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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 8 NO. 229

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#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#

I warned Weah -Sen. Teahjay



Pres. Weah

Justice Nagbe

Sen. Teahjay



Continental News

DRC presidential election postponed for at least a week

Sunday's presidential selection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be delayed by at least a week, the country's electoral commission has announced. The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) said on Thursday it was unable to organise the vote on time, and that the poll would now take place around seven days later.

Candidates received a text message telling them that the CENI president, Corneille Nangaa, had decided the commission was "technically unable" to hold the election as scheduled.

The delay will anger supporters of the DRC's fractured opposition and dismay observers who hoped the elections would bring a measure of security to the one of Africa's most important countries.

It will raise tensions and could prompt significant protests. The DRC's outgoing president, Joseph Kabila, 47, refused to leave office at the end of his second term in 2016

and only reluctantly agreed not to stand this time round. The country's constitution limits presidents to two consecutive terms.

Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, a former interior minister and Kabila loyalist, is standing for the ruling coalition instead.

Kabila has been in power

since 2001 and the elections would be the DRC's first democratic transition of power since independence from Belgium in 1960. Opposition candidates have warned that any delay would be unacceptable.

"The CENI president said there will be an election rain or shine on the 23 December,"

said Martin Fayulu, one of the two leading opposition candidates. "We cannot accept a change of Mr Nangaa's position today."

Fayulu is part of an opposition coalition, which issued a statement on Wednesday saying that authorities "had ample time to prepare credible and peaceful elections".

"They have not done so ... so we are discovering their real objective: remain in power to pillage the country and kill the Congolese population which deeply hopes for a change," it added. There were reports of protests by students at the University of Kinshasa after news of the delay became known.

Preparations for the repeatedly postponed vote were disrupted by a fire last week that the CENI said destroyed 80% of controversial, new voting machines that were to be used in the capital, Kinshasa.

Many in the DRC believe the blaze was an attempt by authorities to smear the opposition and to provide an excuse for a delay to the polls.

Local media reported that the CENI had cited three reasons for the delay: the death of more than 100 people in ethnic violence in the north-west this week, an outbreak of Ebola in the east and a shortfall in the number of ballot papers it had been able to distribute. AFP



AFP/Getty Images DRC's Electoral Commission President Corneille Nangaa Yobeluo (L) and Democratic Republic of Congo's Prime Minister Bruno Tshibala (R) take part in a meeting about a possible postponement of the vote

Ebola and war-stricken DR Congo named most neglected crisis of 2018

LONDON (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - With an Ebola epidemic raging and millions caught in a forgotten "catastrophe" of conflict and hunger, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was the most neglected crisis of 2018, according to an annual Thomson Reuters Foundation poll of aid agencies.

This year's survey was

unusual for the high number of "most forgotten crises," with experts also listing the Central African Republic, Lake Chad Basin, Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Burundi, Nigeria and, for the first time, Venezuela.

But Congo's "mega-crisis" barely made headlines, they said, even as the country gears up for landmark elections on Sunday which some fear could

stoke further unrest. "The brutality of the conflict is shocking, the national and international neglect outrageous," said Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

"I visited Congo this year and have seldom witnessed such a gap between needs and assistance."

Congo, where 13 million people in a population of 82 million need help, also topped the annual Thomson Reuters Foundation poll in 2017, but agencies said the situation had deteriorated.

Six of 21 agencies polled named Congo as the most neglected crisis, including WFP, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, ActionAid, International Rescue Committee, and Christian Aid.

ActionAid's humanitarian advisor Rachid Boumnijel urged the international community to redouble efforts to end years of conflict characterized by sexual brutality.

"It's been a catastrophe for the country, and for women

Zimbabwe won't extradite Grace

HARARE, Zimbabwe - The Zimbabwean government says there is "no need" to extradite Grace Mugabe, the wife of the country's former leader, to neighboring South Africa after police there issued a warrant for her arrest.

Johannesburg last year.

Mutodi says former president Robert Mugabe was the country's founder and that "harassment of his immediate family members is not in the best interests of Zimbabwe."



photo of Zimbabwe's former fist lady Grace Mugabe greeting the party's supporters.

Energy Mutodi, Zimbabwe's deputy minister of information, said Thursday that the government objects to the move by South African law enforcement against Mugabe, who is accused of assaulting a woman in

Earlier this year, a South African court ruled that South Africa's government acted illegally when it granted diplomatic immunity to Grace Mugabe after the alleged attack at an upscale hotel. AP

and girls particularly," Boumnijel said.

EBOLA

Christian Aid's head of humanitarian programs Maurice Onyango said the violence had caused "large-scale trauma," with children witnessing parents and siblings

being murdered.

An upsurge of fighting in the east of the mineral-rich country has also exacerbated the spread of the world's second largest Ebola outbreak, agencies said.

The Central African Republic. Reuters



EDITORIAL

Liberians crave for Pro-Poor Rice

THE CURRENT UNCONTROLLABLE craving by Liberians for the Pro-Poor Rice brought in the country recently in the quantity of 80,000 bags is not only sickening, but laughable.

MANY MONROVIA RESIDENTS are complaining that the rice is not available in stores for sale, while others claim the consignment is being re-bagged to be sold at a higher price, including reports of unscrupulous business people smuggling it to neighboring countries.

BUT HERE IS the plain reality: simple elementary economic principles stipulate that when supply does not meet demand, scarcity comes in. And this is the reality we face. No amount of yearning for the Pro-Poor Rice can change anything in the short run as long as supply remains constant at 80,000 bags.

IN HONEST, WHAT can 80,000 bags of rice do to 4.5 million people? It is nothing but a drop in the bucket, given our insatiable taste for rice. We are gathering that sale of the rice is being rationed from market to market. But this will not address the current demand either.

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia says it has established partnership with a so-called private importer, TRH Trading, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to import rice and sell at a reduced price of US\$950 and US\$10, respectively below the current price of US\$17.

THIS MEANS IN order to offset the official US\$17 for a 25kg bag of rice in the Liberian market, government and its partner would need about 4 million bags of Pro-Poor Rice.

HOWEVER, EVEN IF this were to happen, it does not in any way help the economy of this country, for we consistently maintain that agriculture is the only sustainable strategy in feeding our population. We must grow rice at a large scale and place value on local production against imported rice. There is no other workable strategy.

THE CURRENT EXERCISE is nothing but mere attempt at scoring political gains, which is shortsighted and unsustainable. We are hearing that the Weah administration intends to take some of the Pro-Poor Rice upcountry to villagers. This would be the greatest mistake! By such action, the government would be discouraging hardworking farmers.

INSTEAD OF IMPORTING rice for villagers, we call on the Ministry of Agriculture to roll out its agenda for the agricultural sector, which should be a priority by now.

IT IS A SHAME that as a nation of 171 years, we Liberians would scramble for broken parboiled rice imported from India. It's too sad! With a 60 percent youthful population, this country is ripe for agro investment. All that is needed is visionary leadership.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT seems to be sending wrong signals that it would regret later, because if the so-called Pro-Poor Rice would not be available for the market, the Weah administration should get ready for the tongue-lashing it tries to avoid.

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Tel: +231-0886484201, +231-0777007529, +231-0886551057

E-mail: info@thenewdawnliberia.com; www.thenewdawnliberia.com

COMMENTARY

By Paul Polman

A Business Model for Sustainability

Business leaders must recognize that in global value chains, there is no way to outsource environmental or social responsibility. On the contrary, multinational companies can and must use their extended supply chains to drive change and improve the quality of life in the markets where they operate.

LONDON - In a recent report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that without “rapid and far-reaching” changes to how land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities are managed, the damage to our planet could be irreversible. The message was clear: we need a cooperative effort on a global scale to change our current trajectory. And, given that many of the toughest sustainability challenges the world faces are linked to how it does business, the only prudent way forward is to change how business is done.

This may sound daunting, but we already have a framework to guide the transition: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, adopted in September 2015 by 193 countries, are designed to achieve a “more sustainable future for all” by 2030, which, by extension, will enable a better business environment. The Business and Sustainable Development Commission has estimated that meeting the SDGs could add some \$12 trillion and 380 million jobs to the global economy by the end of the next decade.

With so much to gain - and to lose from inaction - the private sector is beginning to focus on the connection between profits and sustainability. According to the Ethical Corporation's latest Responsible Business Trends report, 69% of business executives surveyed said they are integrating SDGs into their strategies. At the same time, the number of companies receiving B Corp Certification - which measures a firm's social and environmental performance - has increased in recent years.

Global finance is also inching toward sustainability. For example, environmental, social, and governance assets under management are estimated to be as high as \$22 trillion dollars; \$82 trillion is committed to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment; \$32 trillion is pegged to carbon pricing; and even the market for “green bonds” is growing exponentially. This momentum matters because financial market support will be essential in achieving the sustainable development agenda.

And yet, to sustain this progress, businesses must recognize that even in a global value chain, it is impossible to outsource corporate responsibility. On the contrary, multinational corporations must use their market power to drive social change. Consider my company, Unilever: 2.5 billion times every day, someone somewhere uses one of our products distributed via a supply chain that includes more than 80,000 suppliers and nearly two million farmers, who in turn support communities of millions of people.

Such scale enables Unilever to contribute to and benefit from the SDGs, which is precisely what we try to do.

In 2009, we introduced the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, a blueprint to bolster our social, environmental, and economic performance. Goals include strengthening the health and wellbeing of over a billion people; reducing the environmental footprint associated with the production and use of our products; and enhancing the livelihoods of millions of workers. This approach has allowed us to be more strategic in identifying the challenges and opportunities that our business faces.

By using our resources and brands, we have also addressed key development challenges like poor nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene; climate change and deforestation; human rights; skills training; and workplace equality. And we have done all of this with nearly a 300% return over ten years and a 19% return on equity, demonstrating that it is possible to employ a development-focused agenda that delivers for shareholders and stakeholders.

I am not suggesting that success has come easily, or that our job is finished. Although I will be retiring from Unilever at the end of 2018, I am confident that the company I have led for more than a decade will continue to improve business processes with an eye toward strengthening sustainability.

The key to addressing the world's social and environmental challenges is using the power of markets and building coalitions to improve effectiveness. The final SDG, Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17), recognizes this and urges business leaders to cooperate with governments and civil society to deliver on sustainable-development objectives.

A good example of SDG 17 in action is the Food and Land Use Coalition, a global network of business executives, scientists, policymakers, investors, and farmers that is working to transform the world's fragmented and complex food systems. One key area of focus for this coalition is the disconnect between production and consumption.

We need more of this; the future of the global economy is no longer dependent on whether we act, but on how long we take to do so. Despite some progress on the SDGs over the past three years, we are not moving fast enough. As Winston Churchill once said: “I never worry about action, only inaction.” That wisdom should shape our approach to business and the SDGs today. The world we want for our children will arrive only when we choose action over indifference, courage over comfort, and solidarity over division.



Lord, but wait oo eh other people can postpone their parties

Dear Father:

But wait what all this noise people causing around here? Yor na know this country ray and everything outside down or da yor first time hearing this.

What' going on my son, what kina noise you talking about? Oh Father, the people say the Country Giant says we must postpone Jesus' birthday celebration to next year and da the one they all around here causing noise.

But wait ya, da their first time hearing somebody postponing cerebation?

Father da the thing they on here oo. Some people say only Jesus supposed to postpone his own birthday celebration because it is his and not the Country Giant's job to do so. The people say because it is only the person who is celebrating can decide if he or she wants to set the celebration or party at another day and not the invitees.

Hmmm, my son they get a point there oo-not because you don't have money to buy gift so you must tell somebody to postpone their party.

Um, talking about money, da small ray it ray here-This other Jesus birthday no way to wait, everybody crying for money. The town looks like everything is at a standstill- I see why the Country Giant says the people should just wait to celebrate it next year.

But my son I hope that thing he talking he must na just be telling the ordinary people to postpone the celebration while he and his people boiling on the other side left and right then da one that pure hypocrisy oo.

Umm, Father da one just forget about it oo, because da na small jolly, jolly they will be on here. I heard no Heineken and small beer in town oo because they have been depleted from the shelves.

Really?

Da fire! I say the people fini emptying all the shelves. One of my friends was in my office today, he was telling me how all the liquor na wear coat suits and my man wedding is just after Jesus' birthday so you can imagine.

And the funny thing is I told him he should not use my money to buy liquor-I made the man to swear. The man wanted my money so obviously he has to swear that he will not use my contribution to buy liquor.

Funny enough, my says he has finished with the food aspect and is just looking for money to fill it up and buy drinks, so I told him to use my contribution to gas the car but not to buy liquor.

So my son what you want yor friend to do na?

Father the man will balance. Ehn Uncle Sam and his friends can be giving us grants with conditions, so that my owner terms and conditions I gave my man. The good thing is unlike Uncle Sam and his cousins I did not restrict my friend to a particular gas station.

So are you saying wedding contribution too da grant?

Yes oo, Father this time when people come to me for help, I can tell them what my contribution should not be used for oo. Just how Uncle Sam and his cousins seek to make special impacts, so I have chosen to make special impacts with my money too.

OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

A Comeback for Congress

NEW DELHI - The stunning victory this month of the opposition Indian National Congress in three elections to state assemblies - the local "parliaments" that decide who governs federal India's 29 provincial units - is a major blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The elections' outcome has dramatically upended Modi supporters' complacent prediction that he would be easily re-elected to a second five-year term in the next general election, due before May 2019.

The defeat of BJP governments in the Hindi states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh is all the more significant because the region is a bastion of support for the party. The results reflect mounting disillusionment with the performance of the BJP both in New Delhi and in the states they rule, as well as the emergence of a previously enfeebled Congress party as a credible alternative.

A major reason for the BJP's poor showing is its neglect of the agriculture sector, on which over 60% of Indians still depend for their livelihood. With harvest failures, failed crop-insurance schemes that benefited insurers rather than indebted farmers, and inadequate attention to irrigation, credit, price-support, and other needed inputs, farmer suicides have risen to record levels. Rural distress has been a common factor across most of India, and much of the blame for it inevitably focuses on the failure of the central and state governments to deal with it. Just before the state elections, tens of thousands of farmers from around the country marched on the national capital, New Delhi, demanding that their grievances be addressed.

Other BJP policy mistakes also weakened support for the incumbent administrations. The Modi government's irresponsible, thoughtless, and badly implemented demonetization scheme in 2016 was a disaster for the economy, shaving 1.5% off GDP growth and devastating the rural poor and wage workers, whose subsistence depends on daily flows of cash. Poor farm workers have never quite recovered from this unnecessary government-inflicted wound. Nor have small and micro enterprises, the backbone of India's economy, many of which closed because of demonetization and never reopened, throwing millions out of work.

That makes unemployment the third major reason for the BJP's election debacle. Modi rashly promised that he would create 20 million jobs per year, implying that almost 100 million jobs should have been created by now. That was always a pipe dream, but his government has not managed to create even 1.5 million in the last four years. With large numbers of India's young unable to find paying jobs, no issue looms larger in the minds of the 65% of the population that is under 35.

Add to this the disillusionment with the BJP of the "Scheduled Castes" and "Scheduled Tribes" (so called because they are enumerated in the Constitution) and the ruling party's electoral weaknesses become clear. The BJP's upper-caste leadership has poured scorn on those they deem to be their social inferiors, including the Dalits (the former "untouchables") and the Adivasis, or aboriginals. Tribal voters in Chhattisgarh abandoned the BJP in droves as reports spread of their traditional lands being acquired for "development," while Dalits in Rajasthan suffered numerous public indignities and revolted at the ballot box.

In all three states, disaffected voters turned to the party they had repudiated in the previous elections: Congress, now led by 48-year-old Rahul Gandhi. For years, it had been suggested that Gandhi - a son, grandson, and great-grandson of Indian prime ministers - was a "dynast" who was not up to the job of leading the country, and that even voters unhappy with the BJP would not necessarily vote for Congress. Gandhi shook off such criticisms and led an energetic campaign, addressed 82 rallies, and successfully dispelled the claim that he was ineffectual or entitled. His party's victory in all three states (which no political pundit or polling organization had predicted) was a personal triumph and consolidated Congress as the lynchpin of the opposition's drive to defeat the BJP in the coming general election.

The BJP, licking its wounds after such a rout, must now decide what sort of election campaign it will conduct to retain power in New Delhi. The economic appeal to voters that worked so well in 2014 will lack credibility this time around, given the government's spectacular failure to fulfill any of its promises. That leaves two most likely tactics.

One is to run a presidential-style campaign that portrays the larger-than-life image of Modi as the only choice against what the BJP will portray as a motley crew of opposition wannabes. The other is to double down on the incendiary politics of anti-Muslim animus that has worked for the party in the past, relying on the dangerous doctrine of Hindutva, according to which India is a land of Hindus and should declare itself a Hindu state.

The latter approach is reflected in rabble-rousing speeches by BJP leaders and a concerted campaign to give Muslim-sounding towns and cities new, supposedly more authentic Hindu names. But while the BJP's demonization of India's Muslims and Christians might serve its short-term political interests, it implies long-term dangers in a plural society. India's future will face grave risks if its leaders drive these communities to overt hostility toward their own country.

The challenge of governing a fractious democracy is never easy. But Indians are clearly yearning for a government that cares about all citizens, heals the divisions that the BJP has created, and delivers economic results. It is a tall order, but the recent elections suggest that Congress is readier than the BJP to fill it.



Season's Greetings



*Hi Excellency Dr. George M. Weah,
President of the Republic of Liberia*

The Board of Directors, Management Team and Employees of the Liberia Airport Authority extend Compliments and Best Wishes of the Christmas Season to His Excellency the President Dr. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, First Lady Clar Marie Weah, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, the Speaker and Members of the Legislature and the Peace-loving People of Liberia.

As we celebrate this festive season, we pray that the Almighty God will continue to strengthen and guide us throughout the year 2019, as you lead this noble country.

***A Merry Christmas and
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year.***

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Women group generates over 20 Million LRD

-Celebrates 6th Anniversary

A local women group, Community Women Empowerment Organization or COWEO hosts its 6th annual convention tomorrow, Saturday, 22 December in Kolba, Kolahun District, Lofa County, northern Liberia.

Established in September 2012 in Kolahun, COWEO works

districts, including Kolahun, Wanhassa and Lukambah, respectively.

The head of the group, Varmah Sayndee, says the annual event will be followed by launch of a new skill building program, adding that the project will be used to train women in livelihood production, simple calculation

understanding of what their contributions are, and how much they are entitled to based on their savings", he explains.

Mr. Sayndee discloses that annual savings of the group are likely to hit over 20 million Liberian dollars this year.

He calls on members of COWEO to unite as a way forward for sustainability and progress, while cautioning

With COWEO, Kolahun women see themselves as resurrecting and keeping their dreams alive. Most times, some of them save about 30 to 40 thousand Liberian dollars as personal savings.

"We don't just save money and divide at the end of the

year, we also help to repair broken marriages and provide guidance to spouses on how to manage their home affairs", Varma explains. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



with local girls and women to enable them have access to and control of economic resources as well as create an enabling environment to form part of decision making on issues that affect their communities and livelihoods. Currently, the organization is working with over 80 women groups in three administrative

methods and management of marital homes.

He says the essence of the annual convention is to promote transparency and accountability by reporting to the body and to clear doubts where necessary.

"We normally use this event to report before everyone so that they can have an

them against politicking, adding, politics has the propensity to destroy dreams.

The formation of COWEO in Kolahun is seen by many as bringing hope to marginalized women, especially single mothers. Women of Kolahun, like many of their colleagues in parts of Liberia have suffered violence and exclusions.

No heath certificate; no cookshops

-West Point Commissioner

West Point Township Commissioner William C. Wea clamps down on cooked food centers here, issuing a month-long ultimatum to operators of restaurants and cooked food centers referred to here as cookshops, to obtain health certificates or face closure.

Commissioner Wea discloses the township has reached an agreement with a local health center, Star of the Sea Health Center in the township where people engaged in public food sales may go for medical examination and obtain official health certificate before they can operate.

He gave the ultimatum recently at his office in the township during an interview with reporters.

According to him, the inspectorate division of his office has been authorized to arrest, prosecute, and close down cookshops and

restaurants that are not in compliant as of December 31, 2018.

He notes that the sanitation department of the township has over 83 registered cookshops and restaurants, but only 10 meet this standard to

serve the public.

Commissioner Wea says the measure is necessary to protect the over 85,000 inhabitants of the township, including children from getting sick simply because they ate poorly prepared food from a cooked food center. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Commissioner William C. Wea

Immigration imposter arrested in Nimba

By Thomas Domah /Nimba

A man impersonating as a senior staff of the Liberia Immigration Service or LIS has been arrested and detained in Ganta, Nimba County.

The imposter, who identifies himself as Captain Foday L. Kamara, was arrested Wednesday, 19 December following a complaint from the business community in the commercial district of Ganta.

serial number, BIN-J 599072.

When contacted, the commander for the Liberia Immigration Service at the Ganta-Guinean border Col. Louise Dennis, said she is not permitted to speak to the press, referring this reporter to the LIS central office in Monrovia.

However, the LIS Human Resource Officer for Nimba County Oscar Dolo, says he has



He has been accused of carrying on inspection and extorting money from business houses and residents.

Kamara met his waterloo on Wednesday, 19 December when state security officers in Ganta arrested him in the alleged act at several business centers. He had on his person a fake Identification Card with

no officer on his roster with the name Foday L.Kamar except officer Foday Follubah, who is officially assigned in the county.

The suspect Foday L. Kamar spent his first night in detention Wednesday in Ganta. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mysterious deaths create insecurity

-Police warn

By Winston W. Parley

Authorities at the Liberia National Police (LNP) have observed fears that continued reports of mysterious deaths can create a high level of insecurity. The police made the observation while releasing a report charged with separate cases of murder and other hideous crimes here.

"Because if people continue to just die in such form and manner, what it does is that it creates a high level of insecurity among our people. That's why we are not taking this investigation lightly. This administration is taking it very serious and we will get to the bottom of it," Moses Carter, Police Spokesman told journalists Thursday, 20 December.

Mr. Carter was addressing concerns over the status of the probe into the mysterious death of 15 - year old Vivian Wright who was reportedly gang raped, murdered and dumped in a fence by unknown persons in New Georgia this month.

He assures the public that the police have to go beyond

by making sure that "people who die mysteriously, their death do not go unpunished-meaning people will have to account for them.

He says people should be arrested and made to face the full weight of the law. According to Mr. Carter, police are speaking to people who occupy the fence in which Vivian's corpse was dumped.

Police say Vivian was reported to have left her home in New Georgia on 13

December 2018 and did not return until her body was discovered lying near a white fence at the back of a compound said to be owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thonkollie.

Beside Vivian's case, police say they are investigating the alleged murder incident that occurred on the Gold Camp in Grand Cape Mount County this month.

On 13 December, police say victim Elijah Bonah was discovered dead in his bed

room with stabbing marks on his chest, left side of his abdomen and on the back.

His body has been deposited at a local funeral home in the County for preservation while investigation goes on, Mr. Carter says.

Further in Bong County, Mr. Carter says the police detachment there has also arrested, investigated, charged and sent to court a 62 year-old man for alleged rape and murder respectively.

The Spokesman says on 11 December, the Deacon of a Methodist Church in Bong County identified as Patrick Flomo was arrested when one of his female members identified as Yarmah Flomo, a 50 years old woman was found dead in his bed room.

During police investigation, Mr. Carter says it was established that the Church went on a conference in a Town called Garwoquellah Town where the victim and other Church members were given a lodging area, but the victim's corpse was discovered in the Deacon's room the next day.

Police say Deacon Flomo allegedly admitted having sexual intercourse with the deceased, but denied killing her.

Additionally, Mr. Carter says the police detachment in Sinoe County has arrested three suspects in connection with torturing of two persons that led to the death of one victim.

The other victim is being

admitted at the government Hospital in the County, he says.

Suspects Mashall Gbalay, (49), Anthony Karmo, (47), and a man only identified as Soro were arrested on 14 December in Johnny Town for their alleged involvement in the torturing of victim Wolet Nyeawah.

The 22 year - old victim Wolet is said to have died following the alleged torture; while victim Florence Torkleamah got admitted at the hospital in the County.

They were allegedly tortured based on accusations of being witch crafts who had allegedly eaten [killed] a one year-old boy.

In a related development, Mr. Carter says a suspect who was being investigated by police for allegedly buying a stolen phone was pronounced dead by doctor on arrival at the John F. Kennedy Hospital.

Mr. carter says the late Oscar Calphen was identified as the stolen phone buyer and invited at the Zone Eight Police Substation based on the account of suspect Johnson Wilson's testimony.

Wilson had been arrested on 9 December for stealing and selling complainant Kebek Kollie's Itel Phone.

Police say the late Oscar Calphen was being interviewed when he went slowly and laid in the chair helplessly before being rushed to the JFK and pronounced dead.



Kailahun citizens to memorialize dead relatives

Memories of the Liberian Civil War are still fresh on the minds of many Liberians though the conflict ended more than 15 years ago.

Several communities across the country have been erecting memorial parks in

despite the emotional and physical scars they inflicted on them.

Some Liberians and the world over have continuously pondered over decision by the predominantly youthful Liberian population to give

Kailahun Citizens Development Association (KCDA). It members recall how 300 love ones and relatives were slaughtered and buried in a mass grave in 2001 by forces loyal to jailed former president Charles Ghankay Taylor.

Project Coordinator, Atty. Sagie F. Kamara, Sr. says the exercise is a joint initiative of both Monrovia and Lofa based relatives and love ones of those massacred.

"The project launch is organized by citizens of Kailahun, who are all victims of massacre which took place on June 20, 2011", Atty. Kamara laments.

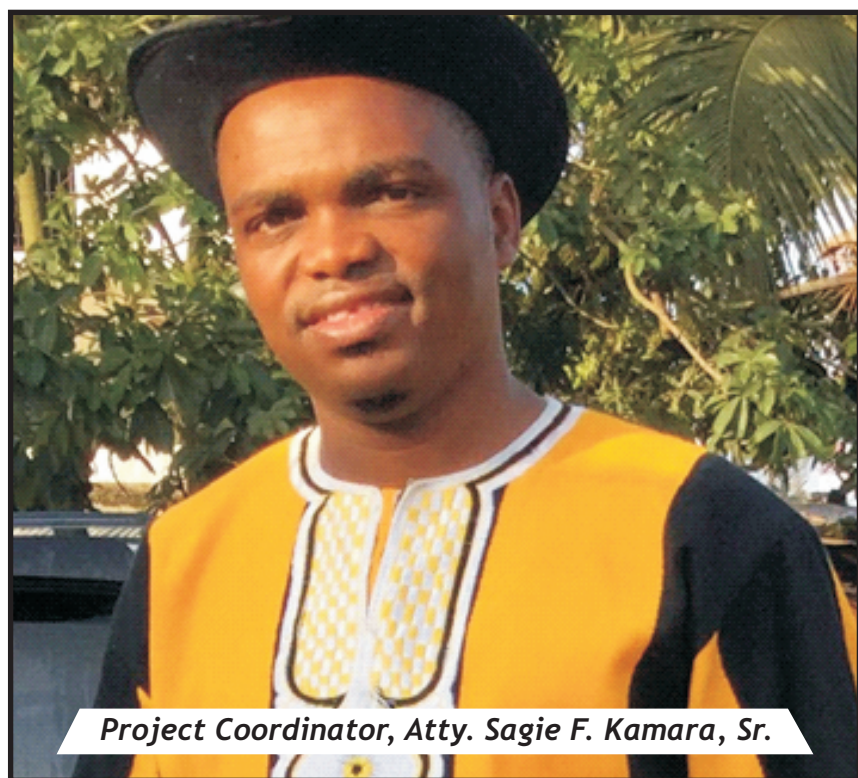
According to him, the memorial program takes place on December 24, 2018 in Kailahun town, Lukambah District, Lofa County.

He details that the mass grave contains remains of 300 unarmed civilians, who were tortured and brutally murdered in cold blood by government forces under the leadership of former President Taylor.

"With this project, we also hope to retain an indelible record in the history of Liberia, about the deadly consequences of rebellion,

power to those who jeopardized their early development and put their future at risk.

One group that deems its expedient to give respect to fallen relatives is the



Project Coordinator, Atty. Sagie F. Kamara, Sr.

recognition of dead relatives who were massacred by brutal rebel factions.

Perpetrators include sons and daughters, some of whom are being rewarded state power by their victims

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civil unrest and cruelty to human kind", he emphasized.

Attorney Kamara says the program will be graced by stakeholders from the county and human rights organizations.

Representative Clarence Massaquoi of District #3 is expected to serve as Chief Launcher of the memorial park. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Charles Taylor continue de purger sa peine en prison

Les responsables du Tribunal spécial résiduel pour la Sierra Leone (RSCSL) ont démenti une rumeur circulant sur les médias sociaux selon laquelle l'ancien président Charles Taylor aurait été libéré de prison.

M. Taylor, aujourd'hui âgé de 70 ans, a été condamné en mai 2012 à cinquante ans d'emprisonnement par le Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone soutenu par les Nations Unies, après avoir été reconnu coupable d'avoir aidé et encouragé des rebelles en Sierra Leone pendant la guerre civile de 1991-2002 dans ce pays.

Dans un courriel adressé à ce journal le mercredi 19 décembre 2018, M. Peter C. Andersen, attaché de presse de la RSCSL, une émanation du SCSL, a déclaré au New Dawn que la nouvelle était fausse et que M. Taylor continuait à purger sa peine de 50 ans pour crimes de



guerre et crimes contre l'humanité.

Au cours du procès, l'accusation avait requis une peine de 80 ans de prison pour refléter la gravité des crimes et le rôle clé joué par Taylor dans la facilitation des rebelles, tandis que son

équipe de défense avait espéré que les juges auraient tenu compte du fait que Taylor avait une famille et était père de 14 enfants et un homme instruit.

Le démenti du RSCSL vient ainsi mettre fin aux préoccupations du public et

aux craintes des anciens témoins de la Cour des crimes de guerre des Nations Unies, qui craignaient des représailles de la part de M. Taylor une fois libre.

M. Taylor, selon les juges du tribunal de La Haye, méritait l'une des plus longues peines de prison prononcées jusqu'à présent par le tribunal, vu son rôle de leader et son exploitation du conflit pour extraire des prétendus "diamants du sang". L'ancien président libérien, dont l'épouse est l'actuelle vice-présidente du Libéria, a été reconnu coupable en avril 2012 de 11 chefs d'accusation de crimes de guerre et de crimes contre l'humanité, soutenant des rebelles de 1996 à 2002 en échange de bijoux du conflit.

Les crimes comprenaient des meurtres ciblés, des viols, l'esclavage sexuel, le recrutement d'enfants soldats, les amputations forcées et le pillage.

La condamnation de Taylor a été confirmée le 26 septembre 2013 à la suite d'un appel infructueux trois semaines après son transfert de La Haye dans une prison du Royaume-Uni.

En juin 2014, une action engagée par les avocats de M. Taylor contre son incarcération au Royaume-Uni avait été annulée le 30 janvier 2015 par le Tribunal résiduel de la Sierra Leone (RSCSL), qui avait repris le mandat du TSSL en décembre 2013.

L'équipe de la défense de Taylor a affirmé que le Royaume-Uni avait violé ses droits humains internationaux lorsque le gouvernement avait refusé d'accorder des visas à son épouse et à ses enfants pour lui rendre visite. Ils ont cité les normes internationales de détention dans les résolutions de l'ONU, la Convention européenne des droits de l'homme (CEDH) et le droit britannique. La défense a déclaré que le droit de Taylor à la vie de famille avait été violé.

Ils avaient en outre affirmé que l'une des conditions les plus élémentaires d'une détention humaine était qu'un détenu soit autorisé à entrer en contact avec des membres de sa famille pendant sa détention.

La Vice-présidente Libérienne Taylor se fera-t-elle destituer ?

Le député du Congrès pour le changement démocratique, Solomon Claudius George, accuse la Vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor de limoger illégalement des libériens de leurs fonctions. Il appelle ainsi à sa destitution du gouvernement.

Le représentant George estime qu'il y a des personnalités influentes au sein du gouvernement qui usent de leur pouvoir pour chasser de force et dans des conditions illégales des gens de leurs fonctions. La vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, selon lui, est l'une de

ces personnalités. Il faut donc, d'après lui, qu'elle soit destituée en tant que vice-présidente de la république du Libéria.

« La vice-présidente Taylor devrait comprendre que la coalition au pouvoir n'a jamais promis aux libériens pendant la campagne qu'il les chasserait de leurs postes », a-t-il dit.

Le représentant George a tenu ces propos dimanche dernier lors d'une réunion à l'école Wells Hairston High School à Monrovia. C'était sa première réunion depuis sa réélection en 2017.

Les propos du législateur du CDC interviennent alors que les relations entre la vice-présidente Taylor et le Président George Manneh Weah sont au froid. La presse a fait échos de plusieurs accrochages entre les principales personnalités de l'Etat.

La Vice-présidente Taylor, choisie par M. Weah comme candidate à la vice-présidence lors des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2017, a fait plusieurs

erreurs depuis son ascension au pouvoir.

Immédiatement après sa prise de fonction en tant que vice-présidente de la République du Libéria, Mme Taylor, ancienne sénatrice du comté de Bong, a sommairement limogé les chefs traditionnels de son comté, après avoir menacé de limoger quiconque n'adhérerait pas à la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique au pouvoir. Mais le président Weah est intervenu par la suite, ordonnant au ministre de l'Intérieur de réintégrer les chefs.

L'ancienne Première Dame est actuellement en procès devant un tribunal pour s'être servie de la police pour destituer la présidente élue de l'Association des commerçants du Liberia, Alice Yeebahn, accusant l'administration de cette dernière de corruption présumée.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, Mme Taylor aurait, semble-t-il, détourné des fonds de la Loterie nationale au profit de son œuvre caritative personnelle, ce qui a poussé le président Weah à surveiller l'entreprise.



Articles traduits
Par Valéry G. Guhéna
E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com
Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

FRANÇAIS

Éditorial

Les Libériens ont soif du « riz pour les pauvres »

Le désir ardent des Libériens de s’offrir au moins un sac « du riz pour les pauvres » importé récemment par le gouvernement est non seulement écœurant, mais risible.

Certains habitants de Monrovia se plaignent de ce que « le riz pour les pauvres » ne soit pas disponible dans les magasins, tandis que d'autres soupçonnent le gouvernement d’avoir emballé le lot de riz pour être vendu à un prix beaucoup plus élevé ultérieurement, et expriment la crainte que des hommes d'affaires peu scrupuleux ne s’en saisissent pour le faire passer clandestinement dans les pays voisins.

Mais voici la réalité évidente : de simples principes économiques élémentaires stipulent que lorsque l'offre ne répond pas à la demande, la pénurie intervient. Et c'est la réalité à laquelle nous sommes confrontés aujourd’hui. Aucun désir pour le riz pour les pauvres ne peut rien changer à court terme tant que l'offre reste constante à 80 000 sacs.

Honnêtement, que peuvent faire 80 000 sacs de riz à une population de 4,5 millions d’habitants ? Ce n'est rien qu'une goutte d’eau dans un seau, étant donné notre appétit insatiable pour le riz. Nous avons appris que les sacs de riz ont été répartis entre les différents marchés. Mais cela ne répondra pas non plus à la demande actuelle.

Le gouvernement du Libéria a déclaré avoir établi un partenariat avec un importateur privé, TRH Trading, qui travaille en collaboration avec le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie pour importer du riz afin de le vendre à un prix beaucoup plus réduit, soit 10 dollars le sac, contre 17 dollars qui est prix actuel d’un sac de riz ordinaire. Cela signifie que pour qu’il y ait suffisamment de riz de 10 dollars américains le sac sur le marché libérien, le gouvernement et son partenaire auront besoin d'environ 4 millions de sacs de « riz pour les pauvres ».

Cependant, même si cela se faisait, cela n’aiderait en rien l’économie de ce pays, car nous maintenons constamment que l’agriculture est la seule stratégie durable pour nourrir notre population. Nous devons cultiver le riz à grande échelle et accorder de la valeur à la production locale par rapport au riz importé. Il n'y a pas d'autre stratégie viable.

L’exercice en cours n’est rien d’autre qu’une simple tentative d’obtenir des gains politiques, ce qui est à courte vue et insoutenable. Nous apprenons que le gouvernement Weah a l'intention de proposer aux villageois une partie du « riz pour les pauvres ». Ce serait la plus grande erreur ! En agissant ainsi, le gouvernement découragerait les agriculteurs assidus.

Au lieu d'importer du riz pour les villageois, nous appelons le ministère de l'Agriculture à mettre en œuvre son programme pour le secteur agricole, qui devrait désormais être une priorité.

Il est dommage qu’en tant que pays de 171 ans, nous, Libériens, nous bousculions pour acheter du riz étuvé brisé importé d’Inde. C’est trop triste ! Avec une population de 60% de jeunes, ce pays est mûr pour l'investissement agricole. Tout ce qu’il faut, c’est un leadership visionnaire.

Cependant, le gouvernement semble envoyer des signaux erronés qu’il regrettera plus tard, car s’il arrivait que le soi-disant « riz pour les pauvres » ne soit plus disponible sur le marché, l’administration Weah pourrait recevoir la raclée qu’il tente d’éviter.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Paul Polman

Un modèle économique pour le développement durable

LONDRES - Dans un récent rapport, le Groupe d’experts intergouvernemental sur l’évolution du climat (GIEC) avertissait que les dommages causés à la planète pourraient être irréversibles faute de changements « rapides et radicaux » dans la façon dont nous utilisons la terre, l’industrie, le bâtiment, les transports et les villes. Le message était sans ambiguïté : un effort de coopération, à l’échelle mondiale, doit nous permettre de changer de trajectoire. Et comme un bon nombre des difficultés auxquelles nous devons faire face sont liées à nos entreprises, la manière la plus sage d’avancer consiste à les transformer.

Le défi peut sembler impossible à relever, mais nous disposons dès à présent d'un cadre pour guider la transition : les Objectifs de développement durable des Nations unies (ODD). Adoptés en septembre 2015 par 193 pays, ils sont destinés à construire « un avenir meilleur et plus durable pour tous » d’ici à 2030, qui, par extension, fournira un meilleur environnement aux entreprises. La Commission des entreprises et du développement durable (Business and Sustainable Development Commission) estime que la réalisation des ODD pourrait générer plus de 12 000 milliards de dollars par an [« au titre de l’épargne d’entreprise et des revenus commerciaux »] et créer 380 millions d’emplois dans l’économie mondiale d’ici la fin de la prochaine décennie.

Il y a tant à gagner - et tant à perdre de l’inaction - que le secteur privé commence à s’intéresser aux liens entre profits et durabilité : 69 % des chefs d’entreprises interrogés dans le dernier rapport, édité par Ethical Corporation, des tendances des entreprises responsables (Responsible Business Trends Report) affirment intégrer les ODD à leur stratégie. Parallèlement, le nombre d’entreprises certifiées B Corp - en fonction d’une évaluation de leur performance environnementale et sociale - s’est accru au cours des dernières années.

La finance mondiale s’avance elle aussi vers la durabilité. Ainsi gère-t-elle des actifs environnementaux, sociaux et de gouvernance estimés à 22 000 milliards de dollars ; 82 000 milliards de dollars respectent quant à eux les Principes pour l’investissement responsable de l’ONU ; 32 000 milliards sont arrimés aux prix du carbone ; en outre, le marché des « obligations vertes » connaît une croissance exponentielle. Cet engouement est significatif, car le soutien des marchés financiers sera essentiel à la réussite du programme de développement durable.

Pour autant, les entreprises doivent prendre conscience de l'impossibilité d’externaliser leur responsabilité si elles souhaitent contribuer à ces progrès. Les sociétés multinationales doivent au contraire utiliser leur emprise sur le marché pour conduire le changement social. Je prendrai l’exemple de ma propre entreprise, Unilever : 2,5 milliards de fois par jour, quelqu'un, quelque part dans le monde, fait usage de l’un de nos produits, distribués par une chaîne logistique qui compte plus de 80 000 fournisseurs et environ deux millions d’agriculteurs, lesquels, à leur tour, font vivre des millions de personnes. À cette échelle, Unilever a la capacité de contribuer aux Objectifs de développement durable et d’en bénéficier, et c’est précisément ce que nous tentons de faire.

En 2009, nous avons mis en œuvre le plan Unilever pour un mode de vie durable, notre modèle pour renforcer notre performance sociale, environnementale et économique. Nos objectifs sont notamment de promouvoir la santé et le bien-être de plus d’un milliard d’êtres humains, de réduire l’empreinte environnementale liée à la production et à l’usage de nos produits et d’améliorer les moyens de subsistance de millions de travailleurs. Cette méthode nous a permis d’affiner notre stratégie lorsque nous avons dû identifier les défis et les opportunités auxquels doit répondre notre activité.

En utilisant nos ressources et nos marques, nous avons aussi pu relever des défis clés du développement comme l’alimentation, l’assainissement et l’hygiène, le changement climatique et la déforestation, les droits humains, la formation professionnelle et l’égalité sur les lieux de travail. Nous avons réalisé tout cela avec un retour sur investissement qui avoisine 300 % en dix ans et 19 % de rendement de nos capitaux propres, démontrant ainsi qu’il est possible de mettre en œuvre un programme centré sur le développement qui profite aux actionnaires comme aux parties prenantes.

Je ne cherche pas à laisser entendre que la réussite fut facile, ni que notre tâche est accomplie. Je quitterai mes fonctions à la fin de l’année 2018, mais je crois profondément que l’entreprise qu’il m’a été donné de diriger pendant plus de dix ans continuera d’améliorer ses procès de production tout en renforçant sa durabilité.

L’essentiel, si nous voulons relever les défis environnementaux et sociaux auxquels le monde doit faire face, est d’user de notre influence sur les marchés et de bâtir des coalitions afin de renforcer notre efficacité. Le dernier des ODD, l’objectif 17, qui est de créer des « partenariats pour la réalisation des objectifs », l’exprime et appelle les dirigeants d’entreprise à coopérer avec les pouvoirs publics et la société civile pour tenir les objectifs de développement durable. L’action mise en place par la Food and Land Use Coalition, qui a constitué un réseau mondial de dirigeants d’entreprise, de scientifiques, de responsables politiques, d’investisseurs et d’agriculteurs afin d’œuvrer à la transformation des systèmes d’alimentation mondiaux, complexes et fragmentés, offre un bon exemple de la façon dont l’ODD 17 peut être atteint. La déconnection entre consommation et production constitue l’un des premiers domaines sur lesquels se concentrent ses efforts.

Il faut en faire plus ; l’avenir de l’économie mondiale ne dépend plus des actions à entreprendre, mais du temps qu’il nous faudra pour les entreprendre. En dépit de quelques progrès réalisés dans la poursuite des ODD aux cours des trois dernières années, nous n’avançons pas assez vite. Comme l’a dit autrefois Winston Churchill : « Ce n’est pas l’action qui m’inquiète, c’est l’inaction. » Cette sage recommandation doit aujourd’hui conduire notre façon d’entreprendre et de tenir les ODD. Le monde que nous voulons pour nos enfants n’advientra que si nous choisissons l’action contre l’indifférence, le courage contre le confort, la solidarité contre la division.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Kru & New Krutown

A REPEAT

By Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II

The religious group in New Krutown had a church program last Sunday, December 9 to give thanks to God for the appointment of members of the Kru tribe in the George Weah cabinet. 11 members of the Kru officials, including a Supreme Court Judge, district representative, and the town governor were invited but only 4 came to say thanks to God. The occasion was held in New Krutown, Monrovia, Liberia in a packed temple of the Baffu Bay Pentecostal Church.

The invited and confirmed honorees were Joseph Nagbe, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Dixon Seboe, District 16 Representative, Jefferson Kanmoh, Security Advisor to the President, Celia Cuffy Brown, Deputy Manager of Freeport, Thomas Doe Nah, Director General of Liberia Revenue Authority, Mobutu Nyenpan, Minister of Public Works, Francis Wreh, Director General of Liberia Institute of Statistics and Information Service, Wilson Tarpeh, Minister of Commence, Alice Weah, Governor of the Borough of New Krutown, Emmanuel Nimely, Religious Advisor to the President, and Samuel Tweah, Minister of Finance and Development Planning. Only Honorable Joseph Nagbe, Francis Wreh, Emmanuel Nimley, and Alice Weah attended.

Pastor Freddy Toquie of the Victory People Center preached for the occasion. He spoke of thanksgiving and the need to thank God for his grace. "Life is a blessing, and we have to be grateful for having it". He spoke of the help and blessing of Jesus and the ungratefulness of men. He reiterated that Jesus cured 10 lepers, but only 1 came back to say thanks. "What about the nine"? Jesus asked. Reverend Toquie repeated the question, apparently in reference to those officials invited but did not come. "It is God that appoints and gives us power, not men", the pastor pointed out in essence. A member of the prayer warrior sitting in the back from me agreed quietly, 'Preach it, pastor'. 'They would have come if it were election time. They would have come if it were a social affair' with "merrymaking", another member pointed out. I wanted to look back at them but decided not to. Perhaps the absent officials had good reasons for their no-show, but they have given prior assurance that they would come, according to information.

I attended the program. At first, I sat among the congregation. But the church bishop asked me to come up the stage. As I walked with him, I asked why he is taking me up on stage. I am not an official, a pastor, and I am not well known, I said to myself. Also, I did not know the bishop either. I shook his hand in appreciation as I sat. The MC continued announcing the officials as they entered. The audience stood up as each official came in. I did not hear clearly this announcement. It sounded to me that the MC was announcing and saying to the audience, "His Excellency George Manneh Weah, President of Liberia. The congregation stood up. A tall young man entered, the crowd clapped their hands.

"Is that President Weah? He looks different from his pictures I said again to myself. I have never met Weah, never saw him in person, though I covered the Liberian 2017 presidential election and have written about him in articles. I knew his father Tarpeh very well; we all lived in Claratown. Weah was born one month before I left for the US in November 1966. He is a bless child indeed. The cameramen took pictures of the just arrived official. Other individuals who knew him shook his hands. But that was not Weah. The official was the advisor to the president on religious affairs. I got to know later during the program.

The Kru choir sang in Kru, the drums beat, the tambourines sounded, and the congregation stood.

Some sang the songs, and I did too. The Kru religious songs are parts of me. I grew up singing them as a child born in New Krutown and raised in Claratown. The two towns are all ghettos of Monrovia. My dad was a Methodist minister and mom was a choir matron in the Grandoe Church, a Pentecostal church in New Krutown where I worship when I am in Liberia. I was in mom's choir too.

At the occasion when the Kru choir sang the songs, "Under the rock, I stand", "Someday will be a happy day", I stood and sang with the congregation. These were some of the old and powerful Kru religious songs. They took me back on a memory lane.

I was five years old during the Didwho Welleh Twe presidential campaign in 1951. He was a representative for the New Krutown area, now District 16. Twe was expelled from the House because of his advocacy particularly in the Fernando Po incident in which native Liberians were forced to work as slave laborers on a plantation in Fernando Po, a Spanish colony in Africa. He was the first native Liberian to openly express the desire to seek the Liberian presidency. He was a legend, he was the political leader not only for the United People Party, which later became the Reformation Party, and he was the leader of the Kru people. My aunt, Amma Tugbe, was his religious advisor. The song, 'Someday will be a happy day' was also the Kru national song. It was the battle cry song of the Kru people. Back in the day, we were singing that "one day we will gain power and no one will defeat us but God". Twe was the Messiah to liberate we the native people.

Back to the Thanksgiving program, more people came in. When Supreme Court Associate Judge Joseph Nagbe entered, the people greeted him with a song. He sat in the front seat with the other honorees. The cameramen were taking his pictures. He had a unique smile, looking happy to be in attendance I guessed.

Bishop Benjamin Doe Wion of the Body of Christ presented the certificates to the honorees. He expressed the meaning of the certification, but he also indicated his disappointment with the absence of the others. "We went into a great work and spent a lot to prepare these certificates. They should have informed us that they would not be able to attend. But we will appoint a special delegation to give them the certificates at their respective offices", he stated gracefully.

Honoring a kinsman is an African tradition. In Africa, we give thanks to the almighty, the creator for the blessing he has restored to a member of the family, the tribe, and the community. We see our success in the person of our kinsman. We see this expression in some African movies. Regrettably, this feeling sometimes is not mutual. The honoree or the fortunate does not sometimes give back. They turn their backs on those who have wished them well or have given them power.

Counselor Nagbe spoke on behalf of the present honorees. Before he spoke, he asked the Kru choir to sing a good Kru religious song. The choir did. He walked to the choir singing the song and dancing. The other honorees joined in, the congregation also, the church was on a "holy ghost fire".

Nagbe thanked God for bringing him out of poverty to glory. He briefly narrated his days as a boy sleeping in an attic of a hut in Sinoe County and sometimes sleeping on a bare house mat floor. "It was not easy in Weahkron in Sinoe where I am from". He stated that he and Honorable Francis Wreh encountered hardship growing up as students. It was God who brought us this far, he added. He gave thanks to God for making President Weah have appointed him to the Supreme

Court bench. The counselor also thanks to the church and the people of New Krutown where he lived. "Because of the unity and protection of the Kru people in New Krutown, the town was saved during the civil war". "I am one of you", he told the audience, adding, "when I am in my car, I sit in front and roll my windows down". He made most of these remarks in Kru.

In 2005, Nagbe won a junior senatorial seat for Sinoe County. He won reelection in 2011 before his appointment to the bench this year. Many of the honorees live or have lived in New Krutown. The borough is the main area of District 16, which Honorable Dixon Seboe represents. The town was the second home of the Kru people who migrated to Monrovia from the interior particularly in the 40s. Rural poverty and the lack of social and economic development contributed to the migration. The first home was Old Krutown which was located in the area now called West Point. Old Krutown was demolished by the central government in 1945, and in that year, New Krutown was established.

Review and analysis of the present condition of the town reveal that New Krutown is considered "the largest slum community in Liberia"; but it is one of the powerful ethnic boroughs in urban Liberia. It has a population about 75,000, mostly youth, "below 25 years old", and over 75% of the labor force is unemployed. That rate is just 10% below the national figure of 85% unemployment, which has been constant since Charles Taylor's administration, over 15 years ago. Private schools are more than public schools, thus making it harder for poor parents to properly educate their children. At the same time, the church institution has grown and is one of the influential, social orders of the community. Politicians are or should be cognizant of this reality.

This means to say that all politics are local. And local factors in politics should not be ignored, the ABC of electoral politics. First-term Representative Dixon Seboe who was elected last year should not have been absent from the church event in his own district. Bishop Wion mentioned him disappointingly in a private discussion after the program that he promised to attend. Although the representative is said to be a personal friend of Weah, the president would not elect him next election but the people of New Krutown. This factor was realized this year November when a Weah personal friend and supported candidate in District 13 lost to a community-oriented candidate who was just a former bodyguard of the president. Weah's personal appeal to District 13 voters during the campaign did not help the friend.

Seemingly, as I look back, New Krutown's glory days are in the past: Unlike currently, the town was cleaner, not congested and was without sea erosion. It had some of the best soccer teams in the country. Teams like YB, Yankee, and Lone Star. It was the home of D. Twe and Nahklen was the governor.

"The advent in 1951 of the "Point Four Program", a US technical assistance project, helped improve the community as there were electricity and fine concrete houses in the neighborhood. The Dr. West or the Colonel West community was located in the coastal beach area near the Atlantic Ocean. It was a fine place with an ocean view. West of the borough, the lagoon area, was a water view with the St. Paul River entering the Atlantic Ocean, displaying a spectacular scenery. The sea did not encroach inland. That was New Kru Town. Its population later increased when Claratown was demolished by the Methodist Church in 1971, and the inhabitants, all Kru, migrated to New Kru Town".

TO BE CONT'D

I warned Weah

By Throble Kaffa Suah,
Freelance Journalist

Sinoe County Senator Jaye Milton Teahjay is upset about the appointment of Cllr. Joseph Nagbe as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, disclosing that he had warned President George Manneh Weah against making the appointment, but the President did not listen.

Teahjay narrates that he met President Weah face to face and warned him not to appoint Cllr. Nagbe, because he “does not have clean hands”, noting that such individual should not serve on the bench of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

“I warned Weah not to nominate Nagbe, as doing so would destroy the Supreme Court and what I said is coming to pass, considering what went wrong during the by-election



in Sinoe,” Teahjay laments.

Prior to his appointment by the President. Cllr. Nagbe served as Senator for Sinoe County.

A former Superintendent of Sinoe County, Senator Teahjay expressed his frustration

recently in Monrovia, while serving as Chief Fund Raiser and Installing Officer of officials-elect of the Juarzon United Citizens Association (JUCA), one of six (6) sections of the Sarpo-speaking vernacular from the county.

Those inducted for two years include, Samuel Polaty Poson, Chairman; G. Alex Blaloh, Co-Chairman; Siaffa Saywon, Secretary General; Thomas Barjuloh, Treasurer and Doris Quiah, Financial Secretary, respectively.

Sarpo and Kru are the dominant tribes of Sinoe County, while Juarzon is the second oldest district next to Careyburg in Montserrado County to have gained statutory district status during the administration of slain President Dr. William Richard Tolbert, Jr. in 1972.

Joseph Slewro was the first Representative of Juarzon, having won the seat in 1976 during the Tolbert regime. Both Slewro and Tolbert died in the aftermath of the bloody military coup of 1980.

However, Teahjay, who was reared in Juarzon, donated L\$30,000.00 as his initial contribution towards any developmental programme undertaking by JUCA in the

district.

He stresses that judges in Liberia should stay away from politics, and Cllr. Nagbe is not exempted as he was allegedly seen campaigning for a senatorial candidate during the recently held by-election in Sinoe County.

The New Dawn has not independently verified Senator Teahjay’s claim.

But he continued: “How can a Judge who was seen campaigning, preside over electoral matter at the Supreme Court level; but let it be known, we will end-it-up at ECOWAS Court in Abuja, Nigeria.”

Senator Teahjay further explains that former senatorial candidates Romeo Quiah and Othello Nagbe both of the United People’s Party (UPP) and the Coalition for Liberia Progress (CLP) respectively, were stabbed in the back by their own people who feel, if it is not them, then nobody should be.

“Before the onset of the by-election campaign, I made myself cleared as to who I was supporting and that was Othello Nagbe, because he’s been working with me for some time now; likewise Romeo, who was my deputy when I was Superintendent in Sinoe”, he reveals.

Cllr. Joseph Nagbe, a former Senator of Sinoe, replaced retired Justice Philip Z.A Banks, who reached retirement age 70 in August, 2017 but formally exited the Supreme Court bench in October, 2018. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

World Bank approves US\$ 29m for Southeast Liberia

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approves an International Development Association (IDA) credit financing of US\$29 million for Liberia’s Southeastern Corridor Road Asset Management Project (SECRAMP).

According to the World Bank, the project will support the Government’s efforts to enhance road connectivity for residents living along selected sections of the Ganta-to-Zwedru Road Corridor, and to improve institutional capacity to manage the road sector.

The IDA will also provide a \$48 million Payment Guarantee which will leverage additional US\$60 million from the private sector.

The SECRAMP, according to a press release, will be co-financed by a US\$24 million Liberia Reconstruction Trust Fund (LRTF) grant contribution from the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (DfID) and Germany (KfW). Both KfW and DfID recently provided additional grants of US\$16 million and US\$6 million respectively. The Government of Liberia will make available US\$24 million through the National Road Fund.

The SECRAMP supports the Government’s Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) through the development of road infrastructure to support economic transformation necessary to sustain growth and reduce poverty. The project will also ensure the establishment of an environment conducive to: commercial agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and rural

development; promoting development of micro, small, and medium enterprises; and improving access to markets.

“This project will bring relief to Liberians in accessing social services and advancing economic development, especially to the people of the southeastern region who are most of the time isolated from the rest of the country due to poor road connectivity,” said Larisa Leshchenko, World Bank Liberia Country Manager.

The World Bank Release points out that about 471,000 project beneficiaries are targeted, including residents, businesses, and transport service companies located along the rehabilitated corridor and in adjacent areas that will benefit from access to a climate-resilient all-weather paved road.

The beneficiaries will experience substantial cost reductions, shorter transport times, and all-year access to services and markets. The project implementation will generate local employment for mostly unskilled laborers, and on-the-job training opportunities for construction workers at a variety of skill levels.

“The project, the first of its kind in IDA’s portfolio, deploys a combination of IDA Credit, IDA Guarantees, and Grant resources to leverage private financing for a road Public Private Partnership (PPP) in an affordable and fiscally sustainable manner,” said Co-Task Team Leaders Kulwinder Singh Rao and Satheesh Kumar Sundararajan.

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and Infrastructure Implementation Unit (IIU) will

benefit from the project interventions through capacity building, support to the IIU and Road Agency (under MPW), and the institutional reform activities, which will help clarify mandates and improve their effectiveness. Local non-governmental organizations (NGO) will receive support to improve the project’s capacity to mitigate sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risks.

Building on Output and Performance-Based Road Contracts, SECRAMP will incorporate a Special Purpose Vehicle for the improvement and maintenance of a minimum of 100 km of the Ganta-Zwedru Road Corridor (focusing principally on the Ganta-Tappita section) through a 15-year concession PPP Contract to the private sector.

The Release notes that World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA), which was established in 1960, has helped the world’s poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people’s lives.

The IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world’s 77 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.3 billion people who live in IDA countries. Since 1960, IDA has supported development work in 112 countries. Annual commitments have averaged about \$19 billion over the last three years, with about 50 percent going to Africa, says the World Bank. Press Release

Finance Minister pays

Starts from back page

agriculture and health. The Chinese in few months time will complete the Ministerial Complex and also commence the construction of the overhead bridge around the SKD boulevard. He noted that the visibility of China’s presence in Liberia cannot be underestimated and wants all well meaning Liberians to see China as a true partner.

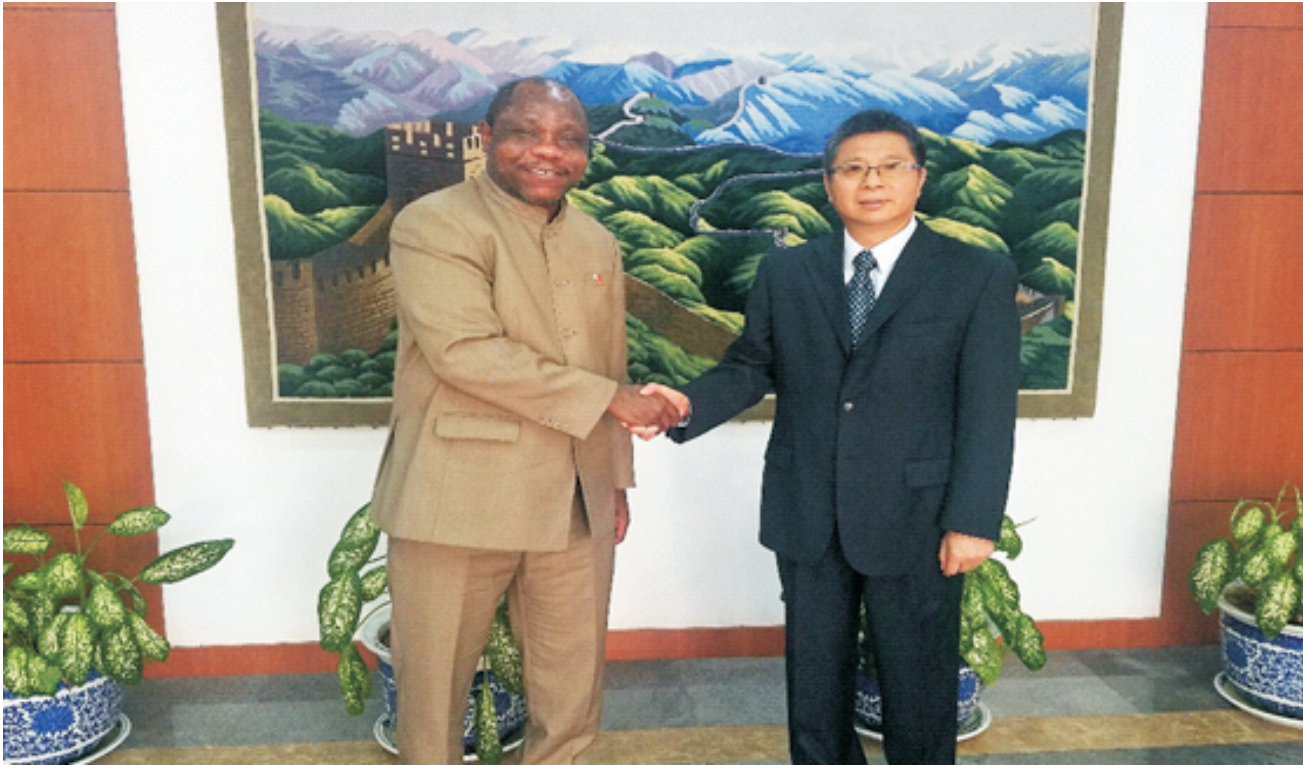
For his part, Ambassador Fu Jijun welcome Minister Tweah and entourage to the Chinese Embassy. He explained that he has been following the country’s development process since the ascendancy of President George Weah. “I see lots of development taking place including microfinance loan scheme, construction of community roads as well as free tuition for public universities”.

The Chinese Ambassador also noted that there will be numerous challenges as a new

government. But he expressed his optimism that with the level of resilience and hardwork, and support from friendly governments, the government will be able to weather the storm in the coming years by implementing its Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. The Chinese government according to Ambassador Jijun will provide an array of logistical supplies to the Liberian government early next year.

The Chinese ambassador also extended an invitation to the Mayor of Monrovia, Hon. Jefferson Koijee to visit China for the purpose of establishing sisterly relationship. In response, the City Mayor welcomed the idea and promised Ambassador Jijun that he will take advantage of the opportunity early next year.

Finance Minister pays courtesy call on Chinese Ambassador



Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah has lauded the Chinese government for their continuous engagement in the developmental process of Liberia. Minister Tweah who was accompanied by Monrovia

City Mayor, Hon. Jefferson Koijee to the Chinese embassy noted that China remains one of Liberia's strongest allies. He also reaffirmed the government of Liberia commitment to maintaining the mutual partnership which subsist between the tw

governments.

Minister Tweah expressed his gratitude to the People of China for their support in almost all sectors of the Liberian economy including infrastructure, education,



Public Service Announcement

The New Dawn will take its usual annual break beginning December 24, 2018 to return on the newsstand immediately January 4, 2019. We thank our many loyal readers and subscribers for standing by us in 2018 despite a rather tough business climate. We look forward to a very peaceful and prosperous New Year. Merry Christmas.

The Management

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