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VOL.10 NO. 93

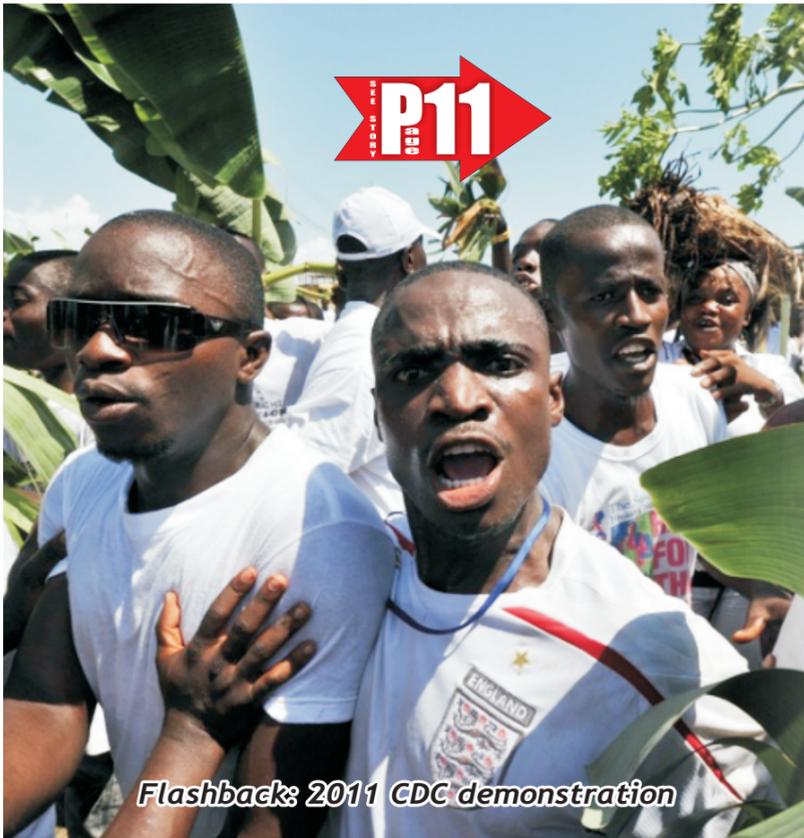
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Flashback: 2011 CDC demonstration

# CDC comes to Pro-Temp's rescue

# PPCC to single source election materials



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# Continental News

## Is a coronavirus 'cure' being secretly poisoned?

As coronavirus cases spread through African countries, misleading information continues to be shared on social media and online.

Here are some of the stories that have been widely shared recently. The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning against people using untested remedies for coronavirus. Africans deserve access to medicines that have gone through proper trials even if they are derived from traditional treatments, it said. Its statement comes as Madagascar's president is promoting a herbal tonic for treating Covid-19 patients. The African Union (AU) said it wanted to see the scientific data on the "safety and efficacy" of the product.

The tonic, known as Covid-Organics, was tested on fewer than 20 people over three weeks, a presidential aide told the BBC - which is not in line with WHO guidelines on clinical trials.

This can be a lengthy process in which a potential drug is tested in four phases, scaling up from a trial on a

small number of patients to using it on a population countrywide. Despite these reservations, several African countries, including Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea and Liberia, have already ordered Covid-Organics, which is produced from the artemisia plant - the source of an ingredient used in a malaria treatment - and other Malagasy plants. Last week, Madagascar's President, Andry Rajoelina,

spoke to an online meeting of African leaders about the tonic. Following that meeting the AU asked to see more details about Covid-Organics which could be reviewed by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). In its statement, the WHO welcomed innovations based on traditional remedies and plants but said they "should be tested for efficacy and

adverse side effects".

"Africans deserve to use medicines tested to the same standards as people in the rest of the world," it added. On Monday, more than \$8bn (£6.5bn) was pledged to help develop a coronavirus vaccine and fund research into the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Most experts think it could take until mid-2021, about 12-18 months after the new virus first emerged, for a vaccine to become available. These posts claim the president had said wearing masks would spread fear, and send the wrong message to foreign visitors

once international travel and tourism resume.

They use a screenshot of a tweet purportedly posted by the president, but it is fake.

There is also a fabricated press statement circulating, which is dated and signed from his hometown, Chato,

However, when we checked, we found that President Magufuli was in the city of Dodoma at that time. The president's spokesperson has called on people to disregard the claim.

The Tanzanian government encourages citizens to wear masks in public, and to practice social distancing. However, the authorities are not releasing regular data on the coronavirus outbreak, and there are concerns that the president is downplaying the impact of the virus. BBC



Students at a Madagascar school down Covid-Organics before classes begin

## Bail for Zimbabwe politicians accused of lockdown breach

A number of opposition figures arrested for allegedly breaching Zimbabwe's lockdown rules have been released on \$1,000 (£789) bail each. Tendai Biti, Lynette Karenyi-Kore, David Chimhini, Gladys Hlatywayo, Lovemore Chinoputsa and

forces' actions "politicised": All six were freed on bail on Saturday after being charged with "criminal nuisance" and breaching Covid-19 regulations banning gatherings of more than 50.

Their lawyer Beatrice

## Al-Qaeda chief in north Africa killed, France says

France says it has killed the leader of al-Qaeda in north Africa, Abdelmalek Droukdel, in an operation in Mali.

Defence Minister Florence Parly said Droukdel along with members of his inner circle had been killed in the north of

the country on Wednesday.

French forces had also captured a senior Islamic State group commander in Mali in an operation in May, she said.

The "daring operations" had dealt "severe blows to the terrorist groups", she said.

"Our forces, in co-operation

with their partners in the Sahel, will continue to hunt them relentlessly," she said. As head of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Droukdel was in charge of all affiliates in north Africa and also commanded al-Qaeda's Sahel affiliate, Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM).

The captured Islamic State group commander, Mohamed Mrabat, was a veteran jihadist and had a senior role in the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) group, Ms Parly said. He was caught on 19 May, she added. On 7 May IS revealed its militants had been engaged in fierce clashes with al-Qaeda in Mali and Burkina Faso. It accused JNIM of attacking its positions, blocking fuel supplies and detaining IS supporters.

ISGS has quickly established a foothold in the Sahel countries after announcing a presence in March last year.

Who was Abdelmalik



Vongai Tome - all of the MDC party - were arrested on Friday for gathering at a building in the capital Harare that had been occupied overnight by a rival faction with the help of military and police.

The takeover was condemned by the US embassy, which called the security

Mtewa said she would file a complaint, and called the arrests "ironic" because police themselves did not enforce social distancing rules in her clients' cells nor supply "masks or any sanitisers despite request". BBC



Droukdel died in a joint operation by France and partner forces, the French government says

Droukdel?

Aged in his late 40s, Droukdel fought against Soviet troops in Afghanistan, and was thought to regard the former leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, as his inspiration.

Under his leadership AQIM carried out numerous deadly attacks, including a 2016

assault on a hotel in the Burkina Faso capital Ouagadougou that left 30 dead and 150 injured.

In 2012 he was sentenced to death by a court in Algeria after being convicted in absentia of murder, membership of a terrorist organisation and attacks using explosives. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Rescuing our children from rape and sodomy

**LIBERIA IS GRADUALLY** but seriously descending to moral decadence where family values and societal standards have slipped thru the window, allowing immorality to take its seat in homes, churches, public offices and even market places.

**OUR ATTENTION IS** specifically drawn to the increasing wave of domestic violence permeating the country, including rape and sodomy of our young girls and boys by men, some time two or three times their ages, resulting to severe injuries and death.

**HERE ARE SEVERAL** cases: Police in Monrovia are investigating a man for raping and impregnating his 15-year-old step-daughter, while a young man is being held by police for reportedly raping a 12-year-old girl in Tuan town, resulting to death and another male adult is undergoing police investigation for sodomizing a nine-year-old boy near the headquarters of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change in Congo Town, outskirts of Monrovia. Last month, a young man shot and killed his fiancé in Kakata, Margibi County after the latter quitted the relation, while a man killed his lover in Bong County with a machete for suspected unfaithfulness.

**VIOLENCE OF ANY** kind in homes and communities pose serious risks not just to parents but children as well, who are the most vulnerable in a family. As the first line of protection for the home, parents have a duty to protect wellbeing of children under their care, particularly in the midst of a major health pandemic.

**BUT UNDER THE** excuse of going out to hustle for food for the family, most parents leave their children vulnerable to evil-minded men, who prey on them to quench their insatiable sexual desires like the case involving the 15-year-old minor who has forcibly become a mother thru the wicked behavior of someone who should have provided guidance over her life.

**INSTEAD, HE TOOK** advantage of her vulnerability when the mother left her home and sexually abused her with threats not to tell anyone. What about the stories of the nine-year-old lad, who was sodomized and the 12-year-old girl, who died subsequently at the James R. Davies Memorial hospital in Paynesville? The lack of parental care and guidance are responsible.

**PARENTS AND GUARDIANS** should be reminded in no uncertain terms that providing care and guidance for our children does not stop at putting food on the table or paying school fees, as much as these are important. But it also encompasses overseeing the wholesome wellbeing of the child or children, which includes health, clothes, physical and emotional fitness, among others.

**LIBERIA HAS A** strong rape law and a fast track court (Court 'E') at the Temple of Justice to specifically try rape cases and bring suspected perpetrators to justice. The Government of Liberia, under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf enacted a new rape law, amending the Penal Code of June 1976 Chapter 14, Section 14.70 and 14.71, respectively, making the crime nonbailable. According to the Rape Law of January 2006, a person who has sexual intercourse with another person (male and female) without his or her consent, has committed rape that is punishable by 10 years or life imprisonment, depending on the degree of the rape which may be categorized as (rape of a minor, rape resulting in serious bodily harm, rape using a weapon, and gang rape), respectively.

**BUT THE LIBERIAN** Senate in 2017 amended the new Rape Law, making it bailable. The Senate Judiciary Committee argued that the punishment for rape as provided in the Rape Law is excessive and therefore unconstitutional, citing Article 21 (d) (ii) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which states that excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor excessive punishment inflicted on perpetrators.

**NOTWITHSTANDING,** WE STILL believe strongly that though the law is on the book or it may have been modified as per the Senate's amendment, the first line of defend for children is parents. If parents truly care and love their children, they would go extra mile in ensuring their wellbeing, and by extension reducing domestic and sexual violence in our communities.

# COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

## Another Long, Hot Summer in America

*Many Americans are clearly horrified by President Donald Trump's crass and incendiary words in response to the protests sweeping the country's major cities. But will age-old racial prejudices, often unspoken, or even acknowledged, still make them vote for the false security of a coarse white bully?*

**N**EW YORK - Could the United States be facing a reprise of the summer of 1968? Then, too, the world saw images of popular rage boiling over in America, as mostly African-American inner cities went up in flames, and young people were tear-gassed, charged at, and often brutally beaten by riot police and National Guardsmen.

The result of the civil disorder was what some liberals in America fear will happen later this year. The Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon promised the "silent majority," the "non-shouters," and the "non-demonstrators," that he would restore law and order with force. Devastated, mostly African-American urban areas were starved of federal funds and further isolated, white suburbanites bought more guns, and police forces were armed as though they were a branch of the military.

The trouble in 1968, like the protests today, also started with anger against the oppression of black people in America. A day after Martin Luther King, Jr., declared that "the nation is sick," he was shot dead by a white racist criminal. The protests that followed were not just an expression of anger at King's murder, but also the lack of economic and educational opportunities that were the result of a long and often violent racist history.

Despite an African-American's two terms in the White House, conditions today are hardly better - and in some ways worse. King's violent death was echoed this year by that of George Floyd, the defenseless 46-year-old black man in Minneapolis killed by a policeman who kneeled on his neck for almost nine minutes.

Moreover, COVID-19 has hit African-Americans with particular fury, because many lack financial savings and are forced to work in risky areas, as nurses and other "essential workers," often without proper health care. Once the global depression sinks in, many won't be cushioned by anything at all.

And yet, there are important differences between now and the summer of 1968, apart from the fact that the music was more interesting then, and there were more sexual opportunities. The last point is not entirely frivolous. Being effectively locked up in relative isolation for several months will only have added to the frustrations of many young people, who are only too glad to vent them in the streets.

The protests in 1968 were not just about racial inequality, but also about the Vietnam War. The two issues were related. President Lyndon B. Johnson, responsible for escalating that reckless and savage war, was a Democrat, the same man who passed civil rights bills that had actually improved African-Americans' lives, and by doing so provoked the hatred of many Southern voters, who switched their allegiance to the Republican Party, helping to push it further to the right.

The "shouters" and "demonstrators" that Nixon railed against were not just black people, but also young whites who resisted being forced to fight in a war they considered immoral. Robert F.

Kennedy, the candidate who promised to end the war and who visited the burning ghettos to calm African-Americans' fears, was assassinated two months after King.

Nixon won the election that November not only because he soothed the panicked "silent majority" with promises of law and order, but also because Hubert Humphrey, a decent mainstream Democrat, refused to condemn the Vietnam War. Joe Biden, this year's presumptive Democratic candidate, has shown that for all his flaws, he may not be another Hubert Humphrey. His sympathies are clearly with the demonstrators. Biden has publicly recalled many instances of police violence against unarmed black people and promised to reform law enforcement.

In bad times, the challenger has a certain advantage. Just as Johnson was held accountable for escalating an increasingly unpopular war, the current occupant of the White House will have to own the sickness of America today. Donald Trump cannot be blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic, but he can be held accountable for botching the response.

Likewise, the institutional racism that once again is setting America's streets on fire did not begin with Trump. But he has deliberately fanned the flames by insulting dark-skinned immigrants as criminals and calling armed white supremacists decent, by dismissing angry black protesters as "thugs," and encouraging militiamen, guardsmen, and policemen to do their worst, or as he put it with a snarl: "Please don't be too nice."

While some groups on the far right in the US talk, hopefully, of a coming "race war," Trump does nothing to dampen their violent enthusiasm. On the contrary, he seems to revel in it. Trump's recent tweet that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" is a direct quote from the police chief of Miami, Florida, who ordered his troopers in 1967 to aim their shotguns at demonstrators from the "negro areas" in his city.

This is called "stirring up the base." And much of Trump's base surely will be stirred up. The big question in November will be what people who voted for him in 2016, but are not as fanatical in their support, will do. What are white suburban women, midwestern blue-collar workers, and elderly southerners (who are among most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection) thinking now?

Many Americans are clearly horrified by their president's crass and incendiary words. But will their disapproval be offset by anxiety about violent social unrest? Will age-old racial prejudices, often unspoken, or even acknowledged, still make them vote for the false security of a coarse white bully?

Much will depend on how hot this summer gets. If people think rationally in November, it is hard to imagine that enough of them would vote to keep this appalling administration in power for another four years. But fear is reason's worst enemy.



## O-PED

By Dominique Moisi

## Containing the Anger Virus

*Barring a possible sudden second wave of COVID-19, many countries may now be past the peak of the pandemic in public-health terms. But the peak of social, economic, and political anger is most likely still to come - and, in this sense, some countries, such as France, are more vulnerable than others.*

**P**ARIS - The small landlocked Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, which lies between China and India, is not only a tourist mecca. The country has also long pioneered the concept of "gross national happiness" (GNH), which its architects regard as far more comprehensive and accurate than the conventional measure of an economy, gross national product, or GNP.

But with the COVID-19 pandemic triggering unemployment alarm bells almost everywhere, it may be time to consider establishing a third indicator: gross national anger, or GNA. Why should we not measure the stirrings of the human soul as we do the Earth's entrails, using a Richter scale of emotions? Such an approach might help governments to act before popular anger boils over. As the nineteenth-century Italian statesman Camillo Cavour argued, "reforms made in time weaken the revolutionary spirit."

The "Age of Anger" - the title of a 2017 book by the Indian essayist Pankaj Mishra - may well be upon us. Anger is no longer largely the preserve of the peoples of the Global South. It has become truly universal, as amply demonstrated in the United States by the large-scale protests that have erupted over the killing of George Floyd - an unarmed, subdued black man - by a police officer while three others kept appalled onlookers at bay. For the furious crowds gathering in all 50 states, the days of tolerating such abuses of power - and the systemic racism that encourages and facilitates them - are over.

Barring a possible sudden second wave of COVID-19, many countries may now be past the peak of the pandemic in public-health terms. But the peak of social, economic, and political anger is most likely still to come - and, in this sense, some countries, such as France, are more vulnerable than others.

The more that power is centralized and embodied in one person, the more fragile it is. In the United Kingdom, for example, the queen's symbolic power is separated from the real power wielded by the prime minister. In France, by contrast, both types of power are vested in the president, who is both stronger and also more vulnerable as a result.

In addition, the more that popular mistrust of the state and its representatives feeds on previous negative perceptions, as in the case of France's Yellow Vest movement, the more likely it is that fear and humiliation will result in anger.

In the era of COVID-19, the primary cause of anger is the sense of inequality regarding the risk of infection. True, almost everyone accepts the greater vulnerability of the elderly as a fact. But when people in positions of authority and relative safety tell those who are most at risk that the protection they demand is unnecessary, many suspect them of dishonesty as well as incompetence. Anger explodes.

The ongoing "quarrel of the masks" in France aptly illustrates this phenomenon. How dare white-collar workers, many of them protected by their ability to work from home, tell blue-collar workers on the frontlines of the crisis that their fears are exaggerated? Some wealthy and powerful people have also died from COVID-19, but that is not enough to create a sense of justice.

Asking citizens to spend more time at work in the current exceptional circumstances is not in itself shocking. During Asia's severe economic and financial crisis in 1998, for example, citizens in countries such as South Korea worked much longer hours than before (just as France was embarking on a 35-hour workweek). But it is very difficult to ask people to make an extra effort when trust and equal, shared commitment are lacking.

Likewise, we cannot realistically expect collective responsibility if the sense of unequal destiny is too strong and that of solidarity too weak. This is even more the case when public anger precedes the pandemic.

Indeed, the second main cause of today's anger is cumulative: annoyance, like fear, adds up, and today's anger opens the scars of yesterday's furies. It is all too easy for someone to lapse into rage when they are already filled with fear and humiliation.

Anger is not only explainable, but also seeks scapegoats. Like the coronavirus itself, it seeks to attach itself to something, and some political leaders are more vulnerable than others in this regard.

France and the UK again offer a particularly interesting comparison. A majority of British citizens may think that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has managed the country's public-health crisis incompetently, but many continue to like him - and not only because of Johnson's personal battle against the virus.

This may be profoundly unfair, but it is a fact. As French President Emmanuel Macron has learned the hard way, there is no objectivity when it comes to anger. (Indeed, Johnson's own approval ratings have fallen recently, mainly because of his refusal to fire key adviser Dominic Cummings, who previously drove across England in what most voters regard as a breach of national lockdown rules.)

Although the fear that dominated the first stage of the COVID-19 crisis will persist as long as there is no vaccine, anger is now taking over. The only safeguards are tangible demonstrations of solidarity between citizens and countries - in part through taxes and wealth redistribution.

The first phase of the pandemic has been largely bad for populists, with countries where they are in power among the hardest hit by COVID-19. But if the current mounting anger is not successfully contained, then the second, economic phase may fuel their comeback.

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## OPINION

Aubrey Hruby &amp; Aubrey Rugo

## Investing in African Logistics

*If economic and commercial opportunities were not enough motivation for investors to tackle the short-term constraints on e-commerce in Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic should be. Without more advanced logistics and infrastructure, the continent will struggle to deliver essential supplies safely.*

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - As the COVID-19 crisis has escalated, stay-at-home orders have led to a surge in online purchases - of everything from groceries to medicines to household essentials - by consumers in the advanced economies. Africans facing similar movement restrictions will not enjoy the same convenience - or the safety it affords.

Over the last decade, a growing middle class and rapid progress in mobile and Internet penetration have supported the view that African countries are ripe for e-commerce success. Consumer spending across the continent is projected to reach \$2.1 trillion by 2025, by which time mobile-phone penetration in Sub-Saharan Africa is likely to stand at 50%.

Yet, so far, companies have largely failed to tap Sub-Saharan Africa's e-commerce potential, owing to logistical challenges and inefficiencies. Nigeria, the continent's largest market, ranks 110th out of 160 countries when it comes to logistical efficiency, according to the World Bank. It can take three times as long to import an auto part through Lagos, Nigeria, than through Durban, South Africa. And it can cost up to five times more to transport goods in Sub-Saharan Africa than in the United States, based on 2015 estimates. Across the continent, a lack of integration means that companies face smaller markets and considerable red tape when crossing borders.

When Alibaba was building and scaling its e-commerce ecosystem in China in 2003, it took advantage of relatively advanced urban infrastructure - the result of significant government investments in the 1990s. Thanks to that physical infrastructure, as well as existing financial infrastructure, the company was able to reach profitability with its business-to-business marketplace in 2002 - two years before the establishment of Alipay enabled it to overcome the lack of credit-card penetration and start expanding its customer-to-customer marketplace, Taobao.

American and European companies had even greater advantages, including strong national postal systems and last-mile overnight delivery services like FedEx and UPS, as well as reliable and widely used credit-card networks. African e-commerce companies, by contrast, cannot always count on roads or street signs. Moreover, few Africans own bank cards (in Nigeria, the share is about 3%), and in many countries, only about 10% of adults have mobile money accounts. Many Africans do not trust online shopping.

Whereas a company like Alibaba could wait until it was already growing to improve online payments and logistics, African companies must implement their own solutions from the start, while trying to meet investors' expectations. Given these challenges, it should perhaps not be surprising that Africa's first e-commerce unicorn, Jumia, suspended operations at the end of last year in three of the 14 countries in which it previously worked, citing high fulfillment and shipping costs.

Supporting robust e-commerce growth in Africa will require infrastructure investment. According to the African Development Bank, the continent needs \$130-170 billion per year in infrastructure investment - such as roads and railways - to meet baseline targets by 2025, implying a financing gap of \$68-108 billion. China, with its competitive advantage in construction, can play a leading role in helping to close that gap.

The expansion of both asset-heavy and asset-light local logistics companies is also essential. Before the pandemic, demand for logistics companies in Africa was already rising, and a growing amount of venture capital was being channeled toward local logistics startups. Even as the COVID-19 crisis results in trade disruptions, trucking remains critical for supplying food, medicine, and other essentials to individuals and health-care facilities.

One promising asset-light firm - the Nigerian startup Kobo360 - connects truckers and companies to delivery services. Since launching in Lagos in 2017, it has expanded its operations to four countries. Kobo360 already has more than 10,000 drivers and trucks on its app, and provides services to major companies like DHL, Honeywell, and Unilever.

Thanks to large investments - including a \$20 million Series A round led by Goldman Sachs, and \$10 million in working-capital financing from Nigerian commercial banks - Kobo360 now plans to expand to ten more countries. The Kenyan logistics company Sendy, with a similar asset-light model, raised \$20 million in a series B round, with Toyota's trade and investment arm among the investors.

But a mature logistics market will also require investment in asset-heavy tech-enabled trucking operations. When DHL - the world's biggest logistics company by revenue - expands to a new country, it often follows the asset-light model of leasing vehicles. But a lack of control over the quality of the hired trucks often meant that goods arrive damaged or late. This was a particularly serious problem in India, where logistics spending was at least 4-5% higher than in Europe. So, in 2018, DHL launched a transportation subsidiary in the country, and aims to invest in a fleet of 10,000 trucks over the next decade.

African markets will require similar mixed investments. While companies like Kobo360 will continue to connect companies to delivery vehicles, ensuring that there are a sufficient number of reliable vehicles available will require additional targeted investment. Here, development finance institutions should take the lead, investing directly in asset-heavy logistics companies, while venture funds continue to focus on asset-light companies.

Development finance institutions are uniquely suited to serve as catalysts for sectors that can boost economic growth or advance other development goals - or, during a pandemic, contribute to meeting public-health imperatives. Africa's logistics sector undoubtedly fits that description.

If economic and commercial opportunities were not enough motivation for investors to tackle the short-term constraints on e-commerce in Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic should be. Without more advanced logistics and infrastructure, the continent will struggle to deliver essential supplies safely to residents during the outbreak, making the social-distancing measures that are so critical to slowing the spread of infection far more difficult to implement. If the needed investments are made, however, African countries will be in a better position not only to protect public health today, but also to secure a more robust economic recovery, fueled by middle-class growth.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

# Flagging Hypocrisy

By: Isaac W. Jackson, Jr.

It is less than 72 hours since I did a critique regarding Chairman Alex Cummings' appearance on the 50-50 Talk Show. I concluded that the health of our national politics was deplorable and lamented the chronic weakness of those playing active leadership roles in the opposition community as well as the government.

As if things are not bad enough, the public is being drawn to the disturbing and shaming development at the Senate. Senate Pro Tempore, Albert Chie, a CDCian and leader of the ruling establishment, which

cover of darkness. Maddeningly, we saw this before; when in 2003, the Consolidated Registered Political Parties (CRPP) under the leadership of David Kortie and Cllr. Rudolph Sherman clandestinely operated with former President Taylor by mortgaging the interest of the masses. And so, our campaign against a weak and wobbling opposition has got absolutely nothing to do with a like or dislike of Dillon, or even the CPP but comes from the well documented history of what can happen when the opposition is weak, hypocritical, lacks character and deceptively cuts shady deals with the ruling establishment. It is also a known historical fact that Cletus Wotorson exploited

matter who does it.

The point is that had Chie not leaked Dillon's regular secret meetings with him, none of us would have known that Dillon has been cozying up to Chie in the darkness for money. It looks like the leopard in Dillon is making no efforts to change its spots. Imagine, the controversy surrounding his high school paper; the issue with the car; and the noise with the US\$6000; now we are dealing with the issue about the brother clandestinely taking money from element within the upper echelon of the CDC Government.

Besides Sen. Chie, who else in the ruling establishment is Sen. Dillion milking? Are there other elements in our opposition community that are also using the Dillon technique? I think the CPP needs to investigate the whole situation, or risks not being taken seriously. Also, this offers a chance to the CPP to showcase its stated commitment to higher standards.

We, as opposition figures cannot be vociferous in our condemnation of CDCians for being slavishly loyal to their Standard Bearer, and at the same time, being culpable of doing the same thing in the CPP. Hence, I think the CPP needs to take the moral high ground to either advise or investigate Dillon for the sake of the morale and reputation of the movement.

Some of us are passionate about the forward advance of our country. And so, we will not shy away from pointing out the pitfalls in the government and the opposition community for fear of being shouted down by internet car boys and the usual Facebook mob.

*About the author: Atty. Isaac W. Jackson, Jr., is currently serving as Liberia's Permanent Representative to IMO. Before his assignment, Jackson served with Liberia's Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism from 2008 as Assistant and later Deputy Minister for Press & Public Affairs. Jackson defends a political career which arises from his days as a student activist at the University of Liberia, where he received a Bachelor in Economics and Political Science. He later earned Bachelor of Laws from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law. Currently, he is a candidate for Master of Laws in International Economic Law, Justice and Development at Birkbeck, University of London. He can be reached at whiekonblo@yahoo.com*



Mr. Alexander Cummings

the opposition should be trying to change, is accusing Senator Dillon, the CPP Senator, of being a two-faced hypocrite. Dillon who was uncharacteristically silent, is being accused in front of colleagues in the Senate Chambers of collecting money from Chie under the cover of darkness, and pretending to be a fighter for the masses in the day.

Since Pro Temp Chie made those grave allegations against Dillon, declaring further that Dillon is corrupt and informs him "behind closed doors", we have not gotten any forceful denial from Dillon. A few die-hard supporters have unfortunately turned themselves into a spin machine, flipping this serious character scandal by accusing Chie of being disloyal to CDC and President Weah for doling out money to Dillon.

What we are witnessing here bears resemblance to a guy who publicly denounces homosexuality but is caught red-handed sleeping with a young boy. If this is not hypocrisy, then I don't know what it is. By the way, does anybody remember what led to Jimmy Swaggart stepping down from the pulpit?

You see, these attempts at making Dillon look inculpable cannot withstand the light of scrutiny. Because, only a politically groomed cult member will not see the blatant hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy associated with the so-called Light begging for money from the 'darkness'. Imagine, Dillon, the host senator collecting and trading information for money to the ruling party through Chie! This news is seriously troubling for any political movement.

It is needless to remind us that we have been through too much as Liberians and as such, we can no longer afford to have empty glory-chasing opportunists pretending to love the masses while they make business with the ruling party government under the

the weakness in the opposition community when he was selected overnight as the Coalition's Standard Bearer in 1997.

In our struggle for a better Liberia, we need to spurn the temptation of getting immerse into political footballification, and search for real credible and reliable individuals, not comen who will betray the interest of the masses at the drop of a hat. I think these pretences at speaking for the Liberian people while pushing one's selfish agenda has not helped Liberia, and must be condemned at all times no



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# IMF approves US\$50M for budget support

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the disbursement of SDR 36.2 million or US\$ 50 million or 14 percent of Liberia's quota to the IMF, under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) to help Liberia address the emergency financing needs stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

disbursement, Directors noted that the pandemic poses significant risks to Liberia's population and threatens to derail the country's reform path. Directors underscored the need for the accountable and transparent use of COVID-19 related funds to ensure that much-needed relief reaches the targeted population and help strengthen donors' confidence. They welcomed Liberia's strong

commitment to macroeconomic and institutional reforms, especially its commitment to reforms under the External Credit Facility, which was approved by the Board of the IMF on 11 December 2019.

Directors encouraged the country to remain on the path of reforms as a means of engendering greater trust from the international financial community.

They welcomed Government's recent decision to publish weekly spending reports and procurement contracts and subsequently audit those expenses. They recognized that the Liberian authorities have made significant strides to strengthen public financial management and urged authorities to resume the reform agenda, under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement, once the pandemic abates.

They view the ECF as critical to restoring macroeconomic stability and durable growth. Directors welcomed the authorities'

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# U.S. Embassy responds to Liberians' concern

The U.S. Embassy in Monrovia says it greatly appreciates and shares the deep concerns and sorrow of Liberians, from the most senior levels of government to ordinary citizens in recent days regarding the tragic killing of an African-American George Floyd, in handcuff, at the hands of police in Minneapolis, America.

The Charge d'Affaires at the American Embassy in Monrovia in a statement published 05 June said, "We grieve for his family and community, which includes members of the Liberian diaspora and U.S. Embassy employees from Minnesota."

Ms. Alyson Grunder explained that the peaceful protests in which thousands of Americans have taken part across the United States demonstrate determination to put in place meaningful reforms, seek accountability, including through criminal investigations at the federal and state levels and in the legal system, and address the racial

A bystander video showed Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, pressing his knee on Floyd's neck, for nearly nine minutes, ignoring George's "I can't breathe" cries until the victim eventually stopped moving, as



three other fellow police officers stood by and watched.

The incident which happened on May 25, 2020, immediately sparked nationwide protests across the United States, some violent with protestors calling for justice and end to racial discrimination, particularly against black people.

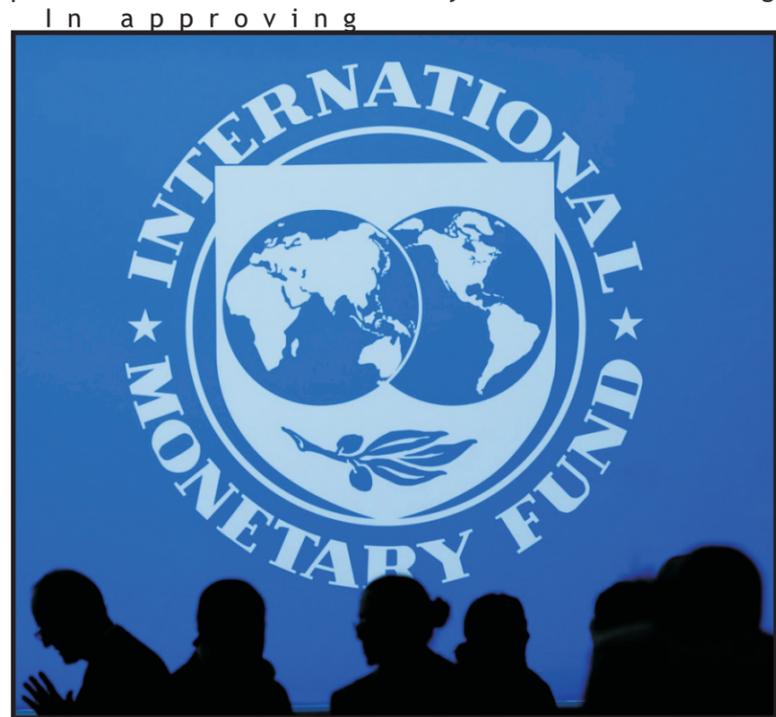
The protests that continue even up to now, forced U.S. authorities to arrest and charged Officer Derek Chauvin for 2nd degree murder and manslaughter, and his three colleagues for aiding and abetting the murder.

The action briefly took the world's attention away from the coronavirus pandemic, and drew in sharp focus, what has been described as systemic inequality and discrimination in the world's greatest democracy.

discrimination that is an all-too-present reality for many Americans.

She said these protests are sincere and legitimate exercises of the Constitutional guarantees of the rights to free expression and assembly, adding, "At this time, as Americans begin the hard conversations about the challenges our society faces at home, we take heart from the resilience and courage of Liberians who are working to ensure peace and justice in their own country."

"As we strive to live up to our core values and work closely with our partners and friends to create a better world for all, Dr. King's words ring true: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere... Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Statement



# Local group wants MOU with mining company revisited

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Three officials from a local group in Bong County called Advocacy for Kokoyah Resource are calling for the re-visitation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into in 2015 by citizens of Kokoyah District and the Management of mining company MNG-Gold Liberia.

establish and operate vocational training centers within or near the production area, and assist with the rehabilitation of the roads and bridges within or that otherwise connect its operational areas, in accordance with the standards of the Ministry of Public Works.

Further, MNG Gold-Liberia promised to establish an annual scholarship fund to the tune of

US\$ 10,000, for deserving students from Kokoyah District to attend any university in Liberia, college or technical schools.

Appearing on a local radio station, (Radio Gbarnga, FM 96.5Mhz) in Gbarnga recently, Roosevelt Urey Kerkulah, Shadrach Saturday Kollie, and

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MNG Gold is a multi-million Turkish mining company operating in Kokoyah District, Bong County.

Some residents of Kokoyah Statutory District on 6 February 2015 entered into an agreement with the company in Monrovia to rebuild and strengthen the relationship between the company and inhabitants of the district.

Through the agreement, the company promised to provide free primary and secondary education for the children of MNG Gold's employees in conformity with provisions of the Education Laws of Liberia.

It also promised to



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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Clergyman urges Liberians to exercise faith in fighting Covid - 19

By Lewis S. Teh

The Senior Pastor and Founder of Seomi God's Family Church in Caldwell, New Georgia, Reverend Henry Success Mayson has urged his congregation and the people

Look my brethren, if we must be freed from this virus, I urge you this congregation, and every Bible - believing Christian to exercise faith," he said Sunday, 7 June in a sermon.

Speaking on the theme: "Fear Not from," from Second

the spirit of a power, and love, and a sound mind to overcome those things that will want to haunt us down," he continues.

The clergy observes that often, people in the country complain about the difficulties they are undergoing and some even accuse national leaders of doing nothing to find remedy to the challenges they are faced with.

Yet he says when "we are given a little opportunity" and misuse it, that's when "we turn our focus on God, and badmouth government."

In his admonishment to the congregation, he states that the Church should be seen as a place of rescue and hope for people that will lost their way, rather than a place of showing up, or a place people go to bluff.

Rev. Mayson cautions that when people turn their back on their creator, they create fear in themselves, and they suffer.

But he notes that it takes prayers, fasting and faith to overcome those challenges and difficulties that God will bring on them. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*



in Liberia to exercise faith if Covid - 19 will leave the country.

"We all know the danger this virus has brought to the world, but yet we turn to forget the working of God.

Timothy 1-7, Rev. Mayson encourages people in the country to focus their attention on God rather than ordinary men.

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but he has given us

## Poorest population remains government's concern

**--Gender Minister**

By Lewis S. Teh

Gender Minister Wilhelmina Saydee - Tarr says the vulnerable and poorest population here remains the foremost concern of the Coalition for Democratic

Change (CDC) led - government.

Speaking at a one - day round table discussion with media practitioners on the outcome of Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSN) over the weekend in Sinkor, Madam Tarr explained that the CDC government's development agenda talks about power to the

people and ending poverty.

"Our recent cash transfer process to Maryland and Grand Kru Counties is part of the government's national response efforts to affording citizens the opportunity to do something for themselves," she says.

She furthers that the government's decision to begin with Maryland and Grand Kru Counties was as a result of a survey conducted which puts the two counties among the poorest counties in the country.

According to Madam Tarr, the government wants to ensure that the poor people have the opportunity to have a better living, leading the administration to begin the cash transfer to the two counties.

She notes that in the soonest possible time, the government will be extending the process to two additional counties which include River Gee and Bomi Counties.

She says the cash transfer



Gender Minister Wilhelmina Saydee - Tarr

## Deplorable roads disturb Pres. Weah

**-Minister McGill**

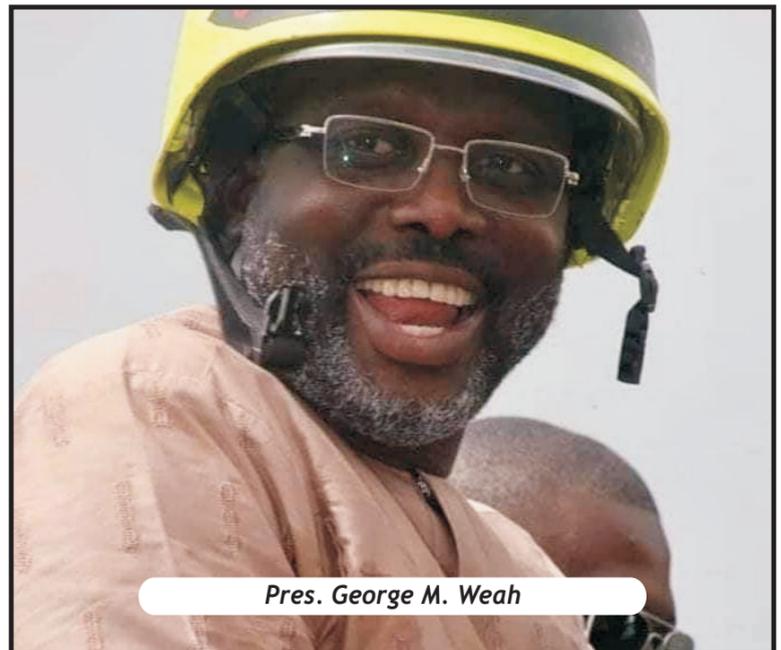
The Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill, says President George Manneh Weah is terribly disturbed by the deplorable condition of the Bushrod Island road corridor, and despite current economic challenges, is resolved to ease burden of travel of Liberians and foreign residents along the busy commercial route.

He says in efforts to ease the burden of travel along the corridor as well as Government of Liberia's commitment to construct new roads and rehabilitate exiting ones in the country, a Joint Road Inspection team comprising himself (McGill) Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel Tweah, and Public Works Minister Mobutu Nyenpan, on Thursday, 4 June 2020 inspected ongoing rehabilitation and

three high-profile Ministers, scores of drivers and commuters plying the Bushrod Island road, had expressed severe difficulties and hardship due to the ongoing rehabilitation works by the Ministry of Public Works.

Also numerous potholes that are visible at the National Port Authority (NPA) which is the gateway to the economy, and the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) continue to exacerbate traffic congestion on the Bushrod Island.

The inspection began at the Gabriel Tucker Bridge on Johnson Street onto the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company and leading to the Belimah stretch directly opposite the Freeport of Monrovia. The Ministers also inspected Duala Market section that leads to St. Paul River Bridge as well as the ongoing Banjor road pavement project in Virginia,



Pres. George M. Weah

maintenance works along the road.

He says due to President Weah's urge to see the road pliable without any hindrances, the President has instructed Ministers Tweah, Nyenpan and himself - to inspect and assess the work being done there.

According to Minister McGill, construction of new roads and rehabilitation of existing roads are key priorities of President Weah.

He lauds residents of Bushrod Island and all users of the corridor for their patience as Government exerts every effort financially to have the road rehabilitated on time. He assures that there will be changes in the lives of residents of Bushrod Island when the works are completed.

Prior to the tour by the

Montserrado County.

The project is being funded by the Government of Liberia through the National Road Fund.

Speaking to journalists during the tour, Public Works Minister Nyenpan reiterated serious challenges Liberia faces with its roads, but despite those enormous difficulties, he averred the Government has identified a number of key roads that have economic impact, and the Bushrod Island corridor is one of those. He said despite the economic challenges amid the COVID - 19, the Weah administration has attached great importance to the completion of the road, which is why the Ministers of State and Finance were part of the joint inspection team. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Français

## Albert Chie a-t-il soutenu Darius Dillon lors de la sénatoriale partielle de Montserrado ?

La politique en Afrique est un jeu désagréable et les joueurs ou les acteurs mettent tout en œuvre pour atteindre leurs objectifs, y compris soutenir des candidats rivaux, comme l'a si bien révélé le président temporaire du Sénat libérien, un membre éminent de la Coalition du changement démocratique au pouvoir, le parti du président Weah.

Le président Albert Chie a révélé mercredi en séance plénière qu'il avait personnellement payé les

observateurs du sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon qui était face à la candidature du parti au pouvoir, Pualita C.C. Wie, lors des élections partielles sénatoriales de 2019.

Selon les résultats définitifs du scrutin publiés par la Commission électorale nationale, Dillon a obtenu 55,74% du total du suffrage exprimé contre 34,77% pour CDC Wie.

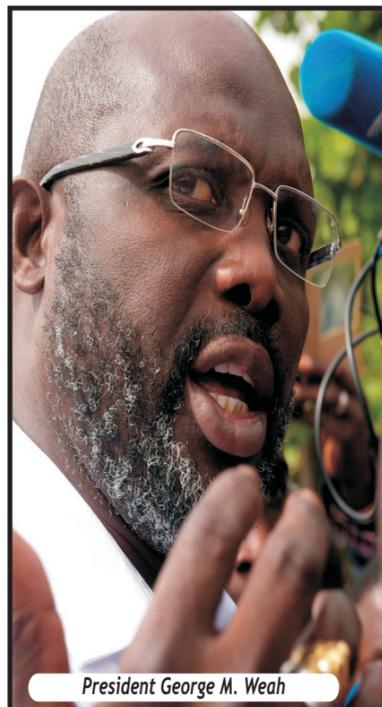
La victoire écrasante de Dillon dans le comté de Montserrado a déraciné le CDC de son ancien bastion en dépit du soutien particulier du

président à la candidate de son parti. La Coalition a toujours du mal à se remettre de cette défaite.

S'exprimant en plénière jeudi, le sénateur Chie s'est vanté, disant que c'est lui qui a payé les observateurs du candidat Dillon avec son propre argent. Il a également révélé qu'il a toujours en sa possession le message de Dillon, dans lequel il lui avait demandé de l'argent pour payer ses observateurs électoraux.

Il a traité Dillon

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



President George M. Weah



Pro-Tempore Albert Chie



Senator Abraham Darius Dillon

## L'EPA reçoit un financement de 8,9 millions de dollars pour le projet de défense côtière de Sinoe

Le gouvernement du Libéria, avec le soutien du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, a reçu du Fond Mondial pour l'Environnement 8,9 millions de dollars pour un projet de résilience côtière qui bénéficiera à 80 000 habitants du comté de Sinoe, dans le sud-est du Libéria.

Le projet comprend la création de moyens de résistance au changement climatique, la protection des communautés contre l'élévation du niveau de la mer et d'autres impacts du changement climatique potentiellement mortels.

Selon un communiqué de presse de l'Agence pour la protection de l'environnement, le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) a approuvé mercredi 3 juin 8,9 millions de dollars dans le cadre du Fonds pour les pays les moins avancés (FPMA) pour le projet de protection côtière. L'argent sera investi dans le

réhabilitation de 20 000 hectares de zones côtières dégradées.

Le financement du projet qui a une durée de sept ans proviendra de plusieurs sources. L'Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international fournira 28 millions de dollars US, tandis que la Banque mondiale

fournira 15 millions de dollars US et La Conservation International, 500 000 dollars US comme contribution en nature dans le cadre des travaux en cours au Libéria et en Afrique de l'Ouest. Il s'appuie également sur des projets antérieurs et en cours

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Protégeons nos enfants contre le viol et la sodomie !

Le Libéria descend certes lentement, mais sûrement vers une décadence morale, où les valeurs familiales et les normes sociales n'ont d'autres choix que de céder la place à l'immoralité qui, gaillardement et progressivement, s'installe dans les foyers, les églises, la fonction publique et les lieux de commerce.

Nous portons notre attention particulièrement sur la vague croissante de violences domestiques qui gangrènent le pays, notamment le viol et la sodomie de nos jeunes filles et garçons par des hommes, deux ou trois fois plus âgés que leurs victimes, entraînant des blessures graves et parfois la mort.

La police de Monrovia a placé en garde en vue un homme qui est soupçonné d'avoir violé et encainté sa belle-fille qui est à peine âgée de 15 ans. Un autre jeune homme est détenu dans les locaux de la police pour avoir prétendument violé une fille de 12 ans à Tuan Town. La victime serait morte. Un autre homme fait l'objet d'une enquête policière pour avoir sodomisé un garçon de neuf ans près du siège de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir à Congo Town, dans la banlieue de Monrovia. Le mois dernier, un jeune homme a tué par balle sa petite amie à Kakata, dans le comté de Margib. Un homme a tué sa femme dans le comté de Bong avec une machette après l'avoir soupçonnée d'avoir des relations extra-conjugales. La liste des cas pareils est très longue.

Les violences sexuelles de toute nature sont devenues récurrentes aussi bien dans les foyers que dans les communautés, ce qui représente un danger gravenon seulement pour les parents mais aussi pour les enfants, qui sont les plus vulnérables dans les foyers. Les parents sont la première ligne de défense et de protection pour les enfants. Ils ont le devoir de protéger leurs enfants et de veiller au bien-être de ces derniers, surtout en ces temps pareils où la pandémie mondiale continue de faire des ravages.

Mais malheureusement, les parents, obligés de sortir tous les jours pour chercher à manger pour la famille, abandonnent leurs enfants qui finissent par être livrés à la merci de quelques gens qui sont sans foi ni loi. Ces ours abusent de leurs proies faciles pour étancher leurs désirs sexuels insatiables. C'est en effet le cas d'une mineure de 15 ans qui est obligée de devenir une mère après avoir été violée par quelqu'un qui, dans les conditions normales, devrait lui servir de guide pour réussir dans la vie.

Mais hélas, celui-ci a profité de sa condition de vulnérabilité à l'absence de la mère qui avait quitté son domicile. Il l'a agressé sexuellement, tout en prenant le soin de l'interdit d'en parler à qui que ce soit. On se souvient aussi du cas d'un garçon de neuf ans qui fut sodomisé, et de la fille de 12 ans qui est décédée à l'hôpital James R. Davies Memorial de Paynesville après avoir été agressée sexuellement.

Nous pensons que les parents ont leur part de responsabilité car ils sont incapables de prendre soin et d'orienter leurs progénitures.

Il convient donc dire aux parents et aux tuteurs que prendre soin de leurs enfants ne se limitent pas au fait de s'assurer qu'il y a de la nourriture sur la table. En plus de la nourriture et des frais de scolarité, il faut les protéger, les surveiller, leur prodiguer des conseils et veiller à leur bien-être social.

Les lois libériennes sur le viol sont strictes. Le tribunal « E » situé au Temple de la justice juge spécifiquement les cas de viol. Sous la direction de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le gouvernement du Libéria a promulgué une nouvelle loi sur le viol, modifiant respectivement le Code pénal de juin 1976, chapitre 14, articles 14.70 et 14.71, faisant de ce crime, un crime de premier degré. Selon la loi sur le viol de janvier 2006, une personne qui a des rapports sexuels avec une autre personne (homme et femme) sans son consentement, a commis un viol qui est passible d'au moins 10 ans de prison ou parfois la perpétuité, selon le degré du viol qui peuvent être classés comme (viol sur mineur, viol entraînant des lésions corporelles graves, viol à l'aide d'une arme et viol collectif).

Mais le Sénat libérien a amendé en 2017 la nouvelle loi sur le viol, et l'a rendue un peu flexible. La commission judiciaire du Sénat a fait valoir que la sanction relative au viol comme prévue par la loi est excessive et donc inconstitutionnelle, citant l'article 21 (d) (ii) de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986, qui stipule qu'une caution excessive n'est pas exigée, ni excessive amendes infligées, ni punition excessive infligée aux auteurs.

Néanmoins, nous croyons toujours fermement que, bien que la loi soit en vigueur ou qu'elle ait été modifiée conformément à l'amendement du Sénat, la première ligne de défense des enfants est celle des parents. Si les parents prennent vraiment soin de leurs enfants et les aiment, ils feront un effort supplémentaire pour assurer leur bien-être et, par extension, réduire la violence domestique et sexuelle dans nos communautés.

# Français

## Albert Chie a-t-il soutenu

d'hypocrite, qui se fait passer pour un homme sain aux yeux du public alors qu'il prend part chaque fois aux deals louches qui ont lieu au sénat. Selon lui, Dillon n'a aucune probité morale car il fait des choses en cachette et une fois devant le public, il agit comme un homme parfait pour gagner le cœur des gens.

Le sénateur Dillon lui-même a admis avoir reçu 3000 dollars du président temporaire du Sénat pour payer ses observateurs lors de l'élection partielle

sénatoriale de 2019.

Dillon a reconnu mercredi avoir reçu cet argent après que le patron du Sénat a informé la plénière qu'il n'avait pas l'intention de le destituer car il apersonnellement déboursé 3 000 dollars pour payer ses observateurs. Dillon n'était pas encore sénateur et n'était pas en mesure de payer ses hommes après l'élection partielle.

Le Sénateur Chie s'était ainsi expliqué afin de dissiper les informations selon lesquelles il envisageait de faire destituer le sénateur Dillon du Sénat libérien.

## L'EPA reçoit un financement de 8,9 millions

financés par le FEM et le Fonds vert pour le climat.

« Le changement climatique sape nos objectifs de construire la paix et la prospérité pour notre peuple. Associé à d'autres actions, ce projet innovant protège les résidents côtiers vulnérables de l'élévation du niveau de la mer et soutient notre vision mondiale de l'élimination de la faim et de la pauvreté d'ici 2030 », a déclaré le directeur exécutif de l'EPA, Randall Dobayou.

On estime que 64 pourcent des Libériens vivent en dessous du seuil de la pauvreté, 1,3 million vivant dans l'extrême pauvreté. L'insécurité alimentaire affecte quatre personnes sur 10 et la malnutrition chronique est élevée. Le virus Ebola et la pandémie du COVID-19 ont mis encore plus de Libériens en danger.

L'économie n'est toujours pas en mesure de générer suffisamment d'emplois, en particulier pour les jeunes. Plus de la moitié des 4 millions d'habitants du Libéria vivent à moins de 40 miles de la côte, ce qui exerce une pression considérable sur les écosystèmes côtiers pour la nourriture, la terre, l'extraction minière et d'autres ressources, entraînant la perte et la dégradation de l'habitat, a indiqué le communiqué.

"Le projet vise un changement transformationnel en s'éloignant d'un modèle de maintien du statu quo vers une approche intégrée qui combine des interventions basées sur la nature, une infrastructure matérielle, des approches sensibles au genre, des capacités, des politiques, un engagement avec le secteur des services financiers, connaissances et systèmes de gestion de l'information et de

l'observation », a dit Pa Lamin Beyai, Représentant résident du PNUD.

En soutenant des moyens de résistance au changement climatique, l'égalité des sexes, le travail décent et la croissance économique, ainsi que la consommation et la production responsables, comme indiqué dans les ODD, le projet soutient le développement des entreprises et des programmes de formation pour 70000 bénéficiaires, avec des approches ciblées pour les femmes et les jeunes. Il cible également 30 000 bénéficiaires qui bénéficieront de systèmes agricoles intégrés, de pêcheries et de « blocs de terre » stabilisés comprimés et de leurs chaînes de valeur.

Le projet améliore la résilience côtière aux tempêtes, à l'érosion côtière et aux risques d'inondation tout en soutenant une gamme d'avantages des services écosystémiques qui améliorent la sécurité des moyens de subsistance et la résilience climatique globale. Ces soutiens bénéficieront à d'autres comtés côtiers du pays en matière de gestion des risques liés à la défense des mers et des rivières ainsi qu'aux opportunités de subsistance en matière d'adaptation au climat.

Le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) a été créé à la veille du Sommet de la Terre de Rio de 1992 au Brésil pour résoudre les problèmes environnementaux les plus urgents de la planète. Depuis lors, le FEM a octroyé près de 20,5 milliards de dollars de subventions et mobilisé 112 milliards de dollars supplémentaires de cofinancement pour plus de 4 800 projets dans 170 pays. Dans le cadre de son programme de petites subventions, le FEM a fourni un soutien à près de 24 000 initiatives de la société civile et des communautés dans 133 pays.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

## Un nouvel été long et suffocant aux États-Unis

NEW YORK - Les États-Unis seraient-ils en train de revivre un été 1968 ? Cet été là, comme aujourd'hui, le monde entier avait assisté à des scènes de rage populaire bouillonnante dans le pays, et la plupart des villes intérieures afro-américaines avaient pris feu, les jeunes subissant les gaz lacrymogènes, les assauts, et parfois les coups violents des forces de l'ordre et de la garde nationale.

Cette agitation civile avait eu pour résultat ce que certains libéraux d'Amérique redoutent de voir arriver plus tard dans l'année. Le candidat républicain à la présidence, Richard Nixon, avait promis à la « majorité silencieuse », à ceux qui n'étaient ni des « criards », ni des « protestataires », qu'il rétablirait l'ordre par la force. Dévastées, la plupart des zones urbaines afro-américaines avaient été privées de fonds fédéraux et encore davantage isolées, les habitants des banlieues blanches avaient acheté encore plus d'armes à feu, et les forces de police avaient été équipées comme si elles constituaient une branche de l'armée.

Les troubles de 1968, comme les manifestations d'aujourd'hui, avaient débuté par une colère contre l'oppression subie par la population noire d'Amérique. Martin Luther King Jr. avait déclaré « la nation est malade ». Le lendemain, il était abattu par un criminel blanc raciste. Les manifestations qui avaient suivi n'étaient pas seulement l'expression d'une colère après le meurtre de Martin Luther King, mais également d'un manque d'opportunités économiques et scolaires, conséquence d'une long et souvent violent passé raciste.

Malgré deux mandats d'un président afro-américain à la Maison-Blanche, les conditions sont aujourd'hui à peine plus favorables - voire dégradées à certains égards. La mort violente de Martin Luther King a eu cette année pour écho celle de George Floyd, homme noir de 46 ans, sans défense, tué à Minneapolis par un officier de police qui a exercé du genou une pression sur son cou pendant près de neuf minutes.

Par ailleurs, le COVID-19 a frappé les Afro-Américains particulièrement violemment, beaucoup d'entre eux ne disposant d'aucune épargne et n'ayant d'autre choix que de continuer à travailler dans des zones à risque, à l'instar des infirmières et autres « travailleurs essentiels », bien souvent sans couverture santé suffisante. Lorsque la dépression mondiale se sera installée, beaucoup ne disposeront d'aucun matelas pour amortir le choc.

Plusieurs différences importantes sont néanmoins à souligner entre la période actuelle et l'été 1968, outre le fait que la musique était beaucoup plus intéressante, et les opportunités sexuelles plus nombreuses. Ce dernier point n'est d'ailleurs pas aussi futile que l'on pourrait le penser. Après un confinement et un relatif isolement de plusieurs mois, les frustrations n'en seront qu'accentuées chez de nombreux jeunes, qui descendront également dans la rue pour les évacuer.

Les manifestations de 1968 ne concernaient pas seulement les inégalités raciales, mais également la guerre du Vietnam. Les deux questions étaient d'ailleurs liées. Le président Lyndon B. Johnson, responsable de l'escalade de cette guerre sauvage et déraisonnée, était un Démocrate, celui-là même qui avait promulgué des lois sur les droits civiques qui amélioraient l'existence des Afro-Américains. Ce faisant, il s'était attiré la haine de nombreux électeurs du sud, qui firent dorénavant allégeance au Parti républicain, contribuant ainsi à le pousser un peu plus à droite.

Les « criards » et les « protestataires » dénoncés par

Nixon n'étaient pas seulement des Noirs, mais également de jeunes Blancs opposés à l'obligation de mener une guerre qu'ils considéraient comme immorale. Robert F. Kennedy, candidat qui avait promis de mettre un terme à la guerre, et qui s'était rendu dans les ghettos les plus explosifs pour apaiser les craintes des Afro-Américains, sera assassiné deux mois après la mort de Martin Luther King.

Nixon remporta l'élection de novembre, pas seulement parce qu'il avait apaisé la « majorité silencieuse » en promettant le rétablissement de l'ordre, mais également parce que Hubert Humphrey, respectable Démocrate du courant dominant, avait refusé de condamner la guerre du Vietnam. Probable candidat démocrate de cette année, et malgré tous ses défauts, Joe Biden a démontré qu'il ne serait sans doute pas le nouvel Hubert Humphrey. Sa sympathie penche clairement du côté des manifestants. Biden a publiquement rappelé plusieurs épisodes de violences policières contre des Américains noirs non armés, et promis de réformer la police.

En période difficile, le challenger jouit d'un certain avantage. De la même manière que Johnson fut tenu responsable de l'escalade d'une guerre de plus en plus impopulaire, l'occupant actuel de la Maison-Blanche devra répondre du mal américain d'aujourd'hui. Si Donald Trump ne peut être désigné coupable de la pandémie de COVID-19, il lui faudra rendre des comptes quant à ses manquements dans la riposte.

De même, le racisme institutionnel qui enflamme à nouveau les rues d'Amérique ne date pas de l'arrivée au pouvoir de Trump. Le président a en revanche délibérément alimenté l'incendie en qualifiant de criminels les immigrants de couleur, de « gens très bien » les suprémacistes blancs armés, et de « voyous » les manifestants noirs révoltés, ainsi qu'en encourageant l'armée, la garde nationale et la police à ne pas y aller de main morte, ou pour citer sa formule brutale : « Ne soyez pas tendres avec eux ».

Tandis que certains groupes de l'extrême droite américaine parlent avec enthousiasme d'une « guerre des races » toute proche, Trump ne fait rien pour atténuer cette véhémence. Il semble au contraire s'en délecter. Un récent tweet du président (« Lorsque les pillages commencent, les tirs à balle réelle aussi. ») est directement inspiré du chef de la police de Miami, en Floride, qui avait ordonné à ses troupes en 1967 de braquer leurs fusils sur les manifestants des « quartiers noirs » de sa ville.

C'est ce que l'on appelle « stimuler son électorat ». Stimulée, la majeure partie de l'électorat de Trump le sera certainement. La grande question du mois de novembre sera de savoir ce que feront ceux qui ont voté pour lui en 2016, mais qui ne sont pas aussi fanatiques que d'autres dans leur soutien à Trump. Que pensent aujourd'hui les Américaines des banlieues blanches, les cols bleus du Midwest, ou encore les personnes âgées du sud (qui comptent parmi les plus vulnérables à une infection au COVID-19) ?

Nombre d'Américains sont clairement atterrés par la grossièreté et le caractère incendiaire des paroles de leur président. Mais leur désapprobation sera-t-elle éclipsée par leur inquiétude face à la violence de l'agitation sociale ? Les préjugés raciaux de longue date, souvent non dits et parfois assumés, les conduiront-ils à voter pour la sécurité factice d'un président blanc obscène et brutal ?

Beaucoup dépendra des évolutions de cet été. Si les Américains font preuve de rationalité au mois de novembre, difficile d'imaginer qu'ils seront suffisamment nombreux à voter pour le maintien au pouvoir de cette administration désastreuse pour quatre ans encore. La peur est malheureusement souvent le plus grand ennemi de la raison.

# Intervene in LTA-GSM Companies' saga

## -Senator Chea

Senator Augustine S. Chea of Sinoe County is appealing to fellow members of the Liberian Senate to intervene in the ongoing problem between the Liberia

Telecommunication Authority (LTA) and GSM Companies in the country.

He said it would be vital that members of the senate intervene to derive amicable resolution.

Senator Chea made the

appeal Friday, June 5, 2020 in session after members of the Senate Committee on Post and Telecommunication conducted an investigation between the GSM Companies and authorities of the LTA recently.

The governing CDC Lawmaker, reporting to the body during Friday session informed his colleagues that the GSM Companies are saying the LTA is asking them to give a sub-charge fee, which they say poses serious problem for them.

According to him, the companies are even saying because of the sub-charge fees, they are planning to do away with the three days free call.

Senator Chea stated that the GSM Companies in as much they are talking about cutting off, they are also planning to reduce the call limit to 45 minutes,

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# IMF approves

Cont'd from page 6

commitment to fiscal consolidation, including domestic revenue mobilization and expenditure re-prioritization. In this vein, they took positive note of the recent passage of instruments to increase excise on fuel as well as the authorities' commitment to centralize revenues accruing to state-owned enterprises (SOEs) into the consolidated revenue account.

Directors welcomed the swift and decisive measures adopted by the authorities to assuage the economic impact of the pandemic including to increase resource allocation for food security and protect vulnerable market women and petty traders.

They welcomed recent steps to restore confidence in the banking system, including the adoption of an interest-rate-based monetary policy framework and the hiring of a firm to ensure the adequate supply of Liberian dollar banknotes to avoid shortages during peak seasons.

The Government is presently in negotiation with the IMF on a second round of disbursement under the RCF to support the FY 2020/21 National Budget, and this is a critical part of the passage of the FY 2020/21 National Budget, which is currently under development. Key items in the new budget will revolve around funds for the settlement of domestic arrears, which the Government of Liberia has not been servicing due to both funding and domestic debt validation challenges. The servicing of these debts in next year's budget will provide critically needed stimulus to the COVID-impacted economy, while strengthening Government's credibility to meet payment obligations to vendors and suppliers. Budgetary support for economic recovery is also under consideration.

President Weah has directed that the new budget focus spending to the maximal extent possible on the critical aspects of the economy to sustain recovery, which has been slowed by the onset of COVID-19.

Both the Government and the IMF are expected to undertake the first review under the ECF, delayed by COVID-19. Under the ECF and prior to COVID-19, 2020 growth was projected to be close to 1 percent but has now been revised to a negative growth on account of COVID-19, a situation that is common across sub-Saharan Africa, where the World Bank has projected average growth rate to range between -2 to -5 percent due to COVID-19.

Liberia's performance under the ECF and the country's commitment to unprecedented macroeconomic and institutional reforms are winning international commendations. A clear indication of these successes is reflected in the recent decision by the Board of the Central Bank of Liberia to reduce the policy rate from 30 percent to 25 percent, mirroring the reduction in the inflation rate, which the policy rate is set to target. Also, the passing of three out of four of the IMF's Quantitative Performance Criteria (QPC) on the fiscal side, especially the criteria on limiting the primary deficit to less than 2.5 percent of GDP, is particularly welcoming. A deficit of less than three percent is one of the monetary convergence criteria for ECOWAS countries aiming to enter a monetary union, and Liberia is clearly on the path to beating this target by end of current fiscal year.

The Government extends its profound thanks to the Executive Directors for their appreciation of ongoing reforms in Liberia under the leadership of President Weah and pledges to do more to deepen reforms that are needed to transform the country.

The Government thanks the IMF and other international partners for the massive show of support in the wake of COVID-19 and promises full transparency and accountability in the use of COVID-19 resources. It informs partners and the general public that a dashboard on COVID-19 resources will soon be made publicly available.

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# Family of deceased

investigation into the circumstances surrounding the cause of the hot water burning victim Mensah.

During the CSD's investigation, the PSD recommends further that Mr. George C. Davis, a resident of West Point who wrote the police to complain about the incident as well as Mensah's Grandmother Satta McGill and Richard G. Singbeh be subjects to the investigation.

According to the PSD, these individuals were on the scene when the incident occurred, and also the testimony of Cpl. Zachelinedugbe linked them to the crime.

According to Officer VarmuyanKamaram, Deputy Commissioner of Police for PSD, they did administrative investigation, not criminal investigation [as the CSD may do].

He explains that when PSD received the complaint, they requested the listing of all the officers that were assigned to West Point on the day of the incident, but the accused female officer could not be linked.

The police say the identity

of Patrolman SonnieJallah was as a result of a social media (facebook) post by a Liberian based in the US identified as Wen Sailey, who alleged that Officer Jallah was the one that carried out the act, but they did not establish how he got to know that.

For his part, Police Spokesman Carter says the complainant was not descriptive of the female officer.

Carter says on 22 April, the LNP received a letter of complaint from Mr. Davis, alleging that on 20 April, at about 7:15 PM, an unidentified female officer on enforcement of the State of Emergency in the Township of West Point allegedly kicked a coal pot with hot water which burnt little Mensah.

Upon receipt of the complaint, Carter says all officers who went to West Point to enforce the State of Emergency were immediately invited, turned over to the PSD for investigation.

He says the investigation gathered that Officer SonnieJallah was a member of the PSU Team that responded in West Point on 20 April.

He details that one of Officer Jallah's team mates, CplZachelinedugbe narrated that while on their enforcement assignment, her colleague Officer Jallah began to warn the residents to leave the streets.

In the process, Cpl. Dugbe explains that she noticed Mensah being held by a man she thought to be the grandfather of the victim on his lap.

CplDugbeg furthered that upon hearing this warning or command, the man allegedly pushed little Mensah to his Grandmother, but the Grandmother was not attentive, leading the child to fall under a table where a coal pot was. The police say it resulted to the hot water splashing on the child.

According to the PSD, its investigation found it impossible how the hot water did not splash on Mr. Davis, given his demonstration as to his position with the child when he alleged a female officer kicked the pot of hot boiling water which was under the table.

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# Poorest population

project is not basically about dishing out money to people, but it is meant to motivate those in the remote parts of the country by giving them something to start up a little business.

She notes that it is also intended to reawaken their dreams and aspirations that

they can stand on their own even when the project comes to a close.

In an overview, the Program Manager of the Social Registry Project Shadrach S. Gbokie says the objective of project is to establish the key building block of a basic national safety net delivery system, and provide

income support to households who are both extremely poor and food insecure in Liberia.

According to him, one of the three components is to strengthen the national social safety net system and finance the development of social registry.

He continues that the

second component is the cash transfer to extremely poor and food insecure households.

He discloses that the project will provide income support to about 10,000 extremely poor and food insecure households in Liberia through regular cash transfer and accompanying measures.

He says this component is being implemented in Maryland, Grand Kru and it will soon be implemented in River Gee and Bomi Counties.

Additionally, the Social

Registry Program Manager notes that the third component of the project is focusing on project management and capacity building.

He concludes that the objective of this component is to finance project management and capacity building of the Liberia Social Safety Net project which is being implemented by the ministry.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# CDC comes to Pro-Temp's rescue

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Amid anger among some CDCians following recent disclosure by Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie that he gave US\$3,000 to opposition Senator Abraham Darius Dillon to pay his poll workers, the chairman of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change has come to the Pro-temp's rescue, dismissing any wrong doing. Addressing a news conference in Monrovia Friday, June 05, Morlu defended that the assistance from Pro-Tempore Chie followed the Montserrado

the passage of bills and other relevant instruments decided to help," he argued.

The revelation by the Pro-Tempore last week, came as the Senate set up a committee to investigate Dillon, who has been critical of procedures on Capitol Hill, following a communication by Lofa County Senator George Tengbeh for branding that body as "rotten, useless and spineless" amid rumors that he could suspension or expulsion.

But ordinary CDCians are unhappy that Chie, a member of the ruling Coalition, would be so nice to pay poll workers of an opposition candidate, who

assisted Dillon with US\$3,000 after the by-election to pay his poll watchers. He also revealed that Dillon had worked for him and was paid personally from his (Chie's) pocket but didn't specify which kind of work.

"Senator Chie remains a strong partisan of the CDC. We will not be carried away by the tricks being played by those in the opposition. Through our engagement, we have been able to establish that the intent was good. As Pro-Temp and a member of the ruling government, he needs the legislative support to help us succeed," Morlu further defended.

Meanwhile, in an effort to help build the capacity of party loyalists, the ruling Coalition has vowed to register 3,000 'militants' for the next Entrance and Placement exam of the University of Liberia.

Registration for the UL entrance and placement does not automatically qualify candidates for enrolment, as applicants are required to successfully pass at least one of the two basic subjects (Mathematics and English) before acceptance, and then do a remedial study in the course of deficiency for one semester without credit.

However, Morlu continue that it is the duty of the Coalition to empower those he called 'militants' who have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for the success of the party. "We need to ensure the viability of our partisans [militants]. Beneficiaries will be selected from the electoral districts across the country."

He said beneficiaries would be allowed to select courses of their choice to prepare them for opportunities ahead. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



County senatorial by-election, which the ruling Coalition lost to the opposition Liberty Party.

The CDC chairman noted that after the poll, Dillon went on begging spree to raise money to pay poll watchers he had hired.

"Dillon went on bended knees to the Pro-Tempore for help. What I gathered from credible sources [is] that poll workers have threatened to burn his house, if he had delayed to pay them. The Pro-Tempore being a leader of the senate, who needs votes for

uprooted the CDC from its stronghold in Montserrado County.

Morlu insisted however that it is distasteful and disingenuous for some members of the opposition to run with the assistance rendered Senator Dillon after the election as 'betrayal' to Coalition for Democratic Change candidate Paulita C.C. Wie during the 2019 by-election.

At a heated debate in Plenary of the Liberian Senate last week, Pro-Tempore Albert Chie told fellow senators he

# PPCC to single source election materials

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Liberian Senate has overwhelmingly voted for the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) to single source purchase materials for the impending 2020 midterm senatorial election.

A joint committee headed by Grand Cape Mount Senator, Cllr. Varney Sherman has recommended that since the government has no money now for the election, the National Elections Commission should deal with vendors outside of bidding process specifically, deal with business entities the Commission has had previous transactions with to ensure the polls are held.

At the same time Plenary

The report furthered that the legislature should as quickly as possible process funds for the elections and the referendum and that the executive should make said fund available in order to ensure there is no delay or interruption in the two processes.

The committee stresses that the Final Registration Roll (FRR) be cleaned with the involvement of all political parties in keeping with the Supreme Court ruling in the 2017 general and presidential elections.

"A clean-up process for the 2017 FRR should be timely conducted and political parties should be involved in the



has endorsed its joint committee report on the postponement of the 2020 midterm senatorial elections from October 13 to December 8, 2020.

The body took the decision Friday, June 5, in its regular session on Capitol Hill, which followed a report submitted by the joint committee on Autonomous Agencies and Claims, Petition and Judiciary.

"The elections and referendum scheduled for 13 October 2020 should be postponed to December 8, 2020; the evident is that because of COVID-19 and the lack of funding in 2019 and early 2020," the committee's report said.

process in order to enhance the legitimacy and authenticity of the 2017 FRR for use of the 2020 mid-term senatorial elections and referendum."

However, Grand Bassa County Senator, Jonathan Kaipay moved that the report be endorsed into a resolution and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence for onward submission to the President and said motion was passed by the full plenary.

Fifteen of the 30 incumbent senators are going for the midterm elections. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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## Intervene in LTA-GSM

something, he said, it is a critical issue that needs to be looked at keenly.

He said members of the committee on Posts and Telecommunication want the call limit to increase to 60 minutes, instead of 45, adding that this would be in the interest of the Liberian people.

However, he disclosed

after holding discussions with both institutions, only to his surprised he received a communication, informing that the matter has been sent to court.

After the report was read by the Sinoe County Lawmaker, the presiding in session, Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor asked members of the senate if the issue, as raised by Senator

Chea should be put on the floor for discussion.

In response, Senator Darius Abraham Dillon of Montserrado County suggested that the matter is in court and should not be discussed, an advice that was buttressed by Senator Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## Local group wants

Cont'd from page 6

Isaac Tom Payedoe accused the company of failing to make good on some of those commitments.

Contrary to the mineral development agreement signed between MNG Gold and the government of Liberia, the trio alleged that the company is currently involved with underground mining; a claim the company has denied.

They want the document to

be revisited with some amendments that will put the company's feet to the fire and ensure that the citizens get their just benefits.

"You cannot have company that is getting more from our district and can't contribute [anything], so we want that agreement to be revisited because what is in it is very small," Isaac concludes. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

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## Family of deceased kid ordered investigated



By Winston W. Parley

A family in Monrovia's slum community of West Point has been ordered to face criminal investigation regarding its three-year-old kid Francis Mensah's death after hot water burnt the victim when his grandparents were fleeing from police's verbal command, ordering residents to leave the streets under coronavirus lockdown measure.

In an administrative report released by the Professional Standard Division (PSD) of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Friday, 5 June, the police officials exonerated their female officer Patrolwoman SonnieJallah of accusation that she kicked a coal pot with hot water which burnt little Mensah on 20 April, leading to his death.

That Patrolman SonnieJallah who is accused on social media (facebook) by one Wen Sailey is exonerated from

said allegation in that, this investigation did not establish anything that links her to the allegation," Police Spokesman Moses Carter read the report to journalists Friday in the midst of PSD officers.

At the conclusion of its report, the PSD recommends that the LNP's Crime Services Department (CSD) should launch an immediate

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## FIFA open to salary cap and transfer fee limit proposals

FIFA president Gianni Infantino called on Saturday for discussions over proposals to introduce salary and transfer fee caps to football in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

World football's governing body intends to finalise plans in the coming weeks for a financial relief package following the economic damage caused to the sport by the global health crisis.

FIFA announced in April it would release \$150 million (133 million euros) to its 211

member associations "as the first step of a relief plan". UEFA shortly afterwards said it had allocated 236.5 million euros to its 55 member federations.

Last month, the German FA and Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge urged industry talks about a salary cap and reforming the transfer system to keep football "credible".

"On the financial and governance aspects, I also heard some interesting proposals on a wide range of topics," Infantino



wrote in an open letter to FIFA's members.

"From salary caps to transfer fee caps or other taxation mechanisms, to the possible obligation for governing bodies, competition organisers and clubs to build reserves or to contribute to a reserve fund which can be of assistance in hours of need such as now.

"I personally advocate for clearer and stricter financial regulations, imposing full transparency and good governance principles, and not only limiting this to the transfer system, but to the entire football ecosystem".

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