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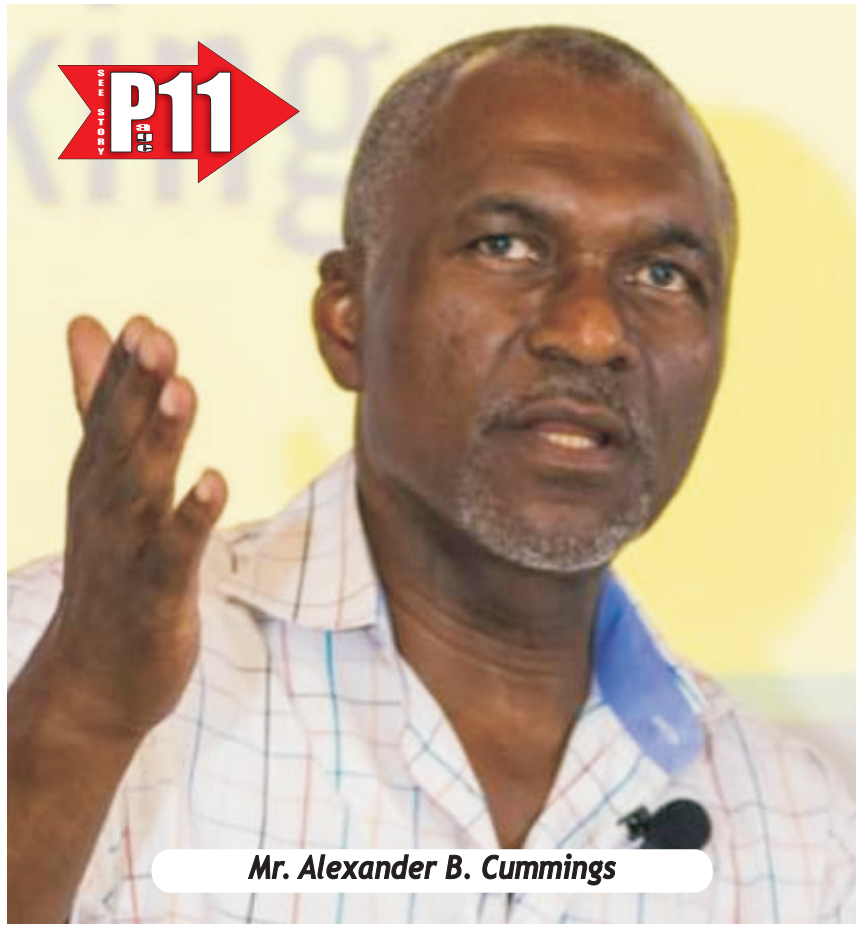


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Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

Cummings' life is at risk

-ANC claims

Strange vessel scares West Point



P11

A Flashback of another strange ship that ducked in Liberia years back



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CMYK



Continental News

African saxophone legend dies of Covid-19

The African saxophone legend Manu Dibango has died in Paris after catching coronavirus.

Dibango - best known for his 1972 hit Soul Makossa - is one of the first global stars to die from Covid-19. The 86-year-old fused jazz and funk music with traditional sounds from his home country, Cameroon. He collaborated with numerous artists over a long career, including US pianist Herbie Hancock and Nigeria's Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti.

The Cameroonian musician filed a lawsuit in 2009 saying Michael Jackson had stolen a hook from his song, Soul Makossa, for two tracks on the world's best-selling album, Thriller. Jackson settled the case out of court. "It is with deep sadness that we announce you the loss of Manu

Dibango, our Papy Groove," a statement on his official Facebook page read.

His funeral will take place in "strict privacy", the statement read, asking instead for people

to send condolences by email and adding that a tribute will be arranged "when possible".

Top African musicians Angelique Kidjo and Youssou Ndour have led the

tributes. On Twitter, Kidjo shared a video, recorded two months ago, of her rehearsing the end of Soul Makossa with Dibango. "You're the original giant of African music and a beautiful human being," the Beninois performer wrote. Ndour called the Cameroonian a "genius" on the saxophone and described him as a "big brother, a pride for Cameroon and all of Africa".

Both Ndour and Kidjo, along with other stars such as Salif Keita, Papa Wemba and King Sunny Ade, worked on Dibango's 1992 album Wakafrika.

Speaking to the BBC in 2013 about how he wanted to be remembered, Dibango said: "When you are gone, it is finished, it is not up to me to say, 'I want this.'" Born in the Cameroonian city of Douala in 1933, which at the time was under French colonial rule, Dibango's musical career spanned across more than six decades. He grew up in a religious Protestant family, the

AFP news agency reports, and his first musical influences came from the church.

"I'm a child raised in the 'Hallelujah'," he is quoted as saying.

But he drew on many influences and was well known for his eclectic style.

"I play different kinds of music before playing my own. I think that that's very important to play other people's music," he told the BBC in 2017.

"As you are African they expect you always to play African. Forget that. You're not a musician because you're African. You're a musician because you are musician. Coming from Africa, but first, musician." He was sent to high school in France, which is where he learnt to play the saxophone. The first tune he performed, in front of fellow students, was When the Saints Go Marching In, he told the BBC. To the disappointment of his father, Dibango failed his high school exams and took up music performing in nightclubs in Belgium instead, AFP reports.



Coronavirus: Ethiopia seeks debt relief for Africa

Ethiopia is seeking debt relief and emergency budgetary support for African countries to boost their response to the coronavirus outbreak.

In its three-point submission to the G20 group of countries, the Horn of Africa nation proposes a \$150bn (£130bn) emergency health financing and budgetary support from the World Bank. Ethiopia is also looking for support to the

World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen public health delivery and emergency preparedness in Africa.

The G20 is an annual forum of leaders from the countries with the largest and fastest-growing economies, whose members account for 85% of the world's GDP, and two-thirds of its population. The G20 leaders are expected to meet in a virtual summit later this week.

In seeking debt relief, Ethiopia says Africa's ability to cushion its firms and workers

from the impact of the pandemic is constrained by its debt burden.

"Ethiopia proposes all interest payment to government loans should be written off. In addition, Ethiopia proposes part of the debt of low-income countries should be written off," says the statement from the government.

The office of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tweeted the statement: BBC

Egypt imposes night-time curfew over coronavirus



Egypt has confirmed 366 cases of coronavirus

Egypt is imposing a night-time curfew for the next two weeks in its latest move to try to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli said that movement would be banned on all public roads from 19:00 local time until 06:00 the next morning.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi also tweeted about the new measures, adding that

"all elements of the Egyptian state would confront any attempts to breach them with the utmost firmness and resolution". Most government centres will also be suspended, while all sports clubs and entertainment facilities will be shut down and the closure of schools will be extended.

Egypt has confirmed 366 cases of coronavirus, including 19 deaths. BBC



EDITORIAL

Bracing ourselves for the worse

LIBERIANS ARE NO doubt a resilient people, who come together to addressing a common problem that threaten their wellbeing nationally. A case in point, Liberians stood in a united front and defeated the dealy Ebola virus in 2015.

WE HAVE NOT seen that same resilience since President Weah announced the first case of the COVID-19 in the country a week ago followed by subsequent cases. We see a national leadership void here on this pandemic that is ravaging countries around the world with death toll now already hitting 400,000.

ONE PATRIOTIC LIBERIAN and former official who has stood up to suggest a way forward is Dr. Nathaniel Barnes, ex-minister and ambassador.

DR. BARNES WARNS that it could get worse in Liberia due to lack of capacity and global impact both on the social and economic fronts unless government embarks immediately on series of stimulus packages to save the population from obvious starvation and death.

HE STRESSE THE need to incent and subsibize business people, especially importers of rice, the nation's staple and other basic commodities. He recommends tax waiver for rice importers in order to avoid hoarding and price hike so the commodity can reach the most vulnerable.

THE LIBERIAN ECONOMIST further suggests government, thru the Central Bank suspends payment on loans by commercial banks and pay civil servants, including those sent on compulsory leave.

THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION has not indicated which way it is taking the economy that could no doubt, negatively impact citizens' lives besides the Coronavirus.

THE AUTHORITIES HERE are pre-occupied with locking down, including closure of schools, churches, and mosques than looming economic consequences that may soon hit the population.

EVEN THE LIBERIAN Senate has called on President Weah to take charge of the pandemic himself, rather than leaving the situation with his officials. While infection may slow for now, the rate of contacts is rapidly increasng, which shows a looming calamity is ahead.

WE COULD NOT have agreed with Grand Kru County Senator Doctor Peter Coleman, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health, any better. President Weah should switch from being a backbencher in the current crisis and take charge.



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COMMENTARY

By Sandrine Dixson-Declève,
Hunter Lovins, Hans Joachim
Schellnhuber & Kate Raworth

A Green Reboot After the Pandemic

In addition to threatening millions of lives and the global economy, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that human societies are capable of transforming themselves more or less overnight. In fact, there's no better time than now to usher in systemic economic change.

NEW YORK - The COVID-19 coronavirus has forced entire countries into lockdown mode, terrified citizens around the world, and triggered a financial-market meltdown. The pandemic demands a forceful, immediate response. But in managing the crisis, governments also must look to the long term. One prominent policy blueprint with a deep time horizon is the European Commission's European Green Deal, which offers several ways to support the communities and businesses most at risk from the current crisis.

COVID-19 reflects a broader trend: more planetary crises are coming. If we muddle through each new crisis while maintaining the same economic model that got us here, future shocks will eventually exceed the capacity of governments, financial institutions, and corporate crisis managers to respond. Indeed, the "coronacrisis" has already done so.

The Club of Rome issued a similar warning in its famous 1972 report, *The Limits to Growth*, and again in *Beyond the Limits*, a 1992 book by the lead author of that earlier report, Donella Meadows. As Meadows warned back then, humanity's future will be defined not by a single emergency but by many separate yet related crises stemming from our failure to live sustainably. By using the Earth's resources faster than they can be restored, and by releasing wastes and pollutants faster than they can be absorbed, we have long been setting ourselves up for disaster.

On one planet, all species, countries, and geopolitical issues are ultimately interconnected. We are witnessing how the outbreak of a novel coronavirus in China can wreak havoc on the entire world. Like COVID-19, climate change, biodiversity loss, and financial collapses do not observe national or even physical borders. These problems can be managed only through collective action that starts long before they become full-blown crises.

The coronavirus pandemic is a wake-up call to stop exceeding the planet's limits. After all, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change all make pandemics more likely. Deforestation drives wild animals closer to human populations, increasing the likelihood that zoonotic viruses like SARS-CoV-2 will make the cross-species leap. Likewise, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that global warming will likely accelerate the emergence of new viruses.

Governments that succeed in containing epidemics all tacitly follow the same mantra: "Follow the science and prepare for the future." But we can do much better. Rather than simply reacting to disasters, we can use the science to design economies that will mitigate the threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pandemics. We must

start investing in what matters, by laying the foundation for a green, circular economy that is anchored in nature-based solutions and geared toward the public good.

The COVID-19 crisis shows us that it is possible to make transformational changes overnight. We have suddenly entered a different world with a different economy. Governments are rushing to protect their citizens medically and economically in the short term. But there is also a strong business case for using this crisis to usher in global systemic change.

For example, there is no good reason not to be phasing out fossil fuels and deploying renewable energy technologies, most of which are now globally available and already cheaper than fossil fuels in many cases. With the recent oil-price plunge, perverse fossil-fuel subsidies can and should be eliminated, as the G7 and many European countries have pledged to do by 2025.

Shifting from industrial to regenerative agriculture also is immediately feasible, and would allow us to sequester carbon in the soil at a rate that is sufficient to reverse the climate crisis. Moreover, doing so would turn a profit, enhance economic and environmental resilience, create jobs, and improve wellbeing in both rural and urban communities.

Regenerative agriculture features prominently in many of the new economic models that are now being explored by city governments around the world - all of which are based on the principle of living within our planetary boundaries. As one of us (Raworth) argues in advancing her idea of "Doughnut Economics," the goal should be to create a "safe and just operating space for all of humanity." In other words, we must work within the planet's natural limits (the outer boundary of the doughnut) while also ensuring that marginalized communities do not fall behind (into the doughnut hole).

For policymakers responding to the current crisis, the goal should be to support citizens' livelihoods by investing in renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. Now is the time to start redirecting the \$5.2 trillion spent on fossil-fuel subsidies every year toward green infrastructure, reforestation, and investments in a more circular, shared, regenerative, low-carbon economy.

Humans are resilient and entrepreneurial. We are perfectly capable of beginning again. If we learn from our failings, we can build a brighter future than the one that is currently in store for us. Let us embrace this moment of upheaval as an opportunity to start investing in resilience, shared prosperity, wellbeing, and planetary health. We have long since exceeded our natural limits; it is time to try something new.

O-PED

By Chris Patten

Truth and Viral Consequences

Proper surveillance of potentially catastrophic public-health threats requires knowledge and transparency, both within and between countries. As the deadly COVID-19 pandemic once again shows, telling the truth saves lives.

LONDON - Of all the challenges that humans have faced over millennia, disease has always been a particularly brutal and resourceful enemy.

The impact of disease has shaped history. Amerindians were ravaged by illnesses that the Spanish conquistadors brought to Mexico and South America; the “stout Cortez” of John Keats’s poem was accompanied by killer diseases like smallpox, measles, influenza, and typhus. Unlike Eurasians, native populations in the New World had not spent several thousand years evolving with animals and their diseases. As a result, America’s indigenous populations declined by some 90% in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

In Europe, on the other hand, fighting disease was a formative element in the growth of political authority and state governance in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance period. Lethal plagues like the Black Death led authorities in the Northern Italian city-states and elsewhere to fight back with enforced public hygiene and quarantines. Henry VIII’s England and other European states established isolation hospitals. Later, the United States developed public-health services in part to fight yellow fever and other epidemics.

Military campaigns also were accompanied by disease. Napoleon’s leading general, Marshal Ney, wrote that “General Famine and General Winter” cut down the French army that marched on - and subsequently retreated from - Moscow in 1812. But “General Typhus and General TB” played their parts as well.

Disease can be cunning and implacable. Despite humanity’s efforts, influenza pandemics have swept the world on average three times a century for the last 500 years. The deadliest of these was the erroneously named “Spanish Flu” of 1918, the first case of which was actually recorded in Kansas. That pandemic may have killed over 50 million people worldwide, more than the number who died in World War I.

So, with the new COVID-19 coronavirus now assaulting the world, what can we learn from past experience?

Above all, we know that global problems require global solutions. That means coordinating health research and making resources available for poorer countries to develop their health systems - an approach that has already proven effective in tackling malaria. Furthermore, the World Health Organization should play the central role in protecting us from epidemic disease, in particular by focusing, together with national governments, on disease surveillance and issuing warnings.

Indeed, careful scientific research is essential to “germ governance” - as it was, for example, in combating cholera in mid-nineteenth-century London. Back then, a doctor called John Snow wandered around the city cataloguing cases of the disease. By using geography and statistics, Snow helped to spark a shift from simply focusing on the health of the individual body and the treatment of symptoms to recognizing the relevance of the wider health and behavior of whole populations.

Crucially, Snow applied the old Chinese adage about learning truth from the facts. Likewise, fighting the COVID-19 pandemic requires not only changing patterns of social behavior through measures such as self-isolation and temporary travel restrictions, but also telling the public the truth. People need to know in good time what is happening and what they should do.

That is why we should be deeply grateful for the heroic dedication and commitment of so many Chinese doctors and health workers in fighting this new killer virus. Their brave struggle has been fought for us all.

China’s communist leaders, on the other hand, should now face some serious questions.

When a variety of pneumonia called SARS - severe acute respiratory syndrome - broke out in Southern China in November 2002, the central authorities in Beijing covered it up for months. Not coincidentally, perhaps, a new Chinese leader, Hu Jintao, was due to be installed in spring 2003. The Communist Party of China’s clampdown on reporting about the outbreak, and its delay in informing the WHO, may well have reflected its determination to avoid taking the shine off Hu’s elevation.

On that occasion, the brave Chinese whistleblower Jiang Yanyong helped to end the cover-up. Concerted international action subsequently prevented the SARS epidemic from turning into a pandemic. Had this not happened, there would have been many more cases and fatalities around the world.

But when the new coronavirus emerged late last year, China’s communist leaders unfortunately seemed to have learned nothing from that previous episode. Another brave doctor, Li Wenliang, and some of his colleagues tried to warn about the new virus in Wuhan last December. (Some reports, for example in the South China Morning Post, suggest that there was growing disquiet about its detection even earlier.) But Li and his co-workers were silenced by the police and threatened with punishment unless they kept quiet.

Life in Wuhan thus continued as normal while the epidemic spread. Millions left the city and the surrounding province for the Chinese New Year celebrations - festivities that ended with many funerals, including that of Li. Research by Southampton University, not yet peer-reviewed, suggests that earlier action by the Chinese authorities would have dramatically reduced the rate of infections.

Disease is a killer. So, too, is the secrecy of a totalitarian regime such as the one headed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which censored and closed down social media when they reported what was actually happening in Wuhan.

Proper surveillance of potentially catastrophic public-health threats requires knowledge and transparency, both within and between countries. As the deadly COVID-19 pandemic once again shows, telling the truth saves lives.

OPINION

By Jim O’neill

The G20’s Pandemic Moment

Just as a meager investment to address antimicrobial resistance could yield a 2,000% return in the future, so, too, would an immediate modest outlay to finance development of COVID-19 therapeutics. As world leaders gather to formulate a response to the crisis, they must not lose sight of this simple cost-benefit calculus.

LONDON - This week, G20 leaders will convene virtually to discuss the COVID-19 crisis. One hopes that the emergency summit marks the beginning of a thoughtful collective response to this grave challenge. If so, the meeting may turn out to be even more consequential than the London summit hosted by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in April 2009, which created the framework for a coordinated multilateral response to the global financial crisis.

Having chaired the United Kingdom’s global Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), I cannot help but think that the current crisis demands a similar undertaking to bring together infectious-disease modeling, economic analysis, and evidence-based solutions. When our findings were published in 2016, we garnered a good deal of attention for highlighting both the potential loss of life and the economic costs of inaction in the face of AMR. By 2050, we warned, antibiotic-resistant microbes could take up to ten million lives per year, at a total cost of around \$100 trillion in lost output between 2015 and 2050.

But we also showed that these horrendous outcomes could be prevented with a relatively meager investment of \$42 billion, implying a return of around 2,000%. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly accelerated the use of disinfectants, I shudder to think of a future in which we still have not taken the necessary steps to manage biological threats. If we run out of useful antibiotics, the time it will take to develop new ones will far exceed that expected for developing a COVID-19 vaccine.

G20 policymakers thus have no choice: in addition to confronting today’s viral crisis, they also must tackle the looming bacterial one. On both counts, they can start by creating a market incentive reward program to promote serious efforts by pharmaceutical companies to develop new drugs. And now that we are suffering through a financial crisis in which many companies are depending on governments for their survival, it stands to reason that these prizes should be funded by the industry itself. Following the principle of “pay or play,” companies that make no effort to create critical treatments should be taxed to provide the pool of money for those that do.

In terms of the immediate COVID-19 challenge, we need investments to accelerate the development not just of a vaccine but also of therapeutic treatments and better diagnostics in the short term. According to public-health specialists and scientists I have consulted, an immediate amount of around \$10 billion from the G20 would probably suffice to cover these three critical needs.

And critical they are. It is no coincidence that China and the other Asian countries that have managed to limit the severity of the crisis had many of the appropriate therapeutics, diagnostics, and containment protocols already in place, owing to their past experiences with similar outbreaks. Many other countries were far less prepared, and until they are, the pandemic could easily re-emerge.

But there is also a unique economic dynamic to this crisis: social distancing. As soon as governments around the world started following China in shutting down entire cities in order to minimize community transmission, an economic shock became inevitable. Judging by industrial production and other regular monthly data, Chinese output declined by around 20% in February alone. Many other economies, including the G7 countries, will almost certainly experience similar declines in March.

To prevent an even deeper economic crisis - not to mention social strife - these governments need to muster a dramatic and unconventional policy response. Already, many G20 countries are pursuing versions of what I call “People’s QE” - direct cash disbursements to households - and the United States is close to adopting an unprecedented \$2 trillion package of stimulus and bailout measures.

Here in the UK, meanwhile, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, has drafted three new budgets in as many weeks in an effort to stay ahead of the crisis. In addition to guaranteeing £330 billion (\$387 billion) in loans to keep businesses afloat, the government has also announced at least £39 billion in fiscal stimulus.

Now, if that £39 billion represents the price for three months of social distancing, and if policies of similar budgetary weight relative to GDP were adopted across the G20, the total cost for the group would be in the vicinity of \$1 trillion. But if this direct fiscal stimulus is not accompanied by Asian-style measures to deploy the best diagnostics and therapeutics, we will have to remain on lockdown much longer. If the isolation period stretches to a year, the implied costs would soar to the \$4 trillion range.

Yes, that is a back-of-the-envelope figure. But considering that it doesn’t even account for the near-inevitable challenges to social cohesion in many countries, it probably represents an underestimate of the massive costs looming on the horizon.

That brings us back to our \$10 billion figure. Given the risks, the G20 will have no excuse if it fails to muster at least that amount for the immediate provision of COVID-19 diagnostics and treatments, and another \$10 billion to kick-start the market for new antibiotics. These sums are peanuts, especially compared to the price of inaction, which could bankrupt us - if it doesn’t kill us first.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Why Africa must fear virus

-Millions of Africans lack access to clean water. This makes coronavirus a bigger threat.

By: Brian Howard, Kangwook Han

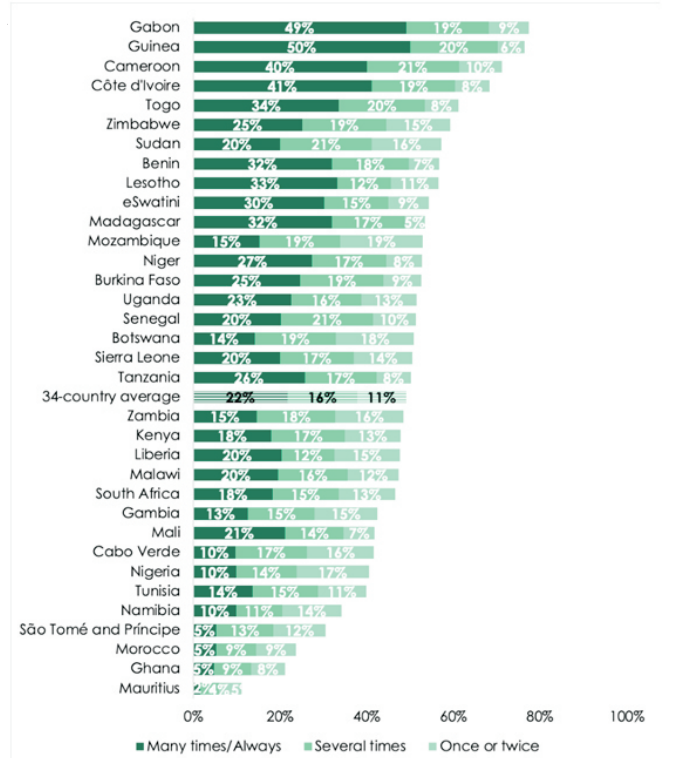
The best protection against coronavirus and other infectious diseases is frequent handwashing, the experts say. Simple enough – if you have water.

But as we observe World Water Day on March 22 during a coronavirus pandemic, millions of Africans still lack access to running water. And things don't seem to be getting better.

Based on more than 45,800 face-to-face interviews in 34 African countries between late 2016 and late 2018, Afrobarometer found that a majority of Africans see their governments as failing them when it comes to the provision of clean water and sanitation services.

About half (49 percent) of respondents said they went without enough clean water for home use at least once during the previous year. In some countries, this form of "lived poverty" affected more than three-fourths of the population, as shown in Fig. 1. Repeated shortages of clean water (at least "several times") decreased slightly between survey rounds in 2011/2013 (39 percent) and 2014/2015 (35 percent) but then increased again to 38 percent, wiping out the earlier gains.

Fig. 1: Who's without enough clean water in



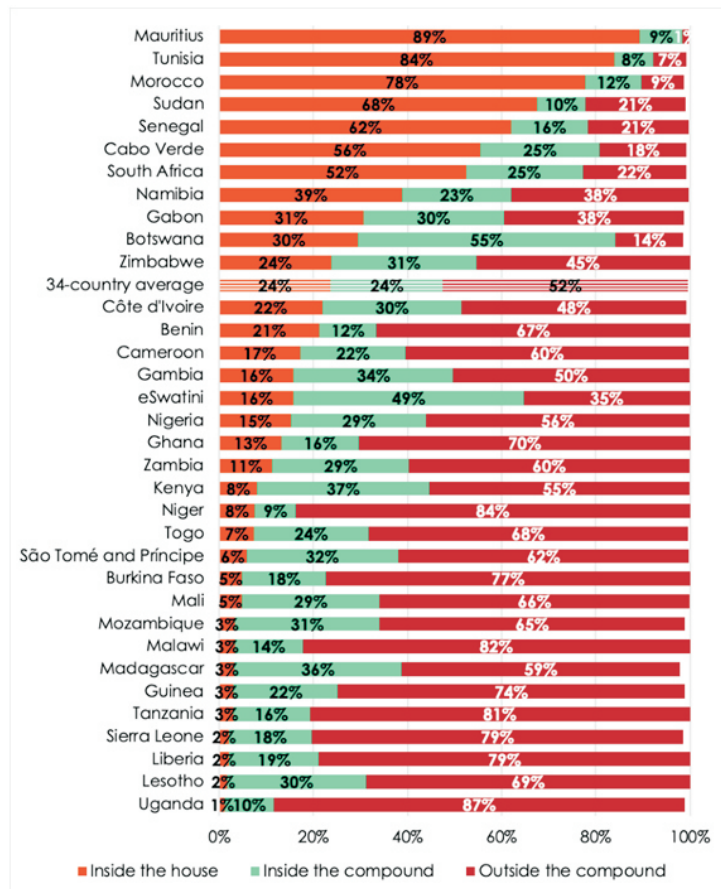
Respondents were asked: Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without enough clean water for home use? Source: Afrobarometer, based on in-person surveys in 34 African countries, 2016-2018.

Poor infrastructure limits access to water

If the likelihood that people will wash their hands depends on how readily water is available, that's a problem for disease prevention in Africa. More than half (52 percent) of Africans have to go outside their compound to get water. This is true for majorities in 20 of the 34 surveyed countries, including for more than 8 out of 10 citizens in Uganda (87 percent), Niger (84 percent), Malawi (82 percent), and Tanzania (81 percent) – see Fig. 2.

Fig. 2: Where is your main source of water for household use?

Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether each of the following are available inside your house, inside your compound, or outside your compound: Your main source of water for household



use? Source: Afrobarometer, based on in-person surveys in 34 African countries, 2016-2018.

Inadequate infrastructure is a problem across the continent: Only a slim majority (54 percent) of Africans live in areas served by a piped-water system. In 5 of the 34 surveyed countries, water infrastructure is only accessible to one-quarter or less of the population: Uganda (25 percent), Malawi (25 percent), Guinea (24 percent), Zambia (23 percent) and Liberia (8 percent).

The situation is even more dire when it comes to sanitation: Only 26 percent of Africans live in zones with sewage systems, and about 3 in 10 have to go outside their compound to use a toilet or latrine (22 percent) or have no access to a facility at all (7 percent).

As might be expected, rural residents and poor people are far less likely than their urban and better-off counterparts to have access to water and sanitation infrastructure. For example, while 80 percent of city residents live within reach of a piped water system, only 34 percent of rural residents do. For sewerage, the gap is 50 percent vs. 8 percent. Similarly, almost half (46 percent) of well-off Africans live in areas served by sewage systems, but the same is true of just 16 percent of the poorest.

Water and sanitation are among citizens' top priorities

Even without the added threat of coronavirus, ordinary Africans were well aware of the urgency of government action on water and sanitation. When Afrobarometer asked survey participants what they consider the most important problems their government should address, only unemployment and health outranked water/sanitation as a priority. It's the top priority in Guinea, the second-highest priority in Tanzania and Benin, and the third-highest in eight other countries.

Considering these concerns, it's hardly surprising that a majority (54 percent) of Africans say their governments are doing a poor job of providing water and sanitation services for their citizens. The worst scores come from Gabon and Guinea (84 percent and 82 percent disapproval, respectively) – the countries where people are most likely to suffer water shortages, as we saw in Fig. 1. But disapproval of the government's performance is the majority view in 20 of the 34 countries.

The costs of this failure can be measured in any number of ways and sectors, including an estimated 829,000 deaths each year globally from diarrhea as a result of unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hand hygiene, according to the World Health Organization. The coronavirus outbreak, should it hit Africa hard, would be one more reminder of these costs. -Source: www.washingtonpost.com



© Zohra Bensemra/Reuters A girl carries a bucket of clean water in Pikine near Dakar, Senegal, on March 9.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LNRCS warns COVID-19 prevention is not an option, but a real demand

The Liberia National Red Cross Society has warned that prevention is not an option but a real demand to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in Liberia.

Welcoming the latest measures announced by the health authorities, the Red

Liberian Red Cross says the public should straightly follow the Infection Prevention and Control measures and all other measures put in place by government to make sure the outbreak doesn't proceed in a totally out of control fashion and overwhelm local health

detection, early testing, early isolation, and early treatment are much more effective for quick recovery and to stop further spread.

Mr. Ambullai Perry adds that further transmission could also be reduced if people continue to wash their hands regularly, cover their mouths and noses when coughing and sneezing, avoid closed contact and isolate themselves if they have any symptoms.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Red Cross remains vigilant, focused and ready to complement the efforts of the government by promoting infection prevention and control measures in communities, as well as share prevention information to ensure that people are empowered and informed about their health and safety in the affected areas.

He says LNRCS is working with the health authorities to scale up prevention initiatives and mobilize volunteers for mass awareness and hygiene promotion.

However, he says resources at its disposal at the moment are extremely insufficient and it is therefore looking forward for support from the public, increased partnership and collaboration in strengthening its response effort against the COVID-19. -Press release



Cross noted in a press release issued Monday, 23 March that the public has a "crucial role to play and should not take COVID-19 pandemic lightly after Liberia has recorded three positive cases and with lot more contacts.

In the press release, the

services and response capacities.

The LNRCS Secretary General says it is crucial and urgent for communities to quickly identify and report close contacts of the confirmed cases at the moment, emphasizing that early

LoneStar Cell MTN donates 500 Cell Phones to GOL to help fight COVID-19

By Lewis S. Teh

In an effort to help the Liberian government's fight against the spread of coronavirus, the nation's biggest telecommunication company, Lonestar Cell MTN has donated 500 pieces of cell phones to the government through the office of Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor.

Addressing the audience Tuesday, 24 March in a brief program marking the official turning over ceremony held at the company's head officer in oldest Congo Town, Lonestar Cell MTN Chief Executive Officer Madam UcheOfodile expressed excitement about the company's decision to help government in the fight against the coronavirus.

"We are grateful to help the government of Liberia in these difficult times," she says, adding that she is certain that these mobile phones will help the government through the

Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia with contact tracing in stopping the wide spread of the virus.

According to her, as Liberia confirms three cases of the

virus, the company sees it wise to join hands in the fight.

She explains that LoneStar MTN held talks with the vice president's office, and it was based on the outcome of that meeting that they are



How Judee Andy

Starts from back page

Following completion of the training, the LCP and the MCCC are deploying the mobilizers in 161 communities and 658 blocks within the 17 districts in Montserrado County.

Endee says among the measures instituted was the training of community mobilizers to help move to every house in Monrovia to educate the people about the virus.

"Today we are proud to say we have trained over 600 of them to carry on that sensitization," says Ambassador Endee.

According to her, the taskforce will ensure more awareness in every community across Montserrado, encouraging citizens to follow all measures put in place by health authorities and work collaboratively for the eradication of the virus from the country.

Speaking at the program, the Chair on Ways, Means and Finance at the House of Representatives Thomas Fallah pledged the support of the Legislature to the government to fight against the spread of the virus.

According to him, a

committee has been established at the Legislature to collaborate with partners to help fight this virus, saying lawmakers have thought it wise to work with the people.

In a special statement, Mayor Jefferson Kojee assured Monroviens that they will fight the virus together and they will succeed.

According to him, the success will require the full cooperation of everyone.

"Today is a sad day for us. We were last deriving measures to take. However, we are not deterred because we Liberians are unique and resilient people," he says.

He furthers that "through your commitment and dedication, we are going to triumph. Let's continue to pray for this country and every Liberian."

"We pray that no one lose their life to this virus. We are going back to the communities to sensitize the people because Monrovia is the first place of the virus. We have decided to take charge in protecting our people," he concludes. -Edited by Winston W. Parley

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donating the phones to her office for onward submission to the MOH and NPHIL.

She continues that the company commends the government for all its efforts and measures put in place to help prevent the spread of the disease.

"And we as a company have joined this fight, evidence is that we have sent about 80% of our staff to work from home, because we understand social distancing is important," Madam Ofodile discloses.

"We want to lead by example and partner with the government to kick this virus away from Liberia," she continues.

Madam Ofodile concludes that the donation is part LoneStar MTN's collaboration and the partnership that it enjoys with the government.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the vice president for onward presentation to MOH, the Chief of Office Staff in the Office of the Vice President, Mr. George T. Nimely expressed sentiments to LoneStar Cell MTN for the donation given to the government and the people of Liberia throughout the difficult times.

He notes that contact tracing plays an important role in eradicating the virus, adding: "This donation here today is not surprising that MTN has always been a great partner, and we envision more of this partnership in time to come."

Also receiving the donation from the Office of the Vice President, Deputy Health Minister for Administration

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

U.S. Ambassador departs Liberia prematurely

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Christine Elder, has departed Liberia abruptly, ending his Mission here few months earlier due to the current global pandemic, COVID-19.

According to a release issued by the United States Embassy in Monrovia, Amb. Elder departed on Saturday, March 21, after nearly four years at the helm of the U.S. Embassy here.

Ambassador Elder worked closely with both Presidents Sirleaf and Weah and their respective administrations, overseeing U.S. diplomatic engagement with Liberia and U.S. foreign assistance to the country. She is one of the longest-serving U.S. Ambassadors in Liberia's history, according to the release.

The United States Embassy near Monrovia suspended routine consular services to the public, effective Monday, 23 March.

"I regret that a preexisting medical condition and the closure of air routes across Africa due to the COVID-19 virus force me to depart a few months earlier and more hastily than I had anticipated", the embassy quotes the former envoy as saying.

Amb. Elder notes that she leaves a strong and passionate Mission team that will continue to deepen ties and meet challenges in all areas, none more important today than global health threats, saying, "It has been the highlight of my career and

the honor of a lifetime to serve in this amazing country and advance the historic relationship between the U.S. and Liberia."

She thanks the Liberian government and international community for the warm ties over the years, including the "Liberian people for their boundless resilience and good will."



Meanwhile, the release says Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, Alyson Grunder will serve as Chargé d'affaires until a new U.S. Ambassador is confirmed.

The Government of Liberia on Sunday, 22 March declared the Coronavirus pandemic a National Health Emergency, locking down Montserrado and Margibi Counties, named as "infected areas", for 21 days.

"All travels in and outside the Montserrado and Margibi areas are discouraged", said Liberia's Minister of Health, Doctor Wilhelmina S. Jallah, stressing, the action is in keeping with Title 33, chapter 14 of the Public Health Law of Liberia.

The government also suspended commercial flights to Monrovia.

"Except for cargo, chartered and special flights, all commercial flights are hereby ordered suspended as of Monday March 23rd at 11:59pm. The Ministry of Transport and the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority will issue the appropriate notices henceforth", Minister Jallah declared. -*Story by Jonathan Browne*

Samukai, others

Starts from back page

Probably due to the guilty judgment, the ruling in Mr. Samukai, and former Deputy Defense Minister for Administration Joseph P. Johnson and former Defense Ministry Comptroller NyumahDorkor's trial did not get the usual cheers and disruptions that sometimes erupt in some cases when prominent figures on trial finally sit for court's ruling.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers of the former officials sat calmly in the courtroom Tuesday and listened intently just as the defendants did until the judge said the last word in his ruling, followed by defense lawyers' exception to the ruling and an announcement of an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Ruling Tuesday, Judge Gbeisay dismissed the crimes of money laundering and economic sabotage against the defendants because he says he did not see the element of economic sabotage and he is not also persuaded by the prosecution that money laundering was committed by the defendants.

Having adjudged the ex-officials guilty of theft of property, misuse of public money and Criminal conspiracy, Judge Gbeisay orders the clerk to communicate with the probation service of Montserrado County to proceed to conduct pre-sentence investigation of the defendants and report to the court in 15 days as of the date of the ruling.

The judge notes that defendants acted in concert and as such criminal conspiracy lie because they illegally, wrongfully, and intentionally withdrew funds from the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL's) account by their directive and authority by using the comptroller of the Ministry of Defense.

The court says it perfectly agrees with co-defendant Samukai's [explanation relating to use of the money] when he said that had the government failed to make representation at the funeral of [former AFL Chief of Staff] General Aburrahman who made sacrificial services to Liberia, such failure would have amounted to ingratitude.

However, Judge Gbeisay rules that such gesture cannot be implemented with the "poverty stricken AFL pension funds without their implied or expressed consent."

The judge continues that the co-defendant contended that he was ordered by the ex-Commander in Chief Mrs. Sirleaf to use the AFL funds in the manner and form as he did, but failed miserably to cause former President Sirleaf who is

right here in Monrovia to appear or representative of current President George Manneh Weah to testify to the truthfulness of this contention.

According to Judge Gbeisay, the only form and manner in which a government can legally interfere with a private property in this jurisdiction is by condemnation proceeding otherwise known as eminent domain.

He asserts that assuming that ex-President Sirleaf made commitment to pay, and President Weah also made commitment to pay, the act of an individual president is not the act of the government of Liberia.

He indicates that it is the government of Liberia which is prosecuting the defendants that made partial payment to the AFL account and, not the defendants.

Concerning whether or not the changing of the name of the AFL account by the defendants without consulting the rank and file of the AFL, the judge says it was not legal.

"The court says that, none of the defendants charged is a member of the AFL, because by law, the AFL starts from private soldiers and end up with a Chief of Staff," he says.

He rules that the minister served in a fiduciary capacity for the AFL personnel when he opened the AFL's pension account, but the power of a fiduciary has serious limitation and a breach thereof carries serious multiple civil and criminal consequences.

He adds that the minister was under legal duty to have consulted the rank and file of the AFL as he did from the beginning, if he had tangible reason to change the name of the account.

"The court says that, it appeared that the sole purpose for changing the account title was to widen the scope of operation of the account, so as to enable the account to cover all illegal withdrawals that were made not within the perimeter of the objective of the account as named," Judge Gbeisay continues.

"Even, at that, the court observed that by the time the name of the account was changed in October 2017, most of the illegal withdrawals had already been made," he says further.

According to Judge Gbeisay, the intent of the change of the AFL account from AFL pension and saving account to AFL morale and Welfare account has criminal motives and intended to camouflage, disguise, and concede the misapplications by the defendants.

Disbanded soldier frowns on Defense Ministry

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

One of the leaders of the disbanded soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia

(AFL), Jerry Kerkulah Kollie has expressed bitterness over the recent action of the Defense Ministry to have discharged two AFL Officers who stripped a male motorcyclist and paraded

him in the streets of Gbarnga, Bong County.

The two AFL officers in person of Star Sergeant Keita Musa and Jugbe Peter were discharged from the military for their brutal act against the victim.

They had accused the motorcyclist of stealing a motorbike that belonged to one of the dismissed AFL officers.

Speaking recently to a team of journalists in Gbarnga, Mr. Kollie said the Defense Ministry did not do justice to the two discharged AFL Officers, claiming that it was the first offence which should not have led to the discharge of the officers.

Even though Mr. Kollie did not mention the specific article relied upon for his argument, he however insists that the Professional Military



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Français

Coronavirus : Des pasteurs menacés d'arrestation pour violation des mesures sanitaires

L'inspecteur général de la police du Libéria, le colonel Patrick T. Sudue, a menacé d'arrêter et de poursuivre en justice les pasteurs qui ouvriront leurs églises en violation des mesures sanitaires mises en place pour limiter la propagation du coronavirus dans le pays.

«Le pays tout entier est conscient que dimanche prochain, il n'y aura pas de culte religieux. Quiconque ouvrira les portes de son église le fera au mépris total de la loi, ainsi nous y entrerons, arrêterons le pasteur et le poursuivrons en justice. Croyez-moi, nous arrêterons le pasteur et le poursuivrons », a déclaré Sudue sur une radio locale.

Le Conseil des Églises du Libéria a promis le respect des mesures sanitaires vue la situation sanitaire dans le pays. Mais il s'est dit surpris de la fermeture des églises car lors de la rencontre qu'il a eue avec le président George Manneh Weah au cours du week-end, il n'avait pas été question de fermeture des églises, mais

plutôt de l'organisation de plusieurs cultes afin de réduire le nombre de fidèles à un culte donné.

Mgr Kortu Brown, Président du Conseil des Églises du Libéria, s'est dit scandalisé par l'action brutale de la police à l'endroit des fidèles chrétiens réunis pacifiquement dimanche dans leurs lieux de cultes.

Cependant, le colonel Sudue a fait valoir que tout le

monde est au courant de ce qui se passe ici. Selon lui, la police n'a pas brutalisé les églises le dimanche 22 mars parce que l'ordre de la fermeture des églises est arrivé tardivement et les gens ne savaient pas.

Il a mis en garde que quiconque violera pour cette fois l'ordre de la fermeture des églises dimanche prochain sera arrêté et

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Representative Josiah Marvin Cole

Des professeurs chinois recommandent la vitamine C et du jus de citron pour combattre le coronavirus

Deux professeurs de sciences médicales en Chine ont exhorté les Libériens et les gens du monde entier à résister au virus corona en consommant de la vitamine C naturelle en plus des mesures préventives actuelles.

Ils ont exhorté les gens à ne pas paniquer face à la pandémie, mais à se calmer et à reprendre le contrôle de

soi, car elle peut être contenue par l'utilisation de la vitamine C naturelle pour renforcer le système immunitaire.

Le Liberia WASH media Network, citant une récente dépêche en provenance de l'Université de Zanzan en Chine, a conseillé à l'homme d'utiliser autant que possible la vitamine C naturelle pour renforcer son système immunitaire.

Membre de la faculté des sciences médicales de l'Université de Zanzan, le professeur Laila Ahmadi, a exhorté les gens à ne pas trop s'inquiéter du virus corona car la vitamine C naturelle leur débarrasserait du virus, pourvu que l'on suive les mesures préventives.

Aucun vaccin pour le virus n'est disponible à l'heure actuelle. Il n'y a non plus aucun traitement spécifique pour l'instant, mais la consommation de la vitamine C naturelle, à en croire le scientifique chinois, permettra de sauver des vies.

Le virus semble être né de la fusion des organes génétiques des serpents et des chauves-souris et a acquis la capacité d'infecter les mammifères, y compris les êtres humains, selon Liberia WASH media Network.

De plus, le professeur Chen Horin, directeur général de l'hôpital militaire de Pékin, a également

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« Il faut déclarer l'état d'urgence » (le député Cole)

Le représentant du district électoral n° 3 du comté de Bong, le député Josiah Marvin Cole, appelle le gouvernement à déclarer un « état d'urgence » au milieu de la propagation du virus Corona ici.

Le gouvernement libérien, par le biais du ministère de la Santé et de l'Institut national de santé publique du Libéria, a depuis annoncé un troisième cas de virus et a déclaré que les personnes concernées avaient été mises en quarantaine dans le nouvel hôpital militaire, dans le comté de Margibi.

Déjà, le gouvernement a mis en place plusieurs mesures, notamment l'interdiction des rassemblements publics, la réduction du nombre de passagers dans les véhicules de transport public, la mise en place des mesures sanitaires strictes à l'aéroport international Roberts et la fermeture des écoles, des églises et de mosquées.

S'exprimant au cours d'une émission le lundi 23 mars, le député Cole a déclaré que le Libéria était attaqué par un envahisseur invisible et que la meilleure option était de déclarer l'état d'urgence pour permettre au gouvernement d'appliquer des mesures strictes pour la sécurité des Libériens et des ressortissants étrangers. « Je me demande l'état d'esprit des gens qui pensent que le gouvernement crée de fausses alarmes sur le virus ; ces gens sont fous. Ces gens ont perdu leurs cinq sens,

regardent le monde aujourd'hui, partout où des gens meurent du virus et nous avons signalé trois cas et les gens pensent que c'est pour gagner de l'argent, c'est totalement inacceptable », a-t-il déclaré.

Pour le député, ceux qui accusent le président George Manneh Weah d'avoir déclenché une fausse alarme au sujet de l'épidémie de virus corona sont « diaboliques » ; ce sont des gens qui ont perdu le sens du raisonnement à cause de la politique.

L'article 85 de la Constitution de 1986 du Libéria stipule : « Le président, en tant que commandant en chef des forces armées, peut ordonner à toute partie des forces armées de se préparer à combattre pour défendre la République, avant ou après la déclaration d'un l'état d'urgence, comme le justifie la situation. Toutefois, tout pouvoir ou autorité militaire doit être subordonné à tout moment à l'autorité civile et à la Constitution. »

Le législateur du comté de Bong a encouragé les Libériens à respecter les mesures sanitaires. « Nous encourageons nos gens à suivre le protocole de santé ; nous sommes attaqués en particulier par des forces étendues, des forces invisibles et cela nécessite l'effort collectif », a-t-il souligné.

GUINÉE: NOUVEAUX HEURTS À CONAKRY AU LENDEMAIN D'UN VOTE SOUS TENSION

La capitale guinéenne Conakry a été le théâtre d'affrontements sporadiques lundi au lendemain d'un référendum sur la Constitution marqué par les violences, a constaté un correspondant de l'AFP. Des heurts sporadiques ont mis aux prises des jeunes et les forces de sécurité tirant à balles réelles dans les quartiers de Wanindara, la Cimenterie ou encore Cosa. Les activités dans la ville, commerce, circulation, ont été fortement ralenties ou mises en suspens.

Conakry et plusieurs autres villes guinéennes ont connu dimanche un nouvel accès de fièvre à l'occasion d'un référendum organisé par le pouvoir pour une nouvelle Constitution. Au moins 11 civils ont été tués par les forces de l'ordre dans tout le pays, principalement dans la

capitale, a affirmé le collectif qui mène la contestation depuis des mois. Les autorités parlent de deux morts, dans "différentes violences et (des) affrontements entre militants", et deux autres "par accident et par arrêt cardiaque".

La Guinée, pays pauvre malgré d'importantes ressources naturelles, est en proie depuis mi-octobre à des violences, des manifestations massives ou des journées villes mortes contre le projet prêté au président Alpha Condé de briguer un troisième mandat fin 2020. Avant dimanche, le mouvement avait coûté la vie à 32 civils et un gendarme, selon un décompte de l'AFP.

L'opposition accuse le président de vouloir changer la Constitution pour pouvoir se succéder à lui-même. M.



Police Boss Patrick Toe Sudue

Français

Coronavirus : Des pasteurs menacés d'arrestation

poursuivi conformément à la loi sur la santé publique.

«Mais je peux vous dire que dimanche à venir, toute église, l'église qui ouvrira dimanche prochain, cette fois nous ne nous contenterons pas de demander au pasteur de cesser le culte et de fermer son église. Nous mettrons tout le monde dehors et fermerons l'église, quel que soit l'église », a prévenu Sudue.

D'après lui, la police a été beaucoup flexible dimanche dernier parce que l'ordre portant fermeture des lieux de culte, des écoles, des bars et tout autre lieu de rassemblement n'avait pas été largement diffusé à temps. "Donc, si le sénateur [Prince Yormie] Johnson a prié pendant moins d'une minute ... je ne vois pas de quoi parle cet argument. L'essentiel est que l'église du sénateur Johnson a été fermée », a-t-il expliqué.

Le samedi dernier, tard dans la soirée, le gouvernement a annoncé des mesures urgentes sanitaires pour freiner la propagation du COVID-19 ici.

Les églises et autres lieux de culte religieux où les gens s'étaient rassemblés avant l'entrée en vigueur de l'état d'urgence ont dû fermer sur ordre des agents de police. Selon le gouvernement, l'état d'urgence sanitaire nationale est conforme à l'article 33 de la loi sur la santé publique du Libéria.

Plusieurs mesures rigoureuses ont été prises, dont notamment la fermeture de toutes les écoles privées et publiques, des universités, des centres

de formation d'informatique et de tous les autres établissements de formation, des bars, des casinos, des vidéo-clubs, des cinémas et des plages privées et publiques.

Les églises, les mosquées et autres lieux de culte ont également été fermés dimanche matin. Les activités sportives, les rassemblements de plus de 10 personnes sont également interdits. Les mariages et les funérailles sont autorisés mais le nombre de personnes qui y prennent part ne doivent pas excéder 10.

C'est aussi le cas pour les supermarchés et les grands magasins qui ne doivent accepter que 10 personnes à la fois. Les personnes qui sont à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur doivent être loin les uns des autres de six pieds. Quant aux banques, elles sont ordonnées d'accepter 5 clients à la fois.

Les ventes dans les rues sont interdites. Des restrictions ont été imposées à la circulation des personnes à destination et en provenance des comtés de Montserrado et Margibi, qui sont jusqu'à présent les zones touchées.

Les dernières mesures ont été prises après que les autorités sanitaires ont annoncé qu'elles ont enregistré un troisième cas confirmé de coronavirus.

Le ministre de l'Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, a confirmé qu'une troisième personne a été testée positive au COVID-19 dans le pays. Le nouveau cas est Linda Ross, 63 ans, qui a été immédiatement transférée à l'hôpital militaire 14 pour y être traitée. Ses contacts sont activement recherchés.

Des professeurs chinois recommandent la vitamine

déclaré que "des tranches de citron contenu dans une tasse d'eau tiède peuvent vous sauver la vie".

Selon le professeur Horin, le citron chaud peut tuer les cellules cancéreuses. Il faut découper le citron en trois dans une tasse puis verser de l'eau chaude et boire chaque jour. Ce simple mélange est certainement bénéfique pour tout le monde, à en croire le professeur.

«Les citrons chauds peuvent à nouveau libérer le médicament anticancer. Le

jus de citron chaud est un remède des tumeurs cancéreuses et guérit tous les cancers. Le traitement avec cet extrait ne détruit que les mauvaises cellules et n'affecte pas les cellules saines », a déclaré le professeur Horin.

Le chef médical militaire a déclaré que l'acide carboxylique contenu dans le jus de citron peut réguler l'hypertension artérielle, protéger les artères étroites, réguler la circulation sanguine et réduire la coagulation sanguine.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Hunter Lovins, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber & Kate Raworth

Un redémarrage vert après la pandémie

NEW YORK - Le Covid-19 contraint des pays entiers au confinement, terrifie les citoyens de par le monde et provoque un effondrement des marchés financiers. La pandémie exige une réponse énergique et immédiate. Mais dans leur gestion de la crise, les gouvernements doivent aussi penser au long terme. Le pacte vert pour l'Europe annoncé par la Commission européenne constitue un plan d'orientation puissant, qui voit loin, et ouvre plusieurs voies par lesquelles venir en aide aux collectivités et aux entreprises les plus exposées à la crise actuelle.

Le Covid-19 s'inscrit dans une tendance plus large : d'autres crises planétaires sont à venir. Si nous parvenons tant bien que mal à nous sortir de chaque nouvelle crise tout en conservant le modèle économique qui nous y a conduits, les chocs futurs finiront par dépasser les capacités de réponse des gouvernements, des institutions financières et des dirigeants d'entreprise. De fait, c'est déjà ce qui se passe avec la crise du coronavirus.

En 1972, le Club de Rome lançait une semblable mise en garde avec la publication de son célèbre rapport, Halte à la croissance ? que suivait celle, en 1992, de Beyond the Limits, rédigé par l'auteur principale du premier rapport, Donella Meadows. Comme Meadows nous en prévenait déjà, l'avenir de l'humanité ne se définira pas autour d'une seule urgence, mais au travers de crises nombreuses, différentes quoique liées les unes aux autres, résultant de notre inaptitude à organiser notre subsistance et notre activité de façon durable. En utilisant les ressources de la planète plus rapidement qu'elles ne peuvent se reconstituer et en répandant déchets et polluants plus vite qu'ils ne peuvent être absorbés, nous préparons nous-mêmes, depuis longtemps, la catastrophe.

À l'échelle planétaire, toutes les espèces, tous les pays et toutes les questions géopolitiques sont en dernière instance interdépendantes. Une épidémie survenue en Chine, liée à l'apparition d'un nouveau coronavirus, peut avoir des effets dévastateurs dans le monde entier ; c'est de cela dont nous sommes aujourd'hui témoins. Pas plus que le Covid-19, le changement climatique, le déclin de la biodiversité ou les effondrements financiers ne respectent les frontières, qu'elles soient nationales, ou même physiques. Ces problèmes ne peuvent être surmontés que dans le cadre d'une action collective, menée longtemps avant que les crises ne se déclarent.

La pandémie liée au coronavirus est un avertissement, qui nous enjoint à cesser d'outrepasser les limites de la planète. Car la déforestation, le déclin de la biodiversité et le changement climatique ne rendent que plus probables, pris ensemble, les pandémies. La déforestation conduit les animaux sauvages à se rapprocher des populations humaines, augmentant la probabilité que des virus zoonotiques comme le SARS-CoV2 franchissent la barrière des espèces. De même, le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC) avertit que le réchauffement planétaire accélérera probablement l'émergence de nouveaux virus.

Les gouvernements qui parviennent à contenir les épidémies suivent tacitement le même précepte : « Se conformer aux avis de la science et se préparer pour l'avenir. » Mais nous pouvons faire beaucoup mieux. Plutôt que de nous contenter de réagir aux catastrophes, nous pouvons utiliser la science pour concevoir des économies qui atténueront les

menaces du changement climatique, du déclin de la biodiversité et des pandémies. Nous devons commencer à investir dans ce qui compte vraiment, en jetant les fondations d'une économie verte et circulaire, inspiré de solutions basées sur la nature et tournée vers le bien public.

La crise du Covid-19 nous montre qu'il est possible de changer de modèle du jour au lendemain. Nous sommes tout à coup entrés dans un monde différent, avec une économie différente. Les gouvernements se précipitent au chevet de leurs citoyens, pour garantir à court terme leur protection économique et médicale. Mais nous avons aussi de bonnes raisons de penser que cette crise peut préparer la voie à un changement systémique mondial.

Ainsi ne voyons-nous en revanche aucune bonne raison de ne pas cesser graduellement l'exploitation des carburants fossiles et de ne pas déployer les technologies des énergies renouvelables, dont la plupart sont désormais disponibles partout dans le monde et, dans de nombreux cas, déjà moins chères que les carburants fossiles. Avec la récente chute des prix du pétrole, les subventions qu'on s'obstine à allouer aux carburants fossiles peuvent et doivent être supprimées, comme le G7 et de nombreux pays d'Europe se sont engagés à le faire d'ici 2025.

Le passage de l'agriculture industrielle à l'agriculture régénérative est aussi immédiatement réalisable ; il permettrait de séquestrer le carbone dans les sols à un taux suffisant pour inverser le cours de la crise climatique. En outre, agir de la sorte, permettrait de réaliser des bénéfices, de renforcer la résilience économique et environnementale, de créer des emplois, et d'améliorer le bien-être tant des collectivités rurales qu'urbaines.

L'agriculture régénérative tient une place importante dans nombre de nouveaux modèles économiques que des édiles, dans des villes du monde entier, mettent à l'étude - tous étant fondés sur le principe qu'il nous faut vivre à l'intérieur de nos frontières planétaires. Comme l'affirme l'une d'entre nous, Kate Raworth, avec sa « théorie du donut », l'objectif devrait être la création d'un espace juste et sûr où nous pourrions satisfaire les besoins de l'humanité. En d'autres termes, nous devons œuvrer à l'intérieur des limites naturelles de la planète (la frontière extérieure du donut), tout en nous assurant que des populations marginalisées ne tombent pas en arrière (dans le trou du donut).

Pour les responsables politiques qui affrontent la crise actuelle, le but devrait être de soutenir les revenus et l'emploi des citoyens en investissant dans les énergies renouvelables plutôt que dans les carburants fossiles. Il est temps maintenant de réorienter les dépenses effectuées au titre des subventions aux carburants fossiles, qui représentent chaque année 5 200 milliards de dollars, vers la construction d'infrastructures vertes, la reforestation et l'investissement dans une économie plus sobre en carbone, plus régénérative, mieux partagée et plus circulaire.

Les humains sont résilients et entrepreneurs. Nous sommes parfaitement capables de recommencer. Si nous apprenons de nos échecs, nous pouvons construire un avenir meilleur, qui nous attend encore. Saisissons ce moment de crise comme une opportunité pour commencer à investir dans la résilience, la prospérité partagée, le bien-être et la santé de la planète. Nous avons depuis longtemps dépassé nos limites naturelles ; il est temps d'essayer quelque chose de nouveau.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MIA dismisses HR boss for payroll padding

The Minister of Internal Affairs Varney A. Sirleaf has dismissed with immediate effect Mr. Stephen Kayea, Director of Human Resource at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) for falsifying and padding the Ministry's payroll.

A release from the Ministry quotes Minister Sirleaf as saying, Mr. Kayea's action of payroll padding is highly inappropriate and counterproductive to Government's fight against corruption.

For the past months, the MIA

Orders of 2012, Chapter 4, Section 2, subsection 4.2.2d & h., which state that "When a case of misconduct or general inefficiency is brought to the attention of an Agency Head or the Director-General, disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated only after the employee or officer concerned has been given adequate opportunity to exculpate himself.

4.2.2 If an employee fails to exculpate himself, the following shall apply: (Suspension, Dismissal)

g. Conduct Unbecoming of employee in the Public Service and h. Dishonesty in the Conduct of Government business".

Meanwhile, Minister Sirleaf has requested Mr. Kayea to turn over all office materials, documents and equipment in his possession to Mr. Thomas L. Hoff, Director, Personnel Action Notices (PAN) Section/HR, who will serve as caretaker of the Section until a suitable candidate is named.

Minister Sirleaf has reemphasized the Ministry stance against dishonesty and misconduct and calls on all employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to be patriotic and nationalistic in the discharge of their duties. The release concluded.



Mr. Stephen Kayea

According to a dismissal letter dated March 24, 2020 issued Mr. Kayea, the dismissal stemmed from the fact that he has been adding names on the ministry's payroll without authorization.

has been investigating circumstances leading to what is responsible for a bloated payroll despite repeated efforts aimed at cleaning the payroll of ghost names.

The dismissal is also in line with the Civil Service Standing

LoneStar Cell MTN

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Madam Norwu G. Howard thanked the GSM Company for its kind gesture, saying the alarm had not even been raised and the donation has been made.

She notes that the MOH and NPHIL can't do it all, adding that they welcome the help from the private sector as this is the time that each and every one should leverage their corporate social responsibility in giving back to the nation.

Representing NPHIL, Ms Jane Macauley lauded the Lonestar Cell MTN family for taking the bore step in complimenting the government's efforts in the

prevention of the virus.

She said three confirm cases are in Liberia, and those cases have generated more than 380 contacts, which means that contact tracing is cardinal in this fight.

Speaking on behalf of the private sector, Dr. Nicole Cooper, Clinical Director at the Germany Medical Solutions said from the outset of COVID-19, it is important for the private sector to get involved.

Dr. Cooper asserts that as a partner to MOH and NPHIL, it is always important to get involved in this fight.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Disbanded soldier

Cont'd from page 7

Code does not call for a soldier to be discharged on such offence.

"You know for me what I will say is that the officials of the army did not do well because they are not following the ethics that's why they treated the two soldiers in such manner," he adds.

He believes that the discharged officers should have faced punishment instead of bringing them to public disgrace.

He terms as a mistake, the disbandment of trained soldiers by the past administration, saying "If we talk about force for good, I think we (past soldiers) had force for good at that time, but

not today where anybody can come from anywhere and wear our country's military uniforms."

However, our correspondent observes that the action of the AFL to have discharged the two army officers brought happiness to many people in the Bong County, especially radio talk show participants as many could be heard extending commendations to the AFL.

The action of the dismissed officers has drawn the concerns of victim's family and other human rights activists.

The matter is currently in court at the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Weah disallows Tokpa's Bill

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Liberia's President George Manneh Weah has, in keeping with Article 35 of the Liberian Constitution, disallowed Bong County Senator Dr. Henrique Flomo Tokpa's bill which sought to establish the Tumutu Agriculture College, barely one month after its passage by the Senate.

The Liberian Senate recently enrolled, for possible signature of the President, Bill No. 1, titled "An Act to Repeal an Act to create the Tumutu Vocational Training Institute and to establish in lieu thereof the Tumutu Agriculture College" and to grant the institute a charter status.

But President Weah indicates that the creation of a new institution should consider the availability of corresponding financial resources to fund personnel, logistic and other operational costs.

He cited the unfavorable financial situation facing government which he said didn't warrant upgrading to

college, a vocational training center already under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with support from partners.

Dr. Tokpa had strong hope that the Bill would have been signed into law by President Weah, an optimism that led him to have publicized the Bill almost everywhere he went.

But President Weah says the vocational training center has

already been captured under the budgetary plans and allocations, and that a shift in decision or its withdrawal from the Ministry of Youth and Sports as suggested by the bill is not healthy for the sustenance of the institute.

Currently, the Ministry of Youth and Sports supervises the Tumutu Vocational Training Center.

Under the Ministry's



George Manneh Weah

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supervision, the European Union (EU) is providing US\$6m in support to the Ministries of Youth and Sports and Education and the Center also benefits from a US\$10m French aid, according to the Executive Mansion.

Some people in upper Bong County have welcomed the move of the president.

Moses Gorlotor said establishing an Agriculture College in lower Bong will amplify government's expenditure, maintaining that there is already a college here in Bong (Bong County Technical College) so whatever support that needs to come to the county for public college should be directed to BCTC instead of establishing another one.

"For me I think I said this same thing during the very first time Dr. Tokpa spoke about this agriculture college, sometimes it is good that we read between the lines before taking

decision. But each time our leaders want to do something and people start to speak against their opinions, they will say that you are politicizing development," Moses asserts.

According to him, if Dr. Tokpa had listened, he wouldn't have wasted his time to craft a bill that has been trashed by the president.

Our Bong County correspondent says the structure of the Bong County Technical College is yet to be completed.

The office of Dr. Tokpa has not responded to the latest development.

Meanwhile, President Weah has directed the Ministers of Education and Youth and Sports to coordinate with Bong County's Legislative Caucus regarding Tumutu Training Center's future transformation as a major technical and vocational training center.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Cummings' life is at risk

The opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) has expressed fears here that their political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings life is at risk at his present quarantine center where he is being monitored for 14 days upon his return from the Bahamas over the weekend for a possible Corona Virus symptom.

Government has made a mandatory for anyone arriving in the country to undergo a 14 day quarantine. Though here have been some violations by government officials.

In a message to this paper Tuesday, Mr. Cummings' Chief of Staff Mariah, said the Government through the Liberian National Police Deputy Director Marvin Sackor has continued to harass her boss even at the quarantine center.

Mr. Cummings was compelled to be quarantined at the government held center, after an initial green light from officials of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) that he could self-quarantine at home upon his arrival here.

Mr. Cummings aide said despite her boss' security details following all of the protocols prescribed by NPHIL, staff and being in full compliance with no risks to their families, as they

monitor the activities around the quarantine center, the Police Deputy Director insisted that they (security) get off the premises on Monday night, to which they refused.

According to her, the securities had argued that they could not leave their boss alone at the center.

Their refusal to leave the quarantine area prompted the Deputy Police Chief to have them quarantine as well.

"Today, the harassment continued and they have quarantined 2 of his securities in the same center. His life is at risk as it is now completely in the hands of a reckless and irresponsible government which sees him as their main

rival. They can do anything to eliminate a formidable competitor and we cannot let that happen," she alarmed.

When contacted Police spokesperson Moses Carter confirmed that Mr. Cummings security was ordered quarantined by the Deputy Police Director Sackor, after he entered the place where Mr. Cummings is being quarantined.

He said the fact that the security entered the quarantine center, left the deputy police director with no option but to order him quarantine.

Mr. Carter said if Mr. Cummings does not trust the police he should make that

known rather than having bodyguards at the center with him.

Mr. Cummings returned home on March 22, after traveling to the Bahamas to attend the Board Meeting of a Fortune 500 Company on whose board he serves as a member.

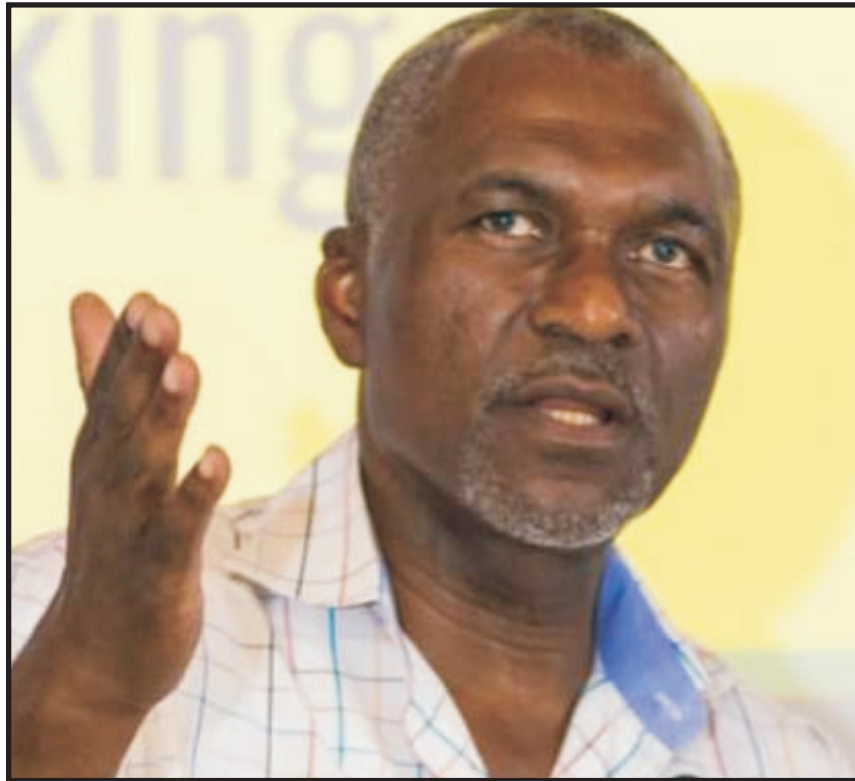
He returned to Monrovia after a week in Ghana. Party officials said Mr. Cummings was keenly aware of the conditions of the health infrastructure, and yet, very proud and confident of the experiences of the men and women on the front-line of the fight against the deadly Coronavirus Disease.

The party said prior to his return home, he engaged

with authorities at the National Public Health Institute (NPHIL), and availed himself to be quarantined.

The party explained that authorities of NPHIL had inspected Mr. Cummings' premises, and had advised self-quarantine and regular monitoring visits, as his presenting condition necessitated.

"However, being in relatively good health and continuing to strictly observe the announced safety and preventive measures, Mr. Cummings welcomed the unexplained and abrupt change in the decision to now have him quarantined in a public facility," the party said in a release.



Chinese professors recommend vitamin C

-to fight coronavirus

Two professors of Medical Sciences in China have urged Liberians and people around the world to resist the corona virus by consuming natural vitamin C in addition to current preventive measures.

They urged people panicking over the pandemic to be calmed and regain self-control because it can be contained by use of natural vitamin C to strengthen the

save lives.

According to Ahmadi, the disease appears to be caused by gene fusion in snakes and bats and has acquired the ability to infect mammals, including human beings.

Moreover, Professor Chen Horin, chief Executive Officer of the Beijing Military Hospital also said, "slices of lemon in a cup of lukewarm water can save your life".



immune system.

The Liberia WASH media Network, quoting a recent dispatch from Zanzan University in China, advised the human race to use as much as possible natural vitamin C to strengthen their immune system.

A faculty of Medical Sciences at the Zanzan University, Laila Ahmadi urged people to stop too much worrying over corona virus because natural vitamin C will get rid of the virus, and to desist from touching one another.

The WASHmedia quotes Ahmadi as saying the virus has no vaccine and no specific treatment for now, but use of natural vitamin C would help

According to Prof. Horin, hot lemon can kill cancer cells, the lemon cut into three pieces and put in a cup, then pour hot water and turn it into (alkaline water) drinking every day will certainly benefit everyone.

"Hot lemons can release the anti-cancer drug again. Hot lemon juice appeared on cancerous tumors and cured all cancer. Treatment with this extract only destroys malignant cells and does not affect healthy cells", averred Prof. Horin.

The Military Medical Chief said carboxylic acid contained in lemon juice can regulate high blood pressure, protect narrow arteries, regulate blood circulation and reduce blood clotting.

Strange vessel scares West Point

There was heavy deployment of Joint Security forces, including police, immigration, and DEA officers in the densely populated slum township of West Point after news broke here late Tuesday of the appearance of a strange vessel near the township.

Local correspondent said troops of the Armed Forces of

Liberia, including the Liberia National Coast Guard were called in to intercept the vessel and ascertain its mission.

But a Joy FM reporter on the ground said health authorities subsequently went into township and took two of the five occupants onboard the vessel into quarantine for the coronavirus.

The two unidentified suspects were picked up after

they reportedly entered the township to arrange for lodging.

West Point Township was reportedly tense with residents on edge as this paper went to press.

The vessel is believed to have headed from Ghana to Liberia, but its appearance in the congested township rather than docking at the Freeport of Monrovia raises suspicions.

Meanwhile, Township Commissioner, William Wea calls on residents not to panic, as their security and wellbeing is guaranteed.

This is not the first time that strange vessel has appeared in Liberian waters.

During the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, strange vessels surfaced in Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa Counties, respectively, leaving citizens panicking.

However, government security forces subsequently brought the situation under control after occupants reportedly abandoned them and fled.



How Judee Andy & Koijee defied Public Health Law -gather huge crowd in front of City Hall



A partial scene of the crowd on Monday

By Lewis S. Teh
At the time churches and other areas of public gathering have been ordered closed, there was a scene of a complete defiance on Monday March 24 when authorities from both the Liberia Crusader for Peace and Monrovia City Corporation defied the Public Health Law (public gathering) and assembled hundreds a huge

crowd under the guise of training to provide awareness on COVID-19. The program was the flagship of a collaboration between the Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP), and the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) to deploy over 600 trained community mobilizers in ten electoral districts in Montserrado County to educate the citizen on the danger of the Coronavirus disease.

But the program itself defied the Ministry of Health's declared national emergency which had in place stringent measures gear towards social distancing. Making remarks at the huge gathering, in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia, Liberia Cultural Ambassador Julie Endee said the deployment of the community mobilizers comes at a time the spread of the Coronavirus disease poses serious threat to the country. Madam Endee notes that the virus has spread to every part of the world, saying Mayor Koijee thought it wise to call on the Ministry of Health (MOH) and National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) to conduct training for the communicators and mobilizers in support of President George MannehWeah's call to terminate the virus.

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Samukai, others to retribute over US\$1M

-after being found guilty of multiple crimes
By Winston W. Parley
One of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's longest - serving cabinet members, former Defense Minister J. Brownie Samukai, Mr. Joseph P. Johnson and Mr. James NyumahDorkor are found guilty of multiple criminal charges and ordered to retribute US\$1,147,656.35 in relations to funds withdraw from soldiers' private pension saving account. "The defendants are hereby ordered to retribute the amount of USD 687,656.35 to the AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] pension Saving account and USD 460,000.00 to the government of Liberia account, making a sum total of USD1, 147,656.35," Criminal Court "C" Judge YamieQuiquiGbeisay ruled Tuesday, 24 March. The former officials were indicted last year for alleged



theft of property, criminal conspiracy, economic sabotage, misuse of public money & money-laundering in the wake of prosecutors' claim that the accused embezzled funds generated through a compulsory savings scheme established in July 2009 in which soldiers' salaries were deducted and placed in an account as supplementary pension benefits for assistance to wounded soldiers and deceased soldiers' families.

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