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# The New Dawn

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**P11**

# Over 50 persons feared dead

**-following mudslide in Cape Mount County**

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**P7**

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# Continental News

## Do not use untested Covid-19 remedies, WHO warns

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning against people using untested remedies for coronavirus.

Africans deserve access to medicines that have gone through proper trials even if they are derived from traditional treatments, it said.

Its statement comes as Madagascar's president is promoting a herbal tonic for treating Covid-19 patients. The African Union (AU) said it wanted to see the scientific data on the "safety and efficacy" of the product.

The tonic, known as Covid-Organics, was tested on fewer than 20 people over three weeks, a presidential aide told the BBC - which is not in line with WHO guidelines on clinical trials.

This can be a lengthy process in which a potential drug is tested in four phases, scaling up from a trial on a small number of patients to

using it on a population countrywide.

Despite these reservations, several African countries, including Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia, have already ordered Covid-Organics, which is produced from the artemisia plant - the

source of an ingredient used in a malaria treatment - and other Malagasy plants. Last week, Madagascar's President, Andry Rajoelina, spoke to an online meeting of African leaders about the tonic.

Following that meeting

the AU asked to see more details about Covid-Organics which could be reviewed by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). In its statement, the WHO welcomed innovations based on traditional remedies and plants but said they "should be tested for efficacy and adverse side effects".

"Africans deserve to use medicines tested to the same standards as people in the rest of the world," it added. On Monday, more than \$8bn (£6.5bn) was pledged to help develop a coronavirus vaccine and fund research into the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Dozens of research

projects trying to find a vaccine are currently under way across the world.

Most experts think it could take until mid-2021, about 12-18 months after the new virus first emerged, for a vaccine to become available. Several African countries acted swiftly in trying to prevent the spread of coronavirus by imposing lockdowns or curfews. But these are now beginning to be lifted as governments try to balance health and economic interests.

The easing of the lockdowns has added urgency to the need to find treatments. Madagascar has recorded 151 cases of Covid-19 and no deaths, Africa CDC says. The president imposed a lockdown on the three major cities, but these have now been relaxed, the AFP news agency reports. BBC



Students in Madagascar are being encouraged to drink the herbal tonic launched by the president

## Somalia probes coronavirus aid plane crash

Somalia is investigating how a private Kenyan plane with coronavirus medical supplies crashed near the city of Baidoa, killing all six on board. Police say the African Express aircraft crashed in flames just before it was due to land in Bardale on Monday. Officials say the crash's cause is not clear but there has been speculation it might have been shot down.

Kenya's foreign affairs

ministry says its investigators have been invited to join the Somali inquiry. The crew was made up of two Kenyan and four Somali nationals.

The Islamist militant group al-Shabab has a presence in the area of Bardale, but the town and its airfield are held by Somali government soldiers and Ethiopian troops who are part of the African Union force in the country. Ethiopia's defence spokesperson has denied its forces had any involvement in

the incident in Bardale, which is about 300km (180 miles) north-west of the capital, Mogadishu. Abdirashid Abdullahi Mohamed, a former Somali defence minister, is quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying that he had spoken to a witness at the airfield who said the plane appeared to have been shot down. Kenya's foreign ministry has urged Kenyans and other humanitarian aircraft operating in the region to take precautions "in light of the unclear circumstances surrounding the incident".

"The aircraft was about to land at the Bardale airstrip when it crashed and burst into flames," Abdulahi Isack, a police official, is quoted as saying by the AFP news agency. It had flown from Mogadishu to Baidoa and then continued to Bardale town before crashing.

The Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority says it lost contact with the plane at around 16:20 local time (13:20 GMT) - but did not know the exact time of the crash.

African Express Airways has told the BBC it has sent a team from Mogadishu to Bardale to help of the local authorities assess the situation and do an initial report on the crash. BBC



Planes have been transporting medical supplies to deal with coronavirus around Africa

## Sierra Leone President Tests Negative for COVID-19 after Self Isolation



Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio addresses the 74th session of the U.N. General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York, Sept. 26, 2019.

Sierra Leone President Julius Maada Bio says he is healthy and determined to fight the COVID-19 pandemic after announcing on twitter he tested negative for the virus following a 15-day self-isolation.

Bio self-quarantined from home after a bodyguard tested positive for the virus.

Although Sierra Leone's three-day nationwide lockdown ends Tuesday, Bio said he is directing the military to enhance security at international airports and border crossings in line with public health initiatives.

Sierra Leone has confirmed 178 coronavirus cases and nine deaths. VOA

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# 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?

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Abiy Ahmed

## A Pledge for Africa

*In 34 of Sub-Saharan Africa's 45 countries, annual per capita health spending is below \$200, and measures like lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, and even frequent handwashing to combat COVID-19 are nearly impossible to implement. This simple fact underscores the urgent need for the Global Health Pledging Conference on May 4.*

**A**DDIS ABABA - The world will not be free of the COVID-19 pandemic until all countries are free of the coronavirus that causes it. This simple fact underscores the urgent need for the Global Health Pledging Conference to be held on May 4. Only by acting now to support developing countries' ability to combat the disease can the world avoid a second wave of the virus this autumn.

African Union leaders welcome the offers that are now coming in of test kits, ventilators, and personal protective equipment (PPE) from the developed world. But if we are to turn the tide against COVID-19, the world's richest countries must hear and respond to the developing world's pleas for a comprehensive strategy to overcome the dual public-health and economic crisis we face.

Up to now, there has been a huge disconnect between the rhetoric of rich-country leaders - that this is an existential, once-in-a-century global crisis - and the support for the world's poor and developing countries than they seem willing to contemplate. Indeed, until last week, African countries were spending more on debt payments than on health care.<sup>1</sup>

In 34 of Sub-Saharan Africa's 45 countries, annual per capita health spending is below \$200 - and barely reaches \$50 in many of these countries. Such low levels of spending make it impossible to fund acute-care hospital beds, ventilators, and the drugs needed to confront diseases like COVID-19. Paying for doctors, nurses, X-ray technicians, and other health professionals, together with their equipment, can seem almost like a luxury.

Worse yet, many of the measures available to richer economies as they work to mitigate the disease - lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, and even frequent handwashing - cannot easily be implemented in much of the developing world. In often-overcrowded cities, social distancing is all but impossible, and there are not enough resources to provide adequate sanitation and, in many cases, the running water that people need.<sup>1</sup>

So, what must be done? For starters, Africa's governments need an immediate flow of funds to enable investment in health care and social safety nets. Here, the most effective starting point is debt relief. So far, relief from bilateral debt is available for the 173 members of the

International Development Association (the World Bank's concessional lending arm for the poorest developing countries) only until December. To meet our immediate needs and to plan ahead, we need an agreement for debt relief not just for this year but for next year as well.

Beyond debt relief, the grant and lending ceilings of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other multilateral development banks will need to be raised substantially. And an issuance of international money - the IMF's Special Drawing Rights - to raise \$1.5 trillion must take place soon.

We in Africa are asking for this support not only for ourselves, though our needs in this crisis are perhaps greater than they have ever been. We in Africa seek the help of the developed countries (including China) so that we can do our best to protect the entire world from a return of this scourge.

But time is short. Africa may be among the last places on Earth to be struck by COVID-19, but the disease remains as potent and deadly as ever. If we are to eliminate the threat, every country needs to do what it can to accelerate the search for a vaccine and ensure that it is available everywhere.

To that end, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations needs sufficient funding - \$3 billion immediately, with more in 2021 and beyond - not only to develop and produce a vaccine for those who can afford it, but also to be in a position to distribute it equitably around the world. And Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance needs the funds to ensure that this happens.

Likewise, a coordinated global effort could greatly accelerate production of the PPE, testing kits, and ventilators that are needed in every country and on every continent, and ensure that these life-and-death supplies are fairly distributed, not hoarded by the rich and few. Countries that have few coronavirus cases and are beyond the pandemic's peak should be willing to help poorer countries by sending lifesaving equipment to them. And, looking ahead, we should be building up stocks of these supplies for emergencies, so that we can help each other the next time we need help the most.

All of these issues are on the agenda for the Global Health Pledging event on May 4. We ask all countries in a position to do so to participate, to listen and advise, and, most important, to give.



## O-PED

By Célestin Monga

## The Misguided War on Global Value Chains

*The COVID-19 pandemic has brought economies around the world to an abrupt halt and highlighted the fragility of existing global value chains. But demolishing these key drivers of international trade and investment would only make a bad situation worse.*

WASHINGTON, DC - Most international trade and investment occurs in networks which divide production into discrete steps that can be carried out in different countries. Firms exchange inputs and outputs in cross-border value chains, some of great complexity. These value chains - whether intra-firm or inter-firm, regional or global - accounted for more than two-thirds of world trade in 2017 and an astonishing 80% in some manufacturing industries.

But, as a result of COVID-19, global merchandise trade is set to plummet by an estimated 13-32% in 2020. Worse yet, the pandemic has paralyzed manufacturing networks and supply chains - especially in China, which accounts for 28% of global manufacturing output. That has delayed the delivery of essential services and food, pharmaceuticals, basic medical products (including surgical gowns and masks), electronics and automotive components, metals, and other manufactured goods.

In the aftermath of the damage and economic disruption wrought by COVID-19, business leaders are reassessing the extent of their firms' dependency on single foreign suppliers and examining how to mitigate strategic vulnerabilities. And there are growing calls from rich-country political leaders for radical shifts in production structures and trade policy.

Some Western governments have announced plans to encourage more domestic production of basic necessities. But these countries' high average wage and productivity levels will make labor-intensive goods, basic manufacturing, and some services expensive to produce, while protective measures such as tariffs will hurt domestic consumers.

Some advanced economies are also increasing their scrutiny of foreign investments related to the supply of critical goods and services. Such policies, which are intentionally left vague, apply to almost all products and are largely intended to discourage takeovers of domestic firms by Chinese investors during the pandemic. And some developing countries, such as India, have started to impose similar curbs.

But dismantling global value chains (GVCs) and erecting barriers to foreign direct investment (FDI) are bad ideas. Implementing them would augur the return of the worst forms of protectionism and economic micro-nationalism, with potentially devastating consequences for global prosperity, stability, and peace.

Such policies could amount to a death sentence for many low-income economies and would worsen inequalities between countries, thus exacerbating the current weakness of global aggregate demand. After all, global growth has benefited enormously from the emergence of large new markets in once-poor countries such as Japan, China, or South Korea, all of which have become reliable sources of consumer demand and investment financing.

By and large, rich countries benefit from GVCs. Lower transport costs and innovations in packaging mean that many goods can now be produced far away from their eventual markets. As a result, high-value goods are often manufactured in low-cost regions of the world. And by adopting a global sourcing model based on cross-border supply chains, many firms in advanced economies can take advantage of these reduced costs.

Companies that participate in GVCs thus become more efficient and productive. As they move into higher-value (often capital-intensive) industries, that are able to pay their employees higher wages and upgrade their activities toward the technological frontier. GVCs also create opportunities to subcontract the production of goods with increasingly sophisticated components, manage manufacturing processes requiring several layers of expertise, and tailor production to demand.

Developing countries, whose share in global value-added trade has increased from 20% in 1990 to 30% in 2000 to over 40% today, also benefit from GVCs, with even the poorest increasingly participating in them. This has resulted in positive spillovers for the domestic economy, especially in countries that upgrade their industries in a manner consistent with their comparative advantages.

Participation in GVCs also tends to be correlated with optimal sources of external financing - primarily FDI. Unlike portfolio investment, FDI reflects foreigners' commitment to long-term business relationships in industries that capitalize on comparative advantage. Besides providing developing countries with much-needed stable non-debt finance, FDI inflows are associated with higher employment, transfers of technology and managerial know-how, and learning opportunities for workers within and across firms.

In the unfavorable business environments typical of many developing countries, GVCs can stimulate the emergence of well-functioning clusters of private firms in competitive industries. They also provide small and medium-size domestic firms opportunities to join strong international networks of partners, suppliers, and clients, which can bring access to finance, higher standards, and expanded markets.

Crippling GVCs in response to the pandemic will therefore be self-defeating. To be sure, rich economies may have legitimate concerns about relying too heavily or solely on China or any other single country for key parts and materials. But the answer is not to dismantle GVCs or roll back global trade, but rather to revamp supply, identify the vulnerabilities, and mitigate the risks.

For starters, multi-sourcing, or having suppliers in different regions of the world, would build in redundancy in case of disruptions. Second, we must ensure that governments' COVID-19 rescue packages account for long-term effects on climate change, promote economic sustainability, and strengthen supplier codes of conduct regarding labor and environmental practices. New technologies and organizational systems such as 4D printing could render supply chains more efficient and sustainable, by making it possible to create objects that not only anticipate but also respond to changes in environmental conditions, thereby enabling self-assembly and creating opportunities for on-demand, customized production.

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## OPINION

By Aaron Bernstein

## Climate Action Can Help to Fight Pandemics

*Improving air quality by expanding renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, and building innovative transportation systems has never been more important. These measures will save lives, protect communities against risks from COVID-19 and future pandemics, and help to ensure a livable climate for future generations.*

BOSTON - The COVID-19 crisis has brought economies around the world to a standstill. Huge swaths of manufacturing have been idled, and sectors such as aviation and tourism are largely shuttered. Amid all the economic ruin, some have pointed to a supposed silver lining: cleaner air. But while it is true that today's lower air pollution will temporarily spare some people's health, it is also true that winds are much calmer in the eye of a hurricane.

Last year, roughly six million people worldwide died as a consequence of air pollution produced from burning fossil fuels. Such pollution will likely lead to nearly as many deaths in 2020, despite the cleaner air resulting from COVID-19 lockdowns. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels causes heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer, and diabetes. Children who breathe contaminated air are more likely to suffer from asthma. And polluted air can also harm pregnant women, resulting in premature or underweight babies.

But we can reduce this growing toll on our health. As our economies kick back into gear after the threat from COVID-19 passes, we should implement climate solutions that will not only prevent the harms caused by air pollution, but also might just forestall the next pandemic.

A recent study by some of my Harvard colleagues provided the first clear evidence that a small increase in long-term exposure to particulate-matter air pollution can significantly increase the odds of someone dying from COVID-19. This effect was apparent even after accounting for other factors, such as pre-existing health conditions, socioeconomic status, and access to health care.

Likewise, other researchers had previously shown that air pollution made people more likely to die from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), another coronavirus. A 2003 study found that someone living in a highly polluted area of China was more than twice as likely to die from SARS than someone living in an area with cleaner air. Chinese cities with high or moderate levels of air pollution had death rates of 8.9% and 7.5% respectively, compared to a 4% rate in areas with low air pollution. Past research has also shown that air pollution can accelerate the spread of respiratory infections.

Given this, it is no surprise that communities already suffering from air pollution - often communities of color and the poor - have been particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus. These populations are now experiencing a double burden: severe illness in the form of COVID-19, in addition to the well-known long-term harms from breathing contaminated air.

All this deepens existing economic and social injustices. Poorer people are more likely to be laid off during the current pandemic, even in wealthier countries, and are also more likely to be exposed to the virus.

Governments can help to end this vicious cycle by speeding up climate action, including by adopting renewable energy and preventing deforestation. By addressing the factors that drive the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, such policies will protect everyone, especially those most at risk.

During the current pandemic, however, some governments have moved to bail out polluting industries and weaken air-quality standards. In the United States, federal authorities, citing the COVID-19 crisis, have suspended enforcement of environmental regulations. And despite the expected impact on the climate, construction has started on the Keystone XL oil pipeline across the US-Canada border, while President Donald Trump's administration recently rolled back vehicle fuel-efficiency standards.

Similarly, South Africa has slashed air-pollution standards for coal power plants, allowing them to emit twice as much sulfur dioxide as before. And in Brazil, state protection of the Amazon rainforest, already dwindling ahead of the fire season, has weakened further as a result of COVID-19 risks, with fewer enforcement agents going out into the field.

Today, governments are rightly focused on meeting their citizens' immediate needs. But as we start to rebuild from this pandemic, we must pressure policymakers to ensure that structural changes do not reinforce business-as-usual scenarios by propping up polluting industries. Instead, we must improve air quality by expanding renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, and building innovative transportation systems. These measures will save lives, protect communities against pandemic risks, and help to ensure a livable climate for our children.

As Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, recently put it, "COVID-19 is the most urgent threat facing humanity today, but we cannot forget that climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity over the long term." She is right, and one of the most effective ways to fend off acute threats like COVID-19 is to tackle the larger global crisis we face.

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## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Is President Weah a Feminist?

By SheWrites, SheLeads

President George Weah has consistently bragged ABOUT BEING the 'Chief Feminist' and made several bold and loud commitments to gender equality, but the numbers of women in his government contradict HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS.

As Liberia's Feminist-in-Chief, I remain committed to making gender main-streaming a matter of priority in the formulation of policies and programs that will drive the development of Liberia in the future," WEAH SAID AT THE 2019/2020 Annual address.

He said when the National Election Commission (NEC) required each political party a minimum of 30 PERCENT of women candidature in parliamentary election, he raised the bar for women TO 50 PERCENT.

"I am proud to inform you that all of those women who had the courage to run were all successful," HE SAID.

But contrary to Weah's statement, only Montserrado County District nine lawmaker Munaah Pelham Youngblood won. Eight of the FEMALES candidates who contested on the President's party ticket did not win.

During the Sheroes conference, President Weah said when he was elected standard-bearer of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), he demonstrated his commitment to the cause of advancement of women's participation in leadership, and to practice what he preached.

"I, therefore, selected a female as my running-mate," he said.

But in early January 2020, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor expressed regret over the refusal to disperse monies to her office, something that made her appear discontent during 2020 annual address.

He has boasted of appointing many women in his cabinets including the first female Deputy Chief of staff of Armed Forces of Liberia.

He classified those actions as manifestations of his desire and advocacy for gender equality and of increasing women's participation in governance in the country.

Despite these efforts aimed at giving women a desirable platform in national leadership, the President acknowledged that women still face a range of issues in Liberia that hold them back in society and make social equality a significant challenge.

He named social norms and traditions as some of the issues.

The 2008 national census puts women at 49% of the total population of about 4million.

Statistics compiled by UN Women states that only 3 female cabinet ministers out of 19 ministries, that amount of 12.12 percent while the males are 16 that amount to 87.88 percent.

The total number of Females is 10 (20.83) out of 48 Deputy ministers and 41 out of 61 assistant ministers.

Three female director generals, 25 are males out of 28 and assistant director-general amount to 36 of which 29 (80.56) are males, and 7 (19.44 percent) are females. Of the total numbers of five commissioners, 1 (20 percent) is a female, four are males (80 percent) and deputy commissioners, 4 are females (40.00) and 6 (60 percent) are males.

There are 7 superintendents, 3 are females (42.86) and 4 are males (57.14), assistant superintendent.

In the senate out of 30 seats one woman and 28 men, while in the representatives out of 73 seats 9 are occupied by women after 156 contested the 2017 elections.

women and 46 percent men participated in the 2017 elections.

Section 4.5 of Liberia's New Election Law, which calls for no less than 30 per cent representation of each gender on the lists of candidates submitted by political parties.

While this provision has no enforcement mechanism, there was a 16 percent uptick in the number of female candidates listed for the legislative race of the 2017 election cycle.

In 2017, the Senate passed the Affirmative Action Bill, but it still lingered in the House of Representative.

The bill seeks to give exclusive 15 seats to women in the Senate.

Liberia ranks 155 rank out of 188 in terms of women's representation in parliament according to Global data on National Parliament

The number of registered females fell far below the stipulated 'endeavor to ensure' 30% allocated for

each gender equality in the New Elections Law.

Out of 783 registered candidates, 637 (71.4%) were male candidates, and only 156 (28.6%) were female candidates.

The National Elections Commission reported that women represented 49 percent of all voters during the first round of presidential and legislative elections.

Mmonbeydo Joah Harrell, Executive Director of Organization for Women and Children commended President Weah for setting in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development plan with several pillars with an increased political participation of women at the national and local levels to reach a target of 30% by 2023.



9 women contested as Vice President candidates with one winning.

For the judiciary there are two women out of five justices, six females out of 43 specialized court judges.

Four females as circuit judges out of 21 courts while eight are females; with 90 Stipendiary Magistrates six are females in Montserrado County.

The US 2018 Human rights report states that no laws limit the participation of women, members of minorities, or both in the political process, and women participate. WOMEN.

"Some observers believed traditional and cultural factors limited women's participation in politics as compared with the participation of men. Women participated at significantly lower levels than men as party leaders and as elected officials," The UN human report states.

2017 statistics from UNDP states that 54 percent

The pillar includes medium, short term, and long-term interventions some of which include partners in the Civil Society.

Madam Harrell said though President Weah set up a site for women only to apply to work in his government. There is no evidence, however; that any name was selected from the list that applied to the site even though some women who did apply were appointed.

"It is time to back those commitments by actions which in clear terms remain his Constitutional duty as he called himself Chief Feminist."

"We all must and will continue to hold government accountable in providing safety nets and short-term social protection interventions for women who participate in political processes. Otherwise, the government will fall short of its 30% High-Level National Target," she said.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Activa provides life insurance for Health workers

Liberia's Frontline Health Practitioners and allied Workers at the 14-Military Hospital are now covered by a Life Insurance Policy if they get infected while taking care of COVID-19 Patients.

The Life Insurance Policy

Military Hospital.

Speaking the launch and signing of the Life Insurance Policy Tuesday at the Health Ministry, Activa's Managing Director Cllr. Saye Gbalazeh said it was the Company's gesture towards assisting the

Life Insurance Policy Package for the frontline health workers at 14-Military Hospital is One-hundred and five thousand United States Dollars and made possible through Activa Group Foundation.

Cllr Gbalazeh said Activa's gesture underpins the company's philosophy of a



covers natural and accidental deaths to include deaths emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activa International Insurance-Liberia is providing the Life Insurance Policy for the 115- Health Practitioners and allied workers at the 14-

Liberian Government in the fight against the Coronavirus.

He said the Policy will cover a six month period with the option to be renewed for another six months if it becomes necessary.

The Activa Chief Executive Office said the total cost of the

loyal and purpose-driven corporate citizenship imbued with the culture of giving back to the community in which it operates.

Receiving the donation, Health Minister Wilemina

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Republic of Ireland becomes AfDB Group 81st shareholder

The Republic of Ireland has become the African Development Bank Group's 81st shareholder, following a declaration issued by the institution's President, Akinwumi Adesina, on 24 April 2020.

Ireland's application to join the African Development Bank Group was approved during the Annual meetings of the Board of Governors of the Bank Group held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2019.

In February 2020, the nation deposited the Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement Establishing the African Development Fund with the Secretary-General of the Bank Group during a delegation visit to the Bank's headquarters, moving one step closer to concluding the membership process.

"Ireland's joining the African Development Bank is a mark of great confidence in the Bank. I am delighted to



AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina

welcome Ireland as the 81st member of the African Development Bank. Ireland's membership and shareholder support will further boost the African Development Bank's mission to accelerate Africa's economic development," African Development Bank's President Akinwumi Adesina declared.

Commenting on the

membership, Irish Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe stated: "The African Development Bank and its sister the African Development Fund play an important role in fostering sustainable and inclusive

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Taylor drawn

Starts from back page

George Manneh Weah's administration in June 2019.

The lawmaker was from the onset jointly indicted with the security guards and supporters in person of Abu Keita, Johnson Kpor, Oliver Kanneh, Levi Blackie, Mohammed S. Kabah, Mohammed A. Kabah and Frank O. Morgan. But the State later dropped charges against the lawmaker's bodyguards and used them as state witnesses against him.

"Once you have direct control over your men, they execute your orders, you can be held for their actions. Taylor was found guilty not because he physically went on the war front [in Sierra Leone], but he had control over his men on the war front," Cllr. Wesseh adds.

He claims that the prosecution has established that kidnapping occurred because witnesses have testified in the trial that Rep. Kolubah's men took Freeman from his house to the defendant's yard.

Continuing with the State's side of the final argument, Montserrado County Attorney

He tells the court that Freeman was kidnapped on 5 June 2019 because he disobeyed the order of Yekeh Kolubah, pleading with the court to adjudge the defendant guilty of the crime of kidnapping.

Responding to issues of former Liberian President Taylor raised by the prosecution, defense lawyer Cllr. Jimmy Bombo states that if you hire young people, give them guns to kill human beings, that scenario is different from what they are in court for.

He argues that vicarious liability does not apply in the case because kidnapping is about unlawful removal of a person from their place and unlawful confinement of that person.

He argues that state witness Emmanuel Freeman testified that he was arrested by Abu Keita and Koon for allegedly stealing a phone, adding that at no time did Freeman say he was confined by Yekeh. He notes that Yekeh had no knowledge as to what was happening outside that



Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

Cllr. Edwin K. Martin insists that the action of the agent as to the instruction of the principal, if the action of the agent is criminal, that principal is highly responsible.

However, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie questioned Cllr. Martin as to why prosecution didn't rebut an important testimony given by defense witness Mohammed Kaba and Rep. Kolubah that Freeman was held for a stolen phone, when the State otherwise says that Freeman was kidnapped for refusing a T-Shirt.

In response, Cllr. Martin says the incident of kidnapping occurred on 5 June because Freeman disobeyed the order of Yekeh Kolubah, while the incident of the phone occurred on 4 June.

According to him, these bodyguards were recruited by Rep. Kolubah who allegedly trained and equipped them, saying the lawmaker did not state that the bodyguards were trained by the Armed Forces of Liberia, (AFL), the police or a professional private security firm.

night of June 5.

Further arguing for the defense, Cllr. Finley Kanga claims that the action by the State is intended to silence opposition voices, noting that Kolubah is being tried not because of law, but because he is a loud voice for the people in the Legislature.

Cllr. Kanga asks the court to set Mr. Kolubah free because there was extreme failure on the part of the State to rebut the testimony of Mohammed Kaba who said Emmanuel was held for a stolen phone, adding that the ordering of having Emmanuel handcuffed to the market table was done by Abu Keita but not the lawmaker.

He insists that the perpetrators' action was far removed from their official work as it did not occur during their working time.

He concludes that there were material variances in the testimonies of the state witnesses, adding that the elements provided for under kidnapping law were not established by the state.



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# CBL to print LRD4 billion

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has announced the completion of what it says was a competitive bidding process for the printing of additional Liberian dollar banknotes to ease the prolong shortage of local banknotes here. The bank said the amount to be printed and circulated is 4 billion Liberia Dollar banknotes in 500 denominations. The bank said it used

Dollars banknotes (in L\$500 denomination). Under the terms of the contract, Crane will print and deliver the approved amount of banknotes to the CBL in Monrovia in a reasonable timeframe. On March 12, 2020, the CBL issued an RFP, soliciting proposals for the printing of additional banknotes, with a deadline for responses on or before April 8, 2020. The CBL received proposals from potential currency printing firms in advance of the

Crane was recommended by the CBL Procurement Committee as the preferred supplier to print the additional banknotes with the technical advice of Kroll Associates Inc. ("Kroll"). CBL Executive Governor, J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr., said the selection of Crane AB ('Crane') "is the result of a competitive and transparent procurement process that was opened to several major currency printers around the world." He added that to ensure the integrity of the process and its full compliance with internationally accepted standards, the CBL worked with a team from Kroll. He thanked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for making the services of Kroll available to the CBL through a technical assistance program designed to enhance the CBL's institutional capabilities and overall operations. The Executive Governor said "the CBL will keep the Liberian people fully informed of every step in the procurement process, up to and including the arrival and injection of the additional banknotes into the Liberian economy." The CBL opined that it will, with the technical assistance of Kroll, track the shipment of the additional banknotes from the printer to the CBL's vaults, and into the banking system. The additional banknotes is expected to help address the lingering liquidity problem and provide the Liberian people easier access to the cash they need to pay for food, school fees, health care, and other essential products and services, the bank said.



CBL Governor Tarlue

enhanced procedures consistent with international best practices, to review proposals submitted in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP), and selected the most competitive bid (Crane AB), based on cost and delivery time. The CBL further stated that following the process it intends to enter into a contract with Crane AB ("Crane") for the printing and delivery of 4 billion Liberian

deadline. Five internationally reputable currency printing companies were invited to participate in the bidding process. Subsequently, a specially dedicated Procurement Committee for printing of the additional banknotes conducted a rigorous evaluation process of the proposals, focused on both financial and technical aspects against a set of detailed evaluation criteria. As a result of this process,

# Lebanese Culture Union turns over 52-bed facility to gov't

By Lewis S. Teh

The World Lebanese Culture Union in Liberia has turned over a 52-bed facility to the Government of Liberia to be used as treatment centers for people infected with the new coronavirus.

Speaking at the official turning over ceremony Tuesday, 05 May in Sophie Town, the President of the World Lebanese Culture Union, Ahmed Wazni said, this is the WLCU's way of identifying with the government, as it struggles to fight the virus.

He said the facility is meant to help the government in these critical times, and that over the last three weeks they have been working with every member of the community, including some employees to generate US\$ 350,000 in

corona virus will be eradicated from this country and the world at large", Ambassador Kastoun optimistically expressed.

On behalf of President George M. Weah, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel F. McGill lauded the Lebanese community for having Liberia in their plan, and by turning over a 52-bed facility to be used as treatment centers for affected COVID-19 patients.

Minister McGill noted the facility is a clear manifestation of the bilateral relationship between Lebanon and the Republic of Liberia.

"As you may be aware, during these critical times when you are troubled, the one who offers help is being considered as a good friend and today, the Lebanese people have shown that they



making sure the project becomes a reality.

"We have been working with other institutions across the country, but this is our biggest project and we call it the union's clinic; we put our passion and commitment, we want to say that after this pandemic we will transform this building to 'state of the art' clinic for patients", Mr. Wazni asserted.

The Lebanese Ambassador to Liberia, Henri Kastoun, thanked the Lebanese community here for the bold step taken to identifying with the government in the fight against COVID 19, noting that the virus dose not distinguish among citizens or nationalities.

"I am happy that we are buttressing government's efforts in this fight, with this facility, we can certainly say

are good friends to us", he said.

"Let's put all the politicking and unnecessary criticizing aside for now as political leaders or anyone that claims to love Liberia; it's time that we all contribute to the fight of this virus, criticizing is good, but contributing is even more greater."

Liberia's Minister of Health, Doctor Wilhemina Jallah praised members of the Lebanese community here for their decision to turn over the facility to be used as treatment centers saying, "This is another milestone in the fight against the corona virus."

Minister Jallah said the facility will boost the ongoing fight to prevent spread of the

Starts from back page

# Weah's spokesman

claimed on Monday that President Weah is not spending a dime on that project, saying contractors are being paid by the supervisor of the project - the First Lady.

He detailed that Timothy is the sole financier of that property, asking the talk show host at OK FM to wait a little bit to get the transfer document to be convinced.

But on Tuesday, Toby returned with a completely different version as to the ownership of the 9th Street property, saying he had gathered further information and he still wanted to be truthful to Liberian people because there's a tomorrow

ahead of him.

He says the information he gathered is that the property on 9th Street, Sinkor is not owned by Timothy Weah as he (Toby) had said on Monday.

According to him, the property is owned by the president, noting that prior to the onversation held with OK FM on Monday, the information that he gathered was what he provided.

"So the new information that was confirmed by the owner is that it belongs to the president and not Timothy ..., " Toby says.

Toby says he works in the circle of the president, and

from the way they work in the presidency sometimes there are people they relate to for information.

However, he notes that if there's new information surrounding the new ownership of the property and the owner of the property confirms that the property has no ownership to his son, he has to come back to provide the information.

Professionally Toby says he has to apologize to the public, saying the previous information on that property was not the right information.

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# Français

## COVID-19 : Le Liberia reçoit des échantillons du remède malgache

Le président George Weah a reçu lundi à l'aéroport international Roberts, à Harbel, dans le comté de Margibi, des échantillons du Covid-Organics, une solution à base de plantes développée à Madagascar, qui pourrait prévenir et guérir le coronavirus.

Le remède à base de plantes médicinales, délivré par un fonctionnaire de la Guinée-Bissau, a été

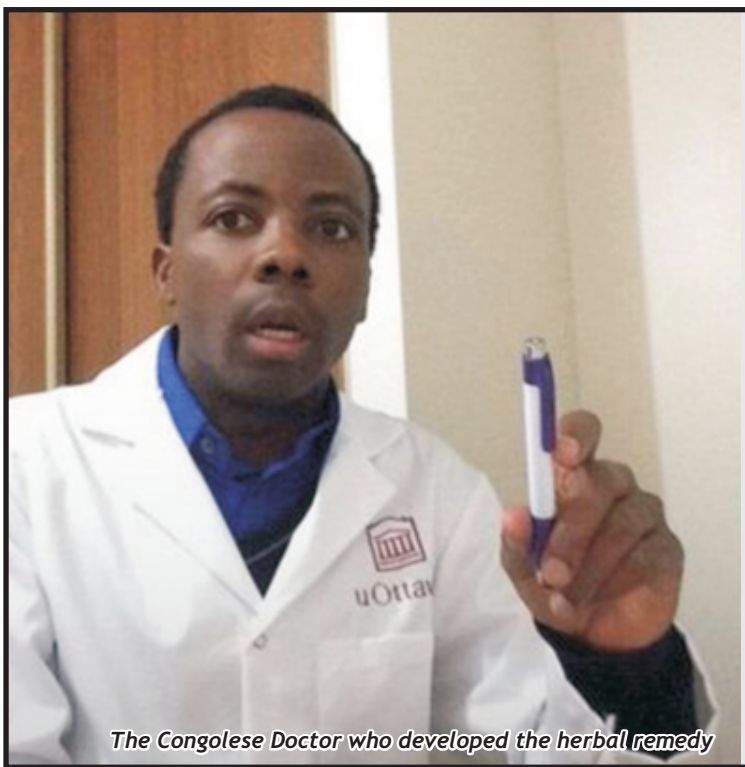
introduit dans le pays sur la demande du président Weah auprès de son homologue Bissau Guinéen, le président Umaro Sissoco Embaló, il y a quelques jours, alors que ce pays avait passé une commande pour son propre approvisionnement en traitement anti-coronavirus.

Si le médicament s'avère efficace ici, le gouvernement libérien pourra alors se ravitailler, selon le vice-secrétaire de presse Smith

Toby. Les échantillons actuels comprennent deux boîtes de prévention et une boîte de traitement.

Le Covid-Organics a été développé par un médecin congolais, le Dr Jerome Munyagi en partenariat avec l'Institut malgache de recherche appliquée et sous la marque COVID Organics, selon la BBC. La solution à base de plantes

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



The Congolese Doctor who developed the herbal remedy



Sample of Covid-Organics delivered to Liberia

## Lutte contre le Covid-19 : le gouvernement ivoirien apporte son soutien à 2 000 réfugiés

Le Gouvernement ivoirien apporte une assistance à plus de 2 000 réfugiés pour atténuer les effets de la pandémie du coronavirus, indique une note d'information transmise, dimanche soir à Abidjan.net. « Cette assistance, d'une valeur de plus de 20 millions de francs CFA, constitue une véritable bouée de sauvetage pour les réfugiés vivant en Côte d'Ivoire, un des pays les plus touchés par la pandémie du coronavirus avec plus de 1 300 cas et dont la croissance économique, estimée à 7,2 % pour l'année 2020, serait réduite de moitié à 3,6 % », précise le texte de la Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides.

Composée de kits alimentaires (riz, huile) et non alimentaires (gel hydro alcoolique, savon, seau), cette assistance est en adéquation avec l'appel du Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés aux Etats « à ne pas oublier les personnes qui fuient les guerres et la persécution et éviter que le virus ne se propage plus largement parmi les communautés les plus

vulnérables ».

La Côte d'Ivoire accueille actuellement sur son territoire plus de 2 000 réfugiés, principalement dans la capitale Abidjan et à l'Ouest vers la frontière avec le Liberia où le HCR, l'Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés se chargera de faire acheminer ces dons offerts par le Gouvernement.

« Les réfugiés que nous sommes, avons particulièrement besoin de l'attention et de la

protection humanitaire durant cette période. Ce don nous a beaucoup touché. C'est ensemble que nous surmonterons cette crise. » a déclaré M'bhayabo Tchitenge Tony, Représentant les communautés des réfugiés lors la cérémonie de remise symbolique des dons au siège de la Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides (DAARA).



Min. Samuel Tweah

## Éditorial

### Les autorités libériennes devraient donner l'exemple

Les Libériens sont non seulement surpris, mais totalement confus après avoir appris que des responsables de haut niveau qui dirigent la réponse contre le COVID-19 ont été testés positifs au nouveau coronavirus à la suite d'une réunion sur la sécurité.

Il y a même eu un décès parmi eux. Pourtant, ce sont les mêmes autorités qui veillent au respect de l'état d'urgence et du confinement, fouettant les pauvres gens pour ne s'être pas lavés les mains régulièrement, pour n'avoir pas respecté la distanciation sociale ou encore refusé de porter des masques faciaux, entre autres mesures préventives.

L'inspecteur général de la police, Patrick Sudue, a failli se faire exploser la tête, criant à la radio lundi que la police se servirait des fouets pour veiller au respect des mesures de sécurité sanitaire. Les forces de l'ordre ont effectivement sévi mardi matin à Red Light, à Duala et à Waterside. Elles ont malmené les pauvres femmes qui étaient allées à la recherche des moyens de survie, les fouettant sévèrement.

Mais le paradoxe c'est que les agents de sécurité communs qui veillent au respect de ces réglementations ne portent pas eux-mêmes de masques et ne respectent pas non plus la distanciation sociale. Depuis des auvents surpeuplés, ils s'approchent des véhicules aux différents points de contrôle, le visage exposé, mettant directement en danger les conducteurs et les occupants. En fait, certains sont plus préoccupés par les conseils des conducteurs que par le but pour lequel ils sont déployés le long des routes.

Le fait que des responsables de haut niveau tels que les ministres de la Justice, de l'Information et de la Défense, ainsi que d'autres hauts responsables ont été touchés après une réunion est pour le moins très inquiétant.

Les autorités ont-elles la manie d'imposer une chose aux citoyens et font quelque chose de totalement différent dans les coulisses ? Ou bien qu'est-ce qui se passe réellement au Libéria ? Nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire que nous réexaminions nos stratégies de lutte contre le nouveau coronavirus, sinon les situations pourraient empirer avant de s'améliorer, comme l'indiquent les réalités actuelles.

Nous avons été très déçus l'autre jour quand un journaliste a appelé Joy FM à Monrovia et a révélé que plusieurs législateurs, dont le représentant du comté de Montserrado Hassan Kiazulu, s'étaient rassemblés dans un bar à Brewerville en fin d'après-midi pour boire des boissons alcoolisées en violation flagrante de l'état d'urgence et des mesures de confinement.

Cela n'était en aucun cas un acte exemplaire de la part des législateurs prétendument impliqués, car cela envoyait un très mauvais signal au public.

Le ministre libérien de la Santé, le docteur Wilhemina Jallah, a dit que le pays semble gaspiller des kits de tests indispensables sur les morts que sur ceux qui vivent, ce qui semble insinuer que nos autorités sanitaires ne font rien de bon.

Il est temps que le gouvernement cesse de faire du bruit ici et là dans cette lutte contre le COVID-19 et se mette au travail. Nos autorités ne devraient pas utiliser l'état d'urgence et le verrouillage pour dilapider nos impôts et les fonds des donateurs sous le déguisement de la lutte contre la crise sanitaire dans le pays.

Quand un haut fonctionnaire, un ministre de la Santé, soulève une telle inquiétude au sujet de ce qui se passe en réalité dans les centres de traitement, alors il faut dire que quelque chose va fondamentalement mal. Il faut prendre des mesures dès maintenant pour corriger le tir pour faire avancer notre combat.

Pour que le Libéria gagne cette bataille, et nous sommes convaincus que nous le ferons, il est temps que nos dirigeants donnent l'exemple de haut en bas pour donner aux Libériens ordinaires et au public en général un aperçu clair de la direction que nous prenons en tant que peuple pour vaincre cette pandémie mondiale.



# Français

## COVID-19 : Le Liberia

contient de l'Artemisia, une plante cultivée à Madagascar pour traiter le paludisme.

L'échantillon de traitement est arrivé dans le pays au moment où le Libéria a confirmé 166 cas de coronavirus avec 18 décès et 58 guérisons.

Madagascar, qui a développé le remède à base de plantes, a enregistré 133 cas avec 97 guérisons et zéro décès.

Le remède à base de plantes a été apporté sur un vol lundi. Selon le responsable Bissau Guinéen qui a présenté la solution à base de plantes, depuis l'application des herbes à Madagascar, il n'y a pas eu de mort à ce jour.

Recevant le médicament au nom du gouvernement du Libéria, le président George Manneh Weah a remercié tout particulièrement son homologue et a félicité le président malgache Andry Rajoelina pour leurs efforts dans ces découvertes.

S'adressant aux journalistes lors de la cérémonie, le ministre d'État chargé des Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, a déclaré que le médicament est la solution à la crise actuelle.

"Nous sommes reconnaissants au gouvernement de Madagascar d'être venu à notre aide. Nous traiterons certains de nos malades avec ce médicament", a-t-il dit.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé si les médicaments avaient été approuvés par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, M. McGill a répondu disant qu'on n'a pas besoin que l'OMS approuve les médicaments faits à base de plantes médicinales.

"Nous qui sommes venus de l'intérieur, nous buvons nos racines amères et l'OMS n'a pas à approuver ces racines avant de les [prendre]", a-t-il dit.

McGill soutient en outre que l'OMS n'approuve pas les médicaments antipaludiques que les gens traditionnels prennent pour éliminer le paludisme de leur corps.

Depuis le lancement officiel Covid-Organics, une quinzaine de pays africains ont décidé de soigner leurs malades atteints du

coronavirus avec ce produit. Mais Corine Karema, médecin et consultante en paludisme et maladies infectieuses, appelle à la prudence.

"Ça serait très important que tous ces produits passent par les essais cliniques. Il faut que ça soit confirmé par des études cliniques qui vont stipuler qu'effectivement les guérisons des malades sont liées au traitement qui a été donné. Et je pense que l'OMS est là pour nous donner les directives de traitement des maladies comme le coronavirus", estime Corine Karema.

L'OMS a en effet déclaré qu'il n'existe aucune preuve scientifique que le Covid-Organics soit efficace contre la pandémie du coronavirus. Une mise en garde réitérée par l'Académie nationale de médecine de Madagascar et par l'ancien président, devenu opposant, Marc

"Remède-miracle"

Sur le continent, le remède malgache est perçu par beaucoup comme étant le "remède-miracle" africain contre le Covid-19. Le traitement à base d'injection d'artémisia séduit également de nombreux dirigeants africains. John Magufuli, le président de Tanzanie, a déjà annoncé son intention d'en importer. Le Togo, le Tchad, le Cameroun ont eux-aussi déjà envoyé des avions pour venir chercher des lots sur la Grande île. Les présidents du Congo, de Guinée, et des Comores se disent eux aussi intéressés.

Pour sa part, la Guinée-Bissau a réceptionné samedi (02.05.20) des cartons d'une potion promue par le président de Madagascar.

Selon les deux dirigeants, les produits doivent être distribués dans 14 autres membres de la Cédéao (Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest).

La Guinée-Bissau et la Guinée-Equatoriale sont les deux premiers pays à avoir officiellement pris livraison de Covid-Organics.

Selon le ministre de la Santé de Guinée-Equatoriale, Salomon Nguema Owono, le Covid-Organics serait distribuée sous sa forme préventive aux personnes saines et sous sa forme curative, à titre expérimental pendant 14 jours, aux patients hospitalisés.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Abiy Ahmed

### Un plaidoyer pour l'Afrique

**A**DDIS-ABEBA - Le monde ne sera pas libéré de la pandémie de COVID-19 tant que tous les pays ne seront pas débarrassés du coronavirus qui l'engendre. Cette simple réalité souligne la nécessité urgente associée à la Conférence mondiale des donateurs pour la santé, organisée le 4 mai. Ce n'est qu'en agissant immédiatement, en soutien de la capacité des pays en voie de développement à lutter contre la maladie, que le monde pourra éviter une deuxième vague de virus cet automne.

Les dirigeants de l'Union africaine saluent les propositions actuelles d'approvisionnement en kits de tests, respirateurs et équipements de protection personnelle (EPP) de la part des pays développés. Pour autant, si nous entendons faire reculer le COVID-19, les pays les plus riches de la planète doivent entendre et répondre au plaidoyer des pays en voie de développement, qui en appellent à une stratégie globale permettant de surmonter la double crise, sanitaire et économique, à laquelle nous sommes confrontés.

À ce jour, la déconnexion est immense entre le discours des dirigeants des pays riches - qui parlent d'une crise existentielle, d'une crise mondiale qui n'arrive qu'une fois au cours d'un siècle - et le soutien qu'ils semblent envisager pour les pays pauvres et en voie de développement. En effet, jusqu'à la semaine dernière, les pays africains dépensaient davantage pour le remboursement de leur dette que pour la santé.

Dans 34 des 45 pays d'Afrique subsaharienne, les dépenses publiques annuelles de santé par habitant sont inférieures à 200 \$ - et atteignent à peine 50 \$ dans la plupart de ces pays. Un niveau de dépenses aussi faible rend impossible le financement de lits hospitaliers en soins intensifs, de respirateurs, et de médicaments nécessaires face à des maladies telles que le COVID-19. Payer les médecins, infirmiers, techniciens de radiologie et autres professionnels de santé, sans oublier leurs équipements, apparaît presque comme un luxe.

Pire encore, nombre des mesures applicables par les économies riches pour atténuer l'épidémie - état d'urgence, confinements, et même lavage des mains fréquent - peuvent difficilement être mises en œuvre dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement. Au sein de villes souvent surpeuplées, la distanciation sociale apparaît quasiment impossible, et les ressources manquent qui permettraient une hygiène suffisante, de même que l'eau courante nécessaire aux individus.

Quelles sont alors les solutions ? Pour commencer, les gouvernements d'Afrique ont immédiatement besoin d'un flux de financements leur permettant d'investir dans les soins de santé et les filets de sécurité sociale. Le point de départ le plus efficace réside ici dans l'allègement de la dette. Pour l'heure, l'assouplissement de la dette bilatérale pour les 173 États membres de l'Association internationale de développement (branche de la Banque mondiale chargée des prêts concessionnels pour les pays en voie de

développement les plus pauvres) n'est en vigueur que jusqu'au mois de décembre. Or, pour être en capacité de répondre à nos contraintes immédiates, et de préparer l'avenir, nous avons besoin que l'allègement de la dette s'applique non seulement cette année, mais également l'an prochain.

Au-delà de l'allègement de la dette, il est impératif que les plafonds d'octrois et de prêts de la part du Fonds monétaire international, de la Banque mondiale, et d'autres banques multilatérales de développement, soit significativement rehaussés. Il est également nécessaire qu'une émission d'argent international pour la levée de 1 500 milliards \$ - sous la forme des droits de tirage spéciaux du FMI - soit effectuée sans tarder.

Nous, pays d'Afrique, ne sollicitons pas seulement cette aide pour nous-mêmes, bien que nos besoins dans cette crise soient sans doute les plus considérables de notre histoire. Nous, pays d'Afrique, demandons l'aide des pays développés (y compris de la Chine) afin que nous puissions faire tout le nécessaire pour protéger le monde entier contre un retour de ce fléau.

Le temps nous est compté. L'Afrique sera peut-être la dernière région sur Terre à être frappée par le COVID-19, mais la maladie demeure toujours aussi redoutable et mortelle. Si nous entendons éradiquer la menace, chaque pays doit faire tout ce qu'il peut pour accélérer la recherche d'un vaccin, et faire en sorte qu'il soit disponible partout.

La Coalition pour les innovations en matière de préparation aux pandémies devra pour cela bénéficier de fonds suffisants - 3 milliards \$ dans l'immédiat, puis davantage en 2021 et au-delà - non seulement afin de développer et produire un vaccin pour ceux qui peuvent se l'offrir, mais également afin de pouvoir le distribuer équitablement à travers le monde. Pour y veiller, Gavi l'Alliance du vaccin doit pouvoir disposer des fonds suffisants.

De même, un effort mondial coordonné permettrait d'accélérer significativement la production des EPP, des kits de test, et des respirateurs nécessaires dans chaque pays et sur chaque continent, tout garantissant une distribution équitable de ces matériels vitaux, qui ne doivent pas être réservés à une poignée de privilégiés. Ceux des États qui enregistrent peu de cas de coronavirus, et qui ont dépassé le pic de pandémie, doivent songer à aider les pays pauvres en leur faisant parvenir des équipements vitaux. Enfin, nous devons à l'avenir constituer des stocks de matériels de ce type en cas d'urgence, afin que nous puissions nous épauler les uns les autres la prochaine fois que nous aurons besoin d'aide.

Toutes ces problématiques figurent à l'agenda de la Conférence mondiale des donateurs pour la santé, du 4 mai. Nous demandons à tous les États en capacité de le faire de participer, d'écouter, de conseiller et, plus important encore, de donner.



# “International Partners Express Willingness and Support for Liberia’s National Response to COVID-19 – Commend GOL Leadership”

(New York, May 5, 2020) The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and International Partners of the Republic of Liberia have indicated overwhelming willingness and expression of support to the Government and People of Liberia for Liberia’s National Response to COVID-19. They also expressed satisfaction and commendation for the able Leadership being provided by the Government of Liberia in its fight against COVID-19.

The UN Peacebuilding Commission and International Community indicated their overwhelming willingness and expression of support for Liberia’s National Response to COVID-19 and Post-COVID-19 Socio-economic development during an Ambassadorial-Level Virtual Meeting of the UN Peacebuilding Commission Liberia Configuration held recently in New York on the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace in Liberia.

The meeting was convened by Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations and Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission Liberia Configuration, in collaboration with His Excellency Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office.

In remarks, Ambassador Eneström expressed satisfaction about the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Government of Liberia and the International Community and donors and the UN Country Team. She reaffirmed that the International Partners and United Nations stand in solidarity with the Government and People of Liberia in this difficult situation.

Ambassador Eneström also expressed that she was very pleased with the level of cooperation, collaboration and coordination between Ambassador Kemayah and her; stressing that she looks forward to continuing that cooperation with Ambassador Kemayah and the Permanent Mission.

She welcomed the Officials of the Government from Monrovia and Ambassador Kemayah and Representatives of the International Community to the Meeting. She commended, and paid tribute to the Government and People of Liberia for the effort in fighting COVID-19 and mourning the losses of those who have lost their lives to the virus. She provided an overview of the meeting, which she said was convened to focus on the socio-economic situation in Liberia in the wake of the virus and explore ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on economic development; and the risk of reversing peacebuilding gains in Liberia. She said the meeting was called to consider the peacebuilding priorities in Liberia that require attention in view of COVID-19 and its potential socio-economic implications; and how conflict-sensitive responses to COVID-19 can be supported. Ambassador Eneström stressed that the Ambassadorial-Level Meeting, which was very well attended and supported by the International Partners of Liberia at the United Nations; was convened to also focus on the international support that is required to assist Liberia mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on peacebuilding gains in Liberia, and maintain its path towards sustainable peace and development.

According to a dispatch from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations; following the comprehensive briefings and updates from the Government of Liberia, United Nations Country Team and World Bank on COVID-19 and its related impact in Liberia; the members of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and Liberia’s International Partners in New York voiced their concerns for the likely socio-economic impacts COVID-19 may have on Liberia’s economy, the health sector and efforts to building and sustaining peace in Liberia. There was immense commendation and support expressed by the members of the UN



H.E. Amb. Anna Karin Enestrom, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN and new Chair of the Liberia Configuration, United Nations Peacebuilding Commission calls on H.E. Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Permanent Representative of Liberia to the UN

Peacebuilding Commission, UN Country Team and Liberia’s International Partners for His Excellency President George Manneh Weah and the Government of Liberia for the Leadership being demonstrated in Liberia, and measures being taken in the fight against COVID-19, which they affirmed is critical in fighting the virus. The Partners also thanked and praised the efforts of the international community for its assistance to Liberia; and appreciated the close collaboration between the Government and the international community and donors and the UN Country Team in coordinating efforts to avoid fragmentation and duplication of donor efforts aimed at fighting COVID-19; as well as ensuring that the peacebuilding priorities in Liberia remain on the front burner; while heartening the UN Peacebuilding Commission to explore ways to source funding for Liberia’s peacebuilding priorities.

A dispatch from the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations states that the overwhelming willingness and support for Liberia’s National Response to COVID-19 and Post-COVID-19 Socio-economic development was expressed by Liberia’s International Partners and Members of the UN Peacebuilding Commission who fully participated in the recent meeting; including the United States of America, Sweden, Canada, Colombia, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Japan, United Nations Country Team in Liberia, European Union, Kenya, Egypt, World Bank, WHO, Brazil, Norway, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and ECOWAS, amongst others. Samples of overwhelming expressions of willingness and support for Liberia’s National Response; in addition to the overwhelming expression of willingness and support for Liberia from Ambassador Eneström and the UN Peacebuilding Commission; included the following:

United Nations Country Team: Dr. Kingsley Opoku Amaning, UN Resident Coordinator in Liberia said the effort of the UN Peacebuilding Commission is very much appreciated by the Government of Liberia and UN Country Team. He said the Country has been doing the right thing in term of the preventive measures; stressing that the UN Country Team and International Community are working together with the Government to galvanize the strength of the communities to build all the structures necessary for containing COVID-19 and addressing all the threats to the resilience of the communities. Dr. Amaning praised the Government for the leadership it is providing in fighting COVID-19. He expressed satisfaction about the pillars of the response plan of the Government, and the broad-based technical staffing based on competencies and skills across the political divide. Dr. Amaning stressed that all the resources and support are needed in the wake of the strong Leadership that continues to be shown by the Government; with the involvement of His Excellency President Weah to fight COVID-19, and the strong leadership in the pillars. Dr. Amaning informed the meeting that there is coordination mechanism; pointing out that there is a systematic coordination mechanism among donors, partners, diplomatic missions and the UN Country Team; stressing that they are working hand in hand with the Government of Liberia on very, very

close terms. He further stressed the need for the international community to provide financial and material support to Liberia to fight COVID-19 and mitigate its socio-economic impacts.

World Bank: Dr. Khwima Nthara, World Bank Country Manager for Liberia recognized the leadership, commitment, and flexibility that the Government of Liberia has shown; and this according to him, is enhancing the mobilization of resources. Dr. Nthara lauded the international community and UN Country Team for the Financial, Material and Technical support being provided. He underscored that it is heartening that the Government and partners are not just looking at the immediate health response, but also considering the medium term to address the socio-economic impacts; he commended the Government of Liberia for clearly outlining its Response Plan; welcoming Government’s response plan and effort at involving all communities and other stakeholders in fighting COVID-19; expressing that with such involvement, there is national ownership.

United States of America: Representing the United States, Mr. Jason Mack, Counselor for Economic and Social Affairs at the United States Mission to the United Nations thanked all parts of the United Nations System that are combating COVID-19 and continuing the important work of building peace and resilience country by country, including in Liberia. In the case of Liberia, Mr. Mack informed the meeting that the United States is working to realign the support of the United States Government to Liberia in line with needs on the ground. Mr. Mack stressed that the United States Government appreciates its closed Partnership with the Government of Liberia in addressing the COVID-19 crisis. He affirmed that the United States remains focused on humanitarian concern and the importance of coordinated efforts; including the work of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations entities to mitigate the impacts of this crisis in Liberia and around the World; emphasizing that working together, this will be gotten through. He said the United States knows that comprehensive solutions are required to help countries mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and to deliver results; so the United States he said, welcomes the robust support through the United Nations Response Plan, World Bank Funding and the International Monetary Fund Extended Credit Facility. He indicated that the United States hopes the UN Peacebuilding Commission can leverage its advisory role to support further coordination across these efforts. He further said that to help countries focus on the crisis and recovery; as the G-7 Finance Ministers announced on April 14, 2020; the United States stands ready along with its counterparts to provide a time bound suspension on debt service payments due on official bilateral plans for all countries eligible for World Bank Concessional Financing if joined by all Bilateral official creditors in the G-20; and as agreed with the Paris Club.



# Over 50 persons feared dead

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Residents of Tawor District, Grand Cape Mount County in western Liberia are mourning right now after a mudslide in a mining site that buried at least 50 persons. However, some reports put the total casualties at more than 60.

Reports from the county monitored on Truth FM and OK FM respectively in Monrovia indicate the victims are illegal gold and diamond miners. The site is said to be operated by Chinese.

The incident reportedly

Holy Ramadan, as they reportedly prepared to bury some of the bodies recovered in mass grave, while scores of bodies are still being counted from the rubbles.

This is the second time such incident had occurred in that part of the country. The first was in 1982 during the regime of slain President Samuel Doe when landslide killed about 55 residents in No-Way Camp, another mining community in Grand Cape Mount.

According to reports, the two towns had experienced an unusual influx of young people

quickly move to provide food and shelter for hundreds of others made homeless due to the violent landslide.

Early Tuesday, officers of the Liberia National Police along with a team from the Ministry Of Internal Affairs and the National Disaster Management, including the Liberia National Red Cross and the Grand Cape Mount County Health Team, went on the scene and are working with local youths in searching for more bodies from the wreckage.

On October 06, 1982, local hospital morgue in the county was parked with unidentified corpses, as injured people crowded company hospital beds and waiting rooms, pending treatment.

Family members and rescue workers braved the pungent scent of the hospital grounds to rush in more wounded persons, to console and care for seriously wounded family members or simply to identify corpses.

The management of a mining company at the time NIOC, under whose watch the landslide occurred, seemed ill-prepared to handle the effects of the landslide as rescue workers from Monrovia and other parts of Liberia were called in to help with the recovery efforts. Some of the wounded persons were evacuated to hospitals in Monrovia and nearby counties for treatment.

The Liberian government is yet to officially comment on the incident and provide actual number of casualties of the landslide, but deputy presidential press secretary Smith Toby told OK FM in Monrovia Tuesday that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Disaster Management are on the ground to assess the situation.

**-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



occurred 18:00 hour GMT on Monday, May 4th specifically in the towns of Masaakpaoh and Bangoma, Tewor District, Grand Cape Mount County.

This comes at a time when Liberia is in a fight against the new coronavirus that has registered 166 confirmed cases, including 18 deaths and 53 people recovering from quarantine centers.

The people of Grand Cape Mount, predominantly Muslims, observed prayers yesterday in observance of

from other parts of the county and adjacent towns along the Liberian-Sierra Leonean border to carry out illegal mining.

In recent days residents and citizens of Tawor District have complained about a Chinese mining company allegedly engaged in illegal mining in their district.

Robertsports City Mayor, Edwin Koha, who rushed on the scene, according to report, said the entire county is once more in mourning and called on the Government of Liberia to

# Activa provides life

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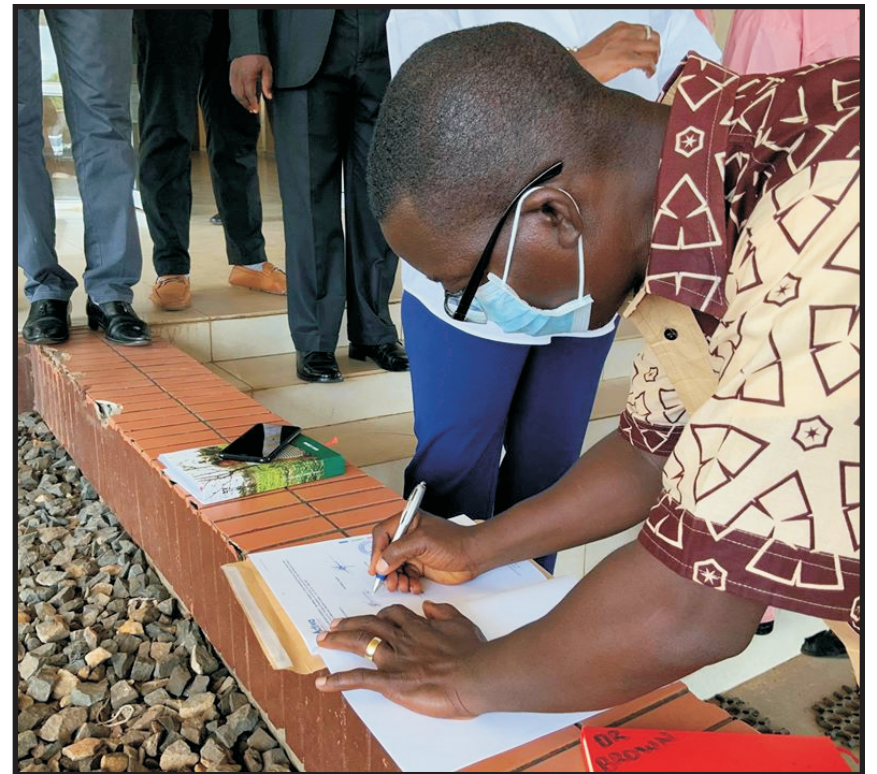
Jallah expressed appreciation to Activa International Insurance Liberia for reaching out to the frontline health workers during this critical period stating that President George Weah and the Government of Liberia are very grateful for such a gusty gesture.

She added that the Insurance Policy would serve as an added incentive in

independence and social acceptance through the establishment of cooperatives, skills training, and the conduct of a psycho-social program.

Activa also funded a sexual and reproductive health program that catered to vulnerable young women in Grand Cape Mount County in western Liberia.

Activa International Insurance (Liberia) Ltd is a



motivating the COVID-19 Health Workers as they carry out their duties.

It can be recalled that during Liberia's battle of the EBOLA Scourge, Activa-Liberia made a significant contribution of over 35-thousand United States Dollars to widows and survivors of EBOLA Victims geared towards them reestablishing their

licensed composite company that has been working in Liberia over the past six years, providing quality Insurance Packages for Blue Chip Companies, Multinationals, Small/Medium Enterprises, Non-Profit Organizations (NGO), Liberian Institutions and personal lines insurance in the private and public sectors.

# Republic of Ireland

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social and economic growth and prosperity, helping the African continent to realize its potential to be the continent of promise and opportunity. I see our membership of the Bank and Fund as an investment in this potential. Ireland's partnership with these important regional multilateral institutions will both advance our shared development priorities and will open future opportunities for Irish businesses in the region."

Ireland's Strategy for Africa 2025 includes a commitment to collaborate with the critical financial institution on the continent, as well as to explore new partnerships to support policy development and program implementation; and deepen engagement in blended finance mechanisms for job creation.

Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, said there was strong alignment

between the priorities of Ireland's international development policy, A Better World, and the African Development Bank's overarching High 5s strategy. "This marks an important deepening of Ireland's long standing partnership with Africa. I know that membership of the Bank will further strengthen the role Ireland plays in sustainable and inclusive development on the continent. Ireland's membership also comes as the African Development Bank provides crucial support to countries' COVID-19 response," he said.

"Ireland's African Development Bank membership is also an important expression of our commitment to, and investment in, the multilateral system and of our contribution to peace, security and sustainable development in Africa. **-Press Release**

Cont'd from page 7

# Lebanese Culture Union

virus.

"Now our problem is with the community dwellers; we understand that people in various communities are treating themselves, instead of seeking treatment at a health facility.

We want to encourage people in the communities to seek treatment at health facility instead of treating themselves, because the early you proceed at the health facility to get treatment, you increase the chance of surviving the virus", she emphasized.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jerry

Brown of the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Monrovia also praised the Lebanese community for coming to the aid of the government, describing the presentation of the facility as timely.

The occasion was graced by several key officials of the Government of Liberia, including the Ministers of State, Foreign Affairs and Health, respectively as well as Doctor Jerry Brown of the JFK Hospital and Doctor Mosoka Fallah of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, among others.

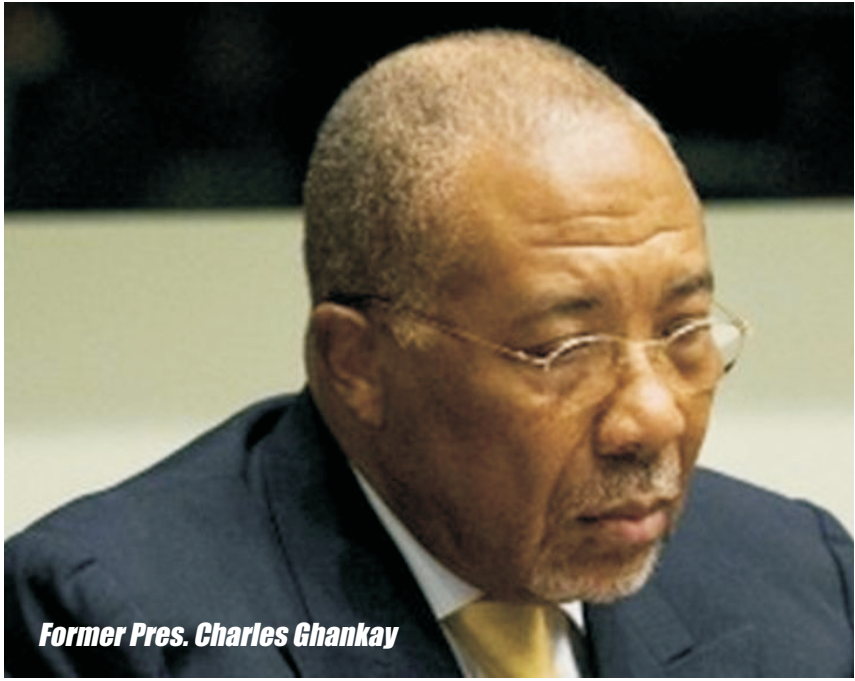
Liberian registered its index

case of the virus on March 16, 2020 when President Weah announced to the nation that the now suspended executive director of the Environmental Protection Agency Nathaniel Blama, had imported the COVID-19 from Switzerland. He was subsequently discharged from quarantine center after 21 days of medication and observation along with several others.

Up to date, the country's total confirmed cases are 166, including 18 deaths and 53 recoveries. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



# Taylor drawn in kidnapping trial



Former Pres. Charles Ghankay

**By Winston W. Parley**  
Liberian prosecutors have drawn imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's actions in an ongoing trial of opposition lawmaker Rep. Yekeh Kolubah, as they liken the latter's alleged order for his former bodyguards to arrest Emmanuel Freeman to how Mr. Taylor similarly instructed

Gen. Mosquito to go to Sierra Leone. Ahead of the court's final ruling due Wednesday, 6 May at 10:30 AM, Assistant Justice Minister Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh asserted during the final argument Tuesday that Mr. Kolubah's chief bodyguard Abu Keita testified that he was instructed by his boss Rep. Kolubah "almost like Charles Taylor instructing Gen.

Mosquito" to go to Sierra Leone.

"Honorable Yekeh Kolubah had told them to bring the man by all cause, like Taylor telling Gen. Mosquito go in Sierra Leone by all cause," Cllr. Wesseh says, adding that the defendant directed and executed the kidnapping of Emmanuel Freeman.

Mr. Taylor who is serving a 50 - year prison term in a British cell was convicted for allegedly aiding and abetting crimes against humanity at the end of a trial that followed Sierra Leone's arm conflict in which he was accused of arming and supporting child soldiers.

Mr. Kolubah is standing trial for alleged kidnapping, after the court recently dropped multiple charges contained in an indictment drew against him last year over claim that he instructed his bodyguards to get victim Freeman by all cause for refusing a T - Shirt printed to protest against President

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# Weah's spokesman entrapped

*-Between truth and heresy over president's 9th Street property*

**By Winston W. Parley**  
In about 24 hours after publicly announcing Timothy Weah as owner of President George Manneh Weah's 9th Street property, Deputy Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby faced the challenging task of saying his previous pronouncement was untrue as the real owner of the property remains the president.

Prior to his amended pronouncement which came Tuesday, 5 May, Mr. Toby had earlier on Monday, 4 May announced via OK FM that President Weah turned over that 9th Street, Sinkor property to his son Timothy Weah when he (President Weah) took over as president of Liberia.

Reported construction work on the president's 9th Street property has prompted criticism here in the midst of the coronavirus crisis with



others pondering over the president's priorities.

On Monday, Toby claimed that all the things being used on the project were long imported before the crisis, and that the project is being spearheaded by the First Lady Madam Clar Weah as Timothy had transformed the property to his own liking.

In an apparent effort to divert the public's attention from the president concerning the property, Toby further

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