandals to hit the Weah regime.

However, while addressing a press conference in Grand Bassa County where he is competing against incumbent Senator Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence on Sunday September 27, while addressing the passport issue,

should be apologizing to the people of Bassa and asking for their pardon over her failed promises over the last 8 years rather than accusing him of dishing out passports to foreigners.

Meanwhile, Findley pointed out that he will submit to any investigation into the passport scandal, while denying President Weah's involvement in the sales or issuance of Liberian passports to foreigners.

Findley said, it is impossible for the Liberian leader to be involved in such criminal deal instead of officials of the passport bureau.

Recently, Senator Karnga Lawrence posted on her social media page that the growing allegations of the criminal sale of Liberian diplomatic passports to international criminals and terrorists are serious and deeply disturbing.

She continued that these allegations have far-reaching

Affairs.

“A proud Liberian, a Senator, and a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I hope that these allegations, which now swirl around the President and the Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, are not true. Because were they to be true, they would present us with our most embarrassing, shameful and degrading international moment since the war brought our nation to our collective knees,” she said.

She said, she's not going to be holding her breath! The litany of irresponsible behaviors by this administration, and its commitment to corruption in the highest of places, as well as the many shameless efforts to cover up, don't impress her, nor should it impress anyone, that this administration will suddenly become responsible, and let itself act

in the best interests of the country, rather than try to cover up for friends and accomplices, as it is known to do.

He pointed out that the authorities here claim that Mr. Andrew Wonplo and 10 other defendants caused the government to lose over US\$30,000 through illegal sales of Liberian passports to non-Liberians, as well as people looking for space to travel to the United States and Canada who were willing to pay as much as US\$2,000 each for a Liberian Passport.

He was recently re-indicted after the U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo earlier announced on 10 September the public designation of Liberia's former Director of Passport and Visas Andrew Wonplo, “due to his involvement in significant corruption,” making Wonplo

and his immediate family members ineligible for entry into the United States.

In the wake of Mr. Wonplo's recent revelations attempting to link Mr. Findley and other top officials to the passport scandal, the former Foreign Minister says he is constrained to respond to the “outlandish comments oozing out of the unfounded accounts from the former Director of Passport & Visas, Mr. Andrew Wonplo.”

Findley explains that his service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Republic of Liberia was characterized by service to country, commitment to duty, strengthening bilateral and multilateral relationships, upholding the rule of law, and dedication to delivering the statutory mandate of the Ministry.—*Othello B. Garblah*

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# They want to take me down

## -Kemayah reacts to sexual harassment claims



Foreign Minister - designate Dee-Maxwell Kemayah

By Ethel A Tweh

Foreign Minister - designate Dee-Maxwell Kemayah says allegation of sexual harassment levied against him by Liberian diplomatic

staff to the UN Mission in the United States Madam Wayne Cummings Wilson is a "take-down" campaign against him.

Appearing before the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee Friday, 25

September in Monrovia, Kemayah argued that even in the western world there are false allegations that can be levied against people.

According to him, he had been sent an email by his accuser Madam Cummings two hours after his nomination as to the position of Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, suggesting that the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Henry Fahnbulleh was notified.

Kemayah notes that since then, the Foreign Ministry hasn't officially communicated with him about any investigation that they are carrying on in relations to the alleged sexual harassment.

Responding to Grand Bassa Senator Nyonblee Kangar - Lawrence' question about his integrity, the nominee says there is no way his integrity can be at stake because at the level of the United Nations, he

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# Vardy hat-trick in stunning Leicester win at Man City

Jamie Vardy scored a hat-trick as Leicester City inflicted a remarkable defeat on Manchester City to go top of the Premier League.

Despite going behind to a superb fourth-minute strike by former Foxes midfielder Riyad Mahrez, the visitors responded in stunning fashion. Vardy levelled with a penalty before the break after he had been fouled by

Kyle Walker, and he then sealed his second treble against Pep Guardiola's side from the spot, after he had cleverly turned home Timothy Castagne's cross to make it 2-1.

James Maddison scored for the first time since 1 January when he curled home a stunning fourth for Leicester.

And although Nathan Ake pulled one back with his first goal since a £40m summer move from Bournemouth, a third



Leicester penalty - this time converted by Yuri Tielemans because Vardy had already gone off - completed a memorable afternoon for Brendan Rodgers' Foxes, who have started a top-flight season with three successive wins for the first time.

In contrast, Guardiola was suffering his worst home defeat as City boss, with his team now in the bottom half of the table.

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