

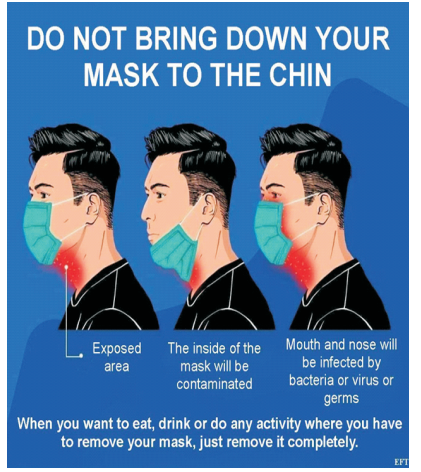


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VOL.10 NO. 129

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Dillon increases war drum volume



war drum volume

-Weah will not end his term if...

P11

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Continental News

Seven babies die in one night at Zimbabwe hospital

Seven babies were stillborn at Harare Central Hospital in Zimbabwe on Monday night after urgent treatment was delayed because of staffing issues, two doctors have confirmed to the BBC.

Nurses are on strike nationwide because of a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other concerns, and the maternity wards were overwhelmed.

One doctor said Monday's deaths were "the tip of the iceberg".

The health sector has recently been hit by a Covid-19 procurement scandal. It is alleged that multi-million dollar contracts were awarded to buy supplies at inflated prices - and the health minister has been sacked over the allegations.

Warning: Some readers may find an image below distressing.

A leaked government response to senior doctors, who wrote to complain about conditions and to threaten strike action, acknowledged "challenges" in hospitals, an "increase in poor outcomes" and a serious shortage of

medical supplies because of a lack of foreign currency, but urged medical staff "to reconsider your intention of withdrawing services". The deaths at Harare Hospital first were first published by Dr Peter Magombeyi, who tweeted, "We have been robbed of our future, including our unborn babies. Please stop the looting." Two doctors with direct knowledge of the situation at Harare Central Hospital confirmed to

the BBC that on Monday night eight Caesarean section operations were performed. Seven of the babies were stillborn.

"There was very, very late intervention," said one doctor, speaking on condition of anonymity because he did not have official permission to talk to the media.

"Two of the mothers had ruptured uteruses and needed early operations. The other

operations were done because of obstructed labour, but were not done on time so the babies died, stuck in their mothers' pelvises."

The doctor described "dire" scenes at Harare's two main state hospitals, with only a handful of nurses and doctors at work because of a strike.

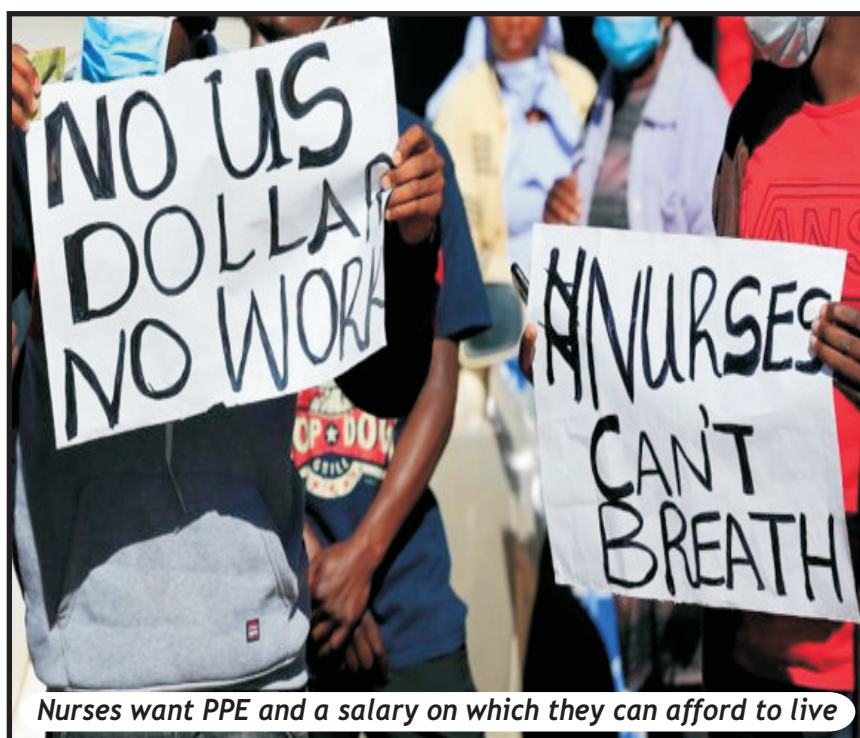
Many of the capital's smaller clinics have also been affected, or closed, by industrial action which began in June, prompting many pregnant women to come to Harare Hospital, overwhelming the maternity ward. "These are not isolated incidents. This is repeated every day and all we can do is watch them die. This is torture for the families, and for the junior doctors," said a second doctor. The doctors spoke of a serious shortage of PPE equipment as well as drugs to treat eclampsia, and blood supplies needed to treat haemorrhages during births.

"There is a skeleton nursing staff - mostly senior matrons who cannot go on strike. But they're not able to cope," said the first doctor.

"Doctors are trying, but they're very tired. And junior doctors are not experienced in terms of identifying complications [during pregnancy]." In a statement, Zimbabwe's Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists described the situation in hospitals as "grave," and "beyond dire".

"Our women are suffering and we believe that all stakeholders, the government, medical practitioners, civil society and individuals must act to save the voiceless mothers and babies."

There are rising tensions in Zimbabwe, with hyperinflation strangling the economy, and protests against Zanu-PF, the party that has run the country since independence, planned for Friday. BBC



Nurses want PPE and a salary on which they can afford to live

Probe starts on police beating of Kenyan lawmaker



Kenya's police watchdog has launched investigations into Tuesday's brutal conduct of four police officers pictured beating a female lawmaker in the capital, Nairobi.

The police were deployed to the Nairobi County Assembly to disperse lawmakers who had tried to impeach the Speaker amid chaotic scenes, according to local media.

A standoff between the police and lawmakers ensued and the four police officers were pictured assaulting local

representative Patricia Muthu.

The country's police watchdog said it had "contacted some of the people who were present during the chaos" to get testimonies.

"The preliminary enquiry seeks to establish the role played by police officers who were deployed at the premise," it said in a statement.

The local affiliate of Amnesty International has called on the police officers to be held accountable: BBC

Dozens Killed in Sudan, South Sudan Inter-Communal Fighting

Armed men suspected of being from South Sudan's Greater Pibor Administrative Area stormed a village Monday in Bor County, killing roughly 17 people according to eyewitnesses and state authorities - the latest attack in a wave of deadly inter-communal clashes across the region. Eighty-year-old

Chuti Maker, who is recovering at Bor state hospital from several knife wounds in the back and chest, said dozens of armed men wearing military uniforms invaded Makol-cuei village Monday afternoon.

"They started shooting randomly and set the houses on fire. We started to run and they chased after us. When they

stabbed me on my back, I fell on the ground. I was stabbed again in my chest. When I fell, the two men chasing me started arguing over whether to shoot me or not before they left," Maker told South Sudan in Focus.

Twenty-seven-year-old eyewitness Akur Aleng, who suffered a broken leg during the attack, said the gunmen killed her father-in-law and abducted her 14-month-old child.

"We heard gunshots toward the east where we have our gardens, and we were confused about what was happening. After a short while a certain gentleman came running and told us to go away as there was an enemy. Just as we were conversing, they arrived and started shooting at us, killing my father-in-law. I rushed to collect my baby to run and they shot me in the leg and the baby dropped. I saw them taking my baby," Aleng told South Sudan in Focus. Majok Kelei Deng, first deputy chairman of the Bor community, told South Sudan



in Focus the unknown gunmen killed 17 people, injured 9 others and stole several goats. "Security-wise these days there are a lot of problems

and even yesterday we had an incident at Makol-cuei where we lost about 17 people and 9 people have been brought to Bor hospital here," said Deng.

EDITORIAL

Fighting divisiveness and injustice

THE ORATOR FOR the 173rd Independence anniversary of Liberia, Rev. Dr. Simeon Dunbar of the Liberty Christian Fellowship Center in Johnsonville provoked a national sense of consciousness in Liberians on Monday, July 27 when he lay bare problems that confront us and how we can, individually and collectively, emancipate ourselves to progress and prosperity.

THE THEME FOR this year's July 27 Independence Day Celebration was **STANDING TOGETHER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**, but Bishop Dunbar looked beyond the COVID-19 crisis and unraveled Liberia's deep-seated lapses, ranging from systemic corruption, nepotism, dependency syndrome, governance deficit, and culture of impunity, among others.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT down to ordinary citizens in the street, everyone has a role to play in transforming the country to the standard we envisage for ourselves. But the government has responsibility to take the lead in line with the social contract signed at the ballot box during elections.

HOWEVER, THE INDEPENDENCE Day Orator stressed, "We cannot and will not stand together to win any battle in a society that condones injustice, rampant corruption, disobedience or non-adherence for the rule of law, nepotism and tribalism, sexual violence and gender-based violence, lack of genuine reconciliation, lack of patriotism, lack of accountability, lack of integrity and with no fear of God..."

WE AGREE WITH Rev. Dr. Simeon that Liberia will not make any serious progress if we continue to nurture these vices as business as usual. We need a national revival that would direct us to doing the right thing.

TO BEGIN WITH, Liberians should roll up their sleeves and get to work, for there is dignity in labour. The Orator, who is a clergyman, reminds us from the Holy Bible specifically in Proverbs 10:4, "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand". He said the only substitute for hard work is hard life.

WE ARE GRADUALLY becoming to be known as a people who wake up in the morning and complain the entire day, blaming government for all of our challenges, without endeavoring to face them head-on in faith that with God above our rights to prove, we can overcome.

THERE ARE PROBLEMS everywhere globally. But what makes some to succeed, while others fail is will power. If we don't elevate our faith and believe in ourselves as Liberians, our country would remain stagnant for long.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADDRESS issues of police brutality against lawful citizens by promptly applying laws of the Land. It is important to uphold the Constitution and enforce it without favoritism to have a stable society. But when officials are silent on gruesome crimes such as rape and murder, the country descends to lawlessness.

PRESIDENT GEORGE WEAH and his government should listen keenly and take actions to bring about remedies to the problems that confront us, for the role of national orators is to do an honest assessment of our national life challenge us to take steps that would allow us to introspect and muster the courage to reform for better living standard.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Anne-marie Slaughter
& Wardah Khalid

Trump vs. Hi Usighur Policy

A broad US-led effort to hold the Chinese government to international account for its abuses of largely Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang would, at the very least, remind China that the world is watching. Sadly, President Donald Trump's actions will likely convince Muslims only of the depths of his hypocrisy.

WASHINGTON, DC - Last month, US President Donald Trump signed into law a bill allowing him to impose sanctions on Chinese officials involved in the mass incarceration of more than one million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minorities in the western Chinese region of Xinjiang. The bipartisan Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (UHRPA) condemned the abuses and called on the Chinese authorities to close their "vocational education" centers in the region immediately, ensure respect for human rights, and allow people living in China to re-establish contact with family, friends, and associates outside the country.

In theory, Trump could show genuine global leadership by implementing the act vigorously. Researchers in many countries have reported that, in addition to detention, Uighurs are being subjected to torture, forced labor, and sterilization. And two Uighur groups have accused the Chinese authorities of physical and cultural genocide in a complaint filed with the International Criminal Court.

The author Anne Applebaum has compared Western indifference to what is happening in Xinjiang today with the willful determination of European governments and the Vatican to ignore the famine Joseph Stalin engineered in Ukraine in 1932-33, and the Nazi concentration camps a decade later. One might add more recent examples to the list. Viewed against this background, the United States' willingness to condemn China's behavior and impose costs for it, even if only with individual sanctions, is a step in the right direction.

Moreover, this step might well gain the attention of Muslims in countries like Pakistan, Indonesia, and Turkey. The Pakistani and Indonesian governments are willing to play by Chinese rules in order to secure investment; Pakistan signed a letter last year defending China's treatment of Uighurs, while the Indonesian government says that it "will not meddle in the internal affairs of China." Turkey initially offered Uighurs asylum in the 1950s when Chinese communists took over Xinjiang. Today, Turkish police are reportedly arresting Uighur activists and sending them without explanation to deportation centers, sometimes for months.

In this context, a broad US-led effort to hold the Chinese government even partly to international account for its treatment of Uighurs - particularly at a time when America is having to reckon with its own current and past racist crimes - could mark an important turning point. At the very least, it would remind China that the world is watching.

Sadly, Trump's actions will likely convince Muslims only of the depths of his hypocrisy. Trump signed the UHRPA on the same day that allegations contained in his former national security adviser John Bolton's new book were flooding the airwaves. According to Bolton, Trump was not merely indifferent toward Uighurs' human rights, but actively encouraged

Chinese President Xi Jinping to build concentration camps to hold them.

Then there are Trump's own Muslim travel bans. The initial ban, issued in January 2017, barred all refugees and immigrants from several predominantly Muslim countries from entering the US; the measure was struck down by the courts and then revised several times until it passed constitutional muster. Since then, numerous stories have emerged demonstrating the devastating and potentially life-threatening impact of these restrictions on refugees, Muslims, and non-Muslims living in the designated countries.

One of those affected is Afkab Hussein, a former Somali refugee now living in Columbus, Ohio. Afkab has been waiting since 2015 for his wife and young children to join him in the US, but Trump's bans have prevented them from doing so. Trump's support for a law that calls on the Chinese authorities to permit re-establishment of contact between people in China and outside the country therefore rings hollow.

The UHRPA also accuses the Chinese government of "using wide-scale, internationally-linked threats of terrorism as a pretext to justify pervasive restrictions on and serious human rights violations" against Uighurs and others in Xinjiang. But Trump's executive orders seeking to bar Muslims from entering the US included similar clauses.

His first executive order cited the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the US as a justification for banning refugees and immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, despite the absence of evidence that citizens of any of these countries, much less refugees, carried out the attacks. Subsequent iterations of the ban continued to cite terrorism as a rationale. In practice, however, the Trump administration has merely blocked family members from joining loved ones in the US, and reduced admissions of vulnerable refugees to historically low levels.

The tension between Trump's belated embrace of Uighur rights and his all-too-evident dislike of Muslims (unless they are Saudi princes) raises the deeper question of who the ultimate audience is for America's - or any country's - foreign policy. Ordinary Muslims can have no doubt about how Trump feels about them, no matter what he might say to their governments. They only have to follow his Twitter feed or watch his press conferences.

Trump is the first US president to disdain normal processes for crafting and vetting official statements, preferring instead to engage directly with US voters and citizens of other countries via social media. But although he has mobilized a large constituency, he has also succeeded in alienating large segments of the public in America and elsewhere. His denigration of entire populations - such as calling Mexicans rapists or Muslims terrorists - resonate louder and longer than any official statements issued by the White House or the US State Department.

O-PED

By Kevin Watkins

Preventing a Global Education Disaster

The education losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are invisible, but will leave millions of the world's poorest children carrying the scars of diminished opportunity for the rest of their lives. The world can - and must - take immediate steps to mitigate the damage.

LONDON - "The beautiful thing about learning," the great blues guitarist B.B. King once wrote, "is that no one can take it away from you." Born and raised in poverty, King understood the value of education as a force for change. If only political leaders responding to the COVID-19 pandemic had an ounce of his insight.

COVID-19 is now mutating into a global education emergency. Millions of children, especially the poorest and young girls, stand to lose the learning opportunities that could transform their lives. Because education is so closely tied to future prosperity, job creation, and improved health, a setback on this scale would undermine countries' progress, reinforcing already extreme inequalities. Yet this emergency has yet to register on the pandemic response agenda.

Lockdowns have shut more than one billion children out of school. For an estimated 500 million, that means receiving no education at all. A Save the Children survey in India found that two-thirds of children stopped all educational activity during lockdown. The danger now is that a perfect storm of lost schooling, increased child poverty, and deep budget cuts will lead to unprecedented reversals in education.

This is an emergency layered on a pre-existing crisis. Even before the pandemic, 258 million children were out of school, and progress toward universal education had stalled. Now, increased child poverty alone could result in ten million children not returning to school. Many of these children risk being forced into child labor or early marriage (in the case of adolescent girls). Meanwhile, already abysmal pre-pandemic learning levels, which left half of all children in developing countries unable to read a simple sentence by the end of primary school, are set to worsen.

Pathbreaking research on the impact of the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir, Pakistan captures the risk to learning. Schools were closed for three months. When they reopened, attendance quickly recovered. But four years later, children aged between three and 15 who lived closest to the fault line had lost the equivalent of 1.5 years of learning.

Imagining that outcome on a global scale gives a sense of what is at stake. Education empowers people, reduces poverty, and improves health, and the human capital that it generates shapes the destiny of countries. Lost education will erode that capital, effectively placing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals beyond reach.

Governments should now be investing to prevent that outcome. Unfortunately, education budgets are being hollowed out by recession and the diversion of public spending - and international aid - to health care and economic recovery. As a result, governments in low- and middle-income countries could end up spending \$77 billion less than planned on education over the next 18 months.

So, what can be done to avert disaster? In its new global Save Our Education campaign, Save the Children has set out a three-part agenda for recovery.

The first priority is to keep learning alive during lockdowns. Governments should do all they can to reach children through radio, TV, and remote-learning initiatives. Countries such as Ethiopia, Uganda, and Burkina Faso have developed ambitious national distance-learning programs. They and others need more donor support to implement them at scale.

Second, the pandemic creates an opportunity to address the wider learning crisis. Too many children are being taught at the wrong level, owing to schools' rigid application of poorly designed curricula. Every child returning to school should undergo a learning assessment aimed at identifying those in need of support. Remedial teaching programs such as those pioneered by organizations like BRAC and Pratham can then prevent these children from falling further behind, thereby reducing the risk of future dropout.

Third, increased international financing is critical. Most of the world's poorest countries, especially in Africa, entered the economic downturn with limited fiscal space. That room for maneuver is now shrinking further as recession bites and external-debt problems intensify.

Rich-country governments have responded to the COVID-19 crisis by tearing up their fiscal and monetary policy rulebooks and underwriting ambitious national recovery plans. They should be equally bold in supporting education in developing countries.

More effective leveraging of multilateral development bank balance sheets is an obvious starting place. The Education Commission has advocated establishing an International Finance Facility for Education to provide loan guarantees, thus enabling the World Bank and other institutions to borrow cheaply on international markets and lend the funds to developing countries. Every \$1 of guarantees under this scheme could unlock \$4 of financing for education. This approach, which would include rigorous debt-sustainability evaluations of recipient countries, could mobilize resources on a scale commensurate with the crisis. Aid donors and the World Bank should support it.

To its credit, the Bank is front-loading resources already allocated to the International Development Association, its concessional lending arm. But an unprecedented crisis surely demands more than that. The Bank should establish a supplementary IDA budget of at least \$35 billion and step up its support for education.

Debt relief is another potential source of financing. The G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative for IDA members (the world's 73 poorest countries) is a small step in the right direction. Unfortunately, private and Chinese creditors, which account for over half of these countries' debt-service payments (about \$25 billion this year) have shown scant interest in participating. As a result, countries like Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Ghana are currently spending two or three times more on debt service than they do on primary education.

In effect, countries are meeting short-term debt payments by eroding long-term human capital. Allowing the claims of private creditors to rob children of their right to an education is morally indefensible and economically ruinous. That is why Save the Children has proposed a mechanism through which debt obligations can be converted into investments in children.

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OPINION

By Nouriel Roubini

Revisiting the White Swans of 2020

At the start of the year, when COVID-19 was barely on anyone's radar outside of China, the global economy was entering a fraught phase, facing a range of potentially devastating tail risks. And though the pandemic has since turned the world on its head, all of these threats remain - and some have become more salient.

NEW YORK - In February, I warned that any number of foreseeable crises - "white swans" - could trigger a massive global disturbance this year. I noted that:

"... the US and Iran have already had a military confrontation that will likely soon escalate; China is in the grip of a viral outbreak that could become a global pandemic; cyberwarfare is ongoing; major holders of US Treasuries are pursuing diversification strategies; the Democratic presidential primary is exposing rifts in the opposition to Trump and already casting doubt on vote-counting processes; rivalries between the US and four revisionist powers are escalating; and the real-world costs of climate change and other environmental trends are mounting."

Since February, the COVID-19 outbreak in China did indeed explode into a pandemic, vindicating those of us who warned early on that the coronavirus would have severe consequences for the global economy. Owing to massive stimulus policies, the Greater Recession of 2020 has not become a Greater Depression. But the global economy remains fragile, and even if a V-shaped recovery from highly depressed output and demand were to occur, it might last for only a quarter or two, given the low level of economic activity.

Alternatively, with so much uncertainty, risk aversion and deleveraging on the part of corporations, households, and even entire countries could result in a more anemic U-shaped recovery over time. But if the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the United States and other countries is not controlled, and if a second wave occurs this fall and winter before a safe and effective vaccine is discovered, the economy would likely experience a W-shaped double-dip recession. And with such deep fragilities in the global economy, one cannot rule out an L-shaped Greater Depression by the middle of the decade.

Moreover, as I predicted in February, the rivalry between the US and four revisionist powers - China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea - has accelerated in the run-up to November's US presidential election. There is growing concern that these countries are using cyber warfare to interfere with the election and deepen America's partisan divisions. A close outcome will almost certainly lead to accusations (by either side) of "election-rigging," and potentially to civil disorder.

The COVID-19 crisis has also severely exacerbated the Sino-American cold war regarding trade, technology, data, investment, and currency matters. Geopolitical tensions are escalating dangerously in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the East and South China Seas. Even if neither China nor the US wants a military confrontation, increased brinkmanship could lead to a military accident that spins out of control. My warning in February that the Sino-American cold war could turn hot has become more salient since then.

In the Middle East, I expected that Iran would escalate tensions with the US and its allies - especially Israel and Saudi Arabia. But, given Trump's increasingly evident weakness in the polls, the Iranians have evidently opted for a policy of relative restraint, in the hope that a victory for Joe Biden will lead the US to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal and loosen US sanctions. But, sensing that its strategic window is closing, Israel has reportedly been launching covert attacks on a range of Iranian military and nuclear targets (presumably with the Trump administration's tacit support). As a result, talk of Middle East-related "October surprise" is increasing.

I also raised concerns that the Trump administration might use sanctions to seize and freeze China's, Russia's, and other rivals' US Treasury holdings, prompting a sell-off of Treasuries as these countries shift to a geopolitically safer asset like gold. This fear, together with the risk that large monetized fiscal deficits will stoke inflation, has since caused a spike in gold prices, which have risen by 23% this year, and by more than 50% since late 2018. The US is indeed weaponizing the greenback, which has recently weakened as US rivals and allies alike seek to diversify away from dollar-denominated assets.

Environmental concerns are also mounting. In East Africa, desertification has created ideal conditions for biblical-scale locust swarms that are destroying crops and livelihoods. Recent research suggests that crop failures due to rising temperatures and desertification will drive hundreds of millions of people from hot tropical zones toward the US, Europe, and other temperate regions in the coming decades. And other recent studies warn that climate "tipping points" such as the collapse of major ice sheets in Antarctica or Greenland could lead to a sudden catastrophic sea-level rise.

The links between climate change and pandemics are also becoming clearer. As humans increasingly encroach on wildlife habitats, they are coming into more frequent contact with bats and other zoonotic disease vectors. And there is growing concern that as the Siberian permafrost melts, long-frozen deadly viruses will resurface and quickly spread around the world like COVID-19 did.

Why are financial markets blissfully ignoring these risks? After falling by 30-40% at the beginning of the pandemic, many equity markets have recovered most of their losses, owing to the massive fiscal-policy response and hopes for an imminent COVID-19 vaccine. The V-shaped recovery in markets indicates that investors are anticipating a V-shaped recovery in the economy.

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July 21, 2020
PSA/LRA-04/FY-20/21

REVENUE NOTICE

Attention : Taxpayers Medium Category & General Public

Subject : Online Tax Clearance Certificate Request

The Liberia Revenue Authority wishes to announce that all medium taxpayers are required to be enrolled to its online E-filing platform. This will afford the opportunity for the LRA to offer e-services to medium taxpayers and facilitate the movement from manual filing of returns to mandatory e-filing of returns. Once enrolled, taxpayers can file electronically from the comfort of their offices, homes or just anywhere with internet connectivity.

All medium taxpayers are required to enroll between now and December 31, 2020 for use of the E-filing platform. After December 31, 2020, manual filing process for medium taxpayers will be halted. All medium taxpayers will be required to use the platform to file and no manual return will be accepted after this date.

Training on the use of the E-filing platform for all taxpayer representatives/tax practitioners will run August 10 to 14, 2020 in the LRA Training Center at the University of Liberia's Capitol Hill Campus, beneath the FQ Building. Trainings will be conducted in five (5) days with two sessions per day, taking into account the Ministry of Health pronouncement on social distancing.

Taxpayers are strongly encouraged to bring their laptop computers to the training in order to do practical examples on their own computers and to be enrolled immediately after the training.

The e-filing platform is available on the LRA website at www.lra.gov.lr. The LRA is also encouraging taxpayers to use the e-filing training video to self-enroll and train themselves on the use of the platform. Training video is available on the LRA website.

You can call the LRA toll free number 0888572572 or 0770572572 and we will guide you through the installation, enrollment, and filing process. Please take advantage of the process and enroll and begin to file your taxes electronically. Remember: NO MEDIUM TAXPAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO FILE MANUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021.

Signed:

Darlington Y. Talery
Commissioner

Domestic Tax Department, Liberia Revenue Authority

Vacancy Announcement

The Searchlight Communications Inc., Publishers of the New Dawn newspaper is seeking applications from young females between the ages of 18-28 for an internship placement within the business department of the paper as sales agents.

The internship runs for three months. Interns who demonstrate excellent marketing skills will be hired permanently after the three months.

The applicants must be at least high school graduates and above, have good communication skill, must be able to market the New Dawn to potential advertisers etc.

All interested persons should direct their communications to:
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AIIB board approves Liberia's membership

The Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved Liberia's membership at its Fifth Annual Meeting held in Beijing, China, on Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

Liberia's approval follows a formal application made on 13 April 2020 by the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

This approval comes as President George Manneh Weah seeks to expand Liberia's global economic leadership and presence to foster regional cooperation, economic development and integration.

Joining the AIIB presents an opportunity for Liberia to continue to expand its cooperation with the community of Development Finance institutions (DFIs) around the world.

Minister Tweah, who attended the virtual Annual Meeting, believes the country's membership in the AIIB will definitely bring huge benefits and opportunities in terms of external resources mobilization to boost President Weah's and the country's infrastructure and economic

particularly delighted to see that AIIB has already joined other multilateral development banks like the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in their Covid-19 response by creating a Crisis Recovery Facility (CRF) to support members and clients in alleviating and mitigating economic, financial and public health pressures arising from COVID-19. Liberia as a small and developing country is no stranger to the deadly impact that a pandemic can wreak on a nation's people and economy especially when they are ill prepared. The Ebola outbreak hit the already fragile healthcare system very hard and collapsed the struggling economy. Five years on, the country is barely recovering and now are again faced with the Covid-19.

Liberia will also leverage its membership within the bank to attract Asian investors and development financing into the country, especially at a time the country needs all the investments it can get in the post-COVID-19 era.

The country's accession is subject to the National Legislature ratification.



transformation in line with the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Accordingly, debt burden of countries is becoming acute, and Liberia look more to creative financing options and instruments availed by the Bank, to syndications and collaborations with other DFIs to deliver public private partnerships to fund large national and regional projects with huge economic impacts, including roads, power, ports and health systems strengthening and water and sanitation.

Liberia as a member is expected to benefit from projects financing that has a value of more than 20 to 30 times the total value of the investment the country makes in the bank, as the AIIB could hold equity share in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) venture in roads or energy development or in projects of similar nature.

With the membership approved, Liberia stands to benefit from the announced US\$ 10 billion COVID-19 pandemic support package for member countries.

The Liberian Government is

The country is looking forward to working with the bank to explore opportunities for resolving major development and infrastructure challenges and confronting other African countries, in the form of large road and electricity infrastructure deficits, climate change and challenges to perfecting digital economic frontier.

The AIIB is also expected to partner with the MDBs to develop regional projects in the Mano river region. Liberia is presently exploring possibilities for regional projects with Guinea, Sierra Leone or the Ivory Coast.

He thanked the Board of Governors, the Management, and shareholders of the bank for according Liberia the opportunity to join the bank and will work with the bank under the CRF to strengthen the supply chain, access and distribution capabilities of our health care system which we see as critical to our Covid19 response strategy".

He used the occasion to thank President George M. Weah for his leadership in Liberia's economic and infrastructure transformation.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Man, 54, discovered dead in bathroom

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland Co.

Fear and grief have gripped citizens in Maryland County, southeast Liberia over the gruesome death of a 54-year-old employee of the William V.S. Tubman University in Harper City.

The late John Yao Seshi, whose lifeless body was discovered inside the bathroom of his residence, lying in a pool of blood, was

their bathroom, but noticed the bathroom door was locked.

Musu continues that she didn't know who was in the bathroom but when the person couldn't respond or come out for a long time, she decided to again knock at the door.

She adds that despite knocking the door for several times, no one answer, so she decided to forcibly open the bathroom, but to her utmost surprise, she saw her late father lying in a pool of blood in the

Sunday, July 26, 2020, her dad held a conversation with three (3) of his friends, who are yet to be identified and the three gentlemen left subsequently after the discussion.

However, she claims that her late father was being hunted without stating by whom.

Information gathered by the New Dawn correspondent in Pleebo, reveals the late John Yao Seshi was found dead in his bathtub in a pool of blood with a knife by his side.

Eyewitnesses who actually viewed the corpse disclosed that it was stained with blood and cuts on the neck and stomach.

Meanwhile, the Crimes Investigation Division (CID) of the Liberia National Police in the county has embarked on a probe to establish the cause of death.

The Police have invited the deceased's daughter and widow, and the three unidentified friends, who came at his residence for discussion and left prior to his death along with others for questioning.

Besides, community residents are also carrying on their own investigation as to whether the late John Yao Seshi was murdered or he committed suicide.

Similar suspicious death occurred recently in Tagba Town, Gedetarbo, Cavalla Rubber Plantation, in Maryland County when a 52-year-old man was discovered dead in his bedroom. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



chief mechanic of the Tubman University.

The incident occurred near Green and McGill Street in Harper on Monday, July 27, 2020 at evening hours. The deceased's 17-year-old daughter, Musu Wilson narrates that she discovered the sudden death of her late father Monday evening after a neighbor asked her to use

bathtub. Musu explains that prior to the incident, her mother, who is a health worker, had already left the house for the Joseph Jenkins Dosson Memorial Hospital, the largest referral hospital in the county to commence her 6pm shift the same day.

She says actual cause of her father's death is yet to be established but recalls that on

U.S. foresees greater progress in Liberia's human trafficking status

The United States Embassy near Monrovia says Liberia has made great strides in the fight against human trafficking and is poised to make even greater progress in the years to come.

According to a press release issued by the embassy in commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) which is observed July 30 each year, the United States' 2020 TIP Report earlier this year raised Liberia's TIP status to that of Tier 2.

"This change was a direct result of the commitment and diligent frontline work of individuals in Liberia to end human trafficking. Liberia has made great strides in the fight against human trafficking and is poised to make even greater progress in the years to come," the U.S. Embassy says.

According to the release, the United States is pleased to provide support for this year's World Day Against Trafficking in Persons commemoration.

It states that the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Section of the United States Embassy in Monrovia will continue to work closely with its implementing partners, Liberian law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Labor to end human trafficking in Liberia.

The theme of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2020 is "committed to the cause- working on the frontline to end human trafficking."

The release says this year's theme seeks to focus attention on those

Debbah to contest

Starts from back page

in 2005 and 2011, respecting arguing that his good friend from soccer pitch, lacked the experience then.

He disclosed on a live talk show hosted on OK FM recently that President Weah is his cousin.

Debbah began his professional football career with national club, Mighty Barrolle in 1984, but left Liberia in 1989 for Union Douala of Cameroon. In 1991, Debbah moved to Ligue 1 squad AS Monaco of France where he played in the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup finals, before subsequently getting to Olympique Lyonnais.

In 1995, he returned to Ligue 1, specifically, OGC Nice, where he played until 1997. In that year, Debbah moved to Belgian League side Anderlecht before coming back to Ligue 1 for one season with Paris Saint-Germain in 1998.

After leaving Paris Saint-Germain, he went to Turkcell Super League side Ankaragücü for the 1998 and 1999 seasons

and then onto Greek side Iraklis. He then switched to Al-Jazeera Club in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in 2001 and then to Muharraq Club in Muharraq, Bahrain, in 2003.

In 2008, four years after leaving Muharraq Club, he moved to Indonesia Super League with PKT Bontang for one season.

Debbah was part of both the 1996 and 2002 Lone Star squads for the African Cup of Nations. During a July 2004 FIFA World Cup qualifying match against Togo in Monrovia in which he served as captain, he refused to be substituted in the 53rd minute, instead waiting until the 68th minute to leave the pitch. The match resulted in a 0-0 draw, causing the national team to leave the stadium under protection of an armored personnel carrier.

He made a final appearance for the national team in September 2018, at the age of 48, making him the third oldest international player on record.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne

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organizations and individuals, who work tirelessly to end human trafficking around the world.

The U.S. Embassy discloses that it would like to recognize the law enforcement officers, social workers, healthcare professionals, NGO staff, and many others working in Liberia and around the world to protect the vulnerable.

The release notes that U.S. President Donald Trump recently said of Human Trafficking: "Human trafficking is often a hidden crime that knows no boundaries. By some estimates, as many as 24.9 million people- adults and children-are trapped in a form of modern slavery around the

world . . . The evil of human trafficking must be defeated."

"We remain relentless in our resolve to bring perpetrators to justice, to protect survivors and help them heal, and to prevent further victimization and destruction of innocent lives."

On 18 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared 30 July as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights.

People and communities all over the world, including in Liberia, observe this day each year.--**Press release**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rep. Dopoh blows whistle -against ArcelorMittal

By Bridgett Milton

River Gee County District # 3 Representative Francis S. Dopoh, questions the legality of concession agreements between the Government of Liberia and steel giant, ArcelorMittal.

Transitional Chairman Gyude Bryant, that it has concluded discussions with a company called Global Infrastructural Holding Limited, about the development of iron ore in Nimba County.

He added that document, in his position shows that Global

that unfortunately on March 28, 2005, ArcelorMittal, not being a member of the bidding process, requested for the development of iron ore in Nimba County and that, due to some connections, was given the bid, instead.

Recently, Nimba County District # 5 Representative Samuel Kogar, wrote a communication to Plenary of the House of Representatives, calling on that august body to review the concession of ArcelorMittal.

The Lawmaker explains that the Mineral and Mining Law of Liberia calls for first come, first serve, and as such, the contract awarded to ArcelorMetal is in complete violation of the law.

Rep. Dopoh further argues that in counties (Nimba and Grand Bassa) that ArcelorMittal presently operates, there is no development, disclosing there are people (signatories) in documents that he has who are still around today, and they should be made available to testify that indeed, ArcelorMittal never won the bid.

Dopoh clarifies that his interest on the matter is not personal, but to establish the facts because the right thing should done in the country. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Representative Francis S. Dopoh

According to Representative Dopoh, since 2006 the concession has not been reviewed by the government.

He notes that in 2004, the Inter-Ministerial Committee informed the Government of Liberia through late

Infrastructural Holding Limited formed a partnership with the Government of Liberia, establishing Liberia Global Mining Company, which was awarded a bid.

The River Gee County Lawmaker further indicated

Indian community identifies with 14th Military and JFK hospitals

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Indian community in Liberia has donated several items, including food to the 14th Military Hospital in Margibi County and the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Sinkor, Monrovia, respectively.

The items donated include 300 bags of rice, five brand new motorbikes and lifesaving oxygen.

Presenting items to the Chief Medical Doctor of the John F. Kennedy Hospital, Dr. Jerry Brown, on Liberia's Independence Day, July 26th, Indian Counsel General to Liberia, Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva said, the rice is a July 26th gifts for nurses at the hospital.

He said the Indian community here recognizes the meaningful contribution nurses are making to save lives.



He said each nurse at the 14th Military Hospital should receive two (2) bags of rice for the hard work and dedication being demonstrated in the medical profession in Liberia.

Mr. Sachdeva also presented five Honda motorbikes to the John F. Kennedy Hospital to facilitate its operations, especially, at the time when the country is fighting the Coronavirus.

Receiving the donations on

behalf of the government, Dr. Jerry Brown emphasized that he also recognizes the many contributions being made to both hospitals, which continue to enhance operations of these medical facilities.

He revealed that over time the hospital finds it difficult to purchase lifesaver oxygen fuel because of exorbitant price in the country, noting that the hospital pays about

Justice Minister

Starts from back page

giving testimony in the trial because by "doing so, the Minister will be testifying against the State."

All the defendants on trial including former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, David Fahart, Elsie DossenBardio and KollieTamba have pleaded not guilty for charges of theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

While Judge YamieQuiquiGbeisay sustained some of the prosecution's objections to certain questions being posed by the defense seeking to extract statements from Justice Minister Dean, the defense team pushed further, this time asking the court to declare the Liberian Attorney General a hostile witness.

Judge Gbeisay disagrees with the defense on this request, saying their reliance on the cross certainly cannot be supported by the law they relied on.

"That law is a wrong interpretation. Counsel submission to declare the witness hostile is hereby denied," Judge Gbeisay rules.

The judge says Justice Minister Dean was subpoenaed to produce documents and testify to them, but notes that the court had earlier ruled that Cllr. Dean would be allowed to produce the required document only.

"The first question posed to the witness as to whether he brought ... those documents, he answered no. [In] the mind of the court the witness has performed his duty," he says.

However, Judge Gbeisay granted the defense's request for Minister Dean to produce a document allegedly produced under his (Dean's) signature

which is relevant and material for the defense.

According to Judge Gbeisay, the court reasons that Minister Dean, having been subpoenaed to produce instruments, has no testimony to be inconsistent, adding that the section [law] relied on by the defendants was not relevant to the witness.

Meanwhile in a twist of events, the judge granted defense lawyers' request with modification, handing Justice Minister Dean a suspended contempt and mandating him to produce the requested documents on Wednesday, 29 July at 9:00 A.M or be held in contempt if he failed to do so.

The CBL officials including former Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, David Fahart, Elsie DossenBardio and KollieTamba were indicted for the alleged theft of billions of local currency printed and shipped to Liberia following a series of mass protests that prompted local and international investigation into claims that the money went missing.

The fifth defendant Melisa A. Emeh is said to be out of the bailiwick of Liberia and has not been brought to court, therefore the court has granted prosecution's request to grant her a separate trial so as to enable the four other defendants that are available to get speedy trial.

This third indictment in the case did not include former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son Charles E. Sirleaf who served as Deputy CBL Governor for Operations when the financial scandal emerged at the bank, because he was nolleprosequi with prejudice in May this year.

Besides Mr. Sirleaf, the prosecution here also entered a nolleprosequi (dropped charges) in favor of defendants Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba and Joseph Dennis.

US\$35.00 per fuel.

He expressed joy that the donation of the lifesaver oxygen comes at the time when the hospital is in dire need of such equipment, assuring the Indian community that items donated will be used to save lives of patients in critical condition.

Dr. Brown, who received world's recognition for his successful fight in eradicating Ebola from Liberia, then

appealed to other friendly individuals to contribute whatsoever medical materials and equipment to enable the hospital continues its services to the people of Liberia.

This is not the first time the Indian community in Liberia has donated items to the two government hospitals; the community had provided other assistance to other areas of both hospitals. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Dr Agnès Reeves Taylor n'a pas peur de tribunal de crimes de guerre

Dr Agnès Reeves Taylor se dit sereine par rapport à la création d'un tribunal de crimes de guerre au Libéria, car elle n'a commis aucun crime de guerre et n'a pas été citée dans le rapport de la Commission vérité et réconciliation (CVR).

« Personnellement, je n'ai pas peur d'un quelconque tribunal de crimes de guerre. Je ne suis pas autrice de crimes de guerre, je n'ai pas été découragée. Je ne suis pas sur le rapport de la CVR », a déclaré Dr Taylor lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia le lundi 27 juillet.

L'une des anciennes

épouses de l'ancien Président Charles Taylor est récemment retournée au Libéria après que les autorités britanniques ont abandonné toutes les charges retenues contre elle et l'ont libérée après avoir été détenue pendant environ deux ans dans une prison pour femmes dans des conditions qui, selon elle, sont destinées aux terroristes et autres criminels purs et durs.

Selon elle, la police britannique a passé au peigne fin toutes les déclarations et toutes les archives de la procédure de la TRC, qui comprenaient toutes les déclarations recueillies dans la diaspora pour faire la lumière sur les crimes qu'elle aurait prétendument commis pendant la guerre civile.

« Eh bien Dieu merci, la vérité, vous savez qu'ils disent clairement, il n'existe pas de preuves tangibles. Il n'y a eu aucune mention de

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE : "RÉUNION CRUCIALE" DU PARTI AU POUVOIR POUR CHOISIR SON CANDIDAT À LA PRÉSIDENTIELLE MERCREDI

Le parti au pouvoir en Côte d'Ivoire va tenir mercredi à Abidjan une "réunion cruciale" pour choisir son nouveau candidat pour la présidentielle d'octobre,

après la mort subite du Premier ministre Amadou Gon Coulibaly, a-t-il annoncé mardi.

"Le Rassemblement des houphouétistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP) va choisir son candidat à l'issue d'une réunion cruciale dirigée par son chef (le président) Alassane Ouattara",

a expliqué à l'AFP Mamadou Touré, porte-parole du parti présidentiel. M. Touré a rappelé que c'est la même instance du RHDP, le bureau politique, qui s'était réunie le 12 mars dernier pour choisir comme candidat Amadou Gon Coulibaly, décédé le 8 juillet d'un infarctus. Au cours de cette réunion, les militants et les cadres devront se prononcer sur le choix d'une personnalité, la candidature du président Ouattara à sa propre succession pour un

troisième mandat paraissant de plus en plus probable. "Nous sommes dans une situation exceptionnelle (...) non prévue, ce qui pourrait amener le parti à solliciter (de Alassane Ouattara) sa candidature", a expliqué M. Touré. Pour lui, le président ivoirien et chef du RHDP, âgé de 76 ans, est "la personnalité idoine pour maintenir la cohésion du parti et la dynamique" à trois mois de la présidentielle. Il est aussi, "l'homme de la situation", face à "la fragilité de la sous-région

en rapport avec les questions sécuritaires", en particulier les attaques régulières des groupes jihadistes. L'opposition conteste au président Ouattara, élu en 2010 puis réélu en 2015, le droit d'effectuer un troisième mandat, en vertu de la Constitution qui n'en autorise que deux.

Mais le président estime que l'adoption de cette nouvelle constitution en 2016 a remis les compteurs à zéro.



Le 173e Orateur national dénonce le clivage social entre riches et pauvres

Pendant qu'une infime minorité nage dans l'opulence et la richesse, l'écrasante majorité des libériens croupissent sous le joug de la pauvreté et de la misère, c'est en tout cas le regret qu'a exprimé lundi le révérend Dr Simeon L. Dunbar, le 173e orateur national du Libéria, dans son discours à la nation lors de la cérémonie officielle de la fête nationale de l'indépendance du premier pays indépendant du continent.

« Pendant que certains se tiennent dans les tranchées de Bokon Jeadea, d'autres baignent dans l'opulence imméritée et des richesses volées. Pendant que la majorité piétine dans les marais de Gbayhdin, d'autres se détendent au sommet du mont Nimba », a déclaré le révérend Dunbar, fondateur et président du Liberty Christian Center.

S'exprimant sur le thème : « S'unir en ces moments d'épidémie », l'orateur a rappelé au président George Manneh Weah et à son administration un dicton libérien qui dit : « un sac vide ne peut pas tenir debout », avant de se demander comment peut-on parler d'union lorsque certains sacs sont vides et d'autres sont pleins à claquer ?

« Est-il possible de se mettre ensemble lorsque certains se tiennent sur les plages de sable de West Point et de New Kru Town avec des incursions maritimes quotidiennes et des cas croissants de sans-abri, tandis que d'autres se tiennent dans les halls d'hôtel de luxe et se présentent au travail lundi dans l'après-midi? Comment les Libériens peuvent s'unir alors que les futurs dirigeants pleurent et vivent tous les jours dans la peur constante des abus dans un pays où le viol n'est plus une abomination mais une culture et un mode de vie. Comment peut-on s'unir lorsque le pays, en dépit de ses 173 ans d'existence, dépend toujours des fonds des donateurs qui se font de plus en plus rares, et la corruption devient une norme sociale? Et surtout, comment pouvons-nous nous unir quand il n'y a pas de justice et quand les libertés sont confisquées? ».

Selon lui, les Libériens ont chanté en vain plusieurs chansons tout au long des années de démocratie avec

l'espoir que leur situation changerait.

C'est le cas par exemple lors de la récente période électorale qui a vu une transition en douceur du pouvoir vers un nouveau gouvernement. Les Libériens ont chanté les louanges de leur chef espérant du changement, leur très célèbre slogan étant « Change for Hope ».

« Votre Excellence », a-t-il dit, « en effet le changement est là, maintenant où est l'espoir? »

S'adressant aux libériens en général, il a dit : « Le sort de notre nation ne repose pas qu'entre les mains du Gouvernement, mais aussi entre nos mains en tant que peuple ».

Le révérend Dunbar a également exhorté les Libériens à se débarrasser de la haine qu'ils nourrissent les uns envers les autres, estimant que c'est à cause de cette haine que les citoyens ne profitent pas des opportunités qui leur reviennent de droit.

« Une nation peut-elle aimer ses voisins plus qu'elle-même? Je dis non. Autonomisez d'abord et avant tout les Libériens », a-t-il dit, avant d'ajouter : « les Libériens ne peuvent pas s'unir quand les ressortissants étrangers parrainés par des citoyens libériens antipatriotiques exploitent illégalement nos ressources minières, sans être inquiétés. Le révérend Dunbar a en outre tenté de faire comprendre aux Libériens que le pays ne se résume pas uniquement en la ville de Monrovia et que l'Amérique n'est pas le paradis. « Il nous incombe donc de chérir notre nation, de l'améliorer et de la transformer de nos propres mains », a-t-il dit, puis ajouté : « N'oublions jamais que la paix dont nous jouissons aujourd'hui a été acquise au prix des sacrifices énormes. Elle a coûté de la sueur, du sang et des larmes des Libériens et de leurs frères et sœurs et des forces d'intervention de la sous-région et d'autres nations. Par conséquent, en tant que peuple, nous devons promouvoir et chérir cette paix qui est plus précieuse que l'or, le diamant ou toute autre pierre précieuse ».

Français

Dr Agnès Reeves Taylorn'a pas peur

moi dans aucune de ces déclarations », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a dit qu'en dépit du fait qu'elle ait clamé son innocence après son interpellation,

elle a été emmenée dans un poste de police par les autorités britanniques et interrogée sur des choses dont elle n'avait jamais, jamais entendu parler.

Concernant les appels à la création d'un tribunal de crimes de guerre ici, Dr Taylor a dit qu'il appartient au peuple libérien de décider s'ils veulent ou non une justice réparatrice ou une justice rétributive.

« Nous avons un pays fragile.

Ce qui serait le mieux dans l'intérêt de la paix, je me conformerai avec n'importe quelle position qu'adoptera le peuple libérien », a-t-elle dit.

Elle pense que la culpabilité par association semble être au centre des affaires au Libéria, révélant qu'elle sollicitera des conseils juridiques concernant des mensonges qui ont teinté son caractère.

« Je suis venue au Libéria pour faire face à mes soi-disant accusateurs qui m'accusent d'avoir commis ces crimes », a dit Dr Taylor qui était soupçonnée d'avoir encouragé le viol pendant la guerre civile dans les années 1990.

Elle a fait valoir qu'elle est une femme et une mère qui sait que le viol est l'un des crimes les plus odieux qui puissent être perpétrés contre une femme.

Elle croit que bien que toutes les accusations portées contre elle aient été abandonnées, il y a encore des spéculations selon lesquelles elle aurait réellement commis les crimes qui lui sont reprochés.

« Mais ce concept de culpabilité par association doit cesser », a-t-elle dit, tout en ajoutant que le fait qu'elle soit mariée à Charles Taylor ne fait pas d'elle une criminelle.

Elle a dit avoir créé pendant la guerre une organisation caritative qui se dénommait Organisation nationale de secours d'urgence. Cette association, selon elle, a livré du riz, des fournitures médicales et a ensuite

coordonné les affaires des ONG qui sont venues dans le pays à l'époque.

« C'était mon rôle et j'ai servi de mère et d'amie à tous ceux qui venaient à moi. C'était mon rôle. Je n'ai jamais eu de rôle militaire », a-t-elle expliqué.

« Pendant la guerre civile libérienne, j'étais l'épouse de Charles Taylor. Cela ne fait pas de moi une criminelle », a-t-elle martelé.

« À aucun moment, je n'ai jamais pratiqué ou n'aurais jamais exercé de torture ou toute autre forme de traitement inhumain ou dégradant contre qui que ce soit »,

a-t-elle dit.

Dr Taylor a indiqué en outre qu'en tant qu'épouse de M. Taylor et mère, elle a fait tout ce qu'elle pouvait pour minimiser toutes sortes de difficultés auxquelles les civils et les Libériens en général étaient confrontés.

Elle a fait savoir qu'avant son incarcération au début juin 2017 elle a parlé à l'ancien président Taylor qui l'appelait constamment pour parler à ses deux filles. « ... J'ai parlé à l'ancien président Taylor quand il était... initialement avant mon incarcération, il appelait pour parler à ses deux filles, parce que j'ai deux filles avec lui », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a indiqué qu'après sa libération,

M. Taylor lui a envoyé un message, ajoutant que ses appels téléphoniques étaient surveillés en permanence et que quand M. Taylor s'est rendu compte que les choses pourraient être mal interprétées, il a estimé qu'il valait mieux ne plus maintenir de contact pendant qu'elle était au Royaume-Uni.

« Les autorités britanniques vous surveillent 24 heures sur 24 et vous êtes photographié environ 360 fois par jour, les caméras de vidéosurveillance vous surveillent depuis le moment où vous sortez de chez vous jusqu'à votre retour dans votre maison », a-t-elle ajouté.

Elle a en outre fait valoir que pendant ses conversations avec M. Taylor, il n'a jamais été question de tribunal de crimes de guerre ni de politique. Ils ne faisaient que parler de leurs enfants et leurs petits-enfants.

COMMENTAIRE

By Anne-marie Slaughter
& Wardah Khalid

Trump contre lui-même dans sa propre politique ouïgoure

WASHINGTON - Le mois dernier, le président des États-Unis Donald Trump a promulgué une loi l'autorisant à prendre des sanctions contre des responsables chinois impliqués dans l'incarcération en masse de plus d'un million d'Ouïgours et de membres d'autres minorités à prédominance musulmane au Xinjiang, à l'ouest de la Chine. La loi de 2020 sur la politique des droits de l'homme envers les Ouïgours, née d'un projet bipartisan, condamne les violations des droits de l'homme et appelle les autorités chinoises à fermer immédiatement leurs centres de « formation professionnelle » dans la région, à garantir le respect des personnes et à permettre aux Chinois résidant sur le territoire national de renouer tous liens avec leur famille, leurs amis et leurs collègues de travail en dehors du pays.

Dans l'absolu, Trump pourrait prendre la tête des réactions mondiales en mettant en application cette loi avec la vigueur voulue. Des chercheurs de nombreux pays ont indiqué qu'outre leur détention, les Ouïgours étaient soumis à des tortures, au travail forcé et à la stérilisation. Et deux groupes militants Ouïgours ont exhorté la Cour pénale internationale (CPI) à enquêter sur le génocide physique et culturel auquel ils accusent les autorités chinoises de se livrer.

L'écrivaine Anne Applebaum compare l'indifférence de l'Occident envers ce qui survient aujourd'hui au Xinjiang à la volonté délibérée des gouvernements européens et du Vatican d'ignorer la famine provoquée en Ukraine par Joseph Staline en 1932-1933 puis les camps de concentration nazis trente ans plus tard. On pourrait ajouter à la liste des événements plus récents. Si l'on considère ces précédents, la volonté affichée des États-Unis de condamner les agissements de la Chine et de lui en faire payer le coût, même s'il ne s'agit que de sanctions individuelles, est un pas dans la bonne direction.

En outre cette initiative pourrait très bien susciter l'attention de pays musulmans comme le Pakistan, l'Indonésie et la Turquie. Les gouvernements pakistanais et indonésien sont disposés à accepter les règles du jeu chinoises afin de sécuriser les investissements réalisés sur leur territoire. Le Pakistan a signé l'an dernier une déclaration qui défend le régime appliqué en Chine aux Ouïgours, tandis que le gouvernement indonésien a fait savoir qu'« il ne s'immiscera pas dans les affaires intérieures chinoises ». Au cours des années 1950, après que les communistes chinois se sont emparés du Xinjiang, la Turquie a d'abord offert l'asile politique aux Ouïgours. Selon les informations dont on dispose, la police turque arrête aujourd'hui les militants ouïgours et les envoie sans autre procès vers des centres de rétention, parfois pour des mois entiers.

Dans un tel contexte, une initiative globale conduite par les États-Unis pour demander des comptes, même partiels, au gouvernement chinois sur la scène internationale - et plus encore alors que l'Amérique doit affronter ses propres crimes racistes présents et passés - pourrait marquer un point de bascule, ou rappellerait du moins à la Chine que le monde l'observe.

Malheureusement, ce que fera Trump n'aura probablement d'autre effet que de convaincre les musulmans de l'étendue de sa duplicité. Trump a signé la loi sur la politique des droits de l'homme envers les Ouïgours le jour même où les accusations portées dans son récent livre par John Bolton, ancien conseiller à la sécurité nationale, inondaient les programmes de radio et de télévision. Selon Bolton, Trump s'était non seulement montré indifférent au respect des droits de l'homme à l'égard des Ouïgours mais avait chaudement recommandé au président chinois Xi Jinping de construire des camps

d'internement.

Sans parler des interdictions d'entrée sur le territoire des États-Unis qui frappent les musulmans. Le premier décret d'interdiction, rendu public en janvier 2017, refusait le séjour à tous les réfugiés et immigrants de plusieurs pays majoritairement musulmans. La mesure, d'abord rejetée par les tribunaux, connut plusieurs rédactions avant de pouvoir être constitutionnellement acceptable. Depuis lors, les exemples n'ont pas manqué, qui montraient les conséquences dévastatrices, voire potentiellement homicides, de ces restrictions, sur les réfugiés, musulmans ou non, résidents des pays concernés.

Afkab Hussein, ancien réfugié somali vivant aujourd'hui à Columbus, dans l'État de l'Ohio, fait partie des personnes visées par ces nouvelles règles. Il attendait depuis 2015 que sa femme et ses jeunes enfants le rejoignent aux États-Unis, mais les interdictions décidées par Trump les en empêchent. Le soutien de Trump à une loi qui enjoint aux autorités chinoises d'autoriser la reprise systématique des relations entre résidents chinois et correspondants hors du pays sonne dès lors bien creux.

Le premier de ces décrets visant les musulmans invoquait, pour justifier l'interdiction du territoire des États-Unis aux ressortissants d'Iran, d'Irak, de Libye, de Somalie, du Soudan, de Syrie et du Yémen, les attentats terroristes du 11 septembre 2001, malgré l'absence de preuves concernant la participation de citoyens de ces pays - et encore moins de réfugiés - à ces attentats. Les versions postérieures de l'interdiction de séjour continuaient d'invoquer le motif du terrorisme. En pratique pourtant, l'administration Trump n'a réussi qu'à empêcher les familles d'aller rejoindre leurs proches aux États-Unis et réduit à des niveaux historiquement bas les admissions de réfugiés vulnérables.

La contradiction entre la considération tardive des droits des Ouïgours par Trump et son aversion qui n'est que trop évidente pour les musulmans (à l'exception des princes saoudiens) soulève une question : à qui s'adresse, en fin de compte, la politique étrangère de l'Amérique - ou de tout autre pays ? Les musulmans ordinaires ne peuvent guère avoir de doutes sur les sentiments que Trump nourrit à leur égard, quoi qu'il puisse dire de leur gouvernement. Il leur suffit de suivre son fil Twitter ou de regarder ses conférences de presse.

Trump est le premier président des États-Unis qui néglige les procédures ordinaires de rédaction et de vérification de ses déclarations officielles, préférant s'adresser directement aux électeurs américains et aux citoyens des autres pays en utilisant les réseaux sociaux. Mais s'il a su mobiliser un électorat conséquent, il est également parvenu à s'aliéner d'importants secteurs de l'opinion, aux États-Unis et ailleurs. Les calomnies adressées à des populations entières - lorsqu'il a traité, par exemple, les Mexicains de violeurs ou les musulmans de terroristes - ont une répercussion plus forte et plus durable que n'importe quelle déclaration officielle venant de la Maison Blanche ou du département d'État.

Il reste à voir si cette atmosphère survivra à la présidence Trump. La Chambre des représentants des États-Unis a voté un « No Ban Act », qui abrogerait l'interdiction de séjour des musulmans et interdirait qu'aucune discrimination religieuse puisse motiver un refus d'immigration. Par ailleurs, si une nouvelle administration américaine succède à l'administration Trump après les élections de novembre, elle devra s'adresser d'une seule voix aux gouvernements et aux citoyens des autres pays - c'est-à-dire en finir avec la duplicité flagrante à laquelle ils se sont finalement habitués.

Liberia's 173rd Independence Day Message

Standing Together In Time Of Pandemic

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

- We can stand together when our actions fall in line with our policy to control and prevent infant and maternal mortality rate in our cities and rural communities.

- Yes. We can stand together when health facilities and institutions are properly equipped to discourage our government officials and citizens from seeking medical treatment abroad

The People Factor

- As a people, we need to change our mindset and STOP THE DEPENDENCY SYNDROME. Instead of running to the government for everything, let us stop and put our hands to work. There is a global adage that says, "No Food for Lazy Man", so we must be willing to work. For the only substitute for hard work, is hard life. Even the bible says in Proverbs 10:4, "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand". Please understand that Government jobs and public office is not for everyone. Let us pay attention to the importance of the private sector by encouraging their participation through elevating Liberian-owned businesses with the objective of aiding them to grow.

Our people must be made to understand that they own the government. So, with the ownership mindset, we should work collectively to see that Liberia prosper and is transformed in our lifetime.

- Liberia will forever remain stronger together when we are united in our purpose to protect our national interest, despite political differences. For the Bible says, "...Behold the PEOPLE are ONE and they have one language and what they have imagined to do, nothing can be withheld from them". Gen. 11:6

As a people our strength is in Unity, we need to stand together in our common vision and common agenda for the prosperity of our nation.

- We the people also need to understand that Monrovia is not Liberia and America is not Heaven. We need to cherish what we have and help to make it better. With God's help and hard work, this nation can be transformed through our own hands.

- For those of us who are not policy makers today, remember the saying "Cassava leaf is not for goat alone" ...there's always a time and season for everything, Wait for your time. Sow good seeds into the future of your nation. Do constructive criticisms and put Liberia first and not greed and selfish ambition.

- As a people we must never forget that the peace we enjoy today came at a very high price of sweat, blood and tears by Liberians and our brothers and sisters and from intervention forces in the sub-region and other nations.

Therefore, we must deal cautiously in the maintenance of this peace which is more valuable than gold, diamond or any precious stone. It's on record that United Nation/UNMIL invested 7.5 billion over a 15 years period in keeping and maintaining the peace we enjoy today.

- To Liberians in the Diaspora, it has been over 400 plus years since Africans and Liberians have contributed immensely to the growth and civilization of other nations. It is now time to return home.

I say this to buttress the fact that every single conflict in Liberia in the past 50 years has been sponsored directly or indirectly by those in the Diaspora. Equally so, the current growth and development in our political and economic landscape is also being supported by you Liberians in the diaspora.

Therefore, this is an open invitation for you to return with your resources, knowledge and expertise and invest in the Motherland. "There is no place like home". Liberia is all we have, let's give her the best we can.



Delivered By Rev. Dr. Simeon L. Dunbar

- Never again must we as the people rebel against God. For the Bible says in Psalms 16:4 "Their sorrow shall be multiplied that follow after other gods"

- Never again must we allow ourselves to be divided along religious lines, for we are all interrelated. We need to learn to be a cohesive nation with one mind, and put Liberia First. Never again must we be divided along tribal, political and sectional lines.

- We must discourage jungle justice in the name of vengeance and retribution and say no to mob justice. There must be value and respect for every human life.

The Government Factor

- To the Government, we need to avoid foreign aids that will keep us captive to the donors; is it written in the Bible in Proverbs 22:7 "The rich ruleth over the poor and the borrower is a slave to the lender". How can we claim to be independent and still depend on foreign aids and imports of our staple food and basic commodities to boost our economy? The decisions that run our government should not be made in other capitals around the world. "Anyone who feeds you, will control you".

Mr. President, while it is true that you are faced with a very difficult task of leading a mysterious nation like ours, we would also like to encourage you to lead by example and be wise and decisive in your leadership. (Don't let these people spoil your government for you with ill advices).

Don't be overly concerned about your opposition but rather, your social contract with the people and be concerned of your secret enemies who parade as friends around you.

Be careful of who you allow in your inner court. Be open up to ideas from wise technocrats who are well experienced and possess some measure of the fear of God. Be courageous and strong as our captain and lead this team to its noble destination.

- As a government, let us redefine our national agenda, with clear-cut vision, achievable, both in the long and short term. Make people-oriented policies that will redirect funds to the agricultural and production sector, thereby creating jobs throughout rural Liberia. • Strengthen diplomatic relations with friendly nations like Israel and the EU nations.

Empower our local farmers and promote large scale food production, while reducing the subsidies on the importation of our staple foods and gradually ending it. The government needs to re-evaluate the decentralization policy that will empower rural Liberians to be more productive. All of Liberia is farm ready and eager for production.

Reintroduce the work culture amongst our people and let everyone earn their honest living through merit and dedication. Understand that government is about continuity, we must stop wasting resources on starting new projects without completing old ones.

- We need to revisit our organic laws and change what ought to be changed, repeal those that need to be repealed and implement those that need to be implemented, but do not temper with our core values as a God-fearing nation and the vision of our founding fathers. (Foundation Matters).

- The issue of Rape needs to cease from being an everyday song on the lips of our people. We cannot continue to hear the cries for justice of our innocent girls.

Your Excellency, the people who elected you as their Commander-In-Chief of this great nation do not have to get on the street and protest before you take an action.

It is beyond sickening that while we are battling COVID-19, we have to deal with reoccurring cases of rape of teenagers and babies who haven't even learned to talk.

Rape perpetrated by inhumane men who claim to be citizens of this God-fearing nation. IT IS SAD AND IT NEEDS TO STOP. If that means introducing the death penalty on these evil perpetrators, so let it be.

Abraham Lincoln once said "Those who deny freedom of others deserve it not for themselves". These men shouldn't rape today and be allowed to walk free tomorrow.

- The revamping of our educational system to a level of producing graduates that are job creators and marketable and not just certificate holders should be a major priority.

We need to invest in vocational and technical education; for example, the Booker Washington Institute Model should be duplicated throughout the 15 counties, thereby empowering our youths with skills and tools to contribute immensely to the redevelopment of this nation.

Our educational system should not be overlooked. Let us not allow the brilliant young minds of our children to go to waste. • The issue of police brutality against lawful citizens needs to stop. Our security sector should learn to adhere to the rules that govern this land and not abuse them. Press freedom also needs to be respected at all levels.

- To our government, maintaining our roads is still a big problem. To boost revenue generation, special road tolls should be introduced at all our highways for all road users of this nation irrespective of being a government official or not, and all funds generated from the tolls should be channelled towards road maintenance and creation of new roads.

- In order to foster national unity and integration; rename some of our streets and highways to honour our fallen heroes, heroines and freedom fighters who fought to preserve our heritage. For example; the Monrovia to Ganta Highway could be renamed William R. Tolbert highway. Ganta to Zwedru could be named Jackson F. Doe Highway and from Zwedru to Harper upon completion could be named Samuel K. Doe Highway, and the list goes on.

- If we must stand together, prison reform and prisoners' rehabilitation and reintegration into society must be a collective responsibility of the Government of Liberia and the private sector. Prisoners are still humans. • There needs to be proper and prompt payment of salary and wages for all civil servants as it is due them according to merit. To avoid corruption, embezzlement and tampering of public funds meant for other intended purposes.

Your Excellency Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Past and Present Administration have enacted laws that enable our government to control the governed, the ordinary Liberians, and its various integrity institutions.

These integrity institutions like the GAC, LACC, LMA, LEITI, IAA, GC, CBL, PPCC among others, should be strengthened and allowed to function within their constitutional latitudes and mandates. Respecting organic laws and enforcing it fearlessly fulfils the mandate of the Oath of office and also signals the message of confidence that government can control itself.

Dillon increases war drum volume

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon on Wednesday increased the volume of his war drum, saying that President George Manneh Weah will not end his tenure if he tempers with the will of the people on December 8, 2020.

Liberians are expected to head for the poll on December 8 in a midterm senatorial election that will also see the country voting in a referendum.

But there are fears from the camp of the opposition that there are plans by the ruling party to rig the elections.

“We know what tempering with elections have caused us,” Dillon told a group of religious leaders who had gone to seek clarity on the Senator’s statement about the President’s tenure in office being cut short if the election is temper with.

the impending poll results.

The President of the Liberia Council of Churches Bishop Kortu Brown said, the comment needed clarification for the sake of peace and national stability. The LCC is a constituent member of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, which comprises the National Muslim Council and other faith-based organizations.

According to Sen. Dillon, since his election as Senator of Montserrado, President George Weah and members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change have vowed to reclaim the seat at all cost, something, Dillon describes as being problematic.

Since 2005, Montserrado County has been stronghold of Mr. Weah’s Congress for Democratic Change, but the ruling Coalition lost one of the county’s senatorial seats in 2019 to Dillon, an opposition.

He alleges that the Minister of State Nathaniel McGill, has

adding that the President has his ministers in the streets, campaigning in violation of the laws.

He notes that the one seat is not the reason the country is retrogressing, pointing that children are being raped daily and it doesn’t concern the President and his officials, while corruption is the order of the day with stance taken by the government.

He informs the religious leaders that OK FM media outlet and other media institutions reported that Senator Saah Joseph of Montserrado and others met with ex-rebels with him (Dillon) being targeted and center for discussion, but didn’t see or hear anything from the Inter-Religious Council.

Members of the Inter-Religious Council that met with Senator Dillon include Bishop D. Jensen Seyenkulo of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, who is also first vice



He maintains that if the President wants to go against the people’s will on elections’ day and rig the poll, then Mr. Weah himself, will not end his tenure.

The religious leaders have viewed the statement as undermining the peace of the country. However, they failed to seek similar clarity during the regime of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf when current Minister of State Nathaniel McGill, Representative Acrous Gray and current ruling party Chairman made similar threats.

Meanwhile, when the delegation of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia met with Dillon at his office on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, he was blunt and reiterated his warning.

The delegation had gone to seek clarity from Dillon for his earlier threat that President Weah’s tenure would end abruptly, if he tempered with

said the ruling establishment will not sit and allow him (Dillon) to win the senatorial seat again.

“Winning the seat is not an allowance, it is the decision of the people”, Dillon notes, and adds that the Superintendent of Maryland County George A. Prowd has said that the ruling CDC is not just a party, it is the government.

According to Dillon, the statement could be interpreted that the CDC has control over the army, police and all state security apparatuses and could use them to its advantage, citing electoral violence that took place in Montserrado County District# 13 and District# 15 respectively in 2019, noting that there was not one police report of those who were found liable.

He argues further that President Weah has broken the Code of Conduct for public officials just to get him (Dillon) out of the Montserrado seat,

president of the Liberia Council of Churches, Dr. Olu Menjay, President of the Liberia Baptist Convention and second vice president of the LCC, and Atty. Shiek Musa Mohammed Bamah, secretary of the IRC, amongst others.

Responding, Bishop Seyenkulo discloses the delegation will meet with various government officials to give pieces of advice for the right things to be done and for peace to reign in the country.

“Those who think we are fussing with you, we are not fussing with you, we are your brothers and sisters and we want to work with you. We didn’t single you out, we are meeting with other officials”, Bishop Seyenkulo tells Senator Dillon. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

AIIB board approves

Cont’d from page 5

In addition, he thanked his team and other actors who worked tirelessly to actualize Liberia’s membership efforts within the bank. The country’s accession is subject to the National Legislature ratification.

AIIB will now be a member of the group of traditional development partners such as the WB, the IMF, the IFC and AfDB and ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID). With this addition, there are bigger opportunities for collaboration and importantly a space where AIIB will actively complement the efforts of existing partners.

The AIIB is a US \$100 billion international financial institution that was established as a significant and prestigious multilateral development bank (MDB) in 2016 to improve social and economic development within

the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world by investing in sustainable infrastructure development and other economic projects aimed at reducing poverty.

The bank currently has 102 countries as members, including Ghana, Guinea, Rwanda, Benin, Togo, Senegal, China, Canada, United Kingdom, etc. Since its inception, the bank has spent over USD19.14 billion on development project financing.

AIIB’s sovereign loan program, like those of other MDBs, is tailored to developing countries like Liberia that cannot afford borrowing from the international market at higher commercial non-concessionary lending rates. Loan maturity runs from 20 to 35 years.

Standing Together

Cont’d from page 10

The government relationship with its people needs to be mutual; if the people respect the government, the government also needs to respect the people. No man or woman is above the law. If we seek to advance as a nation, Law makers need to cease from being law breakers.

In conclusion, for us to stand together in these troubling times, both the Government and the People of Liberia must demonstrate a high level of love and patriotism towards Mama Liberia. We are where we are today because of love deficiency. Most Liberians have the mind to use this nation for their own selfish reasons and not to invest in her. They want to use and reduce, not love and build.

Liberia is poor because of impunity, there is little or no punishment for evil doers and corruption has fast become a way of life. It has eaten deep into the fabric of our society, which also includes the church and other religious organizations.

Fellow citizens, my parting statement, Liberia is a century plus years older than all her neighbours and ought to be a positive example. Liberia is so blessed but her children do not know nor understand the magnitude of her blessings. Liberia is too rich; you must have a blind mind and weak hands not to benefit from her riches. Liberia is too great, that great nations of the universe are all beneficiaries of her ancient greatness. Liberia is too unique that all her people groups are interrelated.

Liberia is too strong, that she has survived many global wars and her own internal battles and she will surely triumph in this current pandemic.

As a Member of the Body of Christ, a Clergyman, a Stakeholder and a Son of the Soil, I would like to publicly declare that I see a bright light at the end of the tunnel. I see Hope for Liberia, Her People and Her Institutions. I see Liberia becoming a blessing to herself and not a burden, to nations of the sub-region and the world. I see the dawn of a new day. I see total restoration of our collective human dignity. I see respect for the rule of law. I see revival. I see the FEAR of God. Liberia will be great again, for in Job 14:7, the Bible says “there is hope for a tree if it be cut down, that through the scent of water it will sprout again”

Long Live the President, Long Live the Government Long Live the Peace-Loving People of Liberia.

Happy 173rd Independence to Mama Liberia. Thank you and God Bless You.

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Debbah to contest by-election



James Salinsa Debbah

By **E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor**

Former national coach of the Lone Star and the nation's most celebrated, James Salinsa Debbah, announces his interest to vie in the pending by-election for Montserrado County Electoral District #9.

The district seat was rendered vacant following the demise of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change Lawmaker, Munah Pelham

Youngblood.

But the nation's most celebrated soccer star says he has paused his political ambition, pending burial of the fallen female lawmaker, who died after a protracted illness. The late Rep. Youngblood died while on medical leave in Accra, Ghana.

According to James, his desire to enter politics followed series of consultations with family members, friends and

fans, who believe it's time for him to serve his country at another level, this time, in the Liberian Legislature.

He was born and raised in Fiamah community, District#9, before subsequently traveling to Cameroon and Europe to further his football career.

He later returned to Liberia and was appointed national coach of the Lone Star, winning few matches both at home and abroad before retiring.

It is not clear whether he will contest on a political party ticket or as independent candidate. But news coming says he is in consultation with the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change of President George Manneh Weah for a possible move to the CDC.

Debbah campaigned vigorously twice against the presidential bid of now President George Weah both

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 6**



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Justice Minister pushed against government

By **Winston W. Parley**

Defense lawyers for the indicted Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) officials pushed Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean unsuccessfully to testify in the billions dollars economic sabotage case, as their efforts were frustrated by Criminal Court "C" to avoid him testifying against the state.

It started Tuesday, 28 July as Cllr. Dean, who had been subpoenaed based on defense's request, responded

in the negative when asked by defense lawyers if he had in his possession a number of documents he had been subpoenaed to produce relative to the printing of Liberian dollars banknotes.

Cllr. Dean, who faced pressure by defense lawyers to testify in the case, has been Liberia's Justice Minister since March 2018, a position he had been serving when the government indicted the officials including the bank's Board of Governors for printing



Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean

and shipping to Liberia L\$13,004,750,000.00 without authorization.

The officials allegedly understated the printed amount as L\$10,359,750,000.00, giving a variance of L\$2,645,000,000.00, according to prosecutors here.

Judge Gbeisay says he reasoned with the prosecution in part and granted its request to prevent Minister Dean from

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 7**

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