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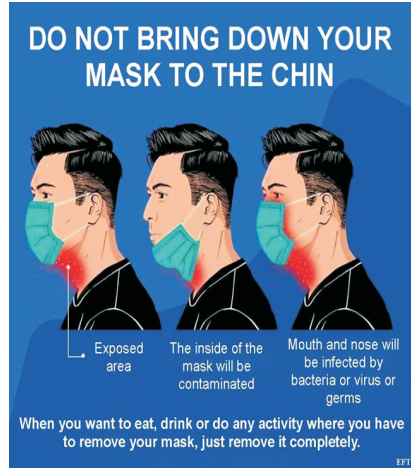
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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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We killed Tolbert for wrong reason



Slain President Tolbert



Big fuel bonanza in Monrovia

-as LPRC storage tank leaks

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Continental News

Kenyans mourn the man who made acting cool

Popular Kenyan comedian Charles Bukeko, known to many as Papa Shirandula, has been buried after dying from breathing complications on Saturday.

His self-deprecating humour made Papa Shirandula one of the country's best known TV characters.

The 58-year-old actor played the role of a stereotypical security guard living the daily hassle and bustle familiar to a majority of Kenyans.

His celebrity status won him deals with Coca-Cola and other big brands. Papa, as many affectionately called him, died on Saturday after breathing complications while waiting for treatment at a top private hospital in the capital, Nairobi, his widow Beatrice Andega, told mourners on Monday.

"When he went to hospital, he requested for three tests of malaria, pneumonia and Covid-19 but the hospital concentrated only on Covid and ignored the rest," Ms Andega was quoted as saying by the local Daily Nation news



site.

Karen hospital released a statement saying it was "aggrieved" at the reports but did not directly address the widow's complaint.

Papa's burial was done under strict health regulations imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus. It is unclear if he had contracted the virus. Most office buildings in Kenya have security guards at the main entrance - their job: to check and vet who goes in and comes

out. It is the lives of these Kenyans, often underpaid and looked down upon, that Papa managed to play so well.

In character he was unsatisfied with his job and had big aspirations - he fooled his family that he was an office worker while he was actually a lowly-paid security guard. He was a gossip, an irritant to workmates but always endearing and funny. His life was so relatable to many Kenyans, earning him a

loyal following.

On the streets, if you asked for Charles Bukeko, you would mostly draw blank faces. But speak of Papa Shirandula, and faces would light up instantly.

Not only did he represent

the new-age cult personalities of TV comedy - who took over from the iconic characters of long-running shows like Vitimbi and Vioja Mahakamani, he helped transform acting from a pauper's job in Kenya to a lucrative career.

Nearly all the cast members of Papa Shirandula have since become familiar faces, gracing advertisements, hosting radio shows and making millions in the process. Acting is now a career to be proud of in Kenya, and Papa can take some credit for that. Many Kenyans have mourned Papa as a man with a big heart, saying that his passing had been a big hit to the country.

President Uhuru Kenyatta called him "a gifted storyteller... who would be cherished forever".

A rights group in tweeted that he had united Kenyans through laughter: BBC

South African mine company 'finds rich seam of gold'

The era of big gold discoveries is thought to be long gone in South Africa as mining companies are finding it harder and more expensive to mine the precious metal in the country's old and exceedingly deep gold mines.

However, in the old mining town of Barberton, local

company Pan African Resources has found a rich vein of gold, so rich that it says it can be seen with the naked eye. It says that the amount of gold in the rock is many times what is normally found.

Marlina Elberg, a geologist at the University of Johannesburg, said the find was indeed impressive but she was wary of

taking accounts of "visible gold" at face value.

"It is unusual to still find gold that is visible to the naked eye - you should not believe that everything that is shown in the pictures on the website is gold," she told the BBC.

"Since it typically occurs together with sulphides, which are also yellowish in colour, that is why pyrite is commonly called fool's gold," she cautioned.

The discovery at the New Consort Mine coincides with a 19% surge in the price of the gold this year.

At over \$1,800 (£1,400) an ounce, gold is at its highest level in nearly a decade as the Covid-19 pandemic has pushed investors to long established safe havens such as bullion.

However, South Africa's mining industry has been hit hard by lockdowns imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19. Output is set to be reduced by up to 25% this year and this could put tens of thousands of jobs on the line. BBC



Gunmen 'kill 18' at Nigerian wedding party



Reports from Nigeria's north-western state of Kaduna say gunmen have shot dead at least 18 people and injured more than 30 others at a wedding party.

The attack happened on Sunday night in the village of Kukun-Daji in the Kaura area of Kaduna.

Community leader Jonathan Asake told the BBC that the gunmen opened fire on the party-goers as they danced to loud music in an open compound during the wedding celebrations.

He said 15 people died on the spot, then three others died while receiving treatment in a hospital.

The bride and groom escaped unhurt.

The gunmen fled immediately after the raid.

Police spokesperson for Kaduna state Muhammad Jalinge confirmed the deadly

attack but could not give any casualty figures saying that they were still gathering information.

He told the BBC that no arrests have been made.

It's not yet clear who was behind the attack, but criminal gangs on bikes have been attacking communities in several states in north-west Nigeria, killing or kidnapping people for ransom as well as stealing livestock.

On Saturday, at least 16 military personnel including three senior officers were reportedly killed as troops advanced on a notorious camp for criminal gangs inside a forest in neighbouring Katsina state.

More than 8,000 people have been killed there over the last decade.

Military operations and the offer of an amnesty have failed to stop the violence. BBC

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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COMMENTARY

By Seth Berkley Richard Hatchett
& Soumya Swaminathan

The Fastest Way Out of the Pandemic

During the 2009 swine flu pandemic, a few countries cornered the vaccine market, leaving the vast majority of the global population with no vaccine at all until the outbreak was effectively over. This scenario must be avoided at all costs during the current crisis - and, thanks to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility, it can be.

GENEVA - Every day, the COVID-19 pandemic costs the world thousands more lives and billions more dollars. The most efficient way to bring this crisis to an end - possibly as early as next year - is with a safe and effective vaccine, manufactured in large quantities and distributed globally. To avoid any unnecessary delays, governments should take this moment, while researchers work to develop the right formula, to prepare the ground for rapid production and broad, equitable deployment.

This is the principle on which the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility is based. Created by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, this innovative platform aims to distribute at least two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine by the end of 2021.

That many doses - which will be divided equitably among participating countries, regardless of their ability to pay - would cover some 20% of populations in participating countries. It would thus be sufficient to protect high-risk and vulnerable people and frontline health-care workers worldwide. (Additional doses would also be stockpiled, so that any future outbreak could be tackled before it spun out of control.)

As it stands, over 160 vaccine candidates are in preclinical or clinical development. There is no way to know which will pass clinical trials and be licensed (failure rates of vaccines in early development are high). But we can ensure that, by the time one does, an effective framework for manufacture and deployment is in place. To that end, governments must invest in COVAX as soon as possible.

The problem is that governments may feel compelled to eschew cooperation, in favor of negotiating directly with vaccine manufacturers to claim the doses they need. Yes, governments are duty-bound to protect their own citizens above all. But this national approach carries serious risks, beginning with the possibility that a government may back the wrong vaccines.

Even if a government secures enough doses of an effective vaccine for its own population, some of its people - such as those who are immunocompromised and may not be able to be vaccinated - would be left exposed if other countries are unable to obtain enough vaccine. And this leaves aside the moral imperative of ensuring that people are not cut off from lifesaving drugs.

During the 2009 swine flu pandemic, a few countries cornered the vaccine market, leaving the vast majority of the global population with no vaccine at all until the outbreak was effectively over. This scenario must be avoided at all costs during the current crisis, not least because COVID-19 has a much higher infection and mortality rate.

By collaborating with global health agencies through COVAX, governments can ensure that everyone has equal access to COVID-19 vaccines. For countries that have secured bilateral deals with manufacturers, COVAX amounts to an insurance policy, in case they bet on the wrong candidates. For countries that haven't secured any deals - the vast majority of the world - COVAX is the only way to avoid being pushed to the back of the line.

COVAX ensures that the benefits and risks of vaccine development are broadly shared. With the largest portfolio of vaccine candidates anywhere in the world, it gives participating governments the best odds of receiving a safe and effective vaccine as soon as it becomes available - and ensures that this moment comes much sooner.

When pharmaceutical companies are shouldering all of the financial risks, they will invest in scaling up production only after their vaccine has completed clinical trials and been approved. This approach may make business sense, but it does not make sense in the context of a rapidly moving global pandemic.

COVAX employs a radically different approach. In addition to using "push" financing - direct investment in research, development, and manufacturing - it uses "pull" financing, in the form of advance purchase commitments for large numbers of doses upon licensure. This provides powerful incentives for the private sector to support urgent vaccine development.¹

Moreover, COVAX pools government resources to fund scaling up the most promising candidates even before clinical trials are completed. That way, when approval comes, large quantities of vaccine doses will be ready to go. Already, WHO is working with a range of stakeholders, including member states and civil-society organizations, to develop and implement a mechanism for equitable and fair allocation of vaccine doses, once they become available.

COVAX will support only vaccine candidates that are developed in accordance with the highest possible safety standards. By working with experts around the world to develop target product profiles, share best-practice testing models, facilitate multi-country clinical trials, and promote regulatory harmonization, COVAX will establish a new benchmark for rapid, safe, and efficacious vaccine development and delivery.

We cannot afford to leave our economies on their current path for much longer. As global GDP shrinks - the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank forecast about a 5% contraction in 2020 - poverty and hunger are rising sharply. With the world economy losing more than \$10 billion each day, shortening the pandemic by even a few days would more than offset the costs of COVAX. Global collaboration - where risks and benefits are shared equally - has never been a better value proposition.

O-PED

By Chris Patten

Democracy and Decency

Whatever their Western apologists may claim, Russia and China are clearly trying to weaken liberal democracies by attacking the values that underpin them. Open societies - including the United States under a president who believes in alliances - must unite in defense of what they know is right.

LONDON - We have long been dangerously slow to recognize, let alone resist, the undermining of liberal democracies by Russian President Vladimir Putin's post-KGB thugocracy and China's more economically successful version of aggressive Leninism.

I saw the Russian side of the problem up close when I was the European Union's commissioner for external affairs from 1999 to 2004. Too many European countries, led by Silvio Berlusconi's Italy, thought that they could do business with Putin, and perhaps even turn him into a geostrategic ally. Meanwhile, Putin was presiding over a regime that sought to overturn the post-World War II international order and to fracture both the EU and the transatlantic alliance. Putin's regime bullied neighbors, invaded other countries, and murdered its critics even on foreign soil.

Moreover, Putin and his cronies understood very clearly liberal capitalism's weak spot: the greed of those who were usually already rich. Just consider how much of London - property, businesses, and members of the political elite - Russian money bought in the 1990s and the aughts of this century. And Russian cyberwarfare and money have recently distorted both American and British politics, the latter most egregiously during the 2016 Brexit referendum campaign.

Until recently, the Chinese threat was less widely noticed. But since the novel coronavirus began its deadly global rampage, President Xi Jinping has led a bruising campaign around Asia and the world to impose his regime's interests on the rest of us. Asserting this plain truth does not amount to Sinophobia, as apologists for the ruling Communist Party of China want people to believe. The problem is the CPC itself, which currently has its most aggressive and hardline leaders since the Mao Zedong era.

Xi expressed his hostility to liberal values in the instructions he issued to party, government, and military officials back in 2013. His "Communiqué on the Current State of the Ideological Sphere" itemized everything, from press freedom to parliamentary democracy, that could undermine communist rule.

Unhappily for Hong Kong, the city exemplifies most of the values that Xi hates. Despite China's promise to respect these values after it regained sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, Xi has now caged the territory with a rule of fear, maintained by what Winston Churchill called the "odious apparatus" of a police state. The great China scholar Perry Link has compared the CPC's control mechanism to "the anaconda in the chandelier": at any moment it can drop and throttle you, but you never know when this will happen.

The assault on Hong Kong's autonomy and rule of law, embodied in the hastily adopted security legislation that China imposed on the territory at the end of June, is only one of Xi's recent transgressions. In the last few months China has wielded its cosh from India to Australia, Canada to the South China Sea, and from Japan and Taiwan to Europe.

Of course, some who live in the world's free societies - including the United Kingdom - claim that this isn't happening, or that China is too important for us to stand up to it. The excuses for kowtowing come thick and fast. Because we can't change China from the outside, why bother to denounce human-rights abuses like the regime's eugenic barbarity toward Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang?

Other CPC apologists warn us not to poke the Chinese dragon at a time of worldwide economic distress, because we need its market. And what about Britain's own behavior toward China in the nineteenth century, or the other nasty regimes that we still do business with today? In fact, some of these "useful idiots" often seem to define our national interest by how much we accept its subordination to China's.

But what will happen to the values that form the core of our political and cultural identity if we do not stand up for them? And is the UK still strong enough, on its own, to do so?

Here, I cannot recommend strongly enough Anne Applebaum's recent book *Twilight of Democracy: The Failure of Politics and the Parting of Friends*. Advancing her arguments with eloquence and personal testimony, Applebaum passionately decries the corrosion of liberal, open-society values in the last three decades. Her book is a practical reminder of what all democrats should have learned from reading Karl Popper's magisterial *The Open Society and Its Enemies*, itself written in liberal democracy's darkest hours during WWII.

By allowing Britain's political identity to be subsumed in a narrow nostalgia for a nonexistent past - an inward-looking worldview nurtured by a ragbag of social media paranoias - many Brexit supporters have lost sight of the difference between right and wrong in world affairs. They have also cast aside our understanding that we need to work together with other liberal democracies to deal with bullies like China and Russia.

We must unite to defend the values that made the second half of the twentieth century so much better than its blood-soaked first half. Liberal societies - the United States under a president who believes in alliances, our EU allies, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and our Asian friends, including India, Japan, and South Korea - should be partners in defense of what we know is right.

In another extraordinary essay in *The Atlantic* criticizing senior US Republican Party politicians' collaboration with a leader whom we know is wrong - President Donald Trump - Applebaum recalls the great Pole Władysław Bartoszewski. Imprisoned by both Nazis and Communists, Bartoszewski later served as foreign minister in two democratic Polish governments after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

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OPINION

By Katharina Pistor

The Debt Predators

The financial system has turned credit intermediation into a debt mint that produces assets to enrich investors but leaves households, firms, and governments struggling with unsustainable liabilities. The COVID-19 crisis makes reform more urgent than ever.

NEW YORK - What do the Calabrian organized crime syndicate 'Ndrangheta, Hertz, China's Sichuan Trust, and the US Federal Reserve have in common? They are all deeply entangled in a financial system that has turned credit intermediation into a debt mint that produces assets to enrich investors but leaves households, firms, and governments struggling with unsustainable liabilities.

Investors have always been hungry for safety and yield. Logic suggests that you can't have both, but that was before the age of structured finance and shadow banking. With the right legal coding strategy, simple payment obligations can be turned into liquid assets for investors.

Minting debt has little to do with conventional credit intermediation. It is all about investors and fee-charging intermediaries, not about debtors. They and their assets only provide the input to sustain the production line. And whenever it breaks down, which it does when the quality of inputs deteriorates or external factors (like a pandemic) disturb its operation, central banks stand ready to absorb the risk and recycle the financial junk.

The techniques for putting together this assembly line are relatively simple. You buy a bunch of claims at a discount from loan originators, pool them with other claims and transfer them to a special purpose vehicle. The SPV serves as a legal vessel to separate its assets from those of others so that investors who buy interests in the SPV do not have to worry about any exposure to loan originators, SPV trustees, or administrators.

When mortgage-backed securities were still the hottest asset around, brokers originated loans and sold them wholesale to large banks, which set up off-balance-sheet SPVs that issued fixed-income assets to investors. Once in motion, the debt mint is insatiable. Not surprisingly, the quality of inputs (the loans and the collateral) tends to deteriorate over time. This is what gave us the subprime mortgage crisis. Post-crisis regulatory reforms focused on banks and their role, but did not tackle the asset assembly line itself. If anything, debt mints - and the raw inputs that feed them and produce the assets investors want - have multiplied.

For example, the 'Ndrangheta sent its offspring to business schools, where they learned how to earn substantial returns by supplying inputs to the debt mint. Soon enough, the 'Ndrangheta set up front companies to collect and often extort bills from health-service providers against regional governments and sold them at a premium to financial intermediaries that operate the mint. Conveniently, anti-money laundering and know-your-customer regulations do not apply to these shadow banking operations. Thus, no one questioned where these bills came from and how they had been obtained.

When Hertz filed for bankruptcy in May 2020, it was \$19 billion deep in liabilities. Most were owed to company-affiliated, but legally separate SPVs. The inputs for these SPVs were intra-company loan obligations.

The first SPV raised funds from investors, lent them to the second, which offered the cars it owned as collateral and its leasing operations to produce the cash to pay back the loans. Investors were further protected by collateral calls in the event that the value of the collateral declined. For a while, the cash inflows boosted Hertz's financial performance, but at the price of turning a car-rental company into a shadow bank whose core business was reduced to producing the collateral and cash flows for repayment. Hertz's capital structure reflects this transformation: 90% liabilities and only 10% equity. This is what the capital structure of banks, not ordinary corporations, looks like.

Even China, a country that carefully guards the stability of its financial system, has not been spared. The trust industry market, an alternative to China's largely state-controlled banking system, witnessed its "golden decade" in the 2000s and reached \$3 trillion in 2020. Sichuan Trust Company Ltd. and other financial intermediaries packaged loans to real estate and infrastructure projects into assets for investors. As the practice expanded, the quality of loans declined. The COVID-19 crisis exposed the vulnerability of this scheme, forcing Sichuan and others to miss payments to investors and prompting government intervention.

The 'Ndrangheta, Hertz, and Sichuan Trust are all part of debt mints that follow the same script and are designed for a single purpose: to produce assets to enrich investors and generate fees for intermediaries. The debtors, their houses, cars, or business operations supply only the raw material to the mint. This system is not merely incidentally fragile; it is designed to produce excessive debt, which translates directly into systemic risk.

Here is where the Federal Reserve and other central banks come in. The Fed backstops this system by facilitating, in times of distress, the recycling of these assets once investors have deemed them junk, and by offering liquidity support for unregulated financial intermediaries - even ordinary non-financial companies that find themselves in a liquidity squeeze. It assures investors that they will always find a buyer, even in the midst of a crisis. No wonder that Goldman Sachs could make \$4.24 billion in profits from its fixed-income-asset division between April and June, at a time when the US economy was in lockdown and many businesses were in free fall.

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TRIBUTE TRIBUTE

A tribute to Mrs. Coop....Need to Know

By Amb. Medina A Wesseh

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

In creating order at time chaos ensued. One day Mrs. Coop who had always managed the calm and the cool...was pissed...And as I approached her innocently not knowing the rage...she threw the tempers at me. And by the end of the day of huff and puff I manage to remind her that I had heard she was a great school proprietor and administrator. I simply said you know you have some very rough students, and :some hard heady pekin them"...just see here like dat...yours will be to try to bring order but not like school yard where there is perfect decorum...just try and we will all like that. "We worked along rough and tough but always so pleasant like the teacher to greet all the students of various shades and characters.

In came Ms. Toles. Ethel and the pair just hit off so well. Each brought different strengths to work and assist the president. Their two pairs of hands appeared like 8 or at times 10 pairs to do so many things. They complimented each other and we all worked but not as if the story would end with "and they all lived happily ever after"...No. That is for the end of fairy tales. President work nah easy...President Work has many hands and feet that must be attached to one body and all move in the name of the President.

So there were moments when some meetings were arranged and called for by the President, it would be a matter of last minute notice perhaps I would get or that which protocol would get. And I remember one of such meetings and last minute decisions being made, I do not recall what last minutes decisions were made but the people or persons showed up. Security informed they were downstairs and that President had sent for them. The ADC I believe, knew of the arrivals. I knew the context and issues which the visit was being arranged but not much on the content for discussion. This wired up Mrs. Cooper and she give me "some lips" or "tongue lashing" in the office as the visitors took everyone by surprise.

And because it was just the two of us, I stood up and manage to keep cool and give her the respect but politely said to her Mrs. Cooper, sorry about all of this but guess what I can only tell you what you need to know. And truth be told, I had no idea they were coming for a meeting but the issues are grave and urgent and that is all I can say. Anything else you need to know Her Excellency the President would let you know" There after a thick wall appeared after that between our offices. Over time I found a way to clown a bit around it and would go up quietly to her and say ON A NEED TO KNOW BASIS...so and so person needs to see Madam President.

Years would pass bye and since we broke down the wall...long before Donald Trump made WALLS popular, Mrs. Coop like the old school teacher, principle, organizer and planner, would always remind me that she met many of my kind in her school and classes ...who are rough and tough but good students..

Long after I resigned my post and left the Presidency to pursue a new career in law and private practice, I kept up with our leader and Mother of the Nation and her team of dedicated staff. In case I popped up without time to call Mrs. Coop, she or Ms. Toles would inform that they are in the loop and there was a "need to know" that I was expected..

On a need to know basis, I did not know, otherwise I would have come share one more bit of laughter to cheer you on, Rest Well Mrs. Coop.

I did not think that the little tweak of a finger, when I visited would be the last. As is often said, a good teacher or principle never says good bye... they just bid them on...and some say Farewell.



Open Letter to H.E. President Weah:

Take a stand on rape in Liberia and say a word about the establishment of war and economic crimes court and or the full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations.

Maxson S. Kpakio
Rehab Community-ELWA
Paynesville City
Montserrado County

H.E. Dr. George M. Weah
PRESIDENT
President of the Republic of Liberia
Executive Mansion
Republic of Liberia

13th July 2020

Dear Mr. President,

I am filled with frustration, pain, anger, and buried in disappointment as I write to you this letter. I wish you could agree with me Mr. Weah, and accept that is hugely mind-boggling and massive embarrassment the catalogues of rape cases across Liberia and sadly you have said nothing about it since you came to power. Are you truly a father, our father, and our father?

I have asked myself and indeed keep asking myself as to where are we heading as a country that stood against injustices that were being melted against especially the blacks in South Africa and helped to fight the apartheid system. In deed our humanitarian history has been quite unique and this nation was well respected because she was there advocating for social justice.

Mr. President, I have listened to your life story over and over again and had the realization that by such a child of a nation taking state power, my anticipation was that you could have long since lifted your hands up, voiced out and stamped your words against all forms of injustices that are being carried out against your people, including the raping of your children and women leading to some of them dying and at the same time having warlords who names are mentioned in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission moving around freely and being awarded with fat jobs including you personally appointing them as governmental advisers.

Mr. President, as an activist advocating for social justice, I thought to engage you directly through this communication and remind you that too many our children/women are being sexually molested, raped to death by wicked men who aims are to destroy every female life of this land. Mr. President, perhaps you are not aware, but I am aware that the world is on a dangerous edge of an abyss at which violence against our children and women is on the increase especially in our motherland.

In deed it is more than ever before as I have catalogued just few from 2018 and attached to this letter. Mr. President, when Africa's first female President, your predecessor Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf took over as a leader in our motherland, during her first inaugural address she said, "I will bring smiles on the faces of our children", but unfortunately as a mother/woman she did not do much to live up to her promised. I am sure you heard her. I thought it was that moment when violence against women and raping of our children would have come to an end completely. Mr. President, imagine your daughter being raped or a close relative of yours child's raped to death, imagine any of them raped and impregnated and future destroyed, just please take a moment and imagine not being in your current position, and your child becomes a victim of such situation, but justice is nowhere to be found. I am sure that your world will change forever.

Today, even government officials as well as those who should be protecting us serving in national security are being accused of committing these crimes but unfortunately no further step taken against them and no justice for the victims. Mr. President, certainly if you say nothing, do nothing, but sit watch this like you are watching a movie, you will go down in history for not giving justice to victims of rape together with their family members as well as advocate like me.

Your Excellency, just take a look at these headlines as a reminder to you as a father of the land must wake up to the reality of how your nation is under serious threat as far as rape and sexual abuse is concerned. Huge credits to the FrontPage Africa newspaper.

June 12, 2018: One yr on, MorialsWaylee alleged rape victim yet to be found (The case of a 13-yr-old Regina/Reggie who was allegedly raped and impregnated by her uncle, who was a sitting law maker at the time.

Jan. 22, 2019: Teenagers rape 68-yr-old woman

Jan. 23, 2019: Man, 71, charged with rape and murder

Feb. 19, 2019: Pastor faces 'Rape, kidnapping and human trafficking' incident

April 4, 2019: More rapes being reported but courts fail to keep up

April 8, 2019: 15-yr-old raped, but police delays arrest

May 28, 2019: Police to conduct autopsy on student allegedly raped to death

June 1, 2019: Cuttington University condemns alleged gang rape by its students

June 25, 2019: Man, who raped and killed Vivian Right in new Georgia, goes to trial

Sept. 12, 2019: 17-yr-old girl body discovered after being brutally rape

Dec. 13, 2019: Man charged with rape of 14-yr-old stepfather, joins long line awaiting trial

Jan. 14, 2020: Girl, 12, allegedly raped by 25-yr-old Former teacher

Feb. 6, 2020: 11-yr-old raped victim's father attacked

Feb. 10, 2020: 17-yr-old girl gang raped by Ex-boyfriend and two others

March 20, 2020: Police officer allegedly rapes 16-yr-old girl

April 14, 2020: 20-yr-old rapes girl 9 in Nimba

June 24, 2020: Pastor, 50, allegedly rapes 13-yr-old

Please Mr. President, I am begging you to say few words and lead the campaign against this unbillable crime, rape.

Yours, sincerely

Maxson S. Kpakio
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**"We made political accident"
--District 13 residents**

By Lewis S. Teh

A youth group under the banner Concerned Residents of District 13 in Montserrado County has descended on Representative Edward P. Flomo for his lack of leadership ability in the district.

"Fellow citizens, its with deep regret to announce that

modern district hall and district development council, among other things.

Mr. Sando says the Concerned Residents of District 13 is a radical, conscious, social and political movement and advocacy group that seeks prudent reforms in the growth and development of the people through quality leadership and genuine representation of the

Flomo's chief of office staff and his campaign manager on ground that the both have refused to share their dehumanized salary with the lawmaker.

Sando alleges that Mr. Flomo cleverly blinded his eyes on most of the promises, but has retreated into erecting mini makeshift town halls in few communities across the district, noting that he's in the constant habit of carrying on nepotism.

Sando laments that the act exhibited by the representative by appointing District Council officials from his camp has allegedly led the council and his office to misappropriate of 350 scholarship from APM Terminals, Duraplast, and CEMENCO as social corporate responsibilities to the underprivileged youth and students in the district.

"We have detected the inability of our lawmaker to introduce or sponsor a serious minded bill that will address health care, youth empowerment, education, security, electricity, infrastructure development and the rule of law under the period review," he continues.

The Concerned Residents of District 13 say they have decided to pass a vote of no confidence in Representative Flomo and declare him as one term lawmaker who has reneged on his three cardinal functions which include lawmaking, oversight and representation. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



we the people of district 13 have made a political accident to have elected Representative Flomo," group chairman William B. Sando said at a press conference Sunday, 19 July.

He accuses Mr. Flomo for having failed to live up to his campaign promises including construction of a three storey

district.

According to him, the failure of Representative Flomo to structure the district's youth leadership to lead them to conduct community elections shows his incompetence.

Further, Sando indicates that the Concerned Residents of District 13 categorically condemn the dismissal of Mr.

where Coalition membership doesn't have seats, candidates who provide the best option for victory shall be considered as the coalition nominees.

The Maryland Senator argued that the document that

created the Coalition for Democratic Change is very clear for anyone to temper with, warning that doing so is to create unnecessary tension

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Sen. Morais petitions NEC

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Maryland County Senator H. Dan Morais has petitioned the National Elections Commission to interpret and enforce agreement uniting the Congress for Democratic Change, the National Patriotic Party and the Liberian People Democratic Party as the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

Senator Morais in his petition submitted Monday, July 20, before the full board of commissioners of the National Elections Commission quoted Article Seven (7) Section (g) of the Coalition document which states that parties to the Coalition that occupy seats in the legislature shall reserve the right of nomination to seats and in constituencies

Senate staffers lock Finance office

By Bridgett Milton

Aggrieved staffers of the Liberian Senate here Monday locked the Senate Finance office at the Capitol, demanding that their payroll be turned over to the Human Resource department.

Spokesperson Charles S. Brown said, in a meeting last week Thursday, they asked the finance department to turn the payroll over to the HR department, but this has not happened, so they decided to close the office until the payroll is turned over to the HR.

Brown disclosed that in the meeting, they were informed by human resource officer Alvin Yan that he has been asking for the payroll from the finance department, but the department is not responding, something that is creating dark cloud over their plight.

He said if the payroll is not submitted to the HR, there are pending actions. He also disclosed information reaching them indicates the Senate staffers are over 2,000, but challenged the figure.

According to Brown, the Liberian Senate took the bullet for them because there was a national salary cut in the Liberian dollars component of their monthly salary, so the wage bill was increased by \$557,000 to cover up for the Liberian dollars but no staffer has benefited.

The Director of Press for the Liberian Senate JarlawahTonpo confirmed that last week Thursday, the leadership of the Senate met with the staffers and it was agreed that the payroll should be turnover to the HR department, but till now, it has not been done, so the aggrieved staffers locked the finance office.

Members of the Liberian Senate debated Wednesday, 15 July during their regular session that if pending protest announced by staffers of the Capitol would be aborted, the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance should account for over US\$500,000 allotted for staffers' salaries.

Maryland County Senator James Gble-bo Brown said when the Senate committee realized that the government had cancelled the Liberian dollars salary component of staffers at the Capitol as a result of the salary harmonization policy, the leadership went in the Senate's internal budget and

allotted over US\$500,000 to spread among staffers to ease their economic burden.

According to him, they agreed the allocation should be effected, but expressed shock the amount has not been reflected in the take-home-pay of the staffers' something, he said, was addressed since July last year during the budget hearing and allocation.

Senate Pro-Tempore Chie, mandated the Senate Committee on Ways, Means, and Finance to investigate the matter and report to plenary in the soonest possible time.

The Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah, who submitted the draft national budget for FY 2021 (US\$535 million) to the House of Representatives July 15, for scrutiny and subsequent passage, clarified that his ministry did not temper with salaries, allowances and other benefits for staffers at the Capitol because the Legislature is a political ground, and that doing so would have created more political tensions and rift between the Finance and Development Planning Ministry and the leadership of the 54th Liberian Legislature.

Minister Tweah told plenary that deductions were effected at other agencies, ministries and branches of government but not Legislative staffers as being projected in some quarters.

The President of the Civil Servants Association of Liberia, Johnson Moibah said cancellation of employees' salary is totally in violation of the Public Financial Act of Liberia, and whosoever is engaged in such practice, should desist, as his leadership is prepared to support staffers of the Capitol in bringing the Senate leadership's feet to the fire.

Johnson assured the aggrieved staffers the Association is seriously concerned about their plight, and called on Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie to speedily address the matter or else, pending unspecified actions could make the grounds of the Capitol uncomfortable for lawmakers. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Jeety blasts critics

-Denies any extended support for food distribution

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Indian Counsel General to Liberia Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety) has challenged his critics to come with facts to back their claim that he receives money from extended sources to support his initiative aimed at helping the vulnerable population here.

“Why people who [don’t] know about what others are doing will embark on falsehood, disinformation solely intended to only lie about what he is doing for the

financial support to carry out the humanitarian work which is under the supervision of Jeety Trading Corporation.

The Indian envoy further challenges those spreading the rumors about the food distribution to prove their allegation of extra financial support being given to support the initiative or face the full weight of the law.

Speaking in an angry tone, the Indian Counsel General discloses that several unscrupulous individuals called him alleging that he received

distribution comes directly from his business, adding that he has not received money from anyone whether in or out of Liberia.

He argues that he runs the only foreign business that is working with Liberians in meeting the food needs of vulnerable and less fortunate people who do not have the financial strength to cater to their own needs during the coronavirus crisis in Liberia.

Mr. Jeety’s comments come following a recent encounter with some individuals who visited the food distribution site on Center Street to collect information about his emergency hot food distribution.

That group soon disappeared from the scene when it asked as to why it had gone there to make the inquiry.

Jeety Trading Corporation has been distributing food to hospitals, prisoners, people living with disabilities, the eye clinic and to several other arrears for several months.

Meanwhile, as he continues his humanitarian gesture and food distribution to the vulnerable population of Monrovia, the Indian Counsel General on July 19 identified with another handicap man Santo Brown of Broad Street when he turned over a brand new wheel-chair to the handicap man.

Brown, who has been struggling for wheel-chair for so long was gratified when he was invited from among others waiting to receive their hot cooked meal from Jeety Trading Corporation on the Slipway football field to receive his wheel-chair.

Santo Brown is the third less fortunate person that has received wheel-chair from the Indian Counsel General.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Indian Counsel General to Liberia Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva

vulnerable population of Liberia?” he pondered as he addressed reporters on 19 July.

“Let me make it very clear that I have not received a dime from anyone to do what I am doing. If someone thinks that I received money from an extended source, let them come with the fact,” he says.

Mr. Jeety has been feeding vulnerable folks here with free hot meals daily. He dispels rumors circulating in Monrovia that he received

money to implement his hot food distribution program to less fortunate Liberians.

He terms the information as a smear campaign to take away the public’s attention from the humanitarian gesture being undertaken by Jeety Trading Corporation.

He warns those spreading misinformation about the distribution to find something to do since in deed they are less busy.

He notes that every penny spent on the ongoing food

Speaker Chambers

Starts from back page

Patience continued, “We were okay with our previous market tanks but since our Representative for the district said he wanted to build a modern one, we were all happy but see where it has ended us now.”

Another fish seller, Ruth Woods, said they feel abandoned by Speaker Chambers because since 2017, he hasn’t completed their market building.

According to her, several calls were placed to the Speaker thru his constituency coordinator, Rebert P. Weah, about their conditions, but despite the calls, action is yet to be taken.

Ruth and her colleagues, re-echoed call to Speaker Chambers and other concerned citizens to go to their aid in completing the market.

However, constituency coordinator Weah said calls from the marketers are now being answered by the Speaker.

According to him, budget for the market project has been finalized and the project will be completed before end of July this year.

He confirmed there had been several calls from

marketers about the delay in the Speaker’s projects for the district, but it wasn’t Speaker Chambers’ fault.

He detailed that the market and other projects are Speaker Chamber’s legislative projects, being funded by the Government of Liberia through the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

He said due to other circumstances during the previous regime, LACE constructors couldn’t continue with the projects; something, he said, caused the delay.

Mr. Weah disclosed that the Speaker has already allotted US\$36,000 to complete all projects in his district.

He appealed to marketers and other residents in the constituency of Speaker Chambers to exercise patience, as funding has already been secured for that purpose.

Currently, the small market project has already been awarded to constructors to have it completed, while the others are still at a standstill. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Salary harmonization

Starts from back page

with them on Thursday, July 23, at the Capitol at which time she might have concluded discussion with Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore, Albert Chie.

Based on her appeal, the aggrieved staffers through their president, agreed to disengage, giving access to staffers of the finance department to resume normal business.

However, the Senate chairman on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget, Bomi County Senator Morris Saytumah claimed after the ascendancy of the Coalition for Democratic Change-led administration, the government decided that all public employees earn a harmonized salary, which should be paid in United States

dollars. He disclosed that to enforce the pronouncement, US\$1 million was deducted from the senate budget.

Commenting on claim by Vice President Taylor that humanization policy of the government did not affect the Liberian Legislature, Senator Saytumah said he was not in Monday’s meeting with the Vice President and the staffers, so he cannot differ with her, noting that at times, people are misquoted.

“During the budgetary allocation period of this current fiscal year, we identified US\$527,000 to allocate among the staffers but the distribution was to be done based on ranking of positions and mathematical formula that we’re establishing to do,” he said. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Cont’d from page 6

Sen. Morais petitions

among partisans and stalwarts.

He said as long he remains senator of the 54th Liberian Legislature and pursuant to Article 46 of the Liberian Constitution, his term of office as a senator shall expire at the end of 2020. Meaning that his seat as a senator shall be subject of election at the mid-term senatorial elections, which is scheduled for 8th December 2020, and that such position is not be contested for in the CDC’s primary.

Sen. Morais, who represents the National

Patriotic Party, noted that the by-election for the successor to Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe, formerly senator of Sinoe County, the Coalition deferred to the Congress for Democratic Change in consideration of the fact that the party overwhelmingly won the elective positions for Sinoe County by defeating the Unity Party during the 2017 presidential election.

He argued that on the basis of this deferral, the Congress for Democratic Change went through its internal processes and procedures for the second time and nominated Augustine

Chea to be the Coalition’s candidate for that by-election. Which Chea won and is currently Senator of Sinoe County.

The Senate chairman on Foreign Relations also highlighted that in the by-election for the successor to the late Senator Geraldine Doe-Sheriff, the Coalition decided that Montserrado County is a “controlled territory” of the Congress for Democratic Change and based on that decision, the constituent political parties of the Coalition decided that the Congress for Democratic

Change should field a candidate for the Coalition to contest the by-election.

He narrated that the Congress for Democratic Change underwent its internal

process and procedures and nominated Madam Paulita Wie to be the Coalition’s candidate; but Paulita Wie lost the by-election to Darius Dillon of the Liberty Party.

Français

Agnès Taylor est de retour. Va-t-elle reprendre le contrôle du parti de son ex-mari Charles Taylor ?

La mère fondatrice du Parti national patriotique (NPP), Mme Agnès Reeves-Taylor, est rentrée chez elle après avoir passé plusieurs années en exil. Va-t-elle reprendre le contrôle de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti patriotique national (NPP) ? En tout cas, c'est la question que se pose

tout le monde actuellement.

L'ex-épouse de l'ancien président libérien Charles Taylor est rentrée dans son pays dans la nuit du mercredi 15 juillet 2020. Accueillie par Bell Dunbar, elle se serait installée à Careysburg, aux abords à la ferme de Bell Dunbar.

Elle est rentrée sept mois après que des charges de

terrorisme retenues contre elle au Royaume-Uni où elle arésidé pendant plusieurs années ont été abandonnées. Avant son arrestation, elle enseignait dans une université britannique.

Mme Taylor avait été inculpée en 2017 de huit chefs

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Côte d'Ivoire : pourquoi Alassane Ouattara sera candidat

Après le décès de son Premier ministre et dauphin désigné, Amadou Gon Coulibaly, le président ivoirien s'est finalement résolu à briguer un troisième mandat. Histoire secrète d'un revirement qui s'annonce lourd de conséquences.

Abidjan, esplanade du palais présidentiel, le 14 juillet en milieu de matinée. Tout de noir vêtu et portant un masque chirurgical, comme les règles sanitaires l'imposent, Alassane Ouattara écoute les hommages rendus à Amadou Gon Coulibaly par la ministre de l'Éducation nationale, Kandia Camara, puis par le secrétaire général de la présidence, Patrick Achi.

Le chef de l'État semble perdu dans ses pensées, tiraillé entre le chagrin qui l'étreint - ravivé par l'émotion qui transpire de cette cérémonie en l'honneur de son Premier ministre -, la nécessité de faire bonne figure et celle, plus insidieuse, de remettre sur le métier l'ouvrage qu'il avait si méticuleusement confectionné : sa succession.

Malgré près de trois décennies de combat politique au cours desquelles il affronta bien des tempêtes, dont une guerre civile qui fit plus de 3 000 morts, Alassane Ouattara est aujourd'hui confronté à l'une des séquences les plus pénibles de sa carrière. Son fidèle compagnon, son fils spirituel, celui en qui il avait une confiance aveugle, s'est éteint le 8 juillet.

Le cœur du « Lion », fragile

au point de lui valoir une transplantation cardiaque en 2012 et deux mois de convalescence en France cette année, en mai et juin, après un infarctus, a lâché. Amadou Gon Coulibaly, celui qui a cheminé trente ans durant dans l'ombre de son mentor sans une seule anicroche, celui qui souffrait de devoir prendre la lumière pour être président à sa place et qui ne vivait que pour servir son chef, n'est plus. Il laisse

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BankiTechnology lance la solution Passeport Covid au Liberia

La prévention et l'éradication du coronavirus mortel restent une préoccupation de BankiTechnology SAS d'où la solution Passeport Covid. Passeport COVID est une identité numérique attribuant à chaque citoyen un statut parmi six valeurs (positif, négatif, guéri, contact, résultat de test COVID en attente, pas testé) via la technologie USSD. Elle est aussi disponible en version Android & IOS avec le module QR CODE, GPS et Bluetooth. Passeport COVID facilite le rendu des résultats des tests COVID-19. Cette innovation permet aussi de contrôler et sécuriser les frontières, de gérer la mobilité entre les villes ou localités contaminées ou non contaminées, éliminer le risque de falsification des documents de résultats de test ou de voyages, de faire respecter les contrôles au niveau des barrages sanitaires, de localiser les centres de dépistage et de prises en charge, contrôler les accès des lieux de services public, privés, le transport

voie terrestre en cette période difficile pour accompagner l'effort national de réponse contre la COVID19.

Pour sa part, le DG de BankiTechnology, Mamadou Bah a remercié l'ONG Zéro Pauvre Afrique et Healthcare Federation of Liberia ainsi que Orange, MTN.

« La vision de BankiTechnology est de déployer la solution dans tous les pays Africains pour le contrôle et la sécurisation des frontières terrestres. Nous sommes optimistes malgré tous les obstacles franchis en Guinée. Car depuis le début du mois d'avril, nous nous battons pour y faire adopter la solution pour le bien être des guinéens et voir aujourd'hui Passeport COVID utilisé au Liberia et des discussions très poussées avec d'autres pays cela prouve à suffisance que Passeport COVID est adaptée à la réalité des pays africains. Son utilisation ne nécessite ni internet, ni installation, ni



commun et les domiciles, tracer la mobilité des populations, retrouver la chaîne de contamination, remonter les informations des voyageurs ou d'autres types d'informations et fournir les statistiques.

Le 15 juillet 2020, marque le lancement officiel de Passeport COVID en République du Liberia. Au cours de la cérémonie, Madame le Ministre de la Santé, Dr Wilhelmina Jallah s'est exprimée en ces termes « Désormais, la population libérienne peut accéder à travers le code USSD *303# à la solution pour bénéficier des services offerts par Passeport COVID afin de freiner la propagation du coronavirus ». Cette cérémonie a été clôturée par la signature d'un protocole entre le Ministère de la santé et la société BankiTechnology. La patronne du département libérien de la santé a remercié BankiTechnology pour avoir effectué le déplacement par

smartphone, ni coût et est aussi accessible à toutes les catégories sociales », a déclaré le DG de BankiTechnology.

Il faut rappeler que cette société guinéenne a fait ses preuves à travers plusieurs innovations comme la conception de la Plateforme d'orientation en ligne des bacheliers, les solutions digitales de la RTG, le portail web du Ministère de l'économie numérique, le chatbot Yètè Mali, le portail Yètè Mali ainsi qu'avec la mise en place des Taxi BankiDrive... Pour bénéficier de la solution Passeport COVID, les gouvernements à travers leurs Ministères de la Santé peuvent envoyer des lettres d'intention à contact@passeportcovid.org. La solution est gratuite et les coûts y afférents sont mobilisés à travers des contributions volontaires, des mécénats, des subventions et de dons.

Français

Agnès Taylor est de retour. Va-t-elle reprendre le

d'accusation dont notamment complot en vue de commettre des actes de torture, facilitation de viol des femmes captives par des soldats du Front patriotique national du Libéria (NPFL), infliction de douleurs ou souffrances graves à un garçon de 13 ans et torture de "l'épouse d'un pasteur" qui avait résisté au viol.

Selon des informations, ces infractions auraient été commises pendant la guerre libérienne en 1990, mais l'affaire avait pris du retard au Royaume-Uni après plusieurs années de débats juridiques avant de pouvoir parvenir à la Cour suprême du Royaume-Uni.

Mme Taylor 54, à l'époque en 2017, travaillait alors comme maître de conférences à l'Université de Coventry avant d'être inculpée. Même si elle a nié toutes les allégations, elle a été détenue dans la prison pour femmes de Bronzefield en attendant son procès. Le sentier devait commencer l'année suivante, janvier 2018. Toutes les charges retenues contre elle ont été abandonnées en décembre 2019 pour non-lieu, les procureurs n'étant pas parvenus à présenter des preuves suffisantes pour étayer les allégations portées contre elle.

Lorsqu'il rendait sa décision à l'époque, le juge britannique a déclaré que Mme Taylor ne pouvait pas être accusée de crimes contre l'humanité et de crimes de guerre parce que les crimes de torture présumés qui lui sont reprochés ont été commis en 1990, avant l'adoption de la loi sur la Cour pénale internationale en 1991. Mme Taylor a quitté le Libéria en 1992 et a divorcé d'avec Charles Taylor en 1996, avant la fin de la guerre

civile. Elle n'avait pas quitté le Royaume-Uni depuis 2001, avait appris le tribunal.

Les procureurs ont fait valoir qu'elle agissait à titre officiel de facto pour le compte d'un groupe armé, le Front patriotique national du Libéria (NPFL), qui avait été formé par Charles Taylor et avait lancé une incursion armée contre le régime du président Samuel Doe en 1990.

Dans sa déclaration à la suite de son arrestation en 2017, Mme Taylor a déclaré qu'elle n'avait à aucun moment agi à titre officiel pour le NPFL et a contesté que le NPFL était l'autorité gouvernementale de facto dans les domaines concernés.

Mme Taylor n'aurait eu aucun contact avec son ex-époux Charles Taylor depuis sa condamnation à 50 ans de prison ferme pour avoir aidé et encouragé des crimes de guerre et des crimes contre l'humanité en Sierra Leone voisine.

Mais à en croire des informations qui nous sont parvenues au cours du week-end, Madame Taylor, qui serait très populaire auprès des militants du NPP, aurait l'intention de reprendre le contrôle du parti de son ex-mari, qui est actuellement dirigé par l'autre épouse de l'ancien président libérien, Mme Jewel Howard-Taylor, actuelle vice-présidente de la République du Libéria.

Le parti patriotique national, parti membre de la coalition au pouvoir, est en proie à des querelles internes éternelles. Le parti serait divisé en deux factions rivales, l'une dirigée par la vice-présidente Taylor et l'autre par James Binney. Selon nos sources, le groupe de James Binney semble être plus proche de Mme Agnes Taylor et lui aurait souhaité la bienvenue pour reprendre le contrôle du parti afin de le réorganiser.

Côte d'Ivoire :

autour de ce dernier un vide immense. Plus de Premier ministre, plus de dauphin, plus de confident, plus de « fils ». Le sort s'acharne : au même moment, le vice-président Daniel Kablan Duncan, autre proche parmi les proches et vieux compagnon de route, contraint Ouattara à rendre publique sa démission, remise fin février. Ce n'est pas une fougade décidée un soir de déprime : Kablan avait déjà envoyé une première lettre de démission en... juin 2018.

C'est désormais un secret de polichinelle, Kablan nourrissait des ambitions présidentielles, qui se sont heurtées au choix d'AGC.

S'il avait fini par intégrer cette donne, il aurait au moins aimé que les formes soient mises, qu'une primaire ou une sorte de consultation aient été organisées pour désigner le dauphin, sentir que le chef hésitait. Kablan n'a guère supporté ce qu'il a ressenti comme un manque de considération et a préféré se retirer la tête haute.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Seth Berkley Richard
Hatchett Soumya Swaminathan

L'issue la plus rapide pour sortir de la pandémie

GENÈVE - Chaque jour, la pandémie de la COVID-19 ajoute des milliers de pertes de vies et des milliards de dollars de pertes financières à son triste bilan mondial. La méthode la plus efficace pour mettre un terme à cette crise – possiblement aussi tôt que l'année prochaine – consiste à mettre au point un vaccin sûr et efficace, produit en grandes quantités et distribué mondialement. Pour éviter tout retard inutile, les États devraient saisir l'occasion, pendant que les chercheurs travaillent à trouver la bonne formule, de préparer le terrain pour une production rapide et un déploiement généralisé et équitable.

C'est le principe sur lequel repose la Facilité de financement pour l'accès universel aux vaccins contre la COVID-19 (la COVAX). Créée par Gavi, l'Alliance du vaccin, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et la Coalition pour les innovations en matière de préparation aux épidémies (COVAX), cette plateforme novatrice vise à distribuer au moins deux milliards de doses de vaccin contre la COVID-19 d'ici la fin de 2021.

Un si grand nombre de doses – qui sera réparti équitablement entre les pays participants, sans tenir compte de leur capacité de payer – couvrirait 20 % des populations des pays participants. Il suffirait donc de protéger les populations vulnérables et à risque élevé ainsi que les effectifs médicaux de première ligne dans le monde entier. (on pourrait aussi constituer des réserves additionnelles, pour que toute écloison future puisse être étouffée avant qu'elle ne s'enflamme.)

À ce stade, plus de 160 vaccins candidats sont en phase de développement préclinique ou clinique. Il est impossible de prédire lequel passera avec succès les essais cliniques et fera l'objet de licences (le taux d'échec des vaccins dans les premiers stades de développement est élevé). On peut par contre faire en sorte qu'un cadre efficace de production et de déploiement soit déjà en place lorsqu'un des vaccins s'avérera efficace. À cette fin, les États doivent investir dans la facilité de financement COVAX le plus tôt possible.

La difficulté réside dans la possibilité que les États puissent se sentir obligés de renoncer à coopérer, et préférer négocier directement avec les producteurs de vaccins pour obtenir les doses dont ils ont besoin. Il est vrai que les États ont le devoir de protéger leurs propres citoyens avant toute autre considération. Mais cette stratégie nationale comporte des risques importants, à commencer par la possibilité qu'un État donne son aval à des vaccins inopérants.

Même si les autorités publiques d'un pays mettent la main sur des quantités suffisantes de doses d'un vaccin efficace pour sa propre population, certaines personnes, celles qui sont immunodéprimées et qui ne peuvent peut-être pas se faire vacciner – ne seraient pas protégées si d'autres pays ne parviennent pas à obtenir de quantités suffisantes du vaccin. Et ceci est vrai sans même tenir compte de l'obligation morale de ne pas laisser pour compte des pans entiers de la population dont la vie pourrait être sauvée par les traitements.

Pendant la pandémie de la grippe porcine en

2009, quelques pays ont fait main basse sur le marché de ce vaccin, laissant la vaste majorité de la population mondiale sans aucun vaccin jusqu'à ce que l'épidémie soit réellement éteinte. Ce scénario doit être évité à tout prix pour la crise actuelle, ne serait-ce que parce que la COVID-19 présente des taux d'infection et de mortalité beaucoup plus élevés.

En collaborant avec les agences de santé mondiale dans le cadre de la facilité COVAX, les autorités publiques peuvent assurer un accès égal à tous aux vaccins contre la COVID-19. Pour les pays qui ont conclu des accords bilatéraux avec les producteurs, l'adhésion à la COVAX revient à une police d'assurance, au cas où ils misent sur les mauvais candidats. Pour les pays qui n'ont pas encore conclu d'accord – la grande majorité de la population mondiale –, la COVAX est le seul moyen d'éviter d'être refoulé au portillon.

La COVAX assure que les retombées et les risques de la mise au point de vaccins sont répartis sur un plus grand nombre. Fort du plus grand éventail de vaccins candidats dans le monde entier, la coalition donne aux pays participants les meilleures chances de recevoir un vaccin sûr et efficace dès sa commercialisation – et fait en sorte que ce moment arrive plus vite.

Lorsque les sociétés pharmaceutiques assument tous les risques financiers, elles n'investiront dans l'expansion de la production qu'après avoir finalisé les essais cliniques et reçu l'autorisation de produire le vaccin. Cette approche se justifie économiquement, mais elle n'a pas de sens dans le contexte d'une pandémie dont la propagation est aussi fulgurante.

La COVAX emploie une stratégie radicalement différente. En plus de recourir au financement pour faire avancer les projets – l'investissement direct en recherche, en développement et en production – elle se sert du financement comme moyen d'attraction, sous la forme d'engagements d'achat anticipés pour un grand nombre de doses après l'homologation. Ceci assure que le secteur privé soit fortement incité à prendre en charge la mise au point de vaccins urgents.

De plus, la COVAX met en commun les ressources des instances nationales pour financer l'accélération de la production des vaccins les plus prometteurs même avant la finalisation des essais cliniques. Ainsi, lorsque le vaccin sera homologué, de grandes quantités de doses de vaccin seront prêtes à être distribuées. Déjà, l'OMS travaille avec un large éventail de parties prenantes, notamment les États membres et les organisations de la société civile, pour élaborer et mettre en œuvre un mécanisme de répartition équitable et juste des doses du vaccin, après sa mise en production.

La COVAX ne prendra en charge que les vaccins candidats mis au point en conformité avec les normes de sécurité les plus rigoureuses. En collaborant avec des experts du monde entier pour élaborer des profils de produits cibles, échanger des modèles de pratiques exemplaires sur le plan des essais, faciliter les essais cliniques dans plusieurs pays et promouvoir l'harmonisation des réglementations, la COVAX établira une nouvelle référence pour la mise au point et la distribution rapide, sûre et efficace de vaccins.

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GHEI Supports Children's Healthcare and Basic Education in Ghana

By KesterKennKlomegah

Across the African continent, state support for healthcare delivery and education is still inadequate, despite claims of huge resources, excellent management and effective policies. Worse is lack of social infrastructure and minimal financial incentive for NGOs to operate especially in rural communities.

However, there are a number of NGOs, such as the Ghana Health and Education Initiative (GHEI), have taken up the challenge to help, at least, a few hundreds of impoverished and underprivileged children in rural communities. As a grassroots NGO, GHEI currently leads the COVID-19 emergency preparedness/response activities and other related operations in rural communities in Ghana.

In this interview taken by KesterKennKlomegah for Eurasia Review, the Assistant Country Director of the Ghana Health and Education Initiative (GHEI), Enock Happy Nkrumah, discusses at length some of the success stories, challenges and future directions.

Here are the interview excerpts:

What are the motivating factors for the choice of country and directions of activities?

The founder of Ghana Health and Education Initiative (GHEI), Dr. Diana Rickard, chose Ghana, a peaceful and relatively safe country for her project work. After completing the project work, she decided to work in Ghana, West Africa, to help alleviate human suffering that is more prevalent in rural areas. She is a person who abhors human suffering.

Increased access to better health and education can significantly contribute to reducing poverty and empower rural communities. Healthy and well-educated communities can escape chronic poverty and prevent transfer of poverty from generation to generation. This is the primary motivation for the direction of our activities.

What are the specific challenges in these health and education areas in the country?

Early Childhood Literacy

In spite of the progress, Ghana has made in improving access to public primary schools in rural parts of the country, children still face challenges that prevent them from improving their literacy and numeracy skills. Overcrowded classrooms, inadequate infrastructure and a lack of trained teachers and educational resources such as textbooks, pens etc. contribute to a school environment that is not conducive to learning.

This lack of friendly infrastructure and learning atmosphere severely compromises learning outcomes, especially in low performing primary



school students. Because the learner is expected to adapt to the education system, the challenges have compounded for these students who are often overlooked by both teachers and parents, and consequently become 'invisible'.

The absence of individualized support and learning materials leads to irregular attendance, long periods of absence and finally the child drops out.

Youth Education

At the junior high school level, Ghanaian education system aims to provide a holistic and quality approach to education in order to help young students acquire requisite knowledge, skills and values for the purpose of achieving success and contributing to Ghana's socio-development. To this aim, it is very relevant to create an environment that helps to promote and sustain quality delivery of education not only in urban areas but also rural Ghana. For the youth residing in communities like Humjibre, teaching and learning should take place in an environment that is healthy, safe and sound and gender sensitive with adequate resources and facilities.

There are however urgent challenges to achieving quality education for junior high school students in rural communities and these include -

- Poor infrastructural facilities such as lack of proper benches, sanitation & hygiene.
- Lack of instructional materials such as school textbooks, notebooks and other stationery items to support learning.
- Low number of well-motivated and committed teachers to deliver quality education.
- High student/teacher ratio. The class sizes in junior high schools in Humjibre exceed 50 students per class.
- Absence of proper guidance and counselling services for junior high school students in rural communities.

In Humjibre, a large percentage of adults in the community are uneducated, hence, they cannot pass on their knowledge about careers and the importance of education, therefore the children often lack motivation to continue their education and lack inspiration to attain careers outside what they know within the village, where the majority of people are farmers.

All these factors contribute to a poor-quality education in junior high schools, hindering academic performances in young children and negatively impacts their future possibilities. It also makes difficult for students to continue their education beyond junior high school.

Girl's Education

Progress has been made in closing the gap between girls and boys when it comes to education in Ghana. Disparity in enrollment rates between girl and boys at the junior high school level has been lessened. However, we are yet to reach gender parity at the senior high school level. In addition, the average number of years of education that the poorest girls from rural areas aged 20 to 24 can attain is about four years as compared to 13 years for girls from affluent homes in urban areas.

Poverty severely restricts educational opportunities for girls living in rural communities like Humjibre. They are especially at disadvantage when confronted with the combination of above factors and must also simultaneously adhere to cultural and social norms that include helping with household chores and taking care of young siblings. Teenage girls are often seen as a financial burden by their families and have to earn money to support their families, forcing them to discontinue their education. Without education, they are denied the chance to fulfill their potential and break the cycle of poverty for good.

Maternal Health

Between 2000-17, Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) declined in Ghana from 484 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 339 in 2010 and to 308 in 2017, representing a 36% reduction in 17 years. In July 2008, Ghana introduced a free maternal health policy under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). This was a key strategy for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Notwithstanding these advances, the fact remains that Ghana's progress is less than optimal and much more needs to be done. Evidently, the pace of decline in maternal mortality ratio has been slow leading to Ghana's inability to achieve the millennium development goal target of 190/100,000 live births in 2015. The maternal mortality ratio remains high and requires strenuous efforts if Ghana must achieve the sustainable development goal target of 70 per 100,000 live births in 2030.

Most maternal deaths occur in the rural areas as compared to urban areas. This has largely been attributed to the high prevalence of skilled birth attendance of 74% in urban areas as compared to 43% in the rural areas. There are several other reasons as major contributing factors for high MMR in Ghana and these include -

TO BE CONT'D



We killed Tolbert for wrong reason

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe says Liberians killed President William R. Tolbert for the wrong reason because they have not been able to solve the problem for rice roughly four decades after their dissent for the staple escalated into a bloody conflict.

While turning over to local farmers a farm cultivated on an estimated over 200 acres on Saturday, 18 July in Kitoma, Sanniquellie, Nimba County, Dr. Whapoe argued that those who killed Tolbert for rice since 12 April 1980 are yet to have on the market a bag of rice marked: "Produced in Liberia."

"They still go to the Chinese people, they still go to the American people, they go to Indian people to bring rice that they plant on their soil to bring it here to feed you. Does that solve the problem? So was there any good reason we killed Tolbert for? No. We killed Tolbert for the wrong reason," he says.

Dr. Whapoe strongly believes that going to the soil can transform people's lives, adding that if at least US\$24 million is invested into



Liberia's consumable products, in two years the country can stop importation of rice and be transformed through agriculture by working with local farmers in four agriculture districts.

Though he speaks against the killing of President Tolbert, Dr. Whapoe doesn't agree however with Tolbert's approach of importing rice at that time in addressing Liberians' protest for the staple because that didn't solve the problem.

"Tolbert did that. They went [and] they brought the rice, right after the rice finished again, Liberian people got

angry. They say oh, the rice finished ... the best thing we can do is let's kill Tolbert. He's not feeding us, let's kill Tolbert. April 12 came...," Dr. Whapoe explains.

"The question is since we killed Tolbert April 12, 1980, have you seen those people that killed Tolbert, have you seen anybody - all of them that killed Tolbert, did you see any bag of rice on the market, they say produced in Liberia?" he asks.

Judging from a historical context of how Liberians make decisions, Dr. Whapoe believes that God is angry

with them because the citizens here dance for bad things instead of good things.

He suggests that when Tolbert was killed for rice, women here spread their lappers to celebrate their leader's killing, and then Liberians subsequently gave the land to imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor "so he can kill us," vowing at that time to vote Mr. Taylor even if he killed their parents.

"Because we were acting wise in our own foolishness, God turned his back on us," he adds, recalling that Liberians experienced wars on three occasions after voting Mr. Taylor as president because they had not learned sense.

Additionally, Dr. Whapoe recalls that Liberians voted to the presidency a candidate that had argued that education can't develop the country, and demonstrated their support for such an argument with a slogan that said: "You know book, you [don't] know book, I will vote for you."

"We voted for him. Y'all see how Liberia looks like today? Y'all like the Liberia we get today? I want y'all to sit down small and look into [the] view mirror ... and see where y'all coming from and where y'all going," he says to men, women and children on the farm at Kitoma.

"If the place [this] country [is] going ... satisfies y'all, y'all must not think about [a] man like me because that's not the place I want [to] carry y'all," he says.

According to Dr. Whapoe, he wants to carry Liberians to a place where money will not be their problem and the food that their children will eat on a daily basis will not be a problem.

Through his Optimum Agriculture Projects in Nimba, Bong and other parts of Liberia, Dr. Whapoe says he is trying to exemplify what it means for a nation to be sustainable and he intends to transform Liberia through agriculture.

He says he has cultivated little over 200 acres of land for the project in Kitoma town alone, Sanniquellie of Nimba County, costing him a few millions of Liberian dollars on the farm which creates jobs for the locals.

He says proceeds from sales of produce from the farms are intended to be used to address the health and education needs of the farmers' children by making deposits into the hospitals and schools' accounts while farmers also get food from the farm.

According to Dr. Whapoe, he also has farms in other parts of Nimba and Bong Counties and he works with others who have their individual farms in other places.

Dr. Whapoe indicates that investing in agriculture will help address issues of health, education, engineering, technology and road network here, noting that donor funds will not develop the country.

"But our government has ignored that," he says, telling the farmers that the more the government suppresses them, the more it goes high up.

The opposition political leader reminds farmers that current and past governments here have been doing this, but he wants to become president of Liberia to put money into the people's pocket rather than take money from their pockets.

"Yes, I want to become president of Liberia. But I do not want to be the president that will take from your pocket; I want to be the president that will put into your pocket," he says.

Continuing, Dr. Whapoe says he sees the farming initiative and other opportunities to help the locals reach their maximum potential because it will not be possible for him as an individual to put money into the pockets of every citizen in the town.

He urges them to take care of the farm and protect it, saying it is intended to take care of them and take away hard time from their town.

Big fuel bonanza in Monrovia

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Mesurado River on the Bushrod Island, suburb of Monrovia was early Monday morning the scene of a rush for fuel oil that spilled over from the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC's) storage tank.

Upon hearing the news, hundreds of people living close to the LPRC and others that live afar along the Mesurado River from West Point, Freeport, Clara Town and Front Street, among

others, stormed the waterway with huge containers to drill fuel floating on the river and the ocean.

Information gathered indicates that those who heard the news first took away dozens of containers filled with fuel oil intended for the Liberian market to their respective localities before daylight.

Several residents from these different communities had taken enough fuel oil in containers before armed officers of the Liberia National

Police (LNP) could arrive.

Attempts by this paper to ascertain from LPRC workers circumstances that caused the fuel to spill over from the holding tank located in the LPRC fence did not materialize.

There was a heavy presence of state security officers who were going after those that took the fuel oil.

However, a source at the corporation confided in this paper that while working last Saturday evening, 18 July, they noticed that there was a problem with one of their fuel storage tanks that needed prompt attention to preserve the fuel.

He adds that to their surprise, the fuel leaks out into the Atlantic Ocean where unscrupulous individuals including black market boys carried containers and drilled the leaking fuel from the water into their various localities for business transactions.

Meanwhile, several persons who collected fuel into their containers were arrested and the fuel oil confiscated by the police while others standing by the waterway were chased out by the police.

It was not however



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established as to which of the importers got affected by this fuel leakage from the LPRC premises.

Our reporter visited the LPRC premises to get a

comment from authorities on the incident but was denied access by security officers assigned at the main entrance to the corporation.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Salary harmonization didn't affect senate -VP Taylor



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor clarifies here that the budgetary allocation for the Liberian Legislature was never harmonized doing the salary harmonization exercise in government, contrary to assertion by the leadership of the Liberian Senate.

Ms. Taylor, who is also President of the Liberian Senate, met with protesting senate staffers who had earlier locked entrance to the finance department of the Senate and the House of Representatives under heavy downpour Monday, demanding about one year salary arrears.

She held an emergency

meeting with the aggrieved staffers led by their leader Charles Brown, the chief of office staff to Grand Gedeh County Senator Wesley Yonton, Communication Director of the Liberian Senate, JalawahTonpoe and three additional staffers from her office to find an amicable solution.

VP Taylor narrated that she was shock to hear about staffers' Liberian dollars salary component being cancelled when in fact, authorities of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning did not at anytime bother with their [staffers'] salaries.

The staffers had locked the finance office entrance, demanding for their payroll for personal perusal or else, staffers to the finance department would not have access to office.

Madam Taylor appealed to the staffers to calm down, scheduling another meeting

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Speaker Chambers abandons market project

By Patrick Mensah, Maryland County

Several citizens, including marketers in Pleebo, electoral district#2, Maryland County, are calling on Speaker Bhofal Chambers to complete abandoned projects in the district.

They said some of the uncompleted projects initiated by Speaker Chambers in the district since 2017 include a district market building, library, and

extension of the New Pleebo Elementary and Junior High school, among others.

Marketers at the Pleebo District Small Market, which is uncovered, are worried about their plight in the wake of the rainy season.

The Pleebo market project has delayed for three years. Marketers are frustrated over protracted delay by the Speaker in completing projects specifically, their market building.

Patricia, a fish seller,



lamented that condition at the market is unbearable, noting that since their market stalls were demolished in 2017, the new market project is yet to be completed, regretting the situation.

"See my son, I thank God you have come; look at our condition in the market, when rain falls, we're in the rain; when sun shines, we're in the sun; what have we done wrong?" She asked.

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