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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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Continental News

The motorcycle bandits terrorising northern Nigeria

Motorcycle-riding armed bandits operating out of abandoned forest reserves are ransacking communities in Nigeria's north-west.

The groups are the latest to join Nigeria's lucrative kidnap for ransom industry, and are quite brazen in their operations.

In the last decade more than 8,000 people have been killed in the states of Kebbi, Sokoto, Niger and Zamfara, according to the International Crisis Group.

But recent attacks in the president's home state of Katsina, where more than 100 people were killed in attacks between April and June, have led to protests and calls for his resignation. On two separate occasions the bandits targeted villagers who had received food handouts from the government during the coronavirus lockdown.

"They were about 200 on motorbikes, each bike rider carried a passenger and they all carried AK47 guns," Bashir Kadisau, an eyewitness, told the BBC.

He said he climbed to the top of a tree when he saw the large number of motorcycle

riders coming into Kadisau village, and saw the attackers loot shops, steal cattle and grain, and shoot people who were fleeing.

Climate change fuels conflict

The attacks are rooted in decades-long competition over resources between ethnic Fulani herders and farming communities.

The herders are mostly nomadic and can be found on major highways and streets across the country herding their cattle, but they have become

involved in deadly clashes with farmers in Nigeria's north-western and central states. This is because these areas have suffered massive deforestation, due to the impact of the Sahara Desert spreading south, causing arable farming land to disappear and water to become scarce. "The persistent clashes led to the formation of armed self-help groups, called vigilantes, by both sides for protection," security analyst Kabiru Adamu told the BBC. Armed groups

within Fulani communities are being accused of resorting to criminality.

"The herders now see kidnapping and pillaging as more lucrative than the herding.

"The biggest cow would go for 200,000 naira but one kidnapping would fetch millions," Dr Adamu said. Nigeria's Fulani herders deny the accusation.

The main Fulani cattle-breeders association, Miyetti Allah (Hausa for Thank You God), said they are the ones mostly affected by the activities of the bandits and that hundreds of their members have been kidnapped.

"Our cows have been rustled. The bandits are a bunch of criminals comprising all sorts of groups. We have lost 30% of cattle in Nigeria to different types of crises," Miyetti Allah's national secretary Baba Othman

Ngelzarma told the BBC.

He said the attackers in Nigeria's north-west were "foreign herders from neighbouring countries". Nigeria's north-west, an area almost the size of the UK, borders Niger and criminal gangs criss-cross between the two countries, evading security. The borders are porous and the vast forest reserves in the border regions have been turned into operational bases for the bandits.

Police say the attacks in the north-west are being carried out by criminal gangs, as well as Fulani herdsman.

"The Fulani herders suddenly realised that they now have arms to protect themselves. But they are not just protecting themselves, they are also going after those who wronged them in the past," Isah Gambo, police spokesman in Katsina state, told the BBC.



Violence after Ethiopian singer's death killed 166

Ethnic unrest in the aftermath of the killing of Ethiopian singer Hachalu Hundessa has left at least 166 people dead, officials say.

A top police chief said 145 civilians and 11 security personnel died in Oromia region alone. Ten people have been killed in the capital Addis Ababa.

Hachalu, 34, was killed on Monday, sparking unrest that spread from Oromia where he was seen as a hero.

The motive remains unclear. Hachalu had said he had received death threats.

His songs focused on the rights of the country's Oromo people, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, and became anthems in a wave of protests that led to the downfall

of the previous prime minister in 2018. BBC Ethiopia reporter Kalkidan Yibeltal says ethnic and religious tensions have intensified in the aftermath of the killing. Announcing the latest figures, Oromia deputy police commissioner Girma Gelam said 167 had "sustained serious injuries" during the unrest.

Mr Gelam said 1,084 people had been arrested, without providing further detail.

In his statement, the police official said the violent unrest had now "completely stopped". Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, himself an Oromo, who came to power in April 2018, has warned that those behind Hachalu's death wanted to derail his reform programme.

"We have two choices as a people. To fall into the trap being set up by detractors or to deviate from their trap and stay on the course of reforms. Choosing the first is to willingly aid them in our demise," the prime minister said. Since his youth, Hachalu Hundessa was a thorn in the flesh of successive governments. BBC



Hachalu had spoken of receiving death threats

Motorbike taxi rider sets himself on fire 'over bribe'

A 29-year-old motorbike taxi rider in Uganda has died after setting fire to himself inside a police station.

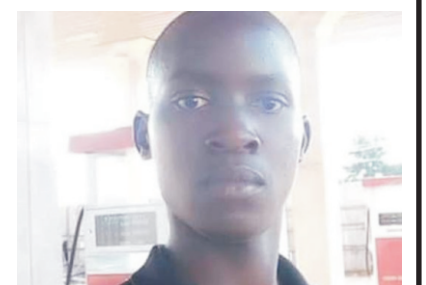
Hussein Walugembe's bike was seized in the south-western district of Masaka, about 135km (85 miles) from the capital, Kampala, on Monday.

Some riders allege that officers had demanded a \$40 (£32) bribe from Walugembe to release his vehicle.

A police spokesman says the entire traffic department is now under investigation for bribery. It is also reported that Walugembe had been living in police quarters and been supplying food to the force.

Riding motorbike taxis - or boda bodas as they are known in Uganda - is a common source of income for unemployed young men in countries across Africa. But in Uganda they have been banned from carrying passengers as part of efforts to control the spread of coronavirus.

Boda boda riders are only able to operate between 06:30 and 17:00 local time and can only transport cargo. According to the police, Mr Walugembe had lent his motorbike to a friend, who was caught ferrying a passenger on Monday.



Mr Walugembe reportedly became frustrated with the police after visiting the station several times to demand they release his bike. On Thursday, he locked himself into a room at the station and set himself alight using petrol concealed in a water bottle.

Officers at the station ferried water in jerrycans to put out the fire.

An officer who was with him at the time suffered minor injuries and several files and computers were destroyed.

Regional police spokesperson Paul Kangave said an investigation had been launched into the self-immolation and into the conduct of the entire traffic department.

He said the force's Professional Standards Unit would be looking into allegations that the officers were demanding bribes after vehicles were impounded for flouting lockdown restrictions. BBC

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 Hauke Engel & Mekala Krishnan

Taking Climate Risk Seriously

The current pandemic has demonstrated how quickly global risks can multiply and spread, and why resilience and risk management are vital to protecting the world from other threats - and climate change in particular. As we have learned firsthand in recent months, the social and economic costs of failing to prepare for such risks are too high to ignore.

FRANKFURT - COVID-19 has shown how a long-recognized but underappreciated global risk can suddenly materialize and wreak social and economic devastation in a matter of weeks. The implication is clear: While the world is rightly focused on battling the current pandemic, firms and governments must also recognize and plan for other risks, particularly climate change, which, like a pandemic, could upend the global economy if not managed properly.

That is not a conclusion we arrive at lightly. At the McKinsey Global Institute, we spent a year assessing the possible socioeconomic impacts of climate change over the coming three decades. What we found is that these effects already exist and are increasing, often in non-linear ways.

As part of our analysis, we conducted nine case studies across regions to gauge potential effects, linking climate models with economic projections in each case. We estimated inherent physical risk, absent climate adaptation and mitigation, to assess the size of the challenge and highlight the case for action.

Climate researchers frequently use Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) scenarios, ranging from lower (RCP 2.6) to higher (RCP 8.5) atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. We adopted the higher-emission RCP 8.5 scenario in order to assess inherent physical risk in the absence of further decarbonization.

Our case studies produced several key findings. First, the most at-risk societies and systems are already close to physical and biological thresholds. Moreover, increasing climate hazards may make such systems vulnerable when they reach such thresholds, often resulting in non-linear intensification of effects.

For example, increasing heat and humidity in India mean that by 2030, and under an RCP 8.5 scenario, between 160-200 million people could live in regions with a 5% average annual probability of lethal heatwaves. As heat and humidity levels rise, outdoor work could become extremely challenging. We estimate that by 2030, the average number of effective working hours lost in India could place 2.5-4.5% of GDP at risk annually.

Second, economic and financial systems have been designed and optimized for a certain level of risk. For example, many global supply chains and food-production systems prioritize efficiency over resilience, making them vulnerable to failure if intensifying climate hazards affect critical production hubs.

Furthermore, whereas property insurance is generally repriced annually, homeowners often have longer-term time horizons of 30 years or more on their real-estate investments. This mismatch exposes homeowners to the risk of higher costs, including rising premiums (reflecting higher risks) or reduced insurance coverage.

Third, financial markets could pull forward risks in affected regions, potentially triggering capital reallocation and asset repricing, as well as changes to the cost and availability of insurance. In Florida, for example, estimates based on past trends suggest that increased risk of tidal flooding alone

could devalue exposed homes by \$30-80 billion, or 15-35%, by 2050, other things being equal.

Fourth, while the direct impact of climate change is local, it can have knock-on effects across regions and sectors as a result of interconnected socioeconomic and financial systems (as is also the case today with COVID-19). For example, we estimate that the direct damage to infrastructure assets from a 100-year flood in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam could increase from about \$300 million today to as much as \$1 billion by 2050, while knock-on costs to the economy could rise from \$100-400 million to between \$1.5-8.5 billion.

Finally, climate change could affect the most vulnerable populations disproportionately, and could foster inequality by simultaneously benefiting some regions while harming others. (The pandemic is also exposing and increasing inequality in many countries). In particular, climate events could double the likelihood of harvest failure in several agricultural breadbaskets by 2030 - meaning significantly lower-than-average yields in key production regions for rice, wheat, corn, and soy. This could lead to higher food prices, hitting the poorest communities - including the 750 million people living below the international poverty line - the hardest.

To mitigate the risk that ongoing climate change will jeopardize more communities and economies, businesses and governments must adapt now to the inevitable global warming that will occur over the next decade as a consequence of past emissions. And they must decarbonize to reduce longer-term risks.

The pace and scale of climate adaptation will likely need to increase significantly. Priorities should include protecting people and assets, strengthening resilience, reducing exposure to climate risks, and ensuring that appropriate financing and insurance are in place. Achieving these goals requires more intensive planning today, because implementing such measures could be difficult. The economics of adaptation could worsen over time in some regions, including those exposed to rising sea levels. In addition, adaptation may encounter technical limits or give rise to tough trade-offs, including who and what to protect or relocate.

There is a range of actions to consider. Businesses could weigh climate considerations in their capital allocation, product and service development, and supply-chain management. Cities could put climate risk at the center of their urban-planning decisions, while financial institutions could do the same when managing their investment portfolios.

But although adaptation is now an urgent necessity, climate science has shown that the risks arising from further global warming can be stopped only by reducing net greenhouse-gas emissions to zero. Business and political leaders should therefore also consider potential decarbonization opportunities in parallel with adaptation investments.

The current pandemic has demonstrated how quickly global risks can multiply and spread, and why resilience and risk management are vital to protecting the world from other threats - and climate change in particular. As we have learned firsthand in recent months, the social and economic costs of failing to prepare for such risks are too high to ignore.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Vladislav Inozemtsev

Why Putin Should Fear Belarus

The possible political demise of Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko after a quarter-century in power is not the only reason why the country's August 9 presidential election matters. The other is the long-standing tendency of political developments in Belarus to foreshadow events in Russia.

MOSCOW - President Alexander Lukashenko has been ruling Belarus with an iron fist since 1994. But his grip on the country has weakened significantly in recent months, and he may well be out after the presidential election scheduled for August 9. Such an outcome would not only shake up Belarus; it also would give Russian President Vladimir Putin serious cause for concern.

At the beginning of 2020, Lukashenko seemed unchallengeable. Most Belarusians believed that their strongman leader would win a sixth term in office in the same corrupt way that he had secured his previous victories. And even Lukashenko's opponents suddenly went silent as he defended Belarusian sovereignty in the face of Putin's plans to "integrate" the two post-Soviet states.

But COVID-19 has changed everything. As Lukashenko proclaimed the pandemic "nonsense" and lied regularly about its scope and casualties, ordinary people affected by the crisis started to turn on him. They particularly resented pressure by the authorities to attend May 9 commemorations of the end of World War II without face masks or protective gloves, and to sign a petition in favor of Lukashenko's re-election.

In early May, the authorities arrested the popular blogger Sergey Tikhanovsky, who had announced his intention to run for president. But his wife, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, is now bidding to stand in his place and has received enthusiastic support. In June, queues to sign her ballot petition in Minsk, Brest, and Gomel stretched for a half-mile (0.8 kilometers), despite police urging people to disperse.

Opinion polls conducted between May 20 and May 22 (before the authorities banned them) indicate that only 3-6.24% of voters support Lukashenko, with Tikhanovskaya at 12.7-18% and the former Belgazprombank CEO Victor Babariko (now jailed by the Belarusian KGB) the clear front-runner, backed by 50-54.9% of respondents. On June 30, the Central Election Commission in Minsk formally allowed Babariko and Tikhanovskaya to run after it reviewed their supporters' signatures, but a Lukashenko "victory" over them on August 9 would almost certainly trigger another Eastern European "color revolution."

But Lukashenko's possible demise after a quarter-century of wielding near-dictatorial power is not the only reason why the August presidential election matters. The other is the long-standing tendency for political developments in Belarus to foreshadow events in its giant neighbor.

Russian leaders have been following in Lukashenko's footsteps since the mid-1990s. President Boris Yeltsin's 1996 re-election campaign, including its appeal to Russians to "vote with your heart," was copied straight from Lukashenko's 1994 campaign. And when Putin succeeded Yeltsin in 1999, he (like Lukashenko three years earlier) proclaimed the return of "stability."

Just as Lukashenko revived the Soviet-era Belarusian flag and seal, Putin restored the Soviet national anthem in Russia. Putin also followed Lukashenko's lead in eradicating independent political parties and forcing opponents into exile or killing them (and sometimes both). In both countries, parliament and the courts were transformed into departments of the presidential administration, while Russian laws concerning "foreign agents" and "unwelcome foreign organizations" emulated Belarusian legislation.

Finally, Putin's national referendum on July 1, which formally allowed him to remain president beyond 2024 (by resetting the clock on the constitutional limit of two consecutive terms), mirrored Lukashenko's in 2004. And allowing Russians to vote online or outside of polling stations resembles the week-long "early voting" period in Belarus, which has secured Lukashenko one victory after another.

Lukashenko's defeat next month would thus represent a huge symbolic blow to the Russian version of his political model and could shape Russia's future much more than Ukraine's efforts to throw off dictatorship have done. Whereas Russian leaders have long regarded Ukraine as a country that looks to the West rather than following Russia's path, they view Belarus as Russia's most trusted friend and ally.

Russians deeply respect Belarusians for the suffering they endured during World War II, and the two countries' citizens have enjoyed equal economic status since the establishment of the Union State of Russia and Belarus in 1999. So, while most Russians expected that Ukraine eventually would opt for liberal democracy and reject Soviet-style autocracy, a similar shift in Belarus could shatter the foundations of Putin's regime.

Nowadays, Lukashenko seems to be equated with Belarus in the same way that Putin is with Russia. Or, as the current chairman of the Russian Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin, put it in 2014, "there is no Russia today if there is no Putin."

Like Lukashenko, Putin is now trying to perpetuate himself in power, deprive voters of any say in decision-making, and capitalize on Soviet heritage rather than modernizing the country. Lukashenko's failure to secure re-election would thus make a deep impression on Russian voters.

Rising tensions between Putin and Lukashenko make the situation even more intriguing. Since 2000, Russia has subsidized Belarus to the tune of more than \$100 billion, receiving nothing but supportive political statements in return. Lukashenko frequently criticizes Putin and leads the Russia-skeptic forces within the Eurasian Union, Putin's aspirational geopolitical construct.

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OPINION

By Alex Soros

A Biden Victory Could Reset Transatlantic Relations

Many European pundits seem to think that a Democratic administration in the United States wouldn't change much about how the US has treated Europe since 2017. But if Joe Biden defeats President Donald Trump in November, the skeptics will find themselves pleasantly surprised.

NEW YORK - In his opening address to the European Council on Foreign Relations' (ECFR) annual meeting, German Foreign Affairs Minister Heiko Maas claimed that regardless of the outcome of the US presidential election this November, Europeans "will have to think about how to better contain the conflicts in Europe's vicinity, even without the US."

His view is a popular one. Many European pundits, such as Janan Ganesh and Wolfgang Münchau of the Financial Times, have argued that US-EU relations would not change significantly even if a Democrat were to defeat US President Donald Trump. A Democratic president, the argument goes, would still be protectionist on trade, sympathetic to the American public's supposed isolationist instincts, and equally unenthusiastic about writing checks to defend Europe. This description was initially applied to Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont, despite their strong support for international cooperation and human rights. Now some Europeans are extending it to Joe Biden.

But the idea that Biden would bring no real change to US policy toward Europe beggars belief. Biden has always been a staunch transatlanticist, and over the course of his decades-long political career, he has forged close relationships with key European leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel. As vice president from 2009 to 2017, Biden was always available to provide personal diplomacy when President Barack Obama was not.

While European pundits are correct to doubt that the old transatlantic alliance will simply return to its pre-Trump state, they are underestimating what a Biden victory would mean for US foreign policy. The Democratic Party is still a party of values, and a Biden administration would pursue a full reset after four years of Trump, restoring America's historic commitment to responsible leadership on the world stage.

Whereas Trump has spent his time in office starting fights with Europe over climate change, trade, and human rights, Biden would bring America back to the diplomatic table. The United States would rejoin the Paris climate agreement, pursue new trade deals, and participate in cooperative efforts to ensure that technological innovation conforms with human-rights standards.

In the European Union, America's image is at an all-time low, thanks to the Trump administration's slow, incoherent, and ineffective response to the COVID-19 crisis, a major part of which comprised blaming other countries, rather than cooperating with them. Instead of combating the crisis using the resources of the World Health Organization and other multilateral organizations, the US banned travel from Europe without warning and announced it would defund the WHO. One of Biden's first foreign-policy objectives will surely be to rectify this and to treat COVID-19 as the global crisis it is. That means leveraging international cooperation to protect Americans from the pandemic (and its attendant economic devastation), as well as lead global efforts to combat the threat.

With Biden in the White House, European telecoms like Nokia and Ericsson would be recognized and supported as the transatlantic alliance's 5G champions, and the US would help Europe wean itself off Russian gas as it works toward its clean-energy transition. A Biden administration also would recognize the wisdom of negotiating a renewal of the New START nuclear-weapons treaty with Russia when it expires in 2021. And it would pursue other forms of arms control to advance European and US security interests and prevent a new arms race.

More to the point, a Biden administration would uphold its end of any bargain, and would be trusted to maintain America's commitments to partners and allies around the world. The only question is whether Europe, too, would be prepared to make the tough choices needed to reinvigorate the alliance.

Trump has allowed Europe to avoid such choices, because his outlandish behavior has distracted attention from most other issues. For example, with all eyes on the intensifying Sino-American feud, the EU has become more accommodating to China. In early June, Josep Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, declared that Europe does not regard China as a military threat. And while US political leaders from both parties have loudly condemned China's imposition of a new security law in Hong Kong, the EU's reaction has been relatively meek.

Lest we forget, the EU is the world's largest trading bloc. With enough determination, Europe, working closely with the US, could have considerable leverage when it comes to promoting a rules-based multilateral system. But to do so, it will have to expend political and diplomatic capital.

The same applies to issues closer to home. Europe has much to gain by working closely with the US to strengthen Ukraine's independence and resilience in the face of Kremlin aggression, not least by upholding the recently renewed sanctions regime against Russia. The EU also has an interest in clearing an accession path for Western Balkan countries and ending the stonewalling that has long played into the hands of Russia, China, Turkey, and other powers. In bringing the Western Balkans into the transatlantic fold, Europe could count on the support of a bipartisan majority in the US Congress.

Pursuing any of these objectives would require the EU to place its values above political and diplomatic expediency. Doing so would show the American public that Europe is not the freeloader that Trump has made it out to be, but rather a confident, reliable partner. In fact, Americans already often look to Europe for policy ideas, from taking on Big Tech and protecting privacy to providing health care and other critical elements of the social safety net. A revived transatlantic relationship might well bolster the flow of European ideas to the US.

To be sure, a transatlantic reset would also require America to stand up for human rights and democracy, which would mean taking a tougher line on the current Turkish government. Fortunately, this should not be difficult. Polling by the National Security Action has consistently shown that most Americans worry about Trump's mismanagement of US relations with other countries, and would prefer to see the US government stand up for America's professed values, including human rights.

Over the past few years, Trump's made-for-TV tirades against the transatlantic alliance have given Europe every reason to turn inward and throw up protectionist barriers. But survey data from the ECFR show that many of those Europeans who now support protectionism are disenchanting former supporters of the transatlantic alliance. With a change in US leadership and a more familiar approach from Washington, their disappointment may begin to lift.

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Isaac Jackson reacts to Foreign Minister Findley

-Says Comments are Misleading, Shortsighted and Disrespectful

Liberia's Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Atty. Isaac W. Jackson Jr. has described recent statements attributed to Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley concerning his employment and qualification to bear Liberian diplomatic passport as misleading, shortsighted and disrespectful to the Honorable the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia.

In a recent interview

Agreement and the Vienna Convention, Liberia's representation, like those of all other nations similarly accredited to the IMO, is accorded diplomatic recognition, status and courtesy befitting the level of their representations of their various nations and governments.

Jackson clarified that the diplomatic recognition conferred upon him, his co-workers, some of whom report to him, and his family are not

knowledge which ought not to be associated with Liberia's chief diplomat."

Jackson opined that the Minister has to be aware that the fundamental duty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to seek to improve Liberia's external relations.

"Accordingly, if the reported comments are truly a reflection of the Minister's thinking, they can only be best described as unfortunate and shortsighted as they really seek to lower Liberia's international standing, reputation and representation to the IMO, as well as undermine its prestigious maritime program", he added.

Jackson also explained that the comments of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is disrespectful of the decision of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia, and undermines the commitment to the rule of law in the country. Attorney Jackson reminded that on July 23, 2018, the Liberian Supreme Court issued a Stay Order which the Court again reinforced en banc on April 16, 2019, instructing the Executive Branch, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to renew diplomatic passports for Jackson and his family. Jackson therefore expressed concern for the rule of law in the country if appointees of the Executive can choose to publicly ignore and defy decisions of the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia with apparent impunity.

It can be recalled that in September 2016, President

personal, self-serving or limited to the flows of national political considerations and disagreements. The diplomatic status which commensurate with the level of his representation of Liberia to the IMO, and dutifully recognized by Her Majesty, the Queen of England and her government, is consistent with internationally-acceptable standards, conventions and settled practices.

"Importantly also", Attorney Jackson reminded, "my diplomatic accreditation to the International Maritime Organization as Liberia's Permanent Representative, should by now be clear to the Minister of Foreign Affairs as being consistent with Liberian laws, practices and standards for the issuance of diplomatic passports, especially Chapter 20.3 (f) of the Executive Law and Article IV, Section (9) of the Passport Regulation, as well as Chapter III (3) Article 13(a & b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia."

"To suggest otherwise", Jackson continued, "is to flaunt the law and established practices, and especially on the misleading claim that I work for the IMO and as such cannot have my diplomatic passport renewed, is a shocking expression of a lack of



broadcast in the Friday, July 3, 2020 Edition of the Frontpageafrica Newspaper, the Liberian Foreign Minister said, "I don't know if Isaac Jackson is an ambassador; what I know is that he works for IMO, and he's a Liberian who is entitled to a Liberian passport".

Reacting over the weekend from London, Jackson said after three years of heading Liberia's diplomatic efforts and international relations, it is shocking and troubling that the Liberian Foreign Minister would publicly claim that he (Jackson) works for the IMO.

"After three years of serving as Foreign Minister of Liberia, it has to be concerning that the honorable Minister would also publicly imply that only ambassadors are entitled to diplomatic passports, or that being a Liberian only entitles one to an ordinary Liberian passport", Jackson said.

Jackson explained that he does not work for the IMO, but rather, like all who did before him, he works for the Liberian Government as the head of its representation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), headquartered in London, England. Jackson furthered that by Headquarter

personal, self-serving or limited to the flows of national political considerations and disagreements. The diplomatic status which commensurate with the level of his representation of Liberia to the IMO, and dutifully recognized by Her Majesty, the Queen of England and her government, is consistent with internationally-acceptable standards, conventions and settled practices.

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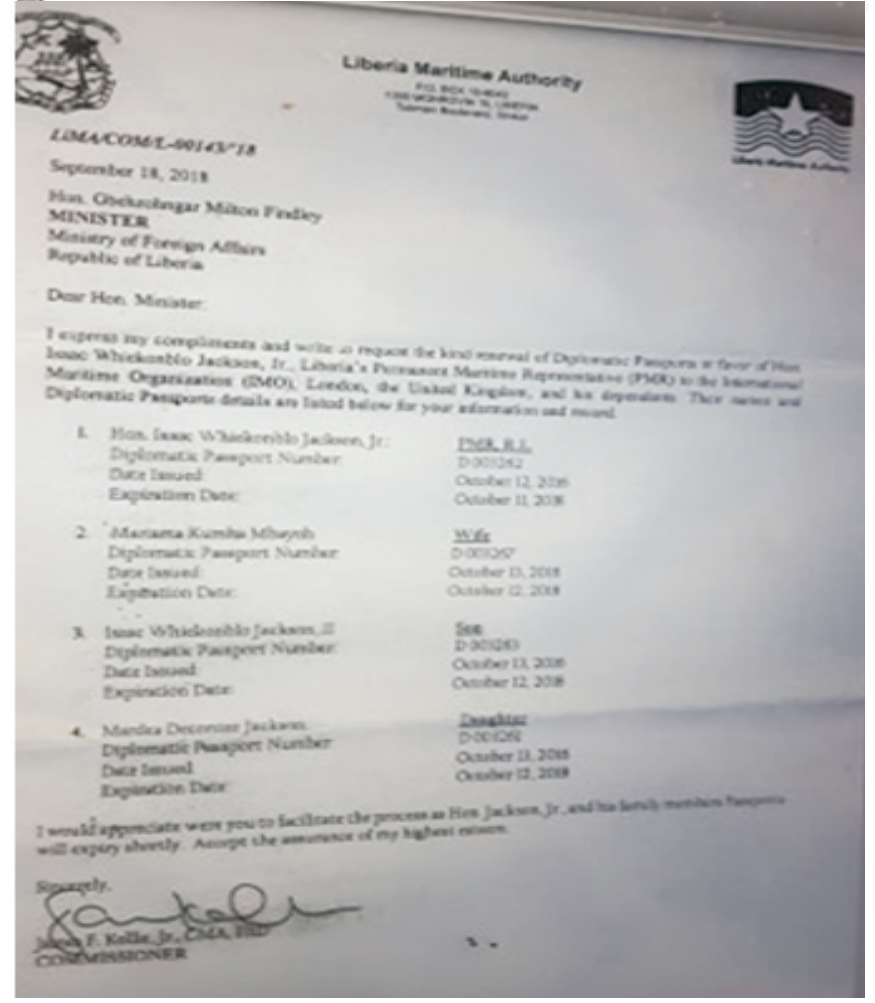
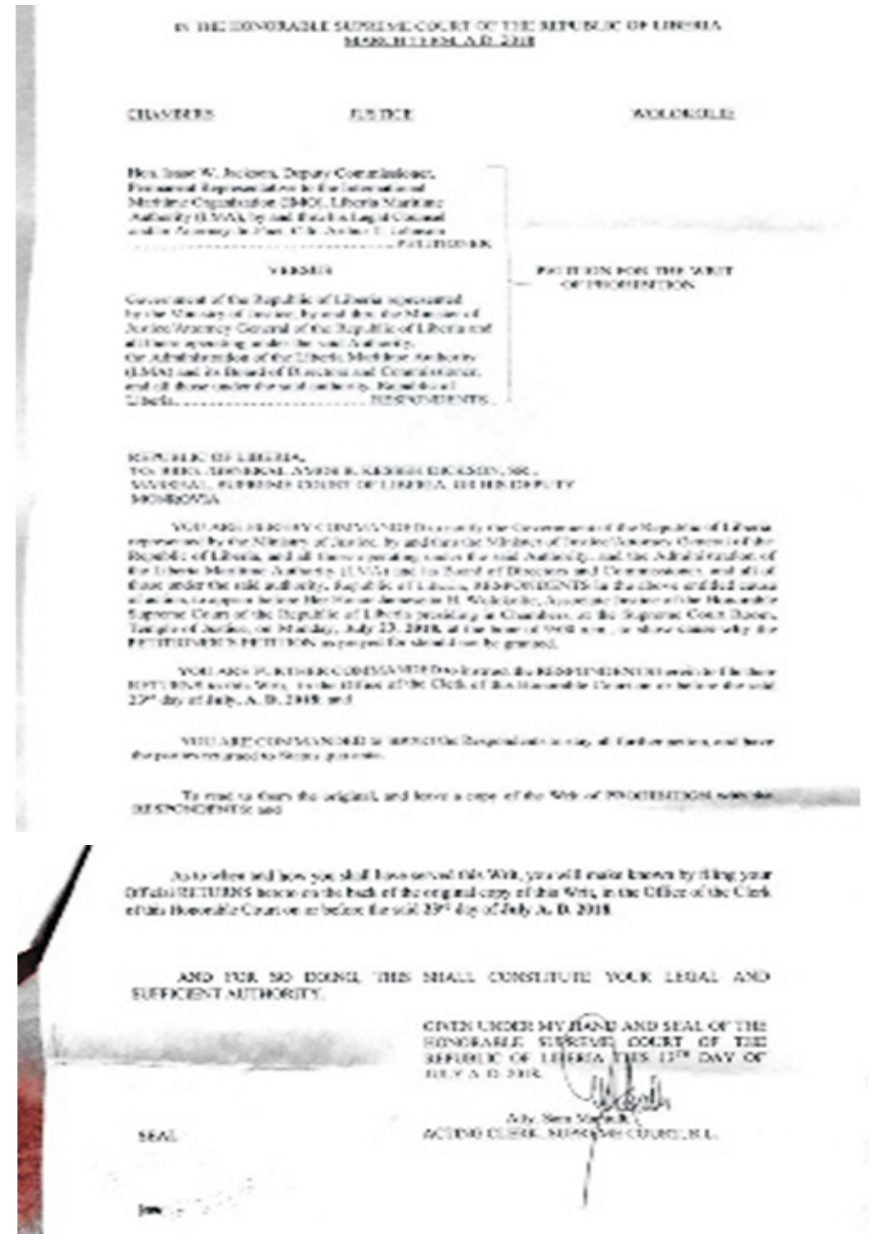
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"To suggest otherwise", Jackson continued, "is to flaunt the law and established practices, and especially on the misleading claim that I work for the IMO and as such cannot have my diplomatic passport renewed, is a shocking expression of a lack of

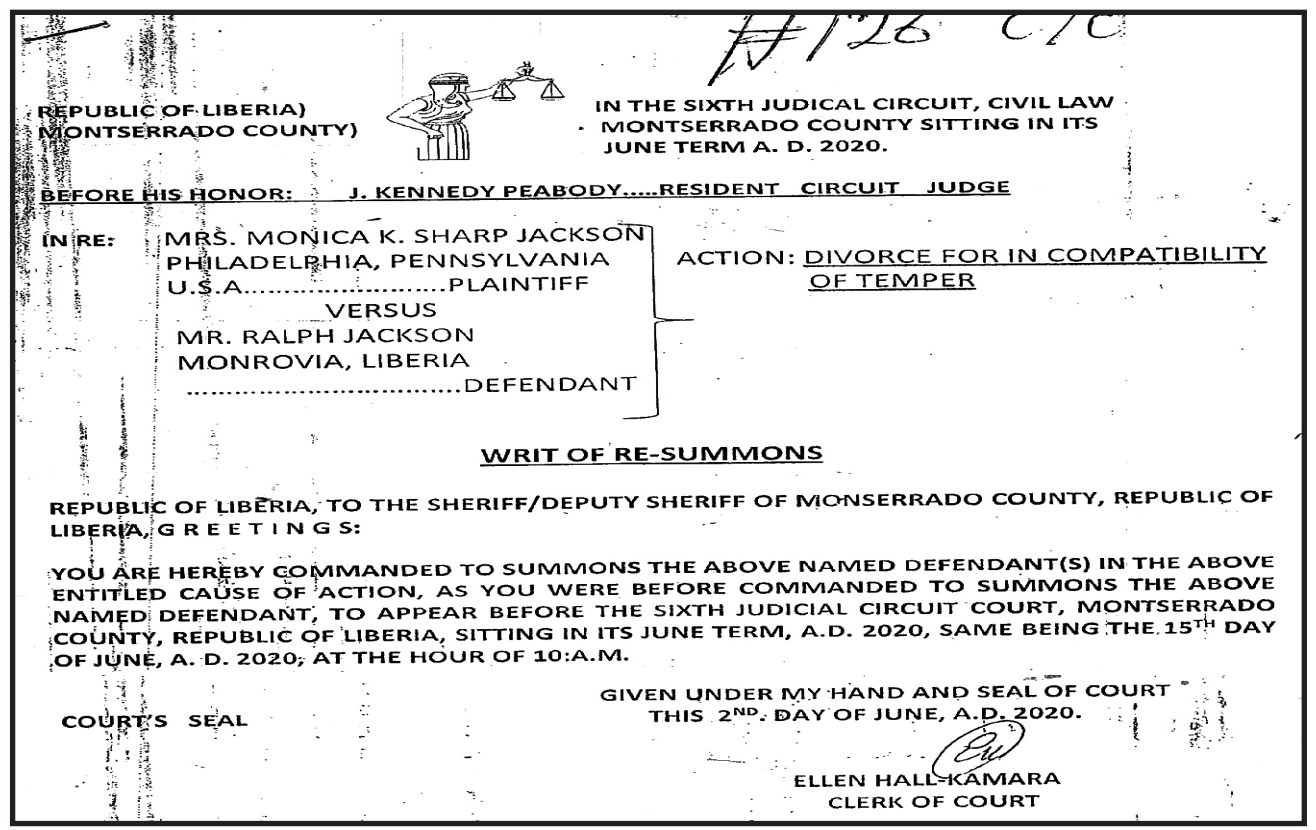
personal, self-serving or limited to the flows of national political considerations and disagreements. The diplomatic status which commensurate with the level of his representation of Liberia to the IMO, and dutifully recognized by Her Majesty, the Queen of England and her government, is consistent with internationally-acceptable standards, conventions and settled practices.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Maryland Superintendent launches compulsory mask wearing

Amidst increase of new cases of COVID-19 in Maryland County, Superintendent George A. Prowd has called for compulsory nose masks wearing in public by citizens of the county. The call

Monday, July 6, movement of citizens within the county would be monitored seriously.

"If you are traveling out of the county and you get at the check points and you are not wearing nose and face masks, you will be sent back. The

want citizens to cooperate", Superintendent Prowd stressed.

Asked why the 6pm curfew is not being observed properly in the county, he said citizens shouldn't always not always adapt the culture of being policed before they abide by pronouncements.

"If the government says this, we all need to follow it; we need not to be policed before abiding by measures that are for our own safety, but if citizens want it that way, than the police will be properly implementing the stay home order", Superintendent Prowd added.

Three laboratory technicians at the JJ Dossen Memorial Hospital in Harper City have tested positive of COVID-19.

County Health Officer, Dr. Methodius George said the three laboratory technicians were confirmed of the virus following a training session in the county.

Dr. George explained that after the training, staffers at the hospital on June 27, 2020, were asked to take one another's specimens for testing in Monrovia and as a result of the tests, three

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Superintendent George A. Prowd

followed five coronavirus cases reported in Maryland.

Addressing a news conference Friday, July 3, in the county, Superintendent Prowd said the compulsory nose mask wearing is aimed at reducing spread of the virus among the population.

He said beginning today,

restrictions will also be extended to the general markets, into the public streets, so we are asking our citizens to kindly pay heed. The cases are increasing and we need our citizens to be more respectful to the health protocols and the security measures in this region and we

Beneficiaries laud government's food distribution

By Lewis S. Teh

Hundreds of beneficiaries over the weekend, expressed joy and gratification to the government here for sticking to its promises to distribute food to citizens, in the wake of the coronavirus crisis here.

Speaking to this paper in an exclusive interview at a food distribution site on the Capitol Bye-pass in Monrovia, Ms. Nancy Roberts expressed heartfelt sentiments to the government and the World Food Program (WFP) for identifying with citizens during this critical period.

She notes that government made the pronouncement that it would distribute food to vulnerable communities, but she never thought of receiving such food.

Ms. Roberts expresses shock that she receives her share of the stimulus package food, extending thanks and

appreciation to the president and his officials.

Another beneficiary, Joseph Wiah says though he didn't expect to get his share of the food, he thanks the government

for being committed to its pronouncement to distribute food to targeted people.

"At least I was able to receive food from my government that I voted for and this is something that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Gov't warns demobilized soldiers

By Winston W. Parley

Demobilized soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) have been warned here against disturbing the biometric registration exercise of pensioned AFL personnel by the National Identification Registry (NIR), as any further disruption will be taken off by government.

Col. Edwin J. Goodridge, (Retired), National Bureau of Veterans Affairs Director General, addressing journalists Friday, 3 July at the Ministry of Defense, cautioned the demobilized soldiers that if there is any point that they want to put forth, they should not disturb the exercise, but rather engage government constructively.

"This is a situation with

placed on the AFL pension payroll.

According to Col. Goodridge, the strongest point he heard from the veterans is that they were demobilized, and as such, they are also veterans and should be placed on AFL pension payroll.

Despite warning the veterans against any future disruption of the process, Col. Goodridge insists that he doesn't see a conflict, and also he wouldn't say how he would be able to curtail whatever disruption in the future.

"Believe as we said earlier that some of our compatriots may have been ill-informed. We disseminated information, we even went over the air and we said what it was, that in fact this exercise is only for



national government, so if there's ... some points that they want to put forth we are cautioning them don't disturb the exercise. Constructively put your points together and engage national government," he says, noting if there's any further disruption, government will be taking that off.

His caution to the veterans came over the weekend in the wake of their reported disruption of the biometric registration process commenced in the Slipway Community by the National Identification Registry and other state institutions for AFL pensioners, demanding to be

pensioners - AFL pensioners," he says.

"But some guys, the rest of the other guys believe that they should be or should have been considered you know, on the payroll and all that and stuff like that. So well, that could be yes, but right now, government mandate is to take care, register those that are on the pension payroll," he explains.

To facilitate the exercise of registering pensioners, Col. Goodridge says the Ministry of Finance has agreed to write off the cost, even though NIR will send its bill to the ministry to

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lonestar Cell MTN celebrates the beauty of Liberia with #MyLib campaign

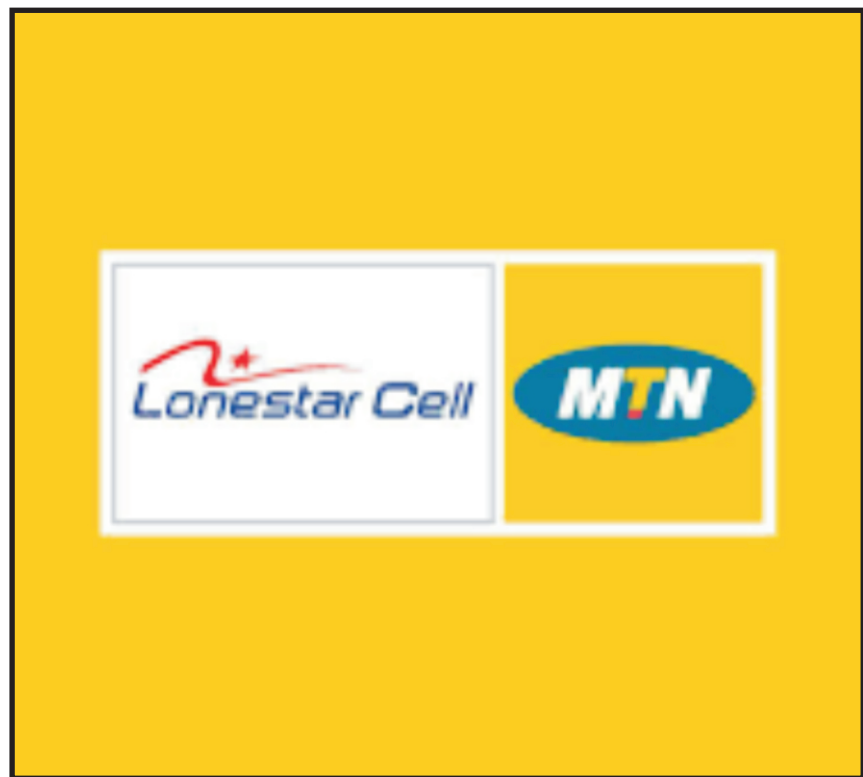
Lonestar Cell MTN has launched the #MyLib campaign to celebrate the beauty of Liberia through pictures. The campaign is running to highlight sights and scenes that are uniquely and

creative picture they can of Liberian people, sights, and sceneries and post these images on social media. Participants should tag the social media accounts of the company (@LonestarCellMTN on Facebook, @LonestarCell_MTN

Lonestar Cell MTN.

All entries will be reviewed and short-listed by two reputable external judges, Shoana Solomon, photographer and owner of Cabelle International Guest House and Helen Eid, Manager of Royal Grand Hotel. The short-listed entries will be shared on Lonestar Cell MTN's social media pages for a public vote. The three submissions with the most likes from Lonestar Cell MTN fans and followers on social media will be awarded prizes.

Yaw AnkomaAgyapong, Chief Marketing Officer of Lonestar Cell MTN said, "Lonestar has always been committed to all things good and beautiful about Liberia. With the #MyLib campaign this Independence Day, we are celebrating all the beautiful things about Liberia. We cannot wait to see the amazing sights of this beautiful land of liberty captured by our customers. With the lockdown and restrictions on travel, we can take our customers, fans and followers on a tour of the country without them leaving the safety of their homes. We are #GoodTogether."



beautifully Liberian as the country celebrates its 173rd Independence Day.

As a part of the campaign, Lonestar Cell MTN is asking all Liberians to take the most

on Instagram, @MTNLonestar on Twitter) when posting the images along with the hashtag #MyLib. The campaign runs from July 1 to July 15 and is open to all customers of

GVL laments road condition in southeast Liberia

By Ethel A. Tweh

Golden Veroleum Liberia is calling on the Government of Liberia to address bad road condition in southeast Liberia where the oil palm company conducts its operations.

Chief Executive Officer Ferdy Surya Handojo says deplorable state of roads is causing his company to incur losses.

Addressing a news conference Thursday, July 2, 2020 at the GVL Head Office in Monrovia, CEO Handojo laments that the road condition has made it practically impossible to transport goods from Sinoe County to Grand Kru County, which led to a loss of about US\$7 million last years.

He stresses that the company is spending more and gaining less, adding that the losses have been every year before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

He discloses that management has been engaging the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public works to ensure the

roads are rehabilitated, as he emphasizes that it is government's responsibility because everyone else uses the

rehabilitate the road. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic we were unable to bring our engineers from overseas to help with the road. We can't be spending more and gaining less."



road, including other companies.

"We have to spend unnecessary cost to help

CEO Handojo further explains that logistics in Liberia is very expensive as everything here comes from

Isaac Jackson

Cont'd from page 5

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf appointed and commissioned Attorney Isaac Jackson, former Deputy Minister of Information, as Permanent Representative of Liberia to the International Maritime Organization. He was recalled and replaced by President George M. Weah on June 18, 2018. Jackson deemed the action of the President to be a violation of the law in so far as he served in a tenured appointment which had yet to expire. He therefore sought the intervention of the Supreme Court of Liberia on the matter of his recall and replacement. Still not finally decided, the Supreme Court has instructed that the diplomatic passports of Jackson and his family which had expired, be renewed.

On September 18, 2018, former Commissioner of the Liberian Maritime Authority, Dr. James F. Kollie, officially notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the expiry of the diplomatic passports issued to PMR Jackson and his family, and requested renewals of the same. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is yet to do so.

Jackson insisted that his decision to seek the intervention of the courts for which the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia is now being forced to take on an untenable and unlawful position concerning the diplomatic status of the Permanent

Representative of Liberia to the IMO, is bigger than the 'thoughts' expressed by the honorable Minister.

"Even as my family and I are made to undergo the ongoing intended humiliation and embarrassment by the government, we are often tempted to believe that it may be easier to abandon our court action, service to our country in London, and return home. We cannot bring ourselves to do so consoled by the fact that what we seek for ourselves is justice, and for our country, a continued commitment to good governance in solemn obedience to the rule of law. If we continue to impress Presidents that they can exercise authority not reserved for them, or that they are not subjects to the same laws; what kind of democracy are we building", Jackson asked.

"If the Honorable Supreme Court of Liberia ruled against us tomorrow, my family and I would be disappointed, as we believe the law to be squarely on our side. But we would feel relieved to return home knowing that as citizens and life-long advocates for change in our country, we offered ourselves, not in comfortable surrender to what we knew to be wrong, but stood up for justice and good governance, the change for which many have died in our country", Jackson concluded.

overseas and they spent lots of money to get all those things done.

He says management has redundant 10 percent of its 4,000 staffers because of low income and also price of palm oil dropped on the world market. Out of the 400 staffers redundant, 40 of them were expatriates, as he commits to working with more Liberians and putting expatriates down in compliance with the Labor law where all those effected were duly paid.

According to him, GVL depends on its parent body in Indonesia for support to enable them to produce locally, adding that the company wants to stay in Liberia but the government needs to help in making their work easier.

The Vice President for Sustainability, Strategy and Stakeholders' Engagement Elvis Morris, says since the COVID-19 pandemic, the company is running its own quarantine center, hospital

and ambulance to keep workers safe, noting that nine employees have been down with the virus.

Elvis however highlights that management is also engaged in building and renovating schools, contributing to the health sector, water sanitation and also providing US\$100, 000 for scholarships every year.

He explains that 35 percent of the money goes to scholarship in Grand Kru, while 30 percent goes to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture for students studying Agriculture.

He reveals that management is presently constructing new mill in Maryland County to enable them transport their goods from Sinoe to Maryland and then to Grand Kru because of the bad road, but is optimistic that upon completion of the new mill, it will create more employment in the sector. -

Editing Jonathan Browne

Français

Politique : « Ma vie est en danger », s'inquiète Madam Wolokollie

Rien ne va plus entre le pouvoir et son ancienne vice-ministre du Commerce, Madame Jemima Wolokollie, qui se dit être en danger quelques jours après son limogeage de son poste et son expulsion du parti au pouvoir, la Coalition pou

ur le changement démocratique (CDC).

Mme Wolokollie a déclaré sur la radio Joy FM, une radio locale, qu'elle est suivie par des inconnus de la National Security Agency (NSA) depuis son limogeage et son expulsion ultérieure du parti au pouvoir. «Écoutez, en ce moment, la NSA me suit, ma vie

est en danger», a-t-elle dit.

«Je veux juste dire que si quelque chose m'arrive, ce sera Jefferson Koijee, Mulbah Morlu et Thomas Fallah, ils me suivent. Je veux dire au président de dire à ses enfants d'arrêter de me suivre », a-t-elle ajouté.

Madame Wolokollie fut limogée, le mardi 30 juin, de son poste de vice-ministre par le président Weah, avec effet immédiat. On lui reproche de s'être rendue coupable d'une « série d'actions incompatibles avec le statut de haut fonctionnaire du gouvernement », selon les mots de la lettre de licenciement publiée sur le site web de la présidence.

A noter que plusieurs mois avant son licenciement, elle avait fait l'objet d'une suspension de la part du président pour insubordination et manque de professionnalisme. Mais cette suspension fut ensuite levée.

Par contre, lors de l'émission sur la radio Joy FM, Madame Wolokollie a déclaré que sa suspension initiale n'avait rien à voir avec de l'insubordination ni du manque



Ex-Min. Jemima Wolokollie

Chairman Mulbah Morlu

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

CPI/Retour de Gbagbo : Une valise diplomatique transmise à Abidjan depuis 3 semaines

L'ex chef de l'État ivoirien acquitté en instance par la CPI a transmis au greffe de la CPI sa demande de retour en Côte d'Ivoire. La valise diplomatique contenant la requête de Laurent Gbagbo, selon les sources, a quitté le service courrier de la CPI depuis 3 semaines.

En effet, au lendemain de la décision allégeant les conditions imposées à Laurent Gbagbo et Charles Blé Goudé et rendue le 28 mai, l'ancien président Gbagbo a formulé à posteriori une requête au greffe de la CPI, conformément aux procédures de la CPI, disant vouloir se rendre en Côte d'Ivoire.

Sur ordonnance des juges, c'est au greffier de négocier les conditions d'un tel retour de l'ex-président dans son pays tout déplacement hors de la Belgique où il réside aujourd'hui.

Selon les informations recueillies auprès de l'équipe de communication de la CPI, la requête a bien été adressée et transmise aux autorités ivoiriennes. Une autre source précise que la demande a été transmise le

10 juin, depuis trois semaines, mais que jusqu'ici les autorités ivoiriennes n'ont ni confirmé ni accusé réception de la demande.

Joint au téléphone ce matin, le ministre ivoirien des Affaires Étrangères, Ali Coulibaly, nous a répondu ne pas être au courant, puis a précisé que ce n'est pas à lui que nous devons adresser

notre requête mais à son homologue de la Justice.

Bref, le ministre nous a renvoyé, en ancien journaliste, auprès de son collègue Garde des Sceaux. Nos tentatives du côté du ministre de la justice, Sassan Kambile, pour recueillir des informations sur cette requête ont été vaines.



Débat houleux au Sénat autour du prolongement de l'état d'urgence

La salle des conférences du sénat a été le théâtre d'un débat houleux autour de la demande du président de la république portant prolongement de 30 jours de l'Etat d'Urgence dans le cadre de la lutte contre la propagation du COVID-9.

Le débat a éclaté jeudi dernier au Sénat à la suite de la lecture du rapport d'un comité recommandant l'approbation de la demande du président, le prolongement de l'Etat d'Urgence et le respect des mesures barrières.

Le Sénat a dû fermer pendant deux semaines après que sa secrétaire générale adjointe, Genevieve Massaquoi, a été testée positive au coronavirus. Mais un comité avait été mis en place par le président du Sénat, Albert Chie, pour examiner la proposition d'extension de l'Etat d'Urgence.

pour faire appliquer la loi sur la santé publique. « Et si les citoyens ne respectent pas les lois sur la santé publique, le gouvernement doit les obliger ».

C'est l'avis du sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon qui s'est dit opposé à l'état d'urgence car « il n'existe aucune preuve scientifique qui démontre que l'état d'urgence contribue au règlement de la crise sanitaire ». « Tout ce dont le Libéria a besoin est une loi sur la santé publique appliquée et, dans le cadre de cette loi, certaines zones peuvent être confinées et d'autres poursuivre les activités normales, selon la rapidité ou non du rythme de contagions dans les régions ».

Le sénateur dénonce une violation flagrante des droits à la liberté d'expression pendant les 60 premiers jours de l'Etat



Dans le rapport qu'il a présenté à la plénière, le comité recommande le respect de l'extension de l'état d'urgence et de toutes les mesures sanitaires. Il s'est félicité du premier état d'urgence qui, selon lui, a permis que les cas ne soient pas aussi nombreux au Libéria que dans les pays voisins où les cas se comptent par milliers. Mais, le sénateur J. Milton Teahjay du comté de Sinoe a d'autres inquiétudes, l'économie du Libéria. Bien qu'il soutienne le prolongement de l'état d'urgence, il ne veut pas que les entreprises ferment. « Nous ne pouvons pas bloquer notre économie, le Libéria va perdre énormément », a-t-il mis en garde. Pour M. Sando Johnson, sénateur du comté de Bomi, il n'était pas nécessaire de prolonger l'état d'urgence. Le pouvoir législatif n'a qu'à communiquer avec l'exécutif

d'urgence. Il accuse le solliciteur général du Libéria d'avoir procédé à l'arrestation arbitraire des personnes pour avoir critiqué le gouvernement de George Weah, « alors que le législateur n'a pas suspendu la liberté d'expression dans le document signé ».

Mais pour le sénateur Peter Coleman, médecin de son état et membre du système de gestion des incidents, le prolongement de l'état d'urgence est indispensable. Ce n'est qu'à ce prix que l'on pourra réduire le nombre élevé de cas de coronavirus au Libéria. Il est soutenu par d'autres sénateurs, dont le sénateur du comté de Maryland, J Gbleh-bo Brown, qui est aussi convaincu que c'est ce qu'il faut pour lutter efficacement contre le virus.

Français

Politique : « Ma vie est en danger »,

de respect à l'égard de son patron immédiat, le professeur Wilson Tarpeh. Son tort était d'avoir posé, à l'époque, une question gênante lors d'une réunion dans le comté de Grand Bassa.

Elle crie à l'injustice, car certains des dirigeants du parti au pouvoir ont posé des actes d'indiscipline, mais ils n'ont jamais été inquiétés. Elle a qualifié de mensonge flagrant les raisons avancées par le parti pour son expulsion.

En tout cas le parti lui reproche d'avoir mal géré un fond de micro-crédits de 3 millions de dollars. « Faux ! », nie-t-elle, indiquant que le fond a été détourné par son patron, le ministre Tarpeh, après qu'elle a répertorié les bénéficiaires potentiels qui étaient pour la plupart des propriétaires de micro-entreprises et des programmes de micro-crédits communautaires.

Selon elle, en dépit du fait que le président Weah ait

respect à mon patron. Quand je suis allée à Grand Bassa, j'ai posé une question et c'est pourquoi le président m'a suspendue pour la première fois. Ce n'est pas parce que j'ai manqué de respect à mon patron.

Au cours des deux derniers mois, j'ai apprécié la relation de travail avec mon patron mais pour le reste, il m'a réprimée. J'ai écrit une série de mémos ».

Le Micro-crédit
« D'accord, je l'ai dit l'autre jour et je vais le répéter. Le gouvernement du Libéria a décidé d'accorder des micro-crédits aux petites entreprises. L'Etat du Libéria devrait contribuer un million et la LBDI (banque Libérienne pour le développement et l'investissement) 2 millions de dollars américains. Et le président a dit à Samuel Tweah et à Wilson Tarpeh de ne pas toucher à cet argent.

J'ai identifié les bénéficiaires et la banque a dit que tout allait bien, que j'avais bien fait. Mais après cela, chaque fois que



averti le ministre Tarpeh et le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, de ne pas toucher à l'argent, le ministre Tarpeh a continué de détourner le processus.

Elle a fait savoir qu'à ce jour, le ministre Tarpeh n'a présenté aucun rapport d'audit ni présenté la liste des personnes auxquelles il prétend avoir distribué 513 000 dollars.

« Les problèmes de mon licenciement sont trop nombreux. Bien sûr, nous avons connu des hauts et des bas sur mon lieu de travail. Comme tout autre ministère, nous avons eu des problèmes. Mais c'était agréable de travailler avec le ministère du Commerce. Et puis la question du micro-crédit, oui, je veux vraiment qu'on en parle.

Au cours des deux derniers mois, les rapports entre nous (mon patron et moi) ont été bons. Je n'ai pas manqué de

j'allais à la banque, on me disait de voir mon patron. Et mon patron a repris mon bureau et a repris le programme. Je n'ai jamais revu ce prêt.

Ils ont également refusé de me donner un document concernant le prêt. Le seul document était une feuille volante qui faisait croire que 513 000 dollars US ont été prêtés. Mais j'ai écrit à mon patron pour lui demander de me donner un rapport d'audit et les noms et les numéros de téléphone des petites entreprises qui ont reçu cet argent. Ils m'ont tout caché.

En tout cas, le programme de micro-crédit est entre Wilson Tarpeh et son bureau. Je ne veux donc pas entendre les gens me parler de ces 3 millions. C'est mon patron. Je n'ai pas l'argent ».

Les efforts pour contacter à la fois Mulbah Morlu et le professeur Tarpeh se sont avérés vains, car leurs téléphones étaient éteints.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Hauke Engel & Mekala Krishnan

Prendre les risques climatiques au sérieux

FRANCFORT - La COVID-19 nous montre à quel point un risque mondial depuis longtemps avéré mais sous-estimé peut tout à coup se matérialiser et entraîner en quelques semaines des ravages économiques et sociaux. Les conséquences en sont claires : alors que le monde concentre à juste titre son activité sur la lutte contre la pandémie actuelle, les entreprises et les gouvernements doivent également reconnaître et anticiper d'autres risques, en particulier le changement climatique, qui, tout comme une pandémie, risque de bouleverser l'économie mondiale si l'on n'y consacre pas suffisamment d'attention.

Nous n'arrivons pas à cette conclusion à la légère. Au McKinsey Global Institute, nous avons passé une année à évaluer les impacts socio-économiques possibles du changement climatique au cours des trois prochaines décennies. Ce que nous avons constaté, c'est que ces effets existent déjà et connaissent une hausse, souvent sur un mode non linéaire.

Dans le cadre de notre analyse, nous avons mené neuf études de cas dans toutes les régions pour évaluer les effets potentiels, en reliant les modèles climatiques aux projections économiques dans chaque cas. Nous avons estimé le risque physique inhérent en cas d'absence d'atténuation des effets du changement climatique et d'adaptation à ces effets, afin d'évaluer l'ampleur du défi et de mettre en lumière les arguments qui plaident en faveur de l'action.

Les chercheurs en climatologie utilisent fréquemment des scénarios de profils représentatifs d'évolution de concentration (RCP), allant de concentrations en dioxyde de carbone atmosphérique plus faibles (RCP 2,6) à des concentrations plus fortes (RCP 8,5). Nous avons adopté le scénario RCP 8,5 à émissions plus fortes afin d'évaluer le risque physique inhérent en l'absence de décarbonisation ultérieure plus avancée.

Nos études de cas ont révélé plusieurs résultats déterminants. Premièrement, les sociétés et les systèmes les plus à risque sont déjà proches des seuils physiques et biologiques. En outre, l'augmentation des risques climatiques peut rendre ces systèmes vulnérables au passage de ces seuils, ce qui entraîne souvent une intensification non linéaire des effets.

Deuxièmement, les systèmes économiques et financiers sont conçus et optimisés pour un certain niveau de risque. Par exemple, de nombreuses chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales et de nombreux systèmes de production alimentaire privilégient l'efficacité par rapport à la résilience, ce qui les rend vulnérables à l'échec si l'intensification des risques climatiques affecte des centres de production majeurs.

En outre, alors que les primes d'assurance de biens sont en général réévaluées chaque année, les propriétaires immobiliers ont souvent des horizons à plus long terme de 30 ans ou plus sur leurs investissements. Cette disparité expose les propriétaires immobiliers à un risque de coûts plus élevés, notamment à la hausse des primes (qui traduit des risques plus élevés) ou à une couverture d'assurance réduite.

Troisièmement, les marchés financiers pourraient avancer des risques dans les régions touchées, ce qui pourrait déclencher une réaffectation des capitaux et une réévaluation des actifs, ainsi que des changements dans le coût et la disponibilité de l'assurance. En Floride, par exemple, les estimations fondées sur les tendances passées suggèrent que le

risque accru d'inondations dues aux marées pourrait dévaluer à lui seul les maisons exposées de 30 à 80 milliards de dollars, soit 15 à 35 % de leur valeur d'ici 2050, toutes choses étant égales par ailleurs.

Enfin, le changement climatique pourrait affecter les populations les plus vulnérables de manière disproportionnée et pourrait favoriser les inégalités en bénéficiant simultanément à certaines régions tout en causant du tort à d'autres. (La pandémie est également en train de révéler et d'accroître les inégalités dans de nombreux pays). En particulier, les événements climatiques pourraient multiplier le risque de mauvaises récoltes dans plusieurs greniers à blé d'ici 2030 - ce qui impliquerait des rendements significativement inférieurs à la moyenne dans les principales régions de production de riz, de blé, de maïs et de soja. Cela risque de conduire à une hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires, touchant le plus durement les communautés les plus pauvres - notamment les 750 millions de personnes vivant en dessous du seuil de pauvreté internationale.

Pour atténuer le risque que le changement climatique en cours ne mette en péril davantage de collectivités et d'économies, les entreprises et les gouvernements doivent s'adapter dès à présent à l'inévitable réchauffement climatique qui se produira au cours de la prochaine décennie en raison des émissions passées. Ces instances doivent décarboniser pour réduire les risques à plus long terme.

Le rythme et l'ampleur de l'adaptation au climat devront probablement augmenter de manière significative. Les priorités doivent comprendre la protection des personnes et des biens, le renforcement de la résilience, la réduction de l'exposition aux risques climatiques et la mise en place d'un financement et d'une assurance appropriés. La réalisation de ces objectifs exige une planification actuelle plus intensive, car la mise en œuvre de telles mesures pourrait s'avérer difficile. L'économie de l'adaptation pourrait s'aggraver au fil du temps dans certaines régions, en particulier dans les régions exposées à l'élévation du niveau de la mer. En outre, l'adaptation peut rencontrer des limites techniques ou donner lieu à des compromis difficiles, notamment au moment de décider quelles installations et quelles personnes devront être protégées ou démenagées.

Il faudra prendre en compte une série de mesures. Les entreprises pourraient prendre en compte les considérations climatiques dans la répartition du capital, le développement de produits et de services et la gestion des chaînes d'approvisionnement. Les villes pourraient placer le risque climatique au centre de leurs décisions d'urbanisme, tandis que les institutions financières pourraient faire de même dans la gestion de leurs portefeuilles de placements.

Mais bien que l'adaptation représente actuellement une nécessité pressante, la climatologie nous montre que les risques liés à un réchauffement climatique plus poussé ne peuvent être jugulés qu'à condition de réduire à zéro les émissions nettes de gaz à effet de serre. Les dirigeants d'entreprise et les décideurs politiques doivent donc envisager également des possibilités de décarbonisation, parallèlement à l'adaptation des investissements.

La pandémie actuelle nous démontre à quel point les risques mondiaux peuvent se multiplier et se propager rapidement. À ce titre, la résilience et la gestion des risques sont essentielles pour protéger le monde contre d'autres menaces - et en particulier contre le changement climatique. Comme nous l'avons appris à nos dépens ces derniers mois, les coûts sociaux et économiques liés à l'incapacité à nous préparer à de tels risques sont trop élevés pour que nous les négligions.

Partner In Health Liberia wants more girls in school

By Patrick Mensah, Maryland County

Partner In Health, an NGO has ended two days partnership coordinative meeting with Empower and Forfeit project stakeholders in Harper, Maryland County

The meeting brought together some officials of Partner In Health, local authorities, youths and students.

Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Viola Karanja said the forum was aimed at sensitizing females in the county about the importance of education.

He said since the establishment of the Empower and Forfeit in 2018, they have observed that many girls has dropped from school due to pregnancy; something which she noted is one of the major reasons for establishment of the E and F.

She explained that since the establishment of the program, it has been noted that the number of students dropping from schools has minimized in the county, though more awareness still needs to be done.

The deputy director stressed that with constant awareness, more girls would continue to achieve the

future goals.

Meanwhile, explaining more about the project and its activities, Madam Fatima Guindo said the exercise is mostly aimed at keeping girls in school and reducing the percentage of school dropout among female students due to

care system, renovation of school facilities, where young girls would enroll to achieve their goals, among others.

Madam Guindo said Empower and Forfeit is not only limited to seeing females in school, but to remain safe in their academic sojourn.



pregnancy.

She explained that since the program took off, the percentage of pregnancy in the county has dropped by 12 percent over a period of time.

She underscored the project expectations include guardianship, improving health

For his part, County Health Officer, Dr. Methodius George commended the Partner In Health family for the initiative, adding the E and F program will help in the reduction of the teenage pregnancy in the county. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Govt. fences school campus -after several decades

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has erected a fence around the New Kru Town Junior High School in Montserrdao County Electoral District #16, following several years of encroachment by inhabitants of the area.

The institution is the only government-run school that has provided sound education to youth most of whom are today, prominent members of the society.

A visitation to the school campus recently by this paper observed the erection of fence that has denied intruders from

using the campus as a pathway to get on the main road.

A former student of the school, who is now a classroom teacher, George K. B. Browne explained that over the years, government has spent thousands of dollars to change zincs over the institution, including windows due to constant playing of football on the campus by youth of the borough.

Browne expressed satisfaction for the intervention by the government to secure the facility, which he lamented, has been abused many years by residents living close to the vicinity of the school.

He said the only thing now left for the government is to complete the protection aspect of the school is installation of a steel gate, expressing hope that government would act quickly before resumption of academic activity when Liberia shall have been declared Coronavirus free country.

Teacher Browne noted that on many occasions, criminals



Commerce Ministry

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arbitrary stepping up of its price, adding that it will not relent to apply the appropriate laws in going after those whose inordinate desire is to profiteer at the expense of the public, especially during these testing days of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Liberia.

"At the same time, we

admonish the public to work along with the Ministry's Inspectorate by reporting any unhealthy practices in the Liberian business sector as collaboration plays a pivotal role in curtailing such unwholesome activities." **Press Release**

Gov't warns

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cover up the cost.

"So the pensioners are not paying a dime for this registration process," he clarifies.

He details that in compliance with the policy of the government, the National Bureau of Veterans Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defense and the NIR are working collaboratively to improve the process for monthly payment of AFL pensioners.

He says the team from the government institutions mentioned commenced the process on Tuesday, 30 June at Slipway Community Center, but a group of citizens believed to be former members of the AFL, predominantly those that were demobilized and are not part of the pensioners, disrupted the process.

He explains that the demobilized soldiers entered the registration area and carried out actions that disrupted the exercise and brought it to an abrupt suspension.

On the day following that

incident, Col. Goodridge notes that the group's purported leadership held a press conference, claiming responsibility for the disruption and indicated that they are opposed to the entire process.

"We deplore the actions of these ill-informed compatriots and encourage them to instead seek peaceful, constructive and appropriate means in resolving whatever grievances they may have on the matter," Col. Goodridge cautions.

"As we move forward, let it be known to all that we will not accept any future interruptions of this exercise by anyone anywhere," he warns.

He announces that the registration of AFL pensioners will resume from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Tuesday, 7 July at the Grand Stand of the Barclay Training Center (BTC) on U.N. Drive.

According to him, the process will subsequently continue to the rural parts of Liberia to accommodate AFL pensioners living out Monrovia.

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had burglarized the school building and stolen properties of the institution because its vulnerability.

Meanwhile, authorities and

students of the school can now breathe an air of relief because of the erected fence around the building.

CDC charges applicants US\$1,500 for primaries

By Lewis S. Teh

The organizing committee for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC's) primaries has announced here that all applicants wishing to contest in the 2020 senatorial election on CDC ticket will pay US\$1,500 for registration. "As we gear toward the

Over the weekend Assistant Mines and Energy Minister and Vice Chair for CDC Youth League Mr. Emmanuel T.T. Swen read out the party's guidelines and rules for the upcoming primaries at CDC headquarters in Oldest Congo Town.

He notes that applicants wishing to contest must meet

Mr. Swen reveals that applicants must be partisans or members of the CDC; be in compliance with the Code of Conduct and must be in good standing and willing to participate in the party's primaries that will be conducted by its organizing committee.

For his part, Monrovia Mayor and chair of the committee Jefferson T. Kojee warns individuals against presenting themselves as CDC's senatorial candidates when the party is yet to conduct its primaries.

"We have no interest, nor candidate in these processes. The decision to elect an individual will be made by the partisans of the CDC and not few individuals," he says.

He says the presence of the representative from the Liberia People Democratic Party (LPDP) and the National Patriotic Party (NPP) - two constituent parties of the ruling CDC - is a clear manifestation of the CDC's collaboration.

Already, the organizing committee has divided the country into regions ahead of the primaries, and announces that it is expecting a total of 33,900 delegates to participate in the primaries. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*



conduct of the senatorial mid-term election, all applicants wanting to contest on the ticket of the CDC will have to pay a nonrefundable [fee] of US\$1,500 among other requirements," the committee says.

all requirements set forth by the National Elections Commission NEC for qualification to contest the senatorial mid-term election, adding that the party's primaries are scheduled to take place from 15-30 July.

Snowe to contest senatorial race!

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

At long last Bomi County Electoral District #2 Representative Edwin Melvin Snowe has been petitioned to contest for the senate in December.

Snowe, who resigned from the former ruling Unity Party last week, was during the weekend petitioned in Bomi County by former senator Lahai Gbabyte Lansana to contest in the December 08 midterm senatorial election.

The petitioner in a colorful ceremony in Tubmanburg, Bomi County noted that Snowe's contribution in his district is overwhelming, so he needs a bigger space for the entire county to benefit from his good work.

In recent weeks, there were feud between Rep. Snowe and some executives of the Collaborating Political Parties, which comprised the former ruling Unity Party, the Liberty Party, the Alternative National Congress and the All Liberian Party over Snowe's choice of former Sen. Lansanah to contest for Bomi County senatorial seat that eventually led to his resignation from the UP.

A confidant of Rep. Snowe, Kelvin D. J. Matadi's post on



social media indicates that Representative Snowe will be battling against his former colleague, Ex-speaker Alex Tyler and incumbent Senator Sando Johnson for the senatorial seat.

It is being rumored that Tyler will contest on the ticket of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change of President George Manneh Weah, while Senator Johnson would vie on the CPP ticket following his resignation from the National Patriotic Party.

It is not known which

platform Snowe intends to use to contest or perhaps he may contest as an Independent candidate.

However, there are also speculations that his resignation from the Unity Party is to allow him join ranks with long-time friend from the Liberia Football Association to the ECOWAS parliament, President Weah.

According to reliable source from Bomi, in a live press conference, former Sen. Lansanah said he is stepping aside to give Snowe

Maryland Superintendent

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among a total of nine laboratory technicians were confirmed positive by the National Referral Laboratory on June 2, 2020.

The remaining six laboratory technicians are currently undergoing quarantine following the pronouncement that three of their colleagues have contracted the virus.

He said the County Health Teams are working alone with local authorities to renovate the Gbolobo Health Center to serve as new precautionary observation center (POC) for suspected cases.

However, County Health Officer George called on citizens or residents of those communities where the laboratory technicians live to observe all health protocols being prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

He stressed that the hospital has dispatched its surveillance team to do contact tracing in Harper City and other areas.

Currently, Maryland County has five confirmed COVID-19 cases, including one death, one recovery and three active cases. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Beneficiaries laud

Cont'd from page 6

makes me proud, because our critics will have nothing much to say," Mr. Wiah says.

The food distribution exercise took place in various communities in Montserrado including Buzzy Quarters on Capitol Hill, the Maternity Center on the Bye-pass and the Rocksprings Valley on Capitol Hill.

The food distribution is in line with the president's mandate for the provision of food support for most vulnerable communities across the country.

The exercise over the weekend was the fifth within Montserrado, which has benefited several communities and over 30 orphanages since its inception.

The distribution saw beneficiaries receiving two 25kg bag of rice, 28 cups of beans and one gallon of vegetable.

Meanwhile, officials from the Ministry of Information told residents that government takes seriously the observation of every health protocol during the distribution exercise, and will ensure that adherence to those measures are considered.

The ministry further calls on youth groups to form part of the food distribution exercise and report any form of irregularities that could disrupt the true intent of the distribution. *-Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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the opportunity because the CPP had earlier endorsed Senator Sando Johnson without according courtesy to Rep. Snowe, who is seen as the political godfather of the county.

Prior to his endorsement, Rep. Snowe has persistently expressed verbal for Lansanah as his choice for the Bomi senatorial seat.

The former senator has been Snowe's political ally since the lawmaker relocated from Montserrado County to Bomi County district#2 where he contested and won in 2017.

Lansanah was elected to the Senate in 2005, and one time served as acting pro-tempore of the Liberian Senate in 2009. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Sports

With **Emmanuel B. Juduh**

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No rice shortage

-Commerce Ministry



Commerce Minister, Prof. Wilson Tarpeh

The attention of the of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has immediately been drawn increasing speculations, pointing to shortage of Liberia's staple food, rice, when the Country's current rice inventory shows that such speculations are far from the reality.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry says based on current inventory, there are 40,000 (forty thousand) Metric Tons of rice in the country, accounting for 1.6 million bags of the 25Kg rice.

It says the available quantity has the capacity to supply the local rice market for approximately three months, and that besides, a

consignment of 30,000 Metric Tons, equivalent to 1.2 million bags of rice is expected in Liberia this July that will sustain the local market for two months.

The Ministry also notes that out of this quantity (thirty thousand Metric Tons) expected, 18,000 Metric Tons are due in between July 12 and 18, 2020.

An additional supply of 55,000 (fifty five thousand) Metric Tons are expected in the country in August this year, accounting for 2.2 million, equivalent to about four months' supply.

"We would also like to make it emphatically clear that the approved retail price for the 25Kg bag of Rice is US\$13.50 (thirty United States Dollars and fifty cents)."

Against this backdrop, the Commerce Ministry is warning against unwholesome practices in the Liberian business sector, including but not limited to hoarding of any commodity for that matter or

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No rush over Lacazette's Arsenal contract talks, says Arteta

Mikel Arteta insists there is no rush when it comes to holding contract talks with Alexandre Lacazette - but says he is planning to sit down with the Arsenal striker to discuss his future.

The France international has two years left on the five-year deal he signed when he arrived in north London from Lyon in 2017.

Firm discussions over extending his stay have yet to take place, with Arsenal

focusing on more pressing issues in recent months such as the futures of Bukayo Saka and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Arteta accepts that talks to determine Lacazette's future will soon need to take place, with the 29-year-old being linked with a move away this summer amid reported interest from Atletico Madrid, although Arsenal's head coach admits the focus right now has to be on finishing the season in the best way possible.

"We have to have a chat



about the next step with him and get his idea, his feeling," said Arteta. "As I said, I am really happy with him."

"He is a player that I always liked, even when I wasn't here, because of what he brings to the team - his qualities, his abilities, his work-rate. So, let's see."

"But now we are in a crucial moment, there is no time to talk about a lot of contractual situations. We still have time and we will do it in the right moment."

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