



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

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

The New Dawn French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Advertize Here For Low Rate

VOL.10 NO. 70

TUESDAY, MAY 05, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

Sealed and delivered

-Weah receives the Madagascar herb



MTN Business

Give your business what it needs to succeed. Do good business with MTN Business!

Visit any **Lonestar Cell Service Center** to register or call **5656**

Ts & Cs apply

- Internet solutions
- Call center management
- Data storage and management
- Web hosting





Continental News

Malaria 'completely stopped' by microbe

Scientists have discovered a microbe that completely protects mosquitoes from being infected with malaria.

The team in Kenya and the UK say the finding has "enormous potential" to control the disease.

Malaria is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes, so protecting them could in turn protect people. The researchers are now investigating whether they can release infected mosquitoes into the wild, or use spores to suppress the disease. The malaria-blocking bug, *Microsporidia* MB, was discovered by studying mosquitoes on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya. It lives in the gut and genitals of the insects.

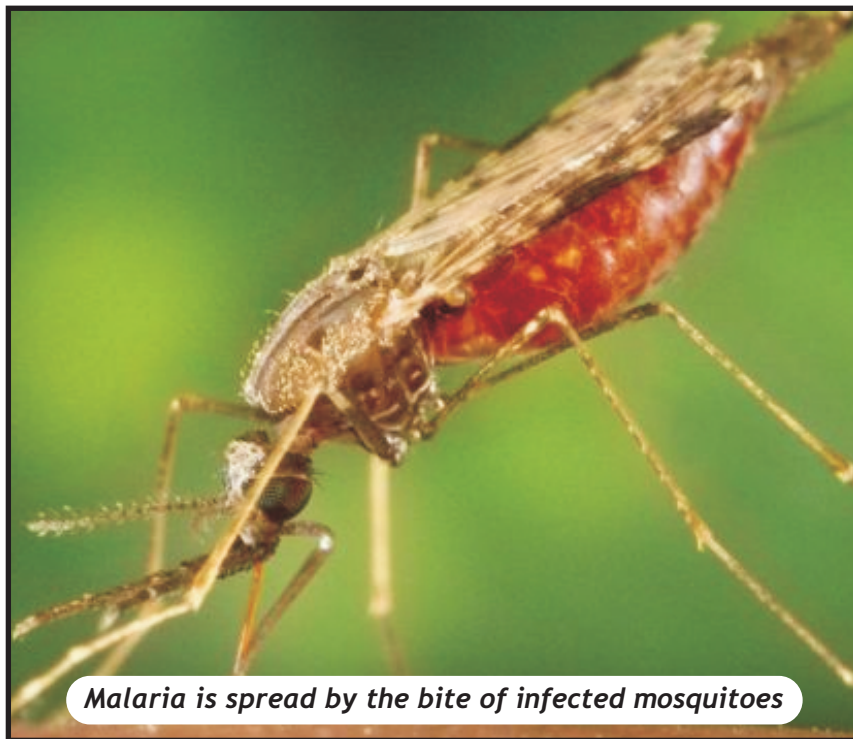
The researchers could not find a single mosquito carrying the *Microsporidia* that was harbouring the malaria parasite. And lab experiments, published in *Nature Communications*, confirmed the microbe gave the mosquitoes protection.

Microsporidias are fungi, or at least closely related to them, and most are parasites.

However, this new species may be beneficial to the mosquito and was naturally found in around 5% of the insects studied. "The data we have so far suggest it is 100% blockage, it's a very severe blockage of malaria," Dr Jeremy Herren, from the

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) in Kenya told the BBC.

He added: "It will come as a quite a surprise. I think people will find that a real big breakthrough." More than 400,000 people are killed by malaria each year, most of them children under the age of five. While huge progress has been made through the



Malaria is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes

use of bed nets and spraying homes with insecticide, this has stalled in recent years. It is widely agreed new tools are needed to tackle malaria. The fine details still need to be worked out.

But *Microsporidia* MB could be priming the mosquito's immune system, so it is more able to fight off infections.

Or the presence of the microbe in the insect could be having a profound effect on the mosquito's metabolism, making it inhospitable for the malaria parasite.

Microsporidia MB infections appear to be life-long. If anything, the experiments show they become more intense, so the malaria-blocking effect would be long-lasting. At the very least, 40% of mosquitoes in a region need to be infected with *Microsporidia* in order to make a significant dent in malaria.

The microbe can be passed between adult mosquitoes

and is also passed from the female to her offspring.

So, the researchers are investigating two main strategies for increasing the number of infected mosquitoes.

Microsporidia form spores which could be released en masse to infect mosquitoes

Male mosquitoes (which don't bite) could be infected in the lab and released into the wild to infect the females when they have sex

"It's a new discovery. We are very excited by its potential for malaria control. It has enormous potential," Prof Steven Sinkins, from the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, told the BBC.

This concept of disease control using microbes is not unprecedented. A type of bacteria called *Wolbachia* has been shown to make it harder for mosquitoes to spread dengue fever in real-world trials. BBC

Tanzanian corona virus laboratory boss suspended

The Director of Tanzania's National Health Laboratory and its quality manager have both been suspended pending investigation.

The suspension of the top officials comes a day after President John Magufuli questioned the credibility of coronavirus testing kits being used by the lab.

In a live broadcast from his hometown of Chato in north-western Tanzania yesterday, Mr Magufuli revealed that he

secretly commissioned testing of randomly collected non-human samples, which were assigned names and ages.

He said some samples taken from animals and fruits returned inconclusive results, some testing negative and others showing positive results.

"Vehicle oil for instance, labelled Jabir Hamza aged 30-years-old [male], tested negative. We sent a jackfruit sample which we named Sara Samweli, a 45-year-old female - the results were inconclusive.

When we sent a papaya [paw-paw] sample and named it Elizabeth Anne, aged 26 years, that papaya was positive," said Mr Magufuli.

He added that samples from a bird and a goat both tested positive, while one from a rabbit was found to be indeterminate.

A statement from the health ministry said the minister has formed a committee of 10 people to investigate the conduct of the laboratory and submit the results by 13 May.

Testing for coronavirus will still be conducted at the laboratory. Tanzania's approach to fighting coronavirus has been criticised as being not strict enough and dominated by secrecy.

The government has refuted the allegations saying it carefully follows the guidelines issued by the World Health Organization.

According to the most recent health ministry figures, which were published last week, the country has 480 confirmed cases of coronavirus, including 167 recoveries and 16 deaths. BBC

Tanzania to import coronavirus 'herbal cure'

The president of Tanzania, John Magufuli, is sending a plane to Madagascar to fetch a herbal tonic touted as a cure for Covid-19 even as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned there was no proof of any cure.

Congo-Brazzaville's president has also promised to import the drink.

It is produced from the artemisia plant - the source of an ingredient used in a malaria treatment. The WHO also advised people against self-medicating. The drink was launched as Covid-Organics and was being marketed after being tested on fewer than 20 people over a period of three weeks, the Tanzanian president's chief of staff Lova Hasinirina Ranoromaro told the BBC. In response to the launch of Covid-Organics, the WHO said in a statement sent to the BBC that the global organisation did not recommend "self-medication... as a prevention or cure for Covid-19". It reiterated earlier comments by WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that there were "no short-cuts" to finding effective medication to fight coronavirus. International trials were under way to find an effective treatment, the WHO

added. In March, the US-based National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health warned against purported coronavirus remedies, including herbal therapies and teas - saying the best way to prevent infection was to avoid exposure to the virus. The drink has been picked up in other African countries.

On Saturday Madagascar delivered a shipment to Guinea-Bissau.

The Malagasy president also tweeted that the special envoy to Equatorial Guinea picked up a shipment of the drink. Speaking on TV, President Magufuli said he was already in contact with the government of Madagascar and would despatch an aircraft to the island nation to collect the medicine.

"I am communicating with Madagascar, and they have already written a letter saying they have discovered some medicine. We will despatch a flight to bring the medicine so that Tanzanians can also benefit. So as the government we are working day and night," he said.

Mr Magufuli has already been widely criticised for his reaction to the coronavirus pandemic. BBC



A street performer called Tanzania Joker has been raising awareness among his compatriots

EDITORIAL

It's time to become more vigilant

SOME UNSCRUPULOUS BUSINESS people including foreigners are using this global health crisis to flood the Liberian market with substandard and unsafe commodities, mainly drugs and other products, endangering the lives of our already disadvantaged population.

NEWS THAT THE Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) seized a huge quantity of substandard pharmaceutical products smuggled in to the country recently has drawn our attention.

A RELEASE ISSUED by the LRA last week Thursday detailed the substandard pharmaceutical products, including Vitamin C, Vitamin B-2, Cold Caps and Amoxicillin, among others, were concealed in 18 boxes onboard three Guinean commercial buses with a total cost of US\$10,000.

THEY WERE ILLEGALLY imported into Liberia through the Liberian-Sierra Leonean border post at Bo Waterside in Grand Cape Mount County by four individuals who are not licensed to import medicines, the LRA said.

THE RELEASE SAID the substandard medicines have been turned over to the Liberia Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Authority (LMHRA) for inter-agency coordination and action.

BESIDES, OFFICERS OF the LRA Anti-Smuggling & Investigation Unit (ASIU) recently intercepted a 20-foot Container with Hazardous Chemical (Sulphuric Acid) imported from the Netherlands without permit, which breached Liberia General Business Law and the Environmental Protection and Management Law of the country.

WE WONDER HOW many other contrabands have succeeded in slipping thru our borders and entering our market, exposing both Liberians and the public generally to health hazard and eventual complications.

IT IS ABOUT time authorities at the Liberia Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Authority (LMHRA) become more vigilant, particularly during this COVID-19 crisis when our people are desperate in seeking medications for various types of sicknesses.

WE SHOULD NOT sit supinely and allow unscrupulous individuals purporting as honest business people to flood our markets with products that would send them to their early graves.

EVEN PRIOR TO the COVID-19 pandemic, we all are aware of companies out there that manufacture substandard medicines and bring them to countries with weak scrutiny for sale, endangering lives. What's more of a crisis period when everything seems to be upside down?

COMMENTARY

By Federico Finchelstein
& Jason Stanley

The Fascist Politics of the Pandemic

• There is nothing like a pandemic to bring out the fascist ideology in countries under far-right rule. In the world's three largest democracies, national leaders are using the COVID-19 crisis to wage war on immigrants and minorities, while testing the limits of common sense.

NEW YORK/NEW HAVEN - In stark contrast to the effective leadership shown by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and Singapore's autocratic technocracy, the world's far-right nationalists have met the COVID-19 crisis with something not seen in decades: the fascist politics of disease. And no one typifies this brand of politics better than Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro.

True, a few other world leaders - including Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the dictators of Belarus, Turkmenistan, and North Korea - still deny that the coronavirus poses any threat. But, among coronavirus deniers, Bolsonaro is in a league of his own.

Among other things, Bolsonaro recently fired Brazil's minister of health, Luiz Mandetta, merely for advocating mild social-distancing measures. Bolsonaro seems to be emulating his US counterpart, Donald Trump, who recently ousted a senior health official for resisting his efforts to champion an unproven treatment for COVID-19.

Throughout the crisis, Trump has been out of his depth, oscillating incoherently between denial and calls for decisive action, and most recently speculating that the coronavirus could be treated by injecting household disinfectants. And yet he and Bolsonaro channel the same political impulse to place themselves above science and expertise, exalting their own gut instincts and justifying their decisions with faith and myth. Though their "strategies" are superficially distinct, both share a fascist historical background, which centers around the cult of a leader and the myth of national greatness - a greatness that has supposedly been compromised by internationalism and liberalism (which fascists equate with communism).

Around the world, far-right leaders' responses to the pandemic feature key elements of fascist ideology. After members of Spain's right-wing nationalist Vox party were infected at their own political rallies, they suggested that their antibodies represented the nation's fight against a foreign invader. As one Vox leader, Javier Ortega Smith, put it, "my Spanish antibodies fight against the damned Chinese viruses."

Similarly, Bolsonaro, in his first major speech on COVID-19 (on March 24), claimed that Brazil was not particularly vulnerable to the virus. Unlike feeble Italy, with its "large number of elderly people," contemporary Brazil, he argued, "has everything, yes, everything to be a great Nation." Bolsonaro then touted his own "athlete's history," thus indulging another standard fascist motif: the leader as the embodiment of the nation's health and vigor. According to "Bolsonarismo," Bolsonaro simply is Brazil.

There is good reason why some in the media have dubbed Bolsonaro, elected in late 2018, "the Trump of the tropics." Bolsonaro's affinity for Trump has never been clearer than in his reaction to the pandemic. When Trump called in late March to reopen America by Easter, Bolsonaro quickly imitated him.

But, unlike Trump, Bolsonaro actually follows through. While Trump has often hinted at a desire for absolute power, he invariably retreats. By contrast, Bolsonaro joins public protests in

support of intervention by Brazil's military to disband Congress and the courts. He is essentially Trump's id, acting out what Trump can only fantasize about. And, given that fascism is, at root, a fantasy of total domination by a leader, Bolsonaro has now surpassed his teacher in approaching it.

Moreover, in fascist politics, reality is merely an instrument through which to propagate ideology and assert domination. As Hitler put it in *Mein Kampf*, "[t]he national State will look upon Science as a means for increasing national pride."

Beyond Brazil and the United States, one other great democracy - the world's largest - has come under far-right rule: India. There, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, have used the pandemic to advance an ongoing campaign of demonization directed at India's Muslim population.

To that end, the Modi government has been publicly attributing the spread of the coronavirus to an annual meeting of the Muslim missionary group Tablighi Jamaat, while ignoring similar meetings held by Hindu groups. It is not surprising, the journalist Rana Ayyub observes, that "the hashtags #CoronaJihad and #BioJihad have inundated Twitter" in recent weeks.

The Modi government's message is based on a repugnant lie, but it has far-reaching consequences for India's Muslims. Well before COVID-19 arrived, Muslims were being targeted by a campaign of state discrimination. In addition to an official government effort to strip millions of Muslims of their citizenship, there has been an upsurge in extrajudicial violence against Muslims, including a pogrom that coincided with Trump's lavish official visit to India earlier this year.

In fascist politics, members of the hated outgroup are almost always depicted as bearers of disease. That is how the Nazis described the Jews, and it is how far-right governments today justify policies targeting immigrants and minorities. In Italy, home to the first fascist regime, Matteo Salvini of the right-wing League party argued in February that "[a]llowing migrants to arrive from Africa, where the presence of the virus has been confirmed, is irresponsible." At the time, there were already 229 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Italy, and just one in all of Africa.

Not surprisingly, the Trump administration, too, has used the COVID-19 crisis to strengthen its anti-immigrant stance. Going beyond its obsessive attacks on undocumented immigrants, the administration has also now imposed a sweeping moratorium on legal immigration.

Political leaders will always be tempted to blame problems on familiar ideological enemies, because doing so provides narrative coherence. But as Hannah Arendt reminded us, "[t]he chief disability of totalitarian propaganda is that it cannot fulfill this longing of the masses for a completely consistent, comprehensible, and predictable world without seriously conflicting with common sense."

Now that the US has surpassed 60,000 confirmed (and almost certainly far more total) COVID-19 deaths, reality is asserting itself against propaganda. But, as we know from the history of fascism, there is no guarantee that common sense will prevail.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

O-PED

By Dominique Moisi

The Déjà-Vu Virus?

A century ago, in the immediate aftermath of World War I and the devastating Spanish flu pandemic, political leaders proved incapable of finding the right answers to the huge challenges they faced. In tackling the COVID-19 crisis, today's governments must not repeat those catastrophic errors.

PARIS - The COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating three fundamental geopolitical trends: the rise of Asia, the decline of the United States, and the strengthening of Germany within Europe. Combined, these shifts may well prefigure the world of 2030. But, before then, political leaders must overcome the current crisis - and not repeat the catastrophic errors of a century ago.

Today, the future and the past seem to be colliding. Now that COVID-19 has brutally thrust much of the world into the digital economy, many people will not wish to return to the pre-pandemic world as if what we are now experiencing had been a mere blip.

The virus does not signify the end of globalization, but it probably is a bad omen for a certain variety of it. For example, will leaders still want to attend the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos and mingle in a dense crowd of peers, rather than networking in ways that respect social-distancing norms in the face of a deadly virus?

But above all, the pandemic is confirming the ascent of Asia - not just China - and the decline of the West, and the US in particular.

By far the world's strongest military power, America was singularly disarmed when confronted with the novel coronavirus. The country's health-care system could not cope with the scale of the pandemic (although the US is hardly alone in that regard), while the long lines of people patiently waiting to receive food handouts evoked images of the Great Depression prior to the New Deal. And America's political leaders, caricatures of brutality and opportunism, simply made things worse, further tarnishing the country's international image in the process.

True, America may recover part of its dignity and humanity by tossing President Donald Trump aside in November's presidential election. But that will require Democrats to unite behind their presumptive nominee, Joe Biden, as former president Barack Obama emphasized when recently endorsing him.

Biden has a real chance of winning. US voters may well punish Republicans for their blundering response to the pandemic and the consequent economic devastation, just as South Korean voters recently rewarded President Moon Jae-in's ruling party with an absolute parliamentary majority, following his administration's so-far successful efforts to contain the coronavirus. But even if Trump is defeated, America will not recover the central global position it previously occupied for three-quarters of a century.

America's decline, however, does not mean that China will carry the global torch. COVID-19 has just as ruthlessly exposed China's flaws, including its government's lack of transparency. The outbreak there fueled a dramatic economic collapse in the first quarter of 2020, and the country remains vulnerable to a second wave of the pandemic. All this suggests that the world may be becoming non-polar, rather than bipolar.

Moreover, neither Russia nor the European Union can pretend to fill the gap at the top. Like Iran and Turkey, Russia may well emerge weaker from the crisis. In fact, President Vladimir Putin may have far more to fear from COVID-19 than he does from Russia's enfeebled opposition parties.

What about Europe? After a very uncertain initial response to the pandemic - to put it mildly - the EU seems to be regaining some clout thanks to a trio of women leaders: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde. But this crisis has mainly demonstrated Germany's strength rather than Europe's resilience.

Despite being Europe's most populous country, Germany has registered at least four times fewer deaths than its main EU peers, while Merkel, who until recently was widely seen as a lame-duck leader, enjoys higher trust ratings than any other European leader. She has proven that a politician can follow their ethical instincts - as she did in opening Germany's borders to migrants in 2015 - and still be seen five years later as the best protection against fear and uncertainty.

If history is indeed accelerating as a result of COVID-19, we still have to look to the past to draw the right lessons. And the pivotal year in that regard is 1920.

A century ago, in the immediate aftermath of World War I and the devastating Spanish flu pandemic, political leaders proved incapable of finding the right answers to the huge challenges they faced. As a result, the world fell first into the Great Depression and then into World War II.

Today's leaders are confronted by different but equally daunting challenges. In particular, they have to strike a delicate balance not only between protecting their citizens' lives and restarting the economy, but also between liberty and security.

If governments go too far in prioritizing the economy over public health, they run the risk of a second COVID-19 wave that would have devastating consequences for both. Likewise, if they champion liberty above all else, and ignore the contribution of tracking technologies to taming the pandemic in Asia, they risk that one day, less prudent and moderate political forces may apply libertarian principles brutally and with total disregard for public welfare.

In the 1920s and 1930s, pacifism born out of a terrible war contributed to the victory of fascism and an even more horrific global conflict. Today, we must not allow economic greed or libertarianism to take us down an equally disastrous path.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

OPINION

By Diane Coyle

COVID-19 and the End of Individualism

The pandemic has shown that it is not existential dangers, but rather everyday economic activities, that reveal the collective, connected character of modern life. Just as a spider's web crumples when a few strands are broken, so the coronavirus has highlighted the risks arising from our economic interdependence.

CAMBRIDGE - Aristotle was right. Humans have never been atomized individuals, but rather social beings whose every decision affects other people. And now the COVID-19 pandemic is driving home this fundamental point: each of us is morally responsible for the infection risks we pose to others through our own behavior.

In fact, this pandemic is just one of many collective-action problems facing humankind, including climate change, catastrophic biodiversity loss, antimicrobial resistance, nuclear tensions fueled by escalating geopolitical uncertainty, and even potential threats such as a collision with an asteroid.

As the pandemic has demonstrated, however, it is not these existential dangers, but rather everyday economic activities, that reveal the collective, connected character of modern life beneath the individualist façade of rights and contracts.

Those of us in white-collar jobs who are able to work from home and swap sourdough tips are more dependent than we perhaps realized on previously invisible essential workers, such as hospital cleaners and medics, supermarket staff, parcel couriers, and telecoms technicians who maintain our connectivity.

Similarly, manufacturers of new essentials such as face masks and chemical reagents depend on imports from the other side of the world. And many people who are ill, self-isolating, or suddenly unemployed depend on the kindness of neighbors, friends, and strangers to get by.

The sudden stop to economic activity underscores a truth about the modern, interconnected economy: what affects some parts substantially affects the whole. This web of linkages is therefore a vulnerability when disrupted. But it is also a strength, because it shows once again how the division of labor makes everyone better off, exactly as Adam Smith pointed out over two centuries ago.

Today's transformative digital technologies are dramatically increasing such social spillovers, and not only because they underpin sophisticated logistics networks and just-in-time supply chains. The very nature of the digital economy means that each of our individual choices will affect many other people.

Consider the question of data, which has become even more salient today because of the policy debate about whether digital contact-tracing apps can help the economy to emerge from lockdown faster.

This approach will be effective only if a high enough proportion of the population uses the same app and shares the data it gathers. And, as the Ada Lovelace Institute points out in a thoughtful report, that will depend on whether people regard the app as trustworthy and are sure that using it will help them. No app will be effective if people are unwilling to provide "their" data to governments rolling out the system. If I decide to withhold information about my movements and contacts, this would adversely affect everyone.

Yet, while much information certainly should remain private, data about individuals is only rarely "personal," in the sense that it is only about them. Indeed, very little data with useful information content concerns a single individual; it is the context - whether population data, location, or the activities of others - that gives it value.

Most commentators recognize that privacy and trust must be balanced with the need to fill the huge gaps in our knowledge about COVID-19. But the balance is tipping toward the latter. In the current circumstances, the collective goal outweighs individual preferences.

But the current emergency is only an acute symptom of increasing interdependence. Underlying it is the steady shift from an economy in which the classical assumptions of diminishing or constant returns to scale hold true to one in which there are increasing returns to scale almost everywhere.

In the conventional framework, adding a unit of input (capital and labor) produces a smaller or (at best) the same increment to output. For an economy based on agriculture and manufacturing, this was a reasonable assumption.

But much of today's economy is characterized by increasing returns, with bigger firms doing ever better. The network effects that drive the growth of digital platforms are one example of this. And because most sectors of the economy have high upfront costs, bigger producers face lower unit costs.

One important source of increasing returns is the extensive experience-based know-how needed in high-value activities such as software design, architecture, and advanced manufacturing. Such returns not only favor incumbents, but also mean that choices by individual producers and consumers have spillover effects on others.

The pervasiveness of increasing returns to scale, and spillovers more generally, has been surprisingly slow to influence policy choices, even though economists have been focusing on the phenomenon for many years now. The COVID-19 pandemic may make it harder to ignore.

Just as a spider's web crumples when a few strands are broken, so the pandemic has highlighted the risks arising from our economic interdependence. And now California and Georgia, Germany and Italy, and China and the United States need each other to recover and rebuild. No one should waste time yearning for an unsustainable fantasy.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Stop strangulating Liberian Businesses

By Alston C. Armah

On Tuesday this week, a harrowing video emerged, showing a scuffle between a man and three security personnel assigned at the Capitol, seat of the Liberian Legislature. The video which has since gone viral shows a man named Gus Winn, being manhandled by security personnel said to be a part of the security detail of House Speaker Bhofal Chambers. What was Mr. Winn's crime? He had gone to the Capitol to demand payment of money the House of Representatives allegedly owes him, and in the process of asserting his claim for payment he allegedly became unruly to the extent of banging against each other the pot lids he had carried with him. The banging of pot lids appears to have emerged recently as part of a subculture demonstrating disgust, anger, and sometimes excitement or happiness.

The man in the video can be heard explaining that he was contracted to paint the Capitol, and, since the completion of the painting contract in last January, the House of Representatives is yet to pay his money, something which he claims is not only against the terms of the contract but also exposes him to potential lawsuits as he, in relying on the honour of the House of Representatives, had taken loans and hired labourers to execute the painting contract. He further explains that he had made several visits to the Capitol, spoken with Speaker Chambers and other lawmakers, yet his money, an amount in the neighbourhood of US\$26,000 remains unpaid. The man also explains that on one occasion, Representative Marvin Cole, the Chairman of the House Committee on Rules, Order & Administration, had threatened to jail him whenever he went to ask for his money and did not



Education, I encountered several contractors and vendors seeking to claim their just payments for goods and services ranging from newspaper publications, catering & accommodation to travels and construction works. Time without number, businesses would be told “wait until the new budget passes” or “wait until the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) makes allotments.” Even when vouchers were prepared for payment, checks would most likely not

This article makes one appeal to the House of Representatives and the Liberian Government in general: **STOP STRANGULATING LIBERIAN BUSINESSES.**

We continue to hear our government officials make the trite and timeless statement *'that the private sector is the engine that drives economic growth.'* Truth be told, the government is the spark that ignites and powers the private sector to drive economic growth. Government can power the private sector by paying its bills as and when due, promoting a good investment climate, and, most importantly, treating Liberian-owned businesses with a margin of preference.

When government settles its indebtedness to businesses such as newspaper publishers, such settlement will have ripple effects: businesses will pay wages to their staff and their staff will not only put food on their tables but will also send their children to school and, very importantly, pay the taxes due government.

Government is an institution intended to imagine and re-imagine solutions to societal problems. But when a government, by design, fails to pay businesses the just amounts due for services provided, then such failure is not only a testament to irresponsibility but a testament to the lack of imagination and the lack of compassion at once.

The Author:



Alston C. Armah is a Liberian citizen who resides and works in Liberia. He is interested in seeing his taxes used responsibly and in a way that promotes economic growth. He can be reached at stonalman@gmail.com



put himself “together”.

All this is happening just a week after legislators were reported to have received at least US\$6,000 each for “operational” expenses.

Mr. Gus Winn's ordeal is symbolic of the quiet struggles Liberian businessmen encountered at the hands of their own government. Liberian businesses go through an awful lot of hell to claim payments for goods supplied or services rendered the Liberian Government. I know this for a fact. I used to work at the Ministry of Education up until two years ago. While working at the Ministry of

Education, I encountered several contractors and vendors seeking to claim their just payments for goods and services ranging from newspaper publications, catering & accommodation to travels and construction works. Time without number, businesses would be told “wait until the new budget passes” or “wait until the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) makes allotments.” Even when vouchers were prepared for payment, checks would most likely not

be processed unless bribes were paid out to personnel at the MFDP. As a technician and not a policy maker, I could only empathize with these businesses. There are so many small Liberian-owned businesses going to hell and coming back as they try to stay afloat in their operations. Some do not have the boldness to be as 'radical' as Mr. Gus Winn, the man in the video making the rounds on social media. Yet still, several others do not have the courage to go to court for they just cannot stomach the long process of litigation or simply cannot imagine the possibility of a Liberian court rendering fair judgment against the Liberian Government.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pres. Weah yet to be tested

-Deputy Press Secretary
By Winston W. Parley

Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby says President George Manneh Weah is yet to be tested for coronavirus, saying the public will be informed once the

health advisor, informing listeners that the president is yet to experience anything about covid.

Mr. Toby however notes that it was bad that it was reported that the president was positive of Covid-19 without his test being done.

There have been growing

Musa Dean and Information Minister Eugene Nagbe.

The officials and several defense and joint security chiefs were tested for Covid - 19 because they were part of a joint security meeting on 11 April attended by the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Director Marcus Soko who later died of the virus.

According to Mr. Toby, the president will run his test, but adds that the decision as to when, will be made by the president.

Once the health authorities deem it fit, Toby asserts that the president will grant their request to go for testing, adding that this thing about Covid is not about status, but it's about people's health.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Press Secretary says the Executive is happy that Liberians are concerned about their president, as he explains that what the president has done is to restrict movement around his office and home in observance of all health protocols.

He clarifies that there's no fear in health officials in advising the president to be tested, saying the president is okay.



president decides to go for a test.

He told local broadcaster OK FM Monday afternoon, 4 May that the president's decision to run a test for Covid will be advised by his

concerns in recent times following claims on social media that the president may have been exposed to the virus following positive test results of some of his cabinet officials including Justice Minister Cllr.

CAB wants gov't's commitment

-towards visually-impaired people in society

The Christian Association of the Blind or CAB, a group that seeks the welfare of visually-impaired citizens here calls on the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to demonstrate commitment by working towards improving the lives of all Liberians, particularly financing the development needs of the blind population.

The CAB in a statement

assertion that the poor you shall have with "you always," should not be an excuse to do nothing about helping the poor.

He said those who are in position of trust are under obligation to do their part to empowering citizens who by their loss of sight, are rendered disadvantaged by the way society is structured.

He noted that the prevailing economic state of affairs in Liberia has increased the



CEO Beyan G. Kota

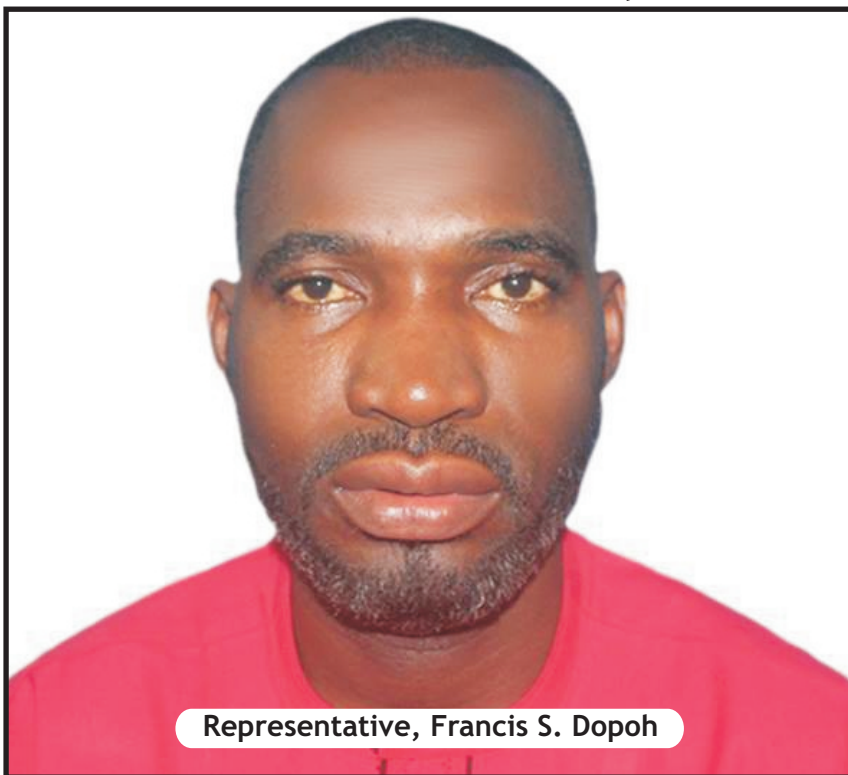
Rep. Dopoh donates food, supplies worth US\$10, 000

By Bridgett Milton

The office of Montserrado County District Three Representative, Francis S. Dopoh, has donated humanitarian and health supplies to River Gee County in the amount of US\$10,000.00.

Items donated include 500bags of rice and assorted ingredients, disinfectants, face masks, face shields, and other medical materials to be distributed to health centers and health workers, quarantine and isolation centers, security operations at the borders, the disabled community, widows, teachers, other vulnerable persons and senior citizens.

Representative Dopoh is at the same time recommending that a seed fund be opened in River Gee County and that a reputable person from each chiefdom should serve on a fund advisory committee that would appoint a fund coordinator to implement projects in the county.



Representative, Francis S. Dopoh

Making the donation over the weekend in River Gee, Rep. Dopoh said he and his family have also provided a seed fund of US\$2,000.00.

The donation came at the time when citizens of District Three comprising Tuobo, Webbo, Nyenebo, Sarbo, Glaro, Kitaebo, Kayilibo, Deobo, Getu,

Nyetianbo, and Klibo lack face masks and food to stay at home and observe social distancing.

The River Gee County lawmaker added that during times like these personal support done individually, though welcoming, sometimes due to scarcity

issued by its National President/CEO Beyan G. Kota over the weekend, recalled that from time memorial, the blind in Liberia continue to confront discrimination and neglect with continuous widening of the gap between the haves and the haves-not.

It calls for government's intervention to narrow such disparity.

Mr. Kota said the Biblical

vulnerability of an already vulnerable sector of the population, as majority of those with disabilities, especially visually-impaired pupils who pursue education for a brighter future go to bed hungry while blind children who live with impoverished family members are with little or no hope of receiving a fitting meal. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

www Advertise Here!
Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

may create an impression of one being selective.

"As a way of making greater and collective humanitarian impact in the lives of our people, especially during a pandemic that juxtaposes with a non-harvest season, we are building consensus that we all create A Covid-19 Humanitarian Pool Fund that will be managed by reputable citizens", he suggested.

The Lawmaker also

acknowledged a pledge of US\$300.00 from one Mr. Leo Cummings towards the effort, and inclined to direct said amount to the Fund when it is received.

"We are confident that it can be done collectively in a responsible, transparent and accountable way, such that every contribution is fully disclosed and accounted for", he emphasized. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

USAID market to identify with less fortunate

By Emmanuel Mondaye

In an effort to identify with persons living with disabilities in Liberia, the Superintendent for Operations of the USAID

they are unable during this health crisis to find food for themselves.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend in Monrovia, Madam Wuduwelh lamented

love and affection to those with disabilities.

According to her, it is about time goodwill Liberians and organizations with capacity to provide some assistance to the unprivileged, to do so, indicating that doing so would prevent them from leaving their respective homes and localities to beg for alms in the streets, risking they and their children's lives.

She also called on local and international humanitarian organizations in the country to take note of people who cannot afford to feed themselves during the Coronavirus pandemic characterized by State of Emergency and lockdown.

She added the market will set up a committee to identify organizations that are in need that would benefit from the goodwill gesture when the arrangement for distribution is finalized.

Meanwhile, the USAID market under the leadership of Madam Sando Johnson is commending the government for the cordial working relationship that witnessed the decongestion of several markets across Monrovia and its environs, which it describes as being in the right direction. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Madam Cecelia G. Wuduwelh and colleagues at the USAID Market

market on Water Street Madam Cecelia G. Wuduwelh discloses plan by the market to identify with less fortunate people in several parts of Central Monrovia thru distribution of locally produced food.

She said the market decided to reach out to less fortunate people because

that she is saddened to see hundreds of less fortunate people in streets corners with their children that supposed to be at home to avoid contracting the Corona virus begging for survival.

She said the market intends to distribute some locally-produced food stuff to the less fortunate as its way of sharing

SENORA's Foundation identifies with disadvantaged Liberians

A local non-governmental organization, SENORA's FOUNDATION has provided food and non-food items to several disadvantaged Liberians in Monrovia, valued at over US\$10,000.

The donation was in commemoration of the organization's "Feed the Hungry" program recently launched in Gardnersville, along Somalia Drive.

CEO Best Garlo, currently based in the United States of America, says she's also working on a US\$25,000 food assistance package to help ordinary Liberians who are needy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary mission of SENORA's FOUNDATION, according to her, is to cater to the less privileged, provide opportunities for disadvantaged girls and wayward youths to be

educated, promote health and hygiene, as well as eradicate hunger, poverty and disease.

"Over the years, the SENORA'S FOUNDATION has assisted children, families and communities throughout

Liberia and recently launched its 'Feed The Hungry' recovery program, which was held in Gardnersville, Liberia", she adds.

Beneficiaries of the donation were happy and



ACF Church reaches out to members, residents

The Apostolic Christian Fellowship (ACF) a local congregation in Nyanford Town Community, Gardnersville Township outside Monrovia has joined the fight against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, distributing food and non-food items to its members and community dwellers.

Assistant Pastor Rev. Kaffa B. Teahspeaking over the weekend said, the sharing is the church's own way of

for the level of support in responding to the COVID-19 threat, and promised to support the government's effort.

For his part, the Pastor-In-Charge of the ACF Church, Rev. Lawrence Feteku, cautioned Liberians to take the coronavirus protective messages very serious stressing, that Liberians can defeat the virus completely only if they abide by protocols from health



identifying with its members and the community, indicating that there has never been a time when Liberians' lives were at risk than this particular moment.

"We came to identify with you; this is an initial contribution. We also envision if the crisis escalates, we will lobby to get more supplies," Rev. Teah told the beneficiaries.

He lauded both the media and the Liberian government

authorities.

Receiving the items on behalf of the church and community members, Mr. Samuel Doe thanked the church for its kind gesture and appealed to all people of goodwill to emulate the good example of the ACF Church.

Liberia has recorded 155 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 18 deaths and 58 persons recovered. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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

thanked the founder and all who contributed in making the supply available. They called on other Liberians living in the U.S. and the diaspora to follow the example of MsGarlo.

"We are happy and want to say thank you for thinking about us during these trying times; we might not have it to reward you for such assistance but we know you will receive your rewards in heavens", they expressed.

The FOUNDATION was established 2010, in honor of the late mother Senora

GarloWelleh, mother of Best Garlo, Founder & CEO. Mother Senora WellehGarlo was murdered during the Liberian Civil War which began in 1989. The Senora Foundation seeks to advance Mother Senora's long-held vision of empowering young men and women into useful, productive and successful citizens.

Ms. Garlo, a young and enterprising Liberian business entrepreneur, resides in the U.S. State of Pennsylvania. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Covid-19 : La Fondation Cummings pour l'Afrique annonce des aides aux populations vulnérables

Wede Elliott-Brownell, directrice nationale de la Cummings Africa Foundation (CAF), a déclaré que sa fondation a commencé à tendre la main aux Libériens avec des plans d'intervention en ces temps de pandémie du COVID-19.

La FAC est présentement présente dans sept comtés - Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba, Grand Kru, River

Gee, Maryland et Grand Cape Mount.

"Ces comtés ont été sélectionnés afin de desservir toutes les régions du pays pendant cette période difficile", a déclaré Mme Elloitt-Brownell.

Elle a révélé que le montant total collecté pour la distribution de nourriture est de 70 000 dollars américains, dont 25 000 dollars américains ont été versés sous forme de

subvention à une ONG locale, Teach for Liberia (TFL), pour fournir de la nourriture et des articles de nettoyage à 3 000 enseignants et étudiants partout dans le pays.

La Fondation Cummings pour l'Afrique a commencé sa distribution alimentaire dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount le jeudi 30 avril 2020, et se tournera vers Montserrado, Margibi et Nimba par la suite.

La distribution pour le sud-est débutera début mai, a expliqué la fondation, ajoutant qu'un navire appartenant à un Libérien avait expédié de la nourriture et des articles de nettoyage pour le sud-est et que le navire devrait arriver dans le comté de Maryland sous peu.

Chaque paquet comprend du riz, de l'huile de palme, de l'huile végétale, du super gari (avec du lait et du sucre) et des bouteilles de détergent pour favoriser le lavage des mains et l'assainissement.

"Nous sommes également



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

La distribution de la nourriture aux ménages pourrait commencer vers fin mai

Le Comité directeur du Programme gouvernemental d'aide alimentaire aux ménages a annoncé qu'il commencerait à distribuer les colis alimentaires tant attendus aux Libériens à partir du 23 mai 2020.

Il y a quelques semaines, le président George Weah présentait un plan de relance à l'Assemblée législative libérienne pour fournir des secours d'urgence aux citoyens pendant l'état d'urgence. Un montant de 25 millions de dollars a été budgétisé pour couvrir l'ensemble du plan de relance, qui comprend la distribution des produits alimentaires d'urgence, l'approvisionnement en électricité et en eau, la prime de risque pour les travailleurs médicaux, etc.

Cependant, depuis la rectification de la résolution par le pouvoir législatif, qui a non seulement approuvé l'état d'urgence du président, mais a également prolongé la période de

confinement de 60 jours, (après avoir reçu un paiement controversé de 6 500 USD chacun décrit par certains sénateurs comme paiement de fonds opérationnels en retard et par d'autre comme des primes de séance extraordinaire).

Pendant ce temps, le comité directeur, qui comprend des représentants

du gouvernement, des membres de l'opposition et le Programme alimentaire mondial, a déclaré que le programme de soutien alimentaire des ménages ciblerait les groupes vulnérables et les bidonvilles.

Selon le président du comité directeur, le ministre

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Il est temps que l'on fasse preuve de vigilance

Certains hommes d'affaires sans scrupules, dont des ressortissants étrangers, profitent de cette crise sanitaire mondiale pour inonder le marché libérien de produits toxiques, principalement des médicaments et d'autres produits de base, mettant en danger la vie de notre population déjà défavorisée.

L'information selon laquelle l'Autorité Libérienne des Revenus (LRA) a saisi une énorme quantité de produits pharmaceutiques de qualité inférieure introduits en contrebande dans le pays récemment a attiré notre attention.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié la semaine dernière, la LRA a fait état de produits pharmaceutiques de qualité inférieure, dont la vitamine C, la vitamine B-2, les bouchons froids et l'amoxicilline, entre autres, qui avaient été dissimulés dans 18 boîtes à bord de trois bus en provenance de la Guinée. Le coût total serait de 10 000 \$ US.

Ils avaient été importés illégalement au Libéria par quatre personnes qui ne sont pas autorisées à importer des médicaments, a indiqué la LRA. Ces personnes seraient passées par la frontière libéro-sierraléonaise de Bo Waterside, dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount.

Ces médicaments, selon le communiqué, ont été remis à l'Autorité de réglementation des médicaments et des produits de santé du Libéria (LMHRA) pour en faire un examen approfondi et prendre une action inter-institutionnelle.

En outre, des agents de l'Unité anti-contrebande et d'investigation de la LRA (ASIU) ont récemment intercepté un conteneur de 20 pieds contenant des produits chimiques dangereux (acide sulfurique) importé des Pays-Bas, sans permis ni autorisation, en violation des lois libériennes.

Nous nous demandons combien d'autres produits de contrebande ont réussi à franchir nos frontières et à pénétrer notre marché, exposant les Libériens et le public en général à des risques pour la santé et à d'éventuelles complications.

Il est grand temps que les responsables de l'Autorité de réglementation des médicaments et des produits de santé du Libéria (LMHRA) fassent preuve de vigilance accrue, en particulier pendant cette crise du COVID-19, où notre peuple cherche désespérément des médicaments pour divers types de maladies.

Il ne faut pas que nous nous croisions les mains pendant que des individus sans scrupules qui se font passer pour des hommes ou des femmes d'affaires honnêtes inondent nos marchés de produits qui enverraient les libériens dans leurs premières demeures de manière précoce.

Même avant la pandémie du COVID-19, des entreprises fabriquaient des médicaments de qualité inférieure et les importaient dans des pays où le contrôle est moins renforcé, mettant en danger des vies, à plus forte raison en ces temps de crise, d'où la nécessité, dois-je le répéter, de faire preuve de vigilance.

Français

Covid-19 : La Fondation Cummings

heureux d'annoncer que la plupart des produits alimentaires ont été achetés auprès des producteurs libériens locaux, tandis que le riz a été acheté auprès d'un importateur libérien", a-t-elle ajouté.

Le directeur national de FAC a déclaré que la fondation restait déterminée à soutenir l'économie locale en cette période difficile dans le cadre du programme d'entrepreneuriat qui se concentre sur le soutien et le développement des entreprises libériennes.

La Fondation Cummings pour l'Afrique est une organisation locale à but non lucratif créée en 2015 par la famille Cummings pour fournir des services humanitaires aux Libériens dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la santé et des affaires. Au fil des ans, la Fondation a dépensé plus d'un million de dollars

américains en offrant des bourses d'études et des fournitures médicales aux Libériens et du soutien à des organisations caritatives et à but non lucratif.

La Fondation soutient actuellement l'école Alexander B. Cummings Model Science and Technology (ABCMTS), une école STEM située à Dupont Road, Paynesville. L'année dernière, la Fondation a organisé le premier sommet de l'entrepreneuriat au Libéria, accordant des subventions totalisant 25 000 \$ US à deux entreprises libériennes.

La Fondation reste déterminée à améliorer la vie des Libériens grâce au financement de la famille Cummings et d'autres donateurs.

« Nous encourageons tout le monde à continuer d'adhérer aux protocoles de santé du COVID-19 et à rester en sécurité », a-t-elle déclaré

La distribution de la nourriture

du Commerce, le professeur Wilson Tarpeh, la distribution sera calquée sur l'ancien programme de distribution alimentaire Special Emergency Life Food (SELF), mais sera dirigée par le Programme alimentaire mondial assisté par les dirigeants communautaires dans les bidonvilles ciblés.

« Nous commencerons par les quatre premiers comtés touchés - Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba et Bong », aurait déclaré le ministre Tarpeh dans un communiqué ce week-end.

Il a dit que les 11 comtés restants seront inclus dans le

programme de distribution de nourriture dans ce dernier état.

Il a en outre déclaré que pour faire tourner les rouages de l'économie pendant cette période d'urgence, le Comité a décidé d'inclure les produits agricoles locaux tels que l'huile de palme, les haricots rouges, etc., dans le paquet alimentaire. Il a estimé que cette décision vise à autonomiser les agriculteurs locaux.

« Cela vise à autonomiser nos agriculteurs locaux sur le plan économique alors que nous luttons contre la pandémie », a déclaré Tarpeh.

Covid-Organics : Andry Rajoelina

Bénin, Burkina Faso, Cap Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée, Libéria, Mali, Niger, Nigéria, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Togo et la Guinée Bissau. ...

Ces 15 pays membres de la Communauté Economique Des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) vont désormais pouvoir soigner leurs malades de coronavirus par le Covid-Organics, et tester l'efficacité de ce remède traditionnel amélioré proposé par l'Institut Malgache des Recherches Appliquées (IMRA). En effet, suite à son entretien par visioconférence avec le président Andry Rajoelina, le Président de la Guinée Bissau, Umaro Sissoco Embaló a

dépêché un avion spécial à Madagascar pour récupérer les dons de la Grande île. Ce dernier a pris l'initiative de se charger de la distribution de Tambavy CVO pour les 15 pays voisins de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. En effet, le Président Malgache a fait don de 118 cartons de Covid-Organics pour approvisionner les hôpitaux de ces pays africains. La cargaison est composée de 5.250 doses curatives pour soigner les personnes déjà contaminées par le COVID-19 dans ces pays, et 10.800 doses préventives. Le Chef de l'Etat n'a pas non plus oublié les membres de la diaspora malagasy au Sénégal et en Côte d'Ivoire. Ces derniers ont eu aussi leur part de Tambavy CVO. Remède traditionnel.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Dominique Moisi

The Déjà-Vu Virus?

PARIS - The COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating three fundamental geopolitical trends: the rise of Asia, the decline of the United States, and the strengthening of Germany within Europe. Combined, these shifts may well prefigure the world of 2030. But, before then, political leaders must overcome the current crisis - and not repeat the catastrophic errors of a century ago.

Today, the future and the past seem to be colliding. Now that COVID-19 has brutally thrust much of the world into the digital economy, many people will not wish to return to the pre-pandemic world as if what we are now experiencing had been a mere blip.

The virus does not signify the end of globalization, but it probably is a bad omen for a certain variety of it. For example, will leaders still want to attend the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos and mingle in a dense crowd of peers, rather than networking in ways that respect social-distancing norms in the face of a deadly virus?

But above all, the pandemic is confirming the ascent of Asia - not just China - and the decline of the West, and the US in particular.

By far the world's strongest military power, America was singularly disarmed when confronted with the novel coronavirus. The country's health-care system could not cope with the scale of the pandemic (although the US is hardly alone in that regard), while the long lines of people patiently waiting to receive food handouts evoked images of the Great Depression prior to the New Deal. And America's political leaders, caricatures of brutality and opportunism, simply made things worse, further tarnishing the country's international image in the process.

True, America may recover part of its dignity and humanity by tossing President Donald Trump aside in November's presidential election. But that will require Democrats to unite behind their presumptive nominee, Joe Biden, as former president Barack Obama emphasized when recently endorsing him.

Biden has a real chance of winning. US voters may well punish Republicans for their blundering response to the pandemic and the consequent economic devastation, just as South Korean voters recently rewarded President Moon Jae-in's ruling party with an absolute parliamentary majority, following his administration's so-far successful efforts to contain the coronavirus. But even if Trump is defeated, America will not recover the central global position it previously occupied for three-quarters of a century.

America's decline, however, does not mean that China will carry the global torch. COVID-19 has just as ruthlessly exposed China's flaws, including its government's lack of transparency. The outbreak there fueled a

dramatic economic collapse in the first quarter of 2020, and the country remains vulnerable to a second wave of the pandemic. All this suggests that the world may be becoming non-polar, rather than bipolar.

Moreover, neither Russia nor the European Union can pretend to fill the gap at the top. Like Iran and Turkey, Russia may well emerge weaker from the crisis. In fact, President Vladimir Putin may have far more to fear from COVID-19 than he does from Russia's enfeebled opposition parties.

What about Europe? After a very uncertain initial response to the pandemic - to put it mildly - the EU seems to be regaining some clout thanks to a trio of women leaders: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde. But this crisis has mainly demonstrated Germany's strength rather than Europe's resilience.

Despite being Europe's most populous country, Germany has registered at least four times fewer deaths than its main EU peers, while Merkel, who until recently was widely seen as a lame-duck leader, enjoys higher trust ratings than any other European leader. She has proven that a politician can follow their ethical instincts - as she did in opening Germany's borders to migrants in 2015 - and still be seen five years later as the best protection against fear and uncertainty.

If history is indeed accelerating as a result of COVID-19, we still have to look to the past to draw the right lessons. And the pivotal year in that regard is 1920.

A century ago, in the immediate aftermath of World War I and the devastating Spanish flu pandemic, political leaders proved incapable of finding the right answers to the huge challenges they faced. As a result, the world fell first into the Great Depression and then into World War II.

Today's leaders are confronted by different but equally daunting challenges. In particular, they have to strike a delicate balance not only between protecting their citizens' lives and restarting the economy, but also between liberty and security.

If governments go too far in prioritizing the economy over public health, they run the risk of a second COVID-19 wave that would have devastating consequences for both. Likewise, if they champion liberty above all else, and ignore the contribution of tracking technologies to taming the pandemic in Asia, they risk that one day, less prudent and moderate political forces may apply libertarian principles brutally and with total disregard for public welfare.

In the 1920s and 1930s, pacifism born out of a terrible war contributed to the victory of fascism and an even more horrific global conflict. Today, we must not allow economic greed or libertarianism to take us down an equally disastrous path.

10 Years Later After The 2010 Quake, Haiti Is Still Struggling Even When Billions was Raised

By Johnny Berkerbeg

It's been 10 years since Haiti suffered the magnitude 7.0 quake that killed more than 300,000 of its people and left more than a million displaced. The scale of the destruction left the Haitian economy, its Government and daily life indelibly changed. Rubble lined the streets for years. Businesses never reopened. The Red Cross raised almost \$1B for the earthquake victims and they only build six little houses. Unfortunately, the Haitian population never received updates on where the earthquake money went and how it was spent or by whom.

"The earthquake gave Haiti an opportunity to take off, to learn development. Unfortunately, nothing has happened. No planning. No leadership. No project.", Says Jean Samson Edouard.

"When you need to be psychologically healed first, then it's hard for you to think about development," says Marie Guerda Nicolas, a Haitian American and a psychology professor at the University of Miami.

After the quake, temporary refuge centers became permanent housing. And it was only in October that the United Nations finally pulled out, leaving behind a checkered legacy that included scandal of violence and sexual abuse, and a cholera epidemic. The UN mission was originally meant to assist Haiti with its political instability and organized crimes, but was extended in 2010 following a major earthquake and again after Hurricane Matthew in 2016. From reports, the UN was responsible for the cholera epidemic that they created in the lab and they were behind multiple sexual abuse and rape



cases across Haiti.

According to the Haiti Justice Department, the United Nations soldiers raped multiple innocent women and children then left them with babies. The UN peacekeepers fathered children with women and girls in Haiti before abandoning the mothers to lives of poverty in the disaster-stricken Caribbean country. Meantime, Haitian leaders and researchers from Birmingham University and Queen's University interviewed more than 2,500 Haitians about rape cases, of which 265 subjects - or about 10 percent - told stories of children fathered by UN personnel.

"These women and children need justice. It's not fair and unacceptable for the United Nations peacekeepers to do such horrible crimes and they never get punished

for their crimes because the corrupt Haitian Government allowed them to occupy Haiti in exchange for money. If the corrupt Haitian Government is afraid to speak on these issues and give these innocent women and children the proper justice that they deserve, I will be a voice for them because the U.S. would never accept such crimes by Haitians in the United States.", said Mr. WerleyNortreus, a Haitian leader and the founder of VanyanSòldaAyiti and A New Haiti Before 2045 (ANHB 2045).

However, the Haitian-based Bureau des AvocatsInternationaux (BAI) filed paternity suits in Haitian courts in January 2018 to secure child support payments on behalf of 10 children whose fathers are claimed to be UN peacekeepers. The BAI has

slammed the UN as "non-responsive" and uncooperative.

Besides the UN scandals, after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, billions of dollars were raised for the earthquake victims, but according to investigations, those billions went missing and nothing really changes in the country. It took a year after the quake just to get real debris removal started. It took seven years to reopen Haiti's major hospital. Today, Haiti is facing one of the worst food shortages in the Americas. That's not to mention the country's endless political upheaval and protesters now demanding the ouster of President JovenelMoïse and his party Haitian Tèt Kale Party (PHTK) about involvement in a \$2 billion corruption scandal involving infrastructure project funds called PetroCaribe. Even the Red Cross raised almost \$1B for the earthquake victims and they only build six little houses.

"Where are those billions of dollars and what exactly that money did? How come Haiti got worse in 2020 after billions were raised for the earthquake victims and more than \$2B from PetroCaribe for development? How come the former President of Haiti Michel Martelly and Haitian Tèt Kale Party are quiet about those funds?", said Michael, a University professor in Port-Au-Prince.

We're in 2020 now, 10 years later after the 2010 earthquake that destroyed Haiti, the current Haitian Gov led by President JovenelMoïse and his party Haitian Tèt Kale Party (PHTK) refused to step down, even when millions of protesters are demanding their resignations to install the new Haitian Government with a new system. Regrettably, even after the 2010 earthquake money and other funds went missing and nothing really changes in the country in 2020, the World Bank in Washington D.C just approved a \$56M funds to improve Cap-Haitien'sUrban development project under the same Government that got involved in the 2010 Haiti earthquake and PetroCaribe funds scandal.

"I think giving money to corrupt Haitian Government and corrupt Haitian Politicians in Haiti is a waste of time because they will split the money with their friends and leave Haiti in pure misery and poverty. That's why I think the international needs to stop giving corrupt Haitian Government and corrupt Haitian Politicians money for development unless it's the new Haitian Government with a new system installed by the Haitian population. It's a waste of time and the Trump administration needs to understand that Haiti will not prosper under the current Haitian Government and under the U.S. occupation. It's like telling a rat or mouse to watch over your cheese until you come back.", said Mr. WerleyNortreus, a Haitian leader in Haiti.

In December 2019, CNN's Caitlin Hu reported that millions in Haiti will face hunger in 2020 because of funds that went missing and under corrupt Government led by PHTK. Meanwhile, the Haitian population and honest political leaders across Haiti are making sure a new Haitian Government with a new system leads Haiti in the right direction so millions in Haiti won't face hunger in 2020 and upcoming years.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT

2nd & 3rd Floors, F & F Building
63 United Nations Drive, Coconut Plantation, Mamba Point
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 7701 44444 / 0888 828 988; Email: info@mca.gov.lr



SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

LETTER OF INVITATION

4A150/ME/001

Recruitment of Individual Consultant for Senior Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Consultant for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

Background and Context
The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Liberia (the "Government" or "GoL") have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia(the "MCA Entity"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for which theLetter of Invitation ("LOI") is issued.

MCA-Liberianow invites applications from eligible Individual Consultants for **Recruitment of Individual Consultant for Senior Monitoring & Evaluation(M&E) Consultant for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)**. *This requirement is only for individual consultants. Submissions from consulting firms will not be accepted. Individual consultants are also not allowed to subcontract any part of this work to other individuals or firms.*

TheLOI is for:

Recruitment of Individual Consultant for Senior Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Consultant for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested individual consultantsshould send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the LOI, which is free of charge.

Important dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of LOI	May 1, 2020
2	Last date for questions/clarifications	May 11, 2020at 5:00 pm
3	MCA Response to Questions/Clarifications	May 15, 2020
4	Deadline for Submission of Applications	May 22, 2020at 5:00 pm

Sealed and delivered

By Lewis S. Teh, with additional files from Othello B. Garblah

President George Weah received samples of the Covid-Organics, an herbal solution developed in Madagascar believed can prevent and cure the coronavirus at the Roberts International Airport, in Harbel, Margibi County on Monday.

The herbal remedy, delivered by an official of Guinea Bissau, was brought in the country based upon the request of President Weah to his Guinea Bissau counterpart President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, days ago, as that country put in an order for its own supply of the anti-coronavirus treatment.

If found to be workable here, the Liberian government will then be able to put in for its own supplies,

The delivery

The herbal remedy was brought on a chartered flight on Monday. According to the Bissau's official who presented the herbal solution, since the application of the herbs in Madagascar there have been no death so far from the virus.

Receiving the drugs on behalf of the Government of Liberia, President George Manneh Weah extended special thanks to his Guinea Bissau counterpart and praised Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina for their efforts in the discoveries.

Speaking to journalists at the ceremony, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill says the drugs have proven to be the solution to this corona situation.

"We are grateful to the

remedy is being distributed around the continent at the time the World Health Organization (WHO) says it did not recommend self-medication with any medicines... as a prevention or cure for Covid-19. A lot of African leaders are however welcoming delivery of the Madagascar - donated drug to help in their fight against the virus.

The World Health Organization says there are currently no vaccines or medicines to prevent, treat or cure Covid-19.

"Possible vaccines and some specific drug treatments are currently under investigation. They are being tested through clinical trials," it says.

Artemisia, the plant which the Covid-Organics is made of is used in traditional



The Congolese Doctor who developed the herbal remedy



Sample of Covid-Organics delivered to Liberia

according Deputy Press Secretary Smith Toby. The current samples includes two boxes for prevention and one box for treatment.

The Covid-Organics was developed by a Congolese Doctor, Dr. Jerome Munyagi in partnership with the Malagasy Institute of Applied Research and branded COVID Organics, according to the BBC. The herbal solution contains Artemisia, a plant cultivated in Madagascar to treat malaria.

The treatment sample arrived in the country at the time Liberia has confirmed 166 coronavirus cases with 18 deaths and 58 recoveries.

Madagascar, which developed the herbal remedy has recorded 133 cases with 97 recoveries and zero death.

government of Madagascar for coming to our aid. We will apply this drugs on some of our people that are affected, "he says.

When asked whether the drugs were approved by the World Health Organization, Mr. McGill replies that the WHO does not need to approve a country's herbs before it can be taken.

"We that came from the interior, we drink our bitter roots and WHO don't have to approve those roots before we [take] them," McGill continues.

McGill argues further that WHO doesn't approve of the anti-malaria drugs that traditional people take to clear malaria from their body.

Risking the Madagascar herbal solution

The Madagascar herbal

medicines. In 2012 the World Health Organization said remedies containing the dry leaves of the artemisia plant could be used in combination therapy "with an effective antimalarial medicine" to treat "uncomplicated malaria".

The plant is also cultivated in Cameroon, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia - all in high-altitude regions and/or regions with a pronounced cool period.

But Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina insists "All trials and tests have been conducted and its effectiveness in reducing the elimination of symptoms has been proven for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 in Madagascar."

Govt fails

Starts from back page

percent out of 100 percent, Mr. Aidoo says.

The Open Budget Survey through IREDD suggests that the government produces and publishes the audit report online in a timely manner.

It also suggests that the government includes the executive's budget proposal, debt and macroeconomic information, as well as publishing interest payments on the outstanding debt and estimated total debt burden at the end of the year.

Further, OBS recommends that the government publishes the composition of total debt, not excluding interest rates on the debt, the maturity profile of the debt and whether the debt is domestic or external.

Aidoo notes that transparency alone is insufficient for improving governance, as he suggests that inclusive public participation is crucial for realizing the positive outcomes associated with greater budget transparency.

"The OBS also assesses the formal opportunities offered to the public for meaningful

participation in the different stages of the budget process. It examines the practices of the central government's executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution (SAI) using 18 equally weighted indicators," he says.

Aidoo acknowledges that the Liberian Legislature has established public hearings related to the approval of the annual budget, but recommends that it also allows any member of the public or any civil society organization to testify during hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval.

"Allow members of the public or civil society organizations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report," he says.

He wants the General Auditing Commission to also prioritize the establishing of formal mechanisms for the public to assist in developing its audit program and to contribute to relevant audit investigations.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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

National Rice Federation clarifies report

The National Rice Federation of Liberia (NRFL) terms as "totally inaccurate and unbalanced" a May 2nd article in the Heritage Newspaper, accusing Agriculture Minister of favoring Fabrar, a local rice producer, over other rice farmers to benefit from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP's) cash collateral scheme for rice farmers and producers.

The NRFL is an umbrella body of all rice farmers, valued chain actors in Liberia and also part of the West Africa Rice Federation.

According to a press release, the Federation in March signed a MOU with the Government of Liberia (GOL) through the Ministry of Finance in which the GoL will make available US\$700,000 to Afriland First Bank Liberia Limited as collateral for domestic rice processors at terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties concerned with the Ministry of Agriculture as sector lead for agriculture and the Ministry of Justice serving as legal arm of the government.

The president of NRFL, Mohammed Kamara, noted that neither the Ministry of

Agriculture nor its Minister plays a role in deciding who benefits from such cash scheme, noting, "The agreement was signed between the MFDP, NRFL and the Afrikland Bank".

He said if the MFDP makes the cash collateral available at the bank, the NRFL will submit the listing of rice producers to the bank for loan to boost local production.

"The bank will independently scrutinize farmers and producers' applications in line with its terms and conditions before granting such credit facilities".

He continues that the Agriculture Minister, Jeanine Cooper, has nothing to do with the process and no rice producer has been selected to benefit from the cash collateral at the bank, contrary to reports in the media.

The release says since the appointment of Madam Jeanine Cooper as Minister of Agriculture, the NRFL has been working closely with the ministry to improve the sector, urging media institutions to always balance stories about the entity and the rice sector in Liberia. -*Press Release*

Advertise with us!

Gov't fails in open budget report



Min. Samuel Tweah

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

An international organization called Open Budget Survey in collaboration with the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD) has released its 2019 report, with the Liberian government recording appalling scores in its performance on the national budget.

Mr. Harold Marvin Aidoo who released the report told a press conference Monday, 4 May at IREDD's office that the survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds.

He claims that the Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world's only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses

internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government's budget information and formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process, among others.

"This 7th Edition of the OBS covers 117 countries. This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources," he explains.

According to Mr. Aidoo, OBS' 7th Edition assesses the online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale of 0 to 100.

A transparency score of 61 or above indicates a country is likely publishing enough material to support informed public debate on the budget, and Liberia has a transparency score of 38

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Take control of your money.

Link your Mobile Money account to your GT Bank account today! With MTN MoMo, you can now transfer money easily between your bank account and your MTN Mobile Money account.

Dial * 156 *7# to get started today.

#GoodTogether everywhere you go



La Liga aims to restart in June; will begin testing players

The Spanish league said Monday it is confident it can restart in June and finish its season by the end of the European summer, with players beginning to be tested this week so they can return to training for the first time in nearly two months.

Basic training was allowed to resume in Spain on Monday after the government eased some of the lockdown measures that had been in place since mid-March because of the coronavirus

pandemic.

Spanish league players are expected to get back on the field later in the week after they are tested for COVID-19 and after the clubs' training facilities are properly prepared and disinfected.

"The return of football is a sign that society is progressing towards the new normal. It will also bring back an element of life that people in Spain and around the world know and love," Spanish league president Javier Tebas said in a statement.

"People's health is



paramount, so we have a comprehensive protocol to safeguard the health of everyone involved as we work to restart LaLiga. Circumstances are unprecedented, but we hope to start playing again in June and finish our 19-20 season this summer."

All players, coaches and club employees who are going to be involved in the initial training phase will have to be tested two days before the individual practices can begin.

The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines



We Offer The Following Printing Services:

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