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VOL.10 NO. 111

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

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Pres. Weah

Ex-Minister Jemima Wolokolie

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CDC expels Jemima Wolokolie

- "I have no regret"

Country cannot remain in shutdown

- Sen. Teahjay

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Continental News

Top Ethiopian politician arrested over protests

Prominent Ethiopian politician Jawar Mohammed is among 35 people arrested following huge demonstrations in the country's Oromia region.

Thousands of mourners had gathered to protest against the killing of popular singer Hachalu Hundessa, who was shot dead on Monday.

At least seven people, including a police officer, were killed during protests in several towns. The motive for Hachalu's killing remains unclear.

Hachalu, 34, had said that he had received death threats.

His songs focused on the rights of the country's Oromo ethnic group and became anthems in a wave of protests that led to the downfall of the previous prime minister in 2018.

The authorities shut down the internet on Tuesday in parts of the country as the protests against his killing spread in Oromia state. Trouble started when Hachalu's body was being transported to his native town of Ambo, east of the capital, Addis Ababa, for burial, but Mr Jawar and his supporters

intercepted it and tried to return it to the capital.

Federal Police commissioner, Endeshaw Tassew, said on Tuesday that a stand-off ensued. "There was a disturbance between federal security forces and others, and in the process one member of the Oromia special police force was killed," Mr Endeshaw said.

"Thirty-five people including Jawar Mohammed have been put under arrest. The security forces have taken eight

Kalashnikovs, five pistols and nine radio transmitters from Jawar Mohammed's car," he added.

Mr Jawar, a media mogul, has led calls for more rights of the Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, who have been politically marginalised by previous governments.

He supported reformist Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, himself an Oromo, but has since become an ardent critic.

Mr Jawar is a member of opposition Oromo Federalist Congress party. Hachalu was more than just a singer and entertainer.

He was a symbol for the Oromo people who spoke up about the political and economic marginalisation that they had suffered under consecutive Ethiopian regimes.

In one of his most famous songs, he sang: "Do not wait for help to come from outside, a dream that doesn't come true. Rise, make your horse ready and fight, you are the one close to the palace." The musician had also been imprisoned for five years when he was 17 for taking part in protests.

Many like him fled into exile fearing persecution but he remained in the country and encouraged the youth to struggle. In Adama, 90km (56

miles) south-east of Addis Ababa, five people died after being shot during demonstrations and 75 others were injured, hospital chief executive Dr Mekonnen Feyisa told BBC Afaan Oromo.

Nineteen others were injured in nearby Dera town, he added. Meanwhile, in the eastern town of Chiro, two people were shot dead during protests, a medic at the local hospital told the BBC.

In the eastern city of Harar, protesters pulled down a statue of a royal prince - Ras Makonnen Wolde Mikael - who was the father of Haile Selassie, Ethiopia's last emperor.

The statue shows Ras Makonnen, an important military figure and former governor of Harar province in the 19th Century under then-Emperor Menelik II, sitting on a horse. BBC



Jawar Mohammed is a top Oromo leader and critic of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

Uganda allows Congolese refugees into the country

Uganda is temporarily opening part of its border to allow at least 3,000 Congolese refugees into the country.

They are believed to be fleeing inter-communal violence in the east of the Democratic Republic of

Congo. Uganda hosts more than 1,000,000 refugees but closed its borders in March to control the spread of coronavirus.

For more than a month thousands of displaced people have been stuck in DR Congo's Ituri region trying to seek safety

in northern Uganda.

The government in Kampala finally agreed to give them entry on humanitarian grounds. They will first spend 14 days quarantined at a newly set-up isolation centre, 13km (8 miles) from the border. The UN's refugee agency says sample testing will be carried out on the group to see if coronavirus is present among them.

This will help authorities decide when they can be transferred to camps.

Aid agencies have talked about the difficulties of ensuring social distancing and sanitation in refugee settlements.

Fifty-two refugees have so far tested positive for Covid-19 in Uganda out of nearly 900 confirmed cases.

The UN says it is concerned about reports of rising violence in DR Congo where five million people are internally displaced. BBC



Uganda closed its borders in March to control the spread of coronavirus

SA opposition wants lockdown reinstated

South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters party has called for a return to the strict level-five lockdown in the country as coronavirus cases rise.

The party says the only way to prevent further spread is for people to stay home and the government reinstates all

said the country's health care system will not be able to cope with the rising number of infections.

South Africa's cases of coronavirus rose to 151,209 on Tuesday with the deaths at 2,657.

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize on Tuesday said



The country has been easing restrictions in phases

lockdown restrictions that were in place before easing started. No amount of social distancing, wearing masks, sanitisation will help reduce the rise in infections and death. The only strategy that will help us is staying at home."

The party in a statement

"things are getting tough" as cases increase.

South Africa has been enforcing a phased easing of restrictions and has reopened schools with cases now being reported among learners and teachers. BBC

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EDITORIAL

Confrontation is unhealthy for business

THE NATIONAL SECURITY Agency (NSA) an investigative arm of the state, is reportedly probing the Chief Executive Officer of Orange Liberia, Mamadou Coulibaly, for alleged involvement with protesters who recently erected roadblocks with burning tires in Monrovia, demanding cancelation of surcharge imposed on GSM companies by the Government of Liberia.

THE SUSPICION BY the government stems from earlier Writ of Prohibition filed before the Supreme Court of Liberia by Orange Liberia against the surcharge. The High Court however, denied the petition.

AND SO WHEN an erratic pressure group here, Council of Patriots, mobilized youth into the street last week, burning tires and erecting roadblocks in demand of cancelation of the surcharge, government suspects that CEO Coulibaly, who had earlier gone to court against the levy, may be behind all this hence; Police called him for questioning and subsequently turned Coulibaly over to the NSA for further interrogation.

IT IS NOT only disappointing, but highly counterproductive for a business entity to be in confrontation with the government under which it operates. This is bad business practice. Rather than going to court on the matter, we think CEO Coulibaly should have sat with the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) the regulatory body, to discuss all outstanding issues.

IN 2018, THE LTA issued Order# 0016-02-25-19, 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.

IF THE GSM companies in this case, Orange Liberia, had reservations it should choose dialogue with the relevant government entities to reach common grounds for peaceful business environment.

LEST WE BE misconstrued here; the New Dawn holds no suspicion against CEO Coulibaly, neither does it support or defend ongoing interrogation by the government.

BUT WE URGE both sides to quickly realize that a confrontational business environment poses threat to the economy, something that neither parties wants to see in Liberia, particularly Orange Liberia, as a foreign partner.

WE CAN BUT only hope that the questioning would be concluded soon and suspicions cleared so that CEO Coulibaly would return to his business and carry on normal operations without having to constantly be on the watch for plain-clothe security coming to take him for interrogation.

THE LAST THING that this country wants is a business environment that is clouded with mistrust and strain, because such atmosphere drives away the dollars the economy needs to thrive.

COMMENTARY

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.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

Priorities for the COVID-19 Economy

With hopes of a sharp rebound from the pandemic-induced recession quickly fading, policymakers should pause and take stock of what it will take to achieve a sustained recovery. The most urgent policy priorities have been obvious since the beginning, but they will require hard choices and a show of political will.

NEW YORK - Although it seems like ancient history, it hasn't been that long since economies around the world began to close down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Early in the crisis, most people anticipated a quick V-shaped recovery, on the assumption that the economy merely needed a short timeout. After two months of tender loving care and heaps of money, it would pick up where it left off.

It was an appealing idea. But now it is July, and a V-shaped recovery is probably a fantasy. The post-pandemic economy is likely to be anemic, not just in countries that have failed to manage the pandemic (namely, the United States), but even in those that have acquitted themselves well. The International Monetary Fund projects that by the end of 2021, the global economy will be barely larger than it was at the end of 2019, and that the US and European economies will still be about 4% smaller.

The current economic outlook can be viewed on two levels. Macroeconomics tells us that spending will fall, owing to households' and firms' weakened balance sheets, a rash of bankruptcies that will destroy organizational and informational capital, and strong precautionary behavior induced by uncertainty about the course of the pandemic and the policy responses to it. At the same time, microeconomics tells us that the virus acts like a tax on activities involving close human contact. As such, it will continue to drive large changes in consumption and production patterns, which in turn will bring about a broader structural transformation.

We know from both economic theory and history that markets alone are ill suited to manage such a transition, especially considering how sudden it has been. There's no easy way to convert airline employees into Zoom technicians. And even if we could, the sectors that are now expanding are much less labor-intensive and more skill-intensive than the ones they are supplanting.

We also know that broad structural transformations tend to create a traditional Keynesian problem, owing to what economists call the income and substitution effects. Even if non-human-contact sectors are expanding, reflecting improvements in their relative attractiveness, the associated spending increase will be outweighed by the decrease in spending that results from declining incomes in the shrinking sectors.

Moreover, in the case of the pandemic, there will be a third effect: rising inequality. Because machines cannot be infected by the virus, they will look relatively more attractive to employers, particularly in the contracting sectors that use relatively more unskilled labor. And, because low-income people must spend a larger share of their income on basic goods than those at the top, any automation-driven increase in inequality will be contractionary.

On top of these problems, there are two additional reasons for pessimism. First, while monetary policy can help some firms deal with temporary liquidity constraints - as happened during the 2008-09 Great Recession - it cannot fix solvency problems, nor can it stimulate the economy when interest rates are already near zero.

Moreover, in the US and some other countries, "conservative" objections to rising deficits and debt levels will stand in the way of the necessary fiscal stimulus. To be sure, the same people were more than happy to cut taxes for billionaires and corporations in 2017, bail out Wall Street in 2008, and lend a hand to corporate behemoths this year. But it is quite another thing to extend unemployment insurance, health care, and additional support to the most vulnerable.

The short-run priorities have been clear since the beginning of the crisis. Most obviously, the health emergency must be addressed (such as by ensuring adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and hospital capacity), because there can be no economic recovery until the virus is contained. At the same time, policies to protect the most needy, provide liquidity to prevent unnecessary bankruptcies, and maintain links between workers and their firms are essential to ensuring a quick restart when the time comes.

But even with these obvious essentials on the agenda, there are hard choices to make. We shouldn't bail out firms - like old-line retailers - that were already in decline before the crisis; to do so would merely create "zombies," ultimately limiting dynamism and growth. Nor should we bail out firms that were already too indebted to be able to withstand any shock. The US Federal Reserve's decision to support the junk-bond market with its asset-purchase program is almost certainly a mistake. Indeed, this is an instance where moral hazard really is a relevant concern; governments should not be protecting firms from their own folly.

Because COVID-19 looks likely to remain with us for the long term, we have time to ensure that our spending reflects our priorities. When the pandemic arrived, American society was riven by racial and economic inequities, declining health standards, and a destructive dependence on fossil fuels. Now that government spending is being unleashed on a massive scale, the public has a right to demand that companies receiving help contribute to social and racial justice, improved health, and the shift to a greener, more knowledge-based economy. These values should be reflected not only in how we allocate public money, but also in the conditions that we impose on its recipients.

As my co-authors and I point out in a recent study, well-directed public spending, particularly investments in the green transition, can be timely, labor-intensive (helping to resolve the problem of soaring unemployment), and highly stimulative - delivering far more bang for the buck than, say, tax cuts. There is no economic reason why countries, including the US, can't adopt large, sustained recovery programs that will affirm - or move them closer to - the societies they claim to be.

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OPINION

By Yanis Varoufakis

The COVID Class War

The European Union's proposed recovery fund to counter the pandemic's economic fallout seems destined to leave the majority in every member state worse off. Finance will again be protected, if badly, while workers are left to foot the bill through new rounds of austerity.

ATHENS - The euro crisis that erupted a decade ago has long been portrayed as a clash between Europe's frugal North and profligate South. In fact, at its heart was a fierce class war that left Europe, including its capitalists, much weakened relative to the United States and China. Worse still, the European Union's response to the pandemic, including the EU recovery fund currently under deliberation, is bound to intensify this class war, and deal another blow to Europe's socioeconomic model.

If we have learned anything in recent decades, it is the pointlessness of focusing on any country's economy in isolation. Once upon a time, when money moved between countries mostly to finance trade, and most consumption spending benefited domestic producers, the strengths and weaknesses of a national economy could be separately assessed. Not anymore. Today, the weaknesses of, say, China and Germany are intertwined with those of countries like the US and Greece.

The unshackling of finance in the early 1980s, following the elimination of capital controls left over from the Bretton Woods system, enabled enormous trade imbalances to be funded by rivers of money created privately via financial engineering. As the US shifted from a trade surplus to a massive deficit, its hegemony grew. Its imports maintain global demand and are financed by the inflows of foreigners' profits that pour into Wall Street.

This strange recycling process is managed by the world's de facto central bank, the US Federal Reserve. And maintaining such an impressive creation - a permanently imbalanced global system - necessitates the constant intensification of class war in deficit and surplus countries alike.

Deficit countries are all alike in one important sense: whether powerful like the US, or weak like Greece, they are condemned to generate debt bubbles as their workers helplessly watch industrial areas morph into rustbelts. Once the bubbles burst, workers in the Midwest or the Peloponnese face debt bondage and plummeting living standards.

Although surplus countries, too, are characterized by class warfare against workers, they differ significantly from one another. Consider China and Germany. Both feature large trade surpluses with the US and the rest of Europe. Both repress their workers' income and wealth. The main difference between them is that China maintains huge levels of investment through a domestic credit bubble, while Germany's corporations invest much less and rely on credit bubbles in the rest of the eurozone.

The euro crisis was never a clash between the Germans and the Greeks (shorthand for the fabled North-South clash). Instead, it stemmed from an intensification of class war within Germany and within Greece at the hands of an oligarchy-without-frontiers living off financial flows.

For example, when the Greek state went bankrupt in 2010, the austerity imposed on most of the Greek population did wonders to restrict investment in Greece. But it did the same in Germany, indirectly repressing German wages at a time when the European Central Bank's money-printing was sending share prices (and German directors' bonuses) through the roof.

Class warfare is arguably more brutal in China and the US than it is in Europe. But Europe's lack of a political union ensures that its class war verges on being pointless, even from the capitalists' perspective.

Evidence that German capitalists squandered the wealth extracted from the EU's working classes is not hard to find. The euro crisis caused a massive 7% devaluation of the surpluses that the German private sector had accumulated from 1999 onwards, because capital owners had no alternative but to lend these trillions to foreigners whose subsequent distress led to large losses.

This is not only a German problem. It is a condition afflicting the EU's other surplus countries as well. The German newspaper Handelsblatt recently revealed a notable reversal. Whereas in 2007, EU corporations earned around €100 billion (\$113 billion) more than their US counterparts, in 2019 the situation was inverted.

Moreover, this is an accelerating trend. In 2019, corporate earnings rose 50% faster in the US than in Europe. And US corporate earnings are expected to suffer less from the pandemic-induced recession, falling 20% in 2020, compared to 33% in Europe.

The gist of Europe's conundrum is that, while it is a surplus economy, its fragmentation ensures that the income losses of German and Greek workers do not even become sustainable profits for Europe's capitalists. In short, behind the narrative of northern frugality lurks the specter of wasted exploitation.

Reports that COVID-19 caused the EU to raise its game are grossly exaggerated. The quiet death of European debt mutualization guarantees that the gigantic increase in national budget deficits will be followed by equally sizeable austerity in every country. In other words, the class war that has already eroded most people's incomes will intensify. "But what about the proposed €750 billion recovery fund?" one might ask. "Is the agreement to issue common debt not a breakthrough?"

Yes and no. Common debt instruments are a necessary but insufficient condition for ameliorating the intensified class war. To play a progressive role, common debt must fund the weaker households and firms across the common economic area: in Germany as well as in Greece. And it must do so automatically, without reliance on the kindness of the local oligarchs. It must operate like an automated recycling mechanism that shifts surpluses to those in deficit within every town, region, and state. In the US, for example, food stamps and social security payments support the weak in California and in Missouri, while shifting net resources from California to Missouri - and all without any involvement by state governors or local bureaucrats.

By contrast, the EU recovery fund's fixed allocation to member states will turn them against one another, as the fixed sum to be given to, say, Italy or Greece is portrayed as a tax on Germany's working class. Moreover, the idea is to transfer the funds to national governments, effectively entrusting the local oligarchy with the task of distributing them.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Three-Facedness of Ali Sylla – ALCOP, CDC, or UP? - Part 1

By Martin K. N. Kollie
Liberian activist and columnist

In 2014, young Ali Sylla had a golden opportunity to etch his name in Liberia's political history. The Unity Party (UP) chose Sylla as its Senatorial Hopeful to contest in Liberia's populous County, Montserrado. Young Sylla cheerfully chose to eat his lunch before recess period. This was a missed opportunity.

Even though Sylla was never the most qualified or the most competent candidate to contest on UP's ticket in 2014 Senatorial Election, but he was preferred, through a democratic process, because the Unity Party thought that Sylla was a symbol of their party's youthful future. The platform that UP gave Sylla was far bigger than his political stature and political capital.

Sylla had two (2) possible chances or options to his advantage:

- 1) To maximize this unique opportunity in order to build his political profile and strategically brand himself by demonstrating loyalty, honesty, integrity, humility, hard work, discipline, and patriotism;
- 2) To position himself as a "formidable political force" to reckon with in Montserrado County and across Liberia. Sylla had every opportunity to be like Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party.

Pathetically, Sylla willfully chose to betray thousands of Liberians including diehard partisans of the Unity Party. Young Sylla chose cash over character. He chose self over sacrifice. The Unity Party (UP) was not only shocked by Sylla's abrupt action, but embarrassed when he finally sold out to the richest candidate (Robert Sirleaf) even though Sylla could win more votes than Robert as a candidate on UP's ticket.

Sylla's only excuse for hurriedly withdrawing his candidature was based on "medical reason" and that "medical reason" remains unknown to date. Young Sylla finally backed off from the race at the ninth hour as the Unity Party was left to wonder and ponder over such unpredictable shift.

Young Sylla had no idea that he was selling or auctioning his political future for 30 pieces of silver. He abused an opportunity that would have made him a political icon in Liberia's history. This tragedy has rendered Amb. Sylla a political wanderer for about 6 years now. This egregious dent or disloyal past of his may hunt him for decades.

Some political pundits have openly averred that Ali Sylla is "hustling" or he is a "hustler". But I think that Sylla is involved with what is often described as "Political Prostitution". And "Political Prostitution" is usually provoked by desperation and egotism. This syndrome "Political Prostitution" leads to "Political Polarization".

Every time a popular election is nearing, this is when Ali Sylla becomes politically active. Most likely, he is looking for his next prey to predate on. Like Unity Party became a victim of his chicanery in 2014, ALCOP or CDC could be next. Sylla is not willing to remain in a political party to build it or to struggle with it. He shifts and swings between parties. Zero Loyalty - Zero Consistency - Zero Commitment - Zero Integrity. For Sylla, politics is more of a business (profit above service). Sylla seems to be a premier dealer in commercial politicking.

This mode points in the direction of political opportunism and carpetbegging. Is Sylla a political optimist or a political opportunist? The latter would suffice in my opinion. How will the next generation even trust our generation when most youngsters are not willing to sacrifice and struggle for an all-inclusive CHANGE? When did Sylla even become a "revolutionary"? Four months to 2020 polls or 3 years



to 2023 polls?

Two (2) things have grabbed my attention of late about Sylla's showboating:

- 1) Sylla's closeness or proximity to President George M. Weah and CDC;
- 2) And his expeditious shift from UP to ALCOP ahead of 2020 and 2023 polls.

Sylla has a motive for doing this. I studied Political Science as my minor at the University of Liberia. I studied "Hannah Arendt's Concept of Political Action" and the "Theory of Consequentialism". All of these concepts deal with motives and/or behaviors in times of political action. Where is Sylla? Is he still with UP or with ALCOP or with CDC? Sylla currently has a "Triangular Identity" or a "Tripartite Phenotype". Such three-facedness is collusive and corrosive to our body politics. Like I called out Madam Mary T. Broh a few months ago, Amb. Ali Sylla must also be called out too for his three-facedness.

Ahead of 2020 and 2023 polls, Sylla wants to position himself as a "Support Base" or a "Canvass Caravan" for President George Weah and CDC. The intent of Sylla is to use ALCOP as a vehicle and subsequently use the "Mandingo Community" or "Muslim Community" as his political base or comparative political advantage. I pose no objection to Sylla's choice or right of joining any political party. It is his right.

But using "Tribal Sentimentalism" or "Ethnicity" or "Religious Bigotry" as a "Trump Card" to gain political capital is dangerous, obsolete, and anti-democratic. Liberia has passed this level. The new debate or national conversation should abhor these sentiments. Political contestations should now be based on the clash of ideas/philosophies and not seeking solace in tribal bigotry, religious sentiment, and egocentrism.

Sylla now calls himself "Leader" of ALCOP even though there has been absolutely no convention or congress held to propel his ambition to such height. Is Sylla fit to become a political leader of any party as he deceptively attempts to hijack or arrogate unto himself such laurel/title? This style of leadership is undemocratic and has no place in the stock market of competitive political ideas.

Sylla has even appointed one of his kinsmen as Co-chair of ALCOP. Another kinsman is the Chairman of ALCOP. On whose power are they operating? The PEOPLE or a few? In case I want to join ALCOP, how will I think or feel about such arrangement? This precedent should be discouraged in all political parties everywhere in Liberia. ALCOP, like every political party, should be open to all Liberians regardless of tribe, religion, economic status, or culture Geopolitical balance through tribal/religious tolerance at every level of our society, including in every

political party, is crucial to building a strong democratic architecture and a peaceful climate in Liberia.

What is Sylla actually up to? In fact, where is Sylla? Is he with UP, CDC, or ALCOP? The inconsistency of Sylla has rendered him "Three-faced". Is Sylla a political optimist or a political opportunist? In a latest Facebook post, Sylla is blasting at a group oppressed Liberians who recently burned a few tyres in Monrovia as a way of protesting against the increment of charges on internet data/call.

Paradoxically and painfully, Sylla could not blast when our L\$16 billion got missing and US\$25m unaccounted for. I have not seen Ali Sylla blasting against the 4G acquisition of mammoth private estates and mansions being constructed by Pres. Weah and his cronies. I am seeing Sylla standing and smiling with Pres. Weah at his newly-built complex on RIA Highway. Who is Sylla then? Sylla is yet to even blast at the government for not doing enough to prevent RAPE and to reduce youth unemployment.

I have not seen or heard Sylla blasting about the continuous cut and delay in the salaries of civil servants. When Pres. George Weah visibly conspired to illegally impeach Associate Justice Kabineh J'aneh, I didn't hear or see Ali Sylla blasting like he's doing now. I along with Emmanuel Gonquoi and Carlos Edison had to organize a mass protest on the grounds of the National Legislature to resist this conspiracy against Justice J'aneh. Where was this so-called "revolutionary" in Ali Sylla when we risked our lives? Probably he couldn't see or hear then. Huh...

Must we allow an opportunist like Sylla to pollute Liberia's political corridors with such parochial agenda once more? No..No..No. We must be bold and honest about how we do politics or business in Liberia. The action of Sylla can only fit in the triangle of opportunism, egocentrism, and sectarianism. Since Pres. Weah along with his government has become so unpopular, Weah's intent is to rig 2020 and 2023 polls.

To do this, he needs to re-solidify his political base against popular opposition political parties (e.g. CPP). So, Weah is building relationship/solidarity with smaller parties. Sylla is an emissary/conduit of this game plan. Weah intends to use this strategy as a pretext to steal votes. But it's going to be an impossible and a tough pursuit that is eventually going to produce a dead end.

Additionally, Amb. Sylla should not even be actively participating in politics as an political appointee who currently has an assignment in Qatar, Asia. The action of Sylla is a violation of The 2014 Code of Conduct Law. But who is seeing and talking about this? We must be bold with the truth. Our political system in Liberia is very polarized due to disloyalty, inconsistency, bigotry, et al. Henceforth, our society must begin to deal with these unethical precedents. People cannot continue to abuse the doctrine of "free association" or "freedom to associate" to continue being disloyal, dishonest, and inconsistent.

Politics should be based on honesty and not disloyalty. It should be based on philosophical principles and ideologies that are primarily intended to deliver the people from poverty and misery. It should not be based on rhetoric and bigotry. Like I would do to anyone especially any public official, I am calling Sylla out. I hope he accepts this bold critique in good faith.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Dillon writes against lawlessness

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon writes Plenary of the Liberian Senate over alarming rate of lawlessness in the country especially, by officers of the Liberia National Police that are responsible to protect lives and property.

curfew in Monrovia. He also details in his communication that hot water was poured on a three-year-old boy in West Point Township by a police officer, which subsequently led to the child's death, saying that nothing has yet been done. Dillon adds that in Todee District#1,

Therefore, he urges the Senate to summon the security apparatus for questioning.

Meanwhile, the senator's communication has been sent to the Senate committee on National Defense, mandating it to report to Plenary within a week.

Senator Henrique Togba of Bong County stresses that the committee should investigate if officers of the Liberia National Police are undergoing drug test because he notes that most of their actions are influenced by drugs or alcohol.

At the same time, in his second communication to Plenary, Senator Dillon urges the Senate to summon authorities of the National Disaster Management and the Liberia National Fire Service. He recalls that recently, flood and rainstorm have damaged lives and properties as well.

He points out that the National Disaster Management has not intervened in those cases, noting that its office is meant for such cases.

Senator Jonathan Kaipay of Grand Bassa County made a motion for the communication to be accepted and that the relevant authorities should be summoned for comment.

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Senator Abraham Darius Dillon

In his communication to Plenary on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, Sen. Dillon draws the Senate's attention to the recent killing of two women by police officers, noting that one was killed for not wearing a nose mask, while the other was shot for violating the 6PM

Montserrado County, a 13-year-old lad was shot by an officer some time ago.

He laments that the alarming rate of lawlessness in the country is happening daily and the Liberian Senate needs to intervene to come to the aid of the Liberian people.

AFL receives additional U.S. Covid-19 support

By Winston W. Parley

The United States Embassy near Monrovia and the Joint West African Research Group have made additional transfer of a huge consignment of anti - coronavirus materials to the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), exactly a week after making a similar donation to the defense authorities.

The donation of 2,095 high quality masks, 7,000 surgical masks, personal protective equipment (PPEs), and several other materials loaded in cartoons was made at the Edward Benyankesselly (EBK) Military Barracks off the Robertsville Highway on Wednesday, 1 July.

The donation received by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia Maj. General Prince C. Johnson, III, is part of support to the Ministry of

standing together to fight the deadly disease unleashed from Wuhan that killed thousands of Americans and Liberians.

Receiving the donation, AFL Chief of Staff Gen. Prince C. Johnson thanks the U.S. Embassy and the West Africa Research Group for the donation, noting the importance of the gesture transferred to the AFL just a week after another donation was made by the embassy.

During previous engagements, Gen. Johnson notes that he had emphasized the importance of PPEs for the military to prepare in advance so that if the Commander - in - Chief orders the AFL to make intervention, it will not only depend on the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the Ministry of Health, but what is also



Photo credit: MoD

Defense and the AFL in helping the institutions' fight against coronavirus here.

Making the presentation Wednesday afternoon, 1 July at the EBK Military Barracks, the representative of the U.S. Embassy's Office of the Defense Attache and Security Corporation Col. Matthew Alden said it is great to assemble at the facility for the transfer of materials to help the authorities' fight against coronavirus.

Col. Alden expressed delight over the partnership that exists between the U.S. Embassy and the Defense Ministry/AFL, saying they had assembled at EBK to transfer 2,095 high quality masks, 7,000 surgical masks, hand sanitizers, PPEs, and other materials to help the AFL's fight against Covid. He notes that they are

available.

He assures the partners that the donation will be used for the intended purpose to work for the country when called upon, adding that the defense authorities are very grateful to Liberia's great partner, the U.S. and the West Africa Research Group.

Candace Eastman, Project Director at the Joint West Africa Research Group briefly expressed delight over the partnership and welcomed those in attendance for the donation ceremony.

The donation at the EBK Military Barracks follows another donation made on 24 June, including PPEs, clora, face masks, nose masks, face shield, medical hand gloves and several other anti Covid - 19 items to support the MOD and AFL's fight against Covid - 19.

Helping poor, vulnerable Liberians makes good policy

-USAID

By Lewis S. Teh

The Deputy Mission Director at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Ms. Rebekah Eubanks has said that extending a helping hand to the poor and vulnerable in Liberia makes good development policy.

"We are reminded today that helping the poor and vulnerable is simply a good development policy, a policy that makes economic sense", she said on Tuesday.

Ms. Eubank spoke at the Ministry of Health in Oldest Congo Town, outside Monrovia in a joint press conference during launch of the Liberia Private Sector Executive Committee (LIPSEC) web portal.

The importance of the portal launch is to enhance transparency in financial matters and donations from

donors and government partners.

She said earlier this year, USAID identified 4.6 million United States Dollars to more directly addressing growing economic uncertainties in Liberia, a portion she says that

requires a private sector match.

"When we help poor, and vulnerable families educate their children and live healthy and productive lives, we

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

COVID-19 patient dies in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

70-year-old woman, who came from Wilsonville, Grand KRU County, also in the southeast.

He said the old woman arrived in Maryland on June 12, 2020, was taken to the Pleebo Health Center, and subsequently isolated but her condition couldn't allow her to stay at the Health Center so she was quickly referred to the

Just right after being placed on green stage, Maryland County in southeast Liberia has recorded anew confirmed



case of COVID-19, bringing to cases in the county to two.

Maryland Chief Medical Officer made the disclosure while speaking on a community radio station via mobile phone in the county.

CHO Methodius George said the latest case involves a

Joseph Jenkins Dossen Hospital in Harper City for further medical attention.

At the JJ Dossen Hospital, her specimen was taken and sent to Monrovia, but while awaiting result of the test, the 70 years old died at the health facility on June 22, 2020

CHO George explained that upon receiving her at the health facility, she showed signs and symptoms of the COVID-19.

"We took her specimen seeing the condition and records of Grand KRU having a case, though, their case has been pronounced free, but the result of this 70 years old woman who came from Grand KRU, and specimen was sent to Monrovia has proved positive.

He said though, the county thru its health promotion focus person has been doing well in sensitizing citizens on preventive measures, more awareness needs to be carried out to keep residents safe.

"Now the county has recorded its second corona virus case, we all need to abide by those health protocols, washing hands regularly, avoid shaking hands, and observing of social distance, among others".

Dr. George continued that county health teams are proactively working along with previous contact tracers who have already been mobilized to follow up with contact tracing in order to know all those the deceased came in close contact with prior to her demise.

"We have setup contact tracers and we are encouraging citizens to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Milton Weeks alone again?

-as witness excludes Fahart, others from converting billions of dollars

By Winston W. Parley

Witness Baba Boakai, testifying Wednesday, 1 July, his third on the stand for prosecution, said investigation did not establish that defendants David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio [Melisa A.] Emeh and [Kollie] Tamba received and converted for their own use and benefit, money printed by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL).

"The investigation established that for the printing of the 10 billion Liberian Dollars, an excess amount of 2,645,000,000.00 was printed, received under the supervision of Governor Weeks and cannot be

Governor Weeks's supervision and cannot be accounted for, but also saying investigation did not establish that Fahart, Emeh, Elsie and Tamba received and converted money printed by the CBL for their own use and benefit.

However, the four officials and the CBL former Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks are indicted following the presidential investigative team (PIT's) report accusing the CBL Board of Governors of issuing a Board Resolution, saying they acted out of the scope of their duties.

The fifth defendant Melisa A. Emeh is said to be out of the bailiwick of Liberia and has not



Ex- Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks

U.S. government commits to supporting Liberia's COVID-19 response

The U.S. Embassy in Liberia says it is proud to support Liberia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A June 30th release published on the U.S. Embassy website says as a part of the U.S. Government's assistance to Liberia's civilian security agencies and Ministry of Justice, the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) provided personal protective equipment (PPE), including locally-procured N-95 and other disposable face masks, full-body disposable personal protective suits, alcohol-based sanitizing gel, and disposable medical-grade rubber gloves to the Liberian Joint Security Task Force.

The release says this support will protect security officials who engage with the public and are assigned to quarantine centers and hospitals as they respond to the COVID-19 health



emergency that has spread globally.

The INL also donated 40 megaphones, protective covers, and spare batteries to the Liberia National Police, the Liberia Immigration Service, the Liberia Drug Enforcement

Agency, and the Liberia National Fire Service, respectively to support efforts of these institutions to inform citizens about the health risks of COVID-19 and best practices to stay safe, and to strengthen the ability

accounted for. The investigation however did not establish that Co-defendants David Fahart, Elsie Badio, Emeh, Tamba received and converted money printed by the CBL for their own use and benefit," he says.

In the previous indictment nolleprosequi by the prosecution in the same case, Mr. Weeks was alone battling against a decision taken by the lower court and subsequently upheld by a justice in chambers when prosecutors began to nolleprosequi other defendants.

Here comes a State witness testimony again suggesting that an excess of LD\$2,645,000,000.00 was printed, received under

been brought to court, therefore the court has granted prosecution's request to grant her a separate trial so as to enable the four other defendants that are available to get speedy trial.

All the defendants on trial have pleaded not guilty for charges of theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

Three other defendants in persons of Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba and Joseph Dennis were nolleprosequi last

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of security agencies to communicate with the public.

The PPE and communications items, which are valued at \$10,000, were

procured through INL's implementing partner Integrated Justice Systems International (IJSI) the release details.

Français

Le parlement devrait se prononcer sur le prolongement de l'Etat d'Urgence

La Chambre des représentants a donné instruction aux comités parlementaires et la santé de prendre connaissance du prolongement de l'état d'urgence décrété par le président George M. Weah.

Lors de la session ordinaire

du mardi 30 juin 2020, à la suite de la lecture de la communication du président Weah adressée à la Chambre des représentants, le représentant du district n° 5 du comté de Nimba, Samuel G. Kogar, a proposé que la communication soit transmise aux comités parlementaires sur la magistrature et la santé,

ainsi qu'au comité judiciaire, qui ont deux jours pour soumettre un rapport à la plénière, c'est-à-dire lors de la session ordinaire de jeudi.

Mais la représentante du district n° 1 du comté de Rivercess, Rosana Schaack, s'y est opposée, faisant valoir que le comité parlementaire sur la santé devrait plutôt diriger le processus, car il est question de santé. Mais sa suggestion n'a pas été prise en compte.

Le 22 juin 2020, le président Weah, par décret, a prolongé l'état d'urgence (SOE) de 30 jours, après dit-on, avoir consulté le parlement.

Le président Weah s'est dit convaincu que cette décision donnerait à son gouvernement l'occasion de réexaminer sa stratégie de réponse au COVID-19.

Le pouvoir de Monrovia a indiqué dans son décret, qui a été publié le 22 juin 2020, que malgré les mesures qui ont été mises en place pour freiner la propagation du virus dans le pays, parmi lesquelles le port

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Un agent de la police nationale du Libéria mis derrière les verrous pour homicide involontaire

Un agent de l'unité d'intervention d'urgence (ERU), une force d'élite de la police nationale du Libéria, a été inculpé d'homicide involontaire.

L'agent James E. Dumo a abattu Mlle Mildred Kumba Tamba avec son pistolet de service dans la nuit du vendredi et samedi 27 juin 2020 à Paynesville.

L'accusé Dumo, qui a été déshabillé et radié des forces de police à la suite de l'incident qui a eu lieu à View Point Community à Paynesville, a été transmis au tribunal de la ville de Monrovia le mardi 30 juin avec un acte d'accusation alléguant que le prévenu s'est servi de son arme de service alors qu'il n'était pas exposé à une menace ou à un danger imminent.

Selon la police, la balle a rebondi sur le trottoir en béton avant d'atteindre la victime qui l'a reçue au front et est morte sur le champ. Le corps a été déposé à la morgue Abraham Robert après que la victime a été confirmée morte par le médecin de garde de l'hôpital John F. Kennedy.

Le prévenu Dumo possédait légalement l'arme, mais il n'a pas respecté les directives de sécurité, c'est-à-dire les quatre règles nobles qui régissent le port et l'utilisation des armes à feu.

L'accusé Dumo, qui avait été sévèrement lynché par une foule en furie à la suite de l'incident, avait du mal à se tenir debout au tribunal mardi,

la tête entièrement bandée. Il se tordait visiblement de douleur au ventre. Il a fallu qu'il se fit aider par ses collègues policiers pour aller au tribunal de la ville de Monrovia, au palais de la justice.

Cet énième acte est survenu à un poste de contrôle après 72nd Junction à

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Emergency Response Unit (ERU), James E. Dumo

Côte-d'Ivoire : La corruption jusqu'à la moelle épinière...un enjeu électoral absolu si

La corruption est devenue un fait banal en Côte d'Ivoire. Plus les années passent, plus cette gangrène prend des proportions inquiétantes et les Ivoiriens observent tous une tolérance sans pareille.

En 2019, le rapport de Transparency International, une ONG allemande classait la Côte d'Ivoire à la 106e place sur 180 pays classés. Les autorités ivoiriennes avaient réagi pour démontrer que la Côte d'Ivoire avait fait des efforts et que ce n'était pas encore la grande catastrophe. Elles avaient même corrigé le classement de Transparency en donnant la Côte d'Ivoire 105e et non 106e.

« Depuis 2012, seuls 20 pays, dont l'Estonie et la Côte d'Ivoire, ont considérablement amélioré leur score. Ces performances sont reconnues par le Millenium Challenge Corporation. Nous avons gagné 8 points et nous sommes passés de la 136e place en 2013 à la 105e place et non à la 106e place en 2018. La Côte d'Ivoire n'a donc pas un niveau alarmiste en ce qui concerne la corruption », avait objecté Bakari Traoré le directeur de cabinet de la Haute autorité de la bonne gouvernance (Habg) lors d'une conférence de presse la même année.

Mais qu'à cela ne tienne. Ces chiffres institutionnels issus d'enquêtes orientées et qui ne prennent pas souvent en compte toutes les données pratiques, ne rendent pas souvent compte fidèlement de la réalité implacable d'un fléau qui risque de faire périr si l'on n'y prend garde, tous les fondements de la nation en construction.

Tenez bien. Les élèves des classes d'examen ont commencé les évaluations de fin d'année au plan national. A commencer par les épreuves d'EPS (Education physiques et sportive). A la place des épreuves proprement dites, on assiste plutôt à une scène de moisson de billets de 1000 FCFA ou de 2000 FCFA. C'est la somme à payer pour avoir la bonne note entre 15 et 18 si ce n'est 20 sur 20. Et là, les examinateurs ne s'en cachent plus face aux élèves qui rentrent dans le contexte. Ceux que l'on voit courir sur les 100 m, au lancer du poids, au triple saut, sut en longueur ou en hauteur, sont ceux qui n'ont pu satisfaire aux exigences du prof par manque de liquidité. Ils sont évalués à leur risque et péril et ne dépasseront pas, dans la plupart des cas, 13 sur 20 comme note finale.

Que dire des concours administratifs ? Ici, on ne

cherche plus votre niveau de connaissance après des mois de veillée consacrés à la préparation. Il faut délier la bourse pour avoir sa place à la fonction publique. Les autorités en charge de ces concours vous diront qu'ils sont entourés de la plus grande transparence possible. Mais en réalité, c'est de la poudre aux yeux. En février 2020, une scabreuse affaire avait secoué le ministère de la fonction publique au sujet d'une fraude qui avait consisté à inscrire sur la liste des admis, des gens qui n'avaient jamais été candidats ou des candidats déclarés non admis après les premières délibérations. Le directeur de cabinet avait réfuté cette thèse de fraude au cours d'une conférence de presse et l'affaire a été enterrée. Là où il avait promis de mettre fin à la mafia des brebis galeuses.

Autre ministère, autre scandale, l'éducation nationale. Pour son programme social, le gouvernement ivoirien avait promis de recruter 10.300 enseignants pour combler les déficits dans ce milieu. Au terme de l'opération menée par le ministère de l'Education nationale, un peu plus d'un millier de jeunes postulants seront laissés de côté sous prétexte qu'ils n'avaient pas des diplômes d'enseignement alors qu'ils ont été régulièrement admis. Ils n'auront donc pas d'affectation. Ils auront fait le siège de la tour D, au Plateau, en vain. Selon des sources crédibles, leurs places ont été vendues à des plus offrants et l'affaire est restée sans suite. Ces jeunes gens sont aujourd'hui, des frustrés qui grossissent les chiffres des diplômés chômeurs.

Un marché public qui ne se gagne pas sans pots de vin, une promotion sociale qui attend que vous la fluidifiez par des espèces, un fonctionnaire du Trésor qui attend toujours un retour sur investissement "intellectuel" après avoir défendu le budget d'une institution ou d'un Epn, le douanier qui ferme les yeux sur ce qui entre dans le pays parce que ses pieds ont été mouillés, le journaliste qui prend la toge de l'avocat pour défendre avec sa plume, un ministre mis en cause dans une affaire de drogue sans la moindre réserve, un électeur qui estime de le temps des élections est le "temps du mangement"... voici le visage hideux qu'offre la Côte d'Ivoire dans une sorte de négligence coupable de l'autorité.

Français

Le parlement devrait se prononcer sur

obligatoire de masques faciaux, le lavage des mains et la distanciation sociale, les cas et les décès dus à la maladie continuent de croître.

Le gouvernement du Libéria a déclaré l'état d'urgence en avril en réponse à la pandémie mondiale de coronavirus. À l'époque, les mouvements étaient limités et le commandant en chef (le président George Weah) avait donné l'ordre aux forces de sécurité de faire respecter l'ensemble des mesures recommandées par les autorités sanitaires. Ces mesures devaient normalement expirer le 21 juin 2020, conformément au calendrier de l'état d'urgence.

Le décret pris le lundi 22 juin 2020 stipule qu'en réponse à la pandémie mondiale de Covid-19 et à son impact sur les populations au Libéria, le président George M. Weah a prolongé l'état d'urgence déclaré le 8 avril 2020, puis approuvé par le parlement dans une résolution commune de la Chambre des représentants

et du Sénat libérien le 17 avril 2020. Le document a été publié dans des prospectus le 21 avril 2020. Cependant, avant l'expiration de la résolution commune susmentionnée (# 002/2020), le président Weah aurait demandé au Parlement une prolongation de celle-ci, pour des raisons que, nonobstant toutes les mesures imposées par l'état d'urgence, en particulier les restrictions des mouvements des personnes et les mesures barrières (rester chez soi, la distanciation sociale et port de masques), le taux d'infection au Covid-19 et le nombre de décès causés par le virus ont augmenté de façon exponentielle.

Le décret présidentiel a fait état de 626 cas confirmés, dont 254 guéris et 34 décédés. Il a informé les législateurs de ce que le prolongement de l'état d'urgence offrirait au gouvernement la possibilité de réexaminer sa stratégie de réponse face au Covid-19 et ainsi lui permettrait de mieux sécuriser et protéger aussi bien les citoyens libériens que tous les ressortissants étrangers qui vivent sur le territoire du Libéria.

Un agent de la police nationale du Libéria mis

Paynesville. Il fait partie d'une série de tragédies survenues dans cette partie du comté de Montserrado. Un commandant de police avait été condamné à 25 ans de prison ferme pour avoir abattu un motocycliste.

Les informations recueillies par ce journal auprès de témoins sur les lieux du meurtre indiquent que la fiancée de l'agent, Mme Sallematu Kaba, aurait accompagné la victime Mildred à une soirée vendredi nuit. Au retour, les deux dames auraient trouvé l'agent de police, le fiancé de Mme Sallematu, au point de contrôle de 72nd où il était en poste, et pour des raisons non élucidées une dispute a éclaté entre l'agent sa fiancée. L'agent, à en croire notre source, aurait appuyé sur la gâchette de son arme et bousillé la crâne de Mildred Thomas, l'amie de sa fiancée, alors que celle-ci tentait de calmer la situation.

Contacté le dimanche 28 juin, le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, a fait savoir qu'une autre version des faits fait état d'une interaction de l'agent avec des bandits qui l'auraient



attaqué et que la pauvre dame aurait été atteinte par une balle perdue après que l'agent a ouvert le feu.

Cependant, il a dit que l'agent de police doit assumer la responsabilité de l'incident et devrait être inculpé le lendemain le lundi 29 juin.

Quant à l'amie de la victime Mildred, elle serait en fuite. On ignore pourquoi elle a pris la fuite après que son fiancé a abattu son amie qui est morte sur le champ.

Pendant ce temps, la dépouille mortelle de la victime a été déposée au centre médical John F. Kennedy à Sinkor, dans l'attente d'une enquête policière. Les proches de la victime se sont refusés à tout commentaire

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jagan Chapagain & Andrew Steer

Pourquoi la préparation à la catastrophe ne peut attendre

GENÈVE / WASHINGTON - Le monde prépare l'avenir en imaginant à tort qu'il ressemblera au passé. Mais alors que la Covid-19 coïncide avec les cyclones en Asie du Sud et dans le Pacifique, ainsi qu'avec les nuées de criquets pèlerins en Afrique de l'Est, la nécessité de se préparer pour un monde de chocs imprévus apparaît plus claire que jamais. Épidémies, inondations, tempêtes, sécheresses et feu de forêts seront selon toutes probabilités plus fréquents et plus dangereux, touchant chaque année des centaines de millions de personnes.

La pandémie de Covid-19 est un avertissement à l'échelle mondiale. En tant que dirigeants d'organisations internationales, nous comprenons à la fois la grave menace qu'elle représente et l'opportunité potentielle qu'elle offre au changement.

La Covid-19 et les récentes catastrophes naturelles montrent que nous devons renforcer dès maintenant nos investissements dans la préparation des crises plus tôt que d'attendre d'être frappés par la prochaine. Le choix est clair : éluder et le payer, ou bien nous organiser et réussir.

Nous savons que cela vaut la peine d'investir dans la préparation aux catastrophes - tant en termes de vies humaines épargnées que de bénéfices économiques. Des recherches, menées par la Commission globale pour l'adaptation ont montré, par exemple, que le rapport bénéfices/coûts des investissements pour l'adaptation au changement climatique variait de 2 à 10.

Certes, il faut, pour se préparer aux chocs graves des investissements conséquents. La construction de la résilience face aux chocs climatiques pourrait coûter de 140 à 300 milliards annuels d'ici 2030, tandis que pour atteindre les seuils minima de préparation aux pandémies préconisés par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, il en coûtera 3,4 milliards par an.

Mais ces sommes sont négligeables lorsqu'on les compare aux coûts de l'impréparation. Les catastrophes naturelles coûtent d'ores et déjà des centaines de milliards de dollars chaque année ; on estime qu'un accroissement de la température de 2 °C entraînerait d'ici 2100 des destructions liées aux changements climatiques de quelque 69 000 milliards de dollars.

Le coût humain est lourd, lui aussi. Une analyse de la Fédération internationale des sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge (FICR) a montré, l'an dernier, que la passivité pourrait accroître de 50 % d'ici 2030 le nombre annuel de personnes nécessitant une aide internationale humanitaire suite à des inondations, des tempêtes, des sécheresses ou des incendies de forêts - actuellement de 108 millions. Leur nombre pourrait presque doubler d'ici 2050, pour atteindre 200 millions.

En outre, l'année à venir offre une fenêtre d'opportunité cruciale pour les investissements dans la résilience, car les pouvoirs publics de par le monde vont dépenser des milliers de milliards de dollars pour relancer les économies après la pandémie. Ces ressources financières diminueront après la relance, et avec elles l'appétence politique pour le changement, d'où le danger. C'est pourquoi il est temps que les pays riches aident les pays pauvres à faire repartir leur économie et à renforcer leur résilience face aux menaces futures, et notamment face au changement climatique.

Au niveau national, l'une des actions publiques les plus importantes, aujourd'hui, à cet égard, serait d'investir dans la collecte des données liées aux risques de catastrophe et dans leur analyse. Un avis de tempête lancé vingt-quatre heures à l'avance ou la prévision d'une vague de chaleur peuvent réduire les pertes consécutives de 30 %, alors qu'un investissement de 800 millions de dollars dans les systèmes de prévision et d'alerte des pays en développement pourrait entraîner une économie de 3 à 16 milliards de dollars par an.

Le cyclone Amphan, pour prendre cet exemple, a récemment ravagé l'Inde et le Bangladesh et tué des dizaines de personnes, mais les systèmes de prévision et d'alerte ont sauvé un nombre incalculable de vies. Des prévisions précises, qui allaient de pair avec des décennies d'organisation et de préparation ont permis aux deux pays d'évacuer plus de trois millions de personnes et de réduire considérablement, par rapport à ce qu'il aurait pu être autrefois, le nombre des victimes.

Les gouvernements et les organisations internationales œuvrent aujourd'hui pour rendre plus accessibles et plus efficaces les technologies d'alerte anticipée, au travers d'un partenariat pour des actions rapides prises en connaissance des risques (REAP). Cette initiative a pour but de renforcer la sécurité d'un milliard de personnes face aux catastrophes d'ici 2025, notamment en étendant les dispositifs dits de financement sur prévisions, qui utilisent les projections météorologiques pour fournir aux populations vulnérables les ressources dont elles ont besoin pour se préparer. Des projets de financements novateurs comme ceux-ci, qui reçoivent les contributions, entre autres, des gouvernements allemand et britannique, peuvent sauver des vies et réduire les dégâts matériels lorsque frappent des vagues de chaleur ou des tempêtes.

Mais ces solutions ne peuvent être efficaces qu'à condition que les financements et l'information parviennent au niveau local. Les collectivités et les organisations locales sont souvent en première ligne dans une crise et il est vital qu'elles soient prêtes et aptes à l'action.

Ainsi, la FICR a-t-elle envoyé des fonds au chapitre bangladais du Croissant-Rouge avant que le cyclone Amphan ne touche terre, ce qui a contribué à fournir des aliments secs, de l'eau potable, des équipements de sécurité et des moyens de transport vers les abris. Dans le même temps, le chapitre contribuait à la mise en œuvre des mesures de sécurité contre la Covid-19, notamment à désinfecter les abris, à rendre disponible suffisamment d'espace pour permettre la distanciation physique, et à fournir des équipements de protection individuelle.

Les communautés locales sont souvent les mieux à même de définir les solutions les plus efficaces. En 2009, par exemple, après que le typhon Ondoy a frappé les Philippines, les habitants des bidonvilles ont travaillé avec des fonctionnaires municipaux pour concevoir des logements résilients, capables de résister à de nouvelles inondations.

Lorsqu'au cours de l'année prochaine, leurs pays sortiront de la pandémie de Covid-19, les dirigeants de la planète feront face à des choix historiques. En intensifiant les investissements dans la préparation aux catastrophes, ils peuvent décider de la place qu'ils laisseront dans l'histoire et fixer à l'humanité un cap plus sûr pour la prochaine décennie, voire au-delà.

Country cannot remain in shutdown

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay told colleagues at the Capitol Wednesday July 1, that the country cannot remain in continuous lockdown

Teahjay argues that there are countries with more cases and deaths than Liberia but their respective leaders have put in place methods of control that have enabled them to open up their economies.

Speaking during a debate over the extension of the State of Emergency here following a weeklong break due to the COVID-19 scare at the Capitol Building, Teahjay said the Liberian economy country is facing serious downturn and that keeping

health protocols and the Public Health laws-that he said could reduce and control the spread virus here.

But Senator Dr. Peter Coleman who chairs the Senate Health Committee indicated that the increasing rate of COVID-19 cases here are worrisome, adding that it's a signal that more need to be done.

Senator Coleman explained that counties that were not affected or did not have cases are now reporting growing number of cases on a daily basis.

Dr. Coleman further that counties including Lofa, Sinoe, Maryland and Bong have recorded an alarming rate in the number of case, which has prompted government to consider the construction of a

President Pro Tempore of the Senate, proclaim and declare and the existence of a state of emergency in the Republic or any part thereof. Acting pursuant thereto, the President may suspend or affect certain rights, freedoms and guarantees contained in this Constitution and exercise such other emergency powers as may be necessary and appropriate to take care of the emergency, subject, however, to the limitations contained in this Chapter.

(b) A state of emergency may be declared only where there is a threat or outbreak of war or where there is civil unrest affecting the existence, security or well-being of the Republic amounting to a clear and



the county in a constant lockdown will cause more economic harm and may increase the already unemployment rate at an alarming level.

President George Weah a week ago extended the State of Emergency (SOE) for an additional 30 days, days after the first 90 days SOE elapsed. His reason given for the extension is that the cases of the virus are sky rocketing in the country. Counties which never had cases have all recorded cases in record numbers.

But Teahjay suggests that instead of locking the country down, the government could take measure to enforce the straight compliance with

treatment center in the central region of Bong County to cater to patients in that part of the country and its surroundings instead of bringing them to Monrovia at the #14 Military Hospital.

But Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon strongly differed with the extension of the SOE on grounds that government officials are using the SOE to restrict freedom of expression and movement of citizens, an action he insisted was not part of the resolution signed by senators for the enforcement of the initial State of Emergency.

Article 86 (a) states: The President may, in consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the

present danger.

Article 87 (a) Emergency powers do not include the power to suspend or abrogate the Constitution, dissolve the Legislature, or suspend or dismiss the Judiciary; and no constitutional amendment shall be promulgated during a state of emergency. Where the Legislature is not in session, it must be convened immediately in special session and remain in session during the entire period of the state of emergency.

Meanwhile, following arguments and counter arguments, senators voted in favor of an extension of the SOE for additional 30 days.

S/Court hears

Starts from back page



information filed by the State, the Supreme Court ordered Judge Chenoweth and defendant Dillon to appear before its full bench at the Temple of Justice to show cause if any, why the prosecution's bill of information should not be granted. This paper is informed that the hearing is scheduled for 10AM.

By granting defendant Dillon a bail "...until the state is ready to carry on this case," prosecution equates the action of Judge Chenoweth who sits at an inferior court, to allegedly "reviewing, setting aside and overruling the decision or judgment" of her superior, Associate Justice Nagbe, who had earlier reversed her colleague's decision granting Dillon a bail.

The prosecution therefore requests the Supreme Court to set aside and restrain Judge Chenoweth from "reviewing, setting aside and overruling" the decision or judgment of Associate Justice Nagbe, contending that admitting Dillon to bail is in total contravention of Justice Nagbe's ruling.

Under Judge Chenoweth's gavel in March this year, prosecutors complain that she granted defendant Dillon bail on the basis of their absence from the case's hearing on its assigned date, but the State also accuse the judge of having the mindset "either for some vested interest to set

defendant/ Respondent Dillon free...."

"Since the Solicitor - General is not here, neither did he send anybody, this court will now grant the defendant Oliver Dillon bail until the state is ready to carry on this case," the prosecution quotes Judge Chenoweth as ruling in the matter.

On 18 November 2019, the first presiding judge in the case, Judge Willie recused himself from the alleged murder trial of Mr. Oliver Dillon, insisting that the "court cannot change its view" that the elements for murder were not present [in the case].

In the events leading to Dillon's charge, the police had reported that the incident scene was infested with criminal gangs who rain terror on peaceful residents to take away their belongings.

The police indicated that "there is no history of quarrel or misunderstanding between the victim [Emmanuel] and accused [Dillon] and there was no arrangement for them to meet at the place of the incident."

In a murder case investigators seek to establish that the accused had planned with malice and criminal intent to take the life of another person prior to the killing of that person as a reason for levying a murder charge which carries maximum penalty of death or life time imprisonment upon conviction.

Dillon writes

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The Liberia National Police (LNP) has charged one of its officers from the elite force Emergency Response Unit (ERU), James E. Dumo for recklessly murdering victim Mildred KumbaTamba with his assigned police service pistol early Saturday morning, 27 June in Paynesville.

Defendant Dumo who has been disrobed from the police force due to the incident was submitted before the Monrovia City Court Tuesday, 30 June with a charge sheet alleging that without being exposed to any imminent threat or danger, he pulled out his assigned pistol and discharged it.

According to police, the bullet ricocheted when it hit

the edge of the concrete sidewalk at View Point Community in Paynesville, penetrated victim Mildred's forehead and resulted in her death.

Victim Mildred was pronounced dead on arrival by the doctor on call at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital and subsequently deposited at the Abraham Robert Funeral Home for preservation.

Although defendant Dumo legally possessed the gun, police say, however, that he failed to abide by the safety guidelines or the four candid rules governing the use of firearm. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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CDC expels Jemima Wolokollie

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor & Bridgett Milton

The ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC, has expelled former Deputy Commerce Minister Jemima Wolokollie from the party barely 24 hours after she was dismissed from office by President George Manneh Weah.

In a press statement issued Wednesday July 1, the National Executive Committee of the CDC said it took the decision to expel Madam Wolokollie in accordance with findings and recommendations from its Grievance and Ethics initiative submitted on 10

lacking moral worth to maintain membership with the CDC.

The NEC's endorsement of the Grievance and Ethics report expunging Madam Wolokollie's membership mirrors the party's sternness against unwholesome actions or utterances that impugn the integrity of the Congress for Democratic Change.

With justice now fully served, the party considers a complete closure to this repugnant chapter, which has only strengthened the CDC's resolve, unity and unequivocal response against acts of lawlessness," the CDC wrote.

The party also lauded Mr.

expressing her view about the wrongs within the governing Coalition for Democratic Change has warranted her dismissal, then so be it and that she has no regret.

President Weah Tuesday night dismissed with immediate effect Deputy Commerce Minister, Jemima Wolokollie.

A dismissal letter published on the Executive Mansion website quotes President Weah as saying his decision follows a string of actions incompatible with Deputy Minister Wolokollie's status as a senior government official.

Deputy Minister Wolokollie was earlier suspended by the President for insubordination and unprofessionalism but her suspension was later lifted by the President.

President Weah is at the same time urging officials of his government, who bear the public trust to conduct themselves properly.

The former deputy minister few days ago described those in the Coalition for Democratic Change, who are against her bid for senate as noise makers.

Wolokollie appearing on the 'OK Conversation' on Monday, June 29, called for immediate removal of CDC Chairman Mulbah K. Murlu.

She said individuals like Morlu don't deserve to be Chairman of the CDC because according to her, he negatively discussed President Weah.

She claimed that both Chairman Morlu and Monrovia City Major Jefferson Koijee are encouraging tribalism within the CDC ahead of the midterm senatorial elections in the country.

Wolokollie is expected to participate in the upcoming midterm elections, specifically in Montserrado County. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Helping poor

Cont'd from page 6

certainly are doing the morally right thing", noting that USAID by doing this is clearly helping to create a productive and skilled workforce that is essential to the success of the private sector.

According to her, USAID was pleased that key private sector actors are prepared to match a significant portion of USAID assistance, noting that those matching contributions will help to generate resources that will provide critical social protections to those Liberians who most desperately need support during these difficult times.

Ms. Eubanks pointed out that the LIPSEC Portal will allow users friendly collection of critical data on private sector contribution and allow both the private sector and USAID to collectively help the most vulnerable, adding that "today this launch is a concrete manifestation of the importance we attach to achieving this goal."

She noted partnership forged with the private sector teaches the institution useful lessons about what is achievable when private firms move from the margins of development, and become

integral players in the effort to end extreme poverty.

The Deputy USAID Head of Mission further they are engaging potential taxpayers who can help the government generate the funds it needs to finance its development programs, saying, "above all we are providing people with the skills and abilities to chart their own future, without depending on development assistance to meet their basic needs.

Liberia's Minister of Information Lenn Eugene Nagbe said support from the private sector through the launch of the Liberia Private Sector Executive Committee or (LIPSEC) web portal will enhance transparency and accountability of donations coming to the government during the COVID-19.

"The importance of this portal is in the interest of transparency, efficiency, and saying if we can track whatsoever contribution that comes in from partners, than it will give us more confidence as a people that the government and its partners are proceeding rightly", Nagbe expressed. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Pres. Weah

Ex-Minister Jemima Wolokollie

June 2020.

Madam Jemima Wolokollie has been expelled with immediate effect.

The expulsion of Madam Wolokollie comes after an earlier action of suspension for fraud, extortion, corruption, and her role in a fake loan scheme.

"These allegations, despite the preponderance of the evidence, were nonetheless carefully adjudicated and fairly tried consistent with best practice; which finds Madam Wolokollie GUILTY as CHARGED, and

Weah for the dismissal of Madam Wolokollie; hailing the decision as timely and an important step reasserting his disapproval of improper conducts in the sphere of governance.

Meanwhile, minutes after her dismissal as Deputy Minister of Commerce by President George Manneh Weah, Ms. Jemima Wolokollie took to her Facebook page, saying she has no regret of the action taken against her.

The former Deputy Minister said in her Facebook post late Tuesday, June 30th, that if by

COVID-19 patient

Cont'd from page 7

cooperate with those contact tracers to help reduce the spread of the virus in the county. This virus is everybody business, so we all need to work hard to overcome it", he emphasized.

He urged citizens to continuously observe hands washing and social distancing to stay safe.

Maryland County recorded its first case of the COVID-19 on April 24, 2020, involving a

student of the Tubman University who came for vacation in Monrovia, but upon return, he was tested positive and isolated for several days at the quarantine center in Peebo District.

However, while at the quarantine center undergoing treatment his test results subsequently came negative so he was discharged on May 24, 2020.

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Milton Weeks

month by the State after it drew this third indictment which did not include former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf because he had been nolleprosequi with prejudice in May.

He says the information was informed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency Marshall Dennis that for the printing of the LD\$10 billion, "no such authorization was given," instead, revealing that the CBL was instructed to do an

analyses as to the quantity and denomination of banknotes to be printed.

He adds that both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate instructed Governor Weeks to revert to the House, specifying the quantity and denomination of banknotes to be printed, prior to printing.

Mr. Boakai confirmed his previous testimony that Crane Currency conspired and colluded to print excess of LD\$2,645,000,000 and concealed the actual amount that was printed in respect of the printing of the LD\$10

billion.

In his testimony Monday, 29 June, Mr. Boakai said there is no further justification provided [by] defendant Weeks for printing excess LD\$2,645,000,000, saying the accused used his authority to get a board resolution to legalize an action he already took.

"The investigation further found that from analyses of documents received, that the CBL and that of Crane Currency [were] also in violation of the very contract that they signed," he testified

Monday, 29 June at Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia.

Mr. Boakai testified that defendant Weeks used his authority in dual capacity in assembling the Board of Governors in September 2017 to come up with a board resolution to legalize and perfect an action he took as far back as June 2017.

He testified further that no authorization was given by the Liberian Legislature for the printing of LD\$10 billion, unlike the case of an initial LD\$5 billion earlier printed following signing of a contract on 6 May 2016, shipped to Liberia, received by CBL "and duly accounted for."

Former Governor Weeks

and three other former CBL officials are standing trial for multiple charges including theft and economic sabotage of billions of Liberian dollars printed and shipped to Liberia, following a series of mass protests that prompted local and international investigation into claims that the money went missing.

The prosecution is holding to account four defendants in the case including Mr. Weeks who has been in all of the previous indictments for this case, and the new batch of indictees in persons of David Fahart, Elsie DossenBardio and Kollie Tamba.

S/Court hears Oliver Dillon's case today



Defendant Oliver Dillon

By **Winston W. Parley**

Liberia's Supreme Court is expected today, Thursday, 2 July to commence hearing a bill of information filed before it by prosecution in the murder trial of defendant Oliver Dillon, as prosecution requests the high court to uphold Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe's judgment denying Dillon a bail.

The court earlier ordered

defendant Oliver Dillon and Circuit Judge Mardea Chenoweth's appearance before it with complete copy of the proceedings into the murder case after prosecutors filed the bill of information.

Defendant Dillon's denial to bail by Justice Nagbe in chambers automatically overruled an earlier judgment handed last year at Criminal Court "A" when Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie granted the

defendant bail, saying the critical elements of murder which are premeditation and malice afford thought did not exist in the case.

Despite Judge Willie's recusal from the trial and prosecution's subsequent transfer of the case under Judge Chenoweth's jurisdiction in Margibi County, the prosecution is still in an unhappy situation with the lower court judges because Dillon still got admitted to bail by the second court, this time by Judge Chenoweth.

Defendant Dillon, a Coordinator for Decentralization at the Ministry of Transport and brother of Montserrado County opposition Senator Darius Dillon was indicted for the alleged murder of one Emmanuel Koffa, Jr., following a reported tussle with the deceased and two others at a criminal gang infested area on 12 April, 2019 in Gardnerville.

Based on a bill of

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



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2021 Africa Cup of Nations postponed

Next year's Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon has been postponed until 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Confederation of African Football announced Tuesday in a video conference.

CAF president Ahmad Ahmad said African football's governing body took the decision as "health was the main priority".

African countries have suffered to varying degrees

from the pandemic with South Africa the hardest hit among those south of the Sahara, recording more than 144,000 cases, while Egypt has suffered the worst in North Africa with over 66,000 infections.

"The peak of the pandemic has not been reached yet," Ahmad added.

The CAF Champions League will round up its matches in September while the Confederation Cup will wrap up towards the end of this year



with a 'Final Four' expected to take place in Morocco.

These last two competitions were interrupted in March ahead of the semi-finals phase.

Ahmad also announced the cancellation of the women's Cup of Nations which was scheduled to take place in November while revealing the launch of a new club competition for 2021.

"I am expressing my pride in seeing the birth of a women's Champions League on the

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