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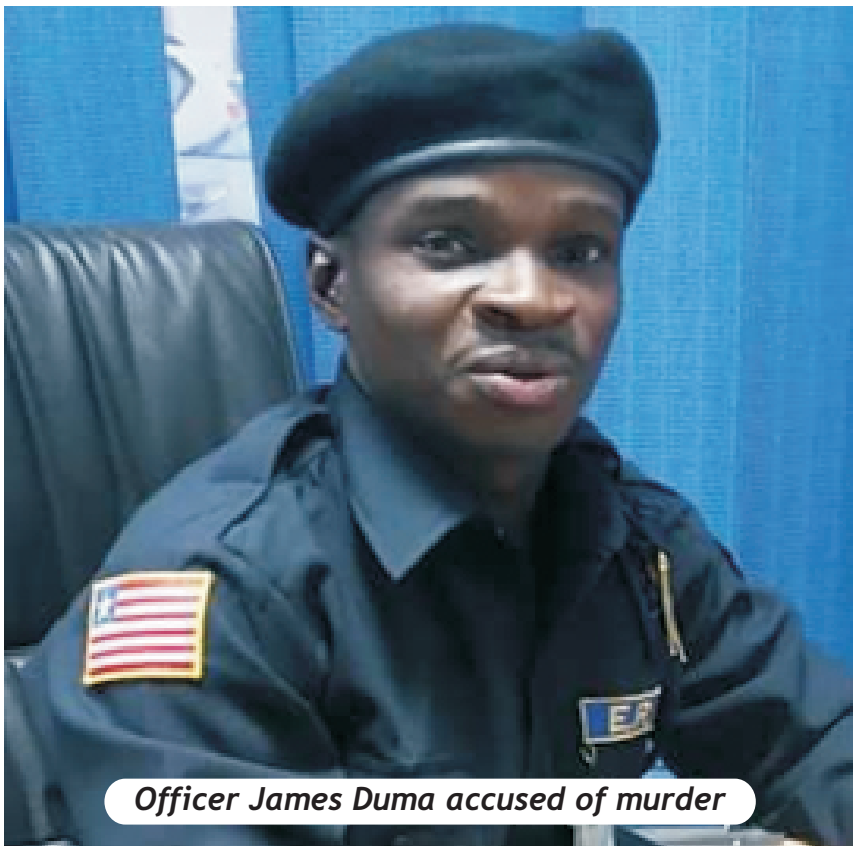
Politics not football -Sen. Wesseh



Pres. Weah



Sen. Wesseh



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Continental News

Lazarus Chakwera sworn in as Malawi president

Lazarus Chakwera has been sworn in as president of Malawi after winning an election rerun. "Time has come for us to wake up and to make our dreams come true," Mr Chakwera said in his victory speech. He defeated incumbent Peter Mutharika with 58.57% of the vote in Tuesday's poll.

In February, Malawi's constitutional court annulled Mr Mutharika's victory in the May 2019 election, citing vote tampering.

The country was bitterly divided in the run-up to this week's election.

Other countries in Africa have had elections annulled - it happened in Kenya in 2017 - but for the opposition candidate to then go on and win a rerun is unprecedented.

Speaking ahead of Saturday's results, Mr Mutharika said that while he found the election "unacceptable", it was his "sincere hope that we should take this country forward instead of backwards." Saulos

Chilima, Mr Chakwera's running mate, was also sworn in as vice-president at a ceremony in the capital, Lilongwe.

Mr Chakwera, a Pentecostal preacher and former theology lecturer, will first have to heal a nation that has been through many months of political turmoil. "Fellow Malawians to stand before you as your president today is an honour," Mr Chakwera said in a speech after being sworn in. He

vowed to unite the country and fight poverty.

"Of what use is freedom from oppression if you and I are slaves to starvation? Or freedom from colonialism if you are a slave to tribalism?" he said.

Time has come for us to go beyond dreaming, time has come for us to wake up, to arise from slumber, and to make our dreams come true," Mr Chakwera said.

"With your help we will restore faith in having a government that serves; not a government that rules, a government that inspires, not a government that infuriates, a government that listens, not a government that shouts but a government that fights for you and not against you," he added. Mr Mutharika did not attend the ceremony because the law does not require the outgoing president to be present when a successor is

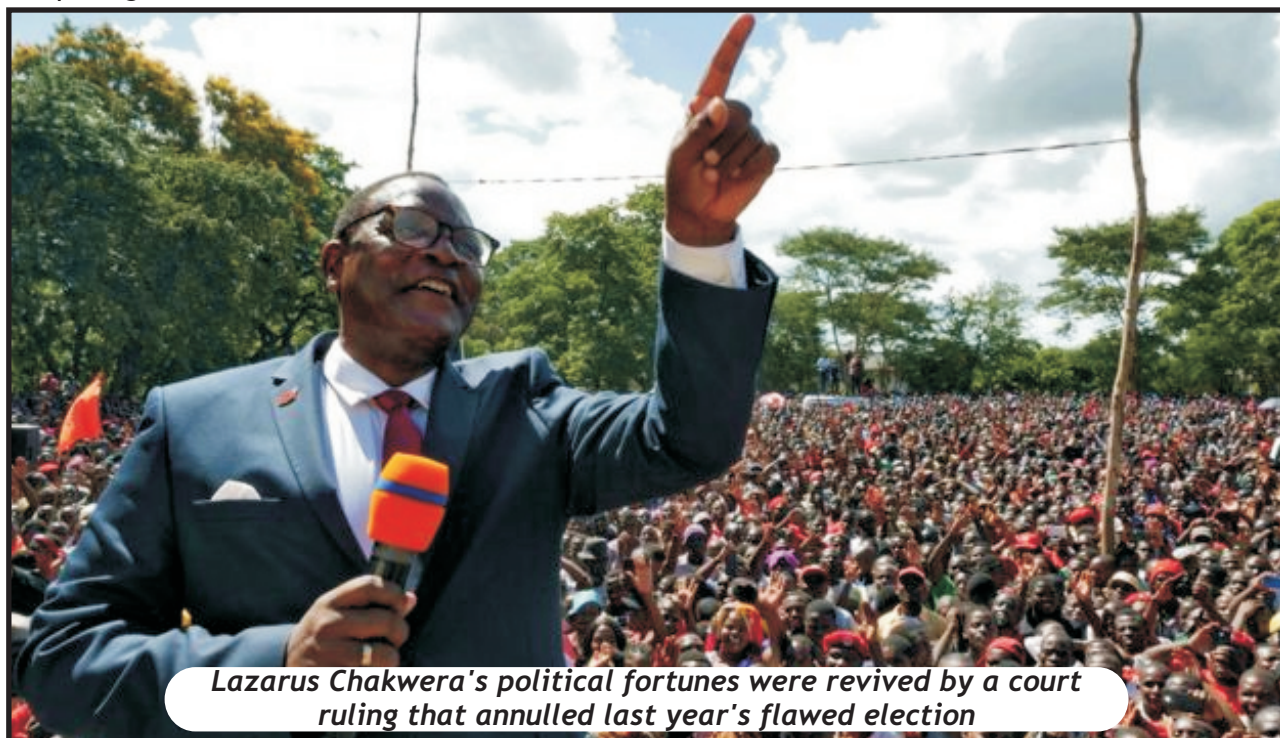
taking over, the BBC's Peter Jegwa in Lilongwe reports. A rerun of the 2019 election was ordered after the Constitutional Court found the original ballot had been marred by widespread irregularities.

That election saw President Mutharika narrowly re-elected by fewer than 159,000 votes.

Mr Chakwera, who came second in that election, argued that tallying forms had been added up incorrectly and tampered with. Uncertainty around the result sparked months of tension, which spilled over into clashes between opposition supporters and police.

February's annulment led some to celebrate, but Mr Mutharika described it as a "serious subversion of justice" which marked the death of the country's democracy.

There were concerns over the logistics and safety of carrying out an election in the midst of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. BBC



Lazarus Chakwera's political fortunes were revived by a court ruling that annulled last year's flawed election

Ethiopian 'aged over 100' recovers from Covid-19

The recovery from coronavirus of an Ethiopian man who is believed to be at least 100 years old was "incredible", one of the doctors who treated him told the BBC.

Aba Tilahun Woldemichael's family says he is 114, which would make him the world's oldest man, but there is no birth certificate to

confirm his age.

People over the age of 80 are considered to be among the most vulnerable if they catch the virus. The centenarian, who is an Ethiopian Orthodox Christian monk, is now being looked after at home by his grandson.

"When I was in the hospital I was praying to God asking for my health. I was crying and

praying for the whole country to be healthy again," he told the BBC. Aba Tilahun tested positive for the virus when a random screening process took place in his neighbourhood in the capital, Addis Ababa, and was admitted to hospital before the symptoms showed, Dr Hiluf Abate told the BBC's Newsday programme.

This allowed the medical team to be pro-active with its treatment and closely monitor the old man, he added.

Within four days of his admission to the severe coronavirus ward in Yeka Kotebe hospital, Aba Tilahun's condition deteriorated as the virus took hold and he was put on oxygen, Dr Hiluf said. In all he spent 14 days at the hospital, and was treated with oxygen for more than a week. He also was given anti-biotics and the anti-inflammatory drug dexamethasone, which has been hailed as a ground-breaking treatment for hospital patients seriously ill with Covid-19. Ethiopia, which

Kenyan police kill three after face mask row

Kenyan police have killed three people when a crowd of motorcycle taxi drivers protested against the arrest of a colleague for ignoring coronavirus restrictions.

Police shot at the crowd in the western city of Lessos after clashes, a police statement said.

The police have ordered the arrest of the officers involved.

Kenyan police face increasing scrutiny over accusations they are excessively enforcing the coronavirus restrictions. A cobbler reportedly tried to intervene when police were harassing a motorbike taxi driver for not wearing a mask, reports the Standard newspaper.

The Daily Nation newspaper adds that the police were arguing over a bribe of 50 Kenyan shillings (\$0.50; £0.40).

The police then shot dead the cobbler, named as 40-year-old Lazarus Kirop. The crowd started protesting against Mr



Kirop's death.

Hundreds of villagers followed the police back to their police station and set alight a police officer's house, reports the Daily Nation.

The police statement says two more people were then shot dead. It goes on to say that the police intend to take "stern disciplinary action against any other officer found culpable".

A night-time curfew was introduced at the end of March, along with other measures, in order to slow the spread of Covid-19.

The Kenyan police watchdog said at the beginning of June that at least 15 people had been killed by police during the nationwide curfew. BBC

has strict coronavirus restrictions, has recorded more than 5,000 confirmed cases and 81 deaths. Although the hospital cannot confirm that its patient is 114 years old, the medical team says that he

is definitely older than 100 and estimates that he is 109. In his youth, he moved to Addis Ababa from southern Ethiopia when he was young and has lived through tumultuous times in his country. BBC



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. Wilehlmina 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 Joschka Fischer

The Triple Crisis Shaking the World

More than just a public-health disaster, the COVID-19 pandemic is a history-defining event with far-reaching implications for the global distribution of wealth and power. With economies in free-fall and geopolitical tensions rising, there can be no return to normal: the past is passed, and only the future counts now.

BERLIN - The COVID-19 pandemic is entering its second phase as countries gradually reopen their economies and loosen or even revoke strict social-distancing measures. Yet, barring the arrival of an effective, universally available therapy or vaccine, the transition back to "normal" will be more aspirational than real. Worse, it risks triggering a second wave of infections at the local and regional level, and possibly on a much larger scale.

True, political decision-makers, health-care providers, scientists, and the general public have learned a great deal from the experience of the first wave. Though a second wave of infections seems highly probable, it will play out differently than the first wave. Rather than a full-scale lockdown that brings economic and social life to a standstill, the response will rely mainly on strict but targeted rules for social distancing, face masks, telecommuting, video conferencing, and so forth. But, depending on the next wave's intensity, local or regional lockdowns may still be deemed necessary in the most extreme cases.

Much like the first wave of the pandemic, the next phase will involve a trio of simultaneous crises. To the risk of new infections getting out of control and spreading globally once again must be added the ongoing economic and social fallout and an escalating geopolitical bust-up. The global economy is already in a deep recession that will not be quickly or easily overcome. And this, along with the pandemic, will factor into the intensifying Sino-American rivalry, particularly in the months leading up to the United States' presidential election in November.

As if this combination of health, socioeconomic, and geopolitical upheavals were not destabilizing enough, one also cannot ignore the Trump factor. If US President Donald Trump were to win a second four-year term, the current global chaos would escalate dramatically, whereas a victory for his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, would at least bring greater stability.

The stakes in the US presidential election could scarcely be higher. Given the world's mounting crises, it is no exaggeration to say that humanity is approaching an historic crossroads. The full extent of the economic recession probably will not become apparent until this fall and winter, when it will most likely come as another shock, because the world is no longer accustomed to such dramatic contractions. Both psychologically and in real terms, we are accustomed to continuous growth.

Will richer countries in the West and Asia be able to deal with a deep, widespread, prolonged recession or even depression? Even if trillions of dollars in stimulus spending proves sufficient to offset a full collapse, the question will be what comes next.

In the worst scenario (which is not impossible), Trump is re-elected, the second wave of the pandemic is global, economies continue to crash, and the new cold war in East Asia turns hot. But even if one does not assume the worst, the triple crisis will usher in a new era, requiring that national political and economic systems and multilateral institutions be rebuilt. Even in the best-case scenario, there can be no return to the status quo ante. The past has passed; only the future counts now.

We should harbor no illusions about what might and should come next. The crises triggered by the pandemic are so deep and far-reaching that they inevitably will lead to a radical redistribution of power and wealth at the global level. The societies that have prepared for this outcome by mustering the necessary energy, know-how, and investments will be among the winners; those that fail to see what is coming will find themselves among the losers.

After all, long before the pandemic, the world was already undergoing a transition to the digital age, with far-reaching implications for the value of traditional technologies, legacy industries, and the distribution of global power and wealth. Moreover, an even greater global crisis is already fully visible on the horizon. The consequences of runaway climate change will be far graver than anything we have ever seen, and there will be no chance of a vaccine to solve that problem.

The COVID-19 pandemic thus marks a real turning point. For centuries, we have relied on a system of political economy comprising sovereign egoistical nation-states, industries (both under capitalism and socialism) that run on fossil fuels, and the consumption of finite natural resources. This system is quickly reaching its limits, making fundamental change unavoidable.

The task now is to learn as much as we can from the first wave of the triple crisis. For Europe, which seemed to have fallen far behind economically and geopolitically, this moment represents an unexpected opportunity to address its obvious shortcomings. Europe has the political values (democracy, rule of law, and social equality), technical know-how, and investment power to act decisively in the interest of its own principles and goals, as well as those of humanity more generally. The only question is what Europeans are waiting for.

O-PED

By Jagan Chapagain
& Andrew Steer

Why Disaster Preparedness Cannot Wait

As countries emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic over the coming year, world leaders will face a defining moment. By ramping up investments in disaster preparedness, they can shape their legacies and set humanity on a safer course for the next decade and beyond.

GENEVA/WASHINGTON, DC - The world has been planning for the future in the mistaken belief that it will resemble the past. But as COVID-19 coincides with cyclones in South Asia and the Pacific and vast locust swarms in East Africa, the need to prepare for a world of unexpected shocks has become clearer than ever. Epidemics, floods, storms, droughts, and wildfires are all expected to become more frequent and severe, affecting hundreds of millions of people each year.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global wake-up call. And as leaders of international organizations, we understand both the grave threat and the potential opportunity for change that it represents.

In particular, COVID-19 and recent climate disasters have shown that we must step up investment in preparedness now, instead of waiting for the next crisis to hit. The choice is clear: delay and pay, or plan and prosper.

We know that investing in disaster preparedness is worth it - both in terms of human lives saved and economic returns. Research by the Global Commission on Adaptation, for example, shows that benefit-to-cost ratios for climate-adaptation investments range from 2:1 to 10:1.

To be sure, preparing for major shocks involves substantial outlays. Building resilience to climate impacts could cost \$140-300 billion annually by 2030, while meeting World Health Organization minimum standards for pandemic preparedness will require up to \$3.4 billion per year.

But these sums are small compared to the costs of not being prepared. Natural disasters already cost hundreds of billions of dollars a year; with a 2°C increase in temperature, according to one estimate, damages from climate change could reach \$69 trillion by 2100.

The human cost is high, too. An analysis by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) last year found that doing nothing could increase the number of people who need international humanitarian aid because of floods, storms, droughts and wildfires every year - currently 108 million - 50% by 2030. The total could nearly double, to 200 million people, by 2050.

Moreover, the coming year represents a critical window for investing in resilience, because governments will spend trillions of dollars to restart economies after the pandemic. The danger is that financial resources, and with it the political appetite for change, will then shrink. That is why now is the time for the rich world to help poorer countries reboot their economies and boost their resilience to future threats, including climate change.

One of the most important things governments can do today is invest in better collection and analysis of data on the disaster risks their countries face. Simply having 24 hours' notice of a storm's arrival or foreknowledge of an impending heat wave can cut the resulting losses by 30%, while spending \$800 million on early-warning systems in developing countries would save \$3-16 billion per year.

For example, although Cyclone Amphan recently wreaked havoc on India and Bangladesh and killed dozens of people, early-warning systems saved countless more lives. Accurate forecasts, along with decades of planning and preparedness, enabled the two countries to evacuate more than three million people and keep the death toll far lower than it would have been in the past.

Governments and international organizations are now working to make early-warning technology more accessible and effective through a new risk-informed early-action partnership. This initiative aims to make one billion people safer from disasters by 2025, partly by scaling up so-called forecast-based financing, which uses weather projections to give vulnerable communities the resources they need to prepare. Innovative financing schemes like these, which are supported by the German and British governments, among others, can save lives and reduce the damage when storms and heat waves hit.

But none of these solutions will be effective if funding and threat information don't reach the local level. Communities and local organizations are often the first responders in any crisis, and it is vital that they be empowered to act.

Before Cyclone Amphan made landfall, for example, the IFRC sent funds to the Bangladesh Red Crescent chapter, which helped 20,000 vulnerable people receive dry food and drinking water, first aid, safety equipment, and transportation to cyclone shelters. At the same time, the chapter helped implement COVID-19 safety measures, such as disinfecting shelters, making additional space available to allow for social distancing, and providing personal protective equipment.

Local communities are also often in the best position to identify effective solutions. After Typhoon Ondoy struck the Philippines in 2009, for example, people living in informal settlements worked with city officials to design resilient housing that could withstand future flooding.

As countries emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic over the coming year, world leaders will face a watershed moment. By ramping up investments in disaster preparedness, they can shape their legacies and set humanity on a safer course for the next decade and beyond.

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OPINION

By Andrew Sheng & Xiao Geng

The American Muddle

Longstanding and bipartisan pretensions of American exceptionalism, rising domestic concerns, and a lack of policy clarity suggest that, even if Donald Trump is voted out in November, the US-led cooperation the world needs will not soon emerge. But another four years of Trump would almost certainly make matters worse.

HONG KONG - Former US National Security Adviser John Bolton's new book *The Room Where It Happened* bills itself as "the most comprehensive and substantial account" of President Donald Trump's administration. And, indeed, it has quickly become a critical resource for those seeking to understand Trump. But, despite Bolton's juicy revelations about Trump's conduct of foreign policy (which his administration tried in vain to keep off bookshelves), the book does little to answer the fundamental question facing the US: Is its current foreign-policy muddle Trump's fault, or the result of something deeper and more structural?

There is no doubt that Trump's leadership is problematic, even dangerous. A longtime Washington insider, Bolton assumed that, as national security adviser, he would be responsible for ensuring that the president "understood what options were open to him for any given decision," and that the decision would then be "carried out by the pertinent bureaucracies."

But Trump was not interested in an orderly calculation of policy priorities and trade-offs. Nor was he much interested in policy implementation. Managing the different agendas, interests, and egos of America's complex bureaucratic machinery - including the State Department, the Pentagon, the Treasury, and intelligence agencies - is barely on his radar.

Trump's own ego - inextricably linked to his re-election - was all that mattered, according to Bolton, to the point that he was willing to make what Bolton considered imprudent deals with other countries just to claim a victory. Eventually, Bolton writes, he couldn't take it anymore and resigned. (Trump still insists that he fired Bolton.)

Trump's temperamental, transactional approach to foreign affairs - which has included praising dictators, withdrawing from multilateral agreements, and tweeting wild threats whenever he has felt cornered - has caused considerable confusion among America's allies and rivals alike (not to mention US officials and bureaucrats). Not surprisingly, it has severely undermined America's standing on the world stage.

Yet America's global standing was weakening long before Trump arrived. Its position as a superpower depends on its economic influence, technological prowess, financial dominance, and military might. But its interest in - and approach to - global leadership has always been shaped by its self-perception as a moral authority, bearing universal values that others should adopt as their own.

The problem, which the geostrategist George Friedman has pointed out, is that "most nations don't adhere to American moral standards." That is certainly true of China, which has its own set of values and priorities. This divergence has contributed substantially to the conclusion in the US that China is the country's main strategic rival.

That notion has wide bipartisan support in the US. In fact, Trump's Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama, also sought to shift America's strategic focus toward managing China's rise - albeit far less combatively than Trump - but was thwarted by continued upheaval in the Middle East.

As Richard N. Haass has argued, Trump's presidency has been marked by divisions not so much on whether to pivot toward the Pacific, withdraw from the Middle East morass, or rethink relations with Russia, but on how to do so. Still, Trump's highly divisive, antagonistic style has all but precluded any consensus, particularly with regard to China. What is left is a knee-jerk repudiation of all things Chinese.

Escaping this muddle will not be easy. America's global standing depends on a strong economy. And yet the COVID-19 pandemic has caused some 40 million Americans to file for unemployment benefits, and the Federal Reserve projects that many will remain out of work for a prolonged period. It does not help that long-simmering social divisions are boiling over, exemplified by widespread protests over systemic racism and police violence.

Americans and their leaders are now increasingly fixated on domestic challenges. As a result, Haass notes, "much is happening in the world that calls out for American attention and is not getting it."

For one thing, as long as COVID-19 survives anywhere, countries that have eliminated it will continue to suffer from additional waves of infection. Yet the US has been unable to manage the crisis at home: more than 120,000 Americans have died, and cases continue to rise at a rate of over 25,000 per day.

The US cannot recapture the hegemonic global leadership of the past, and it shouldn't try. The world is shifting toward a multipolar order, in which, as Harvard's Joseph S. Nye has explained, power is diffused among multiple nation-states, multinational corporations, non-state actors, and diverse communities (in terms of race, gender, religion, and culture). At the same time, challenges are becoming increasingly global in nature, with the pandemic being a case in point.

For the US, the rational response would be to lead a cooperative effort to address shared challenges, including the looming recession, technological disruption, and climate change. For this to work, all stakeholders - including US rivals like China, Russia, and Iran - must be involved.

Trump has proved himself to be anything but rational. But longstanding and bipartisan pretensions of moral exceptionalism, the perception of China as a strategic competitor, rising domestic concerns, and a lack of policy clarity suggest that, even if he is voted out in November, the US-led cooperation the world needs will not soon emerge.

That is the message China has received, at least. And just as the US fears foreign interference in its elections, China, viewing internal stability and national security as vital to its development, fears foreign interference in its domestic affairs. Given this, the US-China rivalry will probably not wane any time soon.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Biafra Sets the Alarm Clock at Midnight, Time to Wake Up.

By KesterKennKlomegah

Over the years, high profiled politicians, academics and human rights groups have been talking about the armed attacks with its devastating effects on the economy in the Igbo-dominated South-Eastern States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Nigeria gained its independence in October 1960. Since then it has strongly witnessed the sharp division of Nigeria into three regions - North, West and East - and this factor has further exacerbated the well-developed economic, political, and social differences among ethnic groups. The Igbo-dominated Eastern States have been struggling for peace and freedom necessary for development since the Civil War ended in 1970.

That was fought between the Government of Nigeria and the State of Biafra from July 1967 to January 1970. The Igbo leadership could no longer coexist with the Northern-dominated Federal Government. The Eastern River States are devastated, millions of the population deeply impoverished while resources remained untapped.

In this interview by KesterKennKlomegah, for instance, Professor Nathaniel Aniekwu, Secretary at the Alaigho Development Foundation [ADF] in Nigeria, vehemently argues that 50 years after the civil war, the growing threats and frequent attacks by northern ethnic groups and the deepening pitfalls in the federal governance system have negatively affected the development of the Biafra. The Alaigho Development Foundation is a registered NGO with the key aims of addressing development issues in Igboland, and further fight for justice, civil rights and good governance in Nigeria.

Here are the interview excerpts:

How would you argue that 50years after the Civil War [1967 to 1970], growing threats and frequent attacks by ethnic groups have affected the development, particularly in the Eastern States of Nigeria?

It is not rocket science that capital [money] is a coward and therefore does not go where there is insecurity. The Biafra/Nigeria Civil war never really ended. What happened 50 years ago was a transition of the war from open shooting battles to economic strangulation war which has translated into asymmetric herdsmen/terrorist-based war.

The initial morphed face of the war started in 1970, and was aimed at strangulating the region through infrastructural/economic deprivation. The federal government policy of offering 20 pounds in return for any amount of wealth deposits an Igbo person had in the bank, especially in the face of the 3Rs [Reconciliation, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction] program of reestablishing the region was not accidental. This was quickly followed by the Nigeria Enterprises Promotion Decree of 1972, which had as one of its main objectives to promote Nigerian indigenous enterprises with a view to increasing indigenous equity participation in the national economy. We were supposed to acquire this equity with the balance of the 20 pounds after feeding.

The current phase of the war is the herdsmen/terrorist-based war, which is aimed at destroying our agricultural base and make us

completely dependent and then overrun and take over our ancestral lands. These are all orchestrated by the same people who could not wipe us out on the battle fields. The world community continuously watches the large-scale atrocities committed in the country.

As long as these wars are going on, Nigeria cannot know peace and therefore no real progress. The Eastern region is totally out of the equation from the evidences of our realities. Any progress in the Eastern region must be home grown and organic. This is the real essence of the ADF's "Akuruo'ulo" program. Only the desperate and degenerate Chinese will have the temerity to want to invest in Nigeria, but with conditions that makes it better for you to live without their investments.

How would you assess the overall economic development of the Biafra States?

The Biafra States are faring very well given the numerous and insurmountable challenges thrown at them. We have almost no federal presence in the region, no infrastructure, receive the least budget allocations and have the least representation in all the arms of the



federal government. This is what has accounted for this current phase of the war. Ndigbo have indomitable spirits and cannot be rendered null and void economically, as long as they are alive.

The Government is, therefore, on their Plan C, which is physical annihilation and possessing their homelands. All economic indices show that in spite of the war against them, marginalization and exclusion from participation in the governance of Nigeria, the Biafra States continue to be very competitive and are very far from being worse off among the Nigerian States.

Do you think it could have been different if the Southeast or the River States were not under the administration of the Federal Government of Nigeria?

I don't think so, I know it. If they will let us be, even with all the deprivations and infrastructural neglect in place, Ndigbo will grow very quickly to become the go-to place for business. Our detractors know this much and that is what bothers them the most. What are the economic potentials, especially for foreign investment?

The prognosis is very poor. Nobody goes for a swim in the desert. Only desperate investors still consider Nigeria as an investment destination for the earlier mentioned reasons.

Although Nigeria is very richly endowed with natural and human resources, but it has quickly lost all its shining advantages. Moreover, whatever remains had been made in the past, has been squandered, especially as they seek to exclude Biafras from participation in political governance. They failed to deploy the appropriate resources, especially manpower, the broad-minded people who can guide and manage the development of the country, simply because most of them come from the Biafra States. Under the current circumstances, how can the government make it easier to attract foreign investment to the region?

The bus has already left the station. The trust has been breached and the center cannot no longer hold. As a Christian, I believe that nothing is impossible with God. But we are not God. We have squandered a lot of goodwill, which all developmental programs required.

Frankly speaking, only a dedicated team of experts can possibly do a lot, if all the impediments on our paths are removed, the trust deficit reversed, religion seizes to be so dominant in our decision making process, the herdsmen/terrorists are reigned in, ethnicity seizes to be a criteria for appointments and recognitions.

Furthermore, if the ethnic nationalities will come together and decide on the form and degree of association they will have in a restructured Nigeria, and the level of authority that should reside at the center: if we shall confess and repent from our sins and seek forgiveness, then perhaps, we stand a chance of reversing the damage. There are still a lot of challenges in achieving all that you have said above, but do you see any possibilities for national integration and a new leadership paradigm?

National integration is a very clear possibility, especially for The Biafra States. In fact, it is our only hope. Remember that Nigeria is made of many unwilling nations fused into the entity called Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN). These nations have their inalienable right of association and with whomsoever they chose. These nations must choose their paths of integration.

For Ndigbo, not only that internal cohesion is imperative but also integrating in a union of the agreed is paramount. Leadership is very critical in attaining these objectives and this is where the paradigm shift is called for. Leadership must be looked from the point of view of the governed, at the micro-level of the society. A leadership that is organic and evolves from the people. Not a leadership foisted on the people by a band of degenerates.

Leadership paradigm shift is needed to look at the Igbo man as he is, what his essence is and then, try and appeal to that essence. Being republican in his core essence means that you cannot lead him the same way you lead the Yorubas nor Hausas. A leadership that achieves this will have a followership similar to what we had with DrNnamdiAzikiwe in the first republic or the followership General OdumegwuOjukwu had during the war.

TO BE CONT'D

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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NPHIL boss speaks at London School of Economics and Political Science

The Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Dr. Mosoka P.

The event is being hosted by FirozLalji from the Centre for Africa and the Global Health Initiative.

multi-country perspective of effects of COVID on health, health policy, and health systems across Africa.

Panelists will share among other things, how countries have shifted their health agendas and funding to focus on outbreak preparedness and management.

According to the London School of Economics and Political Science, the NPHIL boss was suggested because of his expertise from the Liberian experience, stressing that the capacity built through Ebola would be relevant to share and relate to context of Covid-19.

"I suggested your name because I think that your expertise from the Liberian experience and capacity built through Ebola would be relevant to share and relate to context of Covid. For example, how have the efforts that strengthened community/regional surveillance capacity, diagnostic and lab capacity, research partnerships/collaboration, and community

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Dr. Mosoka P. Fallah

Fallah, will today, Monday, June 29, 2020 share experiences on global health issues in response to invitation from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Dr. Fallah is among several other speakers and will speak on the topic: "The Impact of COVID on Global Health: A Comparative look at the African Region".

The platform will present a

AfDB, partners to boost cocoa production in Ghana

-Disburses first USD 200M loan to Ghana Cocoa Board

Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) and lenders have welcomed the first disbursement of \$200 million of a syndicated loan facility to boost cocoa productivity in the world's second-largest producer.

The occasion was marked by a ceremony held in Accra, Ghana on Tuesday 23 June, followed online by hundreds of observers across the globe. In attendance were COCOBOD and government representatives and participating lenders, which included development finance institutions: the African Development Bank (<https://www.AfDB.org/>), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Spa. Commercial lenders were represented by Credit Suisse AG, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, London Branch.

The \$600 million syndicated loan agreement was signed in November last year at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg. JICA and the African Development Bank agreed to provide \$3.5 billion in joint financing under the fourth phase of the Enhanced Private

Sector Assistance for Africa Initiative.

"There are challenges with productivity in the country's cocoa production, as well as with the systems in place for

achieving Sustainable Development Goals," said COCOBOD CEO Joseph Boahen Aidoo.

COCOBOD will use the facility to raise cocoa yields per hectare and increase Ghana's overall production. Activities under the facility will include the allocation of financing to sustainably increase cocoa plant fertility, improve



processing and the distribution of cocoa. By strengthening the cocoa bean-centric agricultural value chain and related industries, the facility will help COCOBOD to contribute to

irrigation systems, and rehabilitate aged and disease-infected farms. The funds will also help increase warehouse

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LPP restructures leadership

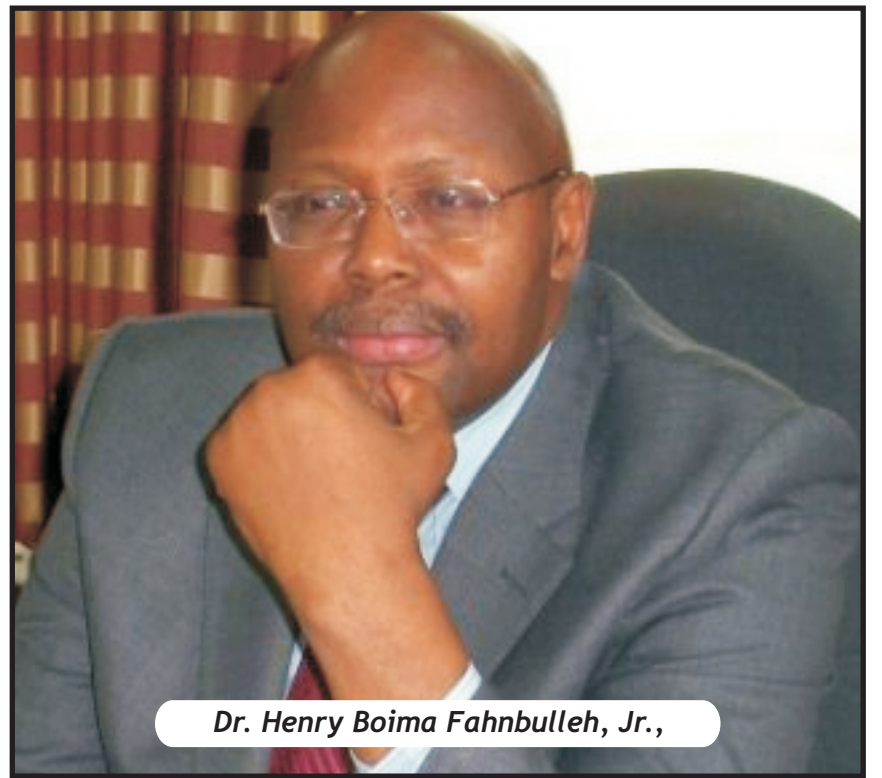
The Liberian People's Party has restructured its national leadership, naming Theodosia Clark-Wah, as Acting Chairman; Harry Muingbeh, Acting Co-chairman; Morris Kollie, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs; Mognuemuetorh Sackor, Assistant Secretary General for Public Affairs; J. Yanqui Zaza, Treasurer; and Dr. Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Jr., Standard-bearer, respectively.

In a press release, the party says the acting leadership shall oversee its activities for six

has been preoccupied with the Central Bank of Liberia.

It says Cllr. Jallah's preoccupation with the Central Bank of Liberia does not allow him to focus on the activities of the party, and that like him, Partisan Jefferson Kanmoh, National Secretary - General is also preoccupied with the Office of the President of the Republic of Liberia thereby, stalling his execution of party duties thus, making the Party Secretariat ineffective.

"Unlike Chairman Jallah and Secretary - General Jefferson



Dr. Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Jr.,

months with the mandate to reactivate party structures across Liberia, carry out membership update and recruitment of new members, hold re-union conference, field LPP senatorial candidates in the 2020 midterm election and to plan, organize and hold national congress.

The release notes that since the 2017 presidential and legislative elections, the Liberian People's Party (LPP) has been dormant, largely caused by the fact that the Party Chairman Counsellor Joseph Kpator Jallah

Kanmoh, Counsellor Senator Joseph N. Nagbe immediately resigned his position as Co-Chairman of the Party upon appointment as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia", the release points out.

It continues that more importantly, under the leadership of Chairman Jallah, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party has never convened any regular meetings or supervised activities

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'No Mask, No Entry

Starts from back page

Company that firmly supported the labor economy by paying the full salaries of thousands of its employees around the country including its independent contractors while its operations were closed with no income due to the COVID-19.

As was the case during the unfortunate Ebola epidemic

when Winners, Inc. was the only Gaming company that stayed in Liberia and supported the government's efforts, so it is now where Winners Inc. sees itself as a partner with the government of Liberia in the fight against COVID-19 and will do all it can to help win the fight.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

27-year-old man booked for stealing fish

By Patrick N. Mensah,
from Maryland

A 27-year-old man identified as Moses Prowd has been booked for allegedly stealing a cartoon of dry fish from his

at 7:00AM.

Madam Freeman narrated that before going to bed, she placed the cartoon of fish in the storeroom but the next morning she couldn't see her fish, something that drew the



Mother-in-law in Halfman Station Community, outskirt of Harper City, Maryland County.

According to the Mother-in-law Sarah Freeman, the alleged theft occurred on June 24, 2020

attention of residents, who launched a massive search and later discovered that the missing cartoon of fish in question was stolen by her son-in-law, Moses Prowd.

According to Madam Freeman, Moses Prowd and her daughter Naomi Williams have lived together for couple of years and the union is blessed with two children but he doesn't care to cater to the children.

"I am not even worrying about his refusal to take care of my grand children; why my fish?" She asked.

The woman lamented that though she had heard information that her son-in-law is a thief, she couldn't believe it until he has proved to her.

"I couldn't believe this at all that he does such a wicked act to people in this Community. Thank God; it has come to light; what he has been doing in the darkness", she added.

Residents of Halfman Station Community said Moses Prowd has been noted as an alleged criminal. "He is always stealing from poor people in this community; why now? Why is he always during such a wicked thing?" They wondered.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of Police in Harper City, Jacob Kumah has commended community dwellers for reporting the theft to the Liberia National Police.

Police have charged suspect Moses Prowd with Theft of Property and detained him, pending court trial.

NSA probes

Starts from back page

19 imposing floor prices and surcharges on one-net voice calls and data. Before issuing the Order, the LTA got all stakeholders involved and their inputs were considered.

Addressing journalists Friday about the situation surrounding the Thursday violent protest, Police spokesman Moses Carter declined to speak to the issue regarding Mr. Coulibaly's investigation, saying the LNP is not investigating him, rather he is being investigated by the NSA.

The Orange Liberia CEO was called in by the NSA for questioning following the arrest of six persons during a violent protest here early Thursday morning, 25 June near the Nigerian House in Congo Town.

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's Chief Executive Officer has come to be linked to the protest, but police said last week that there have been speculation that the company has sponsored most of the violent protests here.

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

Meanwhile the LNP warns that it will do nothing to compromise the fight aimed at consolidating the peace and stability of the country, emphasizing that anyone that is bent on causing chaos for the country will be dealt with in line with the rule of law.

"Of late, we have exercise a huge level of tolerance in dealing with public order violators, but some see this as weakness on our part. We are using this medium to warn all those desirous of holding special events ranging from protest and other public gatherings to follow these protocols mentioned herein," says Carter.

Earlier on 25 June, he said the Orange Liberia executive was being questioned on grounds that the Orange Family has been having contacts with the protesters

prior to the incident.

According to Carter, 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.

During a follow - up with Carter Sunday, 28 June, he explained that the six persons arrested during the protest are still being investigated by police, but he was not clear about when they the investigation would be concluded.

Carter says police will not name the six suspects until the investigation is concluded and finds if there is a probable cause to charge them or not.

The six suspects held by police are accused of being involved in the protest which resulted in a road block at Nigerian House, preventing smooth movement of vehicles and peaceful citizens and residents here.

Upon receipt of the information about the public disturbance, Carter notes that officers of the LNP swiftly moved in, cut off the fire and created access for citizens to move freely.

"The responding officers chased after the public order violators and arrested six persons in connection to the road block and tire burning incident," he says.

"Those arrested are undergoing investigation at the headquarters of the Liberia National Police. They will be duly charged and forwarded to court subsequently," he continues.

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.

LHT to host Yee Blee Festival in Liberia

By Lewis S. Teh

The President and founder of the Liberia Heritage Tour, Ms. Caroline Nelson Barnard has disclosed plans to host a "Yee Blee Festival" in Liberia in February 2021.

"While I'm aware of the many problems that we have in Liberia, all of them are generic to nations around the world", she noted.

Addressing scores of government officials, and dignitaries over the weekend at the First Province Baptist Church in Monrovia, Ms. Barnard said focusing on the problems alone will not solve them, but recognizing the problems and solving them is the best way.

According to her, the word Yee Blee is a phrase from the Bassa vernacular, meaning "Come Home." She noted the goal of the Yee Blee Festival is to bring thousands of Liberians, Africans and lovers of Africa to Liberia every year, beginning February 2021.

Ms. Barnard continued that the goal of the Liberia Heritage Tour is to bring development to the country thru tourism. "We believe that if we use the law of large number to jump start the

tourism industry in Liberia, we can create jobs and change international narrative about Liberia."

She explained that by applying the large number concept, the Liberia Heritage Tour hopes to bring at least 2,500 guests in February, saying that each guest will spend at least US\$2,500, on local travels, tour, concerts, food, cultural shows, parties, art and crafts that could see a least US\$ 6.2 million infused in the economy directly within one month.

The LLC president pointed out that such infusion of cash would boost economic

activities and help to create wealth after the devastating effect of the Coronavirus.

The Yee Blee Festival will be characterized by commemoration of the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade with black history in Liberia tours, said Ms Barnard.

She disclosed that the festival is being planned in partnership with several institutions, including the Liberian Tourism Association and the National Business Women Association, among others. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Français

Un état d'urgence dénué de sens, selon le Sénateur Darius Dillon

Pour le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius, le prolongement de la période de l'état d'urgence n'a aucun sens à ce moment.

S'adressant aux militants de son parti le jeudi 25 juin devant la radio Truth FM à

Paynesville, M. Dillon a déclaré que le Libéria est en guerre contre une maladie et non contre une armée, d'où la nécessité de recourir à la loi de la santé publique pour lutter contre la crise sanitaire, au lieu de se servir chaque fois de l'état d'urgence.

Selon lui, le président n'a

qu'à prendre un décret présidentiel pour mettre de l'ordre là où il le faut. On n'a pas besoin d'un état d'urgence, car cela n'est pas du tout juste.

Quant à son rapport avec les autres sénateurs, Dillon a dit qu'à aucun moment il n'a ni accusé ses collègues d'avoir accepté des pots-de-vin ni insulté ces derniers. Il soutient que tout ce qu'il a dit est conforme à la Constitution.

Il a fait savoir en outre que depuis que la direction du Sénat a accusé réception de la plainte qu'a déposée contre lui le sénateur du comté de Lofa, George Tengbeh, le comité constitué pour enquêter ne l'a jamais invité pour l'interroger de quoi que ce soit.

M. Dillon a dit regretter que l'ajustement du budget ait été adopté à la hâte sans que les parlementaires se penche sur la question. Selon lui, même les sénateurs qui l'ont adopté se plaignent maintenant de certaines des choses qui s'y trouvent.



Sous les coups des jihadistes, le Burkina Faso coule à pic

Destination touristique il y a à peine six ans, le Burkina Faso a coulé à pic, ravagé par les groupes jihadistes qui étendent leur emprise meurtrière sur ce pays sahélien et menacent gravement la présidentielle de novembre.

Les chiffres sont effrayants : plus de 1.600 morts dans des attaques jihadistes selon l'Observatoire pour la démocratie et les droits de l'homme - un comptage minimum, certains parlant de 5.000 morts -, 100% du territoire déconseillé aux Occidentaux, près d'un million de déplacés... Nul doute que la situation sera évoquée lors du sommet qui doit réunir mardi à Nouakchott le président français Emmanuel Macron et ses homologues sahéliens.

Derrière les chiffres, des situations tragiques. Aly Sidibé, 42 ans, ancien éleveur déplacé à Kaya (centre-nord), témoigne : "La vie est plus que dure pour nous. Ma femme a été tuée lors d'une attaque à Arbinda (nord) en décembre, laissant un bébé de deux ans. L'enfant est à

Ouagadougou. Il est pris en charge par l'action sociale".

"J'ai perdu tout mon troupeau. J'avais plus de 50 têtes de bœufs. Je n'ai même plus un mouton. J'ai dû quitter le camp de déplacés pour chercher du travail. Mais je ne sais que m'occuper de mon troupeau", explique-t-il.

- "Roi fainéant" -

Mahamoudou Savadogo, chercheur burkinabè spécialiste du jihadisme, voit

plusieurs raisons au "désastre".

Selon lui, "il y a eu un mauvais diagnostic au départ. On a commencé par accuser l'ancien régime" de Blaise Compaoré, renversé en 2014 et soupçonné d'avoir conclu une sorte de pacte de non-agression avec les groupes jihadistes qui a longtemps préservé le pays. Puis on a mis en cause "les Occidentaux".

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Éditorial

Nous voilà de retour au statu quo

En tirant la sonnette dans un éditorial récent, nous avons peut-être paru comme des prophètes du mal, quand nous déclarions que le Libéria pourrait sérieusement se retrouver dans le chaos au rythme où allaient les choses.

Le pays envisageait un assouplissement de certaines restrictions et une reprise éventuelle des activités normales alors que qu'il y avait une augmentation rapide des cas confirmés de coronavirus. Désolé si nous n'avions pas été autant optimistes que certains d'entre vous. Mais sous aucune condition, nous n'avions voulu paraître comme des diseurs du malheur.

Oui, la réalité est là. Moins d'une semaine après avoir lancé cette alerte, le pays est revenu au statu quo. Le président George Manneh Weah a prolongé l'état d'urgence de 30 jours et ramené le couvre-feu de 21 heures à 18 heures et donné l'ordre strict pour l'application de toutes les mesures barrières, dont le port obligatoire de masques dans les lieux publics en tout temps, le lavage constant des mains et la distanciation sociale, entre autres.

Comme nous le pensions à l'époque, peu de progrès ont été réalisés, il serait donc anormal que le gouvernement dise qu'il est temps d'assouplir les restrictions et d'ouvrir l'économie. Le président Weah a dû reporter la reprise des vols normaux à l'aéroport international Roberts, au 28 juin, au lieu du 22 juin comme l'avait initialement annoncé les autorités.

Selon le pouvoir, ce report est nécessaire car cela permettra au gouvernement de s'assurer que des mesures appropriées sont mises en place pour assurer la sécurité des voyageurs et des employés de l'aéroport.

En outre, le président Weah a demandé à la ministre de la Santé, Wilehlmina Jallah, d'annoncer ou rendre publiques les autres mesures sanitaires visant à freiner la propagation du coronavirus dans le pays.

Mais, premièrement, nous nous posons la question de savoir ce qu'avait poussé le président à commencer à assouplir les restrictions alors que les statistiques de l'Institut national de la santé publique du Libéria (NPHIL), montraient clairement que le nombre de cas augmentaient de façon exponentielle, ce, depuis que le pays a enregistré son premier cas index le 16 mars 2020?

Quelque chose semble fondamentalement anormal ici. Nous pensons que le président est mal informé en ce qui concerne les progrès réalisés dans la lutte contre le Covid-19. Le chef de l'état semble avoir initialement été induit en erreur pour prendre des mesures ou faire des déclarations qui, plus tard, devraient être balayées du revers de la main comme c'est présentement le cas.

Les autorités sanitaires sont-elles honnêtes avec le président sur la crise sanitaire ou lui font-elles les yeux doux pour leur intérêt personnel, en poussant de côté les vrais problèmes? En tout cas il y a quelque chose qui ne tourne pas rond.

L'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères, Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, a récemment défié le gouvernement du Libéria, en particulier les autorités sanitaires impliquées dans la lutte contre le COVID-19, de fournir des indicateurs «clairs, mesurables et faciles à comprendre» sur les progrès accomplis dans la lutte, qui justifient le prolongement du confinement.

Ngafuan: «Se fier davantage aux conseils des autorités sanitaires lors d'une crise sanitaire est la chose la plus prudente à faire. Cependant, le peuple libérien mérite des indicateurs plus concrets et plus détaillés pour justifier le prolongement d'un confinement en lieu et place d'une crise nébuleuse non résolue.»

En effet, c'est le dilemme dans lequel nous semblons nous trouver en ce moment en tant que peuple. Nous n'avons jamais, au contraire, nous ne faisons que reculer vers la maladie, la pauvreté, la misère et la mort. Nous pouvons-nous débarrasser de cette pandémie mortelle sans l'intervention de quiconque, pourvue que nous nous joignons les coudes et observons de manière strictes les mesures barrières pour rester en bonne santé.

Français

Sous les coups des jihadistes,

“On pointait un terrorisme exogène et non endogène”, estime M. Savadogo.

“L’armée n’a jamais été équipée, et il n’y a jamais eu de stratégie adaptée”, ajoute-t-il. Des sources sécuritaires confirment que les autorités de transition post-Compaoré, mais aussi le pouvoir du président de Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, avaient peur d’un putsch et n’ont donc pas “donné à l’armée les moyens de répondre”.

Conséquence : l’armée va de défaite en défaite, malgré ses annonces de victoires spectaculaires.

Le territoire sur lequel l’Etat exerce son autorité se réduit comme une peau de chagrin. Armée, police, enseignants sont absents de pans entiers du pays.

Dans ce contexte, le président Kaboré est la cible de critiques. “C’est une sorte de roi fainéant qui multiplie les audiences et écoute dans son fauteuil sans prendre de décision”, estime une source diplomatique à Abidjan.

“Ceux qui parlent ne connaissent pas la situation. Ils peuvent avoir l’impression que les choses ne bougent pas mais des actions sont menées. Un bon nombre de détachements ont été créés” dans les zones en proie aux attaques, rétorque le chef d’état-major, le général Moïse Miningou, interrogé par l’AFP.

“La bataille est dure mais dans peu de temps on aura des résultats. C’est notre devoir de libérer les axes, de sécuriser les populations et nous allons nous y atteler. Surtout que nous aurons de moyens plus performants.

La peur va changer de camp”, promettait-il récemment devant les troupes, affirmant que le Burkina aurait cinq hélicoptères de combat

Le Directeur Général d'Organe Liberia interrogé après une violente manifestation

Le Directeur Général d’Orange Liberia, M. Mamadou Coulibaly, a été interpellé par la police libérienne pour interrogation après une violente manifestation qui a eu lieu jeudi tôt le matin près de l’Ambassade du Nigéria, ont révélé les autorités policières.

La manifestation aurait été organisée par des membres du Conseil des patriotes (CoP), qui ont mené deux manifestations successives ici contre le gouvernement dirigé par Weah.

opérationnels d’ici la fin de l’année.

- “Campagne électorale” -

“L’Etat est resté inerte”, soutient à l’inverse M. Savadogo, pour qui cette inaction a notamment contribué à nourrir les violences intercommunautaires entre Mossi et Peuls.

Pour lui, “les exactions (non punies) des Mossis en rétorsion aux actions des groupes armés terroristes ont pratiquement poussé les jeunes Peuls à adhérer au djihadisme” et contribuer à creuser le fossé entre les ethnies.

La semaine dernière, le président Kaboré, candidat à sa propre succession, a réalisé un coup d’éclat en se rendant à Djibo, une des villes symboles de l’avancée jihadiste, à 200 km au nord de la capitale Ouagadougou.

“J’ai pris l’engagement que Djibo est et restera à jamais burkinabè”, a ensuite annoncé le président dans un tweet, avouant crûment qu’“un certain nombre de zones où l’armée était positionnée ont été délaissées”...

“Cette visite s’apparente à une campagne électorale. Les populations qui y vivent ne sont mêmes pas certaines de prendre part aux élections. Leurs soucis sont ailleurs. Eau, gaz, nourriture, tout manque...”, commente Drissa Traoré, analyste politique.

Avec un Nord et Est complètement déstabilisés, un Sud et Ouest, victimes d’attaques sporadiques, et une capitale Ouagadougou déjà touchée à trois reprises par des attentats, la situation sécuritaire va à l’évidence priver des zones entières du pays de scrutin, qui sera donc contesté.

Mais, face à une opposition sans leader, le président Kaboré paraît bien parti pour rester à la tête d’un pays qui n’en finit pas de sombrer.

On ne sait pas encore comment le patron de la société GSM est impliqué dans la manifestation de jeudi 25 juin, mais à en croire la police, elle dispose des informations selon lesquelles la société aurait parrainé la plupart des manifestations violentes ici.

Le chef du CoP, Henry Costa, a récemment déclaré aux journalistes lors d’une visioconférence que son groupe est sur le point d’organiser une série de manifestations contre le gouvernement pour dénoncer l’impôt supplémentaire imposé aux entreprises GSM.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

La triple crise qui ébranle la planète

BERLIN - Nous entrons maintenant dans la deuxième phase de la pandémie du Covid-19, alors que l’on relâche ou même abandonne les mesures rigoureuses de distanciation sociale et que les économies redémarrent peu à peu. Pourtant, si ce n’est à trouver une thérapie ou un vaccin efficace disponible partout dans le monde, le retour à la “normale” relève davantage d’un espoir que de la réalité. Pire encore, le retour à la normale pourrait déclencher une deuxième vague d’infections locales ou régionales, voire à une bien plus grande échelle.

Les responsables politiques, les médecins, les scientifiques et le grand public ont beaucoup appris de la première vague de la pandémie. Une deuxième vague est très probable, mais elle ne se déroulera pas comme la première. Plutôt qu’un confinement généralisé qui met à l’arrêt l’économie et la vie sociale, les autorités opteront sans doute pour des mesures de distanciation sociale strictes mais ciblées, concernant le port des masques, le télétravail, les vidéoconférences, etc. Néanmoins, en fonction de l’intensité de cette deuxième vague, le recours au confinement pourrait être envisagé là où la situation sera la plus alarmante.

A l’image de la première vague, la deuxième consistera en trois crises simultanées. A la crise sanitaire (avec le risque que les nouvelles infections échappent à tout contrôle et s’étendent à nouveau à toute la planète), s’ajouteront la crise économique et sociale en cours et l’intensification des crises géopolitiques. L’économie mondiale est déjà frappée par une grave récession qu’il ne sera ni facile ni rapide à surmonter. Ces différents facteurs vont peser sur la rivalité sino-américaine de plus en plus vive, d’autant plus que s’approche l’élection présidentielle américaine de novembre.

Comme si cette combinaison de crises sanitaires, socioéconomiques et géopolitiques n’était pas suffisamment déstabilisante, s’y ajoute le problème Trump, car s’il remporte le scrutin présidentiel, le chaos mondial va augmenter de manière spectaculaire. Par contre l’élection de son adversaire démocrate, Joe Biden, serait gage d’une plus grande stabilité.

L’enjeu de l’élection américaine pourrait difficilement être plus élevé. Compte tenu de l’aggravation des crises dans le monde, il n’est pas exagéré de dire que l’humanité arrive à la croisée des chemins. Il faudra sans doute attendre l’automne ou l’hiver pour que se manifeste toute l’étendue de la récession. A ce moment-là nous ressentirons probablement un choc supplémentaire, car nous n’avons jamais connu une crise économique d’une telle ampleur, et tant sur le plan psychologique que dans la réalité, nous sommes habitués à une croissance continue.

Les pays riches d’Occident et d’Asie pourront-ils faire face à une forte récession, voire à une

dépression très étendue, de longue durée ? Même si des milliers de milliards d’euros viennent stimuler l’économie et permettent d’éviter un effondrement total, reste la question de la suite.

Dans le pire des cas (hypothèse que l’on ne peut exclure), Trump sera réélu, la deuxième vague de pandémie sera mondiale, l’économie continuera sa chute libre et la nouvelle Guerre froide en Asie de l’Est se transformera en un véritable conflit. Et même si ce scénario ne se réalise pas, la triple crise nous fera basculer dans une ère nouvelle qui nous contraindra à reconstruire les systèmes politiques et économiques nationaux et les institutions multilatérales. Et dans le meilleur des cas il ne pourra y avoir de retour au statu quo antérieur. Le passé est derrière nous, seul compte maintenant l’avenir.

Ne nous berçons pas d’illusions, les crises déclenchées par la pandémie sont si profondes et si étendues qu’elles conduiront à une redistribution radicale de la puissance et des richesses au niveau de la planète. Les pays qui auront anticipé la situation à venir en combinant l’énergie, le savoir-faire et les investissements nécessaires pour y faire face compteront parmi les gagnants - ceux qui ne voient pas ce qui se prépare compteront parmi les perdants.

Bien avant la pandémie, le monde était déjà en transition vers l’ère numérique, suscitant des bouleversements pour les technologies traditionnelles, au niveau des secteurs industriels classiques. Cette transition modifie aussi la distribution de la puissance et des richesses au niveau mondial. Par ailleurs, une crise mondiale encore plus grande se dessine clairement à l’horizon. Les conséquences du réchauffement climatique qui s’emballe seront beaucoup plus sévères que tout ce que nous avons connu jusqu’ici, et ce n’est pas un vaccin qui résoudra ce problème.

La pandémie de Covid-19 marque un véritable tournant. Depuis des siècles, nous comptons sur un système économique et politique reposant sur l’exploitation de ressources naturelles finies, fonctionnant avec des Etats-nations souverains et égoïstes et des industries qui consomment à tire-larigot des énergies fossiles (que ce soit sous un régime socialiste ou capitaliste). Ce système atteignant rapidement ses limites, un changement fondamental est inévitable.

Il nous faut donc retenir toutes les leçons de la première vague de triple crise. Pour l’Europe qui paraissait avoir pris un retard considérable sur le plan économique et géopolitique, la situation actuelle constitue une occasion inattendue pour combler ses insuffisances manifestes. Elle dispose des valeurs politiques (démocratie, état de droit et justice sociale), du savoir-faire technique et des capacités d’investissement voulus pour agir résolument dans l’intérêt des ses principes et de ses objectifs - et plus généralement dans l’intérêt de l’humanité. Qu’est-ce que les Européens attendent pour agir ?

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Section I.

PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTERS AND ACCESSORIES

Contract Identification No.: IFB/EPA/CCCD/NCB/001/2020

1. The Government of the Republic of Liberia through the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** has received Fund from the Global Environment Facility in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Project (CCCD) for Fiscal Year 2020 and intends to apportion part of the funds towards the procurement of **COMPUTERS AND ACCESSORIES**.

1. The Environmental Protection Agency now invites sealed bids from eligible registered bidders for the supply of **COMPUTERS AND ACCESSORIES**.
2. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding Process** as specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission Act (PPCA) of 2010.

3. Specification & Quantity

NO.	DESCRIPTION	Specification	QUANTITY
1.	COMPUTER (DESKTOP)		10PCS
2.	LAPTOP		1PC
3.	BACKUP		10PCS

4. Qualification and Requirement include :

- ❖ Current business registration certificate+
- ❖ Current tax clearance
- ❖ Reference (s) listing of previous clients supplied over the past three (3) years. Please provide contact telephone NOs, e-mail address and any other details that will make due diligent easier.
- ❖ Company Profile/ Track Record
- ❖ Letter of Certification from at least three (3) previous clients.; and
- ❖ PPCC vendors registry certificate

5. Interested eligible bidders can obtain a copy of the bidding documents from the **Procurement Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency** beginning Tuesday June 30, 2020 from 9:00 am-2 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A complete set of bidding documents in English are available to be purchased for a non-refundable fee of Twenty Five United States Dollars (US\$25.00).

6. The deadline for submission of bids is on **Friday July 24, 2020 at 12:00 noon**. Bids received after the deadline will be considered late and will be rejected and returned unopened. Electronic bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of Firms/Company or their representatives who choose to attend on **Friday July 24, 2020 at 12:00 noon** in the **Public Awareness Theater on the ground floor of the EPA**.

7. Bids submitted must be sealed and labeled: **IF NO. GOL/EPA/CCCD/NCB/001/2020**.

8. All Sealed Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of US\$ 500.00** from a reputable bank in the form of Bank Guarantee. Bids shall be valid for a period of **90 days** after the deadline of bid submission.

Submissions must be delivered to the address stated below.

Attention: The Procurement Unit
Behind the main building within the compound of the
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4th Street, Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia
Cell #: 0886-512-339



NPHIL boss speaks

Cont'd from page 6

mobilisation/engagement in Liberia provided lessons and gains from Ebola that may be serving Liberia's covid-19 response. I also think that your complementary perspectives as a public health researcher and a senior decision-maker as DG of the NPHIL would offer unique insights," the invitation to the NPHIL boss among other things added.

Dr. Fallah accepted the invite and informed the School that he would be speaking on relevance health issues of global concern including the public health workforce, laboratory diagnostics, political will and one-government approach, enhanced airport surveillance, behavioral change by the population and decentralized county response based on health system framework.

"I will be speaking on the relevance of the investment and experiences from Ebola on Liberia's preparedness and response to COVID-19," he replied.

Dr. Mosoka Fallah is a public health consultant and was recently made a Visiting Scientist in the Department of

Global Health and Population at the Harvard School of Public Health. He is currently Director-General-designate of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia.

He is also Principal Investigator for the largest Cohort study on Ebola Survivor in Liberia. During the Ebola crisis, he served as the Head of Case Detection in the Montserrado Incident Management System, administering critical aspects of Liberia's Ebola response. He was instrumental in developing the training of trainers' workshops for health workers across the national response.

Meanwhile, other speakers at the event include: Dr. Solomon Kamurari, Head of Programs, Uganda UK Health Alliance, Dr. Helen Yifter Bitew, Director for Academic Affairs, College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University, AbiySeifu Estifanos, Chair of the Department of Reproductive, Family and Population Health, Addis Ababa University, and Dr. Aduragbemi Banke-Thomas Research Fellow, LSE.

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AfDB, partners

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capacity and provide support to local cocoa-processing companies.

"African countries like Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire produce nearly three quarters of the global supply of cocoa. This significant Bank-facilitated loan to COCOBOD aims to improve the quantity and quality of local processing, boosting incomes of local farmers and their communities and generating new and better jobs," said African Development Bank Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, Dr. Jennifer Blanke, ahead of the event.

In March of this year, after the close of the syndication process, an amended agreement brought on board the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Spa, and other commercial lenders.

This loan marks the first time JICA and

the African Development Bank will be providing direct co-financing under the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa initiative (EPSA4) as well as being the first non-sovereign project," said Chief Representative of JICA Ghana, Yasumichi Araki. "JICA will continue to commit to the cocoa industry in Ghana through innovative interventions to COCOBOD."

JICA has supported COCOBOD to build capacity to quality-test cocoa beans. Ghana supplies 70% of all cocoa beans imported into Japan and cocoa is seen as one of the nation's most essential import commodities.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa is also partnering with COCOBOD to further enhance Ghana's position as one of the leading producers of cocoa in the world.

LPP restructures

Cont'd from page 6

of the party's county chapters and this has paralyzed the party.

It says as a result, the LPP is never present at the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Inter-Party Coordinating Committee (IPCC) meetings.

"It is interesting to note, that Chairman Jallah's first informal meeting since 2017 was on Wednesday, 17 June, 2020. The impromptu meeting was called because the National Elections Commission was carrying out an

inspection of political parties' headquarters throughout the country as required by the electoral laws of Liberia."

The release says unfolding developments in Liberia require that LPP engage with other democratic forces to help deepen the democratic process in the country as well as prepare its machinery to field candidates in the forthcoming midterm senatorial elections, while gearing up for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections. -Press Release

Politics not football

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh, says those criticizing him and the political leader of the Unity Party, Ex-vice president Joseph NyumahBoakai about old age should think again, stressing that politics is not football game that requires

concerning my age and the standard bearer is nothing; politics is not for children,” Senator Wesseh counters his critics.

Speaking to this paper via mobile phone, he says the Unity Party is a constituency member of the Collaborating Political Parties that will be a force to reckon with in coming national

He stresses that the chairman position of the UP is not for hustlers, who would want to use the position to hustle or who will be sellout to the current ruling establishment for little or nothing.

He vows that if given the opportunity to serve, restructuring, branding, reconciliation, and rebuilding of the party will be among his hallmarks.

According to him, some people view him as being anti to the Weah administration. But he explains that the interest of the state matters most than personal desire and that his constructive criticism of the government is needed to right the wrong and move the country smoothly.

Wesseh seems to be the most favorite candidate among contenders for the party leadership. As an elder statesman among the four candidates in the race, he comes to the contest with a lot of expertise but his loyalty to the former VP Boakai could deter some partisans away from his candidacy.

Some UP partisans see him as a divisive figure that fuels confusion, while others say he did not fully support the party during the 2017 elections.

Yet still others argue that he has been around for a long time and it is now time for new breed of young people to take over the leadership of the UP. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Pres. Weah

Sen. Wesseh

physical fitness and extra energies to participate.

“Politics is not football game that you will need extra energies in order to be participant in politics here. Liberia now needs experience, mature and intelligent minds to lead at this critical junction of our Country. The argument being raised by my critics

elections, adding that the Unity Party needs him in such a vital and critical leadership.

Wesseh, who is vying for the national chairmanship of the former ruling UP, notes that when too many young people are put together to lead nationally, at times the country experiences worse time but mature minds would think twice before taking decision.

Police officer kills fiancée's friend

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Paynesville has witnessed another tragedy, this time with an armed officer of the Liberia National Police (LNP), James Duma, ID, 2720 allegedly killing a female friend of his fiancée at about 12 AM 27 June while the victim Mildred Tamba and the accused officer's fiancée Ms. Sallematu Kaba were returning from a party.

This latest incident at a joint security check-point after the 72nd Junction in Paynesville, is part of a series of tragedies occurring in that part of Montserrado County, one of which saw a police commander there being sentenced to 25 years in prison for killing a motorcyclist.

Information gathered by this paper from witnesses at the scene of the killing of victim Mildred indicates that the officer's fiancée Ms. Sallematu Kaba reportedly took victim Mildred out to a party.

While returning home from



Officer James Duma accused of murder

the party at around 1:00 AM Friday, 27 June, the two ladies came in contact with Ms. Sallematu's fiancé and officer who was posted at the joint security check-point after the 72nd Junction when confusion ensued between the officer and Sallematu.

Witness Elvin Curtis Martin who resides in the community

with the victim discloses to this paper that following the incident, he spoke with several persons including bystanders.

Martin narrates that he was informed that while Mildred Thomas was trying to intervene in the confusion between Sallematu and the officer, the accused allegedly

LSDC supports Jemima for senate

Barely a week after she declared her intention to contest for the Montserrado County senatorial seat in December, Madam Jemima Wolokolie has been endorsed by a local pressure group, Liberians in Support of Democratic Change (LSDC).

LSDC is an emerging politically influential organization which draws its membership largely from the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in all 17 electoral districts of Montserrado.

Speaking in Sinkor over the weekend, members of LSDC welcomed Madam Wolokolie's bid for the senatorial race and pledged their unwavering support to what they termed as her quest to bring democratic value besides politics of the CDC and the Liberian Legislature.

They expressed confidence in her ability to engender the necessary change and deliver on her vision for the party, Montserrado County and Liberia, if given the opportunity to serve in the Senate.

Members of the LSDC, who comprised of coordinators, zonal heads and youth leaders, promised to recruit more

residents from their various districts and communities to join the Wolokolie initiative for the good of Montserrado and the entire country.

They called on President George Weah, who has named himself “the feminist in-chief” of Liberia to demonstrate his desire to promote the cause of women by supporting the senatorial bid of Madam Wolokolie, as she aspires to breach the gender gap in the Liberian Senate, currently with one female Senator, NyonbleeKarngar-Lawrence of Grand Bassa County.

In response, Madam Wolokolie, who is also Deputy Commerce Minister for Small Businesses, said her decision to contest the Montserrado midterm senatorial elections grew out of her desire to give voice to women and sustain her advocacy for transparency, accountability and pluralistic participation in the decision-making processes of the CDC and the Liberian Legislature.

She vowed to justify the confidence of Liberian women and ordinary Liberians who believe in her vision and are supporting her quest to bring new dynamism in the legislative politics of Liberia. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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pressed the trigger of his gun, causing it to discharge fire and burst the deceased's forehead.

According to him, he arrived on the scene minutes after the LNP had taken away the deceased's corpse from the crime scene.

Another witness and associate of the victim Ms. Sundayma Davies says she and the late Mildred had transacted business in Redlight earlier, expressing shock at being called by some colleagues, informing her that Mildred was shot and killed by an LNP officer.

Sundayma adds that she and the deceased usually sell locally produced food stuffs such as cassava and potatoes opposite in Redlight.

When contacted on Sunday, 28 June, Police Spokesman Moses Carter said there was new development coming up suggesting that the officer engaged some zogoos who had

allegedly threatened to take away everything that the officer had.

In the process, Carter claims that the officer discharged his weapon, the bullet hit the asphalt pavement and deflected, hitting the victim.

However, he says the police officer still takes responsibility of the incident and may be charged to court on Monday, 29 June.

Victim Mildred's friend Sallematu Kaba is reported to be at large.

Meanwhile, the body of the victim is deposited at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Sinkor, pending police investigation.

Relatives of the victim told this paper that they reserve comment on the matter, awaiting police investigation into the sudden death of their daughter Mildred Tamba

-Edited by Winston W. Parley

'No Mask, No Entry, No Service'

- Winners Inc. Buttresses Government's fight against COVID-19



In the midst of the spread of COVID-19 in Liberia, Winners, Inc., continues to support the national plan in the fight

against this deadly disease in various ways. In adherence to the government's Health Protocols, Winners Inc., has strengthened its capacity and

has instituted, as directed by the government of Liberia a 'No Mask, No Entry, No Service' posture at all of its centers across the country.

Hand washing barrels and buckets have been placed at the entry of all Winners Inc's Centers mandating every customer that attempts to enter to wash their hands, wear a mask and have their temperature taken. Customers who refuse to follow even one aspect of the health protocol are turned away without service. Additionally, limited number of customers is allowed to enter the centers with respect to Social Distancing.

Winners Inc. sees itself as a partner with the government of Liberia and believes that it must be diligent and ruthless in the collective fight to defeat COVID-19. As a way of demonstrating such partnership, Winners Inc. was the only Sports Betting

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NSA probes Orange CEO

-as Police change gear

By Winston W. Parley

Police authorities here say Orange Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Mamadou Coulibaly is now a subject of the National Security Agency (NSA probe, changing previous statement that the Ivorian national was being investigated by their department.

Mr. Coulibaly is being investigated for his alleged connection with protesters who set roadblocks and set tires alight last week to demand that government drop surcharges being impose on GSM companies here.

The protest comes weeks after another attempt by Orange Liberia to subvert the imposition of regulatory



surcharge fee yielded no result. Early this month, Orange Liberia filed a Petition for a Writ of Prohibition before Supreme Court Justice Jamesetta Howard Wollokollie challenging an order issued by the regulatory authority of the telecommunication sector here for surcharges fees.

It can be recalled that in 2018 the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) issued Order 0016-02-25-

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