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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Pro-Tempore Albert Chie



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

-over '4G budget'



Gov't begins food distribution

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Continental News

Coronavirus outbreak closes world's deepest mine

Operations at the world's deepest gold mine, in South Africa, have been halted after 164 cases of coronavirus were detected there.

The Mponeng mine, like all others in the country,

resumed operations last month after being closed in March as part of a national lockdown.

It had been operating at 50% capacity but some workers have reportedly raised concerns about their safety.

Most of those who tested

positive were not showing any symptoms.

They have all been put into isolation, according to the mine's owners, AngloGold Ashanti.

The company said that 650 workers had been tested after

a first case was detected last week.

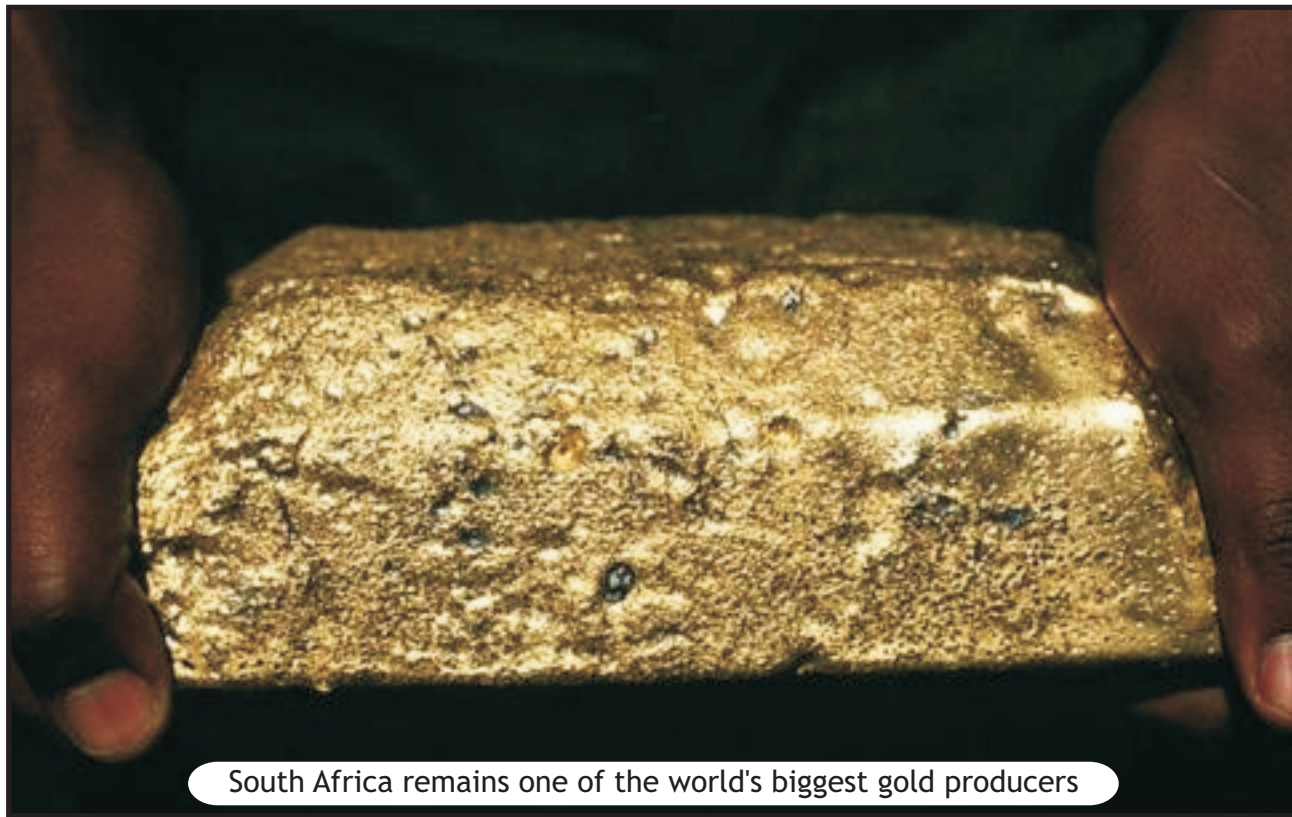
South Africa has the most cases of coronavirus in Africa - 21,343. It has recorded 407 deaths - fewer than Egypt and Algeria. Mponeng mine, about 75km (50 miles) south-west of Johannesburg, extends up to 4km beneath the earth's surface.

Electronic tracking is used in case miners go missing, and this system was "useful in quickly locating primary, or close contacts" of those who tested positive, the owners said. Operations at the mine have been "temporarily halted" to complete contact tracing and "sanitize the

workplace", AngloGold Ashanti said in a statement. BBC World Service Africa editor Will Ross says this outbreak, which follows another at a platinum mine, will be of concern to the South African government as well as the companies.

South Africa's mines, where people often work in close proximity deep underground, have often been the epicentres for other communicable diseases like tuberculosis and HIV.

Despite years of relative decline, South Africa remains one of the world's biggest gold producers and the sector is a vital part of the national economy. BBC



South Africa remains one of the world's biggest gold producers

Remains of top Rwandan genocide suspect discovered

The remains of Augustin Bizimana, one of the most wanted suspects of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, have been found, a UN war crimes prosecutor says.

They were discovered in a grave in Congo-Brazzaville. DNA tests confirmed his identity and that he had been dead for 20 years.

He was defence minister when about 800,000 people were killed in 100 days.

Bizimana was indicted in 1998 by a UN tribunal on 13 charges, including genocide, murder, rape and torture. The announcement of his death follows the arrest in Paris last weekend of Félicien Kabuga, who is accused of being the major financier of the killers during the genocide.

They were ethnic Hutu extremists targeting members of the minority Tutsi community and their political opponents, irrespective of their ethnic

origin. The search is still on for six other Rwandans accused of genocide, Serge Brammertz, the UN war crimes prosecutor, said in a statement.

Of the six, the most wanted is Protais Mpiranya, a former commander of the presidential guard. Like Kabuga and Bizimana, he is regarded as a "major fugitive". Mr Brammertz is chief prosecutor of International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) at The Hague, which handles outstanding war crimes cases for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. "Bizimana was alleged to be responsible for the murders of former Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian United Nations peacekeepers, and for the murder of Tutsi civilians" in five Rwandan regions, he said. The confirmation of Bizimana's death was the result of an exhaustive investigation into human remains from a grave site found in Pointe-Noire in Congo, he said.

As well as DNA analysis over several months, the

11 dead in Uganda floods

At least 11 people have been confirmed dead following the new wave of floods that hit the Uganda-DR Congo border district Kasese on Thursday.

Nine of the deaths occurred in Kitholhu sub-county while the other two were killed in Mpondwe-Lhubiriha town council when floods washed them into River Lhubiriha,

two students, a Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) soldier, Lothorach Lokwang, attached to the Bwera-based Mountain Brigade.

A report compiled by the District Information Officer, Sharon Kabugho, names the other deceased as 70-year-old Vangirina Kabugho, Korontina Masika, 40, Agnes Masika, and



which burst its banks.

Also River Thako in the Town Council flooded. The floods were as a result of River Lhubiriha, which borders Uganda and DR Congo along Kitholhu sub-county, in Bukonzo West Constituency. It burst its banks following the overnight torrential rains in Mt Rwenzori. The district and Uganda Red Cross authorities said the deceased included

Felesta Biira, 16, a student at Kitholhu Secondary, all of them were from Bughabirwa Village, Kitholhu sub-county. It says they were killed by landslides, which buried them alive before rolling them into the river. The report further says the landslides killed YubuMunzomba, 57, and one Mbusa aged about 22, both from Kararu village, also in Kitholhu sub-county. AFP



investigators had verified additional evidence concerning the circumstances of Bizimana's death in August 2000, the prosecutor said.

However, Mr Brammertz's statement gave no further details about how the former defence minister had died, when he would have been aged

around 46.

Dozens of people were convicted for their role in the killings by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), set up after the genocide, and hundreds of thousands more faced trial in community courts in Rwanda. BBC

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 been 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.

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

COMMENTARY

By Jens Spahn

How Germany Contained the Coronavirus

Compared to many other countries, Germany has managed the COVID-19 crisis well, owing to its properly funded health system, technological edge, and decisive leadership. But beyond any unique feature of the German system is something that all countries can replicate: a strong commitment to building public trust.

BERLIN - Germany is often referred to as a positive example of how to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. We were successful in preventing the overburdening of our health system. The curve of infections is clearly flattening. And the proportion of severe cases and fatalities is lower in Germany than in many other countries. But this makes us humble, rather than overconfident.

I see three reasons why Germany is coming through this crisis relatively well, for now. First, the German health-care system was in good shape going into the crisis; everyone has had full access to medical care. This is a merit not just of the current government but of a system that was built over the course of many governments. With an excellent network of general practitioners available to deal with milder COVID-19 cases, hospitals have been able to focus on the more severely ill.

Second, Germany was not the first country to be hit by the virus, and thus had time to prepare. While we have always kept a relatively large number of hospital beds available, particularly in intensive-care units, we also took the COVID-19 threat seriously from the beginning. Accordingly, the country's ICU capacity was increased by 12,000 beds to 40,000 very quickly.

Third, Germany is home to many laboratories that can test for the virus, and to many distinguished researchers in the field, which helps to explain why the first rapid COVID-19 test was developed here. With a population of around 83 million people, we are able to perform up to one million diagnostic tests per day, and will soon have the capacity to perform around five million antibody tests per month. Extensive testing is like pointing a flashlight in the dark: without it, you can see only shades of grey; but with it, you can see details clearly and immediately. And when it comes to a disease outbreak, you can't control what you can't see.

To be sure, as Germany's federal minister of health, I recognize we are seeing only momentary snapshots. No one can predict with confidence how the pandemic will develop in a few weeks or months. We have not imposed national curfews, but we have asked citizens to stay at home voluntarily. Like many other countries, we have been living under severe restrictions on public and private life for two months. From what we know, this response has been necessary and effective.

Yet the consequences of the lockdown cannot be ignored, which is why we are gradually trying to return to normal. The challenge is that reducing protective measures is potentially as fraught an issue as introducing them in the first place. Though we are operating under conditions of deep uncertainty, we can be certain about the danger a second epidemic wave poses. Thus, we remain vigilant.

Only time will tell if we have made the right decisions, so I am careful about drawing lessons from the crisis at this point. But a few things already seem clear to me.

First, it is critical that governments inform the public not just about what they know, but also about what they do not know. That is the only way to build the trust needed to fight a lethal virus in a

democratic society. No democracy can force its citizens to change their behavior - at least not without incurring high costs. In pursuing a coordinated, collective response, transparency and accurate information is far more effective than coercion.

In Germany, we have succeeded in slowing the spread of the virus because the vast majority of citizens want to cooperate, out of a sense of responsibility for themselves and others. But to maintain this success, the government must complement timely information about the virus with open public debate and a roadmap for recovery.

Second, in addition to informing the public, governments should show that they are relying on citizens to understand the situation and what it demands. Because they are informed, German citizens know that a return to normality is not possible without a vaccine. In thinking about our new, daily routines, our formula is to pursue as much normality as possible with as much protection as necessary.

As long as our decisions about where and how we loosen restrictions accord with clear and sensible criteria, we trust that German citizens will support them. Our decisions should be driven by evidence and emphasize reducing the risk of infection. We know that social distancing is the most effective protection. When people remain at least five feet (1.5 meters) apart, the risk of infection is reduced substantially. And if we can ensure compliance with basic rules of hygiene, the risk drops even further. The remaining residual risks can be handled in various ways, depending on the situation.

Third, the pandemic has shown why an interconnected world needs global-level crisis management. Sadly, multilateral cooperation has become more difficult in recent years, even among close allies. Now that we see how much we need one another, the current crisis should be a wake-up call. No single country can manage a pandemic alone. We need international coordination, and if the institutions that exist for this purpose are not functioning well enough, we must work together to improve them.

Fourth, we Europeans must reconsider how we approach globalization, recognizing that it is critical to produce necessary essential goods like medical equipment within the European Union. We will need to diversify our supply chains to avoid being wholly dependent on any one country or region. But rethinking globalization does not mean reducing international cooperation. On the contrary, joint efforts among EU member states are already driving progress toward a vaccine. Once discovered, it will be only prudent to ensure that the vaccine is produced in Europe, even as it is made available worldwide.

Like most crises, this one offers opportunities. In many areas, it has brought out the best in us: a new sense of community, a greater willingness to help others, and renewed flexibility and creativity. There can be no doubt that the medium-term consequences of the pandemic will be tough. But despite all the difficulties and uncertainties that lie ahead, I remain optimistic. In Germany and elsewhere, we are witnessing what our liberal democracies and citizens are capable of.

O-PED

By Abebe Aemro Selassie

Africa's Hour of Need

African governments urgently need additional external financing to help them mitigate the pandemic's economic impact. And with global interest rates as low as they are now, it is hard to think of a more opportune time to make such a commitment to Africa - or a more important investment for our planet's future.

WASHINGTON, DC - It is too soon to tell how heavy the human and health toll from COVID-19 will be in Sub-Saharan Africa. But the pandemic's terrible economic impact on the region is already clear.

I have worked across Sub-Saharan Africa on and off since the early 1990s, and the scale of the economic challenge now unfolding is unlike any other during that time. The region's expected economic contraction this year - with GDP set to shrink by at least 1.6%, and by 4% in per capita terms - will be its sharpest since at least 1970.

There are several reasons why this pandemic is such a potent threat to the region. For starters, previous African crises, such as those stemming from natural disasters and commodity-price slumps, have always had a differential impact on its economies. But no country will be spared from the economic fallout of the virus.

Although the COVID-19 disease burden in some African countries has so far remained limited, this is the result of aggressive containment and mitigation measures, ranging from complete lockdowns to border closures. Formal economic activity has thus been brutally curtailed across the board.

Moreover, the poor will likely endure the brunt of the crisis. People who must go out and earn a daily living to put food on the table for their families are now being required to stay home and practice social distancing. And few of them will be able to work from home.

The significant deterioration of the external environment compounds the impact of these factors. In particular, tighter financial conditions and sharp commodity-price declines (especially for oil) are exacerbating the challenges facing many economies.

Finally, and regrettably, most Sub-Saharan African countries' ability to mount anything approaching the necessary fiscal and monetary policy response is severely constrained. Many have high levels of public debt and limited domestic savings, and private external financing options have dried up just when they would have helped the most.

What are the region's governments to do? The critical priority, of course, is to protect their citizens' health and wellbeing. This requires boosting spending to improve the preparedness of health-care systems and providing targeted cash or in-kind transfers to the most vulnerable groups. Wherever possible, governments should also consider extending liquidity support to small and medium-size enterprises to ensure their survival through this difficult period. This assistance must be provided in a transparent manner and in accordance with the highest governance standards.

But, more than ever, Sub-Saharan African countries also need large-scale external financing. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank estimate that the region faces a government financing gap (assuming a modestly supportive fiscal stance) of at least \$114 billion in 2020. African governments cannot mobilize this amount domestically.

For its part, the IMF can provide close to \$19 billion of rapidly disbursable financing to African countries this year; 26 have already received funding from its emergency facilities. In addition, 19 of the region's poorest countries will receive direct debt relief, with the IMF Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust providing grants to cover their upcoming debt-service payments to the Fund.

Other development partners such as the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank are also ramping up financing. And G20 countries have stepped up with an important initiative to suspend debt-service payments until the end of 2020 for poor countries that request relief.

Despite these efforts, however, African governments still face a significant residual financing gap of at least \$44 billion for 2020.

The case for the international community to bridge this shortfall is overwhelming. Providing these funds would greatly increase African countries' ability to deploy fiscal measures to mitigate the pandemic's adverse effects. And international lenders would be making one of the most strategic long-term investments possible if they supplemented this financing with further support to buttress the region's economic recovery.

One way or another, what happens in Africa will shape this century. Just ten years from now, Sub-Saharan Africa will account for more than half of the annual increase in the global labor force. Moreover, the marginal increase in global consumption and investment demand will increasingly come from this region. The healthier Africa's population is, the more robust the future global workforce will be. And the more climate-friendly the continent's urbanization, the greener our future.

The amounts involved are certainly manageable. For example, \$100 billion in new financing to support the region's economic recovery amounts to only about 2% of the fiscal support that G7 governments have injected into their economies in recent weeks. And with global interest rates as low as they are now, it is hard to think of a more opportune time to make such a commitment to Africa - or a more important investment for our planet's future.

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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



HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

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. Gagnard
SECRETARY

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ex-Minister demands reasons for lockdown

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Former Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, challenges the Government of Liberia, particularly, health authorities leading the fight against the COVID-19 to provide “Clear, measurable, and easy-to-understand” indicators on progress made in the fight, if there were any justifiable reasons to continue the lockdown.

Mr. Ngafuan, who served under ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, recalls that when the lockdown that is grossly affecting businesses and livelihood of Liberians was extended on May 8th, President George Weah told the public he (Weah) got advice from health authorities that there was some unresolved crisis, and the need for measures to remain in place still was pertinent.

Speaking to OK FM 99.5 in

than a nebulous unresolved crisis,” he argues.

“As far as we know, the Corona virus crisis will remain unresolved for the next year or so until the global community develops a solution through the development of an efficacious vaccine or drug.”

He notes that with such predicament, the government may not want to continue to press the pause button on the economy and the livelihood of its people for months, only on account of “Unresolved crisis.”

While demanding information about progress in the COVID-19 fight, he acknowledges the work of the Director-General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Dr. MosokaFallah, who he says was his classmate at the University of Liberia; Dr. Francis Kateh, who he described as a man with professional medical credentials; Health Minister Wilhelmina Jallah; John F.

making progress.

At the same time he also observes that linking food distribution to total lockdown does not imply any cohesiveness, adding that tying food distribution to total lockdown may dilute or diminish the good intent associated with the food distribution.

He emphasizes that strategic decision making considers the circumstances, factors, or variables of the present and their potential impacts on the future as more relevant in informing a proper course of action than what is being said about two months ago concerning lockdown and food distribution.

“The government can still distribute food without necessarily upgrading to total lockdown. After all, the harsh realities of living under a lockdown, albeit partial, for more than a month can justify the distribution of food.”

Ngafuan points that delinking food distribution from total lockdown comes with the added benefit of averting the likelihood of confusion and push-back during a complete or total lockdown by some disgruntled persons who might be denied food rations on account of not being considered ‘vulnerable.’

He warns that denying a segment of the population food even during the partial lockdown may be problematic; but denying them food and at the same time subjecting them to harsh realities of a total lockdown may be seriously problematic.

He challenges the government to direct the scarce resources it has to activities and expenditure directly linked to the Corona virus fight and the health sector in general, saying, “To flatten the curve or raise the line, we need to improve health care capacity and our mitigation efforts by spending more money on the recruitment and incentivization of more contact tracers, case investigators, community health volunteers, and community engagement volunteers.”

According to him, while the virus was surfacing and before surfacing, there were reports about the lack of essential medical supplies and gasoline or fuel for many health centers in the country. In this direction, he cautions the government to think twice whether it is at this time necessary to dedicate US\$35 million on food aid programs when there is a public cry that

World Bank gives US\$54m

Starts from back page

processes, the project will enhance Liberia’s capacity to provide better health care services and ability to deal with future pandemics,” said KhwimaNthara, World Bank Country Manager for Liberia.

Currently, hospitals and the health system cannot adequately respond to people’s daily health care needs, particularly during health emergencies like the Ebola outbreak and potentially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This Scale Up Facility financing has been mobilized to support the

The IFISH project will also train health workers, nurses and midwives, finance selected undergraduate and post-graduate faculties; and enhance transparency and effectiveness in the use of government and donor financing in the health sector.

* The International Development Association (IDA) is the World Bank’s fund for the poorest. Established in 1960, it provides grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor



government’s health sector plan and the implementation of the government’s Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

“The IFISH project reflects the government of Liberia’s commitment to addressing systemic challenges in the health sector that contribute to high rates of maternal, adolescent and child deaths in the country,” said Opope Oyaka Tshivuila Matala, World Bank Task Team Leader. “This project will play a critical role in saving lives for generations to come”.

people’s lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world’s 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. IDA resources help effect positive change in the lives of the 1.6 billion people living in the countries that are eligible for its assistance. Since its inception, IDA has supported development work in 113 countries. Annual commitments are constantly on the rise and have averaged \$21 billion over the past three years, with about 61% going to Africa.



Monrovia, he continues that when the lockdown was first extended on April 24, “The President also premised his decision on the advice of health authorities, pointing to an unresolved crisis.”

However, the former official who served two cabinet posts (Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs respectively) during the former regime, insists he has not got a clearer understanding of what the referenced “Unresolved crisis” is, therefore, he calls on health authorities and the government to define the unresolved crisis for the public understanding.

“Relying more on the advice of health authorities during a health crisis is the prudent thing to do. However, the Liberian people deserve more concrete and detailed indicators to justify the extension of a lockdown

Kennedy Medical Center Administrator Jerry Brown, and the rest of the national health team.

“I encourage them to deconstruct the ‘unresolved crisis’ and tell us more about the epidemiological curve of Corona virus cases in Liberia, as such a curve will show, even on a rough basis, how the numbers of confirmed Corona virus cases and deaths are expected to evolve in Liberia over time, under various scenarios, which could include a no lockdown, a more relaxed lockdown, a partial lockdown that exists now, and a total lockdown hinted by government officials,” he adds.

According to Ngafuan, knowing beforehand precisely what the execution of any one of the scenarios is expected to yield in terms of confirmed cases and deaths will give the necessary metrics to gauge whether or not, the country is

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hospitals and clinics lack essential medical supplies to fight the COVID-19.

He notes that investing US\$35 million in the Corona virus fight to acquire medical supplies and promote testing, contact tracing, isolation, PPEs, and the health sector, in general, would bring a long time sustainable development than food ration that is not sustainable.

He recommends that President Weah should relax the mandatory stay-at-home period by revising it from 3

p.m. to 6 p.m. and then 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., a suggestion the government has promptly heeded.

He argues the extra three hours this relaxation will give the public to attend to their basic food, banking, and other needs will enhance social distancing, instead of undermining it, as the current time pushes too much rush at business centers especially, banks, which undermines the social distancing protocol.

- **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MCA-L Supports LERC's Development of Electricity Tariff Regulations

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC), with the support of the Millennium Challenge Account Liberia (MCA-L), has begun a Cost of

effectively determine appropriate tariff regulations for the electricity sector.

Tetra Tech ES Inc., a global engineering consulting company, is conducting the study and will provide the final

survey, an economic cost of electricity supply report, and a cost-reflective pricing model.

These reports will be presented and discussed at workshops of relevant stakeholders from Liberia's electricity sector.

MCA-L's Director of Energy, M. Hady Sherif, described the COSS as critical to ensuring that LERC has appropriate and adequate data to make decisions during regulatory review of tariff proposals and tariff determination for effective regulations.

"It is imperative that an electricity Cost of Service Study be undertaken to determine the actual and efficient cost of supplying electricity with a view of transitioning to cost-reflective electricity pricing," he added.

Sherif noted that Tetra Tech has already developed and submitted a contingency and risk management plan to enable the company to implement the project amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tetra Tech is ensuring that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Service Study (COSS) to gather information on the generation, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity within Liberia.

The information will enable LERC to more

deliverables by November 30, 2020.

Among the deliverables, Tetra Tech will produce reports on the structure and performance of Liberia's power sector, a willingness to pay

Confusion in LISGIS' data collection

Starts from back page

collection for the emergency COVID-19 food distribution.

The residents warned that this could be a cause for serious trouble and tension when the distribution process begins and other community dwellers are left out of the data.

One of the aggrieved residents, Fatu Morris Dennis, insists that LISGIS' data collectors be made to return to the community to enumerate those who were not recorded in the 22 May process.

She suggests that LISGIS works with communities' town criers who will provide prior information to community residents to enable people to stay at home for food data collection as a matter of transparency.

She continues: "You cannot record one group of community dwellers and leave out the others who are also covered under the government's State of Emergency Stimulus Food Package. Government has approved a \$25M Stimulus Package covering coronavirus frontline nurses, vulnerable communities and residents,"

she adds.

Patrick Walker, another resident engaged in fishing business, warns of grave danger and consequences if vast majority of the population is left out of the food distribution.

"Mr. Pressman, I know our people here. If they don't get some of the food, we will definitely not be in peace because they will make trouble for those who would benefit under the scheme. So I believe that LISGIS should consider including everybody in the food basket," he says.

Meanwhile, our reporter

observes that during the data collection, there was a team comprising of four data collectors visiting a structure, instead of assigning each of those on the team to a house to speed of the process.

Data collectors photographed residents and asked them whether they had access to electricity supplied by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), latrine, safe drinking water, sick person and number of occupants, among others.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



World Bank approves US\$10.5m for Agriculture

The World Bank has approved US\$ 10.5 million funding support to the Government of Liberia (GOL) through the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for its COVID-19 Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood Plan.

Upon a recent request from the GOL, the funding was drawn from the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) within the World Bank's funded

families and local farmers.

The MoA, through the Program Management Unit (PMU), will manage the CERC funding with support from the STAR-P in partnership and collaboration with farmers' groups, agro processors and cooperatives to support the plan's implementation.

At the end of the project's implementation, 100,000 metric tons of staple foods would be produced that will



Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) which kicked off in 2019 and is directed and supervised by the MoA.

Liberia's COVID-19 Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood Plan—as formulated by the MoA in March—aims to mitigate Coronavirus' threats and impacts on Liberia's food security and livelihood; and targets vulnerable low income

drop the country's food import reliance by 15% and have a strategic food reserves for the first time in Liberia.

An estimated 100 small and growing processing businesses will be built, and 50 cooperatives and farming communities empowered. About 5,000 jobs will be created and another 30,000 supported in agriculture and agro-allied industries.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

President Weah, others to join UBA's Africa Day High Level Panel

The President George Manneh Weah is expected to today (Monday, May 25, 2020) participate in the virtual United Bank For Africa (UBA)'s Africa Day High Level Panel.

According to a release from the Liberian Embassy in

Abuja, the high level panel discussion is the Second Edition of the UBA Africa Conversations in celebration of Africa Day.

Restructuring and Repositioning for the New African Order". "Beyond the present challenges posed by the pandemic, threat to hundreds of thousands of lives and means of livelihood, this discourse is a critical step to Africa's economic recovery", the

Coons, US Senator and Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Prof. OkeyOramah, President, Africa Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Peter Maurer, President, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Amir Ben Yahmed,



Abuja, the high level panel discussion is the Second Edition of the UBA Africa Conversations in celebration of Africa Day.

The virtual panel discussion will be held under the Theme: "Emphasising Economic Collaboration:

Liberian Embassy release quotes an invitation from the UBA as saying.

President Weah and his Senegalese counterpart, MackySall, will participate in the high-level panel session with other global leaders.

Others include Senator Chris

President, Africa CEO Forum.

The panel will be moderated by Tony O. Elumelu, Group Chairman, United Bank for Africa(UBA) & Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation.

Gov't begins

By Lewis S. Teh

The Liberian government's COVID - 19 Household Food Support Program Steering Committee began the distribution of COVID - 19 stimulus package food to citizens with specific focus on those economically challenged by the outbreak.

Following the commencement of the distribution over the weekend, the Committee's Chairperson and Minister of Commerce Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh told journalists that the government has emphasized that the food distribution is only targeting the poorest and most food insecure household population of the country.

"The government's food distribution has started, and we are beginning with the vulnerable communities and today we are targeting 10 orphanages, though it's a

Montserrado and the other counties, adding that this entire process will take up to 60 to 75 days to complete.

Ms. Cooper discloses that the committee is not working alone, but includes health team that will identify active cases as part of their plan to coordinate everything they do to avoid problems.

Minister Cooper adds that the committee is looking at the hard hit communities that are affected by the outbreak, and taking into consideration their disadvantaged youths that are currently in the streets.

She says the general rollout will start very soon and they are beginning with Montserrado County before reaching out to the other counties.

She describes it as a huge task because according to her, about 500, 000 household

In Grand Gedeh: Dr. George Boley launches COVID-19 awareness and prevention initiatives

Grand Gedeh County District # 2 Representative and Co-Chair of the House Committee on Health, Dr. George E. S. Boley, Sr., has dispatched a team to Grand Gedeh County to distribute preventive materials, awareness message across the county and financial assistance.

The materials included sanitary buckets, face masks and shields, surgical gloves, detergents, sanitizers and soap.

Dr. Boley is quoted as saying "Our best response to the pandemic is our collective preventive effort."

The Boley Outreach Initiative Team, led by Mr. LieyeeS. Joe, Jr., Chief of Office Staff, included members of the Muslim and Christian communities, youths, bike riders and marketeers.

The team targeted beneficiaries in the Health sector who are front liners in the County's health care delivery system.

Direct beneficiaries of the assistance in Zwedru were the Martha Tubman Memorial

Hospital, the Catholic, Baptist and DeSuah Street clinics in Zwedru and Kuma Town Clinic. In Konobo District benefiting health centers are PutuJarwodee, Pennokon, Karlowleh Town, Konobo Boundary, and Ziah City. In Gbarzon District, the Team donated sanitary materials and supplies to health centers in Janzon, Tuzon, Zia town, Zleh town, Barblo town, Dougee town, Toe town, Polar and GbarzonJarwodee.

Responding to the gesture, Grand Gedeh County Health Authorities thanked Dr. Boley for selecting the health sector

as primary recipient of assistance in these troubling times when resources and materials to work with are scarce. They asserted that this is the first time Health Centers and workers have been selected for assistance, particularly assistance from a Representative which covered the entire County and not only the District the Lawmaker represents.

Dr. Boley lauded the efforts, intervention and contributions of others, including members of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



difficult thing to start but at least we have started," says Minister Tarpeh.

Giving the overview of the process, Minister Tarpeh says the distribution is part of the president's response to the COVID - 19 fight, saying the principal terms of reference is to share food with the vulnerable communities.

According to him, the process delayed due to many challenges, noting that lot of planning was carried out and the problems have been resolved by the president.

"... And today we are glad to begin with orphanages, followed by the four affected counties and later the rest of the counties," Minister Tarpeh explains.

Also speaking to journalists, Agriculture Minister Ms. Jeanice Cooper says the full process will begin shortly in

across the country will be targeted, and this depends on the vulnerability of people which is inclusive of health or economic problems.

Both the Commerce and Agriculture Ministers put the cost of package at US\$30 Million dollars, out of which they say government is contributing US\$25 million through the budget while the remaining US\$5 million is coming from donors.

Some orphanages that benefited from the food distribution over the weekend include Margaret Gieraths-Nimene Foundation in Zubah Town, Paynesville; Children Relieve Ministry of Duport Road, Christ Our Hope Orphanage located on Michael Francis Road in Paynesville, and Rock of Divine Orphanage

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

Une fin de grossesse "en enfer" pour une infirmière libérienne atteinte du coronavirus

Sedia Marwolo, une infirmière de Monrovia, vient tout juste d'accoucher de son troisième enfant. Atteinte du coronavirus, elle a vécu une fin de grossesse "en enfer" dans une unité de soins intensifs d'un hôpital de la capitale libérienne.

Aujourd'hui guérie, elle fait face à l'hostilité de ses voisins. Début mai, alors qu'elle était enceinte de 8 mois, son patron l'a renvoyée chez elle, sans explication. Plus tard, une collègue lui dira que son supérieur direct

avait été testé positif au coronavirus.

Cinq jours après avoir s'être soumise à un test de sa propre initiative, revenu positif, l'infirmière de 38 ans a vu une équipe médicale en équipement de protection débarquer chez elle. Sous le regard du voisinage, elle a été séparée des siens et emmenée dans une unité d'un hôpital de Monrovia réservé aux malades de la maladie Covid-19.

"J'étais comme en enfer, seule, abandonnée. Etre enceinte et se retrouver dans une unité de soins intensifs

pour coronavirus, c'est terrible", a confié à l'AFP Sedia Marwolo. "Il n'y avait pas de gynécologue, pas de sage-femme, et pas l'équipement nécessaire pour suivre mon état de santé", dit-elle.

Effrayée, elle n'a pas mangé pendant deux jours. "Je me suis alors rendu compte que mon bébé ne bougeait plus dans mon ventre", se souvient-elle. La jeune femme a trouvé du soutien et du réconfort auprès d'une sage-femme employée par le Fonds des Nations unies pour la population (UNFPA), HarrietteMondaye.

"Il y a avait des moments difficiles", se souvient HarrietteMondaye, selon qui Sedia pleurait à chaque fois qu'elles se parlaient au téléphone. La jeune infirmière a recommencé à s'alimenter et, après 15 jours, a été déclarée guérie. Elle a pu quitter les soins intensifs et a donné naissance à une petite fille, qui n'a pas été contaminée. "Nous avons installé une maternité au sein du centre de traitement, en nous assurant que des sages-femmes soient présentes et que Sedia reçoive le suivi nécessaire", explique le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Presse : le Sénat invalide les nouveaux laissez-passer et autorise les journalistes de se servir de leur carte professionnelle

La commission sénatoriale de l'information, de la radiodiffusion, de la culture et du tourisme a rejeté à l'unanimité le nouveau laissez-passer introduit unilatéralement par le vice-ministre de l'Information chargé des Affaires publiques, Eugene Fahngon, pour les journalistes qui couvrent les activités relatives à la lutte contre le COVID-19 à travers le pays, insistant que ces derniers se servent de leurs cartes d'identité professionnelles pour faire leur travail.

Après plusieurs réunions tenues avec l'Union de la presse du Libéria (PUL) et le vice-ministre Fahngon au sujet de l'impasse entre les deux parties concernant la délivrance d'un nouveau laissez-passer pour les médias, le comité a rapporté que Fahngon a abusé de son pouvoir en changeant le laissez-passer de la presse

sans consulter préalablement la PUL.

Le ministère de l'Information et la PUL avaient coopéré initialement pour délivrer les premiers laissez-passer, mais pour le sous-ministre Fahngon, ces laissez-passer ont été reproduits et

remis à des personnes qui ne sont pas des journalistes, accusant la PUL de fraude, ce qu'a rejeté l'Union.

Le comité sénatorial dirigé par le sénateur du comté de Bong, le Dr Henrique F. Tokpa, a ordonné

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'Italie trouve le remède du COVID-19 : Fake news ou vérité ?

Des informations qui circulent sur la toile font état de la découverte par l'Italie du vrai remède du COVID-19 qui actuellement fait ravage dans le monde entier.

Selon le newspotng.com, un site d'information en ligne nigérian, l'information aurait été donnée par le ministère de la santé de l'Italie. Mais les recherches menées par ce site auprès du site du ministère de l'information de l'Italie n'ont rien donné de concluant.

« Les médecins italiens ont désobéi à la loi sanitaire mondiale de l'OMS de ne pas pratiquer d'autopsie sur les morts du Coronavirus et ils ont découvert que ce n'est PAS un VIRUS mais une BACTERIE qui cause la mort. Elle provoque la formation de caillots dans le sang et entraîne la mort du patient ».

La question que se pose Anouma News est de savoir si les chercheurs et les experts du monde ne savent pas faire la différence entre un virus et une bactérie, ou sont-ils alors tous complices d'un complot quelconque contre l'humanité en faisant croire que l'agent pathogène responsable du COVID-19 est un coronavirus.

Voici l'intégralité de l'article pris sur le site web nigérian (<https://www.newspotng.com/102693-2/>) et traduit en français

EN ITALIE, LE REMEDE CONTRE LE CORONAVIRUS A FINALEMENT ETE TROUVE. Les médecins italiens ont désobéi à la loi sanitaire mondiale de l'OMS de ne pas pratiquer d'autopsie sur les morts du Coronavirus et ils ont découvert que ce n'est PAS un VIRUS mais une BACTERIE qui cause la mort. Elle provoque la formation de caillots dans le sang et entraîne la mort du patient.

L'Italie défait le soi-disant Covid-19, qui n'est rien d'autre qu'une "coagulation intra-vasculaire disséminée" (thrombose).

Et la façon de la combattre ou de la guérir, c'est avec "des antibiotiques, des anti-inflammatoires et des anticoagulants" comme la simple ASPIRINE... Ce qui indique que cette maladie a été mal traitée.

Cette nouvelle sensationnelle pour le monde entier a été produite par des médecins italiens qui ont pratiqué des autopsies sur des cadavres produits par Covid-19.

Encore plus, selon les pathologistes italiens: "Les respirateurs n'ont jamais été nécessaires, ni l'unité de soins intensifs."

Ainsi donc en Italie le changement de protocoles a commencé, L'ITALIE REVOLTE ET MET FIN A CE QUE L'OMS A APPELE PANDEMIE MONDIALE, Ce remède les Chinois le connaissent déjà et ne l'ont pas signalé POUR FAIRE DES AFFAIRES.

Source de cette information : Ministère de la santé de l'ITALIE.

PARTAGEZ -LA AFIN QUE LE MONDE ENTIER SACHE QUE NOUS AVONS ETE TROMPES ET QUE NOS AINES ONT ETE TUES !

@italiarevelacurardelcovid19

ALERTE soyez vigilants ! ! !

Transmettez cette information à toute votre famille, votre voisinage, vos connaissances, vos amis, vos collègues, vos collaborateurs...etc. etc. et à votre environnement en général.. :

Si vous contractez le Covid-19 ... qui n'est pas un virus comme on nous l'a fait croire, mais une bactérie ... amplifiée par un rayonnement électromagnétique 5 G qui produit également une inflammation et une hypoxie,

VOICI CE QUE VOUS DEVEZ FAIRE :

Vous allez prendre 100 mg d'aspirine et de l'Apranax (un anti-inflammatoire non stéroïdien (AINS) qui lutte contre l'inflammation et la douleur, fait baisser la fièvre et fluidifie le sang) ou du paracétamol

Pourquoi ?... parce qu'il a été démontré que le Covid-19 provoque la coagulation du sang, ce qui entraîne une thrombose et que le sang ne circule pas et n'oxygène pas le cœur et les poumons, raison pour laquelle la personne meurt rapidement de ne pas pouvoir respirer.

En Italie, ils ont envoyé le protocole de l'OMS en enfer et ils ont fait l'autopsie d'un cadavre qui est mort à cause de Covid-19... ils ont sectionné le corps et ils ont ouvert les bras et les jambes et les autres parties du corps et ils se sont rendu compte que les veines étaient dilatées et le sang coagulé et que toutes les veines et artères étaient pleines de caillots, empêchant le sang de circuler normalement et d'apporter de l'oxygène à tous les organes, principalement au cerveau, au cœur et aux poumons et le patient a fini par mourir,

Sachant ce diagnostic, le Ministère italien de la santé a immédiatement modifié les protocoles de traitement de Covid-19... et a commencé à administrer de l'aspirine à 100 mg et de l'Apranax à ses patients positifs... Le résultat : les patients ont commencé à se rétablir et à montrer une amélioration et le ministère de la santé a renvoyé plus de 14 000 patients chez eux en une seule journée.

IL EST URGENT DE transmettre cette information et la rendre virale. Ici en ITALIE, notre pays, ils nous ont menti, avec cette pandémie; la seule chose que notre président sort chaque jour nous dire ce sont des données et des statistiques mais pas pour nous donner cette information qui peut sauver les citoyens. Est-ce peut-être parce qu'il serait aussi menacé par les élites mondiales ?... Nous ne savons pas ce que font les gouvernements du monde, mais l'Italie a décidé de contourner la règle.

Français

Une fin de grossesse "en enfer" pour une

représentant de l'UNFPA au Liberia, le docteur BannetNdayanabangi.

Depuis son retour à la maison, la situation ne s'est pas vraiment améliorée. Son mari et un de ses enfants, également contaminés, ont été déclarés guéris eux-aussi. Mais la famille fait face à la stigmatisation du voisinage, "une autre sorte d'enfer pour ceux qui ont eu le virus", affirme Sedia Marwolo d'une voix faible, les traits tirés, son bébé dormant sur ses genoux.

"Je ne me sens plus chez moi. Les gens nous dévisagent, appellent notre maison +la maison corona+ ou se mettent à courir quand je sors de chez moi", raconte-t-elle. Son mari

Moses "remercie Dieu" et se dit néanmoins "très heureux que tout le monde ait pu rentrer à la maison en bonne santé, y compris le bébé". Avec 250 cas de coronavirus officiellement confirmés et 24 morts, le Liberia est relativement épargné par rapport à l'Europe, aux Etats-Unis ou à l'Amérique du Sud.

Mais il fait partie des pays où l'état du système sanitaire suscite l'inquiétude face à la pandémie. Petit pays pauvre d'Afrique de l'Ouest, il reste hanté par des guerres civiles qui ont fait quelque 250.000 morts entre 1989 et 2003 et par l'épidémie d'Ebola en Afrique de l'Ouest (2014-2016), qui avait tué 4.800 personnes dans le pays.

Presse : le Sénat invalide les nouveaux laissez-passer et autorise

aux journalistes d'utiliser leurs cartes d'identité professionnelles, notant que le changement de laissez-passer compromettrait la lutte contre la pandémie.

La recommandation de la commission stipule également que le sous-ministre Fahngon devrait cesser d'employer la force et les propos inappropriés contre la presse et le président du PUL, Charles Cuffey, tout en exhortant le président George Manneh Weah à assouplir sa récente recommandation selon laquelle seuls des journalistes sélectionnés devraient couvrir l'État de Urgence et la lutte contre les coronavirus, notant qu'une telle déclaration du président pourrait être interprétée comme une censure des médias.

Le comité sénatorial de l'information exhorte le ministre de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme, Lenn Eugene Nagbe à organiser et à faciliter une réunion avec les dirigeants des médias pour promouvoir la paix entre le gouvernement et l'Union de la presse du Libéria.

Par ailleurs, selon les conclusions du comité, les deux parties ne se font pas confiance, indiquant que le sous-ministre Fahngon, lors de leur rencontre, a accusé le président de la PUL, Charles Coffey, d'avoir falsifié les laissez-passer de presse. Pour sa part, la PUL aurait accusé le vice-ministre d'avoir pris la

décision de changer les laissez-passer de façon unilatérale.

Le comité a rappelé que les médias sont très importants dans la lutte contre le COVID-19, et qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de restreindre la presse, ajoutant que les médias sont « le chien de garde » de la société, et son implication dans la lutte contre la pandémie est essentielle.

« Nous ne sommes pas en conflit armé ; nous luttons contre une maladie mortelle, ce qui nécessite la participation de tous. Il n'est pas approprié et raisonnable que nous ayons une quelconque distraction, si nous voulons réussir dans la lutte contre le COVID-19 », a prévenu le sénat.

Le comité a dit en outre que le président Weah a indiqué lors de la déclaration de l'état d'urgence que l'accréditation devrait être accordée à quelques journalistes, ce qui empêchait à la majorité des journalistes au Libéria d'avoir accès à l'information.

Les membres de la commission affirment qu'à leur avis, cela restreint l'accès à l'information et à la liberté de la presse, ce qui constitue à la limite une violation de l'intention réelle de l'article 15 de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986 concernant la liberté de la presse. Ils demandent également au Président de reconsidérer sa position et de permettre un accès total aux journalistes du pays pour couvrir la pandémie.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jens Spahn

Comment l'Allemagne a endigué le coronavirus

BERLIN - L'Allemagne est souvent citée en exemple pour la façon dont elle a géré la pandémie de Covid-19. Nous sommes parvenus à éviter la surcharge de notre système de santé. La courbe des contaminations indique une baisse très nette. La proportion des cas graves et des décès est plus faible en Allemagne que dans bien d'autres pays. Mais cela nous incite à l'humilité plus qu'à l'outrecuidance.

Je vois trois raisons pour lesquelles, jusqu'à présent, l'Allemagne surmonte relativement bien cette crise. Tout d'abord, le système de santé allemand a abordé le choc en bonne condition ; chacun avait un accès total aux soins de santé. Le mérite n'en revient pas qu'à l'actuel gouvernement, mais à un système qui s'est construit au cours de nombreux gouvernements. Grâce à un excellent réseau de praticiens capables de traiter les cas plus bénins de Covid-19, les hôpitaux n'ont eu à prendre en charge que les malades les plus graves.

Deuxièmement, l'Allemagne n'était pas le premier pays frappé par le virus ; elle a donc eu le temps de s'y préparer. Si nous avons maintenu un assez grand nombre de lits disponibles dans les hôpitaux, notamment dans les unités de soins intensifs, nous avons aussi pris dès le début la menace du Covid-19 au sérieux, par conséquent augmenté la capacité des unités de soins intensifs du pays, très rapidement passée de 12 000 à 40 000 lits.

Troisièmement, de nombreux laboratoires, qui peuvent dépister le virus, sont installés en Allemagne, ainsi que de nombreux chercheurs très compétents dans ce domaine, ce qui permet d'expliquer pourquoi le premier test de dépistage rapide de la maladie a été mis au point ici. Avec une population d'environ 83 millions d'habitants, nous sommes capables de pratiquer plus d'un million de tests de diagnostic par jour et aurons bientôt les moyens de pratiquer cinq millions de tests sérologiques par mois. Dépister massivement, c'est comme lancer un flash dans la nuit : sans tests, vous ne pouvez voir que des nuances de gris, mais avec eux, vous percevez immédiatement et nettement les détails. Et lorsque survient une nouvelle maladie, vous ne pouvez maîtriser ce que vous ne voyez pas.

Certes, en tant que ministre de la Santé, je reconnais que nous ne voyons que des instantanés, des aperçus éphémères. Personne ne peut prévoir avec certitude comment la pandémie évoluera dans les prochains mois et même dans les prochaines semaines. Nous n'avons pas imposé de couvre-feu national, mais nous avons demandé à nos concitoyens de rester volontairement chez eux. Comme beaucoup d'autres pays, nous avons dû vivre pendant deux mois avec des restrictions drastiques de la vie publique et privée. D'après ce que nous en savons, cette réaction était nécessaire et elle s'est avérée efficace.

Mais les conséquences du confinement doivent être prises en compte, c'est pourquoi nous tentons de revenir progressivement à une vie normale. La difficulté, c'est que la levée des mesures de protection est potentiellement une question aussi délicate que l'a d'abord été leur mise en œuvre. Quoique nous agissions dans une situation marquée par une extrême incertitude, nous pouvons être certains du danger que ferait courir une seconde vague épidémique. Nous devons donc demeurer vigilants.

Seul le temps dira si nous avons pris les bonnes décisions, je suis donc prudent lorsqu'il s'agit, au point où nous en sommes, de tirer des leçons. Mais quelques éléments me semblent d'ores et déjà clairs.

Premièrement, il est indispensable que les gouvernements informent l'opinion, non seulement de ce qu'ils savent, mais aussi de ce qu'ils ne savent pas. C'est la seule manière de construire la confiance

nécessaire à la lutte contre un virus mortel dans une société démocratique. Aucune démocratie ne peut contraindre ces citoyens à modifier leur comportement - du moins sans risquer d'en payer un coût très élevé. La poursuite d'une réaction coordonnée et collective, d'une information transparente et exacte est beaucoup plus efficace que la contrainte.

En Allemagne, nous sommes parvenus à ralentir la propagation du virus parce que la grande majorité des citoyens souhaitent coopérer, par sens de la responsabilité, pour eux-mêmes et pour autrui. Mais pour que cette réussite perdure, le gouvernement doit compléter les informations dont il dispose sur le virus, fournies en temps et en heure, par un débat public ouvert et par une feuille de route vers la guérison et la reprise.

Deuxièmement, outre l'information due à l'opinion, les pouvoirs publics doivent montrer qu'ils comptent sur les citoyens pour comprendre la situation et ce qu'elle exige. C'est parce qu'ils sont informés que les citoyens allemands savent qu'un retour à la normalité n'est pas possible sans un vaccin. Pour ce qui concerne nos nouvelles habitudes quotidiennes, notre formule revient à rechercher une vie normale autant qu'il est possible avec autant de protection qu'il est nécessaire.

Tant que nos décisions concernant la façon dont nous assouplissons les restrictions respecteront des critères intelligibles et cohérents, nous avons confiance que les citoyens allemands les soutiendront. Nos décisions doivent être motivées par les faits et s'attacher à réduire les risques de contagion. Nous savons que la distanciation sociale est la plus efficace des protections. Lorsque les gens demeurent à 1,50 mètre les uns des autres, le risque de contagion est notablement réduit. Et si nous pouvons nous assurer que les règles d'hygiène élémentaires sont elles aussi respectées, le risque est encore plus faible. La part de risque qui demeure peut être traitée de différentes manières, adaptées à la situation.

Troisièmement, la pandémie montre pourquoi un monde interconnecté a besoin d'une gestion de crise capable de fonctionner au niveau mondial. La coopération multilatérale s'est malheureusement faite plus difficile ces dernières années, même entre proches alliés. Aujourd'hui, alors que nous constatons combien nous avons besoin les uns des autres, la crise que nous vivons doit être un avertissement. Aucun pays ne peut seul venir à bout d'une pandémie. Nous avons besoin de coordination internationale, et si les institutions créées à cet effet ne fonctionnent pas assez bien, nous devons travailler ensemble à les améliorer.

Quatrièmement, nous autres Européens devons reconsidérer notre conception de la mondialisation, reconnaître qu'il est indispensable que nous produisions les biens nécessaires essentiels comme les équipements médicaux au sein de l'Union européenne. Il nous faudra diversifier nos chaînes d'approvisionnement afin d'éviter que nous soyons totalement dépendants d'un pays ou d'une région. Mais repenser la mondialisation ne signifie pas réduire la coopération internationale. Bien au contraire. Les efforts conjugués des États membres de l'UE conduisent déjà à des progrès dans la mise au point d'un vaccin. Lorsque celui-ci sera découvert, la moindre prudence sera de s'assurer de sa production en Europe, quand bien même il se trouvera disponible dans le monde entier.

Comme la plupart des crises, celle-ci offre une chance à saisir. Dans de nombreux domaines, elle nous a révélés au meilleur de nous-mêmes : un sens nouveau de la communauté, un plus grand désir d'aider les autres, des capacités d'adaptation et de créativité renouvelées. Il ne fait aucun doute que les conséquences à moyen terme de la pandémie seront rudes. Mais malgré toutes les difficultés et toutes les incertitudes qui nous attendent, je demeure optimiste. En Allemagne et ailleurs, nous sommes les témoins de ce dont nos démocraties libérales sont capables.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

COVID-19 Hits Hard, But Challenges BRICS*By KesterKennKlomegah**

By and large, the coronavirus pandemic has taken a huge toll on Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). The COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus, declared as pandemic late January by the World Health Organization (WHO), allegedly originated (yet to be proved) from Wuhan city in China. However, the World Health Assembly on May 18-19 by a resolution agreed to launch an investigation into the origin of the disease, whose unyielding march across the globe since last year and has already left more than 320,000 dead.

Statistics made available (Johns Hopkins University) as at May 20, showed that Brazil (310,087) in South America, Russia (317,554) in Eastern Europe or compared to, say in the former Soviet region, India (118,447) and China (84,507) both in Asian region, and South Africa (19,137) in Africa. It means South Africa, with a population 57 million, has one-fifth of the total confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa.

Further, assessing BRICS countries population in relation to the number of infections, Russia seems the worst spot among BRICS, and has taken the second highest in the world and that was followed in the third position by Brazil. Under a "pessimistic scenario", the number of active cases could peak again when the expected "second wave of coronavirus" sets in and if strict precautions are not observed.

The COVID-19 has shattered nearly all economies. But at the same time, just as the COVID-19 has offered opportunities, so it also presents significant challenges. In the world including BRICS countries, the outlook remains bleak. BRICS is interested in both, taking advantage of the emerging opportunities and dealing with the challenges.

Experts have argued that BRICS members meet to discuss various global issues, and plan its joint collaborative projects on the global landscape. Comparatively, Russia, India and China, all these three still respond individually to varying opportunities and pursue different investment in the world.

As experts noted, China and India lead in the pursuit of economic spheres of influence worldwide. Geography of investment largely explains why China and India seem to be leading, followed by Russia, among the five. With regard to coronavirus and the operations of WHO, Chinese President Xi Jinping, delivering a speech via video link at the opening of the World Health Assembly, pledges \$2 billion to deal with COVID-19.

According to an executive decree published in April on the official website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia contributed \$1 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to fight the coronavirus. Figures unavailable for Brazil, India and South Africa.

Still put them together, BRICS is an upcoming and developing force to reckon with. Thus on May 7, Russia's Health Ministry held a meeting of BRICS countries via videoconference focusing, particularly, on the issue of the novel coronavirus pandemic discussed joint efforts needed by BRICS countries. It was held within the framework of Russia's BRICS chair-ship.

Participants from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa discussed at the meeting all aspects, including measures on liquidation of the novel coronavirus infection, and submitted report to BRICS Health Ministries. "It is planned that the online platform will provide partners with an opportunity to share BRICS countries' experience and develop joint



steps towards reaching a better understanding of the ways to liquidate the COVID-19 outbreak," according to the report.

The participating officials agreed that it is important to strengthen international cooperation, within the framework of which there has to be a transparent and timely exchange of information.

During the discussions, the countries also agreed to continue providing mutual support in activities to prevent and treat the novel coronavirus infection COVID-19, as well as to create favorable conditions for the supply of deliveries of medications and diagnostic materials, immune-biological preparations and medical equipment.

Under an "optimistic scenario", the BRICS meeting by Health Ministers of BRICS countries pledged to adopt further collaborative steps as their collective contributions toward the eradication of the global pandemic.

It is worth to say that BRICS has to accelerate the implementation of some of its earlier initiatives. Over the years, the BRICS has wanted to expand cooperation in the fight against infections and the joint production and use of vaccines. Cooperation on countering infectious diseases has long been a priority for BRICS. For instance, the final declaration of the 2015 BRICS summit in Ufa, Russia, contains instructions by the leaders to work on managing the risk of disease outbreaks.

That declaration stated: "we commend the efforts made by the BRICS countries to contribute to enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of countries to achieve their health goals, including the implementation of universal and equitable access to health services, and ensure affordable, good-quality service delivery while taking into account different national circumstances, policies, priorities and capabilities."

Last month for instance, BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs /International Relations held a video conference chaired by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Ernesto Araújo, Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and South African Minister of International Relations Grace Naledi Pandor took part in the meeting.

China and Russia have strong working relationship and both are members of BRICS. Russia objects to attempts by the United States to turn the World Health Organization (WHO) into a forum for settling political scores, Minister Lavrov said with colleagues during the

video conference of BRICS Foreign Ministers held late April. Russia has been working closely together with China, and Russia has no reason to oppose China, according to Minister Lavrov.

Key Highlights from that meeting included:

- The BRICS nations agreed to allocate \$15 billion to the New Development Bank (NDB) so that it could set up a special loan instrument to support the revival of economies and help meet the emergency expenses incurred for responding to the coronavirus pandemic. The BRICS nations further held discussions on ways to step up cooperation within the bloc to contain coronavirus pandemic, as well as to revive the economies that have received a major blow due to the travel restrictions and lockdown imposed in most countries to curb the spread of coronavirus.
- The meeting underlined the need for reforms in the multilateral systems and stated that this was the way forward. The bloc reiterated its support towards the World Health Organization, stating that it is a very important and unique platform, which employs the best professionals from around the world, including from the United States.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on all the BRICS members to firmly stand by multilateralism, by the international system centered around the United Nations and by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Throughout 2020, - under the theme "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth" - Russia holds the BRICS pro tempore presidency.

The emphasis of the Russian presidency is on promoting science, technology and innovation and digital economy and health, and strengthening cooperation in the fight against transnational crimes. In addition to those, dozens of academic, sporting, cultural and artistic events planned for the year, culminates with the final BRICS Summit on July 21- 23 in St Petersburg, chosen as the venue in accordance with the Presidential Executive Order No. 380 of 15 August 2019.

BRICS is the group composed by the five major emerging countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, - which together represent about 42% of the population, 23% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 30% of the territory and 18% of the global trade.

*KesterKennKlomegah is an independent researcher on Russia, Africa and BRICS. He is the author of the Geopolitical Handbook titled "Putin's African Dream and The New Dawn: Challenges and Emerging Opportunities" devoted to the first Russia-Africa Summit 2019.

Dillon, Pro-Tempore clash

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Senate Pro-Tempore Albert Chie lost his patience here, ordering the Sergeant-Arm of the Liberian Senate and officers of the elite Executive Protection Service (EPS) to drag Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon out of session for questioning the abrupt passage of the recast national budget.

It all started Friday, 22nd May during session when Sen. Dillon questioned the rationale for making the recast budget an agenda issue on the floor when Plenary had agreed earlier that one week should be provided to enable senators peruse the financial instrument before debating on it.

But Senate Pro-Tempore Albert Chie argued that the document was circulated among all senators and that due to its urgency relative to the ongoing fight against

County) and Steve Zargo (Lofa County) intervened and calmed the fracas.

The Liberian Senate convened Friday for concurrence with the House of Representatives on the over 500 million recast COVID-19 national budget when things nearly went amok in the ‘chambers of wisdom.’

After reading of the draft agenda by the senate secretary Nanbolor Singbeh, Dillon noted the recast budget had not been thoroughly scrutinized for concurrence.

Last week Wednesday, during first reading of the budget in plenary, Bong County Senator Henry Yallah moved that the Committee on Ways and Means, and Finance and Budget should have reported this Wednesday, May 27, which would have allowed an entire week for proper perusal and better understanding of the document, but the senate leadership headed by Pro-Tempore Albert Chie of the

Meanwhile, the 54th Legislature has approved a total of US\$518 Million as the COVID-19 Recast National Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

The resolution notes that in order to protect the revenue of Liberia, there shall be imposition of exercise tax of Thirty United States Cents (US\$0.30) per gallon of petroleum products sold on the Liberian market, effective immediately; a centralization of the collection of all government revenues, and that there shall be a revision of existing laws relating to the Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA) and the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) to ensure that One Hundred Percent (100%) of all revenues accruing to these entities from all sources are collected by, and flowed directly to the Consolidated Account at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).



Pro-Tempore Albert Chie



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

novel coronavirus, an entire week was too long.

However, Dillon insisted that his office was not served a copy of the recast budget and that the decision to bring it on the floor was unilateral, something, he terms as wrong and unacceptable.

Amid the exchanges, Pro-Tempore Chie asked Dillon to have his seat, but the opposition senator pressed on with his point, a move that led to heated argument between the two characterized by raining of invectives.

Apparently enraged, Pro-Tempore Chie ordered Sergeant-At-Arm General Cheyee Toe, to ask Dillon out of the chambers, but the Liberty Party senator rejected, further inflaming the atmosphere.

Chie then reinforced his order, this time, mandating EPS officers assigned to him to drag Dillon out, but Senators Henry Yallah (Bong County), Nyonblee Kanga Lawrence (Grand Bassa

ruling Coalition for Democratic Change adjusted the schedule to two days.

Addressing a news conference subsequently, Senator Dillon accused his colleagues who signed the resolution for concurrence, of allegedly receiving a bribe of US\$20,000 each.

He claimed that it is due to the cash made available, which source he did not disclose, led to senators hurriedly passing the recast budget.

Among senators, who signed the concurrence include: Morris Saytumah, Sando Johnson, Prince Johnson, Henry Yallah, Dr. Henrique Tokpah and Alphonso Gaye. Others are: Varney Sherman, Victor Watson, Albert Chie, Saah Joseph, Jonathan Kaipee, Francis Paye, Dallas Gueh, Marshall Dennis, H. Dan Morais and Gble-bo Brown.

However, Senators Conmany Wesseh, Nyonblee Kanga Lawrence, Steve Zargo, Daniel Naatehn, and Darius Dillon did not affix their signatures to the resolution.

It continues that consistent with improving transparency and effectiveness in the Public Financial Management system, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning shall improve the timeliness and comprehensiveness of financial reporting and fiscal transparency by having all advanced-reporting agencies revert to using the government’s integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) for all purchases with a cessation of the piloted Cash Advance Program; and that the weekly publishing of reconciled and comprehensive fiscal data to be shared with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) effective immediately, including a consideration of Five Hundred Twenty Million United State Dollars (US\$520,000,000) as the ceiling for FY-2020/2021 National Budget. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MCA-L Supports LERC’s

Cont’d from page 6

all tasks are being conducted in line with advisories and restrictions provided by local and international health authorities. The company has also rescheduled field data collection for the Willingness to Pay Survey and Electrical Energy Demand Study to commence upon the ease of restrictions on movement in Liberia.

A project kick-off meeting was held on March 9, 2020 via videoconferencing and included stakeholders from the Liberia Electricity Corporation, the Rural and Renewable Energy Agency, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the European Union, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. The Tetra Tech team has also held consultations with Jungle Energy Power, a private power operator in Nimba County.

LERC was created through

the Electricity Law of 2015 to register, license, and set tariffs for all electricity suppliers, including the Liberia Electricity Corporation. In supervising the electricity sector, LERC will set, monitor, and enforce safety and technical standards and codes related to electricity supply and use through transparent regulations.

About MCA-L: In October 2015, the Government of the United States of America, through its development agency, Millennium Challenge Corporation, provided a grant of US\$257 million to Liberia. MCA-L is an independent, legal, and autonomous agency of the Government of Liberia created by the legislature to administer the compact projects, which address the lack of access to reliable and affordable electricity and inadequate road infrastructure. **Learn more about MCA-L at www.mca.gov.lr.**

Gov’t adjusts

Cont’d from page 7

in the SKD Sports Complex Community.

Others include Love a Child Orphanage located RIA Highway, Christian Association of the Blind on the Krubo Avenue, RIA Highway, and the Liberian Children Village near Schieffelin police station on the RIA Highway.

Receiving the donation from the Steering Committee, the Administrator of the Margaret Gieraths- Nimene Foundation in Zubah Town Paynesville, Ms. Margaret Gieraths- Nimene, and the head of the Christian Association of the Blind both extol the government for the timely donation amid this coronavirus outbreak.

Ms. Margaret Gieraths- Nimene expresses delight over the donation, and thanks the team for selecting her institution among others that are benefiting from the kind gesture.

She says the children and

the staff will be very happy to receive the donation, as she extends thanks to the president and everyone who are involved in the donation.

“We are overwhelmed, and in fact you caught us by surprise. For us the food is not important to us, but for the fact that you have come to us, and considered the plight of the people especially those of us who are vision impaired, and the orphanages, this brings us joy,” she continues.

The distribution team was led by its Chairperson Commerce Minister Wilson K. Tarpeh, Agriculture Minister Jeanice Cooper, Gender and Social Protection Minister Wilhelmina Saydee - Tar, along with civil society representative, the Liberian Council of Churches, and the National Muslim Council. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Dr. George Boley

Cont’d from page 7

special task force established to fight the global coronavirus pandemic. He called for unity and collectivism throughout Grand Gedeh County and noted that “we can only win this fight if we are united.”

As Co-Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Health, the Konobo District

Lawmaker, Dr. Boley, works with the Liberian Health authorities to ensure the population is healthy and safe.

The distribution of nationwide preventive materials across Grand Gedeh County is Dr. Boley’s personal initiative to ensure people of Grand Gedeh are kept safe during this global pandemic.

World Bank gives US\$54million to improve health sector -Redemption hospital to be expanded



The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a US\$54 million International Development Association (IDA)* credit to improve health service delivery to women, children, and adolescents in Liberia.

The Institutional Foundations to Improve Services for Health (IFISH) project will support the

expansion and operationalization of the new Redemption Hospital in Caldwell, rural Montserrado County.

The hospital is the largest provider of secondary level services in the country, but currently functions at maximum capacity. Construction at the new site started in mid-2018 with a focus on maternal health (obstetrics

and gynecology) and child health (pediatrics), approved scale-up financing will ensure that the new site also provides services in surgery and internal medicine and that the hospital is fully equipped and operational.

The project aims to reduce the number of women dying in pregnancy, improve the health, wellbeing, and survival of the adolescent girl, and contribute to the improvement of Liberia's Human Capital Index.

It will build on ongoing efforts supported by the World Bank and Global Financing Facility (GFF) to improve the quality of healthcare and build resilience since the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

“Through the expansion and modernization of the hospital, the increased number of qualified health practitioners, as well as improved systems and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5



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Confusion in LISGIS' data collection - for food in Slipway

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Data collection exercise carried out by the Liberia Institute for Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) on 22 May to aid government's stimulus package food distribution had a bad start in the slum community of Slipway, Montserrado County, creating confusion between dozens of residents and some LISGIS data collectors.

The confusion started when dozens of Slipway residents were informed that the census was intended to be carried out for only one day (Friday) and that data collectors would not return to the community, despite concerns that other residents were not captured in the one-day process.

Some residents made demanded explanation as to what would happen to those inhabitants of the area who



were not present or captured during the process.

The angry inhabitants argued that LISGIS had failed to adequately provide prior information or notice through their community town criers to state the date and time for the data collection.

The residents complained that due to the lack of information, dozens of their compatriots went about their daily businesses and therefore were not included in the data

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6

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