



**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

WWW

**Advertize Here!**

**Subscribe to our website**  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

**French Version Inside**

**Advertize**  
Here For  
**Low Rate**

VOL.9 NO. 166

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Pregnant women protest for medication



**Protesters in Du-Port Road, Paynesville**



**Pregnant women in desperation**



**More protesters**

**GET X5 ON EVERYTHING**

**#Here4U**  
everywhere you go

**DIAL \*555#**

YOU PAY	YOU GET	VALID FOR
\$1	\$5	2 DAYS
\$2	\$10	5 DAYS
\$5	\$25	10 DAYS
\$10	\$50	30 DAYS
\$20	\$100	30 DAYS

Dial **\*555#** and get 5 times your money's worth to call all networks, browse the internet and send unlimited SMS only on **MTN X5!**  
**MTN X5, Get 5 on everything!**



# Continental News

## Kenya school collapse leaves seven children dead

**A**t least seven children have died after a classroom collapsed at a primary school in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, officials say.

The wooden structure at Precious Talent Top School collapsed just minutes after the start of the school day on Monday.

Dozens of people were injured and have been taken to hospital in the city. Emergency services are at the scene.

Rescuers have reportedly had difficulty getting to the school because of the large crowds that have gathered nearby.

"We have regrettably lost seven lives to this morning's incident," Education Secretary George Magoha told reporters outside the school in Dagoretti. He added that 64 people had been injured. The school's director, Moses Ndirangu, blamed the collapse on the construction of a nearby sewer, which he said may have weakened the foundations of the building. The collapse happened shortly before 07:00 local time (04:00 GMT) and dozens of children were rushed away from the scene.

The Kenyan Red Cross transferred some children to the Kenyatta National Hospital. Two of the injured were reported to be in a critical condition. The first floor of the building collapsed and trapped the children below, local politician John Kiaria told the NTV Kenya television channel. Angry locals complained about the slow

emergency response. The government said it had opened an investigation into the cause of the accident. Images on social media showed hundreds of residents gathered around the site as rescuers search through the rubble. Books, desks and chairs could be seen amongst the debris. "I had just dropped my son to school and heard screams on my way back,"

Margaret Muthoni, whose four-year-old son was injured, told the AFP news agency. "I am just lucky my son survived," she said. The private school is located near Nairobi's well-known Ngong Racecourse and more than 800 pupils are thought to attend. The BBC's Ashley Lime in Nairobi says that many Kenyans prefer private schools are preferred to state schools, considering them superior.

Free primary school education, introduced by the Kenyan government in 2003, has led to overcrowding. Our reporter says it is common to see three pupils sharing a single desk in public schools, while morale among teachers is often poor.

As a result, the number of private schools has increased markedly, from 7,742 in 2014 to 16,594 this year, official figures show. This was the aftermath of a school tragedy that left at least seven dead. A first aider at the

scene described a very disheartening picture; bodies crushed beneath a heap of concrete, wood and iron sheets, with crying children waiting to be rescued from the dust-coated rubble.

And then the questions. Was this school meant to be here in the first place? Professor Alfred Omenya, a Nairobi-based architect, said it was not. He described the building as a "disaster waiting to happen" - weak foundation, weaker walls, and a concrete slab placed on top to add an extra storey. Education minister George Magoha said he was sorry for what happened and promised action after investigations were completed. He also said he took responsibility for what had happened. But many Kenyans do not want to see someone simply take responsibility; they want resignations, arrests and criminal charges. BBC



Residents gathered around the site as rescuers searched through the rubble

## 'Hundreds detained' after rare Egypt protests

**A**lmost 500 people have been detained in Egypt in the past few days after protests against alleged government corruption, human rights activists say. Demonstrations were reported in Cairo, Alexandria and several other cities on Friday night, and in the port city of Suez on Saturday evening. The

authorities have not yet released an official number of arrests.

Under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, there has been a wide-ranging crackdown on dissent, and protests are very rare.

Public gatherings of more than 10 people without government approval have been banned since 2013, when

Mr Sisi led the military's overthrow of Egypt's first democratically elected leader, Mohammed Morsi.

At least 60,000 people - most of them members of Morsi's now-outlawed Islamist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood - are reported to have been detained in the past six years; hundreds have been handed preliminary death sentences by courts, and activist say hundreds more have gone missing in apparent forced disappearances. On Friday night, hundreds of young people took to the streets in the centre of the capital, Cairo - including near Tahrir Square, the focus of the popular uprising that forced President Hosni Mubarak to resign in 2011 - as well as Alexandria, Damietta and Mahalla al-Kubra, according to witnesses and social media.

The protesters reportedly shouted "Leave, Sisi" and "the people want the fall of the regime" before they were dispersed by police using tear gas. There was an increased security presence on Saturday night, but dozens of people

## Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe 'died of cancer'



**Z**imbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe died from cancer after his chemotherapy treatment was stopped, the country's state-run Herald newspaper quoted his successor Emmerson Mnangagwa as saying. The president gave two reasons for why doctors in Singapore had stopped the treatment: Quote Message: Because of age and also because the cancer had spread and it was not helping anymore." Because of age and also because the cancer had spread

and it was not helping anymore."

The 95-year-old former leader, who ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years from independence until he was ousted in a coup in November 2017, died earlier this month in Singapore, where he had been in hospital for several months. He will be buried in a mausoleum still under construction at Heroes Acre - a hilltop shrine just outside the capital, Harare, where many of the country's most prominent liberation fighters have been laid to rest. BBC

still managed to take part in a demonstration in Suez, witnesses said. On Monday, local human rights groups said they had been receiving telephone calls from people looking for relatives who had gone missing after the protests.

One lawyer told the BBC

almost 500 people were believed to have been arrested, and that they expected the number to rise in the coming days. The Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights, a non-governmental organisation, said the number of reported arrests had reached 516. BBC



Online videos purportedly showed a confrontation between protesters and police in Suez

# EDITORIAL

## Cautioning the Marshall Committee

IF CARE IS not taken, the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency chaired by governing Coalition for Democratic Change Senator Marshall Dennis of Grand Gedeh County is bent on plunging the economy of Liberia into total collapse and degradation by its rather hasty approval on Monday, 16 September of request from the Executive to print new Liberian bank notes, totaling LRD35 billion to be circulated in an economy of LRD21 billion, raising question of an excess of LRD14 billion.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR MARSHALL** Dennis had lazily and faultily defended that the proposed new bank notes, when printed and placed in circulation, would automatically resuscitate and boost our ailing economy without technically saying how.

**SENATOR DENNIS SHOULD** be told in no unclear and decisive terms that loyalty to the ruling party and the President should in no way take precedent over such an important issue like currency that affects lives of the 4.5 million Liberians and state of the economy to rush with decision. We wonder what was his basis or reliance for approving the printing without inviting economists and technicians on fiscal and monetary policies to gather expert opinions on such a crucial matter.

**HOWEVER, THANK GOD** for intervention by Senator Oscar Cooper of Margibi County whose minority report in plenary Tuesday, 17 September convinced and compelled Senator Marshall Dennis to have somersaulted, withdrawing his earlier approval for the Executive to print LRD35 billion new Liberian bank notes at the cost of US\$31 million, pending appearance by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah and relevant authorities from the Central Bank of Liberia to provide adequate clarity and state source of the US\$31 million being requested as printing cost.

**WE TAKE CUE** from the Zimbabwean experience where the government under the late former President Robert Gabriel Mugabe printed new currencies time without number with no economic strength and value thus, becoming mere papers in the hands of a desperate population scavenging for food and other basic necessities that could hardly be found on shelves of business houses, and warn the Weah administration to proceed cautiously on this matter.

**IN BARELY TWO** years, this is the second attempt towards printing a new currency though under a new administration that is itself beset by serious economic and financial challenges. The “Legacy bank notes” issued by the Sirleaf administration was characterized by lack of transparency and dishonesty, leading to excess printing and flooding the market thus, depreciating the value of the Liberian dollar.

**CURRENTLY, SEVERAL TOP** officials of the Central Bank of Liberia, including former executive governor Milton Weeks and deputy governor Charles Sirleaf are being prosecuted on multiple charges, including economic sabotage, money-laundering, and criminal facilitation, among others for printing in excess 146,250,000 Liberian bank notes that was not authorized by the Legislature.

**WE FEAR A** repeat of such scenario if cautious were not taken now to exercise due diligence before giving green light for the printing of new currency. This will help us in avoiding the errors of the past that has brought the economy on its knees.

**SECONDLY, WE DON'T** understand why the rush with this matter, for this issue should have emanated from the House of Representatives before going to the Senate, but it is the other way around in this case.

**AS SEN. COOPER** recalled, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had warned the current administration to stop taking money from the country's reserves, as they are meant for balance of payment and commodities increase on the world market.

**THEREFORE, WE CALL** on all 103 legislators on Capitol Hill, particularly members of the committees on banking and currency in both the Senate and the House of Representatives not to rush in approving request from the Executive to print new currency until due diligence is done to save the state from future embarrassment.

The  
**New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

By Robert Skidelsky

## The Economic Consequences of Automation

*Economic theory does not provide a clear answer regarding the overall impact of technological progress on jobs. And even if automation has traditionally been beneficial in the long run, policymakers should never ignore its disruptive short-term effects on workers.*

LONDON - While Brexit captures the headlines in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, the silent march of automation continues. Most economists view this trend favorably: technology, they say, may destroy jobs in the short run, but it creates new and better jobs in the longer term.

The destruction of jobs is clear and direct: a firm automates a conveyor belt, supermarket checkout, or delivery system, keeps one-tenth of the workforce as supervisors, and fires the rest. But what happens after that is far less obvious.

The standard economic argument is that workers affected by automation will initially lose their jobs, but the population as a whole will subsequently be compensated. For example, the Nobel laureate economist Christopher Pissarides and Jacques Bughin of the McKinsey Global Institute argue that higher productivity resulting from automation “implies faster economic growth, more consumer spending, increased labor demand, and thus greater job creation.”

But this theory of compensation is far too abstract. For starters, we need to distinguish between “labor-saving” and “labor-augmenting” innovation. Product innovation, such as the introduction of the automobile or mobile phone, is labor-augmenting. By contrast, process innovation, or the introduction of an improved production method, is labor-saving, because it enables firms to produce the same quantity of an existing good or service with fewer workers.

True, new jobs created by product innovation may be offset by a “substitution effect,” as the success of a new product causes the labor employed in producing an old one to become redundant. But the biggest challenge comes from process innovation, because this only ever displaces jobs, and does not create new ones. Where process innovation is dominant, only compensatory mechanisms can help to prevent rising unemployment, or what the British economist David Ricardo called the “redundancy” of the population.<sup>1</sup>

There are several such mechanisms. First, increased profits will lead to further investment in new technology, and hence new products. In addition, competition between firms will lead to a general reduction in prices, increasing demand for products and hence labor. Finally, the reduction in wages caused by initial technological unemployment will increase demand for labor and induce a shift back to more labor-intensive methods of production, soaking up the redundant workers.<sup>1</sup>

How quickly these compensation mechanisms operate will depend on how easily capital and labor move between occupations and regions. The introduction of labor-saving technology will result in lower prices, but it will also reduce consumption by workers who are made redundant. It is then a question of which effect is faster. Keynesian economists argue that the fall in demand for goods resulting from unemployment will precede, and thus dominate, the reduction in prices resulting from automation. This will lead to a further increase in joblessness, at least in the short run.

Moreover, even if such job losses were only a short-run phenomenon, the cumulative effect of a series of labor-saving innovations over time could create long-term unemployment. Furthermore, an

effective price-adjustment mechanism presumes the general prevalence of competition. But in an oligopolistic market, a firm may use its cost savings to boost profits rather than reduce prices.

Such considerations buttress the contemporary view that the benefits of automation are long term, with “redundancy” set to rise during a “transitional period.” But when the transition may last for decades, as a recent McKinsey Global Institute report acknowledges, it is hardly surprising that workers are skeptical of this slew of compensation arguments.

Karl Marx argued that no such compensatory processes existed, either in the short or long run. The story he told therefore has no happy ending for the workers - at least not under capitalism.

Marx said that competition forces individual firms to invest as much of their profits as possible in labor-saving - that is, cost-cutting - machinery. But increased mechanization doesn't benefit capitalists as a class. True, the first mover enjoys a temporary advantage by “rushing down on declining average-cost curves,” as Joseph Schumpeter put it in his History of Economic Analysis, and annihilating weaker firms in the process. But competition then diffuses the new technology and rapidly eliminates any temporary super-profit.

Restoring the rate of profit, Marx argued, requires an increasingly large “reserve army of the unemployed.” Thus, he wrote, mechanization “threw laborers on the pavement.” For Marx, unemployment is essentially technological in nature. And although the reserve army is temporarily absorbed into the labor force during bursts of high prosperity, its continued existence leads to ever-increasing pauperization in the long run.

For Marx, therefore, the long-run sequence of events was exactly the opposite of the orthodox view: mechanization creates febrile prosperity in the short run, but at the cost of long-term degradation.

The distributional effects of technological change have long featured prominently in discussions among economists. In his 1932 book The Theory of Wages, John Hicks developed the idea of induced innovation. He argued that higher wages, by threatening the profit rate, would impel businesses to economize on the use of labor because this factor of production was now relatively more expensive. Automation of the economy is therefore not simply the result of increased computing power, à la Moore's Law, but depends on changes in the relative cost of labor and capital.

These are technically complicated arguments. But economic theory evidently does not provide a clear answer regarding the long-term effect of technological progress on employment. The best conclusion we can draw is that the impact will depend on the balance between product and process innovation, and on factors such as the state of demand, the degree of competition in the market, and the balance of power between capital and labor.

These are all important areas in which governments can intervene. Even if automation has traditionally been beneficial in the long run, policymakers should not ignore its disruptive short-run effects. The short run, after all, is where historical horrors happen.

O-PED

By Kailash Satyarthi

# Protecting Children Is the Key to Sustainability

**N**EW DELHI - On September 24-25, world leaders will attend a United Nations summit in New York to review progress toward the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This will be the first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. Since then, we have collectively made progress toward a more peaceful, safer, healthier, and more prosperous world. Sadly, however, we are currently on track to miss most of the SDGs and targets related to children - without which the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda can remain only a distant dream.

Today, some 50 million children worldwide are without safe shelter because of the migrant and refugee crisis. Around 152 million children are laborers. Some 262 million children and youth do not attend school. Almost 428 million children under the age of ten live in poverty. These are not mere numbers. These are our children, and they are human beings.

Simply continuing with current efforts will not improve these numbers significantly. To get the 2030 Agenda back on track, world leaders must be honest, bold, responsible, and compassionate, and their governments and organizations must invest adequately in our children.

After often-lackluster global efforts to meet many of the UN's earlier Millennium Development Goals, particularly those concerning children, poverty, and education, a lot of hopes are resting on the SDGs. Many campaigners, including me, worked hard to include SDG 8.7 (which aims to end child labor in all its forms by 2025) and other child-related goals in the 2030 Agenda.

But if current trends hold, there will still be 121 million child laborers in 2025. In 2030, 225 million children and youth will not be going to school, and 6% of the world's population will still be living in extreme poverty. That would mean the world fails to achieve SDG 8.7, SDG 1 (no poverty), and SDG 4 (quality education), leaving millions of children vulnerable to unimaginable violence and exploitation. And each lost childhood will represent a missed opportunity for humankind.

Although many governments have reported progress toward meeting the SDGs, some are merely cherry-picking individual goals and leaving vital issues such as child labor and education off their priority lists. Because voluntary national reviews clearly are not serving their purpose, we now need mandatory reviews of governments' progress toward all the SDGs, with strict targets, deadlines, and accountability for all stakeholders. The UN should demand (and then support) clear and concrete plans from governments, with evidence that they are implementing their commitments on all child-related goals.

Above all, policymakers must take steps to break the vicious circle of child labor, poverty, and illiteracy - what I called, many years ago, the "Triangular Paradigm." Every child laborer works in place of an adult, and is compelled to remain illiterate, unskilled, and poor. This leads to intergenerational poverty, which needs to be tackled systematically.

The UN, European Union, international agencies, and national governments should therefore adopt four main priorities. First, they must invest more in social-protection schemes for adults, because these also clearly benefit children and make them less vulnerable. Brazil's Bolsa Família program, or the Midday Meal Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee in India, are good examples of this.

Second, policymakers should strive to provide decent working conditions for adults, thereby helping children enjoy their childhood to the fullest. They should focus on creating more jobs, reducing inequalities, implementing national minimum wages, and ensuring that women receive equal pay for equal work. Because more than 60% of global employment is in the informal economy, this will be a herculean task. Governments and businesses must take steps to formalize the economy so that public bodies and law-enforcement agencies can implement and monitor labor standards and working conditions.

Third, governments must do more to give adolescents the skills they need, thereby ensuring their smooth transition into the labor force once they reach employment age. In addition, national and international youth groups should be inclusively represented in decision-making at all levels of the SDG process.

Finally, world leaders should remember that a good education is the perfect antidote to child labor and poverty. Today, many developing countries still lack the basic infrastructure and facilities to provide effective learning environments in which children can do well. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, less than half of primary and lower secondary schools have access to electricity, the Internet, computers, and drinking water.

In order to achieve the goal of inclusive and equitable quality education for all (SDG4), annual global spending on education must increase from \$1.2 trillion now to \$3 trillion by 2030. This will require additional multilateral and private-sector financing, especially for governments in poorer countries.

My biggest fear is that without the necessary funds, collective political will, and sense of urgency, the SDGs will remain a beautifully drafted charter of unfulfilled wishes. But I refuse to accept that the world lacks the resources or the capacity to meet the goals - especially in a year when we are celebrating the centenary of the International Labour Organization and the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Recently, I attended the Nobel Peace Summit in Mexico along with 29 other individual and organizational recipients of the Peace Prize. My fellow laureates agreed that global sustainability and peace are possible only if we ensure the freedom, safety, and education of all our children.

I therefore earnestly call upon the UN, heads of governments, and all concerned stakeholders in New York this week to reinvigorate their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and particularly those goals concerning children. A world that does not protect its youngest people will be anything but sustainable.



# DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



WITH DEEPEST SORROW  
THE APPLETON, DAVIES AND GONGAR FAMILIES  
REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF THEIR  
MOTHER, SISTER, DAUGHTER, WIFE, MRS. CYNTHIA  
NENYI DAVIES - GONGAR.

THIS SAD EVENT OCCURRED AT THE KORLE BU  
TEACHING HOSPITAL IN ACCRA, GHANA ON  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 AFTER A  
PROTRACTED ILLNESS

SHE LEAVES TO MOURN HER LOSS HER CHILDREN,  
WARD AND SEVERAL GRANDCHILDREN:

MS. TRACY MONEH APPLETON  
MRS. BRENDA APPLETON-SENDOLO  
MR. ERASMUS DADDY APPLETON  
MS. JULIAN LITTLE GIRL APPLETON  
MR. LEO KATHY APPLETON

MR. BADIO GOE

MS. ESTHER GONGAR

HER BROTHER AND SISTER:

MR. HENRY KOFFA AND MRS. SARAH DAVIES-KENNEDY  
AND A HOST OF OTHER RELATIVES AND FRIENDS  
WITHIN LIBERIA AND THE USA.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
LATER.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS BROUGHT IN BY HER  
NEPHEW AND NIECE MR. RODNEY NUKUNU KOFFA AND  
MRS. MAI EVELYN WILLIAMS-COLE ON BEHALF OF THE  
FAMILY

SECOND FAMILY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 AT 5:00P.M. AND  
SUBSEQUENTLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019 AT  
4:00P.M. AT THE DECEASED RESIDENCE ON 9TH STREET  
AND RUSSELL AVENUE, SINKOR.

CONTACT CELL NUMBERS: 0775215912, 0777548088,  
0886567597, 0886971937

**Remarks by  
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
Former President of the Republic of Liberia  
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate  
At the**

**World Health Organization**

**Side Event  
Investing in Education**

**21 SEPTEMBER 2019 – 3:00 – 4:30  
SOUTH DINING ROOM, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE**

**His Excellency Mr. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi,  
State Minister of Foreign Affairs – Qatar**

**His Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-  
General World Health Organization**

**His Excellency Mr. Bent Hoie, Minister of Health and Care  
Services, Norway**

**Our talented Moderator, Ms. Femi Oke**

When I took office in 2006, Liberian Women and Children were dying of malaria. We had no data or statistic on the disease and little or no diagnostic capacity at the local level to differentiate a patient with a fever from a patient with malaria. My administration had to make informed decisions and meaningful interventions while being virtually in the dark.

Today, more than twelve years later, I speak to you not only as Liberia's Former President and WHO Health Workforce Ambassador but also as one who has lived through the trauma of helplessness as the deafening sirens of ambulances and the heart breaking weeping of a fleeing population made it impossible to hold back the tears of fear from the unfolding crisis and the prospect of a looming future of devastation from an enemy we did not know.

That was 2014, when Liberia was confronted with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The Ebola virus fueled by weakened national health systems led to devastating effects, including the loss of over 4000 of our citizens, setbacks in health outcomes, the death of nearly 10% of my country's doctors, nurses, and midwives, and a reversal of a positive economic growth trajectory that had been achieved over the past several years.

In 2015, with the response and support of global partners, the epidemic was brought under control commencing the processes of furthering the research and development of vaccines aimed at prevention.

In response, Liberia enacted bold reforms, reinforcing free of charge primary health care and revising the National Community Health Services Policy to recognize the critical role played by community health workers in defeating the virus. We advocated that they should be paid; managed by clinic based supervisors such as nurses and trained more comprehensively in evidence based services. We strengthened the health systems supporting them, including training, supply chains, logistics and health information.

In 2016, Liberia led a coalition of non-governmental organizations and partners to launch the National Community Health Assistant program building upon and expanding Last Mile Health's model, which supported community health workforce to become first responders to fight the epidemic and deliver health care services. With support of key partners such as Global Fund, UNICEF, The World Bank, and USAID the program has to date deployed over 3,500 frontline nurse supervisors and community health workers to some 75% of the remote



rural population with primary health care through 2 million patient visits since 2016. Data indicates that community health workers carry out 30% of the entire country's testing and treatment for malaria -- and reduced the incidence of the disease in the communities.

This is notable progress, but we know that we must do more. I recently returned from the Democratic Republic of Congo where the WHO is once again battling an Ebola epidemic, highlighting the importance of long-term investment in resilient health systems that include investment in education of front line health workforce workers like nurses, midwives and community health workers. It is a smart investment in human capital that not only delivers more than health outcomes but, as Liberia's experience shows, drives economic opportunities and create jobs especially for women, youth and rural communities.

Today, we are at a historic moment in the fight for a Universal Health Coverage. At the High Level meeting on Monday, September 23rd, all Members States will be asked to commit to the priorities and principles of UHC outlined in the Political Declaration. For commitments to be fulfilled it is necessary to invest in front line and community health workers and the primary health care system that supports them.

This requires long term innovative, financial instruments that cover high capital cost. One way to do this is to engage the International Financing Institutions and philanthropic foundations as key partners to co-invest, alongside governments, in the education and employment of health workers. The conversation we are having today is a starting point. I would like to thank our co-hosts for initiating this and am encouraged to see the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and Silatech are part of today's panel.

Your Excellences, fellow panelists, colleagues, let's grasp this opportunity.

We keep hearing and are reminded that we will be short 18 million necessary health workers by 2030. Let us be mindful also that this would mean that we will miss out on 18 million opportunities for economic empowerment and dignified employment.

We cannot let this happen. You cannot let this happen.

As the WHO Health Workforce Ambassador, I urge us all to call for increased investments in the health workforce and to take action on our Declaration beyond the General Assembly.

It is the fair thing to do. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you.

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Weah's action belated

### -Liberians react to war crimes court

By Lewis S. Teh

President George Manneh Weah's request for lawmakers' advice on whether or not to establish a war and economic crimes court is seen here as belated, as some Liberians react to the president's action.

Ms. Nancy Cooper, a resident of Doe Community on the Bushrod Island has told this paper that while she welcomes the move by the president, she however sees his intervention as belated.

According to Ms. Cooper, the establishment of the war and economic crimes court should have been given priority since President Weah's ascendancy.

"President Weah's last action is welcoming, but if you ask me, I think it's belated. This is something he should have taken into consideration if he wants to be recorded in Liberia's history," Ms. Cooper says.

According to her, no number of development can bring back those that were killed during the crisis here, saying she hopes this is not

another mere endorsement because lawmakers do not seek the people's interest.

"They always seek things that matter to them the most instead of their constituents," she adds.

it can be recalled that President Weah on 12 September submitted to the Legislature a communication asking lawmakers to advice on

the establishment of a war and economic crimes court.

Meanwhile, some Liberians have also welcomed the president's action.

Emmanuel Jackson, a resident of West Point told our reporter on Monday, 23 September that if the Legislature concurs with the Executive for the establishment of the war and economic crimes court, the government will forever be

remembered in the history of Liberia.

"Even though things are tough, the economy is bad, but the latest action from the president will at least bring hope to those who are victims of the civil war," Jackson says.

Further, he indicates that the establishment of the court will bring relief to those that are still sharing tears for their relatives, adding that it's unfair for those who killed innocent people to be living peacefully in the society with victims.

"President Weah's support for a war crimes court is an important step for victims and for helping to ensure the violence that brought so much pain and loss to Liberia will not happen again," said Adama Dempster, a Human Rights Advocate.

"This decision benefits the

victims, the country, and the rule of law in Liberia."

During Liberia's armed conflicts victims suffered widespread violations of international human rights.

There were mass killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, summary executions, mutilation and torture, and use of child combatants.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommended the establishment of a war crimes court.

Through series of protests, Liberians have demanded the establishment for a war crimes court, though the Weah regime has been opposed to it.

But a recent National Economic Dialogue recommended the establishment of the court among other things, following which President Weah sought the advice of the lawmakers.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



## Health supervisors receive training on post-abortion emergency

In a bid to reduce the high rate of maternal mortality in Liberia, over 20 health supervisors from the Family Health Division of the Ministry of Health are attending two-day training in Monrovia on Family Planning and use of contraception with emphasis on post-abortion emergency.

The training is being conducted in partnership with DKT (Drakumah Kamah Tyia) International and the

Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia.

Senior Medical Detailer for DKT International Gayflor M. Barnar said Monday, 23 September the focus is to promote effective family Planning education and promotion among adolescents and pregnant women.

He said this is a training of trainers exercise to prepare supervisors that would return to educate staff under their watch.

"After the training, our major trainers will roll double the knowledge acquired to have maximum impact", he added.

The training exercise, which is being facilitated by a South African, Vezi Makalima, Regional Sales Consultant for Southern Africa, kicked off here at the time health workers across the country are boycotting work in demand of salary and improved working condition.

In and Out-Patients, including pregnant women in public health facilities were abandoned Monday, 23 September, as nurses and doctors laid down tools to draw government's attention to their plight.

An abrupt salary harmonization exercise by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning has left many government employees, including health workers and teachers affected by cuts in their monthly pay in a badly performing economy.

The Director of the Family Health Division at the Ministry of Health Bentoe Z. Tehoungue reminds that Pillar One of the government's Pro-Poor Agenda

## Liberia Business and Investment to be held in New York

A Liberia Business and Investment Forum (LBIF) is scheduled to take place on September 26, 2019 in New York City, U.S.A.

The Forum is being held under the auspices of the Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations, the Consulate General of Liberia in New York, the Honorary Consulates of Liberia in the States of Minnesota and Georgia, and the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA).

According to a dispatch from the Liberian Embassy in Washington, the inaugural session of the Liberia Business and Investment Forum is being held under the theme, "Prosperity Through Trade and Development."

The purpose of the Liberian Business Forum is to encourage

private sector investment in Liberia, and also to increase trade and commerce between Liberia and the United States. The Forum, which will include a plenary session and panel discussions, is in support of the Liberian Government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Key Liberian government officials will be in attendance to provide relevant information on the important priority projects and sectors for investment in the country. The speakers include the following: Mr. Gbehzohngar M. Findley, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Augustin Flomo, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning; Mr. Wilson K. Tarpeh, Minister of Commerce; Mr. Mobutu V. Nyepan, Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Morris Sackor, Executive Director, National Investment Commission.



for Development and Prosperity or PAPD is Health Investment, stressing the need to prioritize the sector.

She notes that when a teacher goes on strike, students have an opportunity for make-up, but patients don't have such leverage, if health workers abandoned work.

Madam Tehoungue notes that though health workers took oath to save lives, but when they face challenges in the work place, they should be addressed.

She confirms that protesters erected roadblocks in Du-Port

Road, Paynesville while situations at Benson Hospital also in Paynesville were tense, especially for pregnant women and emergency cases.

I am talking to our people to go in and save lives; you can wear your color clothes and when you get into the facility, you can change and dress in white", she pleads.

She said the strike was simultaneously ongoing in the counties, including Bong, Margibi and Montserrado, respectively.

-Story by Jonathan Browne

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Volunteers join EU in beach cleanup exercise

Over 750 volunteers joined the European Union Delegation, and actively participated in a beach clean-up in King Gray, Paynesville, as part of the European Union's global efforts to promote a clean and safe environment, on the International Coastal Clean-Up Day.

The beach clean-up was aimed at raising awareness on the global challenge of marine litter. Every year millions of tons of trash end up in the ocean. It is estimated that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the sea.

This year the European Union and the United Nations are teaming up to clean beaches across the world and invite citizens everywhere to take part.

Despite the heavy rain, the volunteers covered a distance of 1.9 kilometres on the beach and collected and sorted 3,781 Kilograms of various forms of trash, which were separated, for adequate waste management and processing. 63% of the total waste collected (2,399 Kilograms) were hard and soft plastic materials.

The event was organized by the European Union (EU) Delegation to Liberia, in collaboration with YMCA, the Paynesville, Monrovia and



Brewerville City Corporations, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Liberia National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Commission, the Embassy of Sweden, Cities Alliance (EU's implementing partner in the waste sector) and Community-based Enterprises (CBEs). Volunteers were mobilized from communities along the beach, and included members of the EU Delegation, the Diplomatic Missions of Germany, Ireland and Sweden, and other

organizations.

During the clean-up event, the Chargé d'Affaires of the EU Delegation to Liberia Mr. Juan Antonio Frutos emphasized that the task of ensuring a better, cleaner and healthier future is the responsibility of everyone, and expressed the hope that the event will help in keeping the beach clean and promoting new ways of reusing and recycling plastic waste. "With this event, we want to raise awareness about the importance of clean oceans, for our lives and our future. The oceans protect the environment and provide the air that we breathe. It is vital

to keep the oceans clean, for ourselves, for our children and future generations. We call on everybody to continue the effort. It is everyone's responsibility, every day, everywhere; in our houses, by reducing the amount of plastic we use and dispose, and in our neighbourhoods, by keeping the beaches clean", Juan Antonio said.

The EU Chargé d'Affaires recognized the support of EU's partners and expressed deep gratitude to the volunteers, especially from the King Gray and Paynesville communities, for their great work despite the heavy rain.

At the close of the event, the EU Delegation handed over the tools and equipment used for the clean-up to communities that participated, to help empower them to continue cleaning and maintaining the beach.

This was the second

#EUBeachCleanup event organized by the EU Delegation to Liberia. In September 2018, over 500 volunteers also collected hundreds of kilograms of waste on the beach in Congo Town, Monrovia.

The two beach clean-up events follow on commitments from the Our Ocean Conference (OCC) in Malta 2017, where the EU reaffirmed its leading role on ocean governance and pledged to act and help build momentum behind the global call for cleaner and safer seas.

The EU Delegation and the EU Member States present in Liberia are actively supporting Liberia's efforts to address key environmental challenges, including degradation of natural resources (forestry, land and water) and loss of biodiversity (forests, ecosystems, marine, wetlands and mangroves).-Press

## Man arrested for impersonating as soldier

Officers of the Liberia National Police, on Friday, 19 September arrested a civilian, identified as Mark Tulay, who was impersonating as personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in the Gardnerville area.

A press release authorized by Assistant Defense Minister for Public Affairs Mr. Sam K. Collins says upon being arrested, the police officers noticed that Mark Tulay had in his possession a Military ID Card bearing the name of one Private First Class (PFC) Samuel E. Morris, who is not also a member of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

According to the Defense Ministry, it is further alleged

that Mark Tulay uses his fake ID card to harass, intimidate and steal motorbikes from victims in and around the suburbs of Monrovia.

Mark Tulay has been charged with the crime of Impersonating Official in violation of Section 12.35 of the Penal Code of Liberia and currently in the custody of the police, undergoing investigation at the METRO -1 Police Depot, Center Street while awaiting court trial.

At the same time the AFL is warning those in the constant habit of impersonating as personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia to desist or face the full weight of the law.--Press release

## Local firm makes cash donation to mourning Muslim

A local business entity, the Oceano Casino located at Mamba Point in Monrovia over the weekend made a cash donation to members of the Muslim community as Liberia mourns the death of 26

Muslim students and two teachers in Paynesville, Montserrado County. Oceano Casino presented a check of one thousand one hundred United States Dollars (USD1,100.00).

On Wednesday, September

18th, Liberians woke up to the horrible news of a fire incidence at an Islamic school in the Paynesville suburb of Bassa Town, where 28 young Muslim male students were being trained to memorize the Quran. Two of the students survived the fire, while 26 students and two teachers, 28 persons fell to the cold hand of death.

The school is Branch #4 of the United DawahUmah (UDU), a Muslim organization.

Making the cash donation Friday at the 17th Street Mosque where Muslims had gathered to pray, Nicholas Bsaiba of Oceano Casino said his entity feels the pain of the bereaved and that the cash was intended to identify with the Muslim families in their time of agony.

Mr. Bsaiba who was joined by his colleague Victor Johnson of the same entity expressed deepest sympathy for loss, noting that it is only Allah who can console the bereaved families.

According to the Oceano Casino staff, they earlier



Read the NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!

contacted Internal Affairs Minister Varney A. Sirleaf for the donation, but Minister Sirleaf advised that such presentation be made to the leadership of the Islamic community.

Receiving the check, an Executive member of the UDU, Alhaji Alpha Bongmines thanked Oceano Casino for gesture, saying, the Muslim community will remember the

good the entity especially in the time of bereavement.

Also speaking, the chief Imam of the 17th Street Mosque Sheik Mustapha Balde prayed that Allah will reward the Oceano Casino for identifying with the bereaved.

Earlier, Internal Affairs Minister Honorable Varney A. Sirleaf commended the management of Oceano Casino for the financial contribution.

# Français

## Liberia / Mort de 28 enfants dans un incendie: la thèse d'une attaque terroriste avancée

Le Conseil national des jeunesfoula du Libéria (NFYCL) privilégie la thèse d'une attaque terroriste après le terrible désastre provoqué par un incendie dans une école coranique de Bassa Town, à Paynesville, dans la banlieue de Monrovia, faisant 28 morts, dont la plupart des enfants.

Le NFYCL, lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia le dimanche 22 septembre, par la voix de son président, Mohamed Alie Bah, a déclaré qu'il y avait déjà eu deux attaques infructueuses contre l'école, la première attaque ayant eu lieu en 2018 et la deuxième quelques mois plus tard au cours de la même année.

En 2018, entre 19h00 et 20h00, l'on s'était aperçu d'une énorme fumée épaisse émaner de la salle de bain de l'établissement. Cela avait attiré l'attention des gens dans la mosquée, et lorsqu'ils



se sont précipités là-bas, ils ont constaté qu'un tas d'habits était en feu. C'était le premier cas. Un autre cas similaire s'était produit la même année.

Selon le numéro un du NFYCL, l'imam de la mosquée

avait informé la communauté et ses dirigeants, qui avaient ensuite informé la police nationale du Libéria (LNP). Celle-ci avait promis d'ouvrir une enquête, mais depuis lors, aucun rapport n'a été présenté concernant les deux incidents.

« Nous ne pouvons pas tirer de conclusions pour le moment dans le récent événement, car une enquête est en cours, mais avec les attaques précédentes, nous soupçonnons une attaque terroriste. Par conséquent, nous appelons le gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) à mener une enquête médico-légale sur cette affaire et sur les attaques précédentes », a-t-il insisté.

Il appelle tous les Libériens, en particulier la communauté

musulmane, à rester calmes en ce moment de tristesse, pendant qu'ils attendent patiemment les résultats de l'enquête en cours. Le NFYCL a présenté ses condoléances les plus sincères aux familles endeuillées et au gouvernement libérien (GOL).

Par ailleurs, au cours d'une cérémonie spéciale organisée à l'honneur des victimes dans la mosquée de la 17e rue à Sinkor, Monrovia, le dimanche 22 septembre, l'ambassadeur de Guinée au Libéria, l'ambassadeur Abdoulaye Dore, a invité la police nationale du Libéria à mener une enquête rapide sur l'incident afin d'établir la cause réelle de la tragédie qui a choqué tout le pays et à en rendre publiques les conclusions.

Une délégation guinéenne de haut niveau est arrivée dans le pays pour rendre hommage aux disparus et apporter un soutien moral aux familles endeuillées.

Plusieurs institutions, des groupes de commerçants et des leaders religieux issus de diverses confessions religieuses ont aussi rendu hommage aux défunts et fait des dons financiers.

## Incendie : Madame Sirleaf présente ses condoléances aux familles des victimes

L'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf a exprimé ses profonds regrets et sa profonde compassion aux familles endeuillées et à la communauté musulmane, après la mort d'un peu moins d'une trentaine de personnes, principalement des enfants dans un incendie, mercredi dernier.

La cause de l'incendie est encore inconnue, mais l'ancienne présidente, qui tient actuellement des réunions en marge de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York, a déclaré que la perte de ces

enfants était inopportune. Elle a prié pour que leurs âmes reposent en paix.

La délégation de l'Union Européenne et les chefs de mission diplomatique de la France, de l'Allemagne, de l'Irlande et de la Suède à Monrovia se disent profondément attristés par la mort terrible d'au moins 28 personnes, dont la plupart des enfants, au centre coranique de Bassa town, à Paynesville, le mercredi 18 septembre.

« Nous sommes profondément attristés d'avoir appris l'incendie tragique

qui s'est produit mercredi matin dans le centre coranique de Bassa Town à Paynesville, où au moins 28 personnes, dont de nombreux enfants, ont trouvé la mort », a indiqué le corps diplomatique dans une déclaration rendue publique le jeudi 19 septembre.

« En cette période difficile, nous souhaitons exprimer nos plus sincères condoléances aux familles endeuillées, à la communauté islamique de Paynesville et au peuple libérien. Nous souhaitons également un prompt rétablissement aux personnes qui ont été blessées. » Un violent incendie a terriblement consumé au moins 28 personnes, pour la plupart des élèves de l'école coranique à Bassa Town, Paynesville, dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

Paynesville fut le théâtre d'une grave tragédie la semaine dernière causant le chagrin et les larmes partout dans le pays. Les habitants de la communauté ont lutté pour sauver près d'une trentaine d'enfants pris au piège par les flammes qui dévoraient leur dortoir, mais hélas, sans succès. 28 enfants sont ainsi périés dans les flammes. Ils furent littéralement dévorés

, calcinés, carbonisés par le feu qui était sans pitié ni conscience.

Les témoignages et les récits qui fusaient de partout, quoiqu'ils diffèrent les uns des autres, étaient aussi émouvants et pitoyables les uns que les autres. Des enfants impuissants, terrifiés par une mort imminente, criaient à travers des fenêtres hermétiquement fermées à l'aide des barres de fer (anti-vol), tandis que le feu, tel un volcan affamé dévorait avec un appétit lugubre le bâtiment du Quran Memory Institute. Il était minuit passé.

Le bilan est sans appel. Seulement deux enfants auraient été sauvés, les autres ayant tous péri. La brave dame qui les a secourus serait aussi morte dans les flammes lorsqu'elle est retournée à l'intérieur du bâtiment pour tenter de faire sortir d'autres enfants. Le choc

était grand. Femmes, hommes, jeunes, commerçants, agents de sécurité et passants, tous étaient inconsolables. C'était insupportable. Même les cœurs les plus réfractaires n'en pouvaient plus. Ils cédèrent cette fois-ci.

Arrivé sur les lieux du drame mercredi matin pour encourager les familles des victimes, le président George Manneh Weah a décrit la mort des 28 enfants comme une catastrophe nationale, demandant aux proches de prendre courage.

« C'est douloureux, c'est blessant ! Nous ne pouvons cependant rien dire d'autre que de présenter nos condoléances aux familles endeuillées », a-t-il déclaré à la presse, avant d'ajouter que : « Nous ferons tout notre possible pour que la lumière soit faite sur ce qui s'est passé et ensuite pour que le gouvernement apporte à la famille l'aide qu'il faut ».



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

# Français

## Pourparlers : pas d'accord entre le gouvernement et les travailleurs de la santé

Le gouvernement et le Syndicat national des travailleurs de la santé du Libéria (NAHWUL) n'ont trouvé aucun terrain d'entente dans le cadre des pourparlers initiés par le gouvernement face aux menaces des médecins de commencer une grève indéterminée à partir de lundi, 23 septembre 2019.

"Conformément au mandat du Comité exécutif national, ayant fait lecture des promesses du gouvernement qui ne répondent à aucune des conditions d'annulation de notre action de grève, la grève est maintenue comme prévu jusqu'à nouvel ordre", a déclaré le NAHWUL dans une déclaration publiée le samedi 21 septembre à Monrovia.

La semaine dernière, le NAHWUL avait annoncé qu'il entamerait une grève sur toute l'étendue du territoire national jusqu'à ce que le gouvernement réponde à ses exigences, à savoir notamment le paiement intégral des salaires de ses membres, l'augmentation des salaires et d'autres mesures incitatives, entre autres.

Dans leur déclaration subséquente signée par le Secrétaire général du NAHWUL, M. George Poe Williams, le samedi 21 septembre, les agents de santé ont exprimé la plus grande surprise que le consultant en médias du ministère de la Santé, M. Sorbor George, ait annoncé que la grève prévue par des agents de santé avait été annulée.

Le NAHWUL qualifie la déclaration de M. George de fausse, malveillante et destinée à induire le public en erreur.

Le NAHWUL a mis M. George au défi de présenter le mémorandum d'accord signé par le gouvernement du Libéria et le NAHWUL au plus tard le dimanche 22 septembre à minuit, faute

de quoi la grève du syndicat resterait maintenue comme prévu le 23 septembre jusqu'à ce que leurs demandes soient satisfaites.

«D'autre part, M. Sorbor George doit présenter des excuses au NAHWUL sur tous les médias sur lesquels il a propagé ce mensonge avant que toute négociation supplémentaire puisse commencer», insistent les agents de santé.

Selon NAHWUL, le gouvernement a fait des efforts pour organiser une rencontre avec les dirigeants du syndicat, mais précise qu'à aucun moment aucun mémorandum d'entente n'a été signé par les deux parties.

Le NAHWUL a affirmé que lors de leur réunion, « le gouvernement avait présenté ce qu'il avait fait, ce qui était fait, pourquoi il faisait ce qu'il faisait, et qu'il allait faire ce qu'il ferait concernant le plan d'harmonisation et le maintien de la masse salariale ».

Le NAHWUL a déclaré que le gouvernement avait appelé le syndicat à annuler son action de grève et la réunion s'est terminée sur un accord selon lesquelles dirigeants du syndicat retourneraient à leur base pour faire le point et s'enquérir des points de vue de leurs camarades.

Après quoi, les dirigeants rencontreraient l'équipe de négociation du gouvernement pour continuer les discussions.

Le NAHWUL s'étonne que M. George ait allégué que la grève prévue par les agents de santé avait été annulée.

«Loin de la [vérité], l'action a surtout été exacerbée par son insensibilité au sort des travailleurs et son manque total de respect pour les dirigeants de notre syndicat», déclarent les agents de santé.

NAHWUL avertit que M. George n'est pas son porte-parole, ajoutant qu'il n'en est même pas membre.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Robert Skidelsky

## Les conséquences économiques de l'automatisation

LONDRES - À l'heure où le Brexit mobilise l'attention des médias au Royaume-Uni et ailleurs, la marche silencieuse de l'automatisation se poursuit. La plupart des économistes considèrent cette tendance comme positive, s'attendant à voir la technologie faire disparaître de nombreux emplois à court terme, mais en créer de nouveaux et de meilleurs à long terme.

La destruction d'emplois est aujourd'hui claire et directe, les entreprises automatisant les convoyeurs d'usine, le paiement dans les supermarchés, pour ne conserver qu'une dixième des employés à des postes de superviseurs, et licencier tous les autres. C'est la suite des événements qui apparaît beaucoup moins évidente.

L'argument économique habituel consiste à considérer que les travailleurs affectés par l'automatisation perdront dans un premier temps leur emploi, mais que la population dans son ensemble verra par la suite ces pertes compensées. L'économiste et lauréat du prix Nobel Christopher Pissarides ainsi que Jacques Bughin du McKinsey Global Institute affirment ainsi que l'augmentation de productivité permise par l'automatisation engendrera « une croissance économique plus rapide, des dépenses de consommation plus élevées, une demande supérieure en main-d'œuvre, et par conséquent une plus forte création d'emplois ».

Cette théorie de la compensation apparaît cependant beaucoup trop abstraite. Pour commencer, il convient d'établir une distinction entre les innovations qui réduisent la main-d'œuvre et celles qui la développent. L'innovation en matière de produits, par exemple, telle que l'arrivée de l'automobile ou du téléphone portable, vient accroître la main-d'œuvre. Par opposition, l'innovation en matière de processus, ou l'introduction d'une méthode de production optimisée, vient réduire le besoin en main-d'œuvre, puisqu'elle permet à une entreprise de produire la même quantité de produits ou services existants en employant moins de travailleurs.

Il est certes possible que les nouveaux emplois créés par l'innovation en matière de produits soient compensés par un « effet de substitution », le succès d'un nouveau produit conduisant à l'inutilité d'un effectif employé dans la production d'un ancien produit. Le grand défi concerne toutefois l'innovation en matière de processus, qui se contente de déplacer des emplois sans en créer de nouveaux. Si l'innovation liée aux processus devient dominante, seuls des mécanismes compensatoires pourront contribuer à empêcher l'augmentation du chômage, ou ce que l'économiste britannique David Ricardo a appelé la « redondance » des individus.

Plusieurs mécanismes de ce type existent. Premièrement, l'augmentation des bénéfices conduira à davantage d'investissements dans les nouvelles technologies, et par conséquent à des nouveaux produits en plus grand nombre. Par ailleurs, la concurrence entre les entreprises entraînera une baisse générale des prix, augmentant ainsi la demande en produits et donc en main-d'œuvre. Enfin, la réduction des salaires engendrée dans un premier temps par le chômage technologique élèvera la demande en travailleurs, et conduira au retour à des méthodes de production à plus forte intensité de main-d'œuvre, qui absorberont les travailleurs redondants.

La vitesse à laquelle opéreront ces mécanismes de compensation dépendra de la facilité avec laquelle le capital et le travail circuleront entre les différentes professions et régions. L'apparition de technologies réductrices de main-d'œuvre entraînera une baisse des prix, mais réduira également la consommation du côté des travailleurs devenus redondants. La question est alors de savoir quel effet sera le plus rapide. Les économistes keynésiens pensent que la baisse de demande en produits résultant du chômage précédera et par conséquent primera sur la réduction des prix résultant de l'automatisation, et que ceci conduira à encore davantage de chômage, du moins à court terme.

Par ailleurs, même si ces disparitions d'emplois se

limitaient à un phénomène de court terme, l'effet cumulatif d'une série d'innovations réductrices de main-d'œuvre pourrait avec le temps engendrer un chômage à long terme. De plus, un mécanisme efficace d'ajustement des prix suppose la prévalence générale de la concurrence. Or, sur un marché oligopolistique, une entreprise peut choisir d'user des économies de coûts pour booster ses bénéfices plutôt que pour réduire les prix.

Les considérations de ce type renforcent la vision contemporaine selon laquelle les bienfaits de l'automatisation existent sur le long terme, la « redondance » étant vouée à augmenter au cours d'une « période de transition ». Mais si cette transition est elle-même vouée à durer plusieurs décennies, comme l'estime un récent rapport du McKinsey Global Institute, il n'est pas surprenant que les travailleurs se disent sceptiques face à cet ensemble d'arguments compensatoires.

Pour Karl Marx, ces processus compensatoires n'existent pas, que ce soit à court ou à long terme. L'histoire qu'il raconte ne se termine pas sur une fin heureuse pour les travailleurs, du moins pas sous le règne du capitalisme.

Selon Marx, la concurrence contraint les entreprises dans leur individualité à investir autant de bénéfices que possible dans des machines économiques en main-d'œuvre, c'est-à-dire dans la réduction des coûts. Le développement de la mécanisation ne bénéficie toutefois pas aux capitalistes en tant que classe. Certes, le premier entrant jouit d'un avantage temporaire, surfant sur des « courbes de coûts moyens décroissantes », comme l'explique Joseph Schumpeter dans son ouvrage Histoire de l'analyse économique, et annihilant au passage les entreprises plus fragiles. Mais la concurrence diffuse ensuite les nouvelles technologies, ce qui élimine rapidement les superprofits temporaires.

Le rétablissement du taux de profit nécessite selon Marx une « armée de réserve de chômeurs » de plus en plus nombreuse. Il écrit par conséquent que la mécanisation « jette les ouvriers sur le pavé ». Pour Marx, le chômage est par nature essentiellement technologique. Et si l'armée de réserve peut être absorbée dans la main-d'œuvre en périodes de sursaut de prospérité, son existence continue conduit à une paupérisation croissante à long terme.

Ainsi, selon Marx, la séquence d'événements à long terme se situe à l'opposé exact de la vision orthodoxe : la mécanisation engendre une prospérité fébrile à court terme, au prix d'une dégradation à long terme.

Les effets redistributifs de l'évolution technologique occupent depuis bien longtemps les discussions entre économistes. Dans son ouvrage de 1932 La Théorie des salaires, John Hicks développe l'idée de l'innovation induite. Il considère que des salaires plus élevés, en menaçant le taux de profit, risquent de conduire les entreprises à économiser du côté de la main-d'œuvre, puisque ce facteur de production devient relativement plus coûteux. L'automatisation de l'économie ne constitue donc pas simplement le résultat d'une puissance de calcul accrue, dans l'esprit de la loi de Moore, mais dépend de changements dans le coût relatif du travail et du capital.

Ce sont là des arguments techniquement complexes. Mais la théorie économique nous fournit à l'évidence pas de réponse claire à la question des effets à long terme du progrès technologique sur l'emploi. La meilleure conclusion que nous puissions tirer consiste à estimer que l'impact dépendra de l'équilibre entre les innovations associées aux produits et les innovations liées aux processus, ainsi que de facteurs tels que l'état de la demande, le degré de concurrence sur le marché, sans oublier l'équilibre de pouvoir entre le capital et le travail.

Les gouvernements peuvent intervenir dans tous ces domaines majeurs. Même si l'automatisation s'est historiquement révélée bénéfique à long terme, les décideurs politiques ne doivent pas en ignorer les effets perturbateurs à court terme. Car c'est toujours dans le court terme que se produisent les drames de l'histoire.

Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhénéa

E-mail: [valeryghn10@yahoo.com](mailto:valeryghn10@yahoo.com)

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2018. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

## PERSPECTIVES

## PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

## THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND CITIZENS IN THE CLUTCHES OF LIBERIA CORRUPTION, INCORPORATED

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.

## Introduction

Firstly, briefly, **Corruption** is the abuse of entrusted, lawful responsibility and power by dishonest, fraudulent acts arising from inordinate greed/graft, moral deterioration and decadence. The term “*corruption*” is widely-used by behavioral scholars to describe and include all *graft & greedy* activities - *lies, deceit, bribery, nepotism, political wheeling-dealing, bid-rigging, embezzlement or stealing, extortion, electoral vote-buying & elections results-rigging, price-fixing, protection rackets, blackmail and many other variety of fraudulent, human activities.*

A universal phenomenon, **corruption is a vice found on all continents, in every country and society, irrespective of economic development and level of affluence.** Apparently, corruption is intrinsic in human nature and, as such, Liberia and Liberians do not have monopoly of this decadent, socio-cultural behavior. However, research information shows, very clearly, that corruption had been, can be, reduced, controlled and, eventually, eradicated. One of such modern success stories is the examples of the former British Colony, the island City of Singapore.

But **Liberia corruption, Inc.** has been developed into big, thriving, enterprise by the corps of highly-educated Liberian BAs, BSCs, MSCs, MBAs, LLMs, JDs & PhDs. They took control of the corridors of State power and have become the most powerful Public-policy decision-makers in our nation.

## The Liberian Corruption Debate

There have been, and are, spirited, passionate debates/arguments “*to fight corruption*”, an effect, without any reference to the **cause(s)**, because the incidence of corruption is a physical, economic, observable fact; whereas, the causes are intrinsic in human nature and, therefore, natural flow from reasonable human activities.

During the recent past of 20 years and continuing to this day, public/private dishonesty and general lawlessness or **corruption** accelerates increasingly at mind-boggling, astronomical rates. No wonder Liberia's ruling political class has been, and is, the epitome of public dishonesty characterized by the now-prevailing institutionalized/locally-monopolized Liberia Corruption, Incorporated.

Examples are **Administrations of schools** (kindergarten to university); private business **Corporations**; political party **Organizations**; **Faith-based Organizations** (Churches, Mosques, Temples, Synagogues, etc.); **Family Homes**; and **secret societies of brotherhood** such as the Masonic Craft; are **socio-cultural institutions** in which members and students are taught, learn and experience **corrupt practices**. In this way corruption, institutionalized and monopolized, has been, and is being, transmitted from generation to generation in Liberia. On-going Examples:

## 1. Salary/Wage Harmonization

This is a new unsuspected one, will be deeply- and widely-felt. The Government's response to **IMF-suggested Salary/Wage Bill Reduction Scheme**, intended to weed out Liberia's massive payroll-padding, double-entry payments made to un-necessary and none-existent entities and related corrupt practices **is in serious trouble.** Some leaders of Liberia's leading socio-cultural, religious and political institutions, including the Vice President of Liberia, are all in arms against the on-going “Salary Harmonization Scheme”.

The former Charles Taylor driver and son-law, **Mr. Melvin Snowe**, now the Honorable Member of the nation's Legislature, described the IMF Suggestions as “*Citizens Dehumanization*”; the overwhelming majority of the nation's population - members of Legislature, churches, schools, private business corporations, the family, government officials and the thousands of able-bodied men and women who left their homes in **Rural Liberia** in droves for the **Ghetto-Slums enclaves of Urban Monrovia**, are all singing the song of **condemnation** with threat of protest demonstration and, in fact, with a planned strike action by some health workers with powerful institutional support, without the knowledge that, indeed, it is the **galloping Corruption, Inc. and rampant stealing & stealing** that are responsible for the prevailing socio-economic and political conditions.

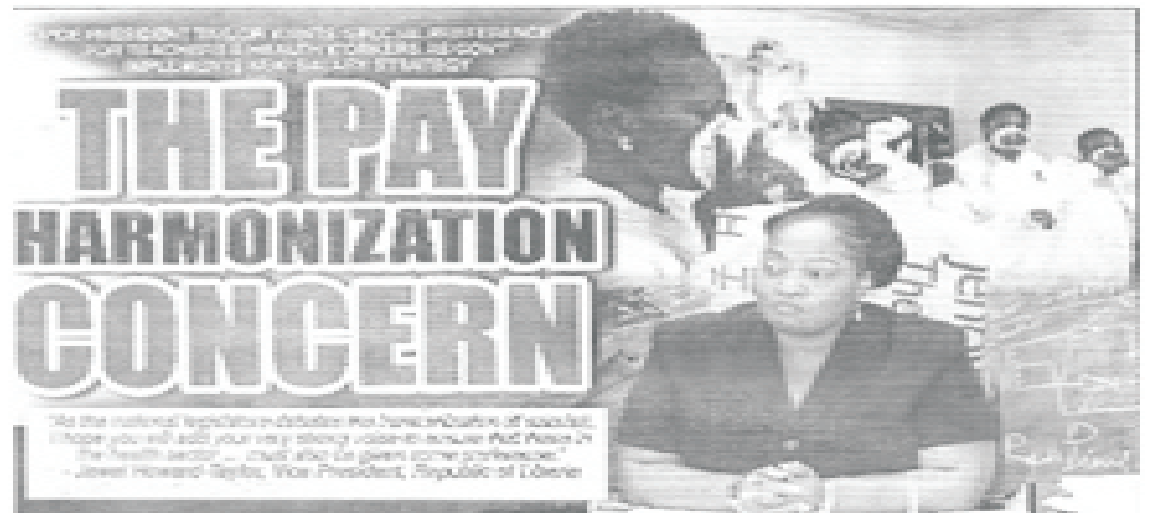
Also that our citizens are all corrupt, lazy (they reject and run away from the manual work of agriculture to produce adequate food to feed the nation) and depend on foreign “hand-outs”, want government to do and provide everything for them. Now, the **Liberian nation is held hostage by former Doe Finance Minister John Bestman and his Rice Import Cartel.**

## 2. LTA, LONESTAR/ORANGE New Price Announcement

This is continuation of the corrupt relationship between the officials of the Liberian Government and the cellular, mobile telephone companies designed, apparently, to enable them (the cell telephone companies) to continue their very poor quality of services corresponding with very high prepaid costs with no questions asked. **There are no telephone directories for such public emergency information as the Police, hospitals and clinics, government offices, businesses, service organizations, etc., etc.**



The Liberian Senate rejects Salary Harmonization

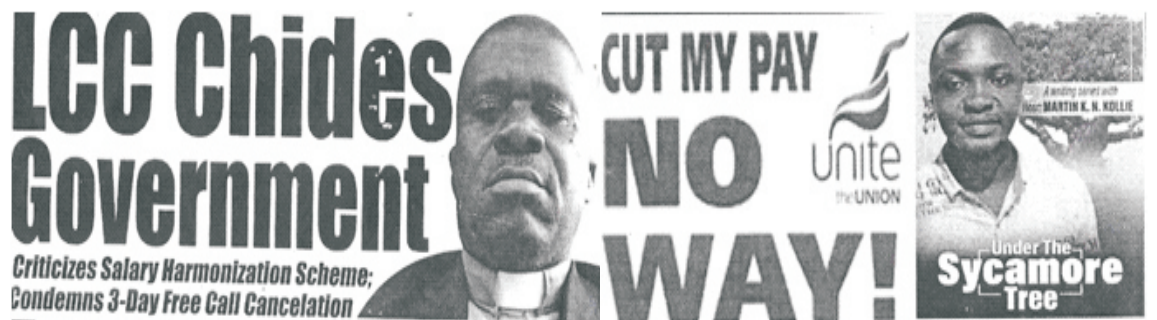


Vice President Taylor

## 3. Liberia Electricity Corporation &amp; Liberia Water Sewer Corporation

These state-owned and capitalized corporations have the unique history of corrupt corporate management. Despite their names, none of the companies have been able to provide services on the national level not, even, in the entire capital city of Monrovia in which they are located. Indeed, the Capital City of our nation and surrounding suburban enclaves are without public, electric power, pipe-borne water & sewer. But all government ministries, agencies and state enterprises are provided 50-, 75-, 100-, 200-, 300- and 400KVA electric, power generators that supply electricity for 10-12-24 hours daily. Furthermore, foreign-owned and operated hotels, restaurants, business houses, residences, diplomatic missions, and those of us (Liberians) who can afford the expense buy and install electric generators from foreign-owned businesses (in collusions with corrupt government officials) to provide private, electric power, with overhead water tanks that pump water by electric power from wells dugged in their and our own yards.

Meanwhile, cabinet ministers and deputies, heads of government agencies and executives of state enterprises are given allowances which provide electric generators, fuel, spare parts and service at public expense, while the majority of city dwellers live in darkness or by kerosene or candle light (a potential and often fire hazard) without pipe-borne, safe, drinking water. Some residents, who can afford the expense, buy electric generators or electric power from foreigners and/or enterprising, Liberian entrepreneurs who, very often, lack the capital, management experience and relevant, professional competence for efficiency and safety.



LCC's Rev. Dr. Kortu Brown Journalist Martin Kollie

Reasonably, therefore, we ask, is it not “effective, efficient optimal use of scarce resources at the least, possible cost” to combine all of this mosaic of disjointed, inefficient, and costly service into a single, manageable, cost-effective scheme for service to the general public, according to elementary principles of economics? Indeed, the answer to this question is at the very heart of this mosaic of disjointed, inefficient, and costly services. Providing efficient/effective services will lose the wind-fall corrupt millions of US dollar, public resources that flow annually into the bottomless pockets of greedy, corrupt officials. Simple as that. Disappointingly, our Mount Coffee Hydro Electric Power Plant, extensively looted of its equipment, is sinking or has sunk into the great beyond!!

## 4. Regarding Liberia's galloping Corruption, Inc. &amp; Public Dishonesty

The Liberia Government has been awarded world Distinction:

- Recently for public dishonesty or corruption, a fact responsible for our level of abject poverty, hunger, disease and lack of healthcare delivery, according to world-class Finance & Economic Analysts, including Global Witness.
- Cases in point are the recent/on-going block-busting historic trials of prominent officials of government for allegedly demanding and accepting millions of US dollars in bribes to amend/repeal, illegally, Liberian law that is in force and effect, in favor of the Sable Mining Company, a bribery-prone, multi-national, foreign-owned corporation. This scheme was exposed by Global Witness, an international watchdog organization.
- Most of the indicted defendants are “politically-connected lawyers”. The central figure who, allegedly, dished out the bribes as legal counsel to the Sable Mining Company was the Chairman of the then ruling political party and confidant of the nation's President who, also, was Flag Bearer of the same political party. It is alleged that this lawyer-chairman secured a contribution of US 200k, illegally, to the ruling Party from his foreign client. He is now Liberian senator.
- No wonder that our un-informed citizens, an overwhelming majority of the nation's population, refer to lawyers as “liars, crooks, deceits and money “eaters from both sides of the parties litigants”.

TO BE CONTINUED

# Pregnant women protest for medication

By Ben P. Wesee

Parts of Paynesville came to a standstill on Monday, 23 September when pregnant women on the Du-port Road blocked the back road leading to Redlight and ELWA in demand of medical treatment at health facilities here.

The protest by the pregnant women came Monday as the National Health Workers Union of Liberia (NAHWUL) commenced its nationwide strike by laying down tools at public health facilities across the country in demand of payment of their salaries, increment of salaries and support to the health sector, among others.

As announced last week, public health workers across the country could not attend to pregnant women and other patients as of Monday, as part



of their protest after talks with government negotiators failed to yield result to call off the protest.

Our reporter who covered the protest in Paynesville says patients at the Duport Road Health Center and other parts of the country were

abandoned by health workers in demand of months of salaries owed by government.

Pregnant women, men, and children were seen lying in the street in front of the Du-port Road Health Center compound.

According to protesters



comprising patients and pregnant women, their action to protest is to claim the attention of government on the need to talk with health workers to return to work.

Residents of Paynesville and its environs as well as commuters using the ELWA and Du-port Road routes faced serious embarrassment Monday, as protesters hindered the free flow of traffic.

Transportation fares between Du-port Road and Redlight increased drastically within few hours.

"This government we put in power wants us to die. I don't know if we all die now who they will rule?" a pregnant woman identified as HawaDukuly who lied on the road said in an interview with some journalists.

"So we are not going to die secretly for our families to take the suffering, we will lie right on this road until we die one by one [because] this [is] what the government wants to see happening. We will give birth to our babies right in the

public for the whole world to see the kind of problem Liberians are facing in our country," she adds.

Princess Moore, a resident of Soul Clinic Community told this paper that her son fell very ill on Sunday evening, 22 September and was later rushed at the Du-port Road Health Center after most of the small clinics around her community had refused to admit the boy.

But she laments that since Sunday night, her son's health has not been attended to by any nurse or doctor.

"It is very painful for me to watch my son in this condition. Did I commit any crime to become Liberian citizen or I should just sit, cry and watch my son die right in my arm because our government refuses to pay health workers their salaries?" Ms. Moore laments further.

The lady warns that if anything happens to her son, she will not leave the road.

Another protester, Moses Samuel Jallah who lied on the sidewalk, looking very weak as he explained to this paper how early on Monday nurses told him to leave the Du-port Road Health Center where he has been taking treatment for some time.

Jallah narrates that he has been suffering from sugar sickness (diabetes), adding that the treatment has been helping him over the past time.

"Right now I don't know what to do anymore, my eyes are turning because the dose I should have received this morning was not been administered, making [me] very weak to even wake up. I'm dying slowly, I'm dying slowly," Jallah sobs. --**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

## Court grants dozens of evidence -in CBL case

By Winston W. Parley

Dozens of instruments have been accepted and marked as prosecution's evidence in the trial of five Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials indicted for alleged economic sabotage, money laundering and other crimes after Criminal Court "C" Judge Blamo Dixon denied the defense's request not to admit the instruments into evidence.

In his ruling Monday, 23 September at the Temple of Justice, Judge Dixon said "The denial of placement of mark of identification on exhibits 34, 35, 36, 40 and 41 would be tantamount to a violation of the fundamental and elementary requirement or standard laid down ..."

"Therefore, the resistance of the defense team is hereby

denied and dismissed. The application of the prosecution for the placement of mark of identification on the instruments referenced is hereby sustained, upheld and granted," he says.

The case involves former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son and Deputy CBL Governor Charles Sirleaf, former CBL Executive Governor Milton Weeks, DorborHagba, Richard Walker and Joseph Dennis.

They are accused of allegedly printing billions of Liberian dollars without being authorized and further infusing the money into the Liberian economy thus affecting the economy drastically.

Prosecution says the "the criminal syndicate commenced on the 17 of May 2017" when the request was made through the then president Madam Ellen

Johnson - Sirleaf to the Legislature for the printing of LRD\$5bn to replace mutilated legacy banknotes.

The accused have denied all the charges against them.

Government's first witness Mr. Baba M. Boakai, a Program Manager for Enforcement and Investigation at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) says analysis made on documents submitted to LACC by the CBL showed that the defendants did not follow the mandate given by both the Legislature and former President Sirleaf.

The Court's ruling came Monday following the defense team's objection to the marking into evidence of the instruments submitted by the state last week.

The instruments identified by prosecution's first witness Mr. Boakai include statements obtained from the defendants, letter from former President Sirleaf to the Legislature for the printing of five billion Liberian dollars and the LACC's investigative report.

Following the marking of the evidence Monday by the Court, witness Bokai confirmed the instruments including exhibit 36 relating to payment documents for the printing of the \$10bn Liberian dollars, and exhibit 37, relating to the total quantity of mutilated banknotes that were destroyed in 2017.

Mr. Boakai also confirmed exhibit 41 relating to documents on the movement of cash from the reserves vault to the operational vaults of the CBL and exhibit 40 relating to the KPMG Audit Report on the CBL.



## Increase investment

Starts from back page

hosts for taking the initiatives and said she was encouraged to see the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and Silatech being part of the conversation aimed at achieving global health coverage

Former President Sirleaf also reminded her audience

about prediction that the world would be short of 18 million necessary health workers by 2030. According to her, this figure could translate into the world missing out on 18 million opportunities for economic empowerment and dignified employment. --**See full text of speech on page 5**

*Read the  
NewDawn everyday  
&  
Advertise with us!*

## Increase investment in health

### -Ellen urges at UNGA



Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has called for increased investments in the health workforce as part of a concerted efforts in the fight for a Universal Health Coverage.

"As the WHO Health Workforce Ambassador, I urge us all to call for increased investments in the health

workforce and to take action on our Declaration beyond the General Assembly. It is the fair thing to do. It is the right thing to do." Said former president Sirleaf.

Speaking at a side event of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the ongoing United Nations General Assembly in New York, former President Sirleaf who is also the WHO

Health Workforce Ambassador said there is a need to invest in frontline and community health workers and the primary health care that support them as part of efforts in meeting the Universal Health Coverage agenda.

Mrs. Sirleaf acknowledges that such move requires long term innovative, financial instruments that cover high capital cost but also the political will of governments.

"One way to do this is to engage the International Financing Institutions and philanthropic foundations as key partners to co-invest, alongside governments, in the education and employment of health workers," Mrs. Sirleaf said.

She, was however, quick to remind the audience that discussions at the meeting would be a starting point, toward the attainment of Universal Health Care through investment in the health education sector.

Mrs. Sirleaf thanked the co-



#### BI-WEEKLY DATA BUNDLES

PACKAGE	PRICE	DATA VOLUME	VALIDITY
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 2	800MB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 5	1.7GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 10	3.5GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 12	4.5GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 20	7.5GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 30	10GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 35	12GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 50	18GB	14 DAYS
BI-WEEKLY	\$ 60	22GB	14 DAYS

Dial \*352# to subscribe.

#Here4U

everywhere you go



## Messi and Klopp take top men's prizes at Best Fifa Awards

Barcelona's Lionel Messi won the best men's player at the Best Fifa Football Awards in Milan as Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo and Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk missed out on the top prize.

It is the sixth time Messi has been voted the world's best, after wins in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015.

The 32-year-old Argentine helped Barcelona win La Liga and reach the



semi-finals of the Champions League.

United States forward Megan Rapinoe won the best

women's player award.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was named men's coach of the year after a season in which they beat Tottenham 2-0 to lift the Champions League.

The Reds also finished second in the Premier League with 97 points - the third-highest tally recorded in the competition.

Klopp was nominated for the award along with two other Premier League bosses - Manchester City's Pep

Guardiola and Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino.

"It is great, nobody expected this 20, 10, five, four years ago that I would be standing here," said Klopp, whose team have won all six league matches at the start of the 2019-20 season.

"We know what an incredible job you [Mauricio Pochettino] did and what Pep did. I have to say thank you to my outstanding club Liverpool FC.

"To the owners thank you, they gave me an incredible team. I have to thank my team - as a coach you can only be as good as your team is. I'm really proud of being manager of such an incredible bunch of players."

In accepting the award, Klopp announced that he is joining the Common Goal initiative set up by Manchester United midfielder Juan Mata.

## The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



#### We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...