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Continental News

What Donald Trump gets wrong about Somalia

In our series of letters from African journalists, Ismail Einashe considers how Somalia has become caught up in the US election campaign.

President Donald Trump is making Somali-American congresswoman Ilhan Omar one of the bogeywomen of his campaign for re-election to the White House in November - and by proxy her country of birth, Somalia.

In his most recent attack, at a campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he tore into the 37-year-old alleging that she wanted to bring the "anarchy" of Somalia to the US.

"She would like to make the government of our country just like the country from where she came - Somalia. No government, no safety, no police, no nothing, just anarchy. And now, she's telling us how to run our country. No, thank-you."

Ms Omar, who arrived in the US as a child refugee in 1995, is a congressional representative for Minnesota, which includes the city of Minneapolis where African-American George Floyd was killed by police in May, reigniting Black Lives Matter

protests. But it was Ms Omar's Somali heritage the president chose to focus on in Tulsa, perhaps to distract from all the turmoil and unrest closer to home.

In response Ms Omar said his remarks were "racist". She added that his anger came out of a recent poll that had shown him trailing his rival, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, in her state, which is home to a large Somali-American community.

The president described Ms Omar as a "hate-filled,

American-bashing socialist", warning she would have a role in shaping the country if Mr Biden were to win.

This is despite the fact that the pair are on opposite ends of the Democratic Party - Ms Omar had been a prominent supporter of Bernie Sanders to win the Democratic ticket. But such rhetoric plays well to his base, so the electoral stage has been set, the cast chosen - and Ms Omar and Somalia have starring roles.

In fact they both debuted

last year at Mr Trump's rally in North Carolina, where the crowd chanted about Ms Omar: "Send her back! Send her back!" It echoed the "lock her up" phrase adopted by his supporters against his rival Hillary Clinton in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election.

Ms Omar, who is a fierce critic of the president, had been in hot water at the time - censured by both Democrats and Republicans - for stoking stereotypes about Jews and had apologised for tweets implying US lawmakers only support Israel because of lobby money.

Republican Senator Rand Paul had offered to buy a plane ticket for the "ungrateful" Ms Omar to go to Somalia. He suggested she should return to get a better appreciation for the United States. It seems Mr Trump's view of Somalia stems from the aftermath of the overthrow of Siad Barre in 1991, since when it has popularly been considered one

of the world's most failed states. This label has stubbornly stuck even as the situation has improved in the country.

While Mr Trump imagines that Somalia has no laws, no police and no government, this is far from the reality on the ground. While al-Shabab does still stage attacks in Mogadishu, it is not the Hobbesian nightmare of a country that President Trump describes.

The impressive new National Theatre was unveiled just last week - there are fancy hotels, cafes and beach-side restaurants in Mogadishu and the city even has a literary festival, the annual Mogadishu Book Fair, the Hargeisa Cultural Centre while the Hargeisa Book Fair, which has been taking place for more than a decade, draws in thousands every year.

And even though it has not been recognised internationally, Somaliland has held successive free and fair elections, making it the strongest democracy in the Horn of Africa. BBC



Madagascar imposes lockdown to curb coronavirus infections

Madagascar has placed one of its main regions, which covers the capital, Antananarivo, back under a strict lockdown following a surge in coronavirus infections. The government announced that the lockdown would come into effect on Monday and end on 20 July. It will include a ban on traffic in

and out of the region and a curfew on the movement of people on the street.

"Only one person per household is allowed to go out into the street between 06:00 and 12:00," the government said in a statement.

The lockdown is meant to slow the spread of the virus, authorities explained.

There are 2,941 confirmed

cases, and 32 people have died since the virus was first detected on the island in March. Close to 24,000 tests have been done so far.

Madagascar made international news in May when President Andry Rajoelina launched a herbal tonic known as CovidOrganics, which contains the anti-malarial artemisia plant, saying it could cure and prevent coronavirus

It has been widely distributed and is being given freely to pupils in schools across the country.

Although its efficacy has not yet been scientifically established, a number of African countries have since ordered it to try it for themselves. The African Union said in May that it wanted to see the scientific data on the "safety and efficacy" of the product.

The World Health Organization has issued a warning against people using untested remedies for coronavirus. BBC



In May President Andry Rajoelina launched a herbal tonic known as CovidOrganics

Malawi cancels independence day celebrations



President Lazarus Chakwera also scaled back inauguration plans

Malawi's new president, Lazarus Chakwera, has called off independence celebrations and further scaled back plans for Monday's formal inauguration.

Both events were due to be marked by a huge jamboree in Lilongwe's football stadium.

On Saturday, the president announced the stadium's capacity would be halved to 20,000 to limit the spread of

coronavirus. Now the stadium festivities have been cancelled altogether, with the inauguration being moved to a military barracks to be witnessed by only 100 specially-invited guests.

The cancellation will put a dampener on the euphoria generated by the historic opposition triumph in a recent election re-run, after last year's fraudulent polls were overturned. BBC

EDITORIAL

Rep. Snowe wants to cause by-election

BOMI COUNTY DISTRICT#2 Representative Edwin Melvin Snowe, Jr., like many of his colleagues in the House of Representatives, seems to be gearing up to vie for the senate in December, a move that could impose additional financial strains on government to conduct by-elections in many parts of the country.

ALREADY, GOVERNMENT IS still struggling to fund the pending midterm senatorial election in all 15 counties, ahead of Presidential and Representatives elections in 2023.

BUT SNOWE HAS been petitioned by former Bomi County senator LahaiGbabye Lansana to contest in the December 08 midterm senatorial election despite being a current sitting lawmaker for the county.

IF HE STEPPED into the race, automatically a vacant seat would be created in Bomi County district#2 should he win hence, a need for by-election to refill such seat in an economy that is already suffocating from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMAGINE IF FIVE incumbent representatives or more contested in the in midterm senatorial election; how many vacant seats that would need to be refilled before the 2023 elections and the cost associated.

THIS WOULD BE happening in the face of our crippling health sector that needs all of the support to adequately serve the country's population. Equally so, the education sector is beset by challenges, ranging from lack of trained teachers, laboratories and libraries, among others.

IF GOVERNMENT WOULD be constrained to spend millions of dollars to conduct by-elections while other areas that are as well important face neglect then we are making no progress as a people.

SNOWE AND OTHER sitting lawmakers to join him soon should reconsider their decision and remain where they are to serve their people rather than abandoning their districts to seek greener pasture at the expense of the economy.

THIS PAPER DOES not in any way seek to disenfranchise any Liberian citizen from exercising his or her rights under the Constitution, but when duly elected lawmakers already representing their people would abandon them for greener pasture, then it is no longer public service. We call such behavior sheer greed and selfishness.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS SHOULD conduct themselves in ways that would earn them trust from the people rather than wanting all for themselves and not being appreciative for where God has lifted them.

COMMENTARY

By Iqbal Dhaliwal & Samantha Friedlander

Learning from the Lockdown

The COVID-19 pandemic is the largest synchronized shock the world has experienced in generations. But this crisis will not be the last of its kind. We urgently need to learn as much as we can from the current experience and adapt international development practices and research accordingly.

CAMBRIDGE - As with so much else, international development has been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. How might we use these lessons to reshape the sector, rather than returning to the status quo?

For starters, the crisis has reminded us that nature still reigns supreme, and it should spur us to step up efforts to mitigate and adapt to other systemic threats, particularly climate change, which will continue to be the biggest threat to development. According to the Climate Impact Lab, global warming could lead to as many as 1.5 million excess deaths per year in India by 2100, rivaling the toll of all infectious diseases combined. In addition to applying our current scientific knowledge to existing problems - from improving environmental auditing to deploying flood-resistant varieties of rice - we need to accelerate innovations that reduce carbon dioxide emissions and pollution, help communities adapt to climate change, and provide access to clean energy. And, most important, we must pilot and evaluate new initiatives, and scale those with the biggest impact.

The pandemic has also taught us that public health is about more than physical illnesses. For many people - particularly in developing countries - staying home simply isn't a safe option. Domestic violence, including both physical and emotional abuse, is expected to rise sharply as a result of lockdowns. Extended periods of isolation could exacerbate anxiety, depression, and other related mental health conditions. And those battling addictions are struggling to get the support they need. Rather than hoping these problems will simply disappear whenever the lockdowns are lifted (they won't), we should acknowledge that mental health has long been a neglected issue in policy debates.

Yet another lesson from the crisis is that there can be no substitute for government. Over the past decade, many international funders and development organizations have tried to bypass governments, owing to concerns about corruption or red tape. But the pandemic has made clear that governments are the leading actors when it comes to containing infectious diseases, administering development policies, providing social protection to the unemployed, and alleviating poverty. That is why we at MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) have focused on building long-term partnerships with governments and are now supporting them in scaling up evidence-based policies.

Governments also need to be able to transfer cash to vulnerable citizens quickly. While the United States and other advanced economies have managed to transfer emergency funds directly to their citizens, many other countries that have introduced household stimulus checks, cash transfers, or other social protections have failed to deliver them to those who need support the most. Clearly, these countries need to rethink how they identify the poorest individuals, so that they can provide them with digital forms of identity and other requisites of financial inclusion. In the future, these will be the key components of the social safety net for countries at all stages of development.

Another critical issue is education. Although learning is possible outside of physical schools, the pandemic is sure to set back education for many children. Helping them keep up is thus an urgent priority. With schools closed, the obvious response is to pursue Internet-based teaching. Research shows that software allowing students to move at their own pace can be effective.

But remote learning obviously isn't an option for students who lack Internet access, have special needs, or share one computer or phone among many family members. These children's educations have effectively been put on hold during the pandemic, as was already the case for many of the world's refugees, over half of whom are children. It will be crucial to help these children catch up when the time comes. Here, research shows that intensive, repeated "learning camps" in which students are grouped at their current learning level, rather than by age or grade, can be immensely helpful.

From Brazil's favelas and India's migrant caravans to France's banlieues and communities of color in the US, it is the poor who have borne the brunt of COVID-19's health, economic, and psychological costs. But reaching those most in need of useful information is a major challenge, because conventional media channels can go only so far, and misinformation is rife on social media. Thus, researchers are testing whether recruiting well-connected individuals or "influencers" would ensure that messages are disseminated reliably through pre-existing social networks.

In the meantime, the pandemic has pushed policymakers everywhere to experiment with different strategies for encouraging social distancing, hand washing, and other infection-prevention measures. They could consider making some of the existing cash transfers conditional on healthy behavior, as research has found this to be an effective way to mitigate the spread of the virus and improve overall health.

This is another strategy that need not be limited to the current crisis. For example, in non-pandemic times, receiving cash disbursements could depend on whether one's children have been vaccinated or had an annual check-up. Policies that encourage healthier lifestyles have become increasingly urgent, given the rising threat from largely preventable non-communicable diseases, which already kill more than 40 million people worldwide each year.

In the absence of in-person data collection during the lockdown, many social science researchers have shifted to using administrative data. The data that governments and non-governmental organizations already collect could be enormously useful in testing the efficacy of new programs. J-PAL's Innovations in Data and Experiments for Action (IDEA) Initiative, for example, is building partnerships to help governments improve their use of administrative data. The crisis has also forced many research projects to collect data through phone surveys. Again, lessons learned from this work will inform research that uses phone surveys for data collection well into the future, enabling governments and NGOs to gather much more accurate information in real time from the communities they serve.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Jireh Mwamukonda

Harnessing Malawi's Youth Bulge

Malawi's large and growing youth population does not lack talent or ambition. But how can an impoverished, landlocked democracy deliver the training, resources, and opportunities they need to apply those qualities?

LILONGWE - Malawi is facing a massive youth bulge, with more than half the population under the age of 18 - a share that is growing fast. This can be a boon for development, as a dynamic young working-age population propels the economy into the future. But, if the country fails to provide adequate educational and employment opportunities to its youth population, such a demographic structure can become highly destabilizing.

For Malawi, the risk of the latter outcome is high. A landlocked country bordered by Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia, Malawi has ranked among the world's poorest countries since it gained independence from the British in 1964. In 2016, a staggering 70.3% of the population was living below the World Bank's poverty line of less than \$1.90 per day (in purchasing-power-parity terms). Last year, the country ranked 172nd out of 189 countries and territories in the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report.

Against this background, Malawi's booming population - which is set to double, from 17.5 million in 2018, by 2038 - poses considerable challenges, as it strains the country's limited resources, from investment capital to food. The result could easily be widespread unemployment, malnutrition, and conceivably large-scale migration. Climate change will only exacerbate these resource pressures, making mitigation policies all but impossible to implement.

The first step toward ensuring that the Malawi demographic boom does not stunt its development potential is to curb the fertility rate through better family planning. This means both delivering contraceptives and educating the population on how to use them. More broadly, education - especially of girls and women - is closely correlated with declining fertility rates.

But Malawi can do more than limit its youth bulge; it can harness its demographic dividend to spur economic development. What the country's young people lack is not talent or ambition, but the training, resources, and opportunities needed to apply them. For many young Malawians, the best hope of escaping poverty is migrating to much more economically dynamic South Africa.

To build a thriving economy that makes the most of local talent, Malawi can draw inspiration from Rwanda. Until the summer of 1994, Rwanda was locked in a vicious civil war, in which more than a million people were brutally murdered.

And yet, from 2011 to 2014, Rwanda's annual GDP growth averaged about 8%, propelled by investment in construction, agricultural modernization, mining, and manufacturing. More recently, Rwanda has focused on building up its information and communications technology (ICT) sector, which can provide solutions in a range of areas, including health, transport, environment, and energy.

Malawi should take a similar approach, employing prudent economic planning and management and sustained investment in human capital to spur growth and development. It can even channel resources toward the same sectors as Rwanda does, in order to diversify an economy that now depends largely on traditional rain-fed agriculture, with tobacco as the main cash crop.

Young people can spearhead this transformation. But ICT, in particular, demands improved education and training, not only in school, but also once workers are already in the labor force. Furthermore, targeted employment and health policies should be introduced, to ensure that young people share in the dividends of private-sector success. And the government should aim to nurture talent in the arts, including fashion, and sports, thereby providing young people with another potential path out of poverty.

There are reasons for optimism. Since 2017, Malawi's government has been working with UNICEF to expand the use of drones and data for development and humanitarian purposes, from delivering medical resources to collecting aerial imagery for predictive analytics. In order to ensure that there are enough skilled workers to seize the opportunities offered by drone and data technology, UNICEF established the first African Drone and Data Academy this past January in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe.

Moreover, Malawi has built a robust democracy since independence. When last year's presidential election, which delivered a narrow victory to the incumbent, Peter Mutharika, was shown to have been marred by "widespread" irregularities, the constitutional court overturned the result and ordered a new vote.

Many other African countries could learn much from Malawi's democratic process, in which young people play a crucial role by campaigning, voting, and, when necessary, protesting. Their government must now respond with the necessary steps to ensure that their economic prospects are as promising as their abilities.

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OPINION

By Devesh Kapur

The Crisis India Needed

The future direction and extent of India's reforms will increasingly reflect the challenge posed by China, which Indians now regard as their principal enemy. Ironically, as India seeks to escape China's shadow, it will have its powerful neighbor to thank for finally triggering changes that should have happened long ago.

WASHINGTON, DC - The ongoing standoff between Chinese and Indian forces along the two countries' disputed Himalayan border recently resulted in the first troop casualties there in decades, with some Indian soldiers killed in particularly brutal fashion. Moreover, the intensity of China's multiple cross-border incursions suggests approval from the highest levels of the Chinese government.

Satellite pictures confirm that Chinese forces have occupied at least 60 square kilometers (23.2 square miles) of territory that India claims as its own. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has downplayed this uncomfortable reality, perhaps out of concern that publicly acknowledging the truth would inflame domestic public opinion and fuel a highly undesirable escalation of tensions. A less benign interpretation, however, is that the government is embarrassed, because its claim to be more muscular than its predecessor in confronting external aggression has been proven hollow.

But China's recent saber-rattling may paradoxically benefit India by jolting it out of one of its periodic stupors. After its disastrous 1962 war with China, for example, India undertook a sweeping modernization of its military and subsequently won a decisive victory in the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War.

Similarly, after its own misguided economic policies raised the specter of mass starvation in 1966-67, India launched the "Green Revolution," and today has nearly 100 million tons of grain stocks. And, following its massive balance-of-payments crisis in 1989-91, India initiated a historic economic liberalization program that ushered in a quarter-century of unprecedentedly rapid growth.

In each case, a crisis served as a kick in the pants. China has now delivered another. The Communist Party of China has been adept at leveraging the country's humiliation at the hands of foreign powers in the nineteenth century to drive domestic change while preserving its own political monopoly. But the CPC's recent aggressive behavior toward India mimics that of China's former imperial masters - and will likely have similar consequences.

First, China's show of force will set back its relations with India by decades. Since the turn of the century, Indian policymakers have wrung their hands over how to handle China's extraordinary rise. They are well aware of how China has sought to stymie India, whether by offering neighboring Pakistan carte blanche regarding cross-border terrorism, blocking India in different international fora, or making strategic inroads in its neighborhood. But Indian governments, recognizing their country's weakness, have been loath to poke the dragon with which it shares a border more than 4,000 kilometers (2,485 miles) long.

India will now be less inhibited about deepening ties with the other three members of the so-called "Quad" (Australia, Japan, and the United States) and more forcefully embracing the "Indo-Pacific" concept. Furthermore, it will be increasingly wary of participating in Chinese-led multilateral fora, and, where possible, will seek to hinder China's efforts to establish a Sinosphere.

Second, it has become abundantly clear that India's military inferiority to China reflects a widening economic gap. The previous Indian government, under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, raised the economy to new heights in its first term (2004-09), and lowered it to new depths in its second (2009-14). But, under Modi, India's economy has been spinning its wheels, and reform has now become an existential necessity for national security.

Third, India will now accelerate military changes. Although Modi's government loves to talk tough, military expenditures have declined from 2.9% of GDP in 2009 to 2.4% last year.

Moreover, the government's populist policy of sharply raising army pensions has meant that India's defense budget this year allocated more money to military retirement benefits than to army salaries. Indeed, defense pensions as a share of non-pension defense spending has quadrupled, from less than 10% in the late 1980s to over 40% this year. And with salaries and pensions accounting for nearly three-fifths of Indian defense spending, there is little left to invest in modernization. Whereas China spends more than two-fifths of its defense budget on modernization, and Pakistan more than one-third, the share in India's case is barely one-quarter.

Finally, while Modi's ruling party has polarized Indian society around religion, China has now inadvertently supplied the glue to bind Indians together - if only in shared hostility. Chinese President Xi Jinping seems to have a unique ability in that regard. For example, Australians' trust in China has fallen to its lowest ever level. Australia, as much as any Western country, had previously sought strong ties with China. But when the Australian government called earlier this year for an independent inquiry into the origins of COVID-19, China retaliated by blocking Australian imports, underscoring the degree to which it is now using economic coercion against its critics.

Likewise, a Pew Research Center survey in March found that a record 66% of Americans had an unfavorable view of China. And China's aggressive stance toward Hong Kong ensured that incumbent Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen comfortably won re-election in January, after the opposition Kuomintang had seemed poised to win on a platform of closer economic links with China.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Tanzanian Heads UN Convention on Biological Diversity

By KesterKennKlomegah

Elizabeth MarumaMrema, a national of the United Republic of Tanzania in East Africa, has been appointed as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. She is a lawyer based in Montreal, Canada, takes on her new role after more than a decade in leadership positions at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - and at a crucial time.

She has published several articles related to international environmental law, compliance and enforcement of conventions and developed, among others, a number of multilateral environmental agreements negotiation tools, handbooks and guidelines currently used by UNEP in its capacity-building programmes.

By her appointment, Elizabeth Mrema becomes the first woman from Africa to lead the intergovernmental body. She will oversee the creation of a global biodiversity agreement for the next decade. It therefore means she has a mighty task ahead of her, leading countries as they negotiate new biodiversity targets.

The biological diversity was created by a UN treaty, signed into force by nations in 1992, and helps to set global targets to conserve biodiversity. The previous global biodiversity targets, signed in 2010 and called the Aichi targets, are widely agreed to have failed to stop species loss.

Some scientists are now renewing calls for a single target to halt species extinction. But others worry that an extinction target would neglect other important goals of the agreements, such as ensuring that benefits from biological resources are shared.

"One could say that I have been appointed at a bad time for biodiversity, considering that the whole world is just emerging from, or still in, lockdown," she says. "But at the same time, I see it as a major

opportunity, as biodiversity is being discussed more than ever before."

The new coronavirus, which originated in animals before it spread to people, has also brought renewed calls to stop the trading of wildlife, provoking long-simmering tensions between those who want to conserve species, and those pushing for their sustainable use.

There is greater awareness of the impact that human



Elizabeth MarumaMrema

activities can have on nature, and of the connection between human health and biodiversity. The interference, through deforestation, agricultural expansion, livestock intensification and habitat fragmentation, has exposed wild animals and brought them into closer contact with people, which has resulted in the spillover of pathogens and zoonotic diseases, human-to-human transmission through trade and tourism, and the explosive pandemic currently in

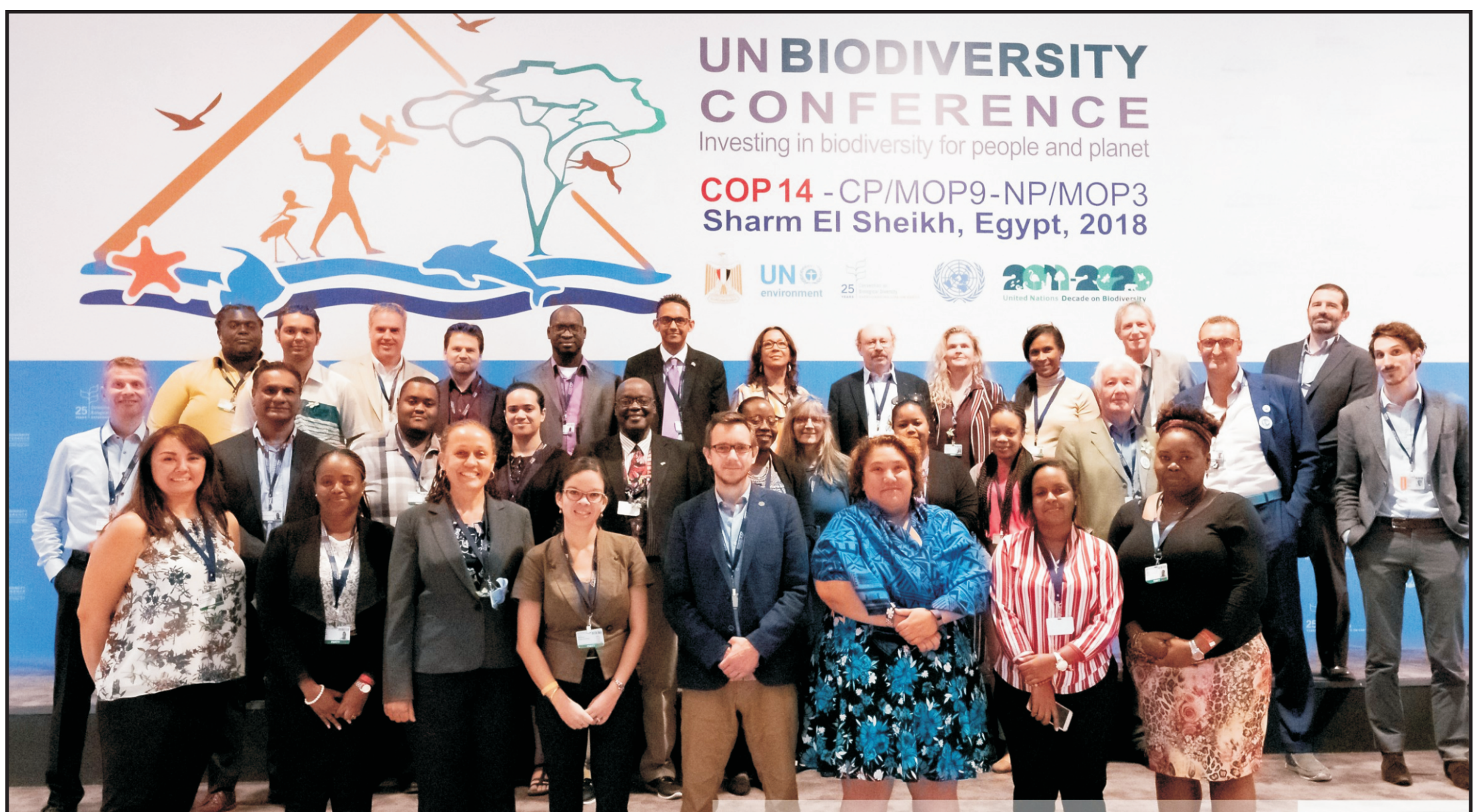
the world, explains Elizabeth Mrema.

But the coronavirus pandemic has brought these issues to the fore, and has emphasized discussions about how to prevent future pandemics. Closing wet markets and banning wildlife trading totally would negatively affect communities who depend on wild animals. The consumers and buyers of wild animals are not the poor people; they are the affluent communities in the cities. A total ban would also open the door to illegal trade in wildlife.

"Instead, we need more hygienic practices in wet markets that continue to operate, and regulated wildlife trade, within the framework of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. We need to ensure the sustainable consumption of species for those communities who rely on this, while also curbing illegal trade. It is a delicate balance. Countries cannot deal with these problems on their own. We need international cooperation," she added.

The current biodiversity targets have largely failed. The reasons for those failures are now well-known, and there is need building on those lessons into the draft global biodiversity framework. Unlike the previous goals, the major difference this time is that all stakeholders, including youth, business and indigenous groups have contributed to various iterations of the draft.

The parties are still the decision-makers who will finally adopt the framework, but they have realized that they need the engagement of other groups during the negotiations and in implementation. It has to involve environmental ministries and departments, and this time, health, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, planning and finance ministries are getting involved.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rep. Dopoh wants SOE revoked

By Bridgett Milton

River Gee County District #3 Representative Francis Dopoh is calling on President George M. Weah to revoke the State of Emergency because it has

execution of the SOE is purely constitutional and Article 88 is very clear that upon the declaration of the State of Emergency, the President has seven days to submit same to the Legislature.

Article 88 of the 1986

regular session or at a specially convened session the facts and circumstances leading to such declaration.

President George M. Weah on June 22, extended the State of Emergency by an additionally 30 days stop the spread of the Corona virus in the country.

The President last Tuesday submitted the document to the Legislature for approval or rejection, which was never done by the Legislature within the 72hrs. Rep. Dopoh explained that within the 72hrs, if the two-third vote is not obtained by both Houses, the State of Emergency is automatically revoked.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday at his residence in Brewerville City, Montserrado County, he said the President has seven days to lay the SOE before the Legislature and the Legislature has 72hrs to approve it.

According to him, he is going to the Supreme Court to seek declaratory judgment against the Executive the government continues in such form and manner.



Representative Francis Dopoh

passed the deadline set by the Constitution to be approved by the 54th Legislature.

According to him, the Constitution of Liberia should take its course because the

Constitution states that the President shall, immediately upon the declaration of a State of Emergency not later than seven days thereafter lay before the Legislature at its

Court denies government petition in Root FM case

By Ben P. Wesee

Criminal Court "A" presiding Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie has dismissed prosecutors' request to reverse previous ruling by Acting Monrovia City Court Stipendiary Magistrate Ernest BanaFlomo that had denied their petition for the city court to dismiss Roots Holding's request to return Roots FM's seized equipment.

Roots FM 102.7 which is one of the subsidiaries of Roots Holding Inc. that had government critic and talk show host Henry Costa as its key voice, has been off the air since state securities in October 2019 raided its facilities, seizing equipment including keyboard, mixers, microphones and computers

denied and the ruling of the magistrate is hereby affirmed and confirmed," Judge Willie rules.

According to the court document, the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice filed a petition before Magistrate Flomo on 9 October 2019 to search, seize and arrest the Management of Roots FM 102.7 by and through its Chief Executive Officer, General Manager, Station Manager and the Management of the radio station.

The document continues that the petition filed by the Ministry of Justice indicated that the basis for the petition was that the radio station or respondents were in violation



allegedly used to commit serious crimes against the Republic.

While denying the government's request to reverse the magisterial court's ruling, the Criminal Court "A" on Monday, 6 July affirmed the Monrovia City Court's ruling and mandated it to resume jurisdiction of the case and proceed into disposition of Roots Holding's motion to return property and suppress evidence.

"In view therefore, the summary proceeding or petition/petition filed by the Government of Liberia / Ministry of Justice to reverse the ruling of the then Acting Stipendiary Magistrate is

of Section 15 of the Telecommunication Act of 2007 and Chapter 11, Section 11.2(d) of the Criminal Procedure Law.

The government accused the respondents or Roots Holding Inc. of operating a radio station without valid license and illegally using their broadcasting equipment for the commission of serious crimes against the government of Liberia.

The court document notes that Magistrate Flomo granted the petition of the Ministry of Justice and court officers proceeded to the compound of the station, searched, seized,

Court orders PACA boss arrested

The Paynesville Magisterial Court has ordered the Liberia National Police to arrest and detain the living body of the executive director of the Patriotic Consciousness Association (PACA) Federick Baye and one Ellen Ferkerson.

The two defendants are charged with the crimes of misapplication of entrusted property, criminal trespass and criminal attempt to commit theft of property.

The court said, the order to arrest is predicated upon the defendants' refusal to honor a writ issued them June 24, to appear before the Magistrate William Saygah to answer to charges brought against them.

According to a writ issued by the court under the signature of the clerk of court, Henry Doelakeh, defendants Federick Baye and Ellen Annie Ferkerson were both entrusted with the administrative deed of one Mr. Anthony Kimpson for safekeeping, but they refused and failed to present same to the family after the death of Mr. Kimpson.

The writ noted further that defendant Federick Baye, criminally, intentionally and illegally attempted on many occasions to sell portion of the property without the will and consent of the administrator of the intestate in violation of the statute of the late Anthony Kimpson.

The decision by Cllr. Kanne Wesso, family lawyer of the late Susana A. Brown, who was wife of the late Mr. Kimpson, to take the matter to court followed an

illegal survey notice issued by the defendants to survey one acre of land from the property.

Said survey notice signed by the late Susana A. Brown named nine adjacent property owners to appear with their diagrams, title deeds and map to substantiate their claims in order to avoid conflict.

Mr. Baye who the court

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Kru Town residents to petition Weah, Legislature, U. S. Embassy -over sea erosion

By Emmanuel Mondaye

At least 1,500 inhabitants of the Municipality Borough of New Kru Town outside Monrovia will today, Tuesday, 6 July petition President

In recent days rise in the sea wave has left residents of Largon Community situated after the Jewel Howard-Taylor School homeless.

The situation affected dozens of children when erosion swept their parents' houses constructed several years ago,

of the victims are currently being housed at the Juah Sarwee Memorial Welfare Institute.

He said the institution provides free and compulsory education to over 1,742 vulnerable students for several years now thereby, easing the financial burdens of parents.

According to Mr. Teah, he



Several residential structures destroyed by sea srosion

George M. Weah, the House of Representatives, and the United States Embassy near the capital over sea erosion and other issues affecting their lives.

including school materials, among others.

Making the disclosure to this paper over the weekend, a prominent son of the community Robert Teah disclosed that most

accommodtade some of the erosion victims in early April and has been catering to them through the goodwill of some

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Gov't not building trust

-Lawrence Yealue

By Lewis S. Teh

The Country Director of Accountability Lab, Lawrence Yealue has observed that the Government of Liberia is not building trust among the population, something he said is responsible for violation of health protocols announced.

"One of the reasons why we see Relight, and Duala market dwellers continue to don't care for health measures and mandate to observe social distance is due to lack of trust from their government", he noted.

Speaking recently in Monrovia during a one day forum, Mr. Yealue wondered how government was coordination its information, saying, is the government using relevant facts to dispel rumors?

He said Accountability Lab focuses on accountability issues, and one thing it has observed is that the government is not coordinating its information the right way. He noted that any government that coordinates its information



Country Director of Accountability Lab, Lawrence Yealue

properly would be heading in the right direction.

Mr. Yealue added that failure by the government to build trust her people, derives from the way it often communicates issues of national concern, warning that if it must regain the lost trust, the community strategies should be revisited.

"If the fight against this unknown enemy which we consider as Coronavirus will make a significant impact, and

if citizens must trust what their government says than they must know when, how to say it, and the impact such pronouncement will have on the citizens. We all know it's the right of any president to embark on whatever projects he may want to, but I think if the President must embark on a specific project, especially, during this COVID-19 period, he should make a full disclosure of said project

Former VP Boakai installs new Rotary Club of Sinkor Officers

Former Vice President Joseph Boakai installed Pauline S. Kwaboas President of the Rotary Club of Sinkor for the year 2020/2021 on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Also installed were Melvin Crawford, vice president; Hannah Berrian, secretary; William Montgomery, treasurer; and Michael Sie, sergeant-at-arms.

The officers will oversee the affairs of the Rotary Club of Sinkor for 2020-2021 along with the directors of

States, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Guinea Bissau. Rotary International is a global network of leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges through its 1.2 million members making up 35,000 clubs around the world. The Rotary Club of Sinkor is one of three Rotary organizations in Liberia. The Sinkor Club was chartered in May 2008 and currently has 40 members.

Mr. Christo Forster, District Governor-elect (District 9101),



Madam Kwabo

committees and the next President- Elect Florence Allen Johnson. The incoming directors are Decontee King-Sackie, club administration, Mildred Cooper Reeves, foundation; C. Gyude Bedell, service projects, Nancy D. Freeman, membership, Musu Deshield Mitchell, public relations, and Rose Macauley, new generation.

The installation ceremony took place via zoom and was witnessed by more than 75 people from Liberia, United

of Sierra Leone, served as the guest speaker. He encouraged the Rotary Club of Sinkor to focus on young people because they are the future of the organization and the country.

In her address, Mrs. Kwabo thanked the Almighty God for giving her the opportunity to lead the Rotary Club of Sinkor. She acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic poses some unique challenges for the club because Rotarians cannot

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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rather than just embarking on it", something he said borders on integrity.

Yealue said part of their work at Accountability Lab is to do a weekly bulleting that cross check facts from WHO,

NPHIL, and other partners, noting that such work should be carried out by NPHIL, to be checking various facts, and debunking rumors about the health protocols. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Snowe candida taux sénatoriales à Bomi!

Enfin, le représentant du district électoral n° 2 du comté de Bomi, Edwin Melvin Snowe, a reçu une pétition pour se présenter aux élections sénatoriales en décembre.

Snowe, qui a démissionné du Parti de l'unité, ancien parti au pouvoir, la semaine

dernière, a été pétitionné le week-end dernier dans le comté de Bomi par l'ancien sénateur LahaiGbabye Lansana pour se présenter aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat du 8 décembre.

Lors d'une cérémonie haute en couleur à Tubmanburg, dans le comté de Bomi, le pétitionnaire a noté que la

contribution de Snowe dans son district était énorme, il lui faut donc un espace plus grand pour que tout le comté puisse bénéficier de son bon travail.

Au cours des dernières semaines, il y a eu une querelle entre le représentant Snowe et certains dirigeants de l'alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition, dont l'ancien parti au pouvoir est membre. La dispute est née du fait qu'il a porté son choix sur l'ancien sénateur Lansana pour représenter l'alliance dans le comté de Bomilors des sénatoriales.

Un confident du représentant Snowe, Kelvin D. J. Matadi, a dit dans un post sur les médias sociaux que le représentant Snowe affrontera son ancien collègue, Alex Tyler, ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, et le sénateur sortant Sando Johnson.

Selon les rumeurs, Tyler se présentera sur le ticket de la coalition pour le changement

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Briguer les sénatoriales sur le ticket du parti au pouvoir est payant

Le comité d'organisation des primaires de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir a annoncé que tous ceux qui souhaitent participer aux élections sénatoriales de 2020 sur le ticket de la CDC devront payer 1.500 USD.

« Alors que nous nous dirigeons vers les élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat, tous les candidats souhaitant se présenter sur le ticket de la CDC devront payer entre autres des frais non remboursables de 1 500 \$ US », précise le comité.

Au cours du week-end, le ministre adjoint des Mines et de l'Énergie et vice-président de la Ligue des jeunes de la CDC, M. Emmanuel T.T. Swen, a lu les directives et les règles du parti pour les primaires à venir au siège du parti à Oldest Congo Town.

Il a fait savoir que les candidats qui souhaitent se présenter aux élections doivent remplir toutes les conditions énoncées par la Commission électorale nationale NEC pour participer aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat, ajoutant que les primaires du parti devraient

avoir lieu du 15 au 30 juillet.

M. Swena a révélé que les candidats doivent être membres de la CDC, être en règle vis-à-vis du Code de conduite et disposés à participer aux primaires du parti qui seront organisées par le comité d'organisation de la Coalition au pouvoir.

Pour sa part, le maire de Monrovia et président du

comité, Jefferson T. Koijee, a mis en garde contre le fait de s'auto-proclamer candidat de la mouvance au pouvoir bien avant les primaires.

« Nous n'avons aucun intérêt, ni candidat dans ce processus. La décision d'élire un individu sera prise par les militants de la CDC, non par

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Pres. Weah



CDC Chairman Morlu

GUINÉE : LA VENTE DES TERRES FINANCE LA MIGRATION

La Guinée est le premier pays d'Afrique subsaharienne en termes d'immigration irrégulière en France. Un phénomène particulier et dramatique, qui risque d'avoir de lourdes conséquences pour la Guinée. Entretien et analyse avec Olivier Peyroux.

Le sociologue Olivier Peyroux, cofondateur de l'association Trajectoires, travaille depuis plusieurs années sur une étude, commandée par Caritas Maroc et Caritas France, pour comprendre les spécificités de la migration guinéenne.

RFI : Pourquoi cet intérêt particulier pour le phénomène migratoire guinéen ?

Olivier Peyroux : Quand on regarde les chiffres, cette migration guinéenne est surprenante. La Guinée est un pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest qui est relativement petit démographiquement avec une population approximative de 13 millions d'habitants. Lorsqu'on regarde les chiffres des trois dernières années pour les mineurs non accompagnés (MNA) guinéens, on observe que c'est la première nationalité en France dans les arrivées en provenance d'Afrique subsaharienne, tout confondu, Afrique de l'Ouest et de l'Est. Quand on regarde les chiffres de l'asile, on remarque qu'en France, en Belgique et en Espagne, les Guinéens sont la première nationalité pour les demandeurs d'asile d'Afrique subsaharienne depuis 2017. C'est d'autant plus surprenant que la Guinée n'a pas une diaspora développée dans ces pays, à la différence des diasporas malienne, sénégalaise ou ivoirienne beaucoup plus présentes, la diaspora étant en général un facteur important de migration.

Le deuxième point que l'on observe, c'est que certes il y a des difficultés politiques en Guinée, mais si on compare avec le Mali par exemple, qui est un pays au bord de la partition, on n'est pas dans cette gravité politique, ni en termes de conflit comme c'est le cas au Mali. Donc, on n'a pas de facteur explicatif à première vue qui explique cette arrivée importante de Guinéens, qu'ils soient mineurs en âge ou majeurs.

Depuis combien de temps ces arrivées guinéennes sont-elles significatives ?

Depuis 2016, c'est tout à fait significatif. En France, la cellule de répartition nationale de la protection judiciaire de la jeunesse qui est financée par l'Etat et dont la fonction est de répartir les MNA sur le territoire pour que ce ne soit pas un poids trop lourd pour les départements, est une source de référence sur les chiffres des mineurs non accompagnés (MNA). D'après cette cellule, les MNA guinéens représentaient en 2017, 29% de l'ensemble des MNA arrivés en France et 31% en 2018 et 2019. Donc on est sur une moyenne de

30%. C'est de loin la première nationalité de MNA pris en charge en France. En valeur absolue, 4 323 MNA Guinéens en 2017, 5 227 en 2018 et 5 47 en 2019. Si on totalise majeurs et mineurs guinéens en France, on est à peu près sur 11 000 personnes qui arrivent par an depuis 2017, ce qui est important pour cette migration.

Comment expliquez-vous ce phénomène migratoire guinéen alors que la Guinée se porte plutôt mieux économiquement que dans le passé ?

Si on observe économiquement, on voit que depuis 2016 la Guinée renoue avec une croissance soutenue de l'ordre de 6% chaque année, ce qui n'est pas le cas de nombreux pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Mais politiquement, il y a une inquiétude pour l'avenir, comme en témoignent un certain nombre de manifestations récentes de l'opposition suite au référendum sur la Constitution qui permet au président Alpha Condé de briguer un troisième mandat, considéré par l'opposition comme une atteinte à la démocratie guinéenne, avec le risque d'installation dans la durée d'un chef d'Etat comme la Guinée en a connu dans son histoire. De plus pour les Guinéens, il est pratiquement impossible d'avoir des visas pour migrer en Europe et donc la seule voie, qui est la plus empruntée, c'est celle de la migration irrégulière.

Pour comprendre, il faut distinguer les questions structurelles des questions personnelles. En ce qui concerne les questions personnelles, dans les entretiens les raisons invoquées par les majeurs et les mineurs sont un peu différentes. Les mineurs pointent davantage les violences familiales et se disent victimes de mauvais traitements, par exemple quand il y a un décès et que la mère se retrouve sous la coupe de la première épouse du mari décédé. Les adultes invoquent davantage la raison politique. Il y a vraiment ce sentiment partagé de manque de perspectives. Tous pointent une corruption endémique, un népotisme, car c'est une société très clientéliste où il est très difficile sans relations d'obtenir un travail ou de faire des études. Le délabrement et la privatisation du système d'éducation est aussi invoqué par des jeunes qui n'ont accès à la mondialisation que par les images et qui ont l'impression que cette société actuelle, notamment avec le maintien au pouvoir du président actuel, ne leur offrira pas des perspectives dans un avenir proche,

et cette absence de perspectives les poussent à migrer. Donc du point de vue structurel, il y a un mélange d'une société qui au niveau des services public semble ne plus avoir de système éducatif public fonctionnel.

Français

Snowe candida taux

démocratique du président George Manneh Weah et le sénateur Johnson sur le ticket de l'alliance des principaux partis de l'opposition après sa démission du National Patriotic Party.

On ne sait pas sur le ticket de quel parti Snowe a l'intention de participer à l'élection sénatoriale. D'aucun sentiment qu'il pourrait se présenter comme candidat indépendant.

Cependant, il y a aussi des spéculations selon lesquelles sa démission du Parti de l'unité favoriserait son rapprochement des rangs de son ami de longue date, de la Fédération de football du Liberia au Parlement de la CEDEAO, notamment le président Weah.

Selon une source fiable de Bomi, lors d'une conférence de presse en direct, l'ancien

sénateur Lansanah a déclaré qu'il se retirait pour donner l'opportunité à Snowe, tout en accusant l'alliance de l'opposition d'avoir imposé le sénateur Sando Johnson comme son candidat sans respecter la position du représentant Snowe, qui est considéré comme responsable et parrain politique du comté.

Avant son approbation, le représentant Snowe a tenu à rappeler que son choix pour le siège sénatorial de Bomi portait sur Lansanah.

L'ancien sénateur est un allié politique de Snowe depuis que le législateur a déménagé du comté de Montserrdao dans le district n° 2 du comté de Bomi où il a brigué et gagné l'élection législative en 2017. Lansanah a été élu au Sénat en 2005, et fut président intérimaire du Sénat libérien en 2009.

Briguer les sénatoriales

quelques individus », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, la présence du représentant du Parti démocratique populaire du Libéria (LPDP) et du Parti national patriotique (NPP) - deux partis constitutifs de la Coalition au pouvoir - est la preuve que tout sera

transparent et que la collaboration au sein de la CDC se porte bien.

Déjà, le comité d'organisation a divisé le pays en régions en prélude aux primaires et annoncé qu'il s'attend à ce que 33 900 délégués prennent part à ce processus.

Le ministère du Commerce dément les rumeurs d'une pénurie de riz

Le Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie est monté au créneau pour démentir avec énergie les rumeurs croissantes qui font état d'une pénurie de la denrée alimentaire de base des libériens, le riz, tout en indiquant que le stock de riz disponible dans le pays montre combien ces rumeurs sont bien loin d'être avérées.

Selon le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie, il y a 40 000 (quarante mille) tonnes de riz dans le pays, ce qui représente 1,6 million de sacs de riz de 25 kg. Cette quantité, a-t-il fait croire, peut approvisionner le marché local en riz pendant environ trois mois.

« En plus, environ 30 000 tonnes de riz, équivalant à 1,2 million de sacs de riz, doivent arriver au Libéria en juillet et approvisionnera le marché local pendant deux mois », a dit le ministère qui a tenu à préciser qu'entre le 12 et le 18 juillet, plus de la moitié de ce chargement, soit 18 000 tonnes, sera disponible.

Selon le ministère, au cours du mois d'août de

cette année, 55 000 tonnes (cinquante-cinq mille), soit 2,2 millions de sacs de riz (environ quatre mois d'approvisionnement), arriveront dans le pays.

« Nous tenons également à dire clairement que le prix de détail approuvé pour le sac de 25 kg de riz est de 13,50 \$ US (treize dollars et cinquante centimes). »

Le ministère du Commerce met en garde contre toute pratique malsaine sur le marché libérien. Il met l'accent sur l'augmentation arbitraire et anarchique des prix des denrées alimentaires, ajoutant qu'il n'hésitera pas à traduire en justice tous ceux dont le désir démesuré est de tirer profit au détriment des populations, surtout en ces temps de crise de la pandémie de coronavirus.

« Dans le même temps, nous exhortons le public à travailler avec les inspecteurs du ministère du commerce en dénonçant toute pratique malsaine sur le marché au Libéria, car cette collaboration peut jouer un rôle positif dans l'éradication de ces activités malsaines sur nos marchés. »

COMMENTAIRE

Par Iqbal Dhaliwal & Samantha Friedlander

Apprendre du confinement

CAMBRIDGE - Comme tant d'autres choses, le développement international se trouve sévèrement impacté par la pandémie de coronavirus. Quels enseignements pouvons-nous tirer de la situation pour refaçonnner le secteur, plutôt que nous contenter d'un retour au statu quo ?

Pour commencer, la crise nous rappelle que la nature est encore souveraine, ce qui doit nous inciter à redoubler d'efforts pour atténuer et nous adapter à d'autres menaces systémiques, en premier lieu desquelles le changement climatique, qui demeurera à l'avenir la plus grande menace pour notre développement. D'après le Climate Impact Lab, le réchauffement climatique pourrait entraîner 1,5 million de décès supplémentaires chaque année en Inde d'ici 2100, soit un tribut équivalent à celui de toutes les maladies infectieuses cumulées. En plus d'appliquer aux problèmes existants nos connaissances scientifiques actuelles - de l'amélioration des audits environnementaux jusqu'au déploiement de variétés de riz résistantes aux inondations - nous devons accélérer les innovations de lutte contre les émissions de dioxyde de carbone et la pollution, aider les communautés à s'adapter au changement climatique, et leur fournir un accès à des énergies propres. Plus important encore, nous devons piloter et évaluer les initiatives nouvelles, et développer à plus grande échelle celles qui revêtent le plus fort impact.

La pandémie nous enseigne également que la santé publique s'étend au-delà de la question des maladies physiques. Pour de nombreuses personnes - notamment dans les pays en voie de développement - le confinement à la maison n'est tout simplement pas une option viable. Les cas de violences domestiques, qu'elles soient physiques ou émotionnelles, devraient en effet exploser en raison des confinements. Les périodes prolongées d'isolement peuvent par ailleurs accentuer l'anxiété, la dépression, et d'autres troubles mentaux associés. De même, ceux qui luttent contre une addiction peinent à trouver le soutien dont ils ont besoin. Plutôt que d'espérer que ces problèmes s'évaporeront lorsque les confinements seront levés, ce qui serait une illusion, nous devons admettre que la santé mentale est une question depuis trop longtemps négligée dans les réflexions politiques.

Or, et c'est également l'une des leçons de cette crise, il n'existe pas de substitut à l'État. Ces dernières décennies, nombre de donateurs et organisations de développement au niveau international se sont efforcés de contourner les gouvernements, par crainte de la corruption ou des lourdeurs administratives. La pandémie illustre toutefois clairement combien les gouvernements sont les acteurs majeurs lorsqu'il s'agit d'endiguer des maladies infectieuses, d'administrer des politiques de développement, d'apporter une protection sociale aux chômeurs, et d'atténuer la pauvreté. C'est pourquoi, au sein de l'Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) du MIT, nous travaillons sur la conclusion de partenariats à long terme avec les gouvernements, et les soutenons aujourd'hui dans le développement à plus grande échelle de politiques basées sur les éléments de preuve.

Les gouvernements doivent également être en capacité de transférer rapidement des liquidités aux citoyens les plus vulnérables. Si les États-Unis et d'autres économies développées sont parvenus à verser des fonds d'urgence directement à leurs citoyens, nombre des pays qui avaient mis en place un système de chèques de relance pour les ménages, de versements d'argent, ou d'autres protections sociales, ont échoué à en faire bénéficier ceux qui en avaient le plus besoin. Manifestement, il appartient à ces pays de repenser la manière dont ils identifient les plus pauvres, afin qu'ils puissent leur conférer une forme numérique d'identité, et les associer à d'autres conditions nécessaires à l'inclusion financière. À l'avenir, telles seront les composantes clés du filet de sécurité sociale dans les pays à tous les stades de développement.

Une autre problématique critique réside dans l'éducation. Bien qu'il demeure possible d'apprendre hors des établissements scolaires physiques, la pandémie est incontestablement synonyme de retard

d'apprentissage pour de nombreux enfants. Il faut aider ces enfants à rattraper leur retard, c'est une priorité urgente. Les écoles demeurant fermées, la réponse évidente réside dans la poursuite de l'enseignement en ligne. Les recherches démontrent que les logiciels permettant aux écoliers de progresser à leur rythme peuvent se révéler efficaces.

Seulement voilà, l'apprentissage à distance est évidemment impossible pour les élèves qui ne disposent pas d'un accès à Internet, qui présentent des besoins particuliers, ou qui partagent un ordinateur voire un téléphone avec plusieurs autres membres de la famille. L'éducation de ces enfants a de fait été mise en pause pendant la pandémie, comme c'était déjà le cas pour les nombreux réfugiés de la planète, dont plus de la moitié sont des enfants. Il sera crucial d'aider ces enfants à rattraper leur retard le moment venu. Ici encore, plusieurs études démontrent que les « camps éducatifs » qui regroupent les élèves par niveau d'apprentissage, plutôt que par âge ou par notes, peuvent se révéler immensément bénéfiques.

Des favelas du Brésil jusqu'aux caravanes de migrants en Inde, en passant par les banlieues de France ou les personnes de couleurs aux États-Unis, ce sont les pauvres qui payent le plus lourd tribut sanitaire, économique et psychologique du COVID-19. Venir en aide à ceux qui ont le plus besoin d'informations utiles constitue néanmoins un défi majeur, dans la mesure où le canal des médias traditionnels a ses limites, et où la désinformation est omniprésente sur les réseaux sociaux. C'est pourquoi plusieurs chercheurs évaluent si l'intervention de personnes largement connectées et d'influenceurs peut permettre aux messages d'être adressés de manière fiable via les réseaux sociaux préexistants.

Dans le même temps, la pandémie conduit les dirigeants politiques du monde entier à expérimenter différentes stratégies pour encourager la distanciation sociale, le lavage des mains, et d'autres mesures de prévention des infections. Les décideurs politiques pourraient également songer à conditionner les versements d'argent aux comportements sains, comme l'illustre une étude mettant en lumière l'efficacité de cette démarche dans la lutte contre la propagation du virus et l'amélioration de l'état de santé général.

Cette autre stratégie ne doit pas nécessairement être limitée à la crise actuelle. En période non pandémique, les versements d'argent pourraient dépendre par exemple de la vaccination d'un enfant, ou la tenue d'une visite médicale annuelle. Les politiques d'incitation aux modes de vie plus sains deviennent de plus en plus nécessaires et urgentes, compte tenu de la menace croissante que représentent plusieurs maladies non transmissibles largement évitables, qui tuent d'ores et déjà plus de 40 millions de personnes dans le monde chaque année.

En l'absence de données collectées en personne lors du confinement, de nombreux chercheurs en sciences sociales se sont tournés vers l'utilisation de données administratives. Les données d'ores et déjà collectées par les gouvernements et les organisations non gouvernementales pourraient se révéler extrêmement utiles dans l'évaluation de l'efficacité des nouveaux programmes. L'initiative Innovations in Data and Experiments for Action (IDEA) du J-PAL, par exemple, conclut des partenariats pour aider les gouvernements à faire un meilleur usage des données administratives. La crise a également contraint de nombreux projets de recherche à recueillir des données via des sondages téléphoniques. À nouveau, les enseignements tirés de ces travaux éclaireront à l'avenir les recherches recourant aux sondages téléphoniques pour la collecte de données, permettant ainsi aux gouvernements et aux ONG de rassembler des informations plus précises en temps réel, auprès des communautés au service desquelles elles œuvrent.

La pandémie de COVID-19 est le plus grand choc synchronisé que le monde ait connu depuis des générations. Cette crise ne sera toutefois pas la dernière en son genre. Nous devons d'urgence tirer autant d'enseignements que possible de l'expérience actuelle, pour adapter en conséquence les recherches et pratiques de développement international. Nous ne pouvons plus nous permettre d'être pris au dépourvu.

Bong Senators in the mud

By Ethel A Tweh

Bong County Senators Dr. Henrique Tokpa and Henry Yallah are bragging and trading claims for alleged support given to one another supposedly for academic advancement at Cuttington University or for the other's quest to win a seat in the Liberian Senate.

Interestingly, the two Bong Legislative Caucus members are locked into these debates ahead of the December 2020 senatorial election in which Yallah is seeking re-election in what will be a battle against Deputy House Speaker Prince Moye and other

Senator, now Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor following a by - election in 2018, brags instead that as university president then, he stood in the gap and paid Mr. Yallah and other students' school fees when they were let down by imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

According to him, if Senator Yallah wants to talk about help, he too has also benefited from his (Tokpa's) help as well, saying: "at that time I was the president of the Cuttington University, I couldn't sit and allow my own Bong County students be stranded."

Beyond his own alleged help

against the other member, it becomes a problem.

However, he discourages the tendencies of officials opposing their colleagues' quest to participate in an election process, arguing that there shouldn't be a problem because everyone has the right to contest.

Tokpa furthers that the problem in Bong County is the issue of wanting to divide the county into lower and upper Bong.

He suggests the need to hold a round table conference of all stakeholders in the country, appealing to Bishop Kula and Vice President Jewel



Sen. Dr. Henrique Tokpa

Sen. Henry Yallah

contenders.

The former Cuttington University president Dr. Tokpa denied receiving alleged support from Yallah for his quest for the senatorial seat during an interview with legislative reporters Monday, 6 July, saying if Yallah ever did so, it was not to his (Tokpa's) knowledge.

His denial comes in the wake of claims here attributed to Senator Yallah, citing alleged support to Dr. Tokpa's effort to win the senatorial seat.

Dr. Tokpa who succeeded the former Bong County

to Yallah, Dr. Tokpa claims that the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Prince Moye also helped Yallah greatly during his campaign for the Senate seat.

He recalls that Mr. Moye was seen in the field campaigning for Mr. Yallah and gave him financial support, though he insists that Senator Yallah and Representative Crayton Duncan never helped during those times.

According to Dr. Tokpa, the current confusion in the caucus occurs every time during election, adding that if one caucus member wants to run

Howard Taylor who says are the mothers of the county, to help look into the matter so that it doesn't turn into something bigger to divide the county.

"I can't reconcile the county alone," Senator Tokpa laments, and concludes with calls to have a vocational school in agriculture in the country and for President George Manneh Weah to pass the Bill for Agriculture Vocational School in Bong County.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Court denies government

Cont'd from page 6

and arrested the equipment.

Further, it notes that immediately following the execution of the said petition, the Roots Holding Inc. represented by its station manager, Fidel Saydee and all authorized representatives, relying on Chapter 11.10 of the Criminal Procedure Law, filed a motion before Magistrate Flomo for the court to return the properties of the station and suppress evidence.

Thereafter, the court says the Ministry of Justice filed its returns to the motion to return the properties of the station and suppress evidence, praying the court to dismiss

the motion filed by Roots Holding Inc. because Fidel Saydee lacked capacity or standing to file such motion.

The government contended that there is no notarized Board Resolution attached to the motion authorizing Saydee to act on behalf of the corporation as required by the Corporation Laws of Liberia.

However, Magistrate Flomo denied the Ministry of Justice's motion to dismiss the motion filed by Roots Holding for return of its properties and to suppress evidence, a decision affirmed by Criminal Court "A".--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Former VP Boakai

Cont'd from page 7

gather due to physical distancing. The club, she said, is determined to overcome those challenges and continue with its humanitarian work under the theme for 2020/2021: "Rotary Opens Opportunities."

Mrs. Kwabo pledged to increase the Rotary Club's impact in communities through service projects focusing on education, health, water and sanitation, disease prevention and maternal child health during her tenure. The club will also expand its reach, diversify its membership, and strengthen collaboration with other clubs in Liberia. The outreach expansion will target young people between ages 12-17, Ms. Kwabo said.

"We will think outside the

box and try to be innovative and improvise where necessary in the post-COVID-19 environment," she said. "No project is too small."

She urged Rotarians to take advantage of the opportunities to build their leadership skills through the Rotary online Learning Center.

"Rotary creates the possibilities to enrich ourselves with leadership and service skills while improving our communities," she said. "We must improve ourselves with Rotary values. I am of the conviction that Rotary provides opportunities to strengthen our leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need."

JFK apologizes

Starts from back page

He said it came as a complete surprise how the late Snoh's photo was published on social media.

Dr. Brown is at the same time calling further investigation of the individual who claimed to be the son of the late Sinoe County lawmaker, who was pronounced dead last week Tuesday.

The House of Representatives during its Thursday, July 2nd, session took a decision to invite the JFK management following a communication from Grand Bassa County Representative Thomas Goshua.

Rep. Goshua in his communication to plenary,

complained that the photograph of their fallen colleague while being admitted at the JFK Memorial Hospital was currently being displayed on social media with denigrating comments from viewers without regard to his family and the House of Representatives.

He wondered how the picture of the fallen statesman got into the public glare when there supposed to be privacy for patients at the John F. Kennedy Medical (JFK) Hospital and all medical facilities.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has accepted the apologized of JFK. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Liberians queue for rice

Long queues were spotted at the Old Road Joe Bar and Rally Time Markets Monday July 6, as the Commerce Ministry launched a vigorous inspection for rice, the country's staple, forcing businesses to sell at lower prices.

The move which was greeted with cheers by Liberians witnessed a rush to buy a 25 kg rice at the cost of 2,700, instead of 4,000 as had been hiked by dealers for the past weeks.

For some weeks now there has been rumor of rice shortage on the Liberian market but the Commerce Ministry denied the rumor and blamed local provision shops for hoarding rice to create a false impression that there is rice shortage in country.

The ministry said it had to intervene at some business centers Monday, July 6, instructing sale of 25kg bag of rice LD\$2,700, down from hiked price of LD\$4,000.

As such, he notes that the ministry took the media to the Freeport of Monrovia where the media and the ministry's team toured two rice warehouses stocked with rice.

To raid the market of dubious practices, he says the team went out into the field based on tips from informers that some businesses were hoarding the product which is suspected to be responsible for [people's rush for the product].

At Rally Time Market for instance, he says there was information that a Fulani man's shop known as A.J. Business Center would refuse to sell rice to buyers, and at one point he would also sell it but at a cost of LD\$4,000 or LD\$3,000 at another time.

When engaged by the ministry's team why he was not selling the rice to consumers, Mr. Parley explains that the businessman claimed that the rice was already paid for by other customers who had yet to take delivery.

Time Market, yes it is true. But that [does not have] to suggest that there [was] shortage, but there were people who were found hoarding the product and so we have to move in ...," he says.

He notes that Monday's exercise was sparked by wild speculation about rice shortage which the ministry says is untrue.

Over the weekend, the ministry dismissed fears and rumors that there is rice shortage here, saying the Country's current rice inventory shows that such speculations are far from the reality.

It explained that based on the 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 said further that 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)," he says.

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 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," he concludes.

Kru Town residents

Cont'd from page 7

individuals but he is being constrained because the assistance is no longer coming.

He said to him, several instructional staffers under the Borough Schools Teachers Association or BOSTA along with affected students and their parents will form part of the petitioning ceremony.

He added that the intent of the petition is to draw government's attention to the growing wave of destruction

Meanwhile, some of the victims who spoke to this paper, said they find life very unbearable now as they and their children hardly get food to sustain themselves.

At the sametime, sea erosion has destroyed the D. M. Mmac. Bee Christian School System being operated by the Refuge Baptist Fellowship Church in the borough.

The previous Liberian administration under Ex-



The D. M. Mmac. Bee Christian Baptist School Syetem building destroyed by erosion

that continues that continues to uproot and frustrate less-fortunate residents.

"We will petition President Weah first and later move to the Capitol Building and also petition our lawmakers and then present copy of the petition to the united States Embassy accredited near Monrovia", Teah explained.

president Ellen Johnson Sirlefa implemented a coastal defence project in the Borough of New Kru Town to contain the sea wave from consuming residents' homes and properties, but the current administration is yet to reactivate said project.-

Editing by Jonathan Browne



This paper made an inquiry with the Ministry of Commerce Monday evening, following the incident in which consumers were seen in long queues to purchase rice, but in most cases were denied by local dealers or priced exorbitantly at some point for LD\$3,500 or LD\$4,000.

This incident came Monday despite a strongly worded statement issued by the ministry over the weekend, insisting that there is no shortage of the nation's staple, rice on the market.

Mr. Jacob Parley, the Director of Communications at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, told this paper via mobile Monday that it is true that people queued for rice, but there is no rice shortage.

According to him, after the ministry issued the strongly worded statement over the weekend, there were people who still did not believe in what was said.

But due to the businessman's failure to produce receipts to authenticate this claim, Mr. Parley furthers that business people were predominantly market women who joined the queue as the ministry instructed the sale of the rice for LD\$2,700.

At that same market, he says another business center called Moudou, was caught to be engaged in similar practice, prompting the ministry's intervention.

He explains that a business known as Modu Business Center in the Old Road Community was similarly engaged in selling rice either LD\$3,000 or LD\$4,000, as alleged by consumers.

When the Commerce Ministry's team discovered a pile of rice in the shop, Mr. Parley says it also took similar decision by selling the rice for LD\$2,700, and did same to other businesses that were caught.

"So if you saw people in queue on the Old Road, Rally

Court orders PACA

Cont'd from page 6

claims is on the run, recently alleged that Cllr. Wesso is after his life for the property.

He told journalists at an honoring program that the lawyer, who is also Gbapolu County district #2

Representative, is allegedly using thugs to kill him, a claim Cllr. Wesso has rubbished, describing it as a clever attempt by the defendant to escape court appearance. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Sports

With **Emmanuel B. Juduh**

JFK apologizes to lawmakers



By **Bridgett Milton**

The Management of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital has apologized to members of the House of Representatives and the general public for the display of the photograph of the late Representative Jaye Nagbe Sloh on social media, while the deceased was receiving medication at

the hospital.

JFK Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jerry Brown, appearing before members of the House of Representatives Monday said it was unethical in which an unauthorized photo was released to the public and that the JFK administration stands with the House of Representatives in condemning such violation of a patient's


privacy.

Dr. Brown said it is the first time that an unauthorized photo has been released to the public, saying that JFK has actively enforced privacy of patients through security cameras to prevent photo taken or video recording of patients.

He informed members of the House of Representatives that preliminary findings from internal investigation reveal that a gentleman, who introduced himself as a son of the late Representative Snoh, who accompanied him during his admission to the emergency room and was presented the medical referral form to the additive physicians, was reported to have photographed the late lawmaker, while the nurse and nurse aide were providing critical care.

Dr. Brown said immediately the nurse asked the unnamed son to delete the photo, which he promised to have done promptly.

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 10**




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Lionel Messi will 'end his career' at club - Bartomeu

Lionel Messi will "end his working and footballing life at Barcelona", the club's president has said.

Josep Maria Bartomeu dismissed reports the Argentina international, 33, was unwilling to renew his current contract when it expires in 2021.

"We are negotiating with many players but Messi has explained to us he wants to stay," Bartomeu told Spanish network Movistar.

"And so we're going to enjoy him for much longer."

Bartomeu was speaking following the Catalan club's 4-1 La Liga win at Villarreal on Sunday evening, which saw them close the gap to leaders Real Madrid to four points.

Earlier, a Sergio Ramos penalty ensured Real edged to a 1-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao.

The spot-kick was awarded following a VAR review, while Bilbao had a penalty appeal of their own turned down, leading Bartomeu to question the



fairness of the technology.

"I saw the game in Bilbao and although I don't like to say it, I'll repeat that VAR is not being used as it should be," he said.

"Since the season returned after the Covid-19 crisis it has not been equal, that has been reflected in the results and it looks as if it always favours the same team."

In response, Real coach Zinedine Zidane said he was "tired" of his side's victories being criticised.



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