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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Gains reversed

P11



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

-Coalition stalwart lashes CDC



P7

No money for senatorial election

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Continental News

'Three hundred killed' in South Sudan clashes

At least 300 people have been killed in a fresh wave of intercommunal fighting in South Sudan, authorities say.

Dozens of homes in Jonglei state were destroyed, warehouses belonging to aid groups were raided, and women and cattle were abducted.

Three aid workers were among those killed.

A treaty aimed at ending the country's six-year civil war was signed in February, but intercommunal violence has erupted a number of times since.

Some 800 people are believed to have died in such clashes since February. The latest outbreak of violence between pastoralists, who rely on livestock, and farm workers began on Saturday in the north-eastern town of Pieri, forcing thousands of people to flee to the bush, the BBC's Emmanuel Igunza reports.

Health workers say many of the victims have gunshot wounds. Some of the injured have been airlifted to the capital, Juba, for treatment. The aid workers killed included a nurse with Médecins Sans Frontières and a

South Sudan Red Cross volunteer.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said its ability to respond to the crisis had been affected by the coronavirus pandemic

because it had to limit bed numbers and restrict travel for both health workers and the injured.

Peacekeepers were interviewing survivors in the town when fighting broke out, the UN mission said in a statement.

David Shearer, the UN's special representative for South Sudan, said that the violence between the two groups must stop.

"While politically motivated conflict has reduced in South Sudan, intercommunal fighting has increased, causing massive suffering for families who are trying to rebuild their lives after the devastation caused

by years of civil war," he said.

About 380,000 people were killed in South Sudan's civil war.

A peace agreement was reached in February by President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar, who formed a government of national unity.

But outbreaks of inter-ethnic fighting have continued, threatening the fragile treaty.

Security agencies have said they have recovered hundreds of illegal firearms - including rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and hand grenades - from the warring communities. BBC



Women and cattle were also abducted during the fighting

Two-day-old baby dies with coronavirus in S Africa

A two-day-old baby has died with coronavirus in South Africa - one of the world's youngest victims of the virus.

The mother had tested positive for Covid-19 and the child subsequently tested positive, the health minister said.

The baby was born prematurely and needed help with breathing, he added.

The country's death toll now stands at 339, and the

number of confirmed cases has climbed to 18,003.

The latest modelling predicts that up to 40,000 people might die in South Africa over the next few months. "Sadly we have recorded the first neonatal mortality related to Covid-19. The baby was two days old and was born prematurely," South Africa's Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize said.

"The baby had lung difficulties which required

ventilation support immediately after birth.

"We extend a special word of comfort to the mother of this child and salute the neonatologists, nurses and all allied and technical personnel who had the difficult task of caring for the neonate to the end," he added.

Asked by the BBC whether this was the youngest victim of coronavirus in Africa, the director of the Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Dr John Nkengasong said: "To the best of our knowledge that is the first case that the Africa CDC is aware of."

Other young victims of coronavirus, include a three-day-old who died on 5 May in the UK. In that case the mother and baby tested positive for coronavirus after she gave birth.

The baby was born with a low heart rate and the coroner listed the primary cause of death as severe hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, meaning the brain was starved of blood and oxygen, while maternal Covid-19 was listed as a secondary cause.

Mr Mkhize also said that

Angry Nigerian soldiers to undergo counselling

Two Nigerian soldiers are to undergo counselling for mental stress after they were seen in a viral video complaining about being ill-equipped to deal with Boko Haram militants.

The army says the video, in which a military vehicle is also seen on fire, was recorded

of war".

While the military have not commented on allegations made by the soldiers, such concerns are not new.

For years troops fighting to end the decade-long Boko Haram insurgency in the north-east have been complaining of being ill-equipped despite huge sums of



A burning vehicle is seen in the video filmed after an ambush

after troops were ambushed by suspected Islamist insurgents while on patrol in the north-eastern state of Yobe. In the past public such outbursts from soldiers have led to summons to a court-martial, so it is unusual for the military to respond saying the "uncomplimentary" remarks were due to "distress in the fog

money being budgeted for weapons and training.

Some accuse the authorities of massive corruption and neglect.

The authorities often deny the allegations, usually accusing complainants of sabotage and cowardice. BBC

the two-year-old baby was one of 27 new deaths recorded in South Africa in the last 24 hours.

The country has the highest number of cases of Covid-19 in Africa. However, Egypt and Algeria have had more

fatalities, with 680 and 568 respectively.

South Africa has had some of the strictest lockdown measures in the world, including a ban on cigarettes and alcohol, but is now easing some restrictions. BBC



South Africa has the highest number of coronavirus cases in Africa

EDITORIAL

Bracing ourselves for uncertainty

LIKE THE WORDINGS of President George MannehWeah's COVID-19 awareness song says, "What kind of world we live in today; there is no security; everything is possible", Liberia is at the crossroads in its novel coronavirus fight with uncertainty looming over the nation.

WITH CURRENT TOTAL deaths at 23 and total active cases at 85 plus 125 recoveries, the country, like many other states in Africa, is still in its embryonic stage of this rapidly devastating virus that has wrecked many western countries in both human capital and economic terms.

HEALTH AUTHORITIES HERE, including the Minister of Health doctor WilheminaJallah and her deputy, as well as the Country Representative of W.H.O. doctor Peter Clement and his colleague of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, doctor Desmond Williams, reported for testing Sunday, 17 May at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in move to encourage the public to go for testing. The director-general for the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, doctor MosokaFallah led his staff for testing Wednesday, 20th May.

BUT IN THE past two months (March 16th to May 16th) the Government of Liberia has be unable to move ahead of the curve or contain number of deaths in 14 or 21 days, which is very worrisome and scaring.

DESPITE A STATE of Emergency and lockdown, the country continues to incur new deaths from COVID-19 nearly every week, and the metrics is not reversing at all.

CURRENTLY, THERE IS a huge anxiety among the public for a pending food stimulus package from the government that may precede total lockdowns in communities to allow health authorities to conduct mass testing of residents.

AT THE SAME time, writings on the wall indicate the authorities are preparing to return to status quo ante or business as usual, which has already begun with the re-opening of churches, mosques and other worship centers across the country, while schools and businesses are watching to follow.

THIS COULD RAPIDLY increase infections among the population and correspondingly swell the present death toll, given the fact that doctors globally have found no cure for COVID-19.

WE WONDER THEN, what statistics or progress from the fight that is informing our leaders to desire easing the lockdown and resume full economic activities or are we copying from other countries when our own situation is completely unique.

THE MINISTER OF Education Dao AnsuSonii, said this week he looks forward to the Ministry of Health for green-light to re-open schools throughout the country, but with strict observance of health protocols.

DO WE REALLY mean this as a country? President Weah declared a State of Emergency and lockdown, which took effect on 10th April, 2020 when we had only 31 confirmed cases, including four deaths. How in the world could we resume normal activities at currently 233 total confirmed cases and 23 deaths? The government should rethink its strategy in this COVID-19 fight.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Elizabeth Drew

The Fabulist

Since assuming the US presidency in 2017, Donald Trump has established his bona fides as not just a liar, but as someone seemingly unconcerned with whether his fictions will be exposed. Is his latest invention a bridge too far?

WASHINGTON, DC - In April 2011, Donald Trump, then considering a run for the presidency the following year, said that he had sent investigators to Hawaii to check out rumors that President Barack Obama wasn't born there, but in Kenya, which would disqualify him for the presidency. His investigators, Trump declared, "cannot believe what they're finding."

I can find no record of Trump being challenged on this outlandish claim at the time. In the fall of 2016, Trump, now the Republican presidential nominee, was convinced by his staff that he had to abandon this "birther" nonsense. He did so reluctantly, charging - also with no evidence - that such rumors had actually been initiated by his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

There, in a nutshell, is Trump's modus operandi: he's not just a liar but a fabulist, seemingly unconcerned with whether his fictions will be exposed. If they are, the world simply moves on as he invents fresh distractions.

Another distinctive trait of Trump's presidency has been his systematic effort to dismantle the guard rails that are intended to limit executive power. The most recent example has been the firing of four inspectors-general, a genus of civil servant created after Watergate to act as independent checks on the conduct of federal agencies and their officials.

Trump fired the acting inspector-general in the Department of Health and Human Services after her office reported a serious shortage of crucial equipment to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Trump was even more eager to get rid of her when he learned she had worked in President Barack Obama's administration, though she first joined the department during Bill Clinton's presidency. In fact, Trump recently suggested that all the inspectors-general may be Obama-era holdovers - and therefore should be fired.

Moreover, Trump's fury over the investigation of his 2016 election campaign's dealings with Russia and his impeachment in January - subjects that trigger his rage and vindictiveness - is still playing out. Virtually anyone involved in either episode is vulnerable. Two of the recently fired inspectors-general fall into those categories.

Trump is usually too angry a man to stop before he harms himself, unless his aides persuade him otherwise. But his current aides, on the whole, aren't as strong as before, and Trump is more confident in his own instincts. (He isn't the first president to say to an aide, "I'm president and you're not.") And he's getting a lot closer to an election that he could lose.

Now, Trump is bent on discrediting the Russia investigation itself, which he has always deemed a "hoax" and "fake news." So, with the aid of a cooperative attorney general, William Barr, he has set out to "prove" that there was no basis for launching it.

When Barr took over the Justice Department in February 2019, he made it clear that he saw his job as being Trump's defender and advocate. And Trump, who has no concept of public service, had become convinced that the federal government was composed of a "deep state" bent on

destroying his presidency. This explains a lot of what has happened.

Trump fired FBI director James Comey, who had resisted the former's blandishments that he was to be the president's subordinate, only to find himself facing a special counsel, Robert Mueller, appointed by the Justice Department. As far as Trump was concerned, Barr had to rein in the department. The complaisant Barr took actions that damaged both the president and himself. He had his prosecutors intervene to reduce a court sentence for Trump's longtime political associate Roger Stone, prompting four federal prosecutors who had tried the case to resign.

After the outcry among Justice Department employees died down, Barr even more flagrantly arranged for federal prosecutors to move to drop the charges against retired Lt. General Michael Flynn, the first of Trump's four national security advisers (so far). Flynn who had twice admitted under oath to lying to the FBI about his secret conversations during the transition with the Russian ambassador to the US, Sergey Kislyak, and Trump fired him because he had also lied to Vice President Mike Pence about these talks.

The move to drop the charges against Flynn led to the resignation of the case's lead prosecutor and an uproar among established lawyers, both Republican and Democrat, who called on Barr to resign. The trial court judge in the Flynn case made the highly unusual decision to appoint an outside counsel to argue in court in June against Justice's move to withdraw the charges.

The erratic Flynn, a registered Democrat (Trump's "lock her up" campaign slogan against Clinton notwithstanding), had been an admired intelligence officer in Afghanistan, but he needed level-headed supervision to temper his wilder conclusions. After he was promoted to head the Defense Intelligence Agency, he floundered, leading Obama to fire him. Obama also advised Trump not to hire him as national security adviser.

Flynn's resulting bitterness toward Obama makes him a useful instrument in Trump's latest plot: to destroy his popular predecessor's standing as an advocate for former Vice President Joe Biden, Trump's presumptive opponent in this year's election. But, for Flynn to be useful, he can't be a convict, and the charges regarding his calls to the Russian ambassador must be expunged in order to claim that there was no basis for the Mueller investigation.

On May 15, Trump claimed in a tweet that Obama, who ran one of the cleanest administrations in decades, had participated in "the greatest political scandal in the history of the US." But Trump has yet to say just what "Obamagate" is.

Has Trump finally spun a fable that he can't get away with? Barr, now expressing concern that the Justice Department can't be "political," has just said that Obama and Biden won't be prosecuted, taking Trump by surprise. With 100,000 in the US expected to have died from COVID-19 by June 1, and with unemployment soaring to 1930s levels, American voters are more likely to be more interested in their health, safety, and jobs than anything Flynn has to say about Obama.



Lord, they are all the same 6 & 7

Dear Father:

Hmm, you know, there is a common saying among the daughters of Eve in my village, when it comes to their discussions surrounding the sons of Adam- I mean the way they would compare them.

They would usually advise their friends saying when you are comparing your partner with another person's partner, just say "my husband or boyfriend is fine pass yor own or taller than your man etc because men are all the same. It is only the shape and sizes that make them different.

Um, tell me about it.

Yes oo, Father, the daughters of Eve in my village have since settled with that one in their minds. So they don't go out looking for perfect guys anymore. Some nowadays are just looking for the sons of Adam with minimum risk, which is respect.

But to say, they are seeking after perfect gentlemen not in our village anymore-it has been a foregone conclusion in their heads that all men are the same no matter how decorated they come.

Okay my son, come out of the closet and tell me exactly what's going on.

Nothing pretty much except for the noise we are hearing around here every day. One morning you wake-up you hear that some group of people coming together to form an umbrella party or a farmers union. Funny enough, they are all the same Tom and Jerry-no different.

There were people who made a whole lot of noise in this village for 12 good years, where are they today-none sense!

Instead of learning from the mistakes of the Old Lady who also made so many after failing to learn from the ones before her and the list goes on and on, they are here during stuffs unimaginable.

And don't even think you can take comfort in those ones parading around here or on face to face sittingsomewhere in Uncle Sam's village acting like one messiah, they might even be the worst criminal on the scene especially with the kind of tinted records some of them already have in this village.

Father, don't py attention to any of them, they are all the same using different styles or techniques to come and siphon our village money just like these ones are doing now.

The only difference is they will come in many shapes and sizes or speeches to cajole the people of our village.

Somebody for 12 good years ran around here like cut neck chicken just to come and behave as if they were living on another planet.

Da the one will make me to be jumping around here for another group of hustlers who only aim is to come and milk our village.

The daughters of Eve in our village have seen a lot and they have a lot that we can learn from. It's unfortunate that in this case many of the people in our village I don't know what is wrong with them-either they are just incredibly gullible or they just don't care.

If only we could listen to the vibes of the daughters of Eve in this village we could save ourselves a lot of troubles. It's like the Good Old Book says: "Go to the ants you sluggards, and learn from them-though they have no leader, but they gather their food doing the dry season and congregate during the rainy season. But we sons of Adams and people of this village have failed to learn from our women.

Anyway Father, how can you blame them, when all they are moved by are the creativity of conned artists on our political scene, some acting like Robinhood and yet you have bunch of foolish people all over the place-bunch of sycophants.

So yes, the daughters of Eve in my village are right- they are all the same 6&7.

Obituary



The Management of the Searchlight Communications, Inc. publisher of the New Dawn newspaper regrets to announce the death of its Sports Reporter, **Sally Gaye**, who passed on Sunday, May 17, 2020 reportedly at the ELWA Hospital in Paynesville following a protracted illness.

Family meeting is scheduled for this Saturday, May 23, at the family residence behind the 72nd Barracks in Paynesville.

Funeral rites and burial are being scheduled for next Saturday, May 30th.

LIBERIA CEMENT CORPORATION



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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING of the LIBERIA CEMENT CORPORATION shall be held in the offices of the corporation on Somalia Drive, (Freeway), Monrovia, Liberia on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 12:30P.M to transact the following business:

1. Receiving the Chairman's Report
2. Election of Board Members
3. Any other business, which may be placed at the meeting

All shareholders are cordially invited to attend.

LIBERIA CEMENT CORPORATION
Freeway, Bushrod Island
P.O.Box 150, Monrovia

May 20, 2020

William P. Gaignard
SECRETARY



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Consultancy: To Provide expert technical communication consultancy capacity building training for MAP 'Land for Life' Communication & Reporting Officer and two other staff from MAP Actors in Liberia and building/developing websites and domains for the MAP Initiative

Introduction

The project '*Land for Life – Making Policies Work for Food Security*' otherwise known as the MAP – Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP), launched in Liberia in 2017 aims to facilitate the formation of a Multi-Actor Partnership (MAP) platform around land governance and responsible agricultural investment. Such a PLATFORM will bring together Government actors, CSOs, Private Sector, Academia, and Community representatives. Communication is a very essential component of the MAP, it is one of the effective and efficient tools that keeps the initiative very much connected to its many actors.

However, over the years this is one area that has proved to be a fundamental challenge for the initiative because of the huge and demanding role involved with communication. In order to ensure the MAP initiative achieves its desired results, the Communication and Reporting Officer must have the required skillset of effective communication- which includes the relevant tools, technical capacity and reporting expertise.

It is in this regard that the MAP Liberia Secretariat formulates this Terms of Reference to guide the selected consultant in providing expert technical communication training to strengthen the capacity of the Communication and Reporting Officer (CRO). Such capacity building package will deepen the knowledge of the CRO in carry out his duties in the most professional and effective manner. Additionally, the training will involve two staff from two of the MAP actors/organizations.

Objective

The objective of this consultancy is to provide a tailor-made capacity building training to the MAP Communication and Reporting Officer on the relevant tools and technical skills of effective and efficient communication.

Expected Outputs of this Consultancy

- Train MAP Communication and Reporting Officer and partner staff on the steps involved in creating social media links, technical set up of blogs and email using organization as domain
- Guide the CRO and other participants on how to host/arrange online meetings/webinars (Business Skype, Zoom, BlueJeans, Microsoft Teams)
- Support the communication and reporting officer to understand the basics on video and audio editing, steps and procedures
- Coach participants on the use of YouTube, including steps involved in creating and uploading videos/documents. Linking the YouTube channel with MAP LfL website is a major concept for this aspect
- Provide skills in photography and writing (developing key messages, writing a story/a blog)
- Provide training on content management system WordPress to administer website (including uploading documents)
- Undertake study and present a basic understanding of the prevailing Liberian laws regarding the publication of photos, video material, and websites.

Activities

- Develop detailed and easy-to-understand training content/materials and share with MAP Secretariat for inputs.
- Outline the key tools / instruments (software) which the consultancy will roll out in training the CRO.
- In concert with the MAP Secretariat, develop timeline/schedule for rolling out the training.
- Strengthen the capacity of the CRO, other staff and after the training, provide a two-week on-the-job mentoring and coach support.
- Produce training report and recommendations and share with the secretariat.

Duration of the Consultancy

The consultancy will be carried out for three weeks (21 days) and in two phases beginning June 3, 2020 as follows:

Phase 1: Face-to-face capacity training for one week- June 3-9, 2020

Phase 2: Provide on-the-job mentoring and coaching support to the CRO after the training-June 10-23, 2020.

Availability to Provide Training Amid Covid-19

The consultant must be available during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide the training at a safe location selected in concert with the secretariat. The Secretariat and the consultant will come to terms with a feasible schedule for the face-to-face training. Such training will be provided safely in adherence of the guidelines underlined by the government on social distancing, wearing of face masks; perpetual washing of hands and avoiding large gathering to prevent COVID-19. The training will only involve four participants at most.

Remuneration:

Indicate/state your daily consultancy fees per day.

Qualifications:

- A good honors degree in social sciences, or mass media with minimum 4 years' professional experience in designing and implementing comprehensive communications plans/activities ideally for INGO/NGOs.
- Additional knowledge and experience in land governance and responsible agricultural investment an added advantage.
- Good photography and graphic design skills Excellent report writing skills
- Good knowledge of consultancy and training skills.

Both Male & Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in communications or related fields: Journalism, Sociology, English, Humanity, etc.
- Master degree is an asset.

Languages

- Excellent command of spoken and written English

Computer skills:

- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel)
- Experience in photography
- Good working knowledge of modern office equipment (printers, scanners, etc)
- Knowledge in using graphics design software

Personal Skills:

- Proactive, creative and collaborative team member
- Intercultural competence
- Gender sensitive
- Willing to learn and share knowledge
- Professional and commitment to project demands

Starting date

- June 3, 2020

Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions are attractive and will take note of qualification and experience in determining remunerations and related personnel cost:

Duration: Twenty-One (21) Days

How to Apply: Interested candidates should apply by email to: The Administrator, Rights and Rice Foundation; email: henri.singbeh@yahoo.com, cc: rightsrice@gmail.com; ivangray86@gmail.com.

Date of release of the Tender Announcement: May 13, 2020

Deadline for application: May 30, 2020 @4:30PM.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate reverses Fahngon's order

By Ethel A Tweh

The Senate Committee on Information, Broadcasting, Culture and Tourism unanimously rejects new access pass unilaterally introduced by Deputy

institutional ID cards for coverage during this pandemic.

After several meetings held with the Press Union of Liberia and Deputy Minister Fahngon over standoff between the two entities regarding issuance of new access pass for the media,

cooperated earlier in issuing press passes initially, but Deputy Minister Fahngon claims the passes were duplicated and got in the hands of people who are not journalists, accusing the PUL for the duplication, an allegation the later rejects.

The Senate committee headed by Bong County Senator Dr. Henrique F. Tokpa directs that journalists should use their respective Press ID cards, noting that the change of passes now would undermine the fight against the pandemic.

Recommendation from the committee also states that Deputy Minister Fahngon should stop using force and inappropriate words against the press and the President of the PUL, Charles Cuffey, while urging President George Manneh Weah to relax his recent recommendation that only selected journalists should cover the State of Emergency and the coronavirus fight, noting that such utterance by the President could be interpreted as censorship of the media.

The Senate information

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Information Minister for Public Affairs, Eugene Fahngon for journalists covering the COVID-19 fight across the country, instead, upholding that journalists should use their official

the committee reports that Fahngon over used his power by changing the press pass without the involvement or cooperation of the PUL.

Both the Ministry of Information and the PUL

Rep. Barshell entreats Pipeline Block-C officials

Montserrado County Electoral District Representative Ceebee Barshell urges officials of Lower Pipeline Community Block -C in Paynesville, outside Monrovia to pray for their leaders so that God would imbue them with visions to take development to another level in the district.

Rep. Barshell, a member of

the former ruling Unity Party, says in line with Biblical principles, citizens, especially residents of Lower Pipeline Community Block- C should respect their leaders always rather than sitting on the fence to stall development programs.

He entreats residents of his constituency to close ranks and lay aside tribal and political differences and unite for the common good of the district.

The UP lawmaker spoke

recently when he installed district officials, including leaders of the District Development Council (DDC) of the Block -C community at the Life Healing Ministry in Daniel Chea's Community, Paynesville City.

According to Rep. Barshell, when people begin to honor and respect their leaders as it's written in the Holy Bible,

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11



UAE develops a Rapid Coronavirus laser testing technology

QuantLase Imaging Lab, the medical-research arm of the Abu Dhabi Stock Exchange-listed International Holdings Company (IHC), announced that it has developed novel equipment which enables for much faster mass screenings, with test results available in seconds and allowing testing on a wider scale. This breakthrough will enable 'Mass-scale screening', changing the whole dimension of tracing.

Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention,

with results made available in seconds," said Dr Pramod Kumar, who leads the team of researchers at the lab which has been studying the change in cell structure of the virus-infected blood.

"In fact, our laser-based DPI [Diffractive Phase Interferometry] technique, based on optical-phase modulation, is able to give a signature of infection within a few seconds. What's more, it is user-friendly, non-invasive and low-cost. We believe it will be a game-changer in tackling the spread of the coronavirus."



Left to right: Executive team working on the project Aryam Ahmed and Latifa Alseiani, Project director of lab Abdulla Rashidi, IHC board member Nader Al Hamadi, Lead Doctor Dr. Pramod Kumar and Dr. Mohammad Firoz Khan (Photo: AETOSWire)

expressed hope over the discovery saying: "We are always following innovations related to the early and rapid detection of Covid-19. The government is keen on supporting initiatives that help the healthcare system in the UAE. Health officials have been closely monitoring the progress of trials with QuantLase in order to test this equipment. We are proud to see a technology that works and that will help to protect our people better."

"The equipment, which uses a CMOS detector, will enable mass-scale screening

Explaining the critical role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the diagnostic system, Dr Kumar said that an advanced AI image-analysis model predicts the outcome of each image with precision, speed and scale. This is especially critical in large-scale testing programs, where a massive number of images needs to be analysed with accuracy and efficiency. The lab is using G42, a leading AI and Cloud Computing company, to further enhance the laser program.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Veto recast budget

-Lawmaker urges Weah

Montserrado County District #13 Representative Edward P. Flomo, calls on President George Manneh Weah to veto the recast budget passed this week by the House on grounds that the financial instrument fails to prioritize plight of the Liberian people in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He argues that allotment made in the recast budget for

communities in District #13, Rep. Flomo warns that the coronavirus should be taken seriously by the government, adding that in the midst of the virus, nothing is possible in the country and the world at large.

Presenting 100 bags of (25kgs) rice and other items to residents of Flahn Town Community, the lawmaker calls on people of goodwill to come to the aid of the Liberian people in their fight against Covid-19.

remain in compliance with guidelines set by the government and the World Health Organization to stay safe.

Accepting the donation, residents of Flahn Town, including women and youth groups, thank Rep. Flomo for the kind gesture and assure him the items would be used for their intended purposes.

The House of Representatives this week ratified the Government of Liberia's COVID-19 Response Recast Budget at over US\$500 million, pending concurrence by the Senate.

President George M. Weah wrote House Speaker Bhofal Chambers last Friday, detailing the executive's proposal in the draft recast budget and reapportioning more than US\$32 Million in the current 2019-2020 national budget.

The House's Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance, and Public Accounts and Expenditure, in line with mandate of Plenary, conducted hearing on the Draft Recast National Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020, beginning with the Revenue Envelope.

The Committee divulged that upon review of documents and testimonies from the Liberia Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, respectively, the recast revenue envelope is projected at US\$518,005,258.00, forecasting domestic revenue at US\$394,594,258.00 and external resources at US\$123,409,000.00, respectively. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Representative Edward P. Flomo

the fight against the pandemic is quite below the amount needed to pay health workers, who are very crucial in the Covid-19 fight.

He says President Weah should place the projection of US\$34 million in the recast budget on hold until it is reframed to reflect the needs of health workers in terms of protection and welfare.

Speaking when he kicked-off distribution of rice, sets of jerseys and footballs in all 38

He disclosed that a total of 1,000 bags of rice have been secured for distribution to the various communities to reduce hardship brought as a result of lockdown and other measures introduced by the Weah-led administration to defeat the Coronavirus.

He also spoke of previous donations to the district, including huge consignment of buckets and hand sanitizers to reduce spread of the virus, while calling on residents to

Slipway inhabitants receive COVID-19 materials

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Isaac K. Krah Foundation, a local philanthropy organization, has distributed several coronavirus materials to inhabitants of Slipway Community in Monrovia in the fight against Covid-19.

The organization's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Isaac K. Krah who is contesting the Slipway Community presidential election.

Materials distributed include hand washing buckets, soap, clora and nose masks.

During the distribution, Mr. Krah expressed gratitude to the people of Slipway Community for observing the government's coronavirus measures since the outbreak in Liberia.

He informs the recipients that his decision to identify with them during this difficult period is in no way meant to buy their votes, but to ensure that they remain safe, sound, and healthy.

He assures that his foundation will soon provide other essential items, revealing that the organization is in discussion with partners

involved in the fight against Covid-19.

The Isaac K. Krah Foundation is engaged in several ventures such as provision of scholarships to vulnerable youth of Slipway who desire to pursue education.

In separate remarks, community members challenged other prominent residents of Slipway to emulate the example of Mr. Krah, especially those who requested for voters' support during past elections.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

No money for senatorial election

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The acting chairperson of the board of commissioners at the National Elections Commission, Madam Davidetta Lansana, discloses here that the commission lacks funding to conduct the special senatorial election.

She says due to the financial difficulty, the NEC has failed to meet up with timetable set for the smooth conduct of the 2020 special senatorial poll.

Speaking before the senate's special committee on elections, Madam Lansana explains that for the pending senatorial election to be held this year, it would require adequate funding from government or else, it could cause constitutional breach for the country.

But the Chairman of the senate committee, Grand

Jerome George Korkoya had reported earlier that the 2020 midterm senatorial election scheduled for October is in limbo due to lack of funds to support the electoral budget of US\$20 million.

Cllr. Korkoya and the NEC board of commissioners explained the US\$20million is for both national referendum and the election, but the budget was reduced to US\$17 million.

He said the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning issued a commitment letter to the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) of US\$7million as initial payment for pre-electoral activities, covering voter's roll and assessment of various precincts, but the NEC has not



Cape Mount County Senator Varney Sherman asks the commission to explore possibilities for prepayment or pre-finance programs with vendors the NEC had been doing business with to have the senatorial election conducted this year.

Senator Sherman also advises the commission to engage commercial banks for loans and that government would be obligated to repay those loans in the future.

He warns that it is not a good thing for the commission to relax on the basis that there is no money, noting that this is worrisome for the democratic space and it could undermine the constitutional timetable within the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

The former chairman Cllr.

received a dime.

Meanwhile, the hearing continues Monday, May 25, with the mandatory appearance of officials of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to explain why the government has not made funding available for the senatorial election.

Senator Sherman underscores that authorities of the Finance Ministry and the Liberia Revenue Authority would have to appear before the senate to explain the perpetual delay in funding the pending senatorial election.

Half of the 30 senators on Capitol Hill or 15 of them are expected to participate in the pending poll. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Français

C'est l'incertitude pour les élections sénatoriales

Le conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale a exprimé des incertitudes quant à l'organisation des élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020 vu le manque de financement et de la propagation du Coronavirus.

La commission, dans une communication de 14 pages adressée au comité spécial sénatorial sur les élections, a indiqué que le scrutin est prévu pour le 15 décembre

2020, mais à cause du manque de financement et de la propagation du COVID-19, il pourrait être repoussé à une date ultérieure, probablement l'année prochaine.

Pour le Sénateur du comté de Grand Cape Mount, Me Varney Sherman, cela signifie que beaucoup d'effort doit être fait afin que le pays respecte le délai constitutionnel.

Soucieux des rumeurs selon lesquelles le pouvoir exécutif envisage de reporter les

élections sénatoriales en raison de la pandémie actuelle, le Sénat, par le biais de son comité spécial, a convoqué hier 21 mai les autorités de la Commission électorale nationale, les chefs des partis politiques et les parties prenantes au siège du parlement, le Capitole, pour discuter de la possibilité de procéder à l'élection sénatoriale spéciale de 2020, qui est statutairement prévue pour octobre cette année.

Il y a aussi des rumeurs selon lesquelles le gouvernement envisage de reporter également les élections sénatoriales et l'élection présidentielle de 2023 d'un an en raison de la crise sanitaire. Mais l'opposition s'y oppose avec véhémence.

S'exprimant lors de la session plénière mardi, Me Sherman a expliqué que certains partenaires internationaux intéressés, des organisations non gouvernementales et des partis politiques dûment enregistrés ainsi que le conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale prendraient part à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition signe un accord cadre pour le choix de leurs candidats

Le document final du cadre de collaboration signé par la nouvelle alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition intitulée Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) a mis en place des critères en quatre phases pour le choix d'un candidat unique à la présidentielle et des candidats aux élections législatives et sénatoriales de 2023.

Le CPP, qui est composé du Parti de l'unité, du Parti de la liberté, du Congrès national alternatif et du Parti de tous les libériens, a accepté de travailler avec le document qui privilégie le consensus dans le choix des candidats et que toute décision émanant de celui-ci sera contraignante pour tous les partis membres.

15 des 30 sénateurs du Libéria devraient remettre en jeu leurs sièges en octobre. Parmi ces derniers figurent les sénateurs Nyonblee Karnaga-Lawrence de Grand Bassa, Thomas

Grupee de Nimba, Francis Paye de River Cess, Abraham Darius Dillon de Montserrado, Peter Coleman du Grand Kru, Dan Morais du Maryland et Sando Johnson de Bomi.

L'accord cadre du CPP indique que l'objectif de l'alliance est de présenter un

seul candidat à la prochaine présidentielle et / ou des candidats communs aux élections législatives et sénatoriales.

Il oblige tous les partis politiques membres à se voir attribuer des créneaux

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

La véritable réconciliation ne se fait pas au bout des lèvres !

LA RÉCONCILIATION NATIONALE VÉRITABLE continuera de glisser entre les mains des Libériens pendant longtemps parce que les dirigeants du pays semblent manquer de volonté politique pour promouvoir cet élément indispensable à la cohésion nationale. Une nation si divisée dans son existence historique et politique ne peut aller plus loin.

LES LIBÉRIENS CÉLÈBRENT LE 14 MAI chaque année comme Journée nationale de l'unification, instaurée par le 18e président William V.S. Tubman, qui voyait un besoin impérieux d'unir les citoyens autochtones et les anciens esclaves d'Amérique, qui se sont installés ici et ont exercé une position dominante sur ceux qu'ils ont trouvés sur place, peut-être en raison de l'influence des anciens maîtres esclavagistes.

LA POLITIQUE DE DIVISION ou la politique d'exclusion est un vice qui a dressé les moins de 5 millions d'habitants les uns contre les autres, attisant en eux la haine, l'envie, la cupidité et l'étroitesse d'esprit.

LE PRÉSIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah a déclaré que la Journée nationale de l'unification de cette année ne pouvait pas être commémorée officiellement en raison de la lutte contre le coronavirus dans le pays. Mais en vérité, qu'est-ce qu'il y avait à célébrer ?

MONSIEUR WEAH lui-même, qui dirigeait autrefois la réconciliation nationale du Libéria sous la direction de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf avant de remporter la présidence en 2017, n'a pas lancé de programme significatif pour rassembler les Libériens, bien qu'il provienne d'un segment marginalisé et politiquement défavorisé de la société.

CERTAINS POURRAIENT PENSER qu'il aurait pu adapter une telle posture alors dans l'opposition pour des raisons politiques évidentes, ne voulant que le leader dont il visait impatiemment le fauteuil prenne la gloire ou le mérite. A noter aussi que l'ex-présidente Sirleaf elle-même avait déclaré publiquement que sa véritable faiblesse était son incapacité de pardonner. Elle n'avait naturellement non plus aucun désir ni intérêt de pardonner à ses ennemis.

NONOBTANT, alors voici M. Weah, maintenant président, qui dit qu'il ne s'assoierait jamais avec des opposants pour échanger des points de vue et des idées sur les moyens non seulement d'unir les Libériens, mais de faire avancer le pays, parce que ces derniers ne cessent de critiquer son gouvernement.

PAR CONSÉQUENT, LE LIBERIA CONTINUE de se débattre comme un beau diable dans ce borborygme malheureux avec des dirigeants qui parlent de réconciliation sur le bout des lèvres et non du fond du cœur. Ils prêchent une chose en public dont la signification est totalement opposée de ce qui est dit.

L'ANCIEN PRÉSIDENT Charles Ghankay Taylor, issu du milieu américano-libérien ou descendant des colons, a dit que son plus grand regret en tant qu'ancien chef, était de ne pas avoir été en mesure de réconcilier les Libériens. Il a mené une incursion sanglante rebelle en 1989 contre le premier président indigène du Libéria, Samuel Kanyon Doe, en représailles contre ce dernier pour avoir renversé le régime de Tolbert, qui était dominé par les colons.

CETTE DIVISION NATIONALE date de plus d'un siècle et, de toute évidence, est ancrée dans les mœurs. Les 14 années (1989-2003) de guerre civile ont même exacerbé la situation. Les gens sont divisés en tribus, clans, communautés, directement en ménages et familles.

Français

C'est l'incertitude pour

la table ronde.

La NEC n'a pour l'instant entrepris aucune activité préparatoire de grande ampleur rétive aux élections futures telle que la mise à jour de la liste électorale, l'achat du matériel électoral, le recrutement et la formation du personnel électoral. Tout cela aurait dû être achevé si

des fonds avaient été mis à leur disposition.

Le sénateur Sherman, qui préside le comité judiciaire du Sénat, craint que tout retard dans l'organisation des élections provoque une crise institutionnelle et mette en doute le sort des 15 sénateurs, qui veulent renouveler leur mandat.

L'alliance des partis politiques

horaires pour les élections sénatoriales et législatives afin de déterminer leurs candidats conformément aux processus de sélection démocratique interne de leur parti.

Les quatre partis politiques sont tenus, en vertu de l'accord, de participer aux cérémonies officielles d'approbation de tous les candidats aux élections législatives et sénatoriales qui se tiendront respectivement de préférence dans la circonscription ou le comté concerné.

En outre, tous les partis politiques sont tenus d'être pleinement représentés ou de faire partie de tout comité de campagne établi pour les élections présidentielles, sénatoriales et législatives, à condition que le candidat choisisse le président de ce comité.

Le document exhorte en outre les quatre partis politiques à œuvrer en vue d'une éventuelle fusion des partis politiques à l'avenir, conformément à l'objectif du CPP de réduire le nombre de partis politiques à un nombre abordable en réponse au désir du peuple.

Quand aucun consensus n'est atteint quant au choix d'un candidat unique, le document-cadre ordonne au CPP de mener un sondage des opinions électeurs (VPS), comme prescrit aux sections 10.5.2 de l'accord.

Le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) Alexander B. Cummings a été choisi pour diriger la plateforme des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition en tant que président.

La sélection de M. Cummings fait suite à la signature de l'accord-cadre

faisant de l'institution une alliance politique légalement reconnue. Il succède à l'homme d'affaires devenu politicien Benoni Urey de l'ALP qui présidait la plateforme depuis près de deux ans.

La signature précède également les élections sénatoriales spéciales, qui doivent désormais avoir lieu le 15 décembre, en raison de la pandémie de coronavirus. Elles étaient initialement prévues pour octobre de cette année.

Dans une déclaration publiée le week-end dernier, la plateforme a indiqué qu'il y a environ trois semaines, elle a annoncé la finalisation du document-cadre qui lie officiellement les quatre partis et définit les rôles et obligations de chaque parti membre.

La déclaration a ajouté que la finalisation du document est un immense progrès vers l'établissement d'une solide collaboration entre les quatre partis, car toutes les questions en suspens qui ont retardé la signature du document ont été résolues à l'amiable.

La déclaration conjointe a souligné qu'une cérémonie officielle d'approbation du document n'a pas encore été organisée par les quatre partis politiques en raison de la crise actuelle de coronavirus dans le pays.

Cependant, selon la plateforme, compte tenu de l'exigence de préparation des élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020, la cérémonie de signature était prévue ce mardi 19 mai 2020 à 11 heures.

L'alliance a déclaré que conformément aux mesures sanitaires d'urgence de lutte contre le COVID-19, la cérémonie se tiendrait virtuellement entre les quatre leaders politiques, présidents et autres cadres des partis membres de l'alliance.

COMMENTAIRE

By Elizabeth Drew

Trump, l'affabulateur

WASHINGTON, DC - En avril 2011, alors qu'il envisageait de se présenter à l'élection présidentielle de l'année suivante, Donald Trump a indiqué qu'il avait envoyé ses propres enquêteurs à Hawaï pour vérifier des rumeurs alléguant que le président américain Barack Obama n'était pas né dans cet État américain, mais au Kenya, et qu'il serait donc inéligible au poste de président des États-Unis. Ses enquêteurs, avait déclaré Trump, « ont découvert des choses à peine croyables ».

Je n'ai trouvé aucune trace d'une quelconque remise en cause de cette affirmation loufoque de Trump à l'époque. À l'automne 2016, alors que Trump est le candidat républicain à la présidence, son personnel de campagne le convainc de laisser tomber cette polémique ridicule concernant le lieu de naissance d'Obama. Il accepta à contre cœur, alléguant - à nouveau sans preuves - que ces rumeurs avaient en fait été lancées par son adversaire démocrate Hillary Clinton.

Voilà, en bref, le mode opératoire de Trump : il n'est pas seulement un menteur, mais également un affabulateur, apparemment insouciant de voir ses fables dénoncées. Et si elles le sont, peu importe, le monde passe à autre chose et il invente de nouvelles diversions.

Les efforts qu'il déploie pour systématiquement démanteler les garde-fous prévus pour contrôler l'exercice du pouvoir exécutif sont un autre trait distinctif de la présidence de Trump. Le plus récent exemple en est le limogeage de quatre inspecteurs généraux, une catégorie de fonctionnaires créée après le Watergate pour superviser en toute indépendance la conduite des agences fédérales et de leurs responsables.

Trump a démis de ses fonctions la directrice des services de l'inspecteur général du département de la Santé au prétexte qu'elle aurait fabriqué un « faux dossier » signalant une grave pénurie de matériel essentiel pour lutter contre la pandémie du Covid-19. Trump était encore plus empressé de se débarrasser d'elle après avoir appris qu'elle avait travaillé au sein de l'administration Obama, alors qu'elle avait déjà rejoint ce département sous la présidence de Bill Clinton. En fait, Trump a récemment laissé entendre que tous les inspecteurs généraux pourraient être des reliquats de l'époque d'Obama et qu'ils devraient donc tous être relevés de leurs fonctions.

De plus, la fureur de Trump au sujet de l'enquête sur les soupçons de collusion entre son équipe de campagne en 2016 et la Russie, et sa mise en accusation pour abus de pouvoir en janvier 2020 - deux sujets qui déclenchent sa rage et sa vindicte - n'a pas faibli. Quiconque est impliqué dans l'un ou l'autre épisode est exposé à des représailles. Deux des inspecteurs généraux récemment limogés en ont fait les frais.

Trump est généralement un homme tellement irascible qu'il ne peut se contrôler avant de se faire du tort, à moins que ses conseillers parviennent à le brider. Mais son entourage actuel n'est pas aussi ferme qu'il l'était, alors que Trump est de son côté de plus en plus confiant dans ses propres instincts (il n'est pas le premier président à dire à un conseiller « Je suis

le président et vous ne l'êtes pas »). Et il se rapproche rapidement d'une élection qu'il est susceptible de perdre.

Aujourd'hui, Trump s'évertue à discréditer l'enquête russe même, qu'il a toujours qualifiée de « chasse aux sorcières » et de « fake news ». Ainsi, avec l'aide du complaisant secrétaire à la Justice William Barr, il s'est donné pour objectif de « prouver » qu'elle n'avait pas eu lieu d'être.

Lorsque Barr a pris la tête du département de la Justice en février 2019, il a clairement fait comprendre que sa mission serait de défendre Trump. Et celui-ci, qui n'a aucune notion de ce qu'est le service public, s'est persuadé que le gouvernement fédéral était en fait un « État profond » déterminé à ruiner sa présidence. Cette perception explique en grande partie la valse des ministres et conseillers de Trump durant son mandat.

Trump a limogé le directeur du FBI James Comey, qui avait résisté au rôle de subordonné du président que ce dernier prétendait lui imposer, pour se retrouver face au procureur spécial Robert Mueller, nommé par le département de la Justice. De point de vue de Trump, la tâche de Barr était de reprendre le contrôle de ce département, ce que fit ce dernier en intervenant d'une manière qui lui fit autant de tort qu'au locataire de la Maison Blanche. Son département est intervenu afin d'obtenir une révision à la baisse de la peine requise à l'encontre de Roger Stone, ancien conseiller et ami de longue date de Donald Trump, provoquant la démission en signe de protestation des quatre procureurs qui avaient instruits l'affaire.

Après que l'indignation des fonctionnaires du département de la Justice se soit calmée, Barr est intervenu de manière plus flagrante encore en demandant au juge de district chargé du dossier d'abandonner les poursuites pénales contre l'ancien lieutenant général à la retraite Michael Flynn, le premier des quatre (à ce jour) conseillers à la sécurité nationale du président américain. Flynn a admis à deux reprises avoir menti sous serment au FBI au sujet d'échanges confidentiels avec l'ambassadeur de Russie aux États-Unis, Sergey Kislyak, dans les semaines précédant l'entrée en fonction de l'actuel président américain. Il avait rapidement dû démissionner pour avoir également menti au vice-président Mike Pence.

La décision d'abandonner les poursuites contre Flynn a entraîné la démission du procureur principal de l'affaire et un tollé parmi les avocats établis, tant républicains que démocrates, qui ont appelé Barr à démissionner. Le juge de district chargé de l'affaire Flynn a pris la décision très inhabituelle de faire appel à un juriste indépendant pour plaider devant le tribunal en juin contre la décision de la Justice d'abandonner les charges.

L'imprévisible Flynn, inscrit au parti démocrate (en dépit de la campagne « Enfermez-la » qu'il a orchestrée contre Hillary Clinton) était un directeur estimé du renseignement

en Afghanistan, mais devait être strictement encadré pour atténuer ses conclusions les plus folles. Après avoir été promu à la tête de la

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Despite Criticisms, Madagascar Moves Ahead With COVID-Organics

By Kester Kenn Klomegah*

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

Madagascar's scientific initiative has drawn wide criticisms, instead of encouragement and support. The World Health Organization (WHO), established to monitor and tackle global health problems, research for innovative ways to ensure health of people, was rather the first to punch Madagascar. It warns on its website that there is "no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 can be prevented or treated with products made from Artemisia-based plant material." The officials explained that the local African brew safety and effectiveness have not been assessed internationally, nor has any data from trials been published in peer-reviewed studies. Mainstream scientists have warned of the potential risk from consumption of untested herbal brews.

The African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have also made similar claims and said they would only support and endorse products that proved effective through scientific study. But, the African Union, all African Governments and Regional Organizations have to get committed to taking "traditional therapies" through the same clinical trials as any other medication. It is worth to say that it is necessary to make collective or continental efforts toward finding a remedy against coronavirus.

African leaders have to understand that an effective COVID-19 vaccine, if it ever arrives, has to be treated as a public good for the whole of the global society, but at a cost not as a humanitarian aid. Acknowledging that profit-motivated global monopolies and market speculators in the health sector will nevertheless use the chance to their advantage. The combination of national self-interest and pressure for the pharmaceutical industry to make a profit is already triggering a geopolitical bust up over who actually gets access to the vaccine first.

Several media reports said an increasing number of African countries are opting for the COVID-Organics. About 10 African leaders have, already ordered for it since its launch in April. The countries include Chad, Comoros Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Togo and United Republic of Tanzania.

With COVID-19, Africa has to explore its own resources. African countries and the African Union (AU) have to reinforce scientific cooperation among its member states so that the continent can be ready for quick and concerted efforts to deal with unexpected health crises such as coronavirus,



recently argued DrAminataTouré, former Prime Minister of Senegal and currently President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council in Dakar, Senegal.

It is certainly too soon to draw some lessons on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic since it continues to dramatically affect significant segments of the world population and still remains a puzzle, an enigma for the world scientific community. Some African governments, at different levels, have mobilized their resources and expertise, elaborated innovative strategies and carried out bold and strategies to contain the spread of the coronavirus, she explained.

"The African Union has to reinforce the scientific cooperation among its member states in order to ensure our common health sovereignty. This is urgent today, to put in place a genuine scientific partnership between our African universities so that we can identify anticipatory and preventive therapeutic and pharmaceutical solutions to human suffering. We must actively encourage the African scientific diaspora to build solid cooperation, exchange network systems with our counterparts from the continent in order to build African centers of research and laboratory excellence," suggested Touré.

Touré explicitly concluded that only these would be capable of helping to inspire widely

recognized African initiatives on the cutting edge of research and development for medicinal and vaccine cures. This is the true path to health sovereignty.

Nearly a quarter of a billion people across Africa will catch coronavirus during the first year of the pandemic, the World Health Organization has said in a new study published in the British Medical Journal. The study further warns that 190,000 Africans could die of COVID-19 in the first 12 months of the pandemic unless urgent action is taken.

According to the latest figures from the WHO, Africa has more than 60,000 cases of COVID-19, which implies that Africa has been spared the worst of the pandemic. Experts say that the low number of tests in Africa is certainly hiding the true scale of the crisis. The African countries most affected by the pandemic included South Africa and Maghreb countries of Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco. Ghana and Nigeria have disturbing infected numbers in West Africa.

Thirty-five (35) African countries have each recorded less than a thousand cases. Eritrea is among a handful of African countries that have not recorded deaths as of May 15, others are Madagascar, Central Africa Republic, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Lesotho, Rwanda and Uganda. Mauritius declared total recoveries (332) from coronavirus infections (332) as of May 11.

Madagascar reported no deaths. Out 238 cases, it claimed 126 active and 112 have recovered. Madagascar's natural resources include a variety of agricultural and mineral products. Its major health infrastructure, in poor conditions, similar to many African countries. Madagascar, located in southern Africa, has 26.3 million population and belongs to the group of least developed countries, according to the United Nations. It is a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union (AU). *KesterKennKlomegah writes frequently about Russia, Africa and the BRICS.



Coalition stalwart lashes CDC

By Lewis S. Teh

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) received serious political tongue lashes from a stalwart of an emerging rainbow coalition comprising 11 political parties, for having damaged the body politics here and dragged the entire nation into a reversed gear.

At the signing of a declaration of intent by the 11 registered political parties to establish a rainbow coalition, former presidential candidate and political leader of the Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe lashed Thursday, 21 May that the CDC led - government is bringing colossal damage on the country.

"The election of the CDC - led government [is] a mistake that has caused colossal damage not only to our body politics, but dragging the entire nation into a reversed

that poverty is the new normal in Liberia.

"Our country is in peril," he laments, suggesting that in such a situation, citizens come together with a mindset to repel the damages created.

Dr. Whapoe explains that it is his conviction that this potential political marriage is also intended to lead Liberia to a new, but higher destiny, to a plateau of compassion for fellow citizens and to a behavior of humanness that he thinks is lost in the society here.

Also speaking, True Whig Party (TWP) National Chairman Mr. Reginald B. Goodridge says there is a lot of work carried out behind the scene to get the alliance to where it is today.

He notes that the fact that their plans were not leaked to the public is a testimony to the seriousness and maturity of each member of the alliance.

"The purpose of this rainbow alliance is to give voice to the voiceless parties and their many constituencies," he says,

practice so that when it is given the opportunity to govern Liberia, it will already know what to do.

The 11 registered political parties whose executives affixed their signatures to the establishing of the rainbow alliance include the Liberia Restoration Party (LRD); Change Democratic Action (CDA); Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE); Democratic Justice Party (DJP); and Victory for Change Party (VCP).

Others include Grassroot Democratic Party of Liberia (GDPL); Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC); Peoples Unification Party (PUP); Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT); New Liberia Party (NLP) and the True Whig Party (TWP).

Further, MOVEE Chairman Mr. Dan Saryee hails the step taken by the 11 parties as something that no one thought they could have done, stressing that to bring



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

gear," Dr. Whapoe said at AlaLagune Resort on the Congo Town Back Road outside Monrovia.

After affixing his signature to the coalition document, Dr. Whapoe says the potential marriage is intended to amalgamate forces with any political institution who is so desired to bring to bear equitable distribution of the national wealth that has been pocketed due to ill - leadership.

He claims that this action by the leaders here has molded the minds of citizens

adding that they are erasing the notion that they are small or second- class political parties.

"We are significant and ready to govern, says Mr. Goodridge, arguing that all political parties, no matter which size, have a government in waiting.

"If it does not happen now, it will happen one day; it all depends on our purpose," he adds. As a government in waiting, Mr. Goodridge notes that the rainbow alliance plans to govern itself with efficiency, intelligence and good sense, saying all it hopes to do is to

11 political parties together wasn't an easy thing but they have achieved it.

He says they have come together because their people need the solution to the problems that they continue to face as a nation.

"We are organizing ourselves to assess the situation which has kept our country poor and underdeveloped," he adds.

Representing the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) at the occasion, former ruling Unity Party Stalwart Mr. Mo Ali thanks officials of the rainbow alliance for their efforts in establishing the coalition.

He says this will help to minimize the number of political parties during election period.

"We are grateful for this, and we in the CPP are looking forward to working with you to restore the hope of our citizens," he concludes.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

Senate reverses

Cont'd from page 6

committee urges the Minister of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Lenn Eugene Nagbe to organize and facilitate a meeting with media executives to promote

conflict; we are fighting a deadly disease that requires the involvement of all. It is not appropriate and reasonable that we have any distraction, if we will succeed in the fight



peace between the government and the Press Union of Liberia.

Meanwhile, findings from the committee reveal that both parties don't trust one another, noting that Deputy Minister Fahngon in their meeting accused PUL president Charles Coffey of mass production of press passes, but the PUL says the decision to changing passes was made by Fahngon alone.

The committee describes the media as very important in the fight against COVID-19, and that restricting the press is not necessary, adding that the media is the watchdog of the society, and its involvement in the fight against the pandemic is key.

"We are not in armed

against COVID-19", it warns.

The committee further reports that President Weah expressed during the declaration of the State of Emergency that accreditation should be given a few journalists thus, denying access to majority of Journalists in Liberia.

Members of the committee say this in their opinion restricts access to information and press freedom, bordering on contravening the actual intent of Article 15 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia regarding press freedom.

They also call on the President to reconsider his position and allow total access to journalists in the country to cover the pandemic. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Rep. Barshell entreats

Cont'd from page 6

God will bless the works of the hands and improve their well being in society.

He recalls that since he won the district's seat at the 54th Legislature, none of his contenders (with the exception of few) have reached out to him with development plans so that they can collectively take District#3 to the next level.

"Montserrado County District #3 will progress or move forward, if residents are willing to give their fullest support", Representative Barshell underscores during the installation program.

He assures the newly inducted leadership and residents that they won't be left out of his development initiatives in the area.

He extends olive branch to all of his political opponents, including former lawmaker Bill Tweaway, now Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA) to join his

development wagon to transform the lives of residents.

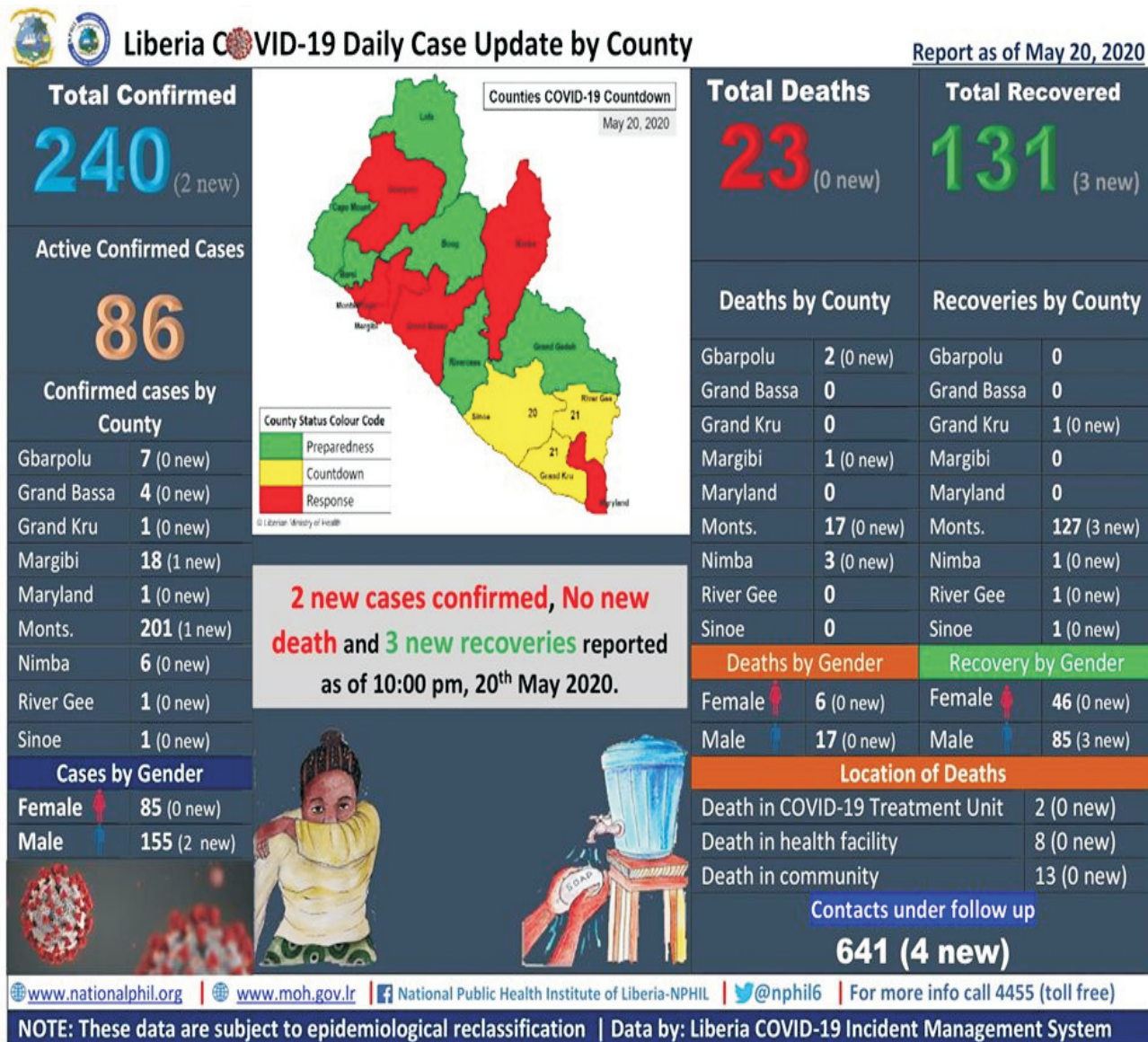
He specifically urges the Block - C leadership to be accountable and transparent in the discharge of the respective duties.

During the ceremony, the residents presented a 'developmental petition' to Rep. Barshell in which they outlined lack of electricity, pipe borne water, road and high crime rate, craving his swift intervention.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Lower Pipeline Community Block - C, Marcus B. Flomo, extols Representative Barshell for gracing the occasion and assured his leadership readiness to work with the lawmaker in achieving his developmental goals. He vows to reconcile residents of the Block - C community for progress of the area. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Eight Santos Laguna players test positive for coronavirus

Liga MX has announced that a total of eight players at Santos Laguna have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

The league confirmed the news on Wednesday evening as coronavirus cases across the country have risen.

Mexico has confirmed nearly 55,000 positive cases and 5,666 deaths so far with large disparities in those numbers based on region.

None of the players that tested positive were named, although the league did

confirm that each off the eight that were hit with positive tests are relatively healthy.

"LIGA MX reports the following as a result of the medical studies carried out by Club Santos this week: Eight players had positive Covid-19 results. However, they are asymptomatic," the league said in a statement.

"These players will be constantly observed while maintaining the protocols established by the federal government.

"LIGA MX will constantly



monitor the health of the Club Santos players, as well as all the footballers of LIGA MX and LIGA MX Femenil, always taking into account the recommendations of the health authorities, adopted by the medical areas of each institution."

The news comes as Liga MX continues to sort out how to handle a return to play, with several clubs reportedly leaning towards recommending cancelling the Clausura campaign and beginning the Apertura in late July.

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