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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# Continental News

## Uganda's Health Minister Criticized for Not Wearing Mask in Public



Ugandan Minister of Health Jane Aceng (L) shakes hands with Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda during the ceremony of the official commissioning of new radiotherapy

Uganda's Health Minister Dr. Jane Aceng finds herself a subject of controversy these days, after videos of her meeting with supporters without her mask on were made public.

Another video shows the minister, who is seeking a parliament seat in northern Uganda, taking part in a political procession and not

practicing distancing.

Minister Aceng has spearheaded the fight against COVID-19 in Uganda, earning her the nickname Mama Corona. Public service announcements of her urging people to wear masks and maintain social distance are aired on local media.

Peter Magelah, a human rights lawyer with local NGO Chapter Four, said the minister

should have adhered to her own guidelines given that some Ugandans think the virus is not real and is being used to achieve political gains.

"People have been arrested, people have been shot and killed, for not following guidelines issued and signed by her. And then you have the person who should be champion, is violating the very principles

for which other people have been killed," he said. Local reports say at least 10 people have been killed by security forces for violating guidelines set to control the spread of COVID-19. Uganda currently has more than 1,025 confirmed cases of the disease.

Minister of Information Judith Nabakooba said Ugandans should wear masks in public regardless of the health minister's actions.

"We regret the incident. Because we know very well, the guidelines have been repeatedly announced over and over again and we expected that each and every one should follow these

guidelines. However, that should not be an excuse for Ugandans to use doctor as an example to abandon the guidelines put in place," said Nabakooba.

In a statement, Minister Aceng explains that she was not holding a political rally as claimed but was distributing mosquito nets and face masks.

She said supporters rushed forward to meet her, and "were difficult to control" as many wanted to get masks or take pictures with her.

The minister said she is aware of the rules and regulations the government put in place to stop COVID-19 and is urging Ugandans to adhere to them. VOA

## Kenya Buries First Doctor to Succumb to COVID-19

Kenyan doctors are continuing to treat scores of coronavirus patients, a day after paying final respects to the country's first doctor to succumb to the virus. Health officials in protective clothing brought Dr. Doreen Adisa Lugaliki for burial Monday, in a service attended by a few relatives.

Chibanzi Mwachonda, deputy Secretary-General of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union said 38-year-old Dr. Lugaliki's death was so painful doctors labeled the day "Black Monday."

Lenny Lugaliki, Dr. Lugaliki's brother, acknowledged she was a diabetic, but said her sudden

death four days after being admitted to the hospital was a shock. He said the family was looking ahead to bringing her home and caring for her so she could get on with her life.

Nearly 200 people have died of the novel coronavirus in Kenya and more than 10,200 others have tested positive for the virus. VOA



Health officials wearing personal protection equipment prepare to bury coronavirus victim

## UN condemns attack on peacekeepers in CAR

The United Nations has condemned an attack on its peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic, in which a Rwandan peacekeeper was killed and two others wounded.

The rebel group called Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R) has been blamed for the attack.

the victim as well as to the Rwandan government.

"The secretary-general recalls that attacks against United Nations peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law," the statement noted.

The UN secretary-general also called on state authorities "to spare no



In a statement, the UN Mission in the Central African Republic (Minusca) said the attack in Gedze, in the country's north-west region, violated a peace agreement by the 3R group and its leader Abass Sidiki. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in a statement, expressed condolences to the family of

effort in identifying the perpetrators of this attack so that they can be brought to justice swiftly".

Numerous rebel groups have been operating in the country since President François Bozizé was overthrown seven years ago. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## The leakages at the Ministry of Finance

THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE may never get to know clearly how much of their taxes paid into government coffers are leaking into pockets of unscrupulous individuals or officials thru illegal withdrawals from dormant GoL accounts with commercial banks here.

**BUT IF ONGOING** probe by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning into circumstances leading to the alleged withdrawals of L\$6 million and US\$68,000 respectively from various official accounts with one of the commercial banks in the country, GN Bank Liberia Limited, is anything to gauge by then the depth of the bleeding of the state coffers is deeper than image.

**FINANCE MINISTRY AUTHORITIES** are claiming innocence, and have called in the National Security Agency (NSA) to probe the syndicate, which they say occurred from "Unapplied Accounts" with GN Bank Liberia Limited.

**FINANCE MINISTRY SOURCES** are revealing that two checkbooks went missing recently from the Ministry specifically which department, we hope the NSA investigation will unravel the details. But it is said that those missing checkbooks were allegedly used to forge signatures of relevant authorities in withdrawing said amounts.

**THE LEAKAGES ARE** happening at a time the economy is in a serious nose-dive with businesses shrinking and laying off employees, while critical sectors such as health and education are in a quagmire amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**LIBERIA'S COMPTROLLER** General Janga Augustus Kowo, whose office manages government checks, says it observed suspicious transactions of late, which prompted calling in the NSA to investigate. However, we may never know how many of such transactions may have slipped his watch and trickled into unscrupulous pockets, robbing the citizenry of their taxes.

**SECONDLY, THE ISSUE** of a government functionary such as the NSA probing another state institution, in this case, the Ministry of Finance that makes budgetary allocations for all other ministries and agencies, including the NSA itself, leaves a very thin line for honesty and transparency.

**OUR APPREHENSION IS** founded on the case involving the government General Auditing Commission auditing the US\$25 million mop up of excess liquidity, which was administered by the Technical Economic Management Team headed by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah, and the Central Bank of Liberia, shrouded in lack of transparency and accountability.

**A SO-CALLED "smart account"** subsequently commissioned by President George Manneh Weah into the US\$25 Million following public pressure is yet to produce findings despite clear and empirical evidence that the entire exercise was marred by serious discrepancies from start to end.

**WE THEREFORE, WONDER** how far and transparent would the NSA probe at the Finance Ministry go in unraveling the syndicate and bringing out all perpetrators (whether small or big fish) to face the law rather than probing on the surface and covering up.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Barry Eichengreen

## Training for the Pandemic Economy

*The transition to the world being created by COVID-19 was always going to be difficult for workers in the worst-affected sectors. The main question now is whether policymakers will take the steps - including apprenticeship programs and expanded funding for community colleges and technical schools - that are most likely to make it easier.*

**B**ERKELEY - COVID-19 is not going away, and other dangerous viruses may be coming. This means it's time to face the grim truth: many of the pandemic's effects on our economies and societies will be persistent, even permanent.<sup>1</sup>

Some of these changes are already evident. There is less demand for the services of dine-in restaurants, hotels, airlines, brick-and-mortar retail, and large entertainment venues, and fewer employment opportunities in those sectors and facilities. There is more demand for everything on-line, and for health-care, childcare, and home-care services. Substantial numbers of workers therefore will have to move, and new entrants to the labor force will need different sets of skills.

Economists tend to assume that when something is necessary, it will happen - that "the market will take care of it." Workers will recognize the need for new skill sets, the argument goes. Employers who benefit from a workforce possessing those skills will impart them.

This is wishful thinking. The typical trainee doesn't know what the economy will look like in the summer of 2022 when she graduates from a two-year vocational program. She doesn't know what skills will be required of health-care professionals in the age of telemedicine and genomic sequencing.

Moreover, she is unsure about where to go to get suitable training. She is financially constrained. She will have heard of for-profit institutions of so-called higher learning that promise to teach students coding skills but don't position them to complete their degrees, much less find a job.<sup>1</sup>

For their part, firms have limited capacity to provide on-the-job training, especially in times like these, when they, too, are under financial stress. And they have limited incentive to do so, because workers, once trained, are free to leave. Costs can be shared by paying trainees less than other entry-level workers. But pay in many health-care, homecare, and eldercare jobs, especially in the United States, is already at rock-bottom levels.

More generally, we know that individuals and firms, left to their own devices, under-invest in human capital. The contribution of education and training to economic growth, and to society generally, is greater than their acquisition cost. This positive externality is not something that workers and firms, deciding on their own, have adequate incentive to consider.

Government, therefore, should develop its own training schemes. Unfortunately, experience with public-sector training is disappointing.

The US Council of Economic Advisers evaluated these schemes shortly before the pandemic (not that anyone noticed) and found that they are not very effective at imparting skills and enhancing job prospects. Generally speaking, the larger the program, the worse the results. And this pattern is not limited to the US: experience with very large-scale retraining schemes, such as in the former East Germany in the 1990s, is especially disappointing.

But we can learn from the failure of earlier programs. Their record reveals that training works best when it is closely connected to a real job or occupation. Program design should be informed by detailed government forecasts of the types of jobs that are coming and which skills they will require. Similarly, training works best when firms and industries collaborate on program design, because employers are a source of information about the skills that will be needed. At the implementation stage, on-the-job training - apprenticeships, in other words - is essential, and not only for blue-collar jobs. Although we think of apprentices as machinists and plumbers, increasingly they are nursing assistants and insurance underwriters.

Here, Europe has a leg up, owing to strong trade unions that can cooperate with employers' associations in organizing apprenticeships, and because worker-firm attachments are relatively strong. In the US, progress will be harder. President Donald Trump actually issued an executive order in 2017 establishing an apprenticeship task force. But its recommendations - eliminate duplicative training programs and streamline industry-government interaction - were weak soup.

In fact, American firms are investing less in training today than they did in the past, reflecting shorter job tenures. Imagining that they will spontaneously organize millions of apprenticeships is a pipedream.

What's needed are tax credits and subsidies. Sixteen US states currently provide credits for firms offering training. The federal government should do the same. This federal credit could be structured along the lines of the tried and true research-and-development tax credit. Training, after all, is just development by another name.

Finally, we should adequately fund technical and vocational schools and colleges. In the US, this means two-year community colleges, which offer courses in everything from occupational therapy to computer-aided design. Alas, the budgets of community colleges, funded at the state and local level, have been decimated by the crisis, a situation that is aggravated by the reluctance of Congress to provide aid to state and local governments.

The transition to the world being created by COVID-19 was always going to be difficult. The main question now is whether policymakers will take the steps that are most likely to make it easier.



## O-PED

By Josep Borrell

## Saving the Iran Nuclear Deal

*Five years after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was concluded, it is on life support, following the US's reinstatement of sanctions and Iran's return to enrichment activities. Before two decades of diplomacy are squandered, all parties involved must step back from the precipice.*

**B**RUSSELS - Five years ago this week in Vienna, the P5+1 (the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, plus Germany) and Iran agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). To mark the fifth anniversary of that occasion, we should acknowledge a simple reality: without this deal, Iran could have developed nuclear weapons by now, adding yet another source of instability to a volatile region.

Today, the JCPOA is under great pressure on multiple fronts. I am convinced that action to preserve it is not just necessary but urgent, for at least two reasons. First, it took more than 12 years for the international community and Iran to bridge their differences and conclude a deal. If the JCPOA is lost, no other comprehensive or effective alternative will be waiting around the corner.

The international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear program go way back. Discussions to lay the groundwork for a negotiated solution began in 2003 at the initiative of the French, German, and British foreign ministers, and were soon joined by then-EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Javier Solana. He and his successors, Catherine Ashton and Federica Mogherini - all of whom were supported by the European External Action Service - always kept the door open for a diplomatic solution. And, after many ups and downs, the JCPOA eventually became a reality.

The deal would have not been possible without diplomatic persistence. It required the full buy-in not just of the United States, but also of Russia, China, and of course Iran. The final agreement was solid. At more than 100 pages, and with several annexes, it set out all of the details for a clear quid pro quo: Iran would abide by strict limitations on its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions.

The JCPOA is enshrined in international law through UNSC Resolution 2231 (which needs to be fully implemented). It stands as a prime example of what European diplomacy and effective multilateralism can achieve within the rules-based international order. But the process leading up to it was lengthy and difficult, all but ruling out another chance at a deal.

Second, the JCPOA is not merely a symbolic success. It delivered on its promises, and proved effective. Owing to the unprecedented level of access that it provided for the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA was able to confirm in 15 consecutive monitoring reports between January 2016 and June 2019 that Iran had met all its obligations under the deal.

As such, Europe and other partners lifted sanctions, as specified in the agreement. Iran's international isolation was coming to an end, setting the stage for a restoration of normal economic and trade relations with the rest of the world. In May 2018, however, the US decided to withdraw from the JCPOA and reinstate sanctions in pursuit of a new strategy of "maximum pressure."

Although the restoration of US sanctions clearly had negative effects on Iran's economy and people, Iran continued to adhere to the deal for another 14 months. But now, Iran is once again accumulating worrying levels of enriched uranium and acquiring new nuclear know-how. The JCPOA is being further eroded, and fears from the past are resurfacing.

In January, France, Germany, and the UK formally expressed their concerns about Iran's renewed enrichment activities, and urged it to return to full compliance. Iran, similarly, has voiced its own concerns, arguing that it has not received the expected economic benefits from the lifting of sanctions.

As the current coordinator of the JCPOA, I will continue to work with all remaining parties to the deal, as well as with the entire international community. We will do everything possible to preserve what we achieved five years ago, and to ensure that the deal remains effective.

It is important to remember that the Iranian nuclear program remains under tight scrutiny, with its peaceful nature being constantly verified. Thanks to the IAEA inspections regime, we continue to know a great deal about the Iranian nuclear program, even under the current circumstances. If the agreement were to be lost, however, we would lose these insights and be set back by two decades.

I firmly believe that the JCPOA has become a key component of the global non-proliferation architecture, which is why I continue to call for all parties to remain committed to its full implementation. Iran, for its part, must return to full compliance with its nuclear obligations; but it also needs to be able to reap the economic benefits envisioned in the agreement. Having already established measures to protect our companies against extraterritorial US sanctions, we in Europe can do more to satisfy Iranian expectations for legitimate trade.

The EU will intensify its efforts to build bridges and narrow the gaps among all concerned parties. I am convinced that if we do manage to preserve the JCPOA and ensure its full implementation, it can become a stepping-stone toward addressing other shared concerns, including those related to regional security.

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## OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

## Still No Care for Care Workers

*Decades of public neglect and underspending have brought us to the point that even an unprecedented global health emergency and economic collapse are not enough to make mistreatment of low-paid essential workers socially and politically unacceptable. Our applause is no longer enough to keep them keeping us safe.*

**N**EW DELHI - Those who thought that a pandemic would make everyone realize the crucial role of care workers should think again. With the coronavirus still spreading rapidly, frontline workers are more essential - and at greater risk - than ever, yet public attention has shifted elsewhere.

Worse, as economies collapse and labor-market conditions deteriorate, employers in the private and public sector alike have grown more cynical in their treatment of essential workers. Far from instilling a deeper appreciation for their employees, the pandemic-induced surge in unemployment has enabled employers to exploit workers even more.

Capitalism has always had an uneasy relationship with care work. Although capitalist production relies heavily on unpaid and underpaid labor performed by women, migrants, and other disadvantaged social groups, it has historically pushed that work off the books and underground, into informality. As a result, all the varied tasks associated with social reproduction are barely recognized, much less rewarded or remunerated. Because so much care work is performed for free by women and girls within families and communities, it is simply taken for granted and, because it is outside the market, not counted as economic activity.

Unpaid work performed by women who have no other choice thus creates a vicious cycle of devaluation. When women do enter labor markets, their wages tend to be lower than those of men, not only because they are willing to work for less, but also because so much of their work is available for free. Hence, occupations dominated by women - such as in the care sector - tend to be lower paid; even men doing similar work suffer a wage penalty.

In the case of health care, there are additional occupational hierarchies to navigate, from highly paid "professionals" like specialist physicians down to nurses, ward attendants, and cleaners. Unsurprisingly, the gender balance within each occupation changes as one goes down the pecking order, with women concentrated in the lower-status, worst-paid positions.

Globally, women hold 70% of all health-care jobs. But they are more likely to be nurses, midwives, and community health workers, while men comprise a disproportionate share of better-paid occupations like surgeons, physicians, dentists, and pharmacists. Community health workers are perhaps the most exploited of all health workers, especially in developing countries. Often, they are not recognized as workers at all, but rather as "volunteers" (as is true in India). As such, they rarely benefit from formal contracts that provide job security and a fair wage, let alone protections like health care.

Women health-care workers are also more at risk in the current pandemic, because they are more likely to be involved in activities that require close physical contact with patients. For a brief period after the pandemic first erupted, these workers were widely recognized for their critical contributions to society. Around the world, political leaders and members of the public applauded essential workers, singing their praises from balconies and leaving flower bouquets outside hospitals.

But while health-care workers at all levels were rightly described as "heroes," that seems to have represented the extent of their reward. The public acclaim has not translated into better working conditions or higher wages, and certainly not systematic efforts to ensure their physical safety during the pandemic.

For example, in the United States, a brief period during which some companies offered their frontline workers slightly higher wages was soon followed by reversion to the norm: wages returned to their previous lows - and sometimes went lower. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Boris Johnson thanked the immigrant nurses - "Jenny from New Zealand," "Luis from Portugal" - who saved his life when he was hospitalized with COVID-19. But then he had no problem trying to slap a surcharge on immigration fees (ironically for the purpose of funding the National Health Service).

The situation in developing countries is even worse. Governments faced with falling tax revenues are practicing austerity in the midst of a health emergency and recession, slashing non-COVID-19 health spending, forcing pay cuts and longer hours on health workers, and avoiding the expense of procuring personal protective equipment.

So blatant is the official disregard for essential workers that doctors and nurses in India have threatened to resign, while health workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have gone on strike after months of working without pay. Likewise, the needs of underpaid and vulnerable sanitation workers have been systematically ignored.

Decades of public neglect and underspending have brought us to the point that even an unprecedented global health emergency and economic collapse are not enough to make mistreatment of low-paid essential workers socially and politically unacceptable. If our societies are to survive at all, something will have to shake us from our complacency. Essential care workers deserve real pay and protections, not more lip service. Our applause is no longer enough to keep them keeping us safe.

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## FEATURE

## ARTICLE

# A Mother of Eight Narrates Ordeal in Covid-19

Bettie Kemah Johnson-Mbayo,  
bettiejmbayo@gmail.com

Monrovia - Before the Coronavirus pandemic outbreak, Bone Kortie, 43 years, was a petty business trader in Paynesville city, Parker Paint community. Paynesville City is one of the cities surrounding Liberia's densely populated capital city of Monrovia. Bone is a mother of eight children between the ages of three and 16 years. Like so many other women across Liberia, she takes care of extended family too. Bone is the biological parent of five children, while the others are those of her late sister who died tragically in a car crash in 2017.

She is famously called by regular clients as 'cold milk' - a name she earned from the tasty cold milk she sold prior to the pandemic in Liberia. Bone's life has been marked by economic hardship, which she has mostly had to overcome on her own. She recounted that the father of her three-year-old son disappeared with a promise to turn their little savings into profit "up country". Until now he has not returned.

and at least 10 loads must be taken to the site in a day. The money we raise from the sales of plastic and the filling of the foundation, is what that is keeping us alive right now. "Sometimes when I think about my suffering I can just want commit suicide, my life now is not easy, the condition I find myself in, I can't explain," she said. Prior to Covid-19, Bone and her children ate two meals a day, but now, it is either one meal a day or none.

With tears running down her cheeks, she said, "As long I don't wash people clothes or carry dirt for the foundation, I can't feed my children. This gone Saturday we didn't eat but we ate Sunday, it was from a neighbour hand-out. I kept small of the food for Monday...I told the children if they eat early Monday morning there will be no food in the evening. So, you see, I can starve the children because I don't have it and sometimes they don't understand. Even on Monday they ate at 4pm but the food wasn't enough, I made them to drink enough water. I have no thought [I don't know] if they were okay, but they slept till Tuesday."



Bone Kortie

"My son's father asked for the money we were saving for the family to go do business but since he left, I was pregnant, now he (our son) is three years, I have no idea if he is alive or dead." Since the start of Covid-19, Bone's business has faltered, and she has exhausted all her earnings from the sale of cold milk, which is the only source of income to feed her entire family.

"Since the start of the sickness, the people are afraid to buy the milk, nobody wants to buy, and I was losing so, I resolved to not sell it anymore," she said. Life for Bone and her children is unbearable according to her. She is now doing casual labour, collecting and piling dirt for a house foundation. Three of the children are selling plastic bags in the streets while the oldest son is doing yard work to help the family survive.

"I am currently helping someone to fill their house foundation. I am pay at L\$150.00 [about 75 cents]

On Tuesday and Wednesday Bone went to work and returned home with five cups of rice, which she steamed, and the children ate without any soup nor oil. Thursday was a "no food day" for Bone and her children because of the heavy rain that resulted in no work for her and her sons selling the plastics. Now that Liberia has entered the rainy season, there will likely be more no food days to come.

"Today [Thursday] till now no food, the plan I have is, when it is late evenings I will go to the lady that I can wash for to give me the clothes to wash, I know she will pay but going for the clothes is an assurance that we will eat Friday because tonight, I am hoping that someone can help me for the children not to sleep hungry again."

Despite the struggle for food, Bone is also faced with an increase in the rent of her one-bedroom apartment where she and the eight children live. "See me, for the children I can't find it and the

landlord said the rent has increase, where am I going to take the money from?" she asks rhetorically.

Luckily, Bone is now one of the 300 project participants for the social protection project funded by Oxfam GB through its Catastrophe (CAT) Fund and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danida).

She was selected by Community Health Initiatives, a partner to Oxfam in Liberia.

The project aims to minimize the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on women and girls, and it was pre-designed to address their basic food and non-food needs by providing a digital cash transfer via mobile phone. Mohammed Massalay, Covid-19 focal point said the cash assistance is unconditional; participants have the freedom to use the funds to address their most unmet needs during this crisis and in times of lock down.

"Since we are digitalizing the transfer of cash to achieve on these results, we were compelled to ensure that participants were rightly selected and have active mobile money accounts. Selection criteria was developed with our partners and was used during the process targeting the most in-need households," He continues, "after the selection process we noticed that 50% (150 households) of the project participants did not have mobile phones and no mobile money account due to age and some level of vulnerability. We procured phones and sims for these 50% participants and registered a mobile money account of their own."

The project is locally led by two women partners: Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI) and West Point Women for Health and Development Organization, both largely focused on women rights. Six urban poor or slum communities were chosen West Point, PHP, Newport Street, King Gray, Pipeline and Chicken Soup Factory.

Both partners appreciated Oxfam for the support adding that the cash transfer is the first to empower women through cash transfer during the pandemic. Shah Liton, Country Director, Oxfam in Liberia said the effect of the pandemic has also largely affected Liberia with an already poor economy.

He explains that Oxfam in Liberia and partners have committed to supporting the Government efforts in line with our overall programming to address inequalities and enhance social protection during this pandemic.

The project will allow these women and their families to have access to basic food needs and non-food items to overcome the impact of Covid-19 crisis, thereby protecting them from exposure to Covid-19. Each project participant received \$109.50 United States dollars to their mobile money accounts. Currently, Bone with a smile beaming across her face, displays the text showing receipt of payment on her phone via mobile money. "I am going to buy food for the house and start selling charcoal, I do not know when this sickness will go, and I can't use all the money to buy food," she said.

The transfer is a dream come through, my children and I can't say much but to say thank you for coming to our rescue, now we can eat daily." She said. Oxfam would like to do more to alleviate the pressure brought support Bone's business idea during the Covid-19 pandemic and is working to raise the funds to do just that.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Conmany Wesseh blames Boakai supporters

By Winston W. Parley

**R**iver Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh blames supporters of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai for running campaign against him (Boakai) in his

they ran campaign against Joseph Boakai? By going around saying the most horrendous things about Joseph Boakai's good friend Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf and saying to people that Joseph Boakai was not getting the support of Ellen

claimed that his former boss lied that he is not a good cook, he may not get the job from the next employer.

"I think those who were making the campaign were very bad people ..., they were campaigning against Joe Boakai unwittingly," Senator Wesseh said during a live talk show on OK FM.

Responding to a concern as to why he was not visible on Boakai's campaign, Senator Wesseh notes that in political parties you are given assignment, but he was not given assignment during the 2017 elections so he did not act.

However, Senator Wesseh maintains that when he gets the chairmanship of the former ruling Unity Party (UP), he will encourage people to do things that would make the party to win election, vowing to get 15 senators elected.

Even though the UP under Chairman Wilmot Paye's administration expelled its former standard bearer former President Sirleaf, Senator Wesseh insists that Mrs. Sirleaf has never left the party nor has she been expelled.

"She was never expelled; she was never expelled. Some mischief makers sat down

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Senator Conmany B. Wesseh

quest for the presidency by unwittingly telling the public that their candidate, then, was not being supported by his boss former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

"I was warning people who were campaigning against ... Joseph Boakai. You know how

Sirleaf," Sen. Wesseh said Tuesday, 14 July.

Using a conversation he had with an unnamed Lebanese businessman to back his claim, Senator Wesseh says the Lebanese-man had argued that if his cook left to find a job somewhere else and then

# 38,750 households to benefit govt's relief

By Lewis S. Teh

**T**he Government of Liberia has embarked on a campaign to identify with 38,750 households affected by floods, rain storms, sea erosion, fire and other disasters across Montserrado County and other parts of the county, distributing bags of rice (25Kgs), mattresses, cooking oil, building materials, including bundles of zinc and cash transfer of US\$180 to each affected resident.

Tuesday, July 14, was a day of jubilation for residents of New Kru Town, Montserrado Electoral District#16, when the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel D. Tweah, led an array of officials, including the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill; Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee; the Executive Director of the National Disasters Management Agency of

Liberia, among others to deliver relief items and cash to the victims.

The intervention by the government comes ahead of midterm senatorial elections in all 15 counties in December, in which the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is desperate to retake

Montserrado County, its strong hold from Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties or CPP.

The ruling CDC has named Representative Thomas Fallah of Montserrado District #5 as

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



# DFC to launch regional team based in Africa

**U**.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Tuesday announced that it is launching the Africa Investment Advisor Program, which establishes a regional team based in Africa. The team will equip DFC to more proactively advance investments and expand its portfolio in this priority region, particularly as Africa continues to respond to both the health and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The launch of this team at a time when many investors are skittish about emerging markets underscores DFC's commitment to Africa," said DFC Managing Director for Africa Worku Gachou. "Now more than ever Africa needs private sector investment. DFC continues to see significant opportunity on the

missions, and supporting DFC colleagues in Washington by providing on-the-ground project due diligence and monitoring.

The positions will be funded by the U.S. Department of State and contracted through Cross Boundary, which was competitively awarded the program contract. Cross Boundary is an impact-driven investment and advisory firm with a long track-record in Sub-Saharan Africa and frontier markets globally.

The announcement comes at an especially critical time as COVID-19 continues to impact communities across Africa, where cumulative loss to GDP due to the pandemic is estimated to be as much as \$236 billion by 2021. DFC can play a powerful role on the continent as commercial capital flees emerging markets across the world in response to



continent and is eager to leverage its new regional footprint to unlock that potential."

"The deployment of DFC investment advisors to Africa advances one of our top priorities: increasing trade and investment between the United States and Africa," said Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy. "The new advisors will complement and enhance our deal teams at U.S. embassies across the continent to create more opportunities for U.S. and African companies."

The new regional team will consist of investment advisors based across East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, and the Horn of Africa. The advisors will be charged with sourcing investment opportunities across the continent, working alongside U.S. embassies and USAID

the uncertainty of the pandemic.

To submit an Africa-specific project proposal for investment consideration, email africa@dfc.gov.

Africa is a leading DFC priority: the agency currently has roughly \$8 billion invested across more than 300 projects on the continent. These investments are building critical infrastructure; expanding access to healthcare, energy, and technology; and advancing financial inclusion, particularly for small businesses and women entrepreneurs. Africa is also the focus of multiple DFC initiatives including Connect Africa, 2X Africa, and its Health and Prosperity Initiative.

DFC's efforts in Africa also advance the Administration's

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# GoL, France sign 10m Euros grant to support Nat'l TVET Policy

The Government of Liberia represented by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr., and the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), represented by France Ambassador Terence Wills, on Tuesday July 14, 2020, signed 10 million Euros grant agreement to support Liberia's National TVET Policy.

The project aims to promote the socio-vocational integration of young people in Liberia, in the economic sectors which bear the promise of growth and employment; and will develop new economic

formal sector cannot absorb everyone, instead focus is needed in the informal sector.

Also, he says, the rate at which the economy in Africa has to go at certain pace, should take into consideration the informal sector where young people will get right skills. He added that job creation in the informal sector will absorb most of the young people.

"There are number of programs funded by the EU, and this TVET signing today by the Government of France through the AFD; is another support from the French people. The key challenge now is how we make these programs work for the young people and how can these programs adapt to the

Wills said the signing of the grant will support Liberia's National TVET Policy by ensuring that over 2000 youths are train in electricity, reconstruction, agriculture, and by supporting six vocational training centers to develop agriculture through fish farming and vegetable gardening.

Ambassador Wills stated that it was important to connect the TVET with the private sector to ensure that young people will get jobs after training, stating that the program is now the second generation of TVET program.

The French Ambassador disclosed that Minister Tweah dissatisfaction about programs initiated by partners, which has led to young people not getting jobs after training, will be addressed through this Second Generation TVET program.

"Minister Tweah has been straightforward about how many youth couldn't find jobs after the training, we want the program to be successful, very complete, so we want 200 new electricians to be trained,' we want young people to look at agriculture as a smart activity that create revenue" Ambassador Wills said.

He expressed optimism that the Institute European de Cooperation de Development (IECD) will fit into government policy to diversify the economy, because Liberia imports all consumable goods. Through the program the IECD will help to process resources, add value and will create jobs for the youths.

The program will be developed by IECD, in close collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education to support TVET policy to develop income generation in the agriculture sector for the next 5 years. It will also serve the development of sustainable income generation in the agriculture sector through fish farming, vegetable gardening beginning September 2020.



Min. Samuel D. Tweah Jr.

opportunities in rural areas.

The project is aligned with the priorities of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) of the Government and will support the implementation of the national TVET strategy.

Finance and Development Planning Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr., who congratulated the People of the Republic of France on their historic celebration of the French Revolution, known as the French Day, praised French Ambassador Terence Wills for being a "champion of practical development" in Liberia over the years.

Hon. Tweah speaking at the occasion lauded the Government of France for its support to Liberia, especially the budget contribution.

Accordingly, Hon. Tweah explained that youth employability in Liberia and Africa should be taken to a new level, because the rate at which young people in Africa were entering the job market were not sustainable, due to the fact that the

circumstances of the young people is critical" Minister Tweah stated.

He told the French ambassador that the cardinal issue is about how the country delivers, adapt, change, and evaluate projects initiated by partners, adding that the TVET program will contribute to reducing vulnerability of young people by giving them skills and creating jobs.

However, he expressed the need to provide high quality training for young people, and said that TVET institutions need to be capacitated, as well as focusing on how TVET is being deliver, and monitor.

For his part, France Ambassador to Liberia Terence

# 14 in NSA dragnet

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Authorities of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning disclose here that the National Security Agency is investigating the Director of Treasury, Madam Lorpu Sworh, six (6) other employees of the Ministry and seven (7) staffers of GN Bank Liberia Limited, for a recent check scandal that saw the alleged withdrawals of L\$6 million and US\$68,000 respectively, from various official accounts with the commercial bank.

Information coming from the Ministry says the 14 suspects are facing daily investigation on their respective roles in the unapplied account scandal. The 'unapplied accounts' is used by the government for returned checks that may have problems.

Commercial banks that disburse checks for

Government of Liberia several thousand dollars with the latest allegedly occurring at GN Bank Liberia Limited when about L\$6M and US\$68,000 were respectively withdrawn at various branches of the bank from the "Unapplied Accounts."

GN Bank Liberia's Clara Town branch has been the main point of withdrawal, due to its strong liquidity base.

Prior to the discovery of the alleged syndicate, some officials of the Ministry of Finance had paid several visits to GN Bank Liberia Limited to conduct investigations, according to sources at the Ministry.

The nature of the probe was not revealed, but the syndicate, according to sources at the National Security Agency, has been operating for a while now from the "Unapplied Accounts" at



government employees sometimes experience difficulties with unnamed checks or accounts and said checks are usually returned to the 'Unapplied Accounts' for further clarification by proper authorities.

This paper reported on Monday that Finance Ministry authorities claimed to have uncovered a major financial syndicate that involves the Ministry's 'Unapplied accounts' at GN Bank Liberia Limited and other commercial banks operating here.

Comptroller General Janga Augustus Kowo, whose office manages government checks said investigations had already been launched into the scandal.

The syndicate is said to have defrauded the

various commercial banks in the country, though no other commercial bank has been named besides the GN Bank Liberia Limited.

The Office of Comptroller General Kowo said it observed suspicious transactions, which prompted an invitation to the National Security Agency to conduct investigation.

The syndicate transpires at a time the economy is in a serious nose-dive with businesses shrinking and companies laying off employees, while critical sectors such as health and education are in a quagmire due to lack of adequate funding amid the COVID-19 pandemic. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Français

## Affaire 16 milliards disparus : L'ancien Président de la chambre des représentants convoqué

L'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, M. Emmanuel Nuquaye, a été invité par le tribunal pénal « C » de Monrovia à comparaître comme témoin dans le procès des anciens responsables de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) inculpés de vol et sabotage

économique dans le cadre de la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens.

Dans sa convocation qui date du lundi 13 juillet, le tribunal a demandé à M. Nuquaye, candidat malheureux à la présidentielle de 2017, de comparaître pour expliquer si la Chambre des représentants a adopté une résolution

concernant l'impression de 10 milliards de dollars libériens en 2017 pour remplacer les anciens billets en circulation.

M. Nuquaye est convoqué près d'une semaine après la convocation de son prédécesseur, l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Alex Tyler, du secrétaire général du Sénat Nanborlor F. Singbeh et de plusieurs autres fonctionnaires.

Jeudi dernier, le secrétaire du Sénat (premier témoin à comparaître de l'accusation), a été interrogé quant à savoir si une résolution commune avait été adoptée par les deux chambres du parlement bicaméral du Libéria concernant le remplacement des billets. Et il a répondu : « À ma connaissance, il n'y a eu aucune résolution... »

Il a tenu à préciser qu'en tant que secrétaire du Sénat, toutes les résolutions, une fois adoptées et signées par membres du Sénat (par le nombre requis par la Constitution), sont signées

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Mr. Emmanuel Nuquaye

## DÉSŒBÉISSANCE CIVILE : BAMAKO, VILLE MORTE

D'habitude, le lundi, premier jour de la semaine, l'affluence est grande dans la circulation et dans les services publics à Bamako où, après le weekend, les uns et les autres s'empressent de régler leurs affaires. Ce qui n'était pas le cas hier. Bamako avait l'allure d'une ville morte.

Après le déclenchement de la désobéissance civile dans l'après-midi du vendredi 10 juillet, Bamako a vécu, hier lundi 13 juillet, sa première journée ouvrable sous la coupe de cette opération initiée par le M5-RFP pour « exiger la démission du président IBK et de son régime. » Hier, des échauffourées se poursuivaient encore, par endroits dans la capitale malienne. Celle-ci ressemblait à une ville morte. Les Bamakois ne sont pas sortis, comme d'habitude, en masse, les lundis, pour regagner leurs lieux de travail. Beaucoup sont restés à domicile pour voir « l'évolution de la situation ».

En effet, les trois jours précédents (vendredi, samedi et dimanche derniers) les manifestations ont touché tous les coins de la ville. Des pneus brûlés, divers objets

entassés pour barrer les routes suivis des scènes de saccage des services publics, des affrontements entre policiers et manifestants, des arrestations sans grand discernement des leaders du Mouvements et des manifestants par les forces de l'ordre. Bref ! Un vrai cocktail explosif, sans oublier les morts d'hommes, dont le bilan définitif reste à déterminer.

Le dimanche soir, le parrain

du M5-RFP, l'imam Mahmoud Dicko, avait appelé les jeunes au calme tout en précisant que « la détermination pour ce combat reste forte ».

Malgré cet appel au calme du guide religieux, précédé, le samedi, du discours d'Ibrahim Boubacar Kéïta annonçant l'abrogation du décret de nomination des membres restants de la Cour constitutionnelle, la situation était loin d'être rassurante. Que ce soit à la cité administrative où se trouve la plupart des départements ministériels, ou au quartier

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## Éditorial

### Enième scandale financier : Que donnera l'enquête en cours ? Rien

Il se peut que les contribuables libériens ne sachent à jamais le montant réel qui a fini par atterrir dans les poches des individus sans scrupules après les nouvelles des retraits illégaux et frauduleux d'une énorme somme d'argent des comptes du gouvernement auprès des banques commerciales.

Une enquête a été lancée au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement pour faire la lumière sur les circonstances qui entourent le retrait présumé de 6 millions de dollars libériens et 68 000 \$ US de divers comptes officiels auprès de l'une des banques commerciales du pays, GN Bank Liberia Limited. Ces derniers événements montrent combien le saignement des caisses de l'État est plus profond que ce que nous voyant en surface.

Les autorités du ministère des Finances qui clament leur innocence ont invité la National Security Agency (NSA) à enquêter sur « une organisation mafieuse qui, selon eux, auraient procédé à une série de retrait des "Comptes non appliqués" de l'Etat auprès GN Bank Liberia Limited.

A en croire certaines sources au ministère des Finances, le ministère s'est aperçu récemment de la disparition de deux chèquiers. Les malfrats se seraient servis de ces chèquiers en falsifiant les signatures des autorités compétentes pour procéder aux retraits.

Ce crime économique est commis précisément au moment où l'économie libérienne est en chute libre, où l'on assiste à un concert de licenciements massifs des employés, et où les secteurs critiques tels que la santé et l'éducation sont devenus impuissants face à la pandémie mondiale du COVID-19.

Le contrôleur général du Libéria, Janga Augustus Kowo, dont le bureau gère les chèques du gouvernement, a déclaré avoir observé récemment des transactions suspectes et invité la NSA à intervenir. Cependant, nous ne saurons peut-être jamais combien de ces transactions ont pu avoir lieu sous son regard ni le montant réel de l'impôt des contribuables a fini dans les poches des fonctionnaires sans scrupules, au grand dam du peuple.

Deuxièmement, le fait qu'une organisation gouvernementale comme la NSA même une enquête dans une affaire qui implique une autre institution gouvernementale, le ministère des Finances, qui alloue des lignes budgétaires à tous les autres ministères et organismes, nous amène à entretenir peu d'espoir quant à la transparence dans cette affaire.

Nous avons encore en mémoire l'affaire de la gestion calamiteuse des 25 millions de dollars décaissés pour, dit-on, éponger l'excès de liquidités en circulation et la disparition mystérieuse de plusieurs milliards de dollars de la banque centrale. On ignore toujours le contenu du rapport d'enquête de la commission d'audit dans cet énième scandale économique qui impliquait l'équipe technique de gestion économique dirigée par le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel D. Tweah. Le soi-disant « compte intelligent », commandé par la suite par le président George Manneh Weah à cause de la pression du public, n'a rien donné en dépit des preuves claires et empiriques qui démontrent que l'ensemble de l'exercice a été entaché de graves irrégularités du début à la fin.

Nous nous posons donc la question de savoir dans quelle mesure l'enquête de la NSA arrivera à exposer et démanteler la soi-disant organisation mafieuse qui règne en maître absolu au ministère des Finances et de la planification du développement et continue de dépouiller l'Etat du peu d'argent dont il dispose.



# Français

## Affaire 16 milliards disparus : L'ancien Président

par lui.

Plus tôt la semaine dernière, Tyler avait lui aussi été convoqué à la suite du témoignage du deuxième témoin à charge, Amos T. Goba, expert au Département d'analyse de la Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), selon lequel les enquêteurs avaient interrogé et recueilli la déposition de l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants.

Selon lui, l'enquête a établi qu'un peu plus de 13 milliards de dollars libériens avaient été imprimés et expédiés, mais la banque n'avait rendu compte que de 10, 4 milliards, ce qui signifie qu'il y a un écart de 2, 645 milliards.

Il a déclaré que l'enquête avait aussi établi que la chambre des représentants, le Sénat et l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf ont adressé des courriers à l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, Milton A. Weeks.

En outre, le témoin Goba a expliqué que l'enquête a révélé une résolution du conseil d'administration signée par le conseil des gouverneurs ; un contrat ; un document d'expédition relatif à l'envoi, comprenant la liste de colisage et la facture des voies aériennes.

L'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, Milton A. Weeks et David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio et Kollie Tamba font face à plusieurs charges dont vol de biens, sabotage économique, fraude sur les

revenus internes du Libéria, utilisation abusive de deniers publics, de biens ou de documents, vol ou décaissement illégal d'argent public, complot criminel et facilitation criminelle.

La cinquième accusée, Melisa A. Emeh, ne serait pas au Libéria et n'aurait pas été traduite en justice. Par conséquent, le tribunal a accédé à la demande de l'accusation de lui accorder un procès séparé afin de permettre aux quatre autres accusés disponibles qui ont plaidé non coupable de bénéficier d'un procès rapide.

Ce troisième acte d'accusation dans l'affaire n'inclue pas Charles E. Sirleaf, fils de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, qui était gouverneur adjoint chargé des opérations de la CBL lorsque le scandale financier a éclaté à la banque. Toutes les charges retenues contre lui ont été abandonnées en mai cette année. C'est aussi le cas pour Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba et Joseph Dennis dont les charges ont été abandonnées.

Le gouvernement a inculpé les responsables en 2019 pour leurs rôles présumés dans l'utilisation abusive de milliards de dollars libériens imprimés et expédiés au Libéria pour remplacer l'ancienne monnaie.

L'acte d'accusation allègue que les accusés ont comploté pour dissimuler délibérément le montant réel en circulation dans le but de commettre un vol, privant le gouvernement du Libéria de ses ressources.

## DÉSŒBÉISSANCE CIVILE :

administratif de l'ACI 2000, la situation était morose. Les portes des services étaient closes. Quelques usagers venus sur place ont dû rebrousser chemin.

La circulation était loin d'être dense. Les véhicules et motos qui, d'habitude, abondent sur les principales voies de ce quartier, se faisaient rares.

Un avant-goût avait déjà été donné depuis le vendredi dernier. Ce jour du 3ème rassemblement du M5-RFP, dès la matinée, les responsables des divers services publics et privés avaient ordonné aux agents de rentrer à la maison.

C'est dans cette logique, le weekend ayant été très mouvementé, que le même mot d'ordre est resté d'actualité. Ainsi, le dimanche soir déjà, l'Association professionnelle des banques et

établissements financiers (APBEF) a annoncé que les guichets de ses services resteront fermés au vu de la situation de crise. Ainsi, outre les banques et établissements financiers, les services publics, les stations-services, ainsi que de nombreuses boutiques et centres de prestation sont restés fermés. Une peur panique semblait s'installer dans la ville marquée par un ralentissement général de l'activité économique.

Avec cette paralysie de la capitale, les initiateurs « de la désobéissance civile » ont réussi leur pari, celui de mettre le pays au ralenti. En effet, dans son document intitulé « les 10 commandements de la désobéissance civile », le M5-RFP avait demandé à ses militants de bloquer les entrées des services publics pour amener les agents à observer un arrêt de travail.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Barry Eichengreen

## Formation professionnelle et pandémie

**B**ERKELEY - Le COVID-19 ne disparaît pas et d'autres virus dangereux pourraient apparaître. Autrement dit, il est temps de faire face à cette sombre réalité : beaucoup des conséquences économiques et sociales de la pandémie vont persister, peut-être même de manière permanente.

Certaines de ces conséquences sont déjà visibles. Les restaurants, les hôtels, les compagnies aériennes, les petits commerces de détail et les grands lieux de distraction sont confrontés à une baisse de la demande ; et les offres d'emploi sont de moins en moins nombreuses dans tous ces secteurs. Par contre la demande est à la hausse pour tout ce qui est en ligne, ainsi que dans les secteurs de la santé, de la garde d'enfants et des services à domicile. De ce fait, nombre de travailleurs devront faire preuve de mobilité et les nouveaux entrants sur le marché du travail devront posséder de nouvelles qualifications.

Certains économistes ont tendance à croire que si quelque chose manque à l'économie, le problème va se résoudre de lui-même grâce au marché. A titre d'exemple, ils pensent que sous la pression du marché de l'emploi, les travailleurs prendront conscience de la nécessité d'acquérir de nouvelles compétences, et que leurs employeurs transmettront ces compétences à d'autres.

Tout cela est très théorique. Comme tout le monde, la plupart des personnes en formation professionnelle ne peuvent savoir ce que sera l'état de l'économie dans deux ans quand elles entreront sur le marché du travail. Il est difficile de prédire quelles seront alors les compétences que l'on attendra des professionnels de santé à l'époque de la télémédecine et du séquençage du génome.

Par ailleurs, il n'est pas évident de savoir où se diriger pour acquérir la formation adéquate, d'autant que cela peut être coûteux. Certaines écoles d'enseignement privées promettent aux étudiants de leur apprendre à coder des programmes informatiques, mais elles ne les aident pas à acquérir un diplôme, et encore moins à trouver un emploi.

Pour leur part, les entreprises ne disposent que d'une capacité réduite de formation, notamment aujourd'hui, car elles sont elles aussi à la limite de leurs capacités financières. Et elles ne sont guère incitées à aller plus loin dans cette voie, car une fois formé, rien ne leur dit qu'un travailleur ne va pas s'en aller. Il pourrait être possible de partager les coûts en payant moins les salariés en formation que les salariés nouvellement recrutés. Mais dans des secteurs comme l'aide à la personne ou les soins aux personnes âgées, les salaires sont déjà pratiquement à un niveau plancher, notamment aux USA.

Plus généralement, nous savons que laissés à eux-mêmes, les individus et les entreprises n'investissent pas suffisamment dans le capital humain. Or la contribution d'un travailleur à la croissance économique et à la société dépasse le coût de sa formation. Pourtant rien ne pousse spontanément les travailleurs et les entreprises à prendre ce facteur en considération. Il revient donc à l'Etat de proposer des formations professionnelles. Malheureusement, dans le secteur public elles s'avèrent décevantes.

Aux USA, la commission des conseillers économiques a évalué ces formations peu avant la pandémie (sans retenir beaucoup l'attention) et conclu qu'elles n'étaient guère efficaces en terme d'apprentissage et d'aide à la recherche d'emploi. En général, plus la formation est étendue, pire est le résultat. Cela ne concerne pas seulement les USA : dans les années 1990 dans l'ex-Allemagne de l'Est, les programmes de reconversion professionnelle à grande échelle ont été très décevants.

Il y a une leçon à retenir de ces échecs : une formation professionnelle est pleinement utile quand elle se fait en relation avec un véritable emploi. Il faudrait que les concepteurs de ces formations soient informés en détail des types d'emploi qui seront prochainement recherchés et des qualifications qui seront requises. Une formation est d'autant plus efficace qu'elle est conçue en collaboration avec les secteurs ou les entreprises concernées, car les employeurs savent quelles sont les compétences dont ils auront besoin. L'apprentissage joue un rôle essentiel, et pas seulement pour les métiers manuels. Bien que l'on pense avant tout à l'apprentissage dans des secteurs comme la plomberie ou la mécanique, il intervient de plus en plus dans d'autres secteurs comme les soins infirmiers ou l'assurance.

L'Europe est en avance dans ce domaine. Cela tient à une bonne implantation des syndicats qui peuvent coopérer avec les associations patronales pour organiser l'apprentissage et au lien relativement fort entre les entreprises et les salariés. Aux USA il sera plus difficile de faire des progrès en ce sens. En 2017, Donald Trump a décidé par décret présidentiel la création d'un groupe de travail sur l'apprentissage, mais ses recommandations (suppression des redondances dans les programmes de formation et harmonisation des interactions entre l'Etat et les secteurs professionnels) étaient dénuées d'efficacité.

Aujourd'hui du fait de la diminution d'emplois à long terme, les entreprises américaines investissent moins dans la formation que dans le passé. Croire qu'elles vont recruter spontanément des millions d'apprentis relève de l'illusion.

Il faudrait des crédits d'impôts et des subventions pour encourager la formation. Aux USA, 16 Etats offrent des crédits d'impôt aux entreprises qui proposent des formations professionnelles. Il faudrait que l'Etat fédéral fasse de même en suivant l'exemple du crédit d'impôt en faveur de la recherche et du développement qui a déjà fait ses preuves, d'autant que la formation est une forme de développement.

Enfin, nous devons mieux financer les écoles et les instituts de formation professionnelle. Aux USA, cela passe par deux ans d'étude dans l'un des établissements qui offrent des cours dans tout un éventail de domaines, de l'ergothérapie à la CAO (conception aidée par ordinateur). Malheureusement, étant financés au niveau de chaque Etat ou au niveau local, ces établissements ont été frappés de plein fouet par la crise - une situation encore aggravée par la réticence du Congrès à aider les Etats et les autorités locales.

La transition vers le monde engendré par le COVID-19 ne peut être que difficile. Les responsables politiques prendront-ils les mesures susceptibles de la faciliter ?



# Liberian accounting firm partners with major international group

Andersen Global announces an added presence in Africa through a Collaboration Agreement with full-service accounting firm BICON Inc. in Liberia, continuing the organization's efforts to drive growth across its global platform and add breadth to its presence on the continent.

According to a press release, BICON Inc. is a Liberian owned certified public accounting and Forensic Investigation firm, stating that the partners are members of several international bodies. The partners have over twenty years of public practices and the staff are recruited from various universities.

Founded in 2015, BICON Inc. is led

an ever-changing business landscape," Zinnah says.

"The next logical step in our firm's journey of continued growth is our collaboration with Andersen Global, as we believe this is a synergistic opportunity that will allow our firm to continue to meet the regional and global needs of our clients."

"Our expansion in Africa remains a key priority for our organization and working with high caliber, like-minded individuals like those at BICON Inc. allows us to successfully bolster our global platform in order to provide tax services in a seamless manner," says Andersen CEO and Andersen Global Chairman Mark Vorsatz.

"The addition of BICON Inc. is a



**Certified Public Accountants**

**&**

**Certified Fraud Examiners**

by Managing Partner Zinnah B. Sackie and includes a team of more than 30 professionals of which some are on loan and currently serving in key appointed government positions.

The Monrovia-based firm provides an array of accounting services to clients in various industries, including merchandising, manufacturing, mining and agriculture.

"Our steady growth over the last several years reflects our commitment to stewardship and transparency when handling client matters and our ability to maintain the competitive edge in our market by efficiently addressing client needs in

reflection of our ambition to continue to grow our presence in Africa and a testament to the progress we are making to increase our market share on the continent."

Andersen Global is an international association of legally separate, independent member firms comprised of tax and legal professionals around the world.

Established in 2013 by U.S. member firm Andersen Tax LLC, Andersen Global now has more than 5,000 professionals worldwide and a presence in over 176 locations through its member firms and collaborating firms.

# 38,750 households to benefit

Cont'd from page 6

its candidate for the county's senatorial seat.

In June, Fallah donated 30 motorbikes and one million Liberian dollars to Montserrado local authorities in Bentol City, the county's political seat.

"This is just a continuation of what we always do for the people of District #5. We want our county leaders for movement and the amount is intended for stationeries and other operational costs. This is an initial start of what my collaboration with our President will do for you in the near future. Our leaders deserve cars but since we don't have cars now these brand new motorbikes can be a help until otherwise other", said the lawmaker, who is aspiring for the senate.

However, addressing cross section of disaster victims in New Kru Town Tuesday, the Executive Director of the National Disaster Management Agency Henry Williams said, President Weah is concerned about difficulties disasters have imposed on citizens across the country.

"This program is under the NDMA, but with specific mandate from President Weah, and we are not carrying on pick and choose; our coming here was predicated on a survey that was carried out to ensure that the victims benefit", Director Williams said.

He told the beneficiaries that intervention is not just to reduce their suffering, but it's geared towards capacity building, adding, "and we all are aware that this gesture is the first of its kind, particularly not only giving relief items but we also giving out cash transfer that will pay your rent, and do a little business."

According to him, the program will cover districts, communities, and counties that are affected by whatever disaster. "This is not a Monrovia-based program, but rather a national program that will cover all affected areas."

Montserrado County Electoral District#16 Representative Dixon Seboe, extolled President Weah for his farsightedness for those affected communities across the country, saying, "We on behalf of the people of

this district are pleased to extend our gratification to the President."

Rep. Sebo called on residents and citizens at large to do away with street protests, stressing, "When we say we will do this, we will do it; I think it's about time that our people do away with protests, even though protest is good, but negotiation brings solution to any problem."

The exercise is expected to cover about 47 communities across the country, targeting 6,750 households that contain approximately 38, 750 affected occupants.

Launching the government disasters relief program, Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee said, the government headed by President Weah is deeply troubled by the news of several disasters that occurred across various districts, communities, and counties, so it is against such backdrop the President through the NDMA thought to respond to the victims.

"We have come to say to you that the government is deeply concern about the difficulties imposed on you by the disasters that disrupt your peace in recent time. We as a government will not sit and watch our people who gave us the power we enjoy today to suffer; it is against this backdrop that the President saw it necessary to identify with you in these critical times."

A beneficiary of the gesture Esther Dweh, praised the government for its intervention, which she described as timely. "I never thought government would have come to our aid, because it's been long since we were told that they will come."

"We are glad that our people have us at heart, despite all the news about government officials being corrupt, at least they finally saw it necessary to identify with us", Madam Dweh said.

Residents of New Kru Town have been persistently threatened by sea erosion, while rain storms led to the collapse of a wall on 18th Street, Sinkor, killing five persons.

Officials of the NDMA disclosed that the affected families will receive US\$ 5,000 as a consolation from the government. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Conmany Wesseh blames

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someplace and said that she was expelled. They said I was expelled...," he says, adding that they did something and it was dismissed, it has no standing because "we are" a party of law and order.

"It is all of these things put together that led the party to unanimously remove Wilmot Paye from the chairmanship, and you still talking about expel? Nobody did it," Mr. Wesseh continues.

According to him, those raising

concerns over former President Sirleaf's influence in the Unity Party are "the same people who made the propaganda, a very shameful, disgraceful, useless propaganda...", referring to the political divide in the party in the 2017 election.

He says internally, everyone in the Unity Party knows that there was some missteps, but that process has come under review.

IN RE: AFFIDAVIT OF DECLARATION OF CHANGE OF NAME EXECUTED BY PATIENCE RACHEAL ZELEE AFFIANT/DEPONENT

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, a duly qualified Justice of the Peace for and in Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, at my Office in the City of Monrovia, County and Republic aforesaid PATIENCE RACHEAL ZELEE, DEPONENT, who sworn upon Oath and put into evidence as follows:

1. That, Deponent is a resident of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, and a Liberian by nationality.
2. That, Deponent says during her early school days, she lived and was sponsored by her aunt, MISS. ASAYA M. SIRLEAF who named and called deponent as PATIENCE RACHEAL ZELEE and which name deponent carried as her middle name, and as such, was called and named PATIENCE RACHEAL ZELEE up to and including the execution and signing of this Affidavit.
3. That, Deponent says she was born out of the flesh and blood of Mr. ALFRED W. ZELEE and MISS. ANNIE W. SEEKIE on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January A.D.1996, and was biologically named PATIENCE ZEOR ZELEE, as such, Deponent now desire to be named and called PATIENCE ZEOR ZELEE.
4. That, Deponent says she has not committed any criminal act neither had she been convicted of any crime nor had any criminal records for which this was necessitated rather, to carry her biological or family name since she (DEPONENT) is now doing everything entirely of her own, and as an adult.
5. That, Deponent says all other documents carrying her previous name remain valid, but, as of the signing and execution of this Affidavit, heretoforth, she should be named and called PATIENCE ZEOR ZELEE and that all current documents must reflect PATIENCE ZEOR ZELEE.

All of these Deponent says same is true and correct both in Law, facts and substance to the best of his knowledge and belief, and as to those matters of information given, he verily believes them to be true and correct.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY A.D.2020

PATIENCE RACHEAL ZELEE-AFFIANT/DEPONENT

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# Weah undermining NEC's independence?

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's former special prosecutor Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson has petitioned the Supreme Court, asking it to declare as unconstitutional, the re-appointment and subsequent Senate confirmation hearing being held for Mrs. Tarplah Reeves, and Mrs. Davidetta Browne-Lansannah, Co-Chairperson and Chairperson designate of the National Elections Commission(NEC).

Following their previous nomination by President George Manneh Weah, confirmation by the Senate and commissioning, the two female officials were serving tenure positions that had not

the power to nominate and, with the consent of the Senate, appoint and commission the Chairman, Co-Chairman and other members of the Elections Commission who shall hold their office during good behavior for a period of seven years, effective as of the date of their commissioning.

The law says these officials may however be removed upon proof of misconduct.

While the two females Mrs. Teplah Reeves, Commissioner, and Mrs. Davidetta Browne Lansannah, Co-chairperson were serving their seven year tenures respectively at NEC following their previous appointment by President George Manneh Weah and

Mrs. Reeves were recently commissioned, they cannot be removed or there can be no interference with the seven years tenures of the two NEC officials, by re-appointment to another position Co-Chairperson or Chairperson or removal without proved misconduct," Cllr. Johnson says.

He adds that this will also render the sacred Senate confirmation proceedings defined by the Constitution of Liberia as symbolic and cosmetic with no actual and functional effect as was determined by the framers of the Constitution of Liberia.

He asks the court to declare the appointment of



expired when they got re-appointed recently by the president.

Cllr. Johnson wants the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of the appointments and confirmation hearings of Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Browne-Lansannah, saying if it fails to determine the constitutionality of these appointments and their confirmation hearings, the actions of the Executive Branch and the Liberian Senate will undermine the independence of the NEC.

Cllr. Johnson notes that the National Elections Law of Liberia gives the president

confirmation by the Senate, Cllr. Johnson laments that the president again re-appointed the two officials in July 2020.

Cllr. Johnson believes that the action of the Liberian Senate to conduct confirmation hearings for the two presidential appointees is unconstitutional and undermines the Act establishing the NEC.

According to him, no appointment/removal can be made while the effective seven-year term of the commissioner (s) without the end of the seven-year term and/or proved misconduct.

"Therefore, the fact that Mrs. Browne-Lansannah and

the two officials and the Senate confirmation hearings being conducted as unconstitutional and prohibit, refrain and restrain such acts of the respondents.

Filing the petition, Cllr. Johnson says as Liberian citizen, he is affected by every decision growing out of the appointment (s) of the commissioners to head the NEC and under the public interest doctrine, he has the legal right and capacity to petition the Supreme Court about the determination of the constitutionality of appointment of the Commissioners of NEC.

# Capitol staffers

Starts from back page



components, but with us nothing; and our leaders are not telling anything in that regard. We want answer from them or there will be nobody allowed in the premises of the Capitol Building especially, Senate wing of the building," he threatened.

Brown continued that it is very disheartening to see the Chair of the House Committee on Ways, Means and Finance, Montserrado County District# 5 Representative Thomas Fallah, an aspirant for the Senate, allowing such inhumane treatment against staffers in Montserrado who supposed to vote for him, including staff in his office, who campaigned vigorously for his election.

Brown who is an Assistant Director at the Liberian Senate Press Bureau noted that it would amount to a curse if any staffers currently enduring salary reduction for eight (8) months by Rep. Fallah would vote him to the Senate in December.

He also disclosed that gasoline allotments for staffers of the House have been abolished, but their colleagues from the Liberian Senate still receive this amenity.

He vowed that if advocacy for their just benefits would cause them to lose their jobs, then so be it.

According to him, about 600 staffers are being affected from the alleged salary cuts, lamenting, "If you cannot improve the lives of your staffers, whose lives will you

improve?"

He said the posture of the Senate leadership towards staffers especially, central administration is demeaning and embarrassing, revealing that some staffers' homes are in serious trouble because the undue removal of the Liberian dollar salaries has been seen as unfair to their homes.

He narrated that President George Manneh Weah and his administration introduced a salary harmonization policy which saw reduction of government employees' salaries, allowances and other benefits, adding that it was understandable through officials of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning that harmonization was not intended to deny any employee of his or her Liberian dollar salary, but to ensure equal pay for equal work.

Brown, who once contested for the House in 2017, said denying them (staffers) of their Liberian dollar salary component, is something the Senate leadership is in the know.

However, when Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie was contacted via What'sAPP, he referred the New Dawn to the Chairman on Ways, Means, and Finance, Bomi County Senator Morris Saytumah.

When Senator Saytumah was contacted via mobile phone, his private phone rang endlessly on several occasions without a response. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# DFC to launch

Cont'd from page 6

Prosper Africa initiative, which aims to channel the tools and resources of the U.S. Government to substantially increase two-way trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa. In February, President Donald J. Trump selected DFC Chief Executive Officer Adam Boehler to serve as Executive Chairman of the initiative. -Press release

About DFC

U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is America's development bank. DFC partners with the private

sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world today. We invest across sectors including energy, healthcare, critical infrastructure, and technology. DFC also provides financing for small businesses and women entrepreneurs in order to create jobs in emerging markets. DFC investments adhere to high standards and respect the environment, human rights, and worker rights.

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# Capitol staffers protest -over salary delay



Spokesperson Charles Brown

from the Liberian Senate lamented that it is unlawful for lawmakers to cut their [staffers'] legitimate salary unilaterally, arguing that their earnings should have rather been increased or maintained.

He said staffers of both the House of Representatives and the Senate are giving their bosses three days ultimatum to meet with them relative to restoring their salaries or else, none of the lawmakers would be allowed to work in their offices.

Speaking to this paper following their meeting, which was marred by tense exchanges and bitterness, Brown said the leadership of the Liberian Senate has allegedly reneged in responding to their concerns about salaries.

"Government employees with the Judiciary and Executive branches are receiving their Liberian dollar

effectuated on the Liberian dollar component of their salaries.

They specifically disclosed that since July 2019, no staffer of the Liberian Senate had received Liberian dollar component of his or her salary, something, they termed as unusual and unprecedented.

Spokesperson Charles Brown

By **E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor & Ethel A. Tweh**

The grounds of the Capitol descended in disarray Tuesday, July 14, 2020 as aggrieved staffers from the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate converged in demand of deductions



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# Giroud boosts Blues' top-four hopes

Olivier Giroud's third goal in four matches was enough for Chelsea to claim a 1-0 win over already-relegated Norwich City, giving them a four-point advantage of Manchester United in fifth.

Champions League qualification appeared to be on the rocks after third-placed Chelsea lost 3-0 to Sheffield United last time out, but after Leicester City and United dropped points too, Frank Lampard's men have

consolidated their place in the driving seat.

That is not to say they were in great shape throughout at Stamford Bridge - there were times in the first half where the Blues looked like they might disappoint again, but Giroud finally punished slack defending in stoppage time.

Clear-cut chances were more of a rarity after the break, but against a Norwich side that has scored just 26 times this season, Chelsea never looked in danger of being pegged back and Giroud's



header was enough.

Chelsea were dominant throughout the first half but were less than convincing in front of goal. Giroud, starting ahead of Tammy Abraham, was guilty of spurning two excellent chances with mishit finishes, with the hosts appearing to grow frustrated as the first period progressed.

Christian Pulisic went close as well, though Tim Krul's reaction save saw him tip the American's fierce strike on to the crossbar in the 36th minute.

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