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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Continental News

12 escape from quarantine in Migori

The state of quarantine facilities in Migori County has come under sharp criticism as another group of 12 people escaped from one of the isolation centres over the weekend.

This came barely a fortnight after eight other

people sneaked out of one of the facilities in Kuria West Sub-County. According to police reports seen by the Nation, the 12 sneaked out of St Mary's Mabera Secondary School isolation centre after complaining of poor sanitisation and overcrowding. The 12 escapees, according to a police

record under OB Number 30/22/5/2020, had raised complaints about the pathetic state of the centre, but their pleas had been disregarded. Mr David Marwa, a clinician who made the reports to police, said only two of the escapees left their records at the facility, making

it difficult to trace the others.

"Twelve of them whose identities are unknown escaped to unknown destinations. Scene visited by police and search is underway," the report stated. The escape came even as the county's rapid response team continued searching for seven others who escaped last week. Confirming the incident, County Health Executive Isca Oluoch told the Nation that none of the escapees is yet to be traced although security officers at Mabera Police Post are following all possible leads to make arrests.

"So far nobody has been traced although we have launched investigations into any possible leads," said Dr Oluoch who declined to comment on the other seven who had escaped on May 13. The 12 were part of 20

people who were arrested at a bar in Migori town while drinking during curfew hours last week. A senior doctor at the quarantine facility claimed that police officers in Migori town deliberately declined to provide their details despite having clear records.

"We suspect this was a plot to aid in the escape because we have reached the officers for details in vain," said the doctor who sought anonymity.

He claimed that security officers at the quarantine unit did not raise the alarm even after being notified that the 22 were staging an escape.

Mr Benson Mule, one of those quarantined, said they had been subjected to extreme living conditions without proper protection despite three cases testing positive at the centre. Another patient claimed that despite the government issuing a directive to have them provided with food, that has not been effected at the facility.

Meanwhile, the government has reinforced security along the porous Kenya-Tanzania border. AFP



Ali Ibrahim Ambar, a trader, salutes Muslim faithful after performing the Eid al-Fitr prayers

Mauritius records first cases for a month

After 28 days without any new cases of coronavirus, Mauritius recorded two cases on Sunday.

The two patients are among 149 Mauritians, including three babies, who were repatriated from India on 9 May on a special Air Mauritius flight.

The development comes two weeks after Health Minister Kailesh Jagutpal said

that the island nation had won the battle against Covid-19, although he add that the war against the virus was still on.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth will this week address the nation on the ongoing "sanitary curfew" which has been extended to 1 June.

Only people with special permits have been allowed to move around freely but other activities have been banned unless deemed essential.

Meanwhile, more than 3,000 Mauritians stuck abroad have appealed to the government to bring them back home.

The authorities say they are preparing to repatriate its nationals from India, Madagascar and Australia.

However, those working on cruise ships feel they are being left out. They are estimated to be more than 1,000 in locations such as Durban, Miami and Italy.

"Many people may think that we will be bringing the virus to Mauritius," one seafarer told the BBC.

"This is not the case and there is no virus on board, and we are doing tests regularly.

"I appeal to the foreign minister to do the needful as we are very stressed".

Nathalie Fine, a South African who was on the cruise ship Princess, urged the Mauritian government to show "a little pity for your own citizens". The government has not committed but said there "may be opportunities" for repatriation in the coming months. BBC



Ghana 'can't be under restrictions forever'

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo has hinted at easing restrictions, citing the need for normalcy.

The president said consultations would be concluded this week and he would subsequently announce a roadmap for easing the restrictions.

Mr Akufo-Addo said the number of severe cases that required hospitalisation and ventilation support had also remained consistently low.

Ghana had imposed a three-week lockdown on three major cities identified as coronavirus hotspots in March.

The president lifted the lockdown but extended the



Public gatherings remain banned in Ghana

"We cannot be under these restrictions forever," he said on Sunday during an address on Eid celebrations.

The president said the plan to ease restrictions was based on the low fatality rate so far. Ghana has confirmed 6,617 cases and 31 deaths according to the World Health Organization.

ban on public gatherings that include Ghanaian elaborate funerals, church services and schools.

The president is now considering further easing these restrictions. 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.

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Which Post-Pandemic Government?

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has shown why high-level coordination is sometimes necessary for managing emergencies, it has also underscored the risks of placing too much power in the hands of an incompetent central authority. The best approach is a middle path, with a slight bias in favor of decentralization.

CHICAGO - Even with the COVID-19 pandemic still raging, speculation has turned to what society will look like afterward. Citizens, shocked by how easily their lives can be upended, will want to reduce risk. According to the emerging new consensus, they will favor more government intervention to stimulate demand (by pumping trillions of dollars into the economy), protect workers, expand health care, and, of course, tackle climate change.

But every country has many layers of government, so which one should expand? Clearly, in the United States, only the federal government has the resources and mandate for nationwide decisions on issues such as health care and climate change. Yet it doesn't necessarily follow that this level of government should grow larger still. After all, it could adopt policies that protect some constituencies while increasing the risks faced by others.

In the case of COVID-19, some countries have centralized decision-making about when to impose and lift lockdown measures, whereas others have left these choices to state governments, or even municipalities. (Others, like India, are in transition between these approaches.) What has become clear is that not all localities face the same trade-offs.

In crowded New York City, a strict lockdown may have been the only way to get people off the streets, and its economic impact may have been softened by the fact that many there work in skilled services like finance, which can be done remotely. Moreover, even laid-off waiters and hotel workers know they won't get their jobs back until the public feels safe going out again. Health concerns seem to be paramount.

In contrast, in Farmington, New Mexico, the New York Times reports that, "few people know anyone who was ill from the coronavirus, but almost everyone knows someone unemployed by it." The lockdown, imposed by the state's Democratic governor, seems to be unpopular across a community that was already in serious economic decline before the pandemic. In this case, economic concerns have trumped more modest health worries.

These differences show the drawbacks of a centralized, one-size-fits-all approach. But decentralization can also be problematic. If regions have contained the virus to different degrees, is travel between them still possible? It stands to reason that safer regions would want to bar visitors from potential hot zones - or at least subject them to lengthy quarantines. A fast, cheap, reliable testing system might solve the problem, but that is currently unavailable.

Some degree of harmonization between regions can therefore be beneficial, not least in the procurement of medical supplies. In the absence of federal coordination, US states have been in a bidding war with one another over scarce medical supplies from China. In normal times, competitive markets would allocate such goods most efficiently. But in a health emergency, markets may perform poorly, allocating goods according to buyers' ability to pay rather than their need; rich states would buy up all the ventilators and testing kits, leaving poorer states with none. The country's ability to contain the pandemic would suffer.

In this situation, centralized procurement could keep prices lower, potentially enabling more need-

based allocation. But "could" and "potentially" are the operative words. If a central government has questionable motives or simply is incompetent, the calculus changes. As we have seen in Brazil, Mexico, Tanzania, and the US, when heads of government minimize the dangers of the pandemic, they can do considerable harm to their country's response.

Among other failures, Brazil's federal government seems to have had difficulty distributing ventilators it bought. In the United States, Republican-governed states have allegedly had easier access to central medical supplies than states where Democrats are in control. And in India, the central government imposed a stringent lockdown without making the necessary arrangements for millions of migrant workers, who were forced to flee the cities for their home villages. Families with children walked hundreds of miles, helped only by the kindness of strangers and local authorities, and potentially carrying the virus with them. A decentralized decision-making process might have allowed states that locked down later (because they initially had fewer cases) to learn better management from those that went first.

Given that extremes of centralization and decentralization can both be problematic, a coordinated middle ground may work best. The federal government might establish minimal standards for closing down and opening up, while leaving the actual decision to states and municipalities. That said, if there is to be a bias, it should be toward decentralization, following the principle of subsidiarity, whereby powers are delegated to the lowest-possible administrative level that will be effective.

There are important reasons to favor a carefully managed decentralization. Not only do members of smaller political entities tend to face similar problems; they also typically demonstrate greater social and political solidarity, which makes it easier for them to engage with one another and find solutions.

While local politics might occasionally resemble the Hatfield-McCoy feud of nineteenth-century Kentucky and West Virginia, it generally suffers less gridlock and antagonism than what one finds in central legislatures today. And people feel a greater sense of ownership over decisions taken by their locally elected or appointed bodies. This empowerment can help them devise policies to benefit from national and global markets, rather than being at their mercy.

This is why, as we prepare policies to aid the recovery and strengthen post-pandemic health, education, and regulatory systems, we should also think about who will make the decisions and where. For example, a fair share of stimulus spending on infrastructure should take the form of block grants to communities, which are in the best position to allocate funds according to need. And while national climate policies cannot be determined separately in every community, they can at least reflect a bottom-up consensus.

Rising authoritarianism around the world reflects widespread yearning for charismatic political leaders with whom ordinary people can identify with. Such demagogues have used their popular support to avoid constitutional checks and balances, taking their countries down ruinous paths. Expanding government further while limiting the risk of authoritarianism requires independently powerful bodies that also enjoy popular support. Constitutionally decentralizing more powers to regional and local government may be the way forward.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Joschka Fischer

The Future of Global Power

Although the Sino-American rivalry was escalating long before the COVID-19 crisis erupted, it has since been thrown into overdrive. But while both countries are pursuing a zero-sum vision of the future, only one is doing so with a long-term strategy.

BERLIN - The COVID-19 pandemic is arguably the first truly global crisis of the twenty-first century. The only modern historical parallels to the economic disruption triggered by a microscopic pathogen are to the last century's world wars.

The start of World War I, in August 1914, not only ended a long period of peace, but also suspended an earlier epoch of economic integration and globalization. As governments around the world pursued new protectionist agendas, economic growth collapsed across the board. A generation later, another world war followed, after which the Cold War began immediately.

The world, and global politics, looked very different at the end of this period of constant conflict and power politics, from 1914 until 1989, than it did at the beginning. Prior to World War I, the British Empire was the dominant economic and military power. After World War II, it was supplanted by the United States, whose hegemonic position was further strengthened following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The question, then, is how the distribution of global power will change as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Whether the pandemic's impact will be comparable to that of either world war remains to be seen. Clearly, a global economic crisis on this scale will bring serious geopolitical shocks. America, the incumbent superpower, may well cling to its position at the top of the global pecking order. But most signs suggest that China, the emerging superpower, will prevail, inaugurating an East Asian century.

The Sino-American rivalry was shaping up to be the twenty-first century's defining hegemonic conflict long before the COVID-19 crisis. Nonetheless, the pandemic, along with election-year politics in the US, seems to be amplifying and accelerating the confrontation. For US President Donald Trump, everything is at stake in November's election. Having mismanaged the pandemic and presided over an unprecedented domestic economic crisis, he needs a scapegoat, and China is the obvious choice.

After all, while most of Trump's policies have, as a general rule, divided American society, his approach to China is a major exception. In going on the offensive against China, he can count on broad bipartisan support. Even deep into liberal Democratic ranks, American attitudes toward China have soured substantially in recent years.

Many US objections are hard to dismiss. The People's Republic is indeed an authoritarian - even totalitarian - state under the exclusive control of a Leninist party. It has engaged in economic and technological espionage against the US on a grand scale, resorted to unfair trade practices, and violently asserted territorial claims vis-à-vis India, Taiwan, and in the South China Sea. From its persecution of ethnic and religious minorities in Xinjiang and recent move to consolidate control over Hong Kong to its initial mishandling of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China's government has done little to inspire trust.

Nonetheless, the Trump administration's persistent efforts to repudiate America's global leadership role raises a fundamental question about its approach: what does the US under Trump want? To lead without taking responsibility?

That is unlikely to work. While the US remains mired in short-term thinking, China is establishing itself as an alternative source of global leadership and investment, patiently pursuing a long-term strategy to exploit the geopolitical vacuum created by America's inward turn.

In any case, the blow to America's international image, especially following the Trump administration's disastrous failure in the face of COVID-19, will be hard to repair. The pandemic is reinforcing the general impression that the US is a decadent superpower, soon to be supplanted by a strategically deft and economically dynamic China. The age-old story of the rise and fall of great powers is now being written by a virus. We can only hope that this chapter plays out peacefully.

Against the backdrop of the Sino-American confrontation, Europe finds itself caught uncomfortably between two opposing geopolitical forces - and left in the dark about America's true intentions toward China. Does the US want to pursue containment or all-out confrontation - up to and including military conflict - to block or even reverse China's ascent? The second strategy, reprising the West's approach to China during the late nineteenth century, would be extremely dangerous, to say the least.

The alternative for the West is to pursue long-term containment on the basis of strategic rivalry. Europe would be well advised to choose this option. In a Chinese-led world order, Europe, situated at the western end of the Eurasian supercontinent, would be the loser. As a totalitarian one-party state, China can never be a genuine partner to Europe in normative terms. Even after three years of Trump, Europe's relationship with the US remains much closer than the relationship it could ever expect with China.

But China is already too big, too successful, and too important to ignore. The facts on the ground call for cooperation. The key is to distinguish between strategic engagement with China and submission to it. And maintaining that crucial distinction will require Europe to avoid becoming economically or technologically dependent on the West's rival.

OPINION

By Nancy Birdsall

Citizens of the World, Reunite!

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced destructive nationalism, but it has also highlighted the necessity of international collaboration. Global-minded citizens - starting in the United States - must now push their governments to cooperate and support multilateral institutions.

WASHINGTON, DC - The coronavirus pandemic has plunged the world into a dangerous state of disequilibrium, in which the siren call of populist nationalism and the clear, compelling necessity of global cooperation and collective action are locked in (literally) mortal combat. Sadly, nationalism is winning so far. But global-minded citizens everywhere can, and must, fight back - starting in the United States.

In the decades following World War II, America played the role of (mostly) benign global hegemon. Its economic and military supremacy gave it a clear interest in establishing and maintaining the rules of the game for international cooperation and collective action. For that reason, the US took the lead in establishing institutions such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (formerly the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

But with US power and influence now waning, at least relative to China, President Donald Trump's administration has reverted to isolationism. With minimal domestic political pushback, Trump has introduced aggressive anti-immigration measures, pursued a trade war with China, and refused to collaborate with G7 allies and the G20 to address the pandemic's economic fallout.

With the US missing in action on global collective action, other governments have felt emboldened to adopt similar beggar-thy-neighbor responses to the virus, such as restricting exports of food and face masks, and rushing to capture the intellectual property and profits of an effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Meanwhile, Trump's decision to freeze US funding for the WHO in the midst of the pandemic is less important financially than as a symbolic expression of his "America First" doctrine. The irony for America is that Trump's spit-in-the-world's-face anti-globalism is mirrored in deepening polarization at home, where the pandemic is exposing and amplifying pre-existing inequalities.

Unfortunately, there is currently nowhere else to look for international leadership. The post-Brexit European Union is itself struggling with inward-looking nationalism among its member states, and has been unable to agree on even modest burden-sharing to accommodate refugees. And the bloc remains deadlocked on the question of issuing joint "coronabonds" to help rescue its own economies in the current crisis.

China under President Xi Jinping, meanwhile, lacks the instinct and international credibility needed to drive global cooperation. To be sure, China is grasping at a leadership role. It has joined other G20 creditors in suspending low-income countries' debt service to all official bilateral creditors - among whom China is one of the biggest and most expensive, owing to its Belt and Road Initiative - and has pledged \$2 billion to the WHO. But at the same time, China is exploiting the pandemic by flexing its muscles in Hong Kong and the South China Sea. Its positive steps are more about competing with the US than about encouraging international collaboration.

The kneejerk nationalist response to the pandemic is not surprising. Although the coronavirus, like climate change, knows no borders, most people identify themselves as citizens of their own country. We are almost all nationalists at heart - or patriots, if you prefer.

Moreover, it is hard to imagine an alternative to the current international order based on sovereign states. Historians generally view the creation of the current state system as a key contributor to a less violent world in which more people lead better lives than ever before. Indeed, the economist Dani Rodrik has argued that the nation-state is a prerequisite for liberal democracy, and democracy could not possibly work at the global level.

At the same time, however, the pandemic has reminded us that we are heavily dependent on cooperation among states. Such cooperation can be explicit, as with trade agreements, or implicit, such as in managing global financial risk or meeting the goals of the Paris climate agreement. Today, a failure to collaborate in tackling COVID-19 will threaten all of us, because everyone is vulnerable to the virus until no one is.

Likewise, combating the destructive nationalism personified by Trump requires that good citizens of every country push their governments to cooperate and support multilateral institutions, and work to capture the benefits of adhering to agreed international rules and norms. In this century, as never before, such efforts would be in the interest of all countries and their citizens.

Fortunately, identifying primarily as a citizen of one's own country does not exclude identifying also as a global citizen. In the late 2000s, for example, more than 80% of survey respondents in 17 developed countries agreed that they had "a moral responsibility to work to reduce hunger and severe poverty in poor countries."

We all benefit from the work of the WHO, the IMF, the G7, and the G20, and when these organizations falter, it is not their weakness we should blame, but rather the failure of their most powerful member countries to keep them strong. And just as the pandemic is creating a sense of solidarity among US citizens, it can teach people everywhere to make the mental leap beyond their national borders and embrace the idea of global solidarity.

US citizens must take the lead in this effort. Americans are accustomed to seeing their government lead during global crises - as President George W. Bush's administration did in combating AIDS, and as Barack Obama's administration did in tackling the global financial crisis and the Ebola epidemic. They must now demand that the Trump administration combat the pandemic with a strategy that balances America's national interests with its indispensable international reach and capacity.

The US is no longer the global hegemon, but its leadership is still the world's best option in the current crisis. If ever there was a time to put that proposition to the test, it is now.

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 Saturday, May 23, at the family residence behind the 72nd Barracks in Paynesville.

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

Solidaridad deploys digital tools for agricultural extension -amid Covid-19

Using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform, Solidaridad, an international civil society organization, is increasing access to agronomic and other production support information by farmers and communities that produce cocoa, oil palm and other food staples.

The platform is compatible with basic feature and android phones, and it allows the target audiences to receive pre-recorded messages in real time. It is an important part of a remote support approach that helps Solidaridad to quickly assess ground situations to generate response plans and interventions.

“At this time when physical interactions are less desired, the IVR platform helps us to reach out to a large number of our programme beneficiaries quickly to share important information on COVID-19 protection protocols and to deliver other technical crop production content that aligns with the farming season and the cropping calendar”, says Isaac Gyamfi, Regional Director for Solidaridad in West Africa.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage economies, its full

farmers and 1,056 miners in the operational countries. The data is used to support the creation of markets for potential small and medium enterprises. It also serves as a baseline for current and future programmes whose impacts and outcomes would be tracked using the Interactive Voice Response platform.

“The IVR platform provides Solidaridad and partners real-time feedback on farmers’ experiences, learning and practices for additional intervention where necessary. With over 60,000 cocoa farmers already subscribing to the voice application platform, Solidaridad would continue to maintain contact with project beneficiaries during the pandemic. A total of 39,000 farmers are using the platform,” says Ahmed Abdul Basit, Head of Digital Solutions at Solidaridad West Africa.

Since March 2020, Solidaridad has used the IVR platform to sensitize 28,557 beneficiaries on the need to practice social distancing and other precautionary measures to prevent infection and contain the spread of the virus. In Ghana, the awareness campaign messages, which were culled from national directives and the World Health Organization guidelines, were

translated into Twi, a local language spoken by many of the communities where Solidaridad currently operates.

In Sierra Leone, Solidaridad is supporting the government to step up public awareness on COVID-19. In partnership with

the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, through its District Health Management Teams, Solidaridad has supported the production of relevant information, education, and communication materials for dissemination to over 20,000 farmers in 300 local communities in the country.

Through its Gold programme in Ghana, the organization has also embarked on a sensitization campaign to educate eight Village Savings and Loans Associations, six project mines and mining communities on measures to control the spread of the virus.

The organization will continue to innovate in the use of a digital classroom and other virtual tools to train small and medium enterprises and other community facilitators who are engaged for data collection.

In this effort, Solidaridad welcomes partnerships with development investors and foundations, as well as government ministries, departments and agencies to scale the use of digital innovations in support of vulnerable producers and enterprises to grow as the world adapts to the new reality of physical distancing.



toll on agriculture is yet to be reckoned more fully. The restrictions on movement and the limited social interactions will strain livelihoods and the agricultural supply chain as access to inputs and extension support services by the already vulnerable farmers and their communities is interrupted.

The IVR platform and other digital tools are not new to Solidaridad. In West Africa, they have been applied in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, where Solidaridad is promoting sustainable practices across the cocoa, gold and oil palm supply chains.

In 2019, the organization used the IVR platform to transmit messages on Good Agricultural Practices to over 40,000 farmers, workers and producers under the Next Generation Cocoa Youth Programme (MASO) – funded by the Mastercard Foundation, and the second phase of the Cocoa Rehabilitation and Intensification Programme (CORIP II) – funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Ghana.

Solidaridad also deployed mobile data collection tools to profile 60,068 cocoa farmers, 19,627 oil palm



Reintegration and Recovery Programme Phase IV addendum – Ebola Support Programmell LBR 1053-17 KfW ESP-II

A Development Programme of the Republic of Liberia-financed by the Federal Government of Germany through KfW, in Collaboration with MoFDP.

Invitation for Bids

Liberia
Reintegration and Recovery Programme - V,
Addendum Ebola Support Programme II

May 25, 2020
LBR1053-17 KfW ESP-II, Tender.xxx

The Welthungerhilfe Liberia has received financing from KfW towards the cost of the Ebola Support Programme (ESP) Phase II and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the construction of incinerators at the Karquekpo Clinic in Karquekpo Town, Dugbeh River District, Sinoe County and Konobo Health Centre in Konobo District, grand Gedeh County Liberia. Welthungerhilfe Liberia now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for:

BID DOCUMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INCINERATORS FOR KARQUEKPO CLINIC IN KARQUEKPO TOWN, DUGBEH RIVER DISTRICT, SINOE COUNTY
And
FOR KONOBO HEALTH CENTER IN ZIAH TOWN, ZIAH DISTRICT, GRAND GEDEH COUNTY

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BID MAY 2020

Bidding will be conducted by means of a single stage National Competitive Bidding procedure with integrated post qualification (one envelope) as specified in the KfW Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries (“KfW Guidelines”) and in line with Welthungerhilfe Rules and Regulations for Award of Contracts and evaluation and award criteria as set out in this bidding document. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from:

Welthungerhilfe Liberia
Jacqueline Harris, Head of Project-ESP-II
Jacqueline.Harris@welthungerhilfe.de

A complete set of bidding documents is available to interested Bidders at Welthungerhilfe Offices in Greenville and Monrovia in soft copies on CDs. The Bidding documents in English are free of charge and will be issued to interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at section II, B, Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address indicated in the clause ITB 22.1 of the bidding document on or before 4:00 pm Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00am, Tuesday June 12, 2020. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, n/a

There shall be a site visit in Sinoe County (WHH Greenville office) between 11:00am and 16:00GMT on the Wednesday, 19th May 2020, and dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.

- (a) Documents may be inspected at: Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S. Baki (Head of Logistics), Nasser.Baki@welthungerhilfe.de +231 888 145 940
- (b) Documents will be issued from:
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Greenville Office, Sinoe County. Contact Abraham Raynes (Logistics Administrator), abraham.raynes@welthungerhilfe.de +231 888 688 461 OR
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S. Baki (Area Logistics Officer), Nasser.Baki@welthungerhilfe.de +231 888 145 940
- (c) Bids must be delivered to: Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S Baki (Area Head of Logistics), Nasser.Baki@welthungerhilfe.de +231 888 145 940
And
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Greenville Office, Farmersville, Contact Abraham Raynes (Logistics Administrator), abraham.raynes@welthungerhilfe.de +231 888 688 461
- (d) Address of bid opening:
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S Baki (Area Head of Logistics), Nasser.Baki@welthungerhilfe.de +231 888 145 940

The Planned Procurement Schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	May 25, 2020
b. Site visit where applicable	June 2, 2020
c. Bid closing date	June 9, 2020
d. Public Bid Opening	June 12, 2020
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	(Within 5 working days from Contracts Committee award)
f. Contract signature	June 19, 2020

Signature:
Name: Jacqueline Harris

Position of Authorized Official: Head of Project

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Findley reaffirms Liberia's commitment to Africans

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar M. Findley has reaffirmed the country's commitment to work with other Africans in the region and the rest of the continent to promote the achievement of Africa's goal. "We, therefore, reaffirm

independent African states converged in Ethiopia to establish the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union.

He urges Africans to strive to achieve the continent's goal of a conflict-free Africa, to make peace a reality for all its people and to rid the continent of wars, civil conflicts, human rights

silenced, adding: "Let us keep in mind that our progress and prosperity can be achieved if the guns are silenced..."

The Foreign Minister suggests that until the achievement of lasting peace in all of Africa, its people's endeavors to peace and security, and development remain unwavering.

To this end, he notes that Africans must do all in their power to work towards achieving the African Development Agenda 2063, which clearly projects the Africa they want.

As measures are being put in place globally to put an end to the terrible global pandemic, COVID-19, Mr. Findley challenges Africans to continue to exert collective efforts to end other ailments on the continent.

"By this we will create the Africa we all want. This is the time for unity - a time for silencing the guns, as in unity success is sure," he continues.

Mr. Findley calls on Africans from all walks of life to remain committed to the goals and aspirations of a united and prosperous Africa inspired by their forefathers, stressing that only Africans will transform Africa.

On behalf of President George Manneh Weah, Mr. Findley congratulates Africans all over the world as they celebrate this great day.



Liberia's commitment to work with other Africans in our region and the rest of our Continent to promote the achievement of the goal of our Continent and we should be proud of our identity as Africans," he said Monday, 25 May in a statement to mark the 57th year when 32

violations and humanitarian disasters.

"Let us realize that the stigma of a 'continent at war with itself' had long been attached to Africa," Mr. Findley cautions.

He believes that Africans can only achieve a united and prosperous Africa if the guns are

Jeety rescues handicap Liberian -during cooked food distribution

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Indian Consulate General here, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva, continues distribution of cooked food to vulnerable Liberians across Monrovia in the wake of lockdown and a State of Emergency to fight the novel coronavirus.

Mr. Sachdeva, also chief executive officer of Jeety Trading Corporation over the weekend fed several residents, including a 40 year-old handicap, Anthony Jackson, in West Point Township, a heavily congested slum community overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Monrovia.

Suffering from paralysis, Jackson had dragged himself from place to place on his butt, his only means of movement, but provident came his way when the Indian

Consulate General, popularly known in Liberia as 'Jeety', presented him a wheelchair, that he now uses to support his movement.

The presentation of the wheelchair is part of a COVID-19 campaign dubbed, Stay Safe, Stay Alive Hot Cooked Food for Less Fortunate being executed in several

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Lockdown for cars or people?

Joint Security officers enforcing the State of Emergency and lockdown at various checkpoints across Monrovia are more concerned of inspecting moving vehicles than pedestrians glaringly ignoring social distancing in the streets thus, exposing themselves to contracting the novel coronavirus.

At various checkpoints in the city and parts adjacent during lockdown period, Police, immigration and drugs enforcement officers are reluctant in questioning or regulating citizens clustered, moving about.

In the populated slum community of Clara Town, residents took the streets Sunday, May 24th, like a beach party passing checkpoints without social distancing or hands watching while security officers stood by and watched.

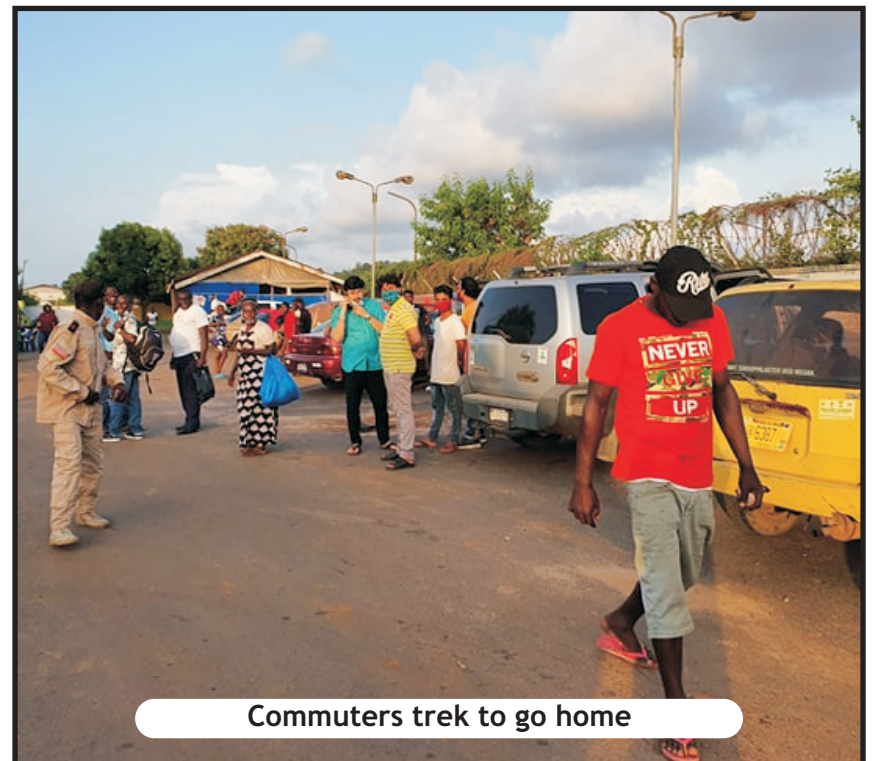
They failed to enforce

These behaviors or apparent lack of vigilance by law enforcers are unfolding at a time President George Manneh Weah has relaxed the 3:00 pm lockdown to 6:00pm amid rumors of plan to resume normal economic activities and re-open schools across the country.

As of Sunday, May 24th Liberia has recorded 265 total confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 98 active cases, 26 deaths and 141 recoveries, according to statistics from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, NPHIL.

From initial two affected counties, strings of cases and deaths are being reported in nearly all 15 counties, raising the probability that the curve could rise further and create a serious nightmare for Liberians.

Many ordinary citizens are apprehensive about the looming plan to re-open



Commuters trek to go home

health regulations announced by the government. This is the similar case observed by this paper in other communities, including West Point Township, Logan Town, New Keu Town, and Duala all in the Monrovia suburb of Bushrod Island.

At the New Georgia junction checkpoint along Somalia Drive on the outskirts of Monrovia, a police officer remarked rather mockingly, that the government should lift the State of Emergency and lockdown so people can resume normal activities, when this paper asked why the lackluster approach.

At Barnesville junction, a police officer was blunt when he said, if security officers enforce the regulations with vigilance, they receive criticisms from the public or are accused of being brutal, so they are caught between the scissors.

schools, particularly when health authorities here are not confident or bold enough to state clearly progress made on the frontline with out of the 26 deaths, only two occurring inside the treatment center at the 14th Military Hospital.

Health authorities in Monrovia reported for testing recently to encourage the public to do same, but the three testing centers established by the government are virtually empty daily with nobody coming forth either for lack of awareness or fear.

"We gather this morning to do our specimens collections in order to set examples for our citizens to follow", said Liberia's Health Minister, Doctor Wilehmina Jallah at the testing center inside the Samuel Kanon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville. -By Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA arrests fake Customs Officer

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) reports the arrest of a man claiming to be an employee of the Authority, extorting money from businesses in the name of collecting revenue for the government.

The LRA in a press release says the alleged imposter,

Anti-Smuggling and Intelligence Unit (ASIU) of the LRA.

Suspect JackclanFahnbulleh has been turned over to the Zone-3 Depot of the Liberia National Police for investigation after which he will be formally charged and processed to court.

LRA Assistant Commissioner of Customs for Compliance and Enforcement Atty. D.

Roberts International Airport Highway, where he works as Bush Manager.

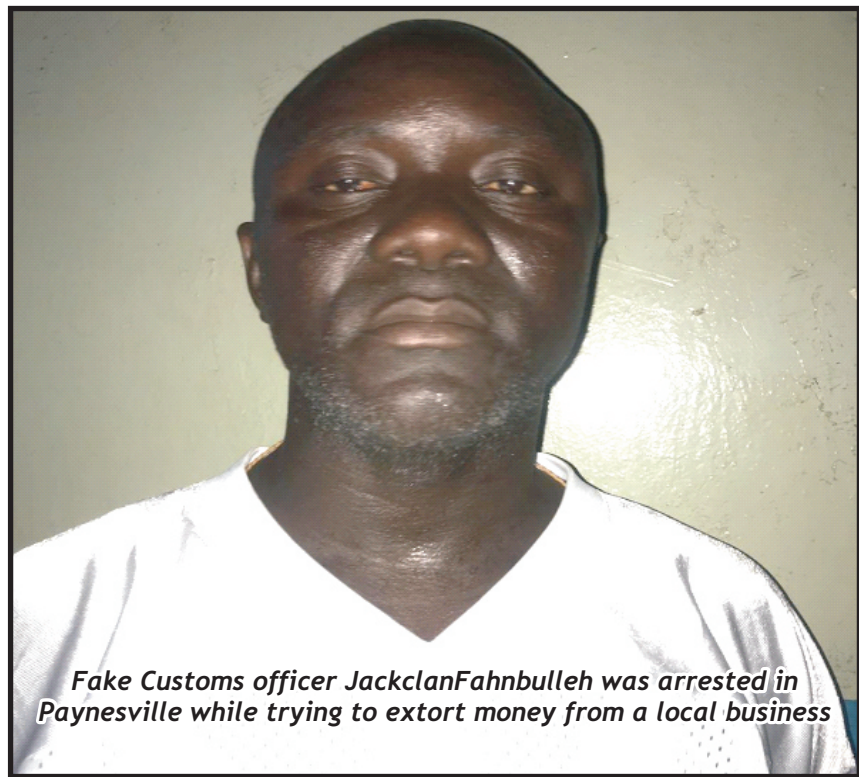
Other reputable business owners on the scene, revealed that Fahnbulleh is often seen in the Redlight commercial district, intimidating and harassing business people and extorting monies from them in the name of being a Customs Officer.

His alleged criminal activities are said to have heightened during the current COVID-19 emergency period, especially in the Redlight area.

Atty. Kofa has, on behalf of the LRA Management, applauded the good citizenship and courage of the CEO of Masarco for contacting the LRA on the matter and encourages other business entities to do same should they suspect any fraudulent act by LRA employees or those purporting to be LRA employees.

He encourages the public to download the LRA Find Officer App from googleplaystore to identify the true identities of LRA employees via their ID Numbers.

Meanwhile, the LRA further admonishes the business public to report any acts of solicitation or extortion by its staff or anyone purporting to be a staff of the LRA. **-Press Release**



Fake Customs officer JackclanFahnbulleh was arrested in Paynesville while trying to extort money from a local business

identified as JackclanFahnbulleh, was arrested following a tip off on Wednesday, May 20, in Paynesville at the Masarco Business Center.

He was caught while attempting to extort money from the business as a staff of the Customs Department

BlamoKofa told the police that Mr. Fahnbulleh does not, and has never worked for the Customs Department or the LRA as a whole.

The release reveals that an ID Card in his possession identified him as an employee of Cary Wood Company Inc in Baptist Seminary Town on

CPP is disingenuous

Starts from back page

and informs you of its decision to withdraw from membership to the National Steering Committee for the COVID-19 Household Food Supply Program (COHFSP).

Despite our best efforts and good-faith response to support the Government of Liberia in the fight to overcome the national health crisis and the accompanying economic and social disruptions, we are compelled to withdraw at this time on account of the lack of serious leadership, improper planning, and the absence of transparency and accountability characterizing the overall response effort, to which we cannot reasonably be exposed and/or associated."

The CPP insists that the response to the pandemic must be dutifully characterized by a level of presidential leadership which inspires a national mobilization, commitment to transparency, honesty, diligence, accountability and work ethics to impress the existence of a serious emergency in the country.

However, it observed that unfortunately, the body is constrained to conclude that this is not the presenting reality, and as such, the CPP cannot lend its name, character, resources and expertise to be stamped upon an obvious failure in presidential leadership at this time of a serious national crisis.

Notwithstanding, the communication continues that the CPP, both as a collective and in individual capacities, will continue to support

doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers who are selflessly struggling to fight the virus often without the needed support from government, saying, "We will also continue to do all we can in support of our people who obviously deserve more serious leadership in this crisis from this administration of our government".

Minister McGill however explains that President George Manneh Weah further placed a telephone call to one of the opposition leaders, Mr. Benoni Urey, requesting for the involvement of the CPP, and advised the President to do a formal communication to that infect.

He argues that Liberia plagued by a major health problem and in the midst of the crisis, for a major political actor to walk away, then it becomes difficult to see logic for their action.

According to the ruling CDC stalwart, President Weah rally the entire world for support to the fight against COVID-19. "Those guys just believe to mislead the public and that's not leadership. They are talking leadership crisis, the work of the President is overwhelming," he defends.

He says the accusation by the CPP of corruption in the COVID-19 fight, means the opposition is accusing the international community and not the President nor the government, but those international actors like the World Bank, IMF, and World Health Organization that are part of the process. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Give Life distributes relief in Montserrado

By Lewis S. Teh

Give Life, a local charity has distributed food and non-food items, including anti-Coronavirus materials to 17 electoral districts in Montserrado County.

Chief Executive Officer, Christopher Otis Harris says the donation is the organization's way of buttressing national government's response efforts to strengthening citizens' ability in the fight against the COVID-19.

Mr. Harris says as an individual, he can't sit and watch fellow Liberians die from hunger, while God has blessed him, adding, "Upon our return from exile, we thought to venture into youth empowerment", something, he says prompted him to establish the Give Life organization to help young people achieve their dreams. "I'm proud of this



Photo by: Nick N. Seeben

organization today, because from the onset many thought we were making fun, but now the number of staff we have is a testimony to the seriousness that we have put in since the establishment of this organization in 2010", he explains.

"Today we are climaxing our food and non-food items donation and this is our tenth day since we started; we were able to visit all the 17 electoral districts, where we presented bags of rice, clorox, face masks, and powder soap with the total cost of US\$

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50,000."

He also discloses the group is planning to move into all remaining 14 counties in the country to carry out similar donation.

The Chairman of Give Life, Jeremiah NdorborSandiman, adds that the objective is to help in empowering young people, who believe in achieving their dreams.

He continues that the name of the organization clearly speaks to its achievement, which has a motto that says, "Helping today for a better tomorrow."

"That's why we are called Give Life, the Center for

Human Resource Development and Empowerment Incorporated."

Meanwhile, receiving the items, the proprietress of the Eluwo Orphanage and Daycare Academy in Caesar village, Rehab community, Ms. Eleanor Wuo, extols Give Life incorporated for the kind gesture to her institution.

"We are so happy to be receiving these food items from the Give Life family, as you can see, I'm alone struggling with these kids, not a single person has come to my aid, not even the government", she remarks. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

« Budget 4G » : Le Senteur Dillon et le président du sénat s'affrontent

Le sénateur Albert Chie, président temporaire du sénat, a perdu patience, ordonnant au sergent d'armes du Sénat libérien et aux agents de la force d'élite, the Executive Protection Service (EPS), de mettre le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, dehors pour avoir remis en question l'adoption de la modification du budget national lors de la dernière session.

Tout a commencé le vendredi 22 mai lors de la session lorsque le sénateur

Dillon a interrogé pourquoi la question de la modification du budget doit apparaître à l'ordre du jour alors qu'il avait été dit de donner une semaine aux sénateurs pour faire une lecture minutieuse du dossier avant de faire l'objet de débat.

Mais le sénateur Albert Chie a fait valoir que le document avait été distribué à tous les sénateurs et qu'en raison de son urgence par rapport à la lutte contre le nouveau coronavirus, une semaine entière était trop longue.

Cependant, Dillon a insisté sur le fait que son bureau

n'avait pas reçu copie du budget et que la décision de le présenter était unilatérale, ce qu'il qualifie de mauvais et d'inacceptable.

M. Chie a demandé à Dillon de s'asseoir, mais ce dernier a refusé. Il s'en est suivi une dispute entre les deux sénateurs.

Apparemment enragé, Chie a ordonné au sergent d'armes général Cheyee Toe de demander à Dillon de sortir de la salle, mais le sénateur du Parti de la Liberté a refusé, enflammant encore l'atmosphère.

Chie a ensuite renforcé son ordre, cette fois, en demandant aux agents de l'EPS de traîner Dillon dehors, mais les sénateurs Henry Yallah (comté de Bong), Nyonblee Kanga Lawrence (comté de Grand Bassa) et Steve Zargo (comté de Lofa) sont intervenus et ont calmé les esprits.

Le Sénat libérien s'était réuni vendredi pour approuver à l'instar de la Chambre des représentants la modification du budget national.

Après la lecture de l'ordre du jour par le secrétaire du Sénat Nanbolor Singbeh, le Sénateur Dillon a tenté d'attirer l'attention de ses



Pro-Tempore Albert Chie



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

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Le gouvernement fait un ajustement et commence la distribution de nourriture

Le comité directeur de soutien alimentaire des ménages a commencé la distribution de la nourriture aux citoyens les plus démunis. La distribution a débuté le week-end dernier. Le président du Comité et ministre du Commerce, le professeur Wilson K. Tarpeh, a déclaré aux journalistes que le gouvernement avait souligné que la distribution de nourriture ne ciblerait que les plus démunis car ils sont les plus exposés à l'insécurité alimentaire dans le pays.

« Le gouvernement a commencé la distribution de la nourriture. Nous avons commencé par les communautés vulnérables et aujourd'hui nous cibons 10 orphelinats. Certes commencer a été difficile, mais au moins nous avons commencé », a déclaré le ministre Tarpeh. « A entendre le ministre Tarpeh, la distribution fait partie de la réponse du président dans la

lutte contre le COVID-19, et que l'ordre est de partager la nourriture avec les communautés vulnérables.

Selon lui, le processus avait été retardé en raison de nombreux défis, et qu'il a fallu beaucoup de planification pour que le problème soit résolu.

« ... Et aujourd'hui, nous

sommes heureux de commencer par les orphelinats, suivis des quatre comtés touchés et plus tard du reste des comtés », a expliqué le ministre Tarpeh.

S'adressant également aux journalistes, la ministre de l'Agriculture, Mme Jeanice

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Cote d'Ivoire/Révision de la liste électorale : « Nous sommes dans le délai » Coulibaly Kuibiertbrahime

À la faveur d'une rencontre d'information et d'échanges avec la presse sur le processus de révision de la liste électorale, le vendredi 22 mai 2020, à la représentation du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (Pnud) à Abidjan-Plateau, le président de la Commission électorale indépendante (CeI), Coulibaly Kuibiertbrahime a laissé entendre que la CeI n'est pas en retard dans l'exécution de l'opération de révision de la liste électorale prévue du 10 au 24 juin dans l'année en cours.

« Le délai ne peut pas être court. L'expérience nous fait dire que le timing est bon. Nous n'avons pas de souci au niveau du timing parce que pour organiser les élections, normalement il faut cinq mois jusqu'à la proclamation des résultats.

Il y a un seuil que nous ne devons pas atteindre et nous ne l'avons pas encore atteint. Nous sommes dans le délai. », a-t-il souligné. Il a fait savoir qu'au plus tard le 30 juillet 2020, la liste électorale provisoire sera affichée dans les lieux d'enrôlement. Et que du 04 au 13 août, se fera le traitement du contentieux de cette liste. Avant de rendre public le fichier d'élection définitif le 23 septembre pour un délai qui court jusqu'au 16 octobre 2020.

« La loi indique que la liste électorale provisoire doit être affichée trois mois avant l'élection. Donc le délai constitutionnel est le 01 août. Mais nous décidons de publier le 30 juillet. C'est pour rassurer les gens, en ce qui concerne le timing, qu'on est tellement à l'aise qu'on se permet de le faire avant. », a-t-il dit. Il a indiqué que pour figurer sur la liste électorale, le citoyen doit fournir, à défaut de la carte nationale d'identité, le certificat de nationalité ou l'attestation d'identité.

À l'en croire, cette disposition « alternative » dénote d'un consensus conclu entre l'organe électoral et les partis politiques. Et de préciser que ce n'est pas la carte nationale d'identité qui



donne droit au vote, mais plutôt la carte d'électeur. Il a également affirmé qu'il y a à ce jour 6 600 000 personnes inscrites sur la liste électorale, à l'issue de la dernière révision, et 11000 centres d'enrôlement à travers tout le pays.

« Ça ne sert à rien de rester à la périphérie, derrière la clôture pour pérorer... »

Coulibaly Kuibiertbrahime a aussi encouragé les populations à se faire enrôler afin de pouvoir exercer son droit de vote : « Demandons à nos concitoyens de participer massivement à l'opération de révision de la liste électorale parce que c'est ce document (Ndlr : la carte d'électeur) qui confère la qualité d'électeur et qui permet de choisir le programme qu'on souhaite important pour la Côte d'Ivoire. Ça ne sert à rien de rester à la périphérie, derrière la clôture pour pérorer alors que la loi donne l'occasion de participer à la chose qui vous concerne.

La constitution prescrit que la souveraineté appartient au peuple. Par le biais de l'élection, le peuple transfère son pouvoir à son gouvernant, mais qu'il aura choisi librement à travers l'élection. Mais comment vous pouvez appliquer cette disposition constitutionnelle, si vous n'êtes pas inscrits sur la liste électorale ?

D'où la nécessité de vous inscrire. » L'objectif de cette rencontre était de permettre aux hommes des médias, d'être mieux pénétrés du processus de révision de la liste électorale. Processus qui se décline en trois étapes. Il s'agit de l'enrôlement qui consiste à récolter les données, le traitement des données à l'effet d'épurer la liste des erreurs matérielles et la production des données, conduisant à établir le fichier d'élection définitif.

Français

« Budget 4G » : Le Senteur Dillon et

collègues sur le fait que le budget n'avait pas été minutieusement examiné pour faire l'objet d'un débat.

La semaine dernière, mercredi, lors de la première lecture du budget en session plénière, le sénateur du comté de Bong, Henry Yallah, avait proposé que la commission des voies et moyens, et des finances et du budget fit son rapport ce mercredi 27 mai, ce qui aurait permis aux sénateurs d'avoir une semaine entière pour en faire une bonne lecture et comprendre le document, mais la direction du Sénat dirigée par le sénateur Albert Chie de la coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir a ajusté le calendrier à deux jours.

S'adressant à une conférence de presse par la suite, le sénateur Dillon a accusé ses collègues signataires de la résolution d'approbation d'avoir prétendument reçu un pot-de-vin de 20 000 \$ US chacun.

Parmi les sénateurs qui ont signé l'accord figurent: Morris Saytumah, Sando Johnson, Prince Johnson, Henry Yallah, Dr Henrique Tokpah et Alphonso Gaye, Varney Sherman, Victor Watson, Albert Chie, Saah Joseph, Jonathan Kaipee, Francis Paye, Dallas Gueh, Marshall Dennis, H. Dan Morais et Gble-bo Brown.

Cependant, les sénateurs Conmany Wesseh, Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence, Steve Zargo, Daniel Naatehn et Darious Dillon n'ont pas apposé leur signature sur la

Le gouvernement fait un ajustement et

Cooper, a déclaré que le processus complet commencerait sous peu à Montserrado et dans les autres comtés, ajoutant que l'ensemble de ce processus prendrait 60 à 75 jours. Mme Cooper a révélé que le comité ne travaillait pas seul, une équipe de santé identifierait les cas actifs dans le cadre de son plan pour coordonner tout ce qu'ils font pour éviter les problèmes. La ministre Cooper a en outre fait savoir que le comité examinait les collectivités durement touchées par l'épidémie et a pris en compte les jeunes défavorisés qui sont actuellement dans la rue. C'est, selon elle, une tâche énorme car environ 500 000 ménages seront ciblés à travers le pays. Il s'agit des personnes vulnérables sur les plans sanitaire et

résolution.

La résolution indique que pour protéger les revenus du Libéria, une taxe de trente centimes de dollars américains (0,30 \$ US) sera relevée sur chaque gallon de produits pétroliers vendus sur le marché libérien; une centralisation de la collecte de toutes les recettes publiques et une révision des lois existantes relatives à l'Autorité Maritime du Libéria (LMA) et à l'Autorité des Télécommunications du Libéria (LTA) de sorte que toutes les recettes faites par ces sociétés soient versées au compte consolidé de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL).

Conformément à l'amélioration de la transparence et de l'efficacité du système de gestion des finances publiques, le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement améliorera les délais et l'exhaustivité des rapports financiers et de la transparence budgétaire en faisant en sorte que toutes les agences déclarantes avancées reviennent à l'utilisation de la gestion financière intégrée du Système d'information (IFMIS) pour tous les achats avec arrêt du programme pilote d'avances de fonds; et que la publication hebdomadaire des données budgétaires réconciliées et complètes devant être partagées avec le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) entre en vigueur immédiatement, y compris la prise en compte de cinq cent vingt millions de dollars américains comme plafond pour l'exercice fiscal 2020-2021.

économique.

Le coût estimatif de l'opération est de 30 millions, a en croire les ministres du Commerce et de l'Agriculture, le gouvernement ayant contribué 25 millions de dollars par le biais du budget tandis que les 5 millions de dollars restants provenant des donateurs. Recevant le don du Comité directeur, l'Administrateur de la Fondation Margaret Gieraths - Nimene à Zuba Town Paynesville, Mme Margaret Gieraths - Nimene, et le chef de la Christian Association of the Blind, ont tous deux dit merci au gouvernement car « ce don arrive au moment opportun ».

Mme Margaret Gieraths - Nimene s'est félicitée du geste et remercié l'équipe d'avoir sélectionné son institution parmi d'autres.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

Quel type de gouvernement après la pandémie ?

CHICAGO - Alors même que la pandémie de COVID-19 continue de faire des ravages, les spéculations vont bon train autour de ce à quoi ressemblera la société de demain. Encore sous le choc, et plus conscients qu'hier de la fragilité de leur propre existence, les citoyens aspireront à une réduction du risque. À en juger par le nouveau consensus émergent, ils seront favorables à davantage d'intervention de l'État dans la stimulation de la demande (via l'injection de milliards de dollars dans l'économie), la protection des travailleurs, le renforcement de la santé, et bien entendu la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Tous les pays présentent toutefois différentes strates de gouvernement. Laquelle s'agira-t-il de renforcer ? Clairement, aux États-Unis, seul le gouvernement fédéral dispose des ressources et du mandat lui permettant des décisions nationales sur des sujets tels que la santé et le changement climatique. Cela ne signifie pas pour autant que ce niveau de gouvernement doit croître encore davantage, car il serait susceptible d'adopter des politiques qui protégeraient certains citoyens tout en négligeant les risques rencontrés par d'autres.

Face au COVID-19, certains pays ont centralisé les décisions d'application et de levée des mesures de confinement, tandis que d'autres ont délégué ces choix aux gouvernements étatiques, voire municipaux (d'autres encore, comme en Inde, sont en transition entre ces deux approches). Ce qui est clairement apparu, c'est que toutes les localités ne sont pas confrontées aux mêmes compromis.

Dans une ville de New York très densément peuplée, un confinement strict constituait sans doute le meilleur moyen de vider les rues, et l'impact économique de ce confinement a probablement été atténué par le fait que nombre d'employés new-yorkais travaillent dans des services qualifiés, tels que la finance, qui peuvent être assurés en télétravail. Par ailleurs, les serveurs et les employés hôteliers licenciés savent eux-mêmes qu'ils ne pourront pas retravailler tant que le public ne se sentira pas en sécurité à l'extérieur. Les considérations de santé apparaissent ainsi primordiales.

Par opposition, à Farmington au Nouveau-Mexique, le New York Times rapporte que « peu de gens connaissaient dans leur entourage une personne malade du coronavirus, mais presque tous connaissaient des personnes licenciées en raison du virus ». Imposé par le gouverneur démocrate de cet État, le confinement apparaît impopulaire dans une communauté qui souffrait déjà d'un sérieux déclin économique avant la pandémie. En l'occurrence, les préoccupations économiques sont bien supérieures aux rares inquiétudes sanitaires.

Ces disparités illustrent les failles d'une approche centralisée à taille unique. Mais la décentralisation peut elle aussi se révéler problématique. Si le degré de contrôle est différent selon les régions, les déplacements entre ces régions doivent-ils être autorisés ? Il est compréhensible que les régions les moins touchées entendent interdire l'entrée de visiteurs en provenance de zones rouges, ou du moins les contraindre à de pénibles quarantaines. Des tests rapides, fiables et peu coûteux pourraient remédier au problème, mais ils n'existent pas encore.

Un certain degré d'harmonisation entre les régions pourrait par conséquent être bénéfique, notamment dans l'approvisionnement des matériels médicaux. En l'absence de coordination fédérale, les États américains se livrent une guerre d'enchères pour obtenir des approvisionnements médicaux limités en provenance de Chine. En temps normal, les marchés concurrentiels répartiraient ces biens de manière plus efficace. Mais en situation d'urgence sanitaire, les marchés peuvent se révéler peu performants, et distribuer les biens en fonction de la capacité de paiement des acheteurs plutôt qu'en fonction de leurs besoins ; les États riches sont ainsi susceptibles d'acheter tous les respirateurs et kits de test, sans en laisser aucun aux États moins fortunés, avec pour conséquence une capacité moindre du pays à contenir la pandémie.

Dans ce contexte, un approvisionnement centralisé pourrait permettre de maintenir un niveau raisonnable

de prix, et potentiellement d'aboutir à une distribution plus en phase avec les besoins. Mais nous parlons ici au conditionnel. Car si un gouvernement central poursuit des motivations discutables, ou s'avère tout simplement incompétent, alors le calcul change. Comme observé aux Brésil, au Mexique, en Tanzanie, et aux États-Unis, lorsque les chefs d'État minimisent les dangers de la pandémie, il peuvent considérablement mettre à mal la riposte de leur pays contre le virus.

Entre autres échecs, le gouvernement fédéral du Brésil semble avoir des difficultés à distribuer les respirateurs qu'il achète. Aux États-Unis, les États sous gouvernance républicaine bénéficieraient semble-t-il d'un accès plus facile aux approvisionnements médicaux centralisés que les États sous contrôle démocrate. En Inde, le gouvernement central a imposé un confinement très strict sans avoir laissé à plusieurs millions de travailleurs migrants le temps de prendre leurs dispositions, ces travailleurs ayant par conséquent été contraints de quitter les villes pour regagner leur village d'origine. Familles et enfants ont ainsi dû marcher plusieurs centaines de kilomètres, aidés seulement par la gentillesse d'inconnus et d'autorités locales, et portant potentiellement le virus en eux. Un processus décisionnel décentralisé aurait peut-être permis aux États de procéder au confinement plus tard (puisque'ils enregistraient initialement moins de cas), afin de tirer les leçons de la gestion des premiers États touchés.

Poussées à l'extrême, la centralisation comme la décentralisation peuvent se révéler problématiques, et c'est pourquoi la meilleure solution semble résider dans un juste milieu coordonné. Le gouvernement fédéral pourrait fixer des règles minimales pour les confinements et les déconfinements, tout en déléguant la décision effective aux États et aux municipalités. Si un biais devait toutefois exister, il serait préférable qu'il penche du côté de la décentralisation, suivant le principe de subsidiarité, selon lequel les pouvoirs sont délégués au niveau administratif le plus local possible et susceptible d'être le plus efficace.

Plusieurs raisons importantes s'inscrivent en faveur d'une décentralisation soigneusement gérée. Non seulement les membres d'entités politiques plus réduites ont tendance à rencontrer les mêmes problèmes, mais ils démontrent également en général une plus grande solidarité sociale et politique, ce qui leur permet davantage d'échanger et d'élaborer ensemble des solutions.

Bien que la politique locale rappelle parfois la rivalité entre les familles Hatfield et McCoy du Kentucky et de Virginie occidentale au XIXe siècle, elle est généralement moins susceptible d'impasse et d'antagonisme que la politique actuelle des législatures centrales. Les citoyens ont par ailleurs davantage l'impression de maîtriser les décisions prises par leurs élus ou organes localement désignés. Cette maîtrise peut leur permettre d'élaborer des politiques de saine exploitation des marchés nationaux et mondiaux, plutôt que de soumission à ces marchés.

Ainsi, à l'heure où nous élaborons les politiques de reprise et de renforcement des systèmes de santé, d'éducation, et de réglementation après la pandémie, il nous faut également réfléchir à la question de savoir qui prendra les décisions, et à quel niveau. Une juste dose de relance par l'investissement dans les infrastructures, par exemple, devra prendre la forme de subventions globales aux communautés, qui sont les mieux positionnées pour répartir les fonds en fonction des besoins. Quant aux politiques climatiques nationales, bien qu'elles ne puissent être distinctement fixées par chaque communauté, elles devront refléter un minimum de consensus ascendant.

La montée en puissance de l'autoritarisme à travers le monde s'explique par la volonté de nombreux individus d'être gouvernés par des dirigeants politiques charismatiques, auxquels la population peut s'identifier. Ces démagogues exploitent leur soutien populaire pour contourner les garde-fous constitutionnels, et mènent souvent leur pays à sa perte. Le renforcement du gouvernement en parallèle de la limitation du risque d'autoritarisme nécessite la présence de puissants organes indépendants et à la solide légitimité démocratique. La voie d'avenir pourrait bien résider dans la décentralisation constitutionnelle de davantage de pouvoirs aux gouvernements régionaux et locaux.

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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.

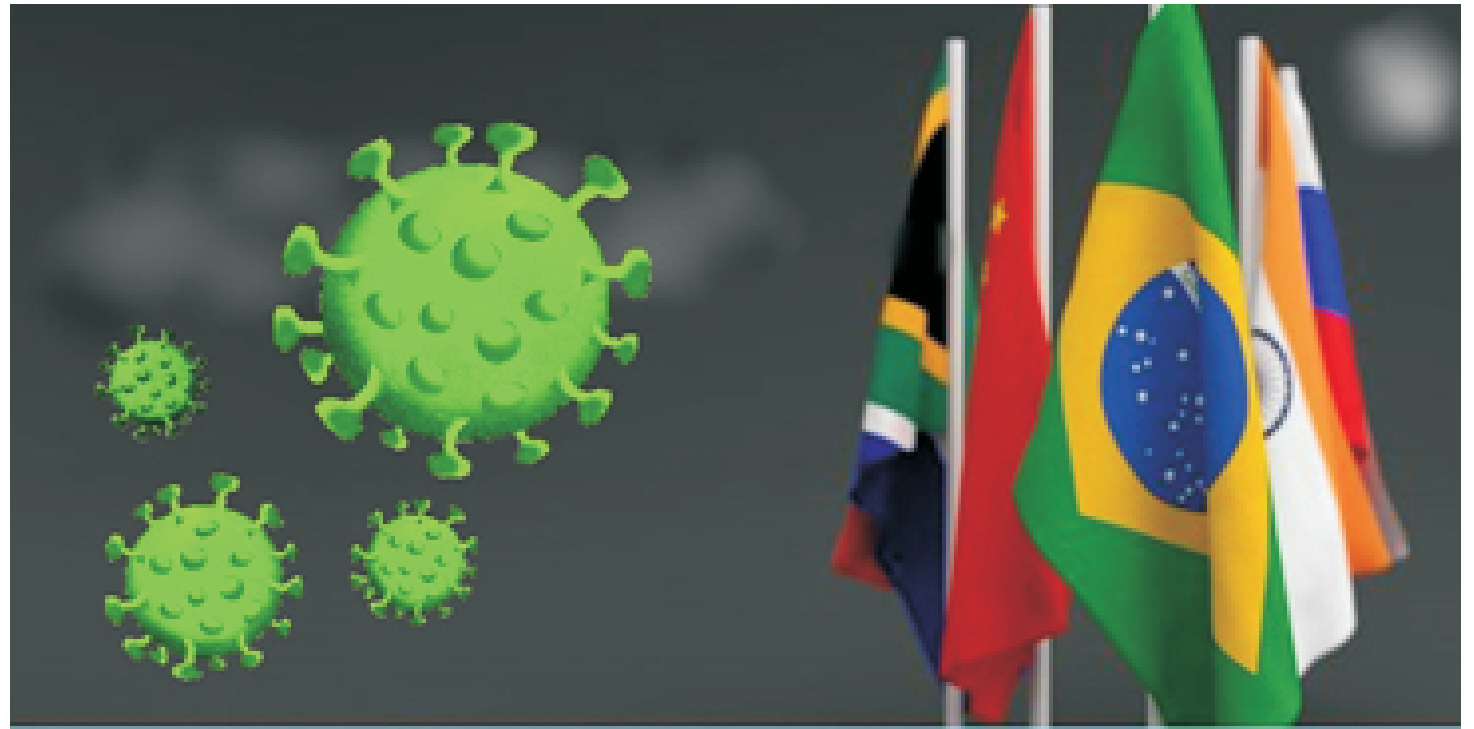
Experts have argued that BRICS members meet to discuss various global issues, and plan its joint collaborative projects on the global landscape. Comparatively, Russia, India and China, all these three still respond individually to varying opportunities and pursue different investment in the world.

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.

Gov't suspends Weeks' trial

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian prosecutors say they are currently in conversation with indicted former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Milton Weeks to find a common ground in resolving his trial for his alleged role in Liberia's LRD\$16 billion scandal, thereby asking the Criminal Court "C" to suspend the trial for three weeks.

"Movant submits that the burden of providing the indictment drawn against the within named respondent rests on the Movant and where both the Movant and Respondent are endeavoring to find a common ground on the way forward in resolving the matter to save time, energy and resources, it is proper for

The prosecution notes that its request for continuance is not made in bad faith, nor is it intended to baffle or prolong the proceedings, requesting the court to grant them further relief as the court deem just and equitable in the proceedings.

Mr. Weeks has remained the lone defendant in the LRD\$16 billion economic sabotage trial after prosecutors nolle prosequi (drop charges against) his alleged accomplices including former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf, Dorbor Hagba, Richard Walker and Joseph Dennis while challenged a previous decision at the Supreme Court.

Due to the prosecution's move, the court on Tuesday, 19

prosecution informed Court "C" Judge Yami Quiqui Gbeisay that in the last few days, there are strong indicators that suggestions geared at mitigating the charges and finding a way forward in dealing with other issues are quite ripe and incredibly probable, thus requesting for continuance of the proceedings.

Mr. Weeks and four other defendants were all indicted on 4 March 2019 for economic sabotage, criminal conspiracy, criminal solicitation and money laundering for their alleged roles in Liberia's alleged LRD\$16bn scandal that rocked the country throughout 2018 and sparked local and international investigation following protests here.

The Court in August last year ordered the officials and their former boss, Mr. Weeks to file LD\$1,058,000,000 bonds each, which when combined totaled LD\$5,290,000,000 after a new indictment for money laundering had been added to the previous charges.

At the request of the Government of Liberia, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) issued a tender to contract independent forensic investigation firm Kroll Associates to conduct a scoping report engagement to ascertain the basic facts of the alleged disappearance of the new banknotes, and to determine to what extent a broader investigation would be required into the matter to help achieve a clearer understanding of the currency situation.

Kroll's independent review of the situation was in part prompted by Liberian and international media reports covering the alleged disappearance of the new banknotes, which included allegations that a container of new banknotes shipped by Crane AB to Liberia and subsequently delivered from either the Freeport of Liberia or Roberts International Airport to the CBL was missing.

It reported that the actual value of new banknotes printed by Crane AB to Liberia totaled LRD 15.506 billion, therefore new banknotes totaling LRD 0.506 billion were printed by Crane AB above the initial contractual amount of LRD 15.0 billion.

Of the new banknotes printed and shipped by Crane AB totaling LRD 15.506 billion, Kroll said the CBL had injected new banknotes totaling LRD 10.146 billion into the Liberian economy without removing from circulation (and destroying) the equivalent quantity/value of legacy banknotes.

May quashed and dismissed a writ of ne exeat republica used by prosecutors to prevent the four CBL officials from leaving Liberia in granting government's request to drop charges against them. But what happened to the \$16 billion local currency which prompted the defendants' indictment still remains a mystery.

Having seen his compatriots walk as free men, Mr. Weeks, who initially had a matter pending before the Supreme Court from the same case, withdrew his appeal from the high court, which then ordered Court "C" to commence the trial.

At the commencement of the case Monday, 25 May, the



Ex-Governor Milton Weeks

an application of this sort to be made so that the parties can have ample time to discuss and reach a peaceful agreement before proceeding," the State's motion filed Monday, 25 May reads.

The State argues that the practice and procedure in this jurisdiction instruct that where the parties at their own volition have initiated the process of opening windows of opportunity to hear each other's concerns and advance suggestions on how to resolve a triable issue gear at finding an amicable solution ..., a motion for continuance is the proper remedy at law to invoke.

Jeety rescues

Cont'd from page 6

communities under the Management of Jetty Trading Corporation (JTC) led by Mr. Jeety and a team of India Nationals involved with the distribution process.

Speaking to reporters after receiving the wheelchair, Anthony Jackson, overwhelmed by joy, notes that after struggling with life for many decades, he is appreciative the Indian diplomat has lifted him up from the ground.

According to him, he was shocked when he saw some of his neighbors running to his house to inform him that Mr. Jeety has bought a wheel chair which he should come to receive immediately.

Without delay, Jackson drags himself to the site of the cooked food distribution in front of the commercial office

Liberians in various communities are being fed daily with hot meals prepared by the Jetty Trading Corporation since the State of Emergency was imposed by President George M. Weah as a result of the Coronavirus in the country.

Benefiting communities in and outside Monrovia include Vai Town, Slipway, West Point, Center Street, Logan Town Rice Store, Randell Street Beach, Old Road, ELWA Beach (1) and (2), among others.

The exercise was extended to inmates at the National Police Headquarters on Capitol Hill and the Old Road Police substation opposite the former Grassroots Cinema where Mr. Jeety distributed cooked food and safe-drinking mineral water to security officers assigned at a check point.



Anthony Jackson before he was rescued by Mr. Jeety in West Point

of the Liberia Electricity Corporation adjacent the Waterside General Market.

He narrates that while dragging himself, he saw Mr. Jeety approaching him with a wheelchair which he had never owned in his life since he was born.

He notes that it came as a dream and work of God, for Mr. Jeety, whom he had never known from anyway to come to his rescue.

Shortly after presenting the wheelchair, Mr. Jeety also presented a take home plate of cooked food to the beneficiary, while admonishing him to keep observing health protocols announced by the government against the COVID-19 to stay safe.

Over 5,000 less fortunate

In a related development, a 39-year-old less fortunate woman identified as Ruth Cooper, appeals to Mr. Jeety to also assist some of them who have a desire to return to school and continue their education.

A mother of two, Madam Cooper lives among hundreds of less fortunate youth, adults, and elderly people, who are taking in dangerous substances in the Old Road community.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jeety says the cooked food distribution would now be restricted to less fortunate people in Vai Town, Slipway, Center Street and West Point respectively, due to government extension of the lockdown from 3PM to 6PM. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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CPP is disingenuous

-Min. McGill



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Barely days after the Collaborating Political Parties published their working document, ahead of elections in 2023, Liberia's Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel Fallo McGill says, members of the opposition are disingenuous to the Liberian people and the democratic process in the

country.

"Sometimes when you are dealing with people who not serious, you intend to give them the benefit of the doubt; you can see how disingenuous the CPP is. Around April the 20th, the same political mischief image that the CPP loves to play by misleading the public, Mr. Alexander Cummings of the Alternative National Congress tried to make the President to

look bad. Mr. Cummings wrote the President and cited inclusivity in the COVID-29 fight which the President agreed and interestingly brought on board the World Bank, the world feeling organization of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the religious community, the opposition and the rest," Minister McGill notes.

Speaking on 'Prime Morning Drive', a live talk show on Monday, May 25, in Monrovia, he explains that reason for President Weah bringing on board key players is to create corridor for transparency, accountability and not to make the fight against the Corona Virus seen as the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change's fight instead, for everyone to feel a part.

The CPP in a communication to President Weah recently wrote, "The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) presents compliments

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Premier League to vote on return of contact training

Premier League clubs will vote on proposals for a return to contact training on Wednesday as the English top-flight seeks to take another step closer to resuming the season next month.

New UK government guidelines issued on Sunday allow for the return of "close contact" training, including tackling, to help players step up their match fitness ahead of a return to competitive action.

"This type of training would start with smaller 'clusters' of 2-3 athletes and eventually progress to larger groups of 4-12 athletes, and ultimately full team training," added the government advice.

Premier League clubs returned to training in small and socially distanced groups last week.

Players and managers are to be consulted in a meeting on Tuesday before the proposals are put to a vote of the 20 clubs.

Results of the latest round of



COVID-19 testing, which is taking place on Monday and Tuesday, will also be published on Wednesday.

The small number of positive tests from the first two rounds of testing at Premier League clubs has raised hopes of a return in June.

Eight cases of coronavirus among players and staff have been detected from 1,744 tests in the Premier League.

In the Championship, just two positive tests were registered from 1,014 tests.

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