

RAISING FALES ALARMS

From The Office of the Press Secretary to the President

December 6, 2007

The past few weeks and more so, in recent days, there have been some subtle but significant and decisive moves on the part of government on issues of corruption involving some high profile former government officials and business people. Drama and intrigues have been brought in to form a part of the scheme of things. In one instance there was the former Chairman of the NTGL Gyude Bryant dismissing his legal team who has a two year suspension hanging over them. The Supreme Court took this drastic action against the lawyers for their attempts to undermine the processes and court procedures. In the instant where the Supreme Court ruled on an issue and one of the lawyers, a former solicitor general baffles the court system by attempting to file a bill of information in the lower court to question the opinion of the highest court in the land. In the mind of the Former Chairman, this was a simple motion that was being filed. And he asks the political question just why would the government that he helped to create want to prosecute and persecute him? History will be his judge if things were just as simply stated.

That question has now been answered when Big time business man George Haddad who was once referred to as the de factor Prime minister in the erstwhile regime of Charles Taylor was detained over the weekend. The National Bureau of Investigation took Mr. Haddad in to provide clarity on the Iron Ore deal, that he George Haddad simply said he had just been a good middle man and a good broker; that there was a company willing to buy some low grade ore on the one hand and there was a government called NTGL on the other hand that was willing and very eager to sell. All he has done, as most of the media institutions who believe in George Haddad's very simple version, was to sell and pay to whomever they asked him to pay to. Had the money not been so freely misapplied or chopped as the ordinary man in the street would say, this would appear to be a very simple matter. It will not require philosophers and scientists, or the everyday free talkers with no background, to see the unfolding of the shadows of the dying empire of kleptocracy.

No sooner has Haddad been released on "NTGL Iron ore deal", a political equation is being drawn to suggest that this government has its own secret iron ore deal. It is certainly clear that the Man who 99 percent of the Newspapers at the time adjudge businessman of the year, managing Director of the year, humanitarian of the year or what ever accolade that could be designed to suite his fancy, was high and mighty, but brought down by his incarceration as a common criminal before the BNI for interrogation. The common adage that he who is down fears no foe holds supreme.

As if the Government does not know of the marriage of convenience between the Lawyers who represent the biggest interest and dabble in the political game from time to time are only willing to cooperate with it, if they the government will let sleeping dogs

lie. While the iron ore equation is being formulated, the Bassa Resilience Council must also make the place ungovernable by both idolizing or trivializing murder and violence to effectuate a point on the right to hold unto ancestral lands in huts and shacks to allow the tenets of modernity to pass by.

How is the media able to assess the various situations and be in the position to show that this President is providing good leadership along with her team of dedicated officials is the issue at hand. That complete debt relief which has been at the cornerstone of the President's Foreign Policy is nearing completion, is difficult to fathom let alone for our people to appreciate the vicious cycle the nation was swinging in.

On the other hand, since the election of 2005, there are those who are yet to come to grips with the reality and accept that Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is President. She is the leader of this Nation. She presides over the affairs of state with a team comprised of some of Liberia's best and brightest backed up with personal pride and integrity. She guides the various processes and policies along with huge international and domestic support, especially our security with the mission of the United Nations on ground.

If and where these basic facts are established, then we can digest some very simple facts surrounding what have now taken on political undertones to shove up and equate them in the general war against graft.

We want change. We want to fight corruption. We want development against graft and the old corrupt past but we do not seem very willing to, or desirous of embracing the first steps in the process. The more things change the more some people would wish they remain the same. We can only continue to share in the conviction and belief that this government is here to secure the peace; this government is here to take some hard decisions, and this government is here to help bring about a new order and put Liberia back on the development track for peace and prosperity.