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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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# The New Dawn

**French Version Inside**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**Public Service Announcement**

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL OUR CLIENTS & READERS THAT THE BUSINESS AND NEWSPAPER OFFICES OF THE NEW DAWN NEWSPAPER HAVE BEEN RELOCATED ON UN DRIVE OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION (NIC), BEHIND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Fresh banknotes raise concern



**P11**

**-Lawmaker writes Plenary to cite Central Bank**



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**-Weah tells UL graduates**

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# Continental News

## Nigeria's Buhari promises Africans visas on arrival

Nigeria says it will give all African travellers visas on arrival from January, dropping the requirement that they apply in advance.

President Muhammadu Buhari said it showed Nigeria's commitment to "free movement of Africans within Africa".

The announcement comes five months after Nigeria signed a deal aimed at promoting free trade on the continent.

But Mr Buhari's critics accuse him of being a protectionist, undermining the vision of pan-African unity.

He has kept Nigeria's land borders with all its neighbours closed since August, making it impossible for businesses to do cross-



copyrightREUTERS: MUHAMMADUBuhari has led Africa's superpower since 2015

border trade by road.

Mr Buhari has rejected pressure to lift the blockade, saying it was aimed at ending the smuggling of goods into Nigeria and to make the nation self-sufficient,

especially in the production of food.

The borders were shut despite the fact that Nigeria is part of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), a 15-nation

regional bloc which allows visa-free travel among its estimated 350 million citizens.

Mr Buhari gave no indication of when the blockade will be lifted when he announced the government's latest policy on visas for African passport-holders. Nigeria is committed to supporting the free movement of Africans within Africa. Yesterday at the Aswan Forum in Egypt I announced that, in January 2020, we will commence issuance of visas at the point of entry into Nigeria, to all persons holding passports of

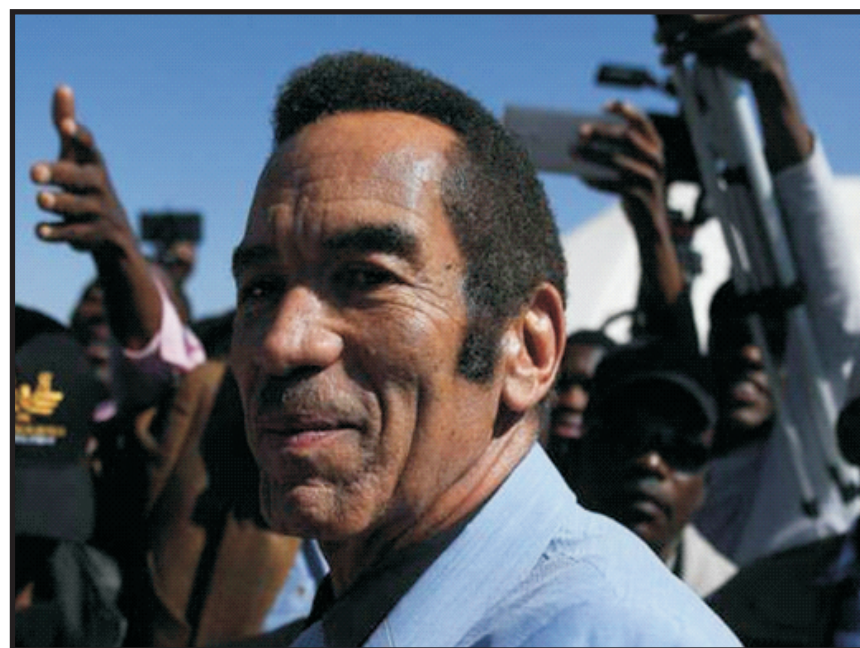
African countries.

Currently, applicants often need to make a request for a visa in their country of origin, and it will be issued when they arrive in the West African state, BBC Nigeria correspondent Mayeni Jones says.

This would change in the New Year, when citizens of all African states would be able to board a plane to Nigeria and get a visa on arrival, she adds.

Nigeria is seen as an African superpower, with the biggest economy and population. - BBC

## Ex-president to sue Botswana over embezzling claim



Getty Images Copyright: Ian Khama was president of Botswana for 10 years from 2008

Botswana's former President Ian Khama says he plans to sue the government for defamation after he, other former officials and a South African businesswoman were accused of embezzling billions of dollars.

A department investigating state corruption in Botswana alleges that they set up bank accounts in Hong Kong and South Africa in order to finance terrorism.

All the accused have denied the allegations and at a news conference in South Africa, Mr Khama described them as wild claims that were part of a state-sponsored smear campaign.

Since stepping down last year, Mr Khama has accused current President Mokgweetsi Masisi of betraying the country and reversing policy decisions, including lifting a ban on elephant hunting. - BBC

## Niger army base attack leaves at least 71 soldiers dead

Militants have killed at least 71 soldiers in an attack on a military base in western Niger - the deadliest in several years.

Twelve soldiers were also injured in the attack in Inates, the army says.

No group has yet said it was behind the killings.

But militants linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group (IS) have staged attacks in the Sahel region

this year despite the presence of thousands of regional and foreign troops.

Security analysts say the insurgency in Niger is escalating at an alarming rate.

Defence Minister Issoufou Katambe told the BBC "a large number of terrorists" had been "neutralised" during the attack, which happened on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr Katambe said there had been "a fierce battle" with

"several hundred" militants in Inates, not far from the border with Mali.

Local media also reported another attack on an army camp in Tahoua on Monday.

In October 2017, four US soldiers and five Nigerien soldiers were killed in a jihadist ambush in TongoTongo, a village near the Mali frontier, not far from the site of Tuesday's attack. - BBC



Image copyrightGETTY IMAGES: Niger's army is struggling to contain the spread of armed groups

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# EDITORIAL

## President Weah should be investigated too

THE RULING COALITION for Democratic Change or CDC's call for all officials with real estate properties to be investigated to establish how they acquired their wealth will definitely spark a controversy that could draw President George Manneh Weah himself in the picture.

THE CHAIRMAN OF the ruling CDC Mulbah Morlu made the recommendation here Tuesday, December 10, 2019 in a news conference, noting that the proposed investigation may validate how officials and other employees working in government acquired new properties and assets, so as to exonerate them from the corruption perception index.

WHILE IT SOUNDS welcoming, we believe such investigation, if there would be any, should start with the President himself, who constructed 10 housing duplexes immediately after assuming office.

WE BELIEVE ANYTHING that has to do with accountability and integrity should start with those in leadership currently entrusted with the country's resources. Besides, it is not just enough to make such call, but the ruling CDC should mean what it says.

THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION is engulfed with serious transparency and accountability issues that we think should be probed to erase public suspicions.

MORLU ALSO WANTS past administrations investigated, including the immediate former government of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, which is good but such exercise should be very inclusive not to be seen as a witch hunt.

WHEN THE CDC-LED government brings into the country newly printed banknotes, totaling 16 billion and the money cannot be properly accounted for, what moral it has to probe others?

ANY SHOULD INVESTIGATION should also include US\$25 million taken from the national reserve to reportedly mop-up excess liquidity in an exercise that was conducted outside the banking sector. These are issues that widen the corruption perception.

THE CDC-LED GOVERNMENT would do well if it began such investigation of suspicious wealth by first, looking in its own closet to make the exercise well-intentioned. Anything short of that could just be diversionary tactics.

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# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## The Growing Threat of Water Wars

*We may live on a "blue planet," but less than 3% of all of our water is fresh, and much of it is inaccessible (for example, because it is locked in glaciers). Since 1960, the amount of available fresh water per capita has declined by more than half, leaving over 40% of the world's population facing water stress. By 2030, demand for fresh water will exceed supply by an estimated 40%.*

NEW DELHI - The dangers of environmental pollution receive a lot of attention nowadays, particularly in the developing world, and with good reason. Air quality indices are dismal and worsening in many places, with India, in particular, facing an acute public-health emergency. But as serious as the pollution problem is, it must not be allowed to obscure another incipient environmental catastrophe, and potential source of future conflict: lack of access to clean water.

We may live on a "blue planet," but less than 3% of all of our water is fresh, and much of it is inaccessible (for example, because it is locked in glaciers). Since 1960, the amount of available fresh water per capita has declined by more than half, leaving over 40% of the world's population facing water stress. By 2030, demand for fresh water will exceed supply by an estimated 40%.

With nearly two-thirds of fresh water coming from rivers and lakes that cross national borders, intensifying water stress fuels a vicious circle, in which countries compete for supplies, leading to greater stress and more competition. Today, hundreds of international water agreements are coming under pressure.

China, India, and Bangladesh are locked in a dispute over the Brahmaputra, one of Asia's largest rivers, with China and India actively constructing dams that have raised fears of water diversion. India's government has used water-flow diversion to punish Pakistan for terrorist attacks. Dam-building on the Nile by Ethiopia has raised the ire of downstream Egypt.

And cross-border conflicts are just the beginning. Water-related tensions are on the rise within countries as well, between rural and urban communities, and among agricultural, industrial, and household consumers. Last year, water scarcity fueled conflicts in parts of eastern Africa, such as Kenya, which has a history of tribal clashes over access to water.

In fact, there are long histories of conflict over the waters of many major rivers, including the Nile, the Amazon, the Mekong, and the Danube. But the severity and frequency of such conflicts are set to increase, as climate change alters rainfall patterns, leading to more frequent, intense, and prolonged droughts and floods.

Making matters worse, dwindling water reserves are increasingly contaminated by industrial pollutants, plastics and other refuse, and human waste. In middle-income countries, less than one-third of wastewater is treated; in low-income countries, the share is much smaller. Roughly 1.8 billion people get their drinking water from feces-contaminated sources. The depletion of aquifers and inadequate investment in water infrastructure are exacerbating these problems.

Water stress affects everyone, but the agricultural sector - which accounts for 70% of all water consumption globally, and as much as 90% in the least-developed countries - is particularly vulnerable to constrained supplies. Lack of water makes it difficult to keep livestock, since every

drop has to be preserved for crops or human consumption.

Urban areas are also headed for disaster. Last year, Cape Town, South Africa, faced such severe water shortages that it began preparations for a "day zero," when the municipal water supply would be shut off. (Thanks to supply restrictions and other government measures, that day never came.) Similarly, Mexico City has struggled with a water crisis for years.

Indian metropolises are lurching toward even bigger catastrophes. A 2018 government report warned that 21 cities (including the capital, Delhi, and the information-technology hub Bengaluru) would reach zero groundwater levels by next year, affecting at least 100 million people.

As with climate change, the most severe consequences of water stress disproportionately affect those in the world's poorest regions - especially Africa and South and Central Asia - who contributed least to the problem. In one part of rural Maharashtra, India, women and girls walk up to 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) per day to collect drinking water. In other villages, as local wells run dry, households have had to designate a member to be on full-time water-collection duty. Wealthier families might pay someone else to do the job, but most households do not have that luxury.

Meanwhile, the advanced economies not only avoid many of the consequences of water stress (at least for now); they also maintain the lifestyle excesses that have propelled climate change and environmental degradation, including water depletion. Rice cultivation is often cited as a major water guzzler, but a kilo (2.2 pounds) of beef requires five times more water to produce than a kilo of rice, and 130 times more than a kilo of potatoes. And since agricultural crops account for a significant share of many developing countries' exports, these countries are, in a sense, exporting the limited supply of water they have.

Moreover, current land grabs in Africa are actually about water, with foreign investors targeting areas with big rivers, large lakes, wetlands, and groundwater, and thus with high agricultural potential and biogenetic value. (As it stands, less than 10% of Africa's irrigation potential is being used.)

In 2015, United Nations member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which include an imperative to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Yet, in the last four years, matters have deteriorated significantly. The international community might be able to fool itself for a while - as it has proved so adept at doing, not least with regard to environmental destruction - but the threat of water wars is only drawing nearer. For many in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere, it has already arrived.

Jayati Ghosh is Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.



## Lord, to every smoke there is a fire for true ya

Dear Father:

*Hmm, this village whenever you hear they say, and people carrying it here and there until you can even hear the market women and children talking nay, then you must know da something is behind it.*

*Um, which other one my son na start winning about again? You say what na happen again?*

*Ah Father, you haven't heard? All the they says we used to be hearing around here, the thing na come show face. It na even come and wasted on our lap. The village people are so surprise da they fell down on the ground just like somebody na poison them.*

*So that whatin make them to go off na?*

*Ehn you used to hear around here every day how the Country Giant had told the people to go and print new village money and some of us used to be saying da na true sef? Aah, they say the Country Giant and his people them naprint new moneyoo. They saythe people brought the money in the village just the other day.*

*But my son oo, you want tell me the people na find the other plenty money that went missing then they come bring new ones?*

*But Father, you think the people want to know sef, all they know is that money must be in the village for Jesus' birthday. The people afraid of noise. My son you say whatin?*

*Huh, you think the people joking in this village here ehn, you will balance! They say all those stories we used to be hearing about printing new village money was true. The people were already printing more money mehn for Jesus birthday to boil.*

*I say, so you mean the people were actually roasting their meat and they were just busy blowing the smoke in our eyes to hear what the village people will say but in real life they were doing their own thing.*

*Huh, this one it full my mouth oo my son*

*But Father, we say Country Giant then you say full my mouth, da whatin, Country Giant wants he can't get. The Chiefs at the Traditional Council are all afraid to challenge him except for a few.*

*So you want to tell me da only the Old Lady they were able to challenge?*

*Father, the thing sef full my wide mouth till I don't know what to say. Right now everybody asking about the plenty money da went missing da we na find yet.*

*Anyway, the people say when you like monkey, you moh like the tale. We inside.*

## OPINION

By Shang-Jin Wei and Xinding Yu

# How to Revive the WTO

**N**EW YORK - December 11, 2019, is the 18th anniversary of China's accession to the World Trade Organization. It also marks the start of an era in which the WTO no longer has a functioning appellate body to adjudicate trade disputes among member countries. Why is the WTO imploding, and can it be resuscitated before it's too late?

Before China joined the WTO in 2001, many feared that its membership could doom the organization in one of three ways. First, Chinese rule breaking might be so common, skeptics claimed, that it would trigger an explosion of cases against the country that would overwhelm the appellate body of seven judges. Second, China might express its grievances by bringing countless potentially frivolous cases against other countries, which would also exceed the organization's capacity constraint. And, finally, China might ignore any WTO ruling against it, undermining the system's credibility and usefulness.

None of that happened. Of the 349 trade disputes brought to the WTO for adjudication since the end of 2001, China has been a defendant in 44, or 12.6% of the total - in line with the country's 12.8% share of global exports in 2018. Interestingly, this number is fewer than the 99 brought against the United States and the 52 brought against the European Union during the same period. Part of the reason is that China has continued to reduce tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, and ease investment restrictions, in accordance with - and sometimes going beyond - the terms of its WTO accession agreement. In fact, few countries have reduced such barriers more than China has during this period.

Likewise, China has not turned out to be an overly aggressive complainant. Since December 2001, China has lodged 21 cases at the WTO, or 6% of the total - lower than its 10.8% share of global imports in 2018. Strikingly, this number also is substantially lower than the 55 cases lodged by the US, and the 46 filed by the EU.

Large countries tend not to have a perfect record of complying with WTO rulings. But of the 44 cases against China since 2001, other countries have had to return to the WTO to secure better compliance only twice, compared to 15 times in the 99 cases against the US over the same period.

The WTO allows individual member countries to have their own national systems for enforcing trade rules, particularly regarding subsidies and dumping (selling below cost). This may be interpreted broadly as part of the rules-based global trade framework. Using data for 2017, we find that the number of anti-dumping and countervailing (anti-subsidy) cases lodged by all WTO member countries against exporting countries (the log value of which is on the vertical axis of the graph below) tends to decline as the income level of the exporter increases (shown by the log value on the horizontal axis).

[Chart]

Each blue dot on the graph represents a WTO member economy, and the solid black line shows the international average (drawn from all member economies excluding China). The data pattern is fairly clear: as a country becomes richer, there are fewer anti-subsidy or anti-dumping cases against it. This could be because richer countries observe rules better, are less likely to attract complaints as their labor costs rise, or some combination of the two.

Given this international pattern, we can check whether other countries have considered China to be a special problem. We do so by superimposing on the same graph the total number of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy cases lodged against Chinese exporters by all other WTO members from 1995 to 2017, relative to China's export volume. Since China's accession in 2001, the number of such cases relative to exports has declined as China's income has increased, much as the average international experience would have predicted. In other words, cross-country comparative data suggest nothing especially problematic about China. (Of course, China's size means that the absolute number of cases against China is large.)

Until recently, no one would have thought that the US, a key architect of the rules governing the WTO, would choose to kill the organization's appellate body. But that is what appears to be happening now. Since 2017, as the body's current judges have completed their four-year terms, the US has systematically rejected any proposed successor nominated by other countries, apparently with the aim of rendering the system inoperative until other countries agree to alter the rules to America's liking.

Any WTO dispute-settlement panel is required to have at least three judges. So, with two of the appellate body's three remaining judges having completed their terms on December 10, the organization's "highest court" is now functionally dead.

Since the WTO was established in 1995, global GDP has grown by about 250% on a cumulative basis, while global trade has increased by about 270%. A professional disinterested process for adjudicating trade disputes between countries has been key to this success. Because larger countries always have greater bargaining power than smaller ones in bilateral or regional trade negotiations, this process has helped to level the playing field in favor of the WTO's vast majority of small- and medium-size members.

Resuscitating the WTO will require changing its rules. Perhaps appellate body judges should be appointed by a majority or supermajority vote, so that no single country can block a nominee. In addition, the body could be expanded to 15 judges, in line with growth in trade volumes, and appointees' terms could be lengthened. Or the terms of the last three judges could be extended temporarily.

But none of these measures will be enough. The US, China, and other countries also have an interest in modernizing WTO rules regarding state-owned firms, government procurement, anti-dumping cases, and digital trade. Whatever reforms these countries wish to see, killing the organization's dispute-settlement system is not the solution.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Xinding Yu is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

# IMF approves US\$213.6 million for Liberia

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday December 11, approved US\$213.6 million for Liberia under its Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

The amount is expected to be spread over a four-year arrangement to help the country restore macroeconomic stability, provide a foundation for sustainable growth, and addressing weaknesses in governance.

After grappling with challenges for over a year, a consensus on the need for broad-based reform has emerged. The program aims to support the authorities' strong adjustment efforts, catalyze significant donor financing, and provide a framework within which to implement the authorities' ambitious reform agenda. The Executive Board's decision will enable an immediate disbursement of SDR 17 million (about US\$ 23.4 million).

At the conclusion of the Executive Board's discussion, First Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, Mr. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, stated:

"Liberia's economic situation is challenging and fragile. Inflation and

stocks have fallen to low levels. In addition to eliminating the financing of the budget, building resilience will require containing the CBL's operational expenses, and limiting foreign exchange intervention.

"Given that a small worsening of the terms of debt, or failure to sufficiently adjust the fiscal stance could edge Liberia closer to high risk of external debt distress, the authorities are committed to adhere to the ceiling on non-concessional borrowing and to refrain from non-transparent collateralized agreements under the Fund-supported program.

"Ensuring financial sector stability is an important element of the program. Improving data reporting, obtaining an overview of the health of the banking system, and taking decisive measures as needed will help identify and address financial sector vulnerabilities. At the same time, enhancing the legal framework is important to ensure that the CBL has the required instruments should remediation be necessary.

"Structural reforms aimed at improving governance will help



year-on-year exchange rate depreciation are high at 30 percent, and growth is subdued. The authorities are committed to carrying out the prudent macroeconomic policies and ambitious structural reforms necessary to restore macroeconomic stability and to put Liberia on a fiscally sustainable and inclusive growth path under the Fund's four-year Extended Credit Facility arrangement.

"The recent upfront fiscal tightening is welcome. To preserve the gains and to maintain budget credibility, it is important that the recently instituted set of fiscal controls is fully implemented. Moreover, strengthening tax policy and administration over the program period is critical to ensure that the public sector can operate effectively.

"The monetary tightening by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) enacted in November 2019 was necessary to reduce inflation. A key prerequisite for success would be full adherence to the program prohibition on government borrowing from the CBL.

"Liberia's external vulnerabilities are significant, and foreign reserve

reduce vulnerabilities to corruption and promote private-sector led growth."

Annex

Recent Economic Developments

Over the past period, a decline in external assistance combined with weak domestic revenue generation, limited expenditure adjustments—especially on wages—and an accommodative monetary policy stance led to numerous macroeconomic challenges. These including an unsustainable fiscal stance, the emergence of arrears, excessive central bank financing, depletion of fiscal and external buffers, and pressure on inflation and the exchange rate.

President George Weah launched the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) in October 2018, but its objectives of building roads and improving social services have largely been delayed due to lack of funding. The IMF-supported program would help stabilize the economy - which is a necessary condition for a sustainable transition

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

# Nagbe wants special group to support NIR

The Executive Director of the National Identification Registry (NIR), Mr. Tiah Nagbe has proposed a Special Support Group (SSG) that will assist in strengthening the national registry.

Mr. Nagbe wants the SSG comprises of Liberia's Development Partners interested in supporting the National Registry in its upgrade and upscale project. He made specific reference to Development Partners with focus on capacity building or ID technology in particular.

Director Nagbe made the proposal at a one-day High-Level Meeting with Liberia's Development Partners held on December 10, 2019 at the head office of the National Identification Registry. The meeting was attended by representatives from several international donors including the United Nations Development Program office in Liberia.

The one-day meeting was intended to update the Development Partners on progress made so far in the development of the country's biometric system and the role the national registry wants the partners to play in maximizing its potential.

The Executive Director shared with the Development Partners the need to upgrade and upscale the national registry, believing that this will

"increase coverage ratio in order to serve multiple users and reduce need for multiple biometric systems in Liberia."

According to Mr. Nagbe, upscaling the system would "expand the biometric mode beyond fingerprint to include facial recognition and upgrade the legal and regulatory framework of the Liberian identity space to address data protection, privacy and other issues."



The Executive Director of the NIR also spoke on the benefits a unique biometric system brings to both the public and private sectors including the cleaning of salary payrolls, social benefits schemes, national health insurance, voter registration, census, land registration, SIM cards, Know Your Customers (KYC) for banking and credit bureaus. -Press release



## LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

December 11, 2019

Following a period of public consultation beginning October 24, 2019, on the Consultation Document and draft LTA Order on Roaming on Public Mobile Communications Networks in the ECOWAS Region, the LTA now gives notice of the publication of a Consultation Report providing feedback on the consultation to date.

By this Notice, the LTA continues the consultation process to seek the informed views of stakeholders on the Consultation Report available on the LTA website ([www.LTA.gov.lr](http://www.LTA.gov.lr)). The LTA invites all interested parties to provide written comments, inputs and observations (with justification) by email to the address below by **December 20, 2019**.

Email: [consult@lta.gov.lr](mailto:consult@lta.gov.lr)

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**45% Liberians pays for healthcare**

**-Acting NPHIL boss**

About 48 percent of Liberian citizens pay for health care services here, according to the Acting Director-General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL, quoting recent research, while calling for a drastic

deaths are determined by conditions, especially poverty.

He notes that women are the most effected people, who suffer from conditions of poor health care system.

Dr. Fallah discloses that maternal mortality is a major condition that leads to inter-general poverty, and stresses the need to strengthen

was organized by the Liberia Immunization Platform under the global theme: "Keep the Promise," with a call for the provision of quality healthcare services for women and girls in Liberia.

Universal Health Coverage Day is an annual rallying point for the growing movement for health for all. It marks the



Students, officials of LIP and other attendees

reduction of such percentage for the safety of the ordinary people.

Serving as keynote speaker at commemoration of Universal Health Coverage Day Wednesday, 12 December in Paynesville City, Dr. Mosoka Fallah says people's lives and

Liberia's health system through provision of adequate medical drugs, and timely payment of health practitioners who are often assigned to rural communities.

This year's celebration of Universal Health Coverage Day

anniversary of the United Nations' historic and unanimous endorsement of universal health coverage in 2012.

The Liberia Immunization Platform is a network of over

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**Boakai is a weakening**

**-Cyril Allen**

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's recent letter to President George Manneh Weah, asking him to allow the planned December 30 protest by the Council of Patriots and provide security for protesters appears to be distancing him from the authorities, including the governing Coalition for Democratic Change as the head of the Governing Council Chief Cyril Allen brands Mr. Boakai as a "weakening, inconsistent" character.

Speaking to this paper via mobile in Monrovia, Chief Allen says the former vice president's assertion that Liberians have the right to demonstrate as provided by the Constitution of Liberia indicates he is an "inconsistent character" something, he notes, led former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to not supporting Mr. Boakai's bid for the presidency in 2017.

Chief Allen, chairman

emeritus of the National Patriotic Party that is a member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change continues that the communication is intended to buy sympathies from the opposition community, ahead of the 2023 Presidential race, members of the Council of Patriot and, send a 'fake' picture to the international

community that he (Boakai) believes and supports the Constitution.

According to him, the former vice president is an "unserious" figure who had shown signal of desperation, ahead of 2023, and that due to such weaken spirit, many smart Liberians will not take him serious.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



**President Weah extends third regular session of the 54th National Legislature**

President George Manneh Weah has issued a Proclamation for the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia to extend its Special Session for a period of one (1) week beginning December 11, 2019 thru the December 18, 2019.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the Proclamation is in concurrence with Article 32 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia which provides that the President shall, on the President's own initiative or upon receipt of a certificate signed by at least one-fourth of the total membership of each House, and by proclamation extend a regular session of the Legislature beyond the date of adjournment or call a special or extraordinary session of

Special Session of the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia for a period of one (1) week commencing, December 11, 2019 to December 18, 2019, to allow the Legislature the opportunity to discuss and act on several Legislations and urgent business of national concern, including the economy and the financial crisis facing the nation.

Article 32 (b) of the Liberian Constitution further requires that when the extension or call is at the request of the Legislature, the proclamation shall be issued not later than forty-eight hours after the receipt of the certificate by the President.

The President had earlier called a Special Session of the 54th Legislature to convene for



that body to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern.

In accordance with the aforementioned Article 32 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic, a certificate signed by at least one-fourth of the total membership of each House was laid before the President on December 9, 2019, for the extension in

a period of one (1) working week; beginning December 3, 2019 to December 10, 2019 to discuss and act upon vital of national emergency and concern.

The Second Regular Session of the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia adjourned sine die on the 31st day of August 2019.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Cllr. Brumskine lies in State

By Ethel A. Tweh

Former President Pro-Tempore of the Liberia Senate and ex-political leader of the opposition Liberty Party Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, who died recently in the United States after protected ailment, has been in state at the Rotunda of the Capitol in

attention aboard, including the late Senators Geraldine Doe-Sheriff and Edward B. Dagoseh, amongst others but they still didn't make it.

Sen. Chie stresses a need to improve the health sector of Liberia in order to prove adequate health care services to the citizenry.

Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor eulogizes that the late Brumskine was a true champion, an executive member of the National Patriotic Party and founder of the Liberty Party as well as a true son of Grand Bassa, and a man of the people.

She says though the late Senator had some set back in the fulfillment of some of his dreams, he always wore a smile in public, noting those setbacks which could had made him broken down, he stood tall and continued to be a voice in the nation up to his home-going.

Paying tribute on behalf of the Liberian Senate, Senator Cllr. Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County describes the deceased as a personal friend, who fought for the betterment of Liberia. He furthers that he (Sherman) was defeated by Cllr. Brumskine on a case of making American citizens to practice law in Liberia.

Sherman adds that his fallen colleague maintained that the profession should be practice by Liberians only, and that is what Liberia is living on up to till now.

Cllr. Sherman continues the deceased volunteer his professional services to teach law at the Louise Arthur Grimes School of Law of the University



Monrovia. Current Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie, welcoming officials, family members, friends and sympathizers at the solemn occasion Wednesday, recalled that several of their colleagues from the Capitol were ill and sought medical

According to him, the late Cllr. Brumskine during his days at the Capitol in the late 90s advocated for many improvements, including Article 29 that calls for two chambers, a point which he observes, was intended to give recognition to the office of the Pro-Tempore.

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# CARI's missing items uncovered

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Report from Bong County says several valuable items allegedly stolen from the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) has been uncovered.

The missing items, including a 50kva generator, fencing wires, and an air conditioner, were all discovered packed in a compound in the Millionaire Quarter Community in Gbarnga over the weekend.

The assets are among several other missing items believed to have been removed from the institute's premises by its head of Natural Resource Management, David Tokpah.

Other missing items include

and when the materials were removed from CARI's Suakoko premises.

Arthur Wenneh, a Research Assistant at the institute, told Radio Gbarnga, a Community radio station in the Bong County that several assets were taken away by Tokpah, who normally acted as head in the absence of the Officer in Charge Paulette Findley.

CARI's Management has requested the Liberian National Police Bong Detachment to intervene and investigate the situation.

The Management's letter to the Police specified that 'the alleged missing items included



fuel tankers and containers. The stolen materials are believed to be assets turned over to CARI by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) upon its departure in 2018.

Several contingents of UNMIL were stationed at CARI at different periods during the mission's operations in Liberia.

Tokpah, the staff at the center of the allegation, has denied having any idea about how the materials left CARI and got in the compound in Gbarnga.

There have been claims and counterclaims among staffers at the institute regarding how

a 50kva electric generator, two fuel tankers, and some other unspecified items.'

Bong Assistant Commissioner of Police, Frederick Nepay, told our Bong County correspondent recently that the Police now have the discovered assets, and would promptly launch a full-scale investigation.

The Police are yet to make an arrest in the case, however, CARI Boss Findley has ordered Tokpah's suspension and has requested that he turns over all CARI assets pending the Police investigation.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

# Peaceful debate, not war -Maadaa Bio warns Liberians

By Winston W. Parley

Neighboring Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio is admonishing Liberians to discuss their differences through peaceful debate and common ground with a vibrant democratic culture, but they should never do anything to take their nation back to the painful past.

President Bio, who made a daring sacrifice under regional peacekeeping group ECOMONG in the 1990s to bring peace here, says there are those things that stir up real anger and real passion, but Liberians must not allow people to use them to further their own ambitions or their plans.

In a keynote speech delivered at the University of Liberia (UL's) Centennial Commencement Convocation on Wednesday, 11 December in Paynesville, President Bio suggests that peaceful debate and common ground within a vibrant democratic culture where people believe in

principles that matter most for nation must always prevail.

"To jaw-jaw is better than to war-war. Strengthen civil society voices. They may say some uncomfortable truths amidst their daily catalogue of everything that's going wrong. Those uncomfortable truths must give you pause to make

the best decisions on whether to stir your nation," he says.

He says Liberians have a peaceful country today, urging them to remember the lessons of the recent history and maintain a culture of peace and democracy.

Addressing the University's Centennial graduating class of

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## The New Dawn Public Service Announcement

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL OUR CLIENTS & READERS THAT THE BUSINESS AND NEWSPAPER OFFICES OF THE NEW DAWN NEWSPAPER HAVE BEEN RELOCATED ON UN DRIVE OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION (NIC), BEHIND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY.

# Français

## Le parti au pouvoir exige que les responsables de l'ancien régime fassent l'objet d'audit

Le président national de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique au pouvoir veut que l'on ouvre des enquêtes sur les biens immobiliers acquis par les responsables dans le pays.

Il s'agit de savoir, selon M. Mulbah Morlu, comment ces fonctionnaires et autres employés du gouvernement ont acquis leurs biens. C'est une opération qui s'inscrit dans le cadre de la lutte contre la corruption.

M. Morlu n'a toutefois pas inclus le président Weah, qui, lui-même, a acquis environ 10 duplex seulement un an après son ascension à la magistrature suprême.

Mais animant une conférence de presse le mardi 10 décembre, Morlu a appelé la Coalition au pouvoir à autoriser un audit complet de la précédente administration pour établir les faits quant à la gestion des ressources du pays.

Il veut également qu'une priorité soit accordée aux salaires des fonctionnaires. Il souhaite donc que le président Weah réexamine « l'opération d'harmonisation



CDC Chair, Morlu



Pres. Weah

des salaires » initiée par le gouvernement pour garantir l'équité et la parité dans les catégories d'emplois et entre les emplois.

M. Morlu veut que tous les responsables du gouvernement qui se rendent à l'étranger dans le cadre de leurs fonctions voyagent en classe économique, à l'exception du président Weah, de la vice-président Taylor, du président de la Chambre des Représentants, du président temporaire du Sénat, et du juge en chef. En ce qui concerne les voyages privés,

qu'ils utilisent leur propre argent, et non celui de l'Etat.

Le parti au pouvoir exige que tous les ambassadeurs et diplomates qui ont été nommés par l'administration précédente soient rappelés. Il soupçonnerait ces derniers d'être contre le régime Weah et de travailler à son échec.

Le président du parti au pouvoir exhorte le président Weah à s'adresser à la nation sur la situation économique actuelle qui a poussé l'exécutif à inviter le parlement à une

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Le Sénateur Wessehau régime de Weah : « Faites ce qui est bon pour éviter les manifestations

Le sénateur du comté de River Gee, Conmany Best Wesseh, demande au pouvoir de faire « ce qui est bien » pour les citoyens afin de les empêcher de descendre dans la rue.

La déclaration du sénateur Wesseh s'inscrit dans le cadre de la manifestation qui est

actuellement préparée par le Conseil des Patriotes et qui est prévue pour avoir lieu le 30 décembre.

Le COP menace d'organiser une manifestation à l'échelle nationale pour pousser le régime du président Weah à la démission en raison de la situation économique difficile qui prévaut dans le pays.

Le sénateur Wesseh croit que si les moyens de subsistance du peuple libérien sont améliorés, ils n'auront aucune raison de descendre dans la rue pour protester.

Dans une interview, il a pointé du doigt le fait que les citoyens sont confrontés à de graves difficultés. Il rappelle donc le régime actuel de sa responsabilité de se concentrer sur des politiques susceptibles de relancer l'économie.

Le sénateur soutient que les citoyens ont le droit de se réunir pacifiquement pour faire connaître leurs griefs à leur gouvernement sur les questions qui les préoccupent, conformément à ce que garantit la Constitution du Libéria.

Il insiste sur le fait que le gouvernement est également tenu de protéger ces manifestants potentiels.

Jetant un regard rétrospectif sur l'histoire récente du Libéria, surtout parlant de « l'émeute du riz du 14 avril 1979 », le sénateur

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Côte d'Ivoire: l'université virtuelle contre l'engorgement de l'enseignement supérieur

Son salon est sa salle de cours. Diarra Bassirra, 20 ans, fait partie des 6.000 étudiants de l'Université virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire (UVCI), un établissement créé en 2015 pour désengorger le système universitaire dans un pays où 43% de la population a moins de 15 ans.

Sa mère s'occupe à la cuisine tandis que Bassirra allume son ordinateur et se branche sur la plateforme de l'UVCI pour télécharger son cours.

« Au début, j'ai eu peur. Je voyais mes amies aller à l'école et je me disais: pourquoi moi je reste à la maison? », explique-elle.

Trois ans plus tard, elle est titulaire d'une licence en Informatique et sciences du numérique, attaque un master et ambitionne de faire un doctorat, tout cela à l'université virtuelle.

« J'étudie quand je veux, je me repose quand je veux. Je peux m'arrêter et reprendre... Je n'ai pas le stress d'arriver à l'heure quelque part ni de temps de transport », dit-elle.

- « Pas livré à lui-même » -

« On n'a pas de transport à payer. Il n'y pas les problèmes de grèves. J'ai des amis qui sont à l'université « normale », ils ont pris du retard en raison des grèves », ajoute-t-elle.

Le système universitaire ivoirien est secoué par de nombreuses crises. Il n'est pas rare que des cursus prévus en un an se prolongent sur deux ans alors que l'échec et les abandons sont fréquents en raison des perturbations.

« Le virtuel, c'est une bonne solution pour tout le monde. Il faut évoluer. Nous vivons dans le numérique. On pourrait élargir à d'autres domaines: droit, français, histoire... », conclut-elle.

L'UVCI dispense des cours (pour le moment uniquement dans le numérique) grâce à internet qui a explosé en Côte d'Ivoire, où le nombre d'abonnés de la téléphonie mobile est passé de 30 à plus de 35 millions et le nombre d'abonnés à internet de 10 à 15 millions entre 2016 et 2018.

Les étudiants reçoivent des modules interactifs sur leur téléphone ou ordinateur et ne se rendent physiquement à l'université que pour les examens, une fois par semestre, le week-end.

« On conçoit les cours en studio. Les techniciens pédagogiques accompagnent les enseignants pour faire le montage des cours et les

rendre les plus accessibles et interactifs » possible, explique Dr Yeo Kanigui, professeur de gestion de projets. « Vous avez plusieurs formats, des classiques (Powerpoint, Word, PDF...) aux formats vidéos ou liens vers des sites ».

Outre ces cours, les étudiants sont rassemblés par groupes de 25 sous l'autorité d'un tuteur qu'ils peuvent interroger en cas de problème ou doute.

« Les tuteurs ont un rôle très important. L'étudiant n'est pas isolé, pas livré à lui-même. Il est dans une communauté virtuelle où les accompagnateurs savent ce qu'il fait », insiste le professeur.

« Ça marche bien », se félicite Elie Bouhossou, qui vient d'obtenir une licence 3 en Développement d'applications. « Chaque début de semaine nous recevons des cours. Nous bossons et chaque week-end nous avons des devoirs pour voir si nous maîtrisons. Nous sommes dans des groupes WhatsApp, Facebook... On échange entre nous ».

- Le virtuel pour le secondaire? -

Mariam Kamaté, licenciée en bases de données, 23 ans, était réticente au début.

« J'ai failli ne pas m'inscrire même! Mais ils m'ont dit qu'il y aurait des débouchés et que, je pourrais m'occuper en faisant d'autres choses. Vu les difficultés pour venir à l'Université j'ai vu que c'était une bonne option », raconte-elle.

Elle habite dans le quartier populaire de Yopougon. Il lui faudrait normalement deux heures par jour dans des transports souvent bondés pour fréquenter l'université Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan.

Elle assure aussi que le mode de fonctionnement rend les étudiants plus autonomes. « Quand nous avons fait des journées en entreprise, d'autres étudiants disaient « on ne peut pas faire ça, on n'a pas fait en classe » alors que nous (étudiants UVCI) on fait ce qu'on nous demande. On est habitué à travailler sans aide ».

L'UVCI répond « au défi de la massification dans l'enseignement », estime le ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur Albert Mabri Toikeusse, soulignant que l'Etat n'a pas les moyens d'accueillir physiquement tous ceux qui veulent faire des études supérieures.





# Français

## Le parti au pouvoir

Cont'd from page 8

session extraordinaire.

« Il va sans dire que la Coalition ou pouvoir n'hésitera pas de prendre ses distances avec les fonctionnaires qui vont transgresser le mandat populaire sur lequel nous avons été élus. En outre, nous ne plaidons pas pour que le gouvernement ne soit composé que des militants de la CDC. Au contraire, nous demandons officiellement au président de nommer des technocrates sans tenir compte de leur appartenance politique, pourvu qu'ils soient utiles à la mise en œuvre avec succès du Programme en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement », a déclaré Morlu.

Selon lui, la configuration actuelle du gouvernement présente une représentation presque à part égale des militants des partis de l'opposition et de la coalition au pouvoir. Il estime que cette configuration est une stratégie politique inutile qui mérite d'être revue afin de mettre l'accent sur la compétence.

Il s'en est pris à l'ancien vice-président Boakai qui avait récemment adressé une lettre ouverte au président

Weah, lui demandant d'autoriser la marche prévue pour le 30 décembre et de garantir la sécurité des manifestants conformément à la Constitution.

« C'est honteux de la part de l'honorable Boakai d'être le cerveau connu d'un acte anticonstitutionnel, un complot contre un gouvernement démocratiquement élu qui n'a à peine passé que deux ans au pouvoir, alors que lui et l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf ont eu 12 ans sans que leur mandat ne soit interrompu, en dépit du nombre astronomique de cas de corruption et la mauvaise gouvernance qu'ils ont tant chérie. Quoi que nos compatriotes qui préparent la manifestation du 30 décembre 2019 aient le droit à la liberté d'expression, au rassemblement et à la protestation, ils ne sont qu'un sous-ensemble de la société dans son ensemble, d'où leurs droits ne doivent pas mettre en danger la vie et le bien-être des autres citoyens », a-t-il dit. Le président national du parti au pouvoir condamne naturellement les appels à la démission du président Weah. Il a donc appelé « tous les Libériens bien intentionnés » à ne pas participer à la marche.

## Le Sénateur Wessehau

Cont'd from page 8

Wesseh a défendu qu'il s'agissait au début d'une réunion pacifique, mais à la longue, la marche a cédé la place à une émeute sanglante au cours de laquelle plusieurs libériens ont trouvé la mort.

Selon lui, c'est le gouvernement qui a transformé le rassemblement pacifique en une émeute sanglante. A noter qu'il faisait lui-même partie des organisateurs de la triste célèbre émeute du Rice.

« Seules les personnes qui ignorent ce qui s'est vraiment passé lors de la marche de 1979 croiront que c'est nous qui avons commencé la violence dans ce pays. La marche du 14 avril 1979 était organisée pour être pacifique, et nous avons tout fait pour la rendre pacifique, mais c'est l'intervention des forces de sécurité de l'Etat qui a provoqué la mort d'une première personne par balle

», a-t-il dit.

Le législateur du comté de River Gee, qui préside également le Comité législatif mixte sur la modernisation, déplore également le fait que l'économie est actuellement en berne.

Concernant l'intégrité à la Banque centrale du Libéria, il estime que des efforts sont déployés pour restructurer complètement la CBL, en particulier avec la nomination d'un nouveau gouverneur exécutif.

Le sénateur Wesseh s'est dit optimiste, indiquant que le fait de disposer de la meilleure équipe à la Banque centrale du pays contribuera à restaurer la confiance dans le secteur bancaire, tout en répondant à d'autres critères qui pourraient éventuellement permettre au pays de participer au programme du FMI.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

## La menace grandissante des guerres de l'eau

**N**EW DELHI - Les dangers de la pollution de l'environnement suscitent en ce moment un fort intérêt, en particulier dans le monde en développement - à juste titre. Les indices de qualité de l'air sont lamentables et s'aggravent dans de nombreux endroits et l'Inde, en particulier, est confrontée à une sévère urgence de santé publique. Mais aussi grave que soit le problème de la pollution, il ne doit pas nous faire oublier les prémisses d'une autre catastrophe écologique, source potentielle de conflit : le manque d'accès à l'eau potable.

Nous habitons certes une « planète bleue », mais moins de 3 % de l'ensemble de notre eau est douce et est en grande partie inaccessible (par exemple, parce qu'elle est retenue dans des glaciers). Depuis 1960, la quantité d'eau douce disponible par habitant a diminué de plus de moitié, ce qui confronte plus de 40 % de la population mondiale à ce stress hydrique. En 2030, la demande en eau douce excèdera l'offre d'environ 40 %.

Avec près des deux tiers de l'eau douce provenant de lacs et rivières qui traversent les frontières nationales, l'intensification du stress hydrique crée un cercle vicieux, dans lequel les pays se font concurrence pour l'offre en eau, ce qui provoque davantage de stress et de concurrence. Aujourd'hui, des centaines d'accords internationaux sur l'eau font l'objet de pressions.

La Chine, l'Inde et le Bangladesh s'opposent dans un différend sur le Brahmapoutre, l'un des plus grands fleuves d'Asie : la Chine et l'Inde participent activement à la construction de barrages qui suscitent des craintes de déviation de l'eau. Le gouvernement de l'Inde utilise de l'eau de la déviation pour punir le Pakistan contre ses attaques terroristes. La construction de barrages sur le Nil par l'Éthiopie suscite la colère de l'Égypte en aval.

Les conflits transfrontaliers ne sont que le début. Les tensions liées à l'eau sont également en augmentation dans les pays en développement, entre les communautés rurales et urbaines et entre les secteurs agricole, industriel et les ménages. L'année dernière, la rareté de l'eau a déclenché des conflits dans certaines régions de l'Afrique orientale, comme le Kenya, qui a un passé d'affrontements tribaux pour son accès à l'eau.

En fait, il y a une longue histoire de conflits sur les ressources en eau de plusieurs rivières importantes, notamment le Nil, l'Amazone, le Mékong et le Danube. Mais la gravité et la fréquence de ces conflits est en hausse, car le changement climatique altère les schémas de précipitations, ce qui conduit à des sécheresses et à des inondations plus fréquentes, plus intenses et plus longues.

Pire encore, les réserves d'eau en baisse sont de plus en plus souvent contaminées par des polluants industriels, des matières plastiques ou des ordures et des déchets humains. Dans les pays à revenus moyens, moins d'un tiers des eaux usées sont épurées ; dans les pays à revenus faibles, la proportion est beaucoup plus faible. Environ 1,8 milliard de personnes puisent leur eau potable dans des sources contaminées par des fèces. L'épuisement des aquifères et l'insuffisance des investissements dans l'infrastructure en eau aggravent ces problèmes.

Le stress hydrique touche tout le monde, mais le secteur agricole - qui représente 70 % de l'ensemble de la consommation d'eau à l'échelle mondiale et jusqu'à 90 % dans les pays les moins avancés - est particulièrement vulnérable à ces réserves limitées. Le manque d'eau rend l'élevage difficile, quand chaque goutte doit être préservée pour les cultures ou pour la consommation humaine.

Les zones urbaines sont également vouées à la catastrophe. L'année dernière, Le Cap en Afrique du Sud, a été confrontée à de si graves pénuries d'eau que cette ville a commencé à se préparer pour le « jour zéro », où l'approvisionnement municipal en eau serait stoppé. (Grâce à des mesures de restrictions ainsi qu'à d'autres mesures des pouvoirs publics, cela n'est encore jamais arrivé.) De même, la ville de Mexico est aux prises avec une crise hydrique depuis des années.

Les métropoles indiennes se dirigent vers des catastrophes encore plus grandes. Un rapport de 2018 des pouvoirs publics a averti que 21 villes (notamment la capitale, Delhi et le pôle de technologie de l'information de Bangalore) atteindraient des niveaux phréatiques zéro d'ici l'année prochaine, ce qui va affecter au moins 100 millions de personnes.

Comme pour le changement climatique, les conséquences les plus graves du stress hydrique vont toucher de façon disproportionnée les personnes des régions les plus pauvres du monde - en particulier en Afrique et en Asie du Sud et centrale - qui ont le moins contribué au problème. Dans une région rurale du Maharashtra, en Inde, les femmes et les filles marchent jusqu'à 25 kilomètres par jour pour aller chercher de l'eau potable. Dans d'autres villages, parce que les puits sont à sec, les ménages ont dû désigner un membre de la communauté pour s'occuper à plein temps des fonctions de collecte des eaux. Les familles riches peuvent payer quelqu'un pour faire ce travail, mais la plupart des ménages n'ont pas les moyens de s'offrir ce luxe.

Pendant ce temps, les économies avancées non seulement évitent bon nombre des conséquences du stress hydrique (au moins pour l'instant) : elles maintiennent également le style excessif qui a accéléré le changement climatique et la dégradation de l'environnement, notamment l'épuisement de la ressource hydrique. La culture du riz est souvent citée comme un des gouffres de la consommation d'eau, mais la production d'un kilo de bœuf nécessite cinq fois plus d'eau qu'un kilo de riz et 130 fois plus qu'un kilo de pommes de terre. Comme les cultures agricoles représentent une part importante de nombreuses exportations des pays en développement, ces pays exportent en un sens l'offre limitée de l'eau dont ils disposent.

En outre, les appropriations de terres en Afrique sont réellement une affaire d'eau, quand les investisseurs étrangers ciblent des zones disposant de grandes rivières, de grands lacs, de terres humides et d'eaux souterraines, donc à fort potentiel agricole et à haute valeur biogénétique. (En l'état, moins de 10 % du potentiel d'irrigation africain est utilisé.)

En 2015, les États membres des Nations Unies ont adopté les Objectifs de Développement Durable, qui comprennent un impératif visant à « assurer la disponibilité et la gestion durable de l'eau et de l'assainissement pour tous. » Pourtant, au cours des quatre dernières années, la situation s'est détériorée de manière significative. La communauté internationale pourrait bien être en mesure de se mentir à elle-même pendant encore un certain temps - comme elle s'est montrée si habile à le faire, notamment en matière de destruction de l'environnement - mais la menace de guerre de l'eau ne fait que se rapprocher. Pour bien des gens en Afrique, en Asie et ailleurs, elle est déjà là.

Jayati Ghosh, professeur d'économie à l'Université Jawaharlal Nehru à New Delhi, Secrétaire exécutif de l'Association internationale d'économistes du développement et membre de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité des entreprises.

# 45% Liberians

Cont'd from page 6

40 civil society organizations working for equitable access to vaccines for every citizen in the Country.

The current Board Chair for the Platform, Madam Joyce Kilikpo Jarwolo, reiterates the need for women empowerment in optimum health care, and more investment in the health sector of Liberia.

She says if Liberia's health system must improve, women should be respected and trained in the provision of healthcare services.

According to Madam Jarwolo, women bear greater responsibilities towards the provision of health care at their respective homes, including the environment in which they live.

She says as part of the Universal Health Coverage

Day commemoration, the Liberia Immunization Platform is engaging into focus group discussions within series of communities to enlighten the minds of citizens about Universal Health Coverage and their role to ensure promises made by stakeholders are kept for the benefit of the Country and its people.

She cautions the Government of Liberia to invest in Women, because they are the first line of care before health service providers.

The Universal Health Coverage Day brought together several private and secondary schools, community dwellers, including members of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, and Liberians in general. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# The future is

Starts from back page

recalled that on August 24, 1990, while still a young military officer in his 20s, he disembarked (under fire) from landing vessels at the Freeport of Monrovia for peace mission as part of the very first wave of ECOMOG Peacekeeping troops that landed in Liberia.

"We were in Liberia to keep the peace and for months on, we secured the port and expanded our area of control. Displaced Liberians flooded into our area of control for protection. Our presence reassured people that their brothers and

neighbours were prepared to sacrifice their blood in order to bring peace among Liberians. Today, you have a peaceful country. Remember the lessons of your recent history and maintain a culture of peace and democracy", he urged Liberians.

In remarks, the Visitor for the University, President Weah challenged the graduates to endeavour to become job creators rather than job seekers, because the government lacks capacity to provide employment. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# CBL hosts

Starts from back page

Sector Development Unit at the CBL, Mr. James B. Wilfred, is the key presenter of the theme for the forum. World Bank Representative, Dr. Khwima Nthara; the Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Mr. Augustus J. Flomo, and the Managing Director of Ecobank Liberia Limited, Mr. George Mensah-Asante as well as the Chief Executive Officer of Lonestar/MTN Mobile Money, Madam Uche Ofodile, will serve as panelists.

The forum will be followed by the launching of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy of Liberia (NFISL) which was recently endorsed by the Cabinet. The Strategy,

which was developed with technical support of the World Bank, seeks to drive the financial inclusion agenda of Pillars I and II under the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) as part of the Government's objective.

The strategy also aims to promote access to financial services through digital channels in Liberia in a coordinated and focused manner. From the perspective of monetary authorities, evidence shows that financial inclusion is crucial for promoting not only financial stability, in terms of efficient funding sources, but also relevant for supporting private sector development and monetary stability.

# Peaceful debate

Cont'd from page 7

3,673 members, President Bio says Liberia is at an inflection point and the graduates must now respond to the challenges of nation-building.

He notes that their generation must develop strong democratic and governance institutions, provide access to quality healthcare and food security, make new roads, build hospitals, and supply potable water to all Liberians.

"Your generation must reduce maternal and child mortality and stop all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. Women comprise nearly 50% of Liberia's population and women matter. They must be included in development, and they must be present in all democratic and civic spaces, and their voices must be heard! Your generation must eliminate corruption from public life, he continues.

He charges that the graduates have a duty of care to tend the future of their great nation, saying they must always remember that throughout history, good Liberians and good people have made sacrifices for ideals greater than themselves.

"Sometimes, involuntarily so, but most often believing that their sacrifice was right and fitting for the country they



H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio

love so dearly. I want to challenge you graduates, to be the latter," he says.

He urges the graduates to embrace science, technology, and innovation to leapfrog Liberia along the rungs of development, noting that "We" do not want to become the Athens of West Africa again.

He continues that Athens is in ruins and even Athens in modern day Greece is aspiring to become Silicon Valley.

"We want to be a site teeming with talent, educators, innovators, and entrepreneurs. So your generation must develop a knowledge-based economy in Liberia because that is what matters for Liberia to

participate fully in the Fourth Industrial Revolution," President Bio adds.

He suggests that they can use technology to provide solutions for governance and governance processes, revenue collection, healthcare, quality education, service delivery, small-scale manufacturing, scientific research that benefits ordinary Liberians, and much more.

"Your generation must embrace entrepreneurship and expand the private sector and create jobs. You need not sit down and wait for a government job and an air-conditioned office," he concludes.

# Boakai is a

Cont'd from page 6

"Because of the insistency of Boakai and fake style of doing things that's how former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf did not support him during these elections. His statement is to pretend to the few young people that he supports them and to make the international community believes that he stands for the upholding of the constitution which in reality, he does not," Chief asserts.

Commenting on the planned protest that has received condemnation from the authorities, he describes leaders of Council of Patriots

as a "group of gangsters" whose only style is to threaten the Liberian people and peace that the international community had spent millions for.

However, he notes that from the onset of the Council of Patriot, there were serious minded Liberians, including the political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress, Alexander Cumming and Margibi County Senator Oscar Cooper but due to the reported 'gangsterism' these individuals have parted with the CoP.

Chief Allen argues the COP

has no good intention for the country, saying, they only believe in creating fear in the minds of the citizenry.

He warns the government of President George Manneh Weah will not encourage nor entertain anyone who wants to undermine the peace and tranquility of the state, and laments that having few young people using the airwaves to insult the presidency and senior government officials is "unacceptable and unrealistic."

"We've been there before; I was the national secretary general of the Movement for Social Justice in Africa; we the key actors, we know about demonstrations, the aftermath, the effect and least we talk about the 14 years of wars. Nobody will come here and threaten the peace. Why a young man every morning ran insults on the President,?" He questions in apparent reference to talk show host Henry Costa, chairman of the CoP.

Chief Allen says it is unacceptable and rudely to have people insult the President and an elder like Mr. Boakai publicly supports such group. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Ex-VP Boakai

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# Fresh banknotes raise concern

By Bridgett Milton

Nimba County Representative Larry P. Younquoi, questions source of fresh 500 Liberian banknotes being disbursed by commercial banks specifically to Legislators, while members of the public making withdrawals at various bank continue to receive badly

depositors continue to receive mutilated money. In a written communication to House Speaker Bhofal Chambers dated Wednesday, 12 December Representative Younquoi notes the unusual flow of new Liberian dollar banknotes on the market amidst government's pronouncement of its scarcity

"Additionally, what seems to be of grave concern, is the five-hundred notes being given to Lawmakers during withdrawals as other depositors continue to receive mutilated money. This current trend of events places a dark cloud over our integrity, especially in the midst of Executive's request for the printing of new banknotes and the speculation that legislators have given approval to the Central Bank of Liberia for said printing", asserts the lawmaker.

According to Rep. Younquoi, the issue is very serious for the august body because most of the time when customers go to the bank they are informed there is no money then suddenly fresh banknotes are being disbursed to lawmakers.

"Hon. Speaker, it is in view of the above mentioned that we write, requesting Plenary to invite authorities of the Central Bank of Liberia to explain to this body the source of these monies in the wake of the shortage of Liberian Dollars", Younquoi's letter ends.

However, Liberia's Minister of Information Lenn Eugene Nagbe says the government has not printed additional banknotes, adding the fresh banknotes placed in circulation came from the vaults of the Central Bank of Liberia.

Speaking to the Voice of America Wednesday, Minister Nagbe maintained the CBL has always have money in its vaults and from time to time infuse the money in the market. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



mutilated banknotes.

The sudden disbursement of fresh banknotes when the government had complained of shortage of banknotes is raising serious concern among the public with many asking whether the authorities printed and brought in additional banknotes.

He said it seems to be grave concern that the five hundred notes is being given to lawmakers during withdrawals as others

has caused inconveniences for depositors, literarily making it impossible for them to withdraw monies from their saving accounts at various commercial banks has been seen with keen interest.

He says said unusual flow of new Liberian dollars banknotes is happening at a time when there is speculation about the illegal printing of additional money awaiting legislative approval for infusion into the market.

# Use your skills to create jobs

President George M. Weah has told over 3800 new graduates of the state run University of Liberia to use their newly acquired skills to create jobs rather than being seeking them.

Speaking as a visitor to the university on Wednesday December 11, during its centennial graduation exercise, President Weah caution graduates not to depend on the job market.

"You must therefore come into the world, using these skills, not as job seekers, but as job creators. You must deploy these skills as entrepreneurs, and innovators," Mr. Weah said, adding "...you must not depend on a job market, that in practical terms can never absorb all of you."

About a total of 3600

opportunity for a new beginning. We have learned today that you are the largest graduating class in the 100-year history of this Institution. The world awaits you, in your numbers," he said.

He said it was now time for the graduates to apply the complex skills intellectual agility, creativity, and acquired a capacity for innovation.

To the graduating students of the Graduate School and Professional Studies president Weah said "... you must not depend on a job market, that in practical terms can never absorb all of you. Rather, you must seek to create opportunities in the space of your chosen specializations, to carve out a niche for yourself, where you can not only become self-employed, but where you will eventually create



students, the largest in a single ceremony graduated from the University of Liberia on Wednesday. The number includes over 3000 undergraduates, the rest from the Graduate and Professional Studies.

President Weah told the students that they have "fought a good fight," and it was a very long and hard race to the finish line.

"But this ending is not an end in itself. Rather, this ending provides the

employment for others, who have not been as fortunate as yourself in acquiring these skill-sets.."

President Weah earlier renewed his government's support to the state run university saying "I strongly believe that education is the key that can unlock the full potential of a nation and its people. It is a force that can change our common destiny for the better, and propel a country to progress and prosperity."

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# The future is in your hands

**-President Julius Maada Bio tells graduates**



H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio

By Ben P. Wese

Graduates of the Centenary Class of the State-owned University of Liberia have been reminded that as they leave the walls of the University, the future of Liberia lies in their hands.

Commencement Speaker, President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone, who gave the reminder at the Centennial Convocation inside the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville Wednesday, 11 December notes that development is complex and multipolar and Liberia needs a critical mass of highly qualified professionals to provide sustainable solutions for its

future development.

"The future of Liberia is in your hands. Invest in that future by feeding the brain through quality education, feeding the tummy through food security, and taking care of the whole body through access to healthcare. Make Liberia a hub of talent and innovation and entrepreneurship. Be inspired, be bold, and be all that you can be," he urges.

President Bio also asked the graduates to remember as they graduate, the University has given them the tools to succeed, further pointing that they must stay engaged with the University to make it succeed in delivering on its

mission and sustaining development in Liberia.

The UL graduated a total of 3,673 candidates from its 39 degree-granting programs, seven undergraduate colleges, eight graduate programs and three professional schools, respectively on Wednesday in a ceremony graced by President George Manneh Weah, Visitor for the University, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor and officials of government.

"The University will negotiate partnerships, develop programmes, and undertake research that inform and drive public policy and development. It will do what it must within its transformational curriculum and mandate to develop national capacity to meet national development needs. But as you leave today, do not forget why you came to the University of Liberia. You came here to prepare you to change your own life and the lives of those who are close to you. But more importantly, you came here to change the lives of others and to transform your nation," President Bio continues in his speech.

He served peacekeeping duty here in 1990 as member of the Sierra Leonean contingent in ECOMOG before returning home to up power in a military coup.

President Julius Maada Bio

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## CBL hosts economic forum on financial inclusion



The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) will on Friday, December 13, 2019 hold the third in series of its Economic Forum in the Auditorium of Bank with the theme: "Financial Inclusion in Liberia: How far we have come and where are we headed?"

The forum will highlight the current status of financial inclusion in Liberia and strengthen the broader goal of digitizing the Liberian economy; and the role of key stakeholders.

The Head of the Financial

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