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VOL.10 NO. 85

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

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P11

EX-PRES. Sirleaf praises Weah

Jeety rescues handicap Liberian



P6

Jeety rolling wheel for handicap

-during cooked food distribution

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Continental News

Egypt doctors accuse government over deaths

Doctors have accused Egypt's health ministry of negligence in its handling of Covid-19 and said it bears "full responsibility" for medics' deaths.

A union said on Monday that 19 doctors had so far died from the disease and more than 350 others had been infected.

It blamed a lack of personal protective equipment and beds for sickened staff, and warned the system could "collapse".

The health minister insisted sufficient protection had been offered and medics had received the "best possible care".

Egypt, the most populous country in the Arab world, has so far reported 17,967 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 783 associated deaths. The doctors' union said the deaths and infections among its members were the result of the health ministry "falling short" of doing its duty to protect them.

"The health ministry has an obligation towards doctors and all medics who are sacrificing their lives on the front lines to defend the safety of the homeland."

"It is imperative to provide them with the necessary protection and rapid medical intervention for those who

contract the disease," it added. With the outbreak showing no sign of abating and quarantine hospitals running at capacity, the union warned that "the health system could completely collapse, leading to a catastrophe affecting the entire country if the health ministry's negligence and lack

of action towards medical staff is not rectified".

In response, Health Minister Hala Zayed said that since the start of the outbreak, the ministry had "ensured the allocation of a floor in every quarantine hospital with a 20-bed capacity to treat those infected among medical staff". Staff were tested for the coronavirus upon entering and leaving hospitals, and there were "sufficient stocks" of personal protective equipment, she added.

Ms Zayed also stated that 11 doctors had so far died, rather than 19. The union's warning came two days after the death of a 31-year-old doctor, Walid Yehia, who was unable to get a bed at an

quarantine hospital in Cairo.

"His colleagues and I were with him, appealing for help, but there was zero response," his brother, Ashraf Zalouk, wrote on Facebook.

Social media users contrasted Dr Yehia's treatment to that given to the actress Ragaa al-Gadawy. The 81-year-old was tested quickly for the virus and admitted to a quarantine hospital in the city of Ismailiya based on the personal recommendation of the health minister, news websites quoted her daughter Amira Mokhtar as saying.

Ms Zayed has reportedly ordered an investigation into the death of Dr Yehia and promised to take "all legal measures in case of any shortcomings". BBC



Egypt has reported 17,900 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 783 associated deaths

Trafficked Nigerian women rescued from Lebanon

Fifty trafficked Nigerian women have been rescued from Lebanon and returned home, Nigeria's foreign minister says. They have all been placed in quarantine following their arrival on Sunday as a precaution against coronavirus.

The country's anti-trafficking agency will interview them about their experiences after their isolation ends.

Last month, a Nigerian woman working as a maid in Lebanon was rescued after being put up for sale on Facebook for \$1,000 (£807). The UN says thousands of women and girls from Nigeria and other African countries are trafficked every year.

They are often lured away with promises of jobs in Europe or Asia, but usually end up being exploited as domestic maids or forced into prostitution.

Last year, an undercover BBC

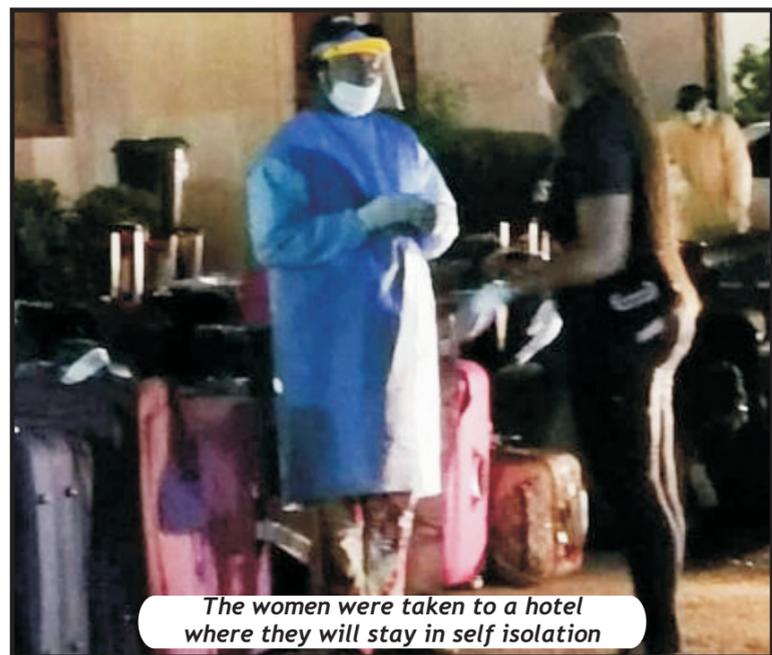
News Arabic investigation in Kuwait found that domestic workers were being illegally bought and sold online in a booming black market. Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama, tweeted his thanks to the Lebanese authorities for their financial and logistical support in making Sunday's evacuation possible.

A further 19 Nigerians, stranded in Lebanon because of Covid-19 lockdowns, were also repatriated.

Julie Okah-Donli, the head of Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Naptip), said the hotel where the women were being quarantined was under guard to ensure their protection.

They would be offered ways to rebuild their lives after investigations into their cases, she said. According to Naptip, at least 20,000 Nigerian girls were trafficked to Mali and forced into prostitution last year.

Ms Okah-Donli said the agency was working with the foreign ministry to repatriate citizens who had been trafficked. BBC



The women were taken to a hotel where they will stay in self isolation

Kenya floods affect Gamba police

More than 30 officers have been left stranded after Gamba Police Station in Tana River County was marooned by flood waters on Monday.

Homes and offices were rendered inaccessible as officers tried to salvage their property from the water amid fears that some may sleep in the cold today.

In an interview, officers who sought anonymity said

In an interview, officers who sought anonymity said they have been unable to report to work following the incident.

Representational image © Getty Representational image

"I woke up to wear cold shoes. I have just hanged my items on the roof as it seems this water is increasing in level. We may sleep in the cold today," said John Ngetich.



they have been unable to report to work following the incident. More than 30 officers have been left stranded after Gamba Police Station in Tana River County was marooned by flood waters on Monday.

Homes and offices were rendered inaccessible as officers tried to salvage their property from the water amid fears that some may sleep in the cold today.

The officers noted that some documents have been destroyed, with the most affected being electronic gadgets.

When reached for comment, Tana River County Commander Fredrick Ochieng confirmed the incident but said action will only be taken only when the station raises alarm. AFP

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 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.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

O-PED

By Reza Moghadam

Putting the Pep in PEPP

For now, the European Central Bank's new €750 billion Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program is the only game in town for ensuring that the eurozone survives the COVID-19 crisis intact. The ECB should strengthen its bazooka to prevent the pandemic from causing even more damage.

LONDON - The European Central Bank's €750 billion (\$818 billion) Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program (PEPP) was hailed at its inception in March as the "big bazooka," bringing welcome relief to bond markets in so-called peripheral eurozone countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. But the ECB must strengthen the program to make it truly effective.

The ECB's PEPP purchases are unlike its regular, across-the-board asset purchases, which seek to provide general monetary stimulus. Whereas those operations are based on each country's share of the ECB's capital (or "capital key"), PEPP's purpose is to fix a market malfunction by targeting purchases at countries under the greatest pressure.

The new program, which investors expect the ECB to enlarge, has succeeded in capping interest-rate spreads between core and peripheral eurozone member states. But spreads remain elevated and investors are jittery, especially given the likelihood that the COVID-19 crisis will increase Italy's public debt to 150-160% of GDP for the foreseeable future. There is no good way to finesse that shock.

To be sure, PEPP's ability to target asset purchases, and without imposing policy conditions on the beneficiaries, makes it a more potent weapon than the outright monetary transactions scheme introduced by then-ECB President Mario Draghi at the height of the 2012 euro crisis.

But, by itself, PEPP does not allay the debt-sustainability concerns created by COVID-19, because of two program restrictions. First, there is a presumption that the bonds bought under the scheme will be held only temporarily - an impression reinforced by the German Federal Constitutional Court's recent ruling against the ECB in connection with the separate Public Sector Purchase Program (PSPP). And, second, the capital key is to remain a "guiding principle" of PEPP over time.

To see how these strictures weaken PEPP's effectiveness, consider what happens when a sovereign bond is bought under the program. At the instruction of the ECB's Governing Council, national central banks undertake 80% of the purchases, and quickly return any interest they receive to governments as a profit transfer. The bonds then become effectively costless, and thus not a concern in terms of debt sustainability. But this is so only for as long as the ECB holds on to the debt.

If periphery bond spreads are to fall on a lasting basis, then these countries' additional debt resulting from the COVID-19 crisis - estimated at some €500 billion in 2020-21 - must be rendered effectively costless. The ECB could ensure this by committing to hold this debt for a sufficiently long time, say, 20 years or more. In addition, PEPP's reference to the capital key should be dropped in order to remove any suggestion that the ECB would sell peripheral members' bonds first if it decided to reduce its portfolio.

The economic benefit of reducing core-periphery bond spreads, and thus holding the eurozone together, outweighs three potential concerns regarding PEPP. For starters, it is feared that large ECB bond purchases could lead to high inflation. This concern seems overdone at a time when deflation is the greater risk.

Second, there is a fear of "fiscal dominance," whereby the ECB becomes timid about raising interest rates in the future, lest balance-sheet losses require it to be recapitalized by governments, thus compromising its independence. But it seems a stretch to imagine that a few countries on the eurozone's periphery could challenge the ECB's independence, which is enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Finally, there is the perennial fear of moral hazard - that bailouts encourage fiscal irresponsibility. This is surely misplaced: Italy's current problems reflect its higher starting level of debt, which its eurozone partners have long accepted, and its larger fiscal response to the current crisis, which all agree is appropriate.

A long-lasting deviation from the capital key is also legally defensible. PEPP is not a monetary measure, but rather aims to overcome an obstacle to the transmission of monetary policy to all eurozone member states - namely, the high spreads induced by the pandemic's varying effect on their public-debt levels. If COVID-19's impact on eurozone bond markets is asymmetric and long-lasting, then the response must be as well. Any wider and unintended monetary effects from PEPP can be sterilized, or undone, through higher interest rates or sales of non-periphery bonds.

To be sure, none of this obviates the need for a common European fiscal response. Although the nascent European recovery fund is an important step forward in that regard, it remains to be seen whether it could provide a sufficiently large stimulus for the hardest-hit countries. Moreover, such a fund would do little to reduce the additional debt resulting from the crisis, and, in any case, is intended for the later recovery phase.

For now, PEPP is the only game in town for ensuring that the eurozone survives the COVID-19 crisis intact. Far from being cowed by the recent German constitutional court decision, the ECB should strengthen its bazooka to prevent the pandemic from causing even more damage.

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.



Reintegration and Recovery Programme Phase IV addendum – Ebola Support Programme II 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 Karquepo Clinic in Karquepo 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 KARQUEPO CLINIC IN KARQUEPO 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 +231 886 888 461 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 +231 886 888 461

(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 MORE HEADLINE NEWS

US\$30M for food distribution

The chairman of the COVID-19 food distribution steering committee Professor Wilson Tarpeh discloses here that a total of US\$30 million has been secured to distribute assorted food among 2.5 million vulnerable Liberians cross the country.

Speaking Tuesday, 27th May to 'Truth Breakfast Show', a live early morning talk show hosted by Truth FM 96.1 in Paynesville on the outskirts of Monrovia, Mr. Tarpeh explains the food basket to vulnerable people will contain both locally-produced and imported items, including rice, oil vegetables and beans,

and lockdown announced by government to fight the novel coronavirus.

President George Manneh Weah submitted a US\$25 million stimulus package to the 54th Liberian Legislature in April for approval to provide food to the initially four affected counties: Montserrado, Margibi, Nimba and Grand Kru. But members of the Legislature want all 15 counties to benefit from the exercise.

Professor Tarpeh continues that the Government of Liberia contracted the services of the World Food Programme to procure and distribute food to the needy.

"Our responsibility is to provide policy to WFP. It is important for our people to understand", he notes.

He says the national committee has several sub-committees, including security, food distribution coordinated by the Liberia Council of Churches and the Muslim community, budget and finance, headed by the World Bank, monitoring and evaluation, and communication headed by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, respectively. -

Story by Jonathan Browne



Professor Tarpeh, who is also Minister of Commerce and Industry, says the distribution exercise is characterized by three-pronged approach, involving health authorities, the Joint Security and the steering committee.

respectively.

He says the Government of Liberia thru an IMF assistance program is providing US\$25 million to the basket, while the World Bank is contributing \$5 million to ensure food reach vulnerable population in the wake of the State of Emergency

EPA shuts down Water Company

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reportedly shut down a water producing company on 17th Street Sinkor, Monrovia for allegedly operating illegally.

Acting Executive Director Randall Dobayoutold this paper in an interview the company was reportedly drilling water from underground without registration, particularly during night hours when residents and local authorities have gone to bed.

Mr. Dobayousaid an EPA investigation established that the company was operating in total violation of the Environmental Protection Agency regulations, policies

about you will not be able to control it," Mr. Dobayou said.

He notes that Sinkorbeing a residential settlement, it is not suitable enough for said operation by the company, saying, "Moreover, this area is a residential area and over 20 trucks coming here at the same time pumping water results to an unbearable noise level, which in itself is a violation of the EPA regulation. As you may be awareness, noise is pollution so that is one of the violations."

At the same time, the acting EPA boss disclosed that under his leadership, the agency has investigated and conducted testing of water samples from 15 companies to establish whether they are in



and laws.

He said the Agency was left with no alternative but to close the company and invite its chief executive officer, a Lebanese national, for investigation and onward prosecution.

As a commitment to the environment, the Government of Liberia established the EPA in 2003 by an Act of the Legislature. It became fully functioning in 2006 with a board of directors and policy council.

"Over the years, if you do not understand the groundwater matrix, and you are over exploiting a specific area wherein you are not guided by any form of study, and if such disaster comes

compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

He said the Environment Protection Agency is poised to institute stringent measures against producers of substandard drinking water on the Liberian market.

Mr. Dobayou warns that water companies putting lives of Liberians at risk will no longer have the free will and space to operate.

"We must comply with the standards set by the government or you will be shut down. We will no longer allow our people to be shortchanged, especially with their lives in such a way," he said Monday. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

HEAL, Orphans Concern Liberia partner to provide relief to orphanages

By Bridgett Milton

Help Educate and Assist Lives (HEAL) Inc., a US-based organization, and its sister organization HEAL Inc., Liberia, are partnering with Orphans Concern-Liberia, the lead orphans advocacy organization to provide relief to orphanages in Liberia.

The partnership has seen the provision of food and other essential support to 19 orphanages across Montserrado County.

According to the Executive Director of Orphans Concern Amos Sawboh, the collaboration has created a pathway to an efficient operation during this relief effort.

He says through its implementation, and a great working relationship with NOBEL Liberia, Orphans Concern has distributed rice, breakfast baskets, oil, other food items, and funding to subsidize feeding at the orphanages.



He adds that as Orphans Concern was distributing the food items, they discovered that some of the orphanages had a significant hygiene concern: the lack of clean drinking water.

Sawboh notes that after consultation with Mr.

SandoKarneh, HEAL Inc.'s Executive Director, the organization has to stand in the gap to help the children, considering the economy and the global COVID-19 pandemic.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Yallah lobbies for VP Taylor's support

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Bong County Senator Henry Willie Yallah appears to be engaged in a serious lobby for the support of Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor ahead of the upcoming 2020

public to believe that the Senator might get support from the vice president.

Senator Yallah has over the past been vocal on the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government, but he has taken another route in recent weeks, as he is seen in every

political party that supported the standard bearer of the former governing Unity Party, Mr. Joseph NyumahBoakai in the 2017 election.

According to a reliable source, Sen. Yallah has been seen around the offices of the vice president in recent times and has settled all the alleged misunderstandings he had with her.

An insider who begged not to be named says Sen. Yallah usually calls the vice president and some top officials of the CDC government, allegedly asking for the support of the party.

Our source references the impeachment of former Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, as the beginning of Sen. Yallah's desire to stand in favor of officials of the CDC in an effort to gain relevance.

Sen. Yallah supported the removal of Cllr. Ja'neh. According to our source, Yallah was seen on 23 May with Vice President Taylor when she went for what Deputy Press Secretary Philip Sangbeh described as a private visit and turning over ceremony.

According to the insider,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Senator Henry W. Yallah

senatorial election.

Our Bong County correspondent has observed that the relationship between Senator Yallah and Madam Taylor has become closer than before, thus making the

corner of the county explaining the goodness of President George Manneh Weah and Vice President Taylor.

Sen. Yallah is an executive member of the People's Unification Party (PUP), a

PUL to open Book of Condolence Thursday -In memory of journalist H. Sally Gaye

The Press Union of Liberia (PUL) and its auxiliaries, the Sports Writers Association of Liberia (SWAL), Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL) and the Reporters Association of Liberia (RAL) will open a Book of Condolence in memory of H. Sally Gaye on Thursday, 29 May 2020 in Monrovia.

According to a press release, the Book of Condolence will be opened at 11:00am at the union's headquarters on 44th Clay Street, and the PUL is calling on media practitioners and members of the public to turn out to sign in memory of the fallen journalist.

Ms. Sally Gaye died on Sunday, 17 May at the ELWA Hospital after a period of illness in Monrovia. The PUL and its auxiliaries are deeply saddened by the death of the resourceful sports writer and young media trailblazer.

The late Sally was among three females who have in recent time taken up sports reporting as a specialty in journalism and she diligently executed her duties within

the realm of all journalistic standards.

Up to her death, Ms. Sally worked for the New Dawn Newspaper as its Sports Reporter and also found time to work with secondary school students on the production of a high school particular newspaper.

The union again extends its deepest regret to the Gaye Family over the unfortunate

death of H. Sally Gaye, describing it as the cruel early downing of curtains on a career which has just started to germinate.

All journalists, the Gaye Family, Friends of H. Sally Gaye outside of journalism and the public are kindly asked by the Press Union of Liberia to be seated at the PUL before 11:00am on Thursday on 44th Clay in Monrovia.--Press release



The late Sally Gaye

Jeety rescues handicap Liberian

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

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 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



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 communities under the Management of Jeety 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

safe.

Over 5,000 less fortunate Liberians in various communities are being fed daily with hot meals prepared by the Jeety 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

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

US urges probe into alleged ethics breach at AfDB

The US Department of State has urged the African Development Bank (AfDB) to carry out an independent probe into alleged ethics breaches by its president, Akinwumi Adesina, The AFP has reported.

In a letter obtained by AFP on Monday, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin expressed "deep reservations"

and Development Minister Niale Kaba.

Adesina is seeking a second five-year term at the helm of the AfDB, one of the world's five largest multilateral development banks.

Whistleblowers last month submitted a 15-page report to

totally exonerated Adesina, saying the complaint "rested on no objective, solid facts".

Adesina himself has dismissed the allegations as "spurious and unfounded" and "blatantly false."

A former Nigerian agriculture minister, Adesina, 60, is the only candidate in an election which was set for late May but which has been postponed to August because of the coronavirus pandemic.

He has received the backing of the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In October 2019, the AfDB raised \$115 billion (105 billion euros) in fresh capital, an operation deemed a personal success for Adesina.

The bank had been shaken by a series of high-level departures soon after his arrival, with complaints of Adesina's "authoritarian" leadership style.

- 'Outside investigator' -

In his letter to the board of governors, Mnuchin said: "We urge you to initiate an in-depth investigation of the allegations using the services of an independent outside investigator of high professional standing."

He added: "We fear that wholesale dismissal of all allegations without appropriate investigation will tarnish the reputation of this

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African Development (AfDB) president Akinwumi Adesina is seeking a second, five-year term at the head of the bank (AFP Photo/ISSOUF SANOGO)

about the outcome of an internal inquiry clearing Adesina, and urged the appointment of an independent outside investigator.

The letter, dated May 22, was sent to the chair of the AfDB's board, Ivorian Planning

bank governors detailing alleged embezzlement, preferential treatment for fellow Nigerians in senior appointments and the promotion of people suspected or convicted of fraud and corruption.

The bank's ethics committee

ArcelorMittal announces additional support to MOH for COVID-19 response

ArcelorMittal Liberia announces an increase in its level of support to the Ministry of Health with in-kind contributions of medical supplies and support for facilities to strengthen the national response to the spread of the new Coronavirus (i.e. COVID-19).

The latest commitment by ArcelorMittal Liberia complements earlier support from the company toward efforts by the Government of Liberia and local authorities to combat the spread of COVID-19. At the onset of the pandemic, ArcelorMittal Liberia provided USD \$ 100,000 (one hundred thousand) in medical supplies to Liberia's Ministry of Health, while at the same time, the company made donation of hygiene and sanitation supplies to local authorities in Bong, Nimba



and Grand Bassa Counties. Local communities are being educated about COVID-19, through awareness efforts supported by ArcelorMittal Liberia, working with the media.

Earlier this month, the Company delivered three oxygen concentrators and six medical oxygen tanks (dispensers) with fitters to the Ministry of Health. The additional effort will include:

Court sees mockery

Starts from back page

however, granted their motion for continuance with modification, instructing them to revert to the court in seven days, failure upon which, the court will proceed to dismiss the case under Section 18.2 and pay attention to other matters.

Judge Gbeisay further stated that the case being a sensitive "so - called high profiled case," these consistent and continuous requests for postponements speak volume and give different impression of the court and the judge presiding to the public and tend to erode public confidence in the judiciary.

He warned that the court cannot be held hostage by the prosecution until it is ready, noting that the court also reserves the right to dismiss the case under Section 18.2 of the Criminal Procedure Law for unnecessary delay as in the instant case.

He explained that in this jurisdiction, indictments are based on oral and documentary evidences introduced before a grand inquest, meaning that before the indictment is released, the State had gathered enough evidence against a defendant.

When the case was called during the last term of court, Judge Gbeisay recalls that the State prayed for three weeks continuance, adding that it was granted and the three weeks extended beyond six weeks.

At the call of the case on 13 May 2020, Judge Gbeisay noted that the State also informed the court that it had filed a motion to

nonprosequi Sirleaf, Walker, Hagba and Dennis, excluding defendant Weeks.

He further noted that the State gave the impression that it had cogent and material evidence against defendant Weeks. But instead the State has again filed a motion for continuance when the case was called on 25 May 2020, asking for another three weeks to seek an out - of - court resolution.

In the motion filed on 25 May, prosecutors said they were in consultation with defendant Weeks to find a common ground in resolving his trial for his alleged role in the LRD\$16 billion scandal.

"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 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 said.

State lawyers also argued 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.

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Renovation of a Precautionary Observation Center in Nimba County, Logistical support to Grand Bassa County Health Team, including repair of ambulances, an array of essential medical supplies such as a non-invasive ventilator, polypropylene isolation medical gowns, infrared thermometers, N95 mask respirators, overalls and face shields.

The company also chairs the West African Private Sector COVID-19 Liberia working group collaborating on strategies and interventions with the Government of Liberia (GoL), donor organizations, and civil

society.

The Company recognizes the need to actively contain the Coronavirus and to aid in public health preparedness. We stand firm in our support and commitment to the Government and people of Liberia.

About ArcelorMittal
 ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and primary steelmaking facilities in 18 countries. In 2019, ArcelorMittal had revenues of \$70.6 billion and crude steel production of 89.8 million metric tonnes, while iron ore production reached 57.1 million metric tonnes.

Français

Disparition présumée de 16 milliards au Libéria : Le procès Weeks suspendu

Des pourparlers sont actuellement en cours avec l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), Milton Weeks, pour trouver un terrain d'entente dans la résolution de son procès pour son rôle présumé dans le scandale de 16 milliards de LRD au Libéria, a déclaré l'accusation qui a ainsi demandé au tribunal pénal «C» de suspendre le procès pendant trois semaines.

«L'accusation reconnaît que la charge de fournir l'acte

d'accusation contre l'accusé incombe à l'accusation et quand l'accusation et l'accusé cherchent à trouver un terrain d'entente sur la voie à suivre pour résoudre la question afin d'économiser du temps, de l'énergie et des ressources, il convient qu'une telle demande soit faite afin que les parties aient suffisamment de temps pour discuter et parvenir à un accord pacifique avant de procéder », lit-on dans la requête du ministère public présentée au tribunal ce lundi 25 mai.

Le ministère public a fait

valoir que la pratique et la procédure dans cette juridiction veulent que lorsque les parties, de leur propre gré, entament des pourparlers pour entendre leurs préoccupations mutuelles et faire des suggestions sur la façon de résoudre un problème à régler pour trouver une solution à l'amiable ..., une requête en prorogation est le recours approprié en droit.

L'accusation a en outre indiqué que sa demande de prorogation n'est pas formulée de mauvaise foi et n'a pas pour but de dérouter ou de prolonger la procédure, en demandant au tribunal de leur accorder une réparation supplémentaire que le tribunal jugera juste et équitable dans la procédure.

M. Weeks reste le seul accusé dont les charges sont encore maintenues dans le procès de sabotage économique relatif à la disparition présumée d'une bagatelle de 16 milliards de dollars libériens après l'abandon par l'accusation des charges contre ses complices présumés, y compris Sirleaf Charles, fils de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson, DorborHagba, Richard Walker et Joseph

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Côte d'Ivoire : quelle stratégie pour le parti de l'ex-président Gbagbo ?

Après des années de boycott des élections par la frange pro-Gbagbo, le FPI en cours de réunification se lance dans un grand retour sur le terrain. Le parti appelle ses militants à se doter de documents d'identité de façon à s'inscrire massivement sur les listes électorales lors de la révision des listes entre le 10 et le 24 juin prochains. Malgré un retour peu probable de Laurent Gbagbo, le FPI entend donc peser sur les élections de 2020. Mais comment ?

« Laurent Gbagbo ne pourra probablement pas être candidat mais ça reste un crime de lèse-majesté de le dire au FPI », commente le politologue Sylvain N'Guessan. Le FPI est en cours de réunification entre la branche pro-Affi N'Guessan et celle restée fidèle à l'ancien président. Mais le Covid-19 a retardé les projets de « Congrès unitaire ». Et dans ce parti en crise de

leadership, les frictions et le flou demeurent.

Pascal Affi N'Guessan, que beaucoup considèrent toujours comme le félon, s'est déjà positionné en recours si l'ancien président n'y va pas. La nationaliste Simone Gbagbo a du mal à cacher des ambitions que Laurent Gbagbo s'emploie

à contrecarrer. D'autres noms circulent comme Hubert Oulaye, ou Justin Koné Katinan, mais aucun n'est en mesure de faire trembler au RHDP.

Rapprochement avec le PDCI

Depuis plusieurs mois le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Findley réaffirme l'engagement du Libéria envers les Africains

Le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères, Gbehzohngar M. Findley, a réaffirmé l'engagement du pays à travailler avec les Africains de la région et du reste du continent pour atteindre l'objectif de l'Afrique.

"Nous réaffirmons donc l'engagement du Libéria à travailler avec d'autres Africains dans notre région et le reste de notre continent pour promouvoir la réalisation de l'objectif de notre continent et nous devons être fiers de notre identité en tant qu'Africains", a-t-il déclaré lundi 25 mai dans une déclaration pour marquer la Journée mondiale pour l'Afrique (année où 32 États africains indépendants ont convergé en Éthiopie pour établir l'Organisation de l'unité africaine, maintenant l'Union africaine).

Il exhorte les Africains à s'efforcer d'atteindre l'objectif du continent d'une Afrique sans conflits, à faire de la paix une réalité pour tous ses habitants et à débarrasser le continent des guerres, des conflits civils, des violations des droits de l'homme et des catastrophes humanitaires.

« Sachons que la stigmatisation d'un « continent en guerre contre lui-même » est depuis longtemps attachée à l'Afrique », prévient M. Findley.

Il estime que les Africains ne peuvent parvenir à une Afrique unie et prospère que si les armes sont réduites au silence, ajoutant : "Gardons à l'esprit que notre progrès et notre prospérité ne peuvent être atteints que si les armes



sont réduites au silence ..."

Le Ministre des affaires étrangères suggère que jusqu'à l'instauration d'une paix durable dans toute l'Afrique, les efforts de son peuple en faveur de la paix et de la sécurité et du développement restent inébranlables.

À cette fin, il note que les Africains doivent faire tout ce qui est en leur pouvoir pour œuvrer à la réalisation du Programme de développement de l'Afrique 2063, qui projette clairement l'Afrique qu'ils veulent.

Alors que des mesures sont mises en place à l'échelle mondiale pour mettre fin à la terrible pandémie mondiale, COVID-19, M. Findley met les Africains au défi de continuer à déployer des efforts collectifs pour mettre fin à d'autres maux sur le continent.

« Par cela, nous créerons l'Afrique que nous voulons tous. C'est le moment de l'unité - un temps pour faire taire les armes, comme dans le succès de l'unité est sûr », poursuit-il.

M. Findley appelle les Africains de tous horizons à rester attachés aux objectifs et aux aspirations d'une Afrique unie et prospère inspirée par leurs ancêtres, soulignant que seuls les Africains transformeront l'Afrique.

Au nom du président George Manneh Weah, M. Findley félicite les Africains du monde entier alors qu'ils célèbrent ce grand jour.

Français

Disparition présumée de 16 milliards

Dennis.

En raison de la décision de l'accusation, le tribunal a annulé et rejeté mardi 19 mai une requête qui empêchait les quatre responsables de la Banque Centrale du Liberia (CBL) de quitter le Libéria. Le tribunal a par contre accédé à la demande du parquet d'abandonner les charges retenues contre eux. Dans sa décision du mardi 19 mai, le juge YamieQuiquiGbeisay a également ordonné que les cautions qu'ont payées les accusés pour leur libération sous caution leur soient immédiatement remises.

En août de l'année dernière, la Cour avait ordonné aux responsables et à l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la Banque Centrale du Liberia Milton Weeks, de déposer chacun une caution de 1 058 000 000 LD, qui, combinées, totalisaient 5 290 000 000 LD après qu'un nouvel acte d'accusation pour blanchiment de capitaux avait été ajouté au dossier.

Tous les cinq ont été inculpés le 4 mars 2019 pour sabotage économique, complot criminel, sollicitation criminelle et blanchiment d'argent pour leur rôle présumé dans le présumé scandale de 16 milliards de dollars libériens qui avait secoué le pays tout au long de 2018 et déclenché une enquête locale et internationale à la suite d'une série de manifestations ici.

Le scandale relatif à la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens a éclaté lorsque M. Weeks était gouverneur exécutif, M. Sirleaf, sous-gouverneur chargé des opérations, Dorbor M. Hagba, directeur des finances et Joseph Dennis directeur adjoint de la vérification interne de la Banque Centrale du Liberia. Cependant, les procureurs avaient abandonné les charges contre M. Sirleaf « avec préjudice » et Hagba, Walker et Dennis « sans préjudice ». Mais ce qui est arrivé aux 16 milliards de dollars en monnaie locale reste toujours un mystère.

Prononçant un non-lieu, le juge Gbeisay avait fait savoir que l'accusation ayant abandonné les charges, le tribunal n'avait plus d'autre choix que de prononcer un non-lieu.

"Bien que cette Cour sache que cette affaire est d'intérêt public, les millions de dollars allégués sont pour le peuple libérien, et en tant que tels,

ils sont impatients de voir son issue, mais cette cour n'a pas pu produire de preuves », a dit le juge Gbeisay.

Par ailleurs, la Cour suprême du Libéria avait renvoyé un mandat au tribunal pénal de première instance « C », l'ordonnant de reprendre compétence sur l'affaire du défendeur Milton Weeks et de se conformer à la loi.

Le mandat de la Cour suprême faisait suite au retrait par M. Weeks de son appel déposé devant le tribunal grande instance, indiquant qu'il acceptait désormais la décision qui avait été rendue par le juge associé Yussif D. Kaba dans l'affaire.

Les cinq accusés avaient saisi le juge Kaba à la suite de la récusation de l'affaire par le juge A. Blamo Dixon, alors président du tribunal pénal « C ». Mais le résultat de l'audience devant le juge Kaba n'avait pas plu à Weeks car la récusation du juge Dixon n'avait pas été infirmée.

M. Weeks s'était ainsi ensuite séparé du reste des accusés qui avaient accepté la décision du juge. Il avait saisi la Cour suprême tandis que Sirleaf, Hagba, Walker et Dennis étaient retournés au tribunal de première instance pour poursuivre leur procès devant le juge désigné.

Mais, vu que l'accusation a abandonné les charges de ses co-accusés, M. Weeks, par l'intermédiaire de son avocat, a déposé une stipulation conjointe de retrait et de réduction dans laquelle il a accepté de retirer l'appel annoncé et accepté la décision du juge Kaba dans la procédure, à en croire la Cour suprême.

« Il a donc demandé à cette Cour de rendre les ordonnances nécessaires menant au retrait formel de cette affaire conformément au Règlement de la Cour suprême. À cette conclusion, le conseil du requérant intimé n'a interposé aucune objection », a déclaré la Cour suprême.

Après avoir examiné la stipulation conjointe de retrait et de réduction déposée par l'avocat de M. Weeks, la Cour suprême a déclaré que l'appel annoncé par le défendeur « le retrait de l'appel ».

« Le greffier de cette cour est demandé de supprimer ledit appel de cette cour, à délivrer un certificat de retrait en faveur de l'une des parties qui en font la demande et à envoyer un mandat au juge qui préside le tribunal de première instance pour reprendre compétence sur cette affaire et procéder conformément à la loi », a déclaré la Cour suprême.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Abebe Aemro Selassie

L'Afrique a dès aujourd'hui besoin d'aide

WASHINGTON - Il est trop tôt pour dire quel tribut humain et sanitaire paiera l'Afrique subsaharienne au Covid-19. Mais l'ampleur du choc économique sur la région sera sans précédent et nous le savons déjà.

Depuis le début des années 1990, toutes sortes de missions m'ont amené à parcourir l'Afrique subsaharienne, et les difficultés économiques qui s'y préparent n'ont rien à voir avec ce que j'ai connu jusqu'alors. La récession prévue cette année pour la région - avec un PIB qui devrait se contracter d'au moins 1,6 %, et de 4 % lorsqu'on le calcule par habitant - sera au moins la plus brutale depuis 1970.

Plusieurs raisons concourent à l'énorme menace que fait planer sur la région la pandémie. Pour commencer, les précédentes crises africaines, comme celles engendrées par les catastrophes naturelles ou la chute des prix des matières premières, ont toujours eu des effets différents d'une économie à l'autre, or, cette fois, aucun pays ne sera épargné par les conséquences économiques du virus.

Si les ravages de la maladie associée demeurent jusqu'à présent limités dans certains pays d'Afrique, c'est en raison des mesures énergiques d'endiguement et de protection qui ont été prises, allant du confinement total à la fermeture des frontières. L'activité économique formelle a donc été brutalement réduite dans tous les domaines.

Ce sont les pauvres, par ailleurs, qui endureront probablement l'essentiel de la crise. Des gens qui doivent sortir chaque jour pour gagner leur vie et rapporter de quoi manger à la maison sont aujourd'hui contraints de ne pas quitter leur domicile et de respecter la distanciation physique. Bien peu auront la possibilité de travailler chez eux.

La détérioration marquée de l'environnement extérieur ne fait qu'ajouter à ces problèmes. Le durcissement des conditions financières et la chute brutale des prix des matières premières (notamment du pétrole) exacerbent les difficultés que rencontrent de nombreuses économies.

Enfin, les capacités de la plupart des pays d'Afrique subsaharienne à mettre en place quelque chose qui s'approcherait d'une politique budgétaire et monétaire adaptée à la situation sont malheureusement très limitées. Nombre d'entre eux connaissent de hauts niveaux d'endettement et ne disposent que de peu d'épargne ; concomitamment, au moment même où elles auraient été les plus utiles, les possibilités de financements privés extérieurs se sont raréfiées.

Que vont faire les gouvernements de la région ? La première de leurs priorités est bien sûr de protéger la santé et le bien-être de leurs concitoyens. Cela nécessite une augmentation conséquente des dépenses, afin d'améliorer l'état de préparation des systèmes de santé et de fournir de l'argent liquide aux groupes les plus démunis ou de débloquer des transferts en nature. Partout où c'est possible, les pouvoirs publics devraient aussi envisager d'étendre leurs aides en liquidités aux petites et moyennes entreprises, afin de garantir leur survie en cette période difficile. Cette assistance doit être dispensée en toute transparence et en respectant les normes de

gouvernance les plus exigeantes.

Mais, plus que jamais, les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne ont aussi besoin d'aide financière extérieure à grande échelle. Le Fonds monétaire international et la Banque mondiale estiment que la région va être confrontée, en 2020, à un déficit de financement public (dans l'hypothèse d'une politique budgétaire modestement solidaire) d'au moins 114 milliards de dollars. Les gouvernements africains ne peuvent réunir à eux seuls une telle somme.

Pour sa part, le FMI peut fournir cette année près de 19 milliards de dollars de financements rapidement disponibles aux pays d'Afrique, dont 26 ont déjà reçu des fonds de ses dispositifs d'urgence. En outre, 19 des pays les plus pauvres de la région vont bénéficier d'un allègement direct de leur dette, le Fonds fiduciaire d'assistance et de riposte aux catastrophes du FMI fournissant son concours, sous forme de dons, pour honorer les paiements au FMI du service de leur dette.

D'autres partenaires du développement, comme le Groupe de la Banque mondiale et la Banque africaine de développement, renforcent également leurs financements. Et les pays du G20 ont fait un grand pas en décidant de suspendre jusqu'à la fin de l'année 2020 les paiements du service de la dette des pays pauvres qui ont besoin d'un allègement.

En dépit de ces initiatives, les gouvernements africains sont toujours confrontés à un déficit résiduel de financement significatif, d'au moins 44 milliards de dollars pour l'année 2020.

Pour la communauté internationale, tout plaide en faveur d'une intervention qui permettrait de solder ce déficit. Fournir les fonds nécessaires augmenterait considérablement la capacité des pays d'Afrique à prendre des mesures budgétaires permettant d'atténuer les effets destructeurs de la pandémie. Et les prêteurs internationaux réaliseraient l'un des investissements à long terme de la plus grande importance stratégique qui soit en apportant en appui de la reprise économique régionale une aide supplémentaire.

D'une façon ou d'une autre, ce qui se passera en Afrique déterminera ce siècle. Dans dix ans précisément, l'Afrique subsaharienne représentera plus de la moitié de l'accroissement annuel de la main-d'œuvre mondiale. En outre, la hausse marginale de la consommation mondiale et de la demande d'investissement reposera de plus en plus sur cette région. Plus riche sera la population africaine, plus solide sera la main-d'œuvre mondiale à l'avenir. Et plus l'urbanisation du continent tiendra compte des exigences climatiques, plus notre environnement à tous sera préservé.

Les montants en question sont sans aucun doute supportables. Ainsi 100 milliards de dollars dans un nouveau plan de soutien à la reprise économique de la région ne représenteraient-ils que 2 % de l'effort budgétaire consenti ces dernières semaines par les pays du G7 et des sommes injectées dans leurs économies. Étant donné la faiblesse actuelle, partout dans le monde, des taux d'intérêt, il serait difficile d'imaginer un moment plus opportun pour prendre à l'égard de l'Afrique ce type d'engagement - difficile également de concevoir un investissement plus important pour l'avenir de notre planète.

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

ON "TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY"

A Desktop Research and Education Exercise

"For the form of democracy, see Ochlocracy; for the Flesh Field album, see Tyranny of the Majority; and for the concept in Engineering, see Tyranny of numbers" - Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia.

Tyranny of or by the majority and (of or and by the masses) is weakness inherent in *democratic majority rule* in which the majority of an electorate pursues its own interests, exclusively, at the expense of those in the minority. This condition results in **suppression** and **oppression** of minority groups, comparable to a **tyrant** or **despot**, argued John Stuart Mill in his book, *On Liberty* in 1859.

The scenarios in which perceptions of political tyranny occur are very specific; they involve distortions of **preconditions** for the democratic process:

- **Excessive centralization** of socio-cultural, administrative, economic and political **power** occurs when the centralized power of a **federation** makes all decision that should be made at the **local** constituent level, thus breaking with the commitment to the **subsidiarity principle**. Typical solutions during in this condition are **concurrent majority** and **super majority** rules.
- **Abandonment of rationality**: when, as Tocqueville argued, that "when a decision which bases its claim to rule upon numbers, not upon rightness or excellence is made". The use of **public consultation**, **technical consulting bodies**, and other similar mechanisms help to improve **rationality** of decisions before voting on them. **Judicial review** (for example, **declaration of nullity of the decision**) is the typical way after the vote.

In both cases, in a context of a national political rule, **constitutional** limits on the powers of a legislative body and the introduction of a **Bill of Rights** have been used to prevent this problem. **Separation of powers**, for example, of a **legislative and executive** majority actions, subject to review by the **judiciary**, may also be implemented to prevent the problem from happening internally in a government.

Terms

A term used in ancient Hellenistic Greece for oppressive popular rule was **ochlocracy** (which means "mob rule"), while **tyranny** meant rule by one person, whether undesirable or not. While the specific phrase "**tyranny of the majority**" is frequently attributed to various **national Founding Fathers**, only John Adams, of the United States, is known to have used it, *arguing against government by a single unicameral elected body*. Writing in defense of the Constitution in March 1788, Adams referred to "a **single sovereign assembly of which each member . . . is only accountable to his constituents**; and the majority of members who have been of one party as **tyranny of the majority** in attempt to highlight the need of a "a **mixed government**, consisting of **three branches**".

Constitutional author James Madison, also of the USA, presented the similar idea in **Federalist 10**, citing the destabilizing effect of "**the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority**" on a government, though the essay, as a whole, was focused on the Constitution's efforts to mitigate **factionalism** generally. Later users included Sir Edmund Burke of Britain's United Kingdom who wrote in a 1790 letter that "**The tyranny of a multitude is a multiplied tyranny.**" That argument was, further, popularized by John Stuart Mill in *On Liberty* (1859).

Law-giver, author Friedrich Nietzsche used the phrase in his first sequel to *Human, All Too Human* (1879). Also, Author Ayn Rand wrote that "individual rights are not subject to a public vote, the political function of rights is to protect, precisely, minorities

from oppression by majorities and that the smallest minority on earth is the individual".

In Herbert Marcuse's 1965 essay *Repressive Tolerance*, he said "tolerance is extended to policies, conditions, and modes of behavior which should not be tolerated because they are impeding, if not destroying, the chances of creating an existence without fear and misery and that this sort of tolerance strengthens the tyranny of the majority against which authentic liberals protested".

In 1994, legal scholar Lani Guinier used the phrase as the title for a collection of his Law review articles.

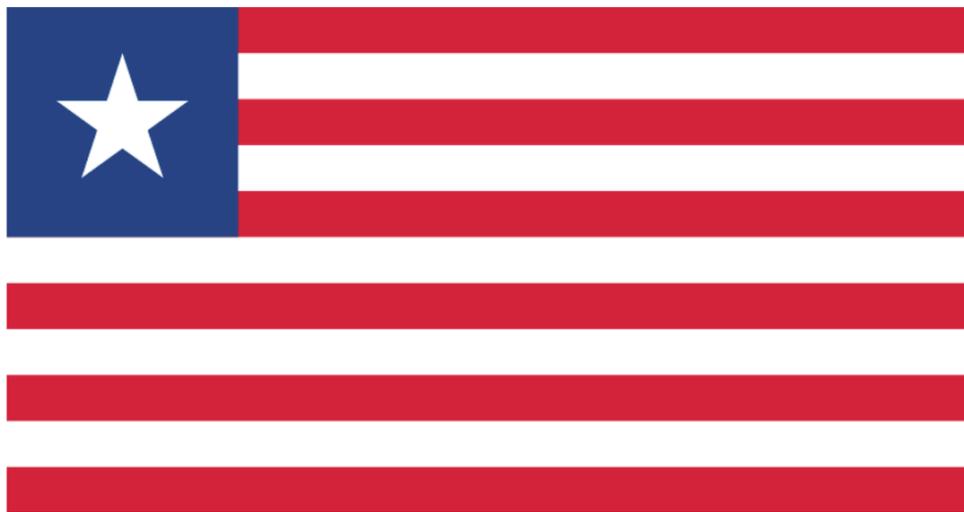
Examples

The "no tyranny and tyranny" situations can be characterized in any simple democratic decision-making context, as a **deliberative assembly**.

Abandonment of rationality

Author Herbert Spencer, in *The Right to Ignore the State* (1851), pointed the problem out with the following example: "Suppose, for the sake of argument, that, struck by some **Malthusian panic**, a legislature duly representing public opinion were to enact that all children born during the next ten years should be drowned. Does anyone think such an enactment would be warrantable? If not, there is, evidently, a limit to the power of a majority".

No Tyranny and Tyranny scenarios



Time and, particularly space do not permit exhaustive exposition of these very important topics, in terms of **examples**.

Concurrent majority

Succession of the **Confederate States of America** from the **US Federation** was anchored by a version of **subsidiarity** found within the **Doctrines of John C. Calhoun**. **Antebellum South Carolina** utilized Calhoun's doctrines in the **Old South** as public policy, adopted from his theory of **concurrent majority**. This "**localism**" strategy was presented as a mechanism to circumvent Calhoun's perceived **tyranny of the majority** in the United States. Each state presumptively held the Sovereign power to block federal laws that infringed upon **states' rights** autonomously. Calhoun's policies directly influenced Southern public policy regarding **slavery** and undermined the **Supremacy Clause**, power granted to the federal government. The subsequent creation of the **Confederate States of America** catalyzed the **American Civil War**.

Nine-teen (19) century **concurrent majority theories** held logical counterbalances to standard tyranny of the majority harms originating from **Antiquity** and onward. Essentially, illegitimate or temporary coalitions that held majority volume could, disproportionately, outweigh and hurt any significant minority by nature and sheer volume. Calhoun's contemporary doctrine was presented as one of limitation within American democracy to prevent

traditional tyranny, whether actual or imagined.

Viewpoints of Authors noted

Critic and author Robert A. Dahl argued that the **tyranny of the majority** is a spurious dilemma. An **antagonist** asked, are you trying to say that "**majority tyranny is simply an illusion**? If so, that is going to be small comfort to a minority whose fundamental rights are trampled on by an abusive majority. I think you need to consider seriously two possibilities: **first, that a majority will infringe on the rights of a minority; and second, that a majority may oppose democracy itself**".

An Advocate: "Let's take up the **first**. The issue is sometimes presented as a **paradox**. If a majority is not entitled to do so, then it is thereby deprived of its rights; but if a majority is entitled to do so, then it can deprive the minority of its rights. The **paradox** is supposed to show that no solution can be both **democratic and just**. But the dilemma seems to be **spurious**. Of course a majority might have the power or strength to deprive a minority of its political rights, the question is whether a majority may use its **primary political rights, rightly, to deprive, wrongfully, a minority of its own primary political rights**".

"The answer is clearly no. To put it another way, logically, this action may not and cannot be true that the members of an association who ought to govern themselves by the democratic process, and at the same time a majority of the association **may and can properly strip a minority of its primary political rights**. For, by doing so the majority would deny the minority the rights necessary to the democratic process. In effect, the majority would **affirm** that the association ought not to govern itself by the democratic process. **They may not have it both ways**".

The **Antagonist**: "Your argument may be perfectly logical. **But majorities are not always perfectly logical**. They may believe in democracy to some extent and yet violate its principles. Even worse, they may **not** believe in democracy and yet they may cynically use the democratic process to destroy democracy without some limits, both moral and constitutional, the democratic process becomes self-contradictory and does not fulfil its democratic **obligations**".

Advocate: "That is exactly the case to be shown. Of course democracy has limits. But the point is that these are built into the very nature of the process itself. If one exceeds those limits, then one violates, unnecessarily, the democratic process".

Trampling the rights of minorities

Regarding recent American politics (specifically initiatives), Congressman Donovan et al. argue that: "One of the original concerns about direct democracy is the potential it has to allow a majority of voters to trample the rights of minorities. Many still worry that the process can be used to harm gays and lesbians as well as ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities . . . Recent scholarly research shows that the initiative process is sometimes prone to produce laws that disadvantage, relatively, powerless minorities . . . State and local ballot initiatives have been used to undo policies - such as school desegregation, protections against job and housing discrimination, and affirmative action - that minorities have secured from legislatures".

Ex-Pres. Sirleaf praises Weah

Former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has given a thumbs up to the George Weah's government for its handling of the coronavirus pandemic here, saying they had learned lesson from the country's 2014 Ebola crisis.

"Liberia's response to COVID-19 is as good as it can be with the available resources that they have. They have already put into place the necessary protocols, using the examples of Ebola," former president Sirleaf told CNN's Christiane

of confirmed coronavirus cases in the country so far.

"We're very pleased that our numbers have continued to remain small. Our effort despite our inadequacies in resources have been as robust as they can be." Said Mrs. Sirleaf.

However, despite the heap of praises, Mrs. Sirleaf fears that an explosion in the number of cases as is being predicted in some places is a cause for concern.

"I think our biggest concern would be should we have a spread as has been predicted in

as a global good, with access to everyone."

The former president stressed that global collaboration was essential in the response to Ebola, "This was an extraordinary effort of alliance, cooperation, collective action and I hope that that's what we'll see from COVID-19. That we're going to see global alliances improve, more collaboration. We live today in an unequal world. And COVID-19, I hope, will lead to consciousness, to promising action, to reduce the inequities of the world."



Christiane Amanpour

Mrs. Sirleaf

Amanpour in a recent interview.

Mrs. Sirleaf further told her host that the government has established a coordinating mechanism, as her regime did in 2014 during the Ebola crisis. "And I believe they've started to mobilize partnership support by reaching out to their major bilateral, multilateral partners who are responding," she continued.

The former president also did not hold back her satisfaction over the low level

some places, we will not have the means to respond adequately to fight it," Mrs. Sirleaf bemoaned.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Sirleaf also believes that a global effort can be a strong force in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We must all come together with a strong call for equity when it comes to the means to combat the virus. It was Ebola. Today it's COVID. Tomorrow it's likely to be something else. A global remedy that may come from vaccines of other measures (should) also be seen

Sirleaf also cautioned that this global cooperation must continue as the world recovers economically, "We hope that the developed world is going to respond to and see that by supporting Africa to recover, not only from this, but recover from the economic fallout that we know is going to be our greatest challenge, we expect that their response would be one that will ensure a better Africa, but in return, and show that they too are safer in a developed world."

Jeety rescues

Cont'd from page 6

water to security officers assigned at a check point.

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

HEAL, Orphans Concern

Cont'd from page 5

The organization believes that "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves," he says.

He continues that the first phase of the relief efforts has been going on for the last month and a half, which is the distribution of food and water.

While still ongoing, they will transition to COVID-19 prevention by providing 2000 masks and sanitary products to the orphans and their caretakers.

Sawboh details that HEAL Inc. believes that food is essential, but the safety of the children is paramount.

He also states that he is glad that during this pandemic, Orphans Concerns and HEAL

Inc. are coordinating to bring relief to the orphans.

Speaking on behalf of Orphans Concern, Mr. Amos Sawboh says he is grateful to work with HEAL Inc. and its sister organization, HEAL Inc. Liberia during this emergency.

Considering the many challenges orphanages across Liberia are faced with, the partnership with HEAL Inc. has brought some semblance of hope to orphans.

He concludes that they are making sure orphans are safe during this crisis, and with HEAL's and its donors' support, they will reach their target to bring immense relief to the orphans.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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Cont'd from page 7

US urges probe

institution as one that does not uphold high standards of ethics and governance.

"This is a serious risk when we need strong confidence in

the AfDB to play an influential role in the current global economic and health crisis, and when many shareholders are seeking legislative support for

payments under the recently-concluded General Capital Increase."

Adesina is the first Nigerian president of the AfDB, in which Nigeria is the top stakeholder with nine percent.

Mnuchin's letter came after the whistleblowers called for an independent inquiry after their complaint gained no traction.

The internal probe was tainted by "irregularities and manipulations", a group of anonymous "concerned staff members of the AfDB" said in a letter to bank governors.

The AfDB did not immediately react publicly to the letter.

The bank has 80 state

shareholders, 54 of which are African. The others are from the Americas, Asia and Europe.

An Ivorian economist, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the letter was a clear sign of US "intentions to get Adesina out."

But, warned the economist, "if the United States disowns Adesina, the AfDB's credibility and reputation with international investors will come into question. You can't win a tug-of-war with the United States."

The source added, though,

"Adesina has also made plenty of enemies in his managerial style at the bank."

An AfDB executive told AFP: "The president has too much power. He appoints whoever he wants. Too many managers have left in the last five years."

"Far-reaching reform is needed to curb his power," the executive said, who asked not to be named.





Court sees mockery in CBL case



By **Winston W. Parley**

Criminal Court “C” Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay has blasted prosecutors over their behavior he described as “making mockery of the Court and the Justice System.”

The judge anger was predicated upon a request by prosecutors to suspend former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive

Governor Milton Weeks’ trial for three weeks to permit ongoing mitigation between the state and the accused.

Mr. Weeks remains the lone defendant in the LRD\$16 billion economic sabotage trial after prosecutors nolleprosequi (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 he challenged a previous decision at the Supreme Court.

Ruling Tuesday, 26 May on prosecution’s motion for continuance which was filed earlier on Monday, 25 May, Judge Gbeisay wondered why the State had filed the motion for continuance “for another three weeks” to seek an out-of-court resolution ... after nearly a year since the indictment was released.

“The behavior of the State’s Lawyers in which the defense has agreed, seems to be making mockery to the Court and the Justice System. Let the record [show] that this Judge was recalled to preside over this case, because the resident judge of this court had earlier recused himself from this case and another judge has been objected to by the State from presiding over the case,” he said.

While the judge appears unhappy with the prosecutors’ action, he

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Former Roma player Joseph Bouasse dies aged 21

Former Roma player Joseph Bouasse Perfection has passed away aged just 21, it has been confirmed.

The midfielder, who was picked up by the Serie A side following a successful trial back in 2016, suffered a heart attack and died on Sunday evening.

A club statement read: “The club is desperately saddened to learn of the untimely death of former

Primavera player, Joseph Bouasse Perfection.

“The thoughts of everyone at AS Roma are with all those closest to him.”

Former Roma defender Antonio Rudiger, now of Chelsea, added on social media: “Horrible news - I’m so sad about it. Rest in peace, my brother. A young talent gone too soon from us. Condolences to the entire family!”

La Liga club Sevilla added: “Heartbreaking news. Our



thoughts are with Joseph’s family, friends, and everyone at AS Roma. Rest in peace, Joseph.”

Bouasse was allegedly trafficked into Italy as a migrant back in 2015 before impressing then boss Luciano Spalletti enough to earn a deal.

He left Roma in 2018 without making an appearance before joining Romanian side Universitatea Cluj earlier this year.

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