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-following violent protest



Orange CEO, Mr. Mamadou Coulibaly



Senator Abraham Darius

State of Emergency meaningless

-Sen. Dillon

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Continental News

DR Congo's deadliest Ebola outbreak declared over

The worst-ever outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo has officially been declared over, almost two years after it began.

No new cases of the disease have been reported in the north-east of the country, where dozens of armed group operate, since 27 April.

Some 2,280 people died since the outbreak began in August 2018.

The deadliest outbreak on record was in West Africa between 2014 and 2016 with more than 11,000 deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) said the end of the outbreak in the east, where insecurity is also endemic, was a cause for celebration as it had a been a tough and often dangerous two years for those involved in fighting it.

However, DR Congo, which is the size of mainland western Europe, is dealing a fresh Ebola outbreak in the north-west of the country. The case in Mbandaka was announced on 1 June where 13 people have since died. Genetic analysis shows it is a different strain of the virus to that found in the east.

The WHO in DR Congo has

told the BBC the situation in Mbandaka - the country's 11th outbreak - is nearly under control.

But new Ebola outbreaks are to be expected given the existence of the virus in animals in many parts of DR Congo, the WHO says.

For an outbreak to be declared over, there has to be a 42-day period since the last positive case was tested negative and discharged from

hospital.

Why did it take so long to end?

The outbreak in eastern DR Congo was the 10th to have hit the country since 1976, when the virus was first discovered by a group of scientists who decided to call it Ebola after a local river.

Health Minister Eteni Longondo described it as "the longest, most complex and deadliest" in the DR Congo's

history.

Decades of conflict in the east have led to widespread mistrust of the authorities, which has made it harder for health workers to treat sick and at-risk people. BBC health reporter Rhoda Odhiambo says there had been more than 420 attacks on health facilities in the region by armed groups since 2018, which greatly hampered efforts to contain the spread of the disease.

Another challenge in tackling the eastern outbreak was its geographical span across 1200km (475 miles) and three provinces - North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu, she says.

Fear of the deadly Ebola virus - which sees patients suffer gruesome symptoms and rules out customary burial rites - has been another challenge. WHO's regional director to Africa says the end of the outbreak was only

possible because of collaboration. "This is a sign of hope that with solidarity and science epidemics can be controlled," Dr Matshidiso Moeti said. The largest-ever Ebola vaccine campaign was a key factor in containing its spread. The introduction of two experimental vaccines saw more than 320,000 people inoculated.

Health workers and Congolese authorities have mostly succeeded in preventing the spread to neighbouring countries.

In Uganda last year, a five-year-old boy and his grandmother died days after visiting family across the border in DR Congo.

Months later, Tanzania was criticised by the WHO for failing to provide information about suspected Ebola infections, including one person who died. BBC



The largest-ever Ebola vaccine campaign was a key factor in containing its spread

Ghana to reconstruct building in Nigerian embassy

Ghana's foreign affairs minister has said the country will reconstruct a building demolished inside the Nigerian High Commission compound in Accra.

Armed men reportedly stormed the compound last

week and destroyed buildings under construction. Two people have been arrested over the incident.

A businessman who had previously claimed that he owned the land where the building was being put up had

led the demolition operation, according to an article posted on the Nigerian High Commission website in Ghana.

"The man showed up last week with some papers to support his claim and began to knock down the fence surrounding the building," the article quotes a source at the ministry of foreign affairs as saying.

Ghanaian Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey said the government would restore the building to its original state as soon as possible.

She added that the High Commission will be issued with a title deed for the land.

Ms Botchwey said Ghana was committed to ensuring the safety of members of the diplomatic corps and that her government was engaging Nigeria to calm tension between the two countries. BBC



The building was intended to serve as residence for staff and visiting diplomats

Senegalese president goes into quarantine



President Macky Sall is self-isolating as a precaution

Senegal's President Macky Sall has quarantined himself after coming in contact with someone who tested positive for coronavirus.

The president himself tested negative but will self-isolate for two weeks as a precaution, his office said in a short televised statement.

Senegalese lawmaker Yeya

Diallo announced earlier on Wednesday that she had tested positive for the virus.

She called on people to take essential personal measures such as maintaining hygiene and social distancing.

Senegal has so far confirmed 6,129 cases including 93 deaths. BBC

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EDITORIAL

Back to status quo

WE MAY HAVE sounded to some like prophets of doom when we alarmed in a recent editorial that Liberia is seriously slipping into a dilemma, as the country embarks on easing some restrictions, for eventual resumption of normal activities amid a rapid increase of confirmed cases of the coronavirus. Sorry. We are not doom sayers.

BUT THE REALITY has set in. Less than a week after we made that alert, the country is returning to the status quo, as President George Manneh Weah has extended the State of Emergency by additional 30 days and reversed the 9:00pm lockdown to 6:00pm with strict mandate for the enforcement of all health protocols, including compulsory wearing of facemasks in public places at all times, constant hands wash and social distancing, among others.

AS WE FELT then, and now, not much progress has been achieved that should inform the government it is time to ease restrictions and open up the economy. The authorities had announced resumption of normal flights at the Roberts international Airport as of June 22, 2020 but President Weah has deferred the schedule by one week, setting June 28th instead, as the new date for flights to resume at the airport.

THE GOVERNMENT SAYS this is necessary to make sure proper measures are put in place to keep travelers and airport employees safe amid upsurge of the pandemic.

BESIDES, PRESIDENT WEAH has mandated the Minister of Health Dr. Wilehmina Jallah to announce and make public details of other health measures aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus in the country.

WE ARE BAFFLE but not ruffle. In the first place, what really informed the President to have begun easing restrictions when statistics from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL, show clearly and consistently that cases are on the increase since the country's index case was pronounced on March 16, 2020?

SOMETHING SEEMS FUNDAMENTALLY wronged here. We suspect that the President is being misinformed about progress from the frontline in the ongoing Covid-19 fight and therefore, misled to taking actions or making pronouncements that he would have to go back on, as in the case instant.

ARE HEALTH AUTHORITIES being honest with the President on the health crisis or are they sweet talking in his ears for self-interest, while sweeping the real issues under the rug? Something smells fishy here.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, recently challenged the Government of Liberia, particularly, health authorities leading the fight against the COVID-19 to provide "Clear, measurable, and easy-to-understand" indicators on progress made in the fight, if there were any justifiable reasons to continue the lockdown.

NGAFUAN: "RELYING MORE on the advice of health authorities during a health crisis is the prudent thing to do. However, the Liberian people deserve more concrete and detailed indicators to justify the extension of a lockdown than a nebulous unresolved crisis."

INDEED, THIS IS the quandary we seem to find ourselves right now as a people: Forward never; backward to sickness, poverty, misery and death. Only we Liberians can liberate ourselves from this deadly pandemic by putting all hands on deck and strictly observing all health protocols to stay safe.

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

COMMENTARY

By Alexandra Borchardt

The Necessity of Diversity in the Digital Newsroom

Demographically uniform newsrooms have been producing uniformly homogeneous content for decades, and the lack of diversity in the media has actually worsened in recent decades. The most likely reason is that industry leaders continue to regard the digital transformation as a matter of technology and process, rather than of talent and human capital.

MUNICH - When a local radio station in Charlotte, North Carolina started a podcasting competition in its community, it was prepared for many contingencies, except one: that the response would overwhelm the station's server. The initiative was aimed at increasing on-air diversity, and tens of thousands of people wanted in. Groups and individuals from all walks of life submitted more than 370 ideas for podcasts, and 33,000 listeners logged on to vote for them. What started as a one-time experiment will now be a regular feature.

Journalism has always suffered from a lack of diversity. Demographically uniform newsrooms have been producing uniformly homogeneous content for decades. And while editors around the world have increasingly recognized that this is a problem, too little has been done to address it.

One reason, ironically, is a preoccupation with digital change. "There has been so much focus on digital transformation in recent years, the question of diversity has had to stand aside," explains Olle Zachrisson of the Swedish public broadcaster Sveriges Radio, in a study comparing diversity efforts in the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Germany. And yet, as the newsroom in Charlotte discovered, diversity is not just an added bonus; it is at the very core of audience engagement today.

In explaining the business ethos of the digital age, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has argued that it is all about "customer obsession as opposed to competitor obsession." For the media, then, the guiding principle should be "audience first." And that means using data to understand and cater better to it.

Not long ago, editorial choices were guided mostly by gut feelings and assumptions, whereas now they are often informed by analytical metrics and revealed truths about audience behavior. Some of these revelations are uncomfortable. Editors can no longer fool themselves about their journalism's real-world impact. They now know that even the best stories tend to reach just a fraction of their hoped-for audience.

Complicating matters further, newsrooms have discovered that demand can peak at times when they have no new offerings, or when what they're serving is not what consumers are seeking. In surveys like the Digital News Report, respondents often complain that the media offer too much negativity and volume, and too little explanation and relevant coverage.

Before digitalization, journalists didn't have to think about their audiences as much as they do now. Newspapers were money-printing machines - the advertising dollars poured in regardless of what would now be called "content." Likewise, public-service media faced almost no competition. But now that digital information is a commodity, with a few major platforms controlling its distribution,

audience loyalty has become a matter of survival.

Many newsrooms were entirely unprepared for this new reality. They don't even know who their potential new customers are, let alone how to reach them and win their trust. The problem is not just that newsroom homogeneity results in an incomplete view of the world and of the reading/listening public. It is that even when "outsiders" do land a job in this kind of environment, they tend to adapt to the dominant culture rather than challenge it. As a result, newsrooms remain ill equipped to reach out to new audiences.

The lack of diversity in the media has actually worsened in recent decades. Back in the heyday of local news, newsrooms were no less white or male, but being a journalist at least didn't require a university degree - only a willingness to dive in and chase leads. Yet as the industry became concentrated more in big cities and employment prospects elsewhere diminished, education became yet another entry barrier. While the better-educated candidates moved up to higher-profile jobs, many others left the profession altogether.

In keeping with the industrial society of the time, the occupational model that followed from these changes was hierarchical. As with teachers and their pupils, preachers and their congregations, and experts and the lay public, education conferred status and authority upon journalists. The public was a passive recipient of information, not an engaged participant in a broader conversation.

Clinging to this hierarchical structure is now a recipe for failure. The digital world of information is one of choice and abundance, but also of considerable confusion about what is true and false. Trust is a news organization's most valuable asset, and the task for journalists is both to challenge and inspire their audience, and to invite conversations among them.

That can't happen unless journalism represents the society in which it is operating. Unfortunately, a recent global survey of media leaders finds that while editors see progress toward gender diversity, much more must be done to achieve racial and political diversity, as well as a balance between "urban" and "rural" backgrounds. The most likely reason for this failure is that industry leaders continue to regard the digital transformation as a matter of technology and process, rather than of talent and human capital.

Fortunately, the digital transformation represents an opportunity. As Jeff Jarvis of the City University of New York explains, industry leaders should "Try listening to, valuing, and serving the people and communities who were long ignored and left unserved by our old industry, mass media." All news organizations should take Jarvis's advice - and not just because it is the right thing to do. Their own survival depends on it.



Lord, how the sickness will not spread sef?

Dear Father:

Hmmm, it look like we nageh inside again oo. Our people say the sickness is spreading like wide fire so they na push the curfew and lockdown to one more month oo.

Hmmm, yor will stay long inside.

Father, it na fun oo. The people say the number of sick people keep going up and it na easy. Right now all the Fiefdom in our village na register case.

You mean real case, because it look like the sickness in yor village is different from the other villagesoo?

What do you mean Father?

Ah, in yor village, it look like the sickness can only catch big people and dead body oo?

Um, Father this one too heavy for my mouth oo, because our big people when they go to the sick bush they can be taking picture and putting it on face to face. They who can catch it can be enjoying in the sick bush oo. But the people who can died in the lay sick homes they get around the village da the ones they can say died from the sickness.
Na waoo.

I tell you o Father. When I tell you our people joking around here other people can be saying I too harsh. Tell me Father, where in the other villages will their leader refused to go do his test after coming in contact with a helper ehn. Then when the people forced him na, he come outside to pretend like he na sick or he too big to do his test.

Na, you see what happening, they can't even force the people to wear mask because they are not leading the people by example. They say one thing and do the other. Na the people say they will nawear the mask-see trouble.

Hmm, we inside, the child who can't hear can feel. We all feeling it naehn. We said we wanted monkey eyebolt-monkey eyebolt is here live.

I know ehn.

Yes ooFather. They say the man can be having party every weekend to that his place that get Bob Marley village name. So tell me na, how the thing will na spread. You who the leader you na want to observe the social distancing but da the people must observe while you keep throwing party.Ehn, no wonder only the big, big people name we can hear in this sickness bisnay.

Yes, oo Father. The other day one of the chiefs from the Traditional Council, the man who heading the sick homes bisnay in our village threw a very big party for his girlfriend on the same day they told us to start going back indoors at 6pm.

Can you imagine?

Oh, Father, so when we say our big, big people in this village are not serious, they think we are saying it out of disrespect, but that the truth we can be talking so. The people hay hard like turtle back.

But we inside, ehn we say we will na learn. No wonder we na turned to the poorest village in the whole wide world.

Tell me something!

Oh yes Father, we are the poorest village in the whole wide world with a "millionaire" leader. The man who only chop our village king before he could put a decent roof over his head.

So, what he did with all the millions his people say he get na?

Hmmm, Father da one my mouth na able it oo. But one thing we know is that the Oldman up there can't sleep. Anything you steal to get will not last with you. Let them be there and think they are enjoying with their small, small girlfriend them. This too shall pass.

OPINION

By Chris Patten

The China "Constrainment" Doctrine

Liberal democracies must defend their belief in a global order based on credible international agreements and the rule of law. So, although democratic governments should be prepared to offer China incentives for good behavior, they must be prepared to deter bad behavior vigorously.

LONDON - It is necessary to know some history in order to draw the right lessons from it. All too often, alleged parallels and similarities seem far-fetched on close examination. So, when it was suggested recently that China's recent behavior - bullying, lying, and violating treaties - was similar to that of Germany prior to World War I, I was doubtful.

In 1911, for example, Germany's Wilhelm II provoked an international crisis by deploying a gunboat to Agadir, Morocco to try to squeeze concessions out of France and drive a wedge between that country and Britain. Instead, the episode convinced France and Britain of Germany's aggressive intentions - a conclusion borne out three years later by the outbreak of war.

Maybe it is too pessimistic to draw similar conclusions today about the behavior of the Communist Party of China (CPC). But the events of the last few months surely call for a coordinated response by the rest of the world, and especially by liberal democracies. If Chinese President Xi Jinping's aggressive behavior is to be discouraged, we need to get together and stick together.

The list of China's transgressions is long. While the rest of the world has been distracted by a pandemic that spread in part because of the CPC's secrecy and lies, China has increased its military threats against Taiwan and reneged on treaty-based promises to respect Hong Kong's traditional freedoms under the rule of law.

Xi's regime has also harassed other countries' ships in the South China Sea, which China claims as its own despite rulings against it by an international tribunal in The Hague. And most recently, Chinese forces ambushed and killed Indian soldiers on the countries' disputed Himalayan border.

All the while, China has maintained its policy of economic extortion, issuing mafia-style threats to international companies to accept its own narrative of current and past events as the price of doing business. And when countries have the temerity to cross China's government (for example, by seeking an independent inquiry into the origins of COVID-19), it imposes economic and trade sanctions against them.

So, what should the rest of the world do?

First, we should reject the idea that trying to deter or prevent this sort of behavior amounts to Sinophobia. It is not hostility to China that should motivate us, but rather a desire to push back in a measured and coherent way against the aggression of Xi and the CPC.

Second, we should be more clear-sighted about the nature of what is happening and what needs to be done.

I recently heard one of China's apologists in the United Kingdom, a prominent cheerleader for the earlier so-called golden age of Sino-British relations, say that it would be wrong for Britain to "pick a fight" with China while trying to engineer a post-pandemic recovery. But it is the CPC that is picking a fight with us - and particularly with those of us who believe in the value of the "liberal democracy" that Xi denounced in his instructions to party and government officials back in 2013.

We should of course try to work with China in areas where global cooperation is vital, such as tackling climate change and addressing the threat of antimicrobial resistance. But in doing so, we need to remember that China regularly breaches or distorts the agreements it signs, for example on trade, investment, intellectual property, and the international health regulations that were negotiated after the 2002-03 SARS outbreak.

Beyond that, what should a country like the UK do?

For starters, as Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has argued, there should be a central body under the prime minister that provides an informed focus for UK policy regarding China.

As part of this effort, we need to commission research on who benefits most from Chinese investment in the UK and from our bilateral trade, where China runs a huge surplus. We should prevent Chinese firms' predatory purchase of British and other Western technology companies and seek to be as independent of China as possible in new digital technologies. More generally, we should identify which sectors depend on inputs from China, diversify our purchases where that is possible, and, where it is not, make more of these products ourselves.

We should also look again at our higher-education funding model, which has become far too dependent on recruiting Chinese students, and try to recruit more from elsewhere in Asia and Africa.

Having thus provided ourselves with robust answers to the CPC's "useful idiots" who define the UK's national interest on China's terms, we should seek to coordinate our approach to Xi with other liberal democracies - including India, Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, our European Union allies, and the United States. Forming a wide compact of this sort will be easier when there is once again a US president who believes in alliances. And in due course, the US will hopefully return to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact and broaden it to include countries like the UK.

The aim is not to start another cold war, but to practice what the late Gerald Segal called "constrainment" vis-à-vis China. Liberal democracies must defend their belief in a global order based on credible international agreements and the rule of law. So, although we should be prepared to offer China incentives for good behavior, we must be prepared to deter bad behavior vigorously.

Above all, we must not allow China the opportunity to divide and rule. The world's democracies must unite and openly show Xi's regime exactly what we stand for.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Stimulus package will reach targeted people

--Minister Tarpeh

By Lewis S. Teh

Commerce Minister and Head of the COVID - 19 Food Steering Committee Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh says no

"As you can see the government continues to distribute the stimulus food package, and we are excited that our people are in huge [queues] to receive their food," he said Wednesday, 24 June at the Richard Dickson High School

were seen standing in long lines to receive the government stimulus food package, days after President George Manneh Weah announced extension of the State of Emergency by additional 30 days.

However a lot of those turning out in their numbers to receive food ignored health protocols of social distancing at various school campuses, despite officials' warning that cases of the virus continue to rise and urging the public to observe all health measures initially announced here.

The World Food Program (WFP) is carrying out the food distribution exercise in various communities.

Minister Tarpeh says his team is getting feedback that the food is small, noting that all he can say is to appeal to the people to accept what is given to them because that's what the government has for now.

He says they are expecting to complete about 37 communities by this weekend, after which the team will be heading into the other counties.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



matter the difficulties the team faces, the government stimulus food package will reach the targeted number of people who are to benefit.

on the Capitol bye-pass in Monrovia during food distribution.

Citizens in various communities in Montserrado

Defense Ministry refutes AFL gold mining allegation

The Ministry of National Defense categorically refutes the allegations posted on Monday, 22 June 2020 on social media by ill-informed individuals accusing the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) of mining gold in Grand Kru County.

In a press release issued 23 June, the Defense Ministry says these social media posts concerning the AFL are fallacious, dangerous and lack any iota of truth.

The ministry indicates that one of the posts alleges that there are "Pieces of evidence of Weah and Wife's brother, Michael Duncan, using our government properties to carry out their illicit gold mining operations in Grand Kru County."

"As you can see in the pictorial below: A Chinese-donated AFL excavator, GSA marked trucks, army tents for the AFL soldiers who provide security for the Chinese mining workers and their operations to sleep in. This is absolutely unacceptable," the post continues.

However, the Defense Ministry notes that in October of 2019, the Armed Forces of Liberia signed a Memorandum

of Understanding with Road Construction and Engineering Company located in Caldwell, Louisiana, Montserrado County for road construction and rehabilitation operations in Grand Kru, River Gee and Sinoe

Engineering Company.

It explains that Civil Military Operations is key in building a contemporary army, bringing the army to the community to build relationships of trust.

"Therefore, the



Counties, respectively, which is currently ongoing.

In fulfillment of this MOU, it says the AFL dispatched a team of Engineers to Grand Kru, River Gee and Sinoe Counties to work with Road Construction and

rehabilitation of feeder roads, building of bridges and community projects are an integral part of the Engineering Company of the AFL," the release notes.

Over the years, the release

CPP acted cowardly

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

--Rep. Gray

Montserrado County District # 8 Representative Acarus Moses Gray terms the recent pull out of the four opposition Collaborating Political Parties from the COVID-19 food distribution steering committee as an act of cowardice.

Representative Gray specifically notes that decision by officials of the CPP to ask their representative, Mr. Mohammed Ali from the technical committee set up to distribute food to the suffering population is wrong.

Speaking to reporters in Monrovia, he said the decision by the parties to walk out of a process that is inclusive of international partners, including the World Food Program, World

CDCians or people who support the Presidency; instead, all Liberians who fall within the category of vulnerability.

"The best option for the CPP would have been to stay in and criticize the process or right the wrong," he stresses.

According to him, the CPP survives on lies and falsehood and such trend of politics is detrimental for the political future of the Collaboration, which groups the former ruling Unity Party, the Alternative National Congress, the All Liberian Party and the Liberty Party.

But the Collaborating Political Parties had earlier argued that the proposal for the stimulus package did not identify budgetary items that would be cut to raise the US\$25 million, leaving that difficult exercise to



Bank, the International Monetary Fund, religious groups and other civil groups here on grounds that the process smells of corruption is a terrible mistake and a direct signal of cowardice.

According to Gray, such pronouncement by the CPP officials falsely accused international partners who have best of integrity.

"To back from a process that comprises international partners who built their operations on integrity, transparency, accountability, and fairness, to accuse them of smells of corruption means, the CPP unjustifiably accused our international partners for no reason and I know one the thing: the CPP survives on lies and falsehood," he says.

He explains that the distribution of food is not only

the Legislature, which is not privy to all the facts to make an informed decision.

"The proposal does not identify which existing projects will suffer as a result of the World Bank's reallocation of the US\$10 million contribution. Food aid in 'designated counties' begs the question of which counties will be included and which will be left out? Given how small our country is and the interconnectedness of our people, it seems unjustifiable that there is a county in Liberia that can be excluded from the government's food aid program," the CPP expressed in reaching its decision pull out of the steering committee headed by Minister of Commerce and Industry, Wilson Tarpeh. --Editing by Jonathan Browne

says AFL has signed other MOUs including German Agro, Solid Rocks, Gbowee Peace Foundation, Gbarpolu County Development Funds, Legislative Development Projects in River Gee and Gbarpolu Counties for road constructions and rehabilitation.

Moreover, the AFL has collaborated with the Ministry of Public Works in rehabilitating roads throughout the Country.

It concludes that the AFL in collaboration with these institutions has rehabilitated over 350 kilometers of road in Liberia.--Press release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Extension of State of Emergency worries motorcyclists leader

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Following the extension of the State of Emergency by President George Manneh Weah

worried that lives might get unbearable for the ordinary people.

The June 22, 2020 proclamation extending the State of Emergency quotes President

Coronavirus disease in the country, cases and deaths from the disease continue to rise.

According to President Weah, all citizens are now required to be indoors by 6:00 pm instead of the previous 9:00 pm timeframe.

But Mr. Elliot believes that the decision by the president is only intended to create hardship for the Liberian people, many of whom are currently struggling to find a daily meal. He laments that the government needs to do more in the fight against the Covid-19, especially doubling support for ordinary citizens during this difficult period of the country.

Mr. Elliot wants the Government of Liberia to support hospitals and healthcare workers across the country which he thinks will be a significant contribution to the fight against coronavirus.

In spite of the challenges he mentioned, Mr. Elliot stresses the need for citizens to adhere to the health protocols by putting to practice measures prescribed by the Ministry of Health.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



by additional 30 days, Bong County Motorcycle Union president Sam Elliot says he is

Weah as saying that despite the measures that have been put in place to curtail the spread of the

EPA, stakeholders validate environmental report

Technicians from the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) and stakeholders have validated the State of the Environment Report (SoER) and National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) for the Republic of Liberia.

The validation of the documents, which began here Tuesday, June 23, via zoom due to health restrictions caused by COVID-19, end Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

The SoER and the NEAP were developed under the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) with funding from the Government of Norway.

EPA Acting Executive Director, Randall M. Dobayou said the report aims to evaluate the most pressing environmental challenges by considering key environmental resources and their state and trends.

Mr. Dobayou said the SoER seeks to bridge a gap in what is believed to be a lack of proper scientific data on environmental trends in Liberia and resulting management tools.

"Providing some of this needed data, this State of the Environment Report (SoER) for 2007-2020 and its National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) for 2019-2023 have been developed for Liberia's

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)," he said.

He said these reports were compiled by various specialists, ranging from ecologists, waste specialists and social scientists.

Specialists who contributed to the SoER and the NEAP saw the

the SoER; the latter which provides an assessment of the status and trends of the environment and its natural resources, and their effect on the wellbeing of the country's population.

Once in every five years,



task as their responsibilities to gather data that accurately describe each environmental state and trend with no impartial view or obstruction, the Acting EPA Executive Director noted.

The NEAP, according to him, is based upon findings presented in

there is a nation-wide study carried out to establish the state of the environment, as well as to develop a five-year NEAP to guide the government in managing its environmental resources.

The preparation of the SoER

SGBV group frowns on sexual assaults by officials

The Liberian Sexual and Gender Base Violence Group has described as reckless, shocking and disturbing to see senior government officials slapping the bottom of entertainers at a public gathering.

In a press statement issue in Monrovia, the group specifically referenced Montserrado County Representative Thomas Fallah and Finance Minister Samuel Tweah, who were allegedly seeing publicly in such acts.

"It was shocking and disturbing to see Representative Thomas Fallah get up and slap the bottom of one of the women dancers. As with the herd

Given the high increase of sexual violence and degrading attitudes in the country, we expect our government officials to exhibit a higher standard and model behavior that is respectful and empowering of everyone."

It emphasized that Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Jervis Witherspoon, should have also made the officials aware of proper decorum and protocol as many officials seem to be oblivious to the perception that this kind of behavior carries.

The release continued that if Liberian officials behaved in such manner, what then can be expected of ordinary citizens the questioned. "Would this have



mentality, Minister Samuel Tweah quickly followed suit and added his palm print to that of the Representative." The group noted.

The SGBV/GBV group notes that the incident happened on Thursday, June 18, 2020, when community members and government officials gathered to commemorate the continuation of the program marking the Official Groundbreaking for the Reconstruction of Homes for Doe Community - Gbehkugbeh Avenue.

The advocacy group said, "Whether or not the woman gave consent is not the issue here.

been acceptable if officials from other countries were present? Would they have done this to wives, sisters, or relatives of those closest to them?"

The group urged leaders to be respectful and teach their kids good moral conducts, respect women, exercise restraint, and keep their hands to themselves.

"Chauvinistic and sexual behavior should not spill on to our national platform. We reiterate, lead by example and let those examples be ones that can be emulated for the upliftment of the country." - *Press Release*

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and NEAP is largely participatory, drawing knowledge and resources from lead agencies, development partners, research

institutions and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) amongst others. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Man threatens police -for food

By Emmanuel Mondaye

An enraged less-fortunate man believed to be in his late 30s has threatened to get even with one of the police officers providing security

at a food distribution site, but was defiant, threatening to attack the policemen in the street of Monrovia for denying him the opportunity to take food twice. Each person appearing for the meal is only entitled to a single plate of food and a bag of mineral water.

The security officer acted after it was observed the unidentified man had received food more than twice in the

same place, while dozens of other needy persons stood in queue waiting to receive their share of the hot cooked food.

He unruly attempted fighting the police officer, who requested him to vacate the

protection to the ongoing COVID-19 Hot Cooked Food distribution here, after the police prevented him from receiving food twice.



The angry 'zogoos' man pointing his fingers at the Police Officer in Vai Town during a distribution

The free food distribution to vulnerable and less-

fortunate Liberians in slum communities is being executed by JeetyTrading Corporation under the auspices of the Indian Consul General in Liberia, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva.

The installation and

Serve with Distinction

-Cape Mesurado Lions Club Pres. urges members

By: WremongarBlojay Joe II

The Cape Mesurado Lions Club has installed into office new officials and inducted a new member with call for firm continuation of service to humanitarian.

The induction were held Thursday

in the conference room of Royal Grand Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia.

The new president of the Cape Mesurado Lions club-Maakai A. Amblard, who along with seven others was

ourselves, to our community and to all of humility" the new Mesurado Lions Club President added.

Meanwhile, Madam Amblard has committed that

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Court grants CBL

Starts from back page

He granted defendants Fahart, Bardio and Tamba's bond Wednesday prosecution notified the court earlier in the day that it had entered a nolleprosequi (dropped charges) in favor of defendants Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba and Joseph Dennis.

With this new development, the prosecution is now holding to account for four defendants in the case including CBL's former Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks who has been in all of the previous indictments for this case, and the new batch of indictees in persons of Fahart, Bardio and Tamba.

The fifth defendant Melisa A. Emeh is said to be out of the bailiwick of Liberia and has not been brought to court, therefore the court has granted prosecution's request to grant her a separate trial so as to enable the four other defendants that are available to get speedy trial.

Weeks, Fahart, Bardio and Tamba have pleaded not guilty of the charges after being arraigned Wednesday, and said they did not need a jury trial.

On Monday, 8 June, the prosecution issued a new indictment against the CBL officials its Board of Governors for theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

It did not include former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf who served as Deputy CBL Governor for Operations when the financial scandal emerged at the bank, because he was nolleprosequi with prejudice last month.

The government here indicted the officials in 2019 for their alleged roles in the misapplication of \$16 billion Liberian Dollars printed and shipped to Liberia to replace old local currency after a series of mass protests led local and international institutions to investigate a claim that the money had gone missing.

The defendants are accused by prosecution of flagrantly violating Chapter 15, Section 15.51 of the New Penal Law of Liberia. According to the indictment, the CBL Board of Governors in exercising their

corporate power and authority, passed a resolution dated 28 April 2016 for the purpose of selecting and subsequently selected Crane Currency as the vendor to print the Liberian banknotes.

Defendant Weeks and the Board of Governors including Farhat, Emeh, Badio and Tamba are accused of deliberately failing to revert to the Legislature in line with a communication that demanded that appropriate details of the amount or quantity and denominations of the replacing banknotes be submitted to the Legislature prior to the printing and minting of coins.

Additionally, the Board is accused of mandating defendant Weeks to enter into a contract on June 12, 2019 with Crane Currency to print L\$10,000,000,000 banknotes at the cost of US\$10,121,689.20 before receiving the July 19, 2017 communication [from the Legislature].

At the time of selecting Crane Currency to print L\$5,000,000,000, the indictment says the quantity of Liberian banknotes in circulation at the time was L\$9.940 billion and that a significant number of the banknotes had worn out and mutilated, prompting the need to replace L\$5,000,000,000 approved as the objective of legislative joint resolution.

The indictment says it is demonstrably inconceivable for the CBL Board of Governors to have requested the printing of L\$10,000,000,000 to replace all legacy notes when they knew that the total amount in circulation that should have been replaced was L\$13.792 billion.

The indictment alleges that the defendants conspired to willfully conceal the actual amount in circulation for the purpose of committing theft, depriving the Government of Liberia of its resources.

Further, the indictment notes that defendants Weeks, Hagba, Walker and Dennis knew or had reasons to know that from packing lists reviewed by the investigation, the total amount printed was L\$13,004,750,000 and not L\$15,506,000,000, but "they maliciously and purposely concealed and understated the actual amount..." because they had criminally connived.



induction were held Thursday in the conference room of Royal Grand Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia.

The new president of the Cape Mesurado Lions club-Maakai A. Amblard, who along with seven others was

solidarity and altruism", President Amblard added.

She admonished members of the Cape Mesurado Lions Club to stand firm and follow the vision of the incoming district governor Lassou H Djibom whose motto is 'With Humility,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

Affaire 16 milliards : Les accusés plaident non coupables

Les responsables de la Banque Centrale du Libéria (CBL) poursuivis pour vol et sabotage économique présumés ont plaidé non coupables le mercredi 24 juin.

L'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, Milton A. Weeks, et David Fahart,

ancien membre du Conseil des gouverneurs, ainsi que plusieurs autres responsables de la banque sont poursuivis pour leur rôle présumé dans la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens.

Il s'agit du troisième acte d'accusation établis par l'accusation dans cette affaire. Il contient sept chefs d'accusation, c'est-à-dire deux

de plus que les cinq chefs d'accusation retenus contre les accusés dans les actes d'accusation précédents. À l'exception du fils de l'ancien présidente Ellen Johnson, Charles E. Sirleaf, tous les suspects dans cette affaire ont été inculpés à nouveau.

Lors de la procédure de mercredi, les quatre accusés, par la voie de leurs avocats, se sont prononcés en faveur d'un procès sans jury. Ils ont dit préférer que le juge siège et décide à la fois des questions de fait et de droit dans l'affaire dont le tribunal est saisi.

Le juge président YamieQuiquiGbeisay a accédé à la demande de la défense, comme quoi le tribunal n'avait d'autre choix que de faire droit à la demande des accusés, car le procès devant un jury est une question de droit statutaire, mais les accusés y ont renoncé, agissant par l'intermédiaire de leurs avocats.

Le scandale financier concernant les milliards de



Milton A. Weeks

David Fahart

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Lutte contre les shebabs en Somalie : les Américains égratignent les autorités

Les États-Unis viennent de sortir leur rapport annuel sur le contre-terrorisme. Un document qui évoque notamment la lutte contre les islamistes shebabs dans la Corne de l'Afrique. Le groupe terroriste a été impliqué dans plus de 1 000 actions violentes en 2019, en Somalie mais aussi au Kenya. Dans ce rapport, les Américains ne sont pas toujours tendres avec le gouvernement de Mogadiscio.

Même si les États-Unis décrivent toujours la Somalie comme un « partenaire engagé », leur rapport n'a rien de complaisant. Le pouvoir somalien est jugé toujours « fortement dépendant de ses partenaires étrangers » pour la sécurité. L'armée nationale elle « reste incapable de sécuriser seule son territoire et de reprendre des villes ». Résultat : les shebabs contrôlent toujours de grandes régions du sud et du centre de la Somalie. Des zones où ils se déplacent librement, prélèvent des taxes, recrutent, etc.

Mais le rapport a noté certaines choses positives quand même : la création du

FRC, qui est un centre chargé de traquer les flux financiers illégaux. Il y a aussi des lois contre le blanchiment d'argent, contre le financement du terrorisme, contre les transferts d'argent par téléphone, très utilisés par les islamistes.

Sur le terrain, Washington signale quelques opérations notables. Celles destinées à perturber la circulation de ce qu'on appelle les EEI, ces

bombes laissées sur le bord de la route et déclenchées à distance. Et aussi des campagnes pour reprendre des territoires clés proches de la capitale.

Par exemple, l'opération Badbaado, qui a permis la reconquête de plusieurs villes servant de bases aux shebabs pour assembler du matériel, planifier et lancer des attaques. Elle continue d'ailleurs cette année.



COVID-19 : Les aveugles refusent les articles alimentaires que leur a présentés le gouvernement

Les membres de l'Association des aveugles unis du Libéria située dans la communauté LPRC le long de Somalia Drive, ont refusé les huit sacs de riz que leur avaient apportés le Programme alimentaire mondial dans le cadre de la distribution de la ration alimentaire du COVID-19 initiée par le gouvernement du Libéria.

Mercredi après-midi, les citoyens mécontents et malvoyants ont érigé un barrage routier pour empêcher un camion du PAM d'entrer dans leur communauté en raison de ce qu'ils ont qualifié de traitement « inhumain ».

Un dirigeant de la United Blind Association Stanley S. Swen, a raconté dans une émission-débat en direct animée par Cool FM que le gouvernement avait promis de fournir de la nourriture aux Libériens les plus vulnérables en raison de la pandémie de Covid-19. « Et les personnes les plus vulnérables sont les handicapés et les malvoyants et, à chaque épidémie, elles devraient obtenir la première priorité du gouvernement, mais le PAM nous a présenté huit sacs de riz qui seraient pour 20 personnes. Pourtant, la direction de l'association avait présenté une liste de 65 personnes malvoyantes, mais le PAM a apporté huit sacs de riz pour 20 personnes », a-t-il déploré.

Selon lui, le gouvernement s'est rendu sur place pour se moquer d'eux, expliquant que l'Association gère un internat qui a un énorme effectif, en plus de leurs propres enfants qui vivent avec eux, et en une semaine, ils consomment un sac de riz.

Il a dit qu'il vaut mieux qu'ils meurent de faim que de recevoir huit sacs de riz du gouvernement du Libéria parce que le riz ne peut pas nourrir tous leurs membres. Il est donc préférable que le gouvernement reprenne son riz.

S'exprimant également devant des journalistes, un enseignant de l'école pour aveugles a déclaré qu'ils avaient refusé le riz parce que huit sacs de riz de 25 kilos sont insignifiants pour

l'ensemble des 65 membres.

« C'est injuste de la part du gouvernement », a-t-il dit, avant d'ajouter : « Comment peut-il nous donner huit sacs de riz de 25 kilos alors que nous sommes une organisation qui compte au moins 65 membres avec une école? ».

Un représentant du PAM, qui s'est exprimé sous le couvert de l'anonymat, a confirmé aux journalistes qu'ils avaient envoyé huit sacs (25 kg) de riz aux membres de l'UBAL, mais les membres de l'association ont refusé le riz. Une enquête a été lancée au siège du PAM à Monrovia.

Le parlement libérien a approuvé un plan de soutien de 25 millions de dollars pour distribuer de la nourriture aux Libériens vulnérables comme d'accompagnement du confinement et de l'état d'urgence décrétés par le président Weah dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pandémie de santé mondiale.

La Banque mondiale aurait ajouté 5 millions de dollars à ce montant, ce qui porte le total à 30 millions de dollars.

Mais l'ensemble du processus a été entaché de suspicions et de manque de clarté quant à l'utilisation de l'argent, et si la nourriture atteignait réellement les personnes, qui en ont le plus besoin.

Avant le début de la distribution effective, le président du comité directeur de la distribution alimentaire COVID-19, le ministre du Commerce, Wilson Tarpeh, avait informé le Sénat libérien que le Programme alimentaire mondial, engagé par le gouvernement pour exécuter la distribution alimentaire, avait facturé 9 millions de dollars et les coûts opérationnels pour faire le travail, mais Tarpeh a fait un virage à 90 degrés par la suite après que le PAM a démenti le chiffre annoncé par lui.

Le responsable de la communication, James Belgrave, a précisé que le PAM n'a reçu qu'un petit pourcentage d'environ 6%, soit 1,8 million de dollars sur les 30 millions, pour mener l'opération, et non 9 millions de dollars, comme le prétend Tarpeh.

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Français

Affaire 16 milliards :

dollars libériens a éclaté au moment où M. Charles E. Sirleaf était sous-gouverneur de la Banque Centrale chargé des opérations. Mais le mois dernier, l'accusation a abandonné des charges contre lui «avec préjugé» et contre trois autres « sans préjudice». Quant au Gouverneur exécutif, M. Weeks, son procès est toujours en cours. Pendant ce temps, le mystère qui entoure la disparition des 16 milliards de dollars n'a pas encore été élucidé.

A noter cependant que l'accusation avait abandonné pour une première fois, le lundi 8 juin, les charges initialement retenues contre Weeks. Ce sont donc de nouvelles charges, cette fois plus nombreuses, qui ont été retenues contre lui dans la même affaire. Il est accusé d'avoir violé de manière flagrante le chapitre 15, article 15.51 de la nouvelle loi pénale du Libéria.

Selon l'acte d'accusation, le Conseil des gouverneurs de la CBL, dans l'exercice de son pouvoir et de son autorité, a adopté une résolution en date du 28 avril 2016 dans le but de sélectionner Crane Currency comme fournisseur pour imprimer les billets de banque. Il est reproché à l'accusé Weeks et aux autres membres du conseil des gouverneurs, le fait d'avoir délibérément refusé de se conformer à l'exigence de

l'Assemblée législative relative à la mise à disposition des détails appropriés sur le montant à imprimer et le nombre de billets de chaque dénomination à remplacer avant de procéder à l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque. Il est aussi reproché au Conseil le fait d'avoir mandaté le Gouverneur Weeks de conclure un contrat avec Crane Currency pour imprimer 10 milliards de dollars sans une autorisation explicite du pouvoir législatif.

La quantité de billets de banque du dollar libérien en circulation à l'époque était de 9, 94 milliards et un nombre important de billets de banque étaient usés et mutilés, ce qui a nécessité le remplacement de 5 milliards. Cela avait été approuvé par le pouvoir législatif dans une résolution commune. Toutefois, l'accusation trouve manifestement inconcevable que le Conseil des gouverneurs de la CBL ait demandé l'impression de 10 milliards supplémentaires pour remplacer tous les anciens billets alors qu'il savait que le montant total en circulation à ce moment qui aurait dû être remplacé était de 13,792 milliards de dollars libériens.

Elle soupçonne donc les accusés d'avoir comploté pour dissimuler délibérément le montant réel en circulation aux fins de commettre un vol, privant ainsi le Gouvernement libérien de ses ressources.

Un homme de 32 ans se suicide et le quartier se réjouit

Prince R. Ballah, trente-deux ans, un habitant de Logan Town, s'est suicidé dans son salon. Le regretté Ballah, selon une source familiale, avait tenté d'empêcher en vain sa petite amie de se rendre dans un bar pour se divertir. C'est à Bong Mines Bridge, Bushrod Island.

Il aurait même menacé de se suicider si elle s'entêtait, mais en vain. La jeune fille, sa petite amie, n'ayant pas succombé aux menaces parce qu'elle n'y croyait peut-être pas, a quitté la maison et est allée passer du bon temps avec des amies.

Mais lundi matin vers 4 heures, les occupants de la maison dans laquelle Ballah vivait, spécifiquement à Quiah Street Community, trouveront à leur réveil le corps sans vie de Ballah suspendu à une corde dans le salon.

Pour notre source, Ballah était trop jeune pour se suicider simplement à cause

de la jalousie, ajoutant que c'est une honte pour la famille et pour la communauté de Logan Town.

Une honte certes pour la famille, mais pas pour la communauté qui voit dans la mort de Ballah, une délivrance totale. Certains habitants du quartier ont affirmé que le défunt était un criminel notoire qui cambriolait les maisons, volait des objets de valeur et de l'argent.

Ils qualifient d'un soulagement la mort de Ballah pour les habitants de la communauté qui, selon eux, depuis plusieurs années, ont eu des nuits blanches à cause du défunt et ses amis.

« Avec la disparition de Ballah, nous pouvons désormais dormir en paix et avoir de beaux rêves parce que notre agresseur n'est plus en vie », a dit un habitant.

Le corps a été enterré lundi au cimetière de Caldwell, à l'extérieur de Monrovia.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Alexandra Borchardt

Le besoin de diversité en salle de rédaction numérique

MUNICH - Le jour où une station de radio locale de Charlotte en Caroline du Nord a lancé un concours de podcasting dans sa communauté, elle s'attendait à bien des choses, sauf peut-être au fait que la quantité de réponses allait submerger le serveur de la station. L'initiative avait pour but d'augmenter la diversité en direct sur la station. Des dizaines de milliers de personnes ont voulu participer. Des groupes et des individus de tous horizons ont soumis plus de 370 idées de podcasts et 33 000 auditeurs se sont connectés pour voter pour ces idées. Ce qui a commencé comme une expérience unique sera à présent une composante régulière du programme.

Le journalisme souffre depuis toujours d'un manque de diversité. Des salles de rédaction à la démographie uniforme produisent un contenu homogène depuis des décennies. Bien que des rédacteurs en chef du monde entier reconnaissent de plus en plus que cela pose problème, la réponse à cet état de choses laisse toujours à désirer.

Une des raisons à cela, ironiquement, provient du problème posé par le passage au numérique. « Ces dernières années, la transformation numérique a tant mobilisé l'attention que la question de la diversité a été occultée », explique Olle Zachrisson, du radiodiffuseur public suédois Sveriges Radio, dans une étude comparant les efforts de diversité au Royaume-Uni, en Suède et en Allemagne. Et pourtant, comme l'a découvert la salle de rédaction de Charlotte, la diversité n'a vraiment rien de superfétatoire : à l'heure actuelle, elle est au cœur même de la participation des auditeurs.

En expliquant l'éthos des affaires de l'ère numérique, Jeff Bezos, fondateur d'Amazon, a fait valoir qu'il s'agit avant tout d'une « obsession du client plutôt que d'une obsession de la concurrence ». Pour les médias, l'idée directrice devrait donc être « les auditeurs d'abord ». Ce qui implique d'utiliser les données pour mieux les comprendre et mieux répondre à leurs demandes.

Il n'y a pas si longtemps, on élaborait la plupart du temps les lignes éditoriales en se fiant à ses instincts, en s'appuyant sur des hypothèses. À présent, ces mêmes lignes éditoriales souvent informées par des mesures analytiques et des vérités révélées sur le comportement des auditeurs. Certaines de ces révélations ne sont pas très agréables à entendre. Les rédacteurs en chef ne peuvent plus se mystifier quant à l'impact réel de leur journalisme. Ils savent à présent que même les meilleures histoires ont tendance à ne toucher qu'une fraction de l'audience à laquelle elles sont destinées.

Pour compliquer les choses, les salles de rédaction ont découvert que la demande peut culminer à des périodes où elles ne disposent pas de nouvelles offres, ou quand ce qu'elles proposent ne correspond pas aux recherches des consommateurs. Dans des enquêtes comme Digital News Report, les répondants se plaignent souvent que les médias offrent trop de négativité et de volume - et trop peu d'explications et de couverture pertinente.

Avant le passage au numérique, les journalistes n'avaient pas tant à se soucier de leur audience. Les journaux étaient des planches à billets : les dollars de la publicité affluaient sans tenir compte de ce que l'on appelle désormais le « contenu ». De même, les médias de service public ne faisaient face à quasiment aucune concurrence. Mais maintenant que les informations numériques sont devenues une marchandise et qu'une poignée de

plateformes majeures contrôlent leur distribution, la fidélité de l'audience est devenue une question de survie.

De nombreuses salles de rédaction ont été totalement prises de court par cette nouvelle réalité. Elles ne savent même pas qui sont leurs nouveaux clients potentiels, encore moins comment les atteindre pour gagner leur confiance. Le problème n'est pas seulement que l'homogénéité de la salle de rédaction se traduit par une vue incomplète du monde et de lecture/écoute de l'audience. C'est que même lorsque des « outsiders » occupent un emploi dans ce type d'environnement, ils ont tendance à s'adapter à la culture dominante plutôt qu'à la remettre en question. Par conséquent, les salles de rédaction n'ont toujours pas les ressources adéquates pour toucher de nouvelles audiences.

En fait, le manque de diversité dans les médias s'est aggravé au cours des dernières décennies. Quand les journaux locaux ont connu leur heure de gloire, le personnel des salles de rédaction étaient tout aussi blanc et masculin. Mais pour être journaliste en ce temps-là, il ne fallait aucun diplôme universitaire - seulement une volonté de se lancer dans la course et de remonter une piste. Pourtant, à mesure que ce secteur d'activité s'est concentré dans les grandes villes et que les perspectives d'emploi se sont raréfiées ailleurs, le niveau de qualification est devenu une nouvelle barrière à l'entrée. Alors que les candidats les plus éduqués sont montés en grade et ont accédé à des emplois plus importants, beaucoup d'autres ont bel et bien quitté la profession.

Conformément à la société industrielle de l'époque, le modèle professionnel issu de ces changements fut hiérarchique. Comme pour les enseignants et leurs élèves, les prédicateurs et leurs congrégations, les experts et le public profane, l'éducation conférait statut et autorité aux journalistes. L'audience était un destinataire passif de l'information, et non un acteur impliqué dans une conversation plus large.

Aujourd'hui, vouloir s'en tenir à cette même structure hiérarchique ne peut conduire qu'à l'échec. Le monde numérique de l'information est un monde de choix et d'abondance, mais également de confusion considérable au sujet de ce qui est vrai et faux. La confiance est l'atout le plus précieux d'une organisation de presse, et la tâche des journalistes consiste à la fois susciter l'intérêt et à inspirer leur audience, ainsi qu'à susciter le débat entre auditeurs.

Cela n'est possible qu'à condition que le journalisme représente la société dans laquelle il fonctionne. Malheureusement, une récente enquête mondiale auprès des patrons de médias conclut que, bien que les rédacteurs en chef voient des progrès vers la diversité des sexes, il reste beaucoup à faire pour parvenir à la diversité raciale et politique, ainsi qu'à un équilibre entre milieux « urbains » et « ruraux ». La raison la plus probable de cet échec est que les patrons de presse continuent de considérer le passage au numérique comme une question de technologie et de processus, plutôt que de talent et de capital humain.

Heureusement, le passage au numérique est une opportunité. Comme l'explique Jeff Jarvis de la City University of New York, les patrons de presse doivent « essayer d'écouter, d'accorder de la valeur et de se mettre au service des personnes et des communautés qui ont longtemps été ignorées et laissées pour compte par notre ancien secteur d'activité, les médias de masse ». Toutes les agences de presse devraient suivre les conseils de Jarvis - pas seulement parce que c'est ce qu'il convient de faire. Leur propre survie en dépend.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Africa Supports Nigeria's Candidate for WTO Director-General

By KesterKennKlomegah

The African Union (AU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have thrown their unflinching support for Nigeria's Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a candidate contesting for the top position at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This backing implies that Africa is strongly behind her, and

Delta State, her father Professor Chukwuka Okonjo became the Eze (King) from the Obahai Royal Family of Ogwashi-Ukwu.

With high aspirations, Okonjo-Iweala studied at prestigious Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude with an AB in Economics in 1976. In 1981, she earned her PhD in regional Economics and

With a solid education and broad experience, a number of African presidents, such as Niger's President and ECOWAS Chairman Mahamadou Issoufou has strongly urged non-African countries to get behind and endorse Africa's candidature, referring to Nigeria's Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. In addition, the Nigeria's Foreign Ministry explained in a statement that ECOWAS had thrown their support behind her candidacy due to "her long years of managerial experience at the top echelons of multilateral institutions."

There is broad support for an African candidate and a woman, since neither have headed the Geneva-based body in the past, according to sources following the process. Supporters of Okonjo-Iweala, a former minister and World Bank managing director, vaunt her negotiating skills, including clinching a multi-billion dollar debt relief package for Nigeria.

The WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. It currently has 164 members, monitoring each other's practices and regulations against a set of standard trading rules in order to improve transparency and avoid protectionism.

In addition, WTO works to build the trading capacity of developing and least-developed countries, helping them integrate and benefit from the multilateral trading system. This is an essential part of the work. The trading system has been inclusive, with the benefits of trade reaching as many as possible around the world, particularly in the poorest countries.

The WTO provides its members with a tried and tested system of shared rules and principles to support economic cooperation and thereby boost growth, development and job creation around the world. It provides a forum for members to raise, discuss and potentially solve the complex problems that they face. There is huge value in the system of World Trade Organization.



further shows a popular acknowledgement among top diplomats and politicians that Africa may be in line for the Director-General's post at WTO.

This June, WTO kicked off the process for selecting a new Director-General, after its current Brazilian Chief, Roberto Azevedo, decided to leave his job a year early, at the end of August. The surprise announcement of his early departure has left everyone scrambling. His successor will have, as required, to steer reforms and negotiations in the face of rising protectionism, a deep recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and growing trade tensions, notably between the United States and China.

Biographical records, however, show that Okonjo-Iweala developed a 25-year career at the World Bank in Washington. She then served two terms as Finance Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2003-2006 and 2011-2015) under the political leadership of President Olusengun Obasanjo and President Goodluck Jonathan respectively. Born into a royal family in

Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a thesis titled Credit policy, rural financial markets, and Nigeria's agricultural development. She received an International Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) that supported her doctoral studies.



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Police question Orange CEO

By Winston W. Parley

Police authorities in Monrovia say they are questioning Orange Liberia CEO, Mr. Mamadou Coulibaly, following the arrest of six persons during a violent protest here early Thursday morning near the Nigerian House.

The protest was said to have been staged by members of the Council of Patriots (CoP), which led two successive demonstrations here against the Weah led government.

It is not yet clear how the GSM Company Chief Executive Officer has come to be linked with the Thursday June 25 protest, but police said there have been speculation that the company has sponsored most of the violent protests here.

But the CoP head, Henry Costa recently told journalist here via a video news conference that is group was poised to stage a demonstration against the government over the surcharge imposed on GSM companies here.

Speaking to this paper via mobile Thursday evening, the spokesman of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Mr. Moses Carter says the Orange

Liberia executive is being questioned on grounds that the Orange Family has been having contacts with the protesters prior to the incident.

Carter notes that it's left with them to disprove what police have been hearing about their connection with the protesters, adding that the LNP will go for anyone involved in disturbances.

He explains that the six



persons arrested are being held in connection to the protest which resulted in a road block at Nigerian House, preventing smooth movement of vehicles and peaceful citizens and residents here.

Carter indicates that the protesters took to the street to protest against the government's decision to enforce a surcharge imposed on

the GSM companies here for voice calls and data.

According to Carter, the police engaged the protesters, informing them that their action was counterproductive to the pace and security of the country.

However, he says the protesters who claimed they represented pressure group Council of Patriots (COP) went

ahead to set roadblocks, set car tires alight and prevented the free movement of peaceful citizens, strictly acting against the peace and security of the country.

He warns that police will go for whoever that is connected to this protest. Riot police were deployed to the scene and made arrests.

State of Emergency meaningless

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius says the extension of the State of Emergency by President George Manneh Weah is meaningless at this time.

Speaking with supporters Thursday, 25 June outside local broadcaster Truth FM's office in Paynesville, Mr.

whole country under a State of Emergency, saying it's not fair at all.

Addressing issues relative to the Liberian Senate earlier on the Truth Breakfast Show, Dillon says at no time did he accuse the Senators on Capitol Hill of taking bribes.

Dillon explains that he didn't insult his colleagues, but notes that the body is spineless. He

for any investigation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dillon explains that the recast budget was passed without looking into it, adding that senators that even passed the budget are now complaining on some of the things that are contained in the budget because they didn't read it.

He says under President George Manneh Weah's administration, there's always no money when it comes to serious national issues, noting that the referendum can wait until the senatorial election is held while more awareness is being carried out.

Dillon adds that amending the Constitution is something that requires more time to educate the people on what they want and what they will be voting for, claiming that the government here wants to join the two elections because there's no money.

According to Dillon, there's nothing wrong with joining the two elections, but noted that there is no time to educate the people.

Since it is a major election just as the senatorial election, he therefore thinks the referendum can be delayed until the country has money for that.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



Dillon suggested that the country is fighting a disease and not a gun war, noting that Liberia doesn't need a State of Emergency but rather the use of health law to fight the health crisis.

He states that where an order is needed, the president should enforce an executive order but to put the

argues that whatever he said is in compliance with the Constitution.

He further indicates that since the leadership of the Senate took siege of the complaint filed against him by Lofa County Senator George Tengbeh, the committee constituted to probe the allegations has not called him

Serve with Distinction

Cont'd from page 7

during her tenure as President of the club, she will strive to serve with pleasure, enthusiasm and pride.

She named efficient and impactful service to community and recruitment of quality members as the key agenda on which her leadership will be focused. "These two pillars are at the heart of the agenda of the incoming governor and are indispensable to the growth of lionism" she noted.

Madam Amblard in her remarks stressed to fellow officers that "we take the oath of our respective offices, I challenge us to commit and dedicate ourselves to the duties we have sworn to uphold. I ask that we do not only serve but we serve with distinction, humility and friendship.

Also inducted in office Thursday were, Christian N

Paye, Weah B Goll-Nyeswah, first and second vice presidents respectively, Mona Stubberfield Smith -secretary general, Malcolm Joseph Marketing and Communication Chairman, Augurie Stevens-treasure, CerueKonahGarlo-coordinator, JartuGolafale -service chairperson among others

Lions Club International was founded in Chicago, USA to among several objectives create and foster understanding among the people of the world, promote principles of good government and good citizenship

Counselor Ujay Bright delivered the keynote address on behalf of Associate Justice, Her Honor Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh who was absent from gracing the occasion due to tight schedule at the Supreme Court.

NewDawn complains

Starts from back page

"When told that I would officially complain him to the LNBA for his continuous use of invectives on me, he intensified his abusive language while at the same time identifying himself as Cllr. Steward Stubblefield and bragged that I could do nothing to him," it continues.

According to journalist Parley, Cllr. Stubblefield claimed that because he had a Master Degree in journalism and he had practiced as a journalist, it was wrong for him (Parley) to take notes of his own at the hearing,

suggesting that all the journalist needed was to grab court's minutes.

The NewDawn Editor states that it is out of respect for both professions that he wrote the complaint to the LNBA president Cllr. Gongloe because in his estimation, his kind appeal to Cllr. Stubblefield did not warrant his unruly outburst.

"And it also betrayed the harmonious relationship between the media and law practitioners here," he concludes.

Stimulus package

Cont'd from page 5

Also speaking to reporters, one of the beneficiaries Ms. Kemah Johnson, a resident of Bye-pass, extols the government for its decision to bring food to its citizens, saying she did not believe that the government would give people food until she received her share.

"We are overwhelmed, and in fact you caught us by surprise. For us the food is not important to us, but for the fact that you have come to us

and considered the plight of the people especially those of us who are unable to make a living, this brings us joy," she says.

The food distribution is intended to help citizens of Liberia during the health crisis which has seen several weeks of lockdowns being imposed by the government to stop further spread of the coronavirus here.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Man threatens police

Cont'd from page 7

people, who lack the means financially to provide for themselves. The distribution has been ongoing daily in various communities, hospitals and prison centers in the capital for more than a month.

Speaking to the Voice of America this week, he said one of the greatest things human beings can do on earth is not to only love their

fellowman but to also share whatsoever they have with others who cannot afford.

Mr. Sachdeva prayed that God will continue to give him strength to provide humanitarian assistance to destitute and venerable populations as a means of helping them to desist from their bad habits and do something positive.

NewDawn complains lawyer's unruly conduct to LNBA



The New Dawn newspaper, one of Liberia's leading privately run local dailies, has formally complained to authorities at the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA), the unruly outburst and use of invectives by one of its members identified as Cllr. Steward Stubblefield against a staff of the media

entity, Winston W. Parley. In the communicated dated 24 June and addressed to LNBA president Cllr. Tiawon S. Gongloe, the NewDawn newspaper, through its Copy Editor Winston W. Parley, complains that Cllr. Steward Stubblefield publicly insulted the journalist repeatedly in the courtroom during a hearing on Wednesday, 24 June at Criminal

Court "C," Temple of Justice. According to journalist Parley, Cllr. Stubblefield used a laundry list of invectives on him (Parley) simply because he had pleaded with the lawyer to kindly lower his voice because his private conversation in the courtroom with a companion was overshadowing the voices of those in the case and it was hindering journalists nearby from taking accurate notes. "In the midst of so many people including media colleagues- Caesar Slapeh, Augustine Tweah, Taishar, some lawyers and a lady who is pursuing a container case against the NPA, Cllr. Stubblefield used a laundry list of invectives on me simply because I had pleaded with him to kindly lower his voice," the complaint says.

The complaint was delivered in the office of the LNBA president on Ashmun Street Thursday, 25 June and received by the relevant office staff.

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Court grants CBL officials' bond

By Winston W. Parley

The Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia has granted a bond posted by three former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials indicted for theft and economic sabotage of billions of Liberian dollars, ruling that the bond posted by the accused "whether sufficient or insufficient, [has] met the satisfaction of this court."

"Their collective asset may be equivalent to the

amount ... as charged. They can never be a flight risk. The bond posted whether sufficient or insufficient, [has] met the satisfaction of this court," Judge YamieQuiquiGbeisay ruled Wednesday, 24 June at the Temple of Justice.

The prosecution had rejected the defendants' bond, requesting the court to set it aside and re-arrest Farhat, Badio and Tamba until their surety can remedy its defects, noting that the surety filed



numerous bail bonds totaling US\$1,805,433.18 in cases that are still pending before courts here.

But Judge Gbeisay says the justification, in the mind of the court, has sufficiently established the legal capacity of the surety Accident and Casualty Insurance Company Inc. (ACICO), and the sufficiency of the amount stated in the criminal appearance bond.

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