



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
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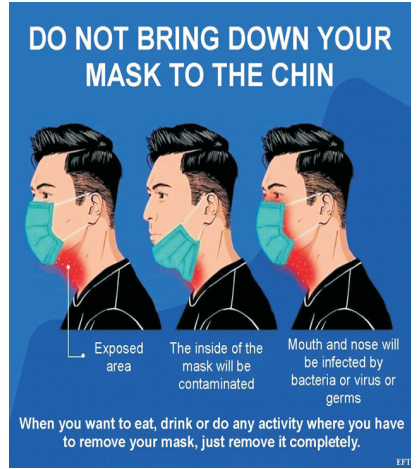
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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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Protesters to besiege Weah's home



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Continental News

Dead dolphins wash up on Mauritius shore

At least 17 dead dolphins have been found on the seashore in Mauritius, more than a month after the huge oil spill caused by a Japanese-owned ship.

The deaths have been caused either by the spill or the authorities' decision to sink the ship's stem, environmental campaigners say.

The carcasses have been sent for a post-mortem, which will establish the cause of deaths, police said.

These are the first reported deaths of dolphins since the shipwreck.

Up to now, many fish and crabs have been found dead.

It is very rare for so many dead dolphins to be found at the same time. Two were found in May 2019. The MV Wakashio ran aground on coral reef on 25 July at Pointe d'Esny, a known sanctuary for rare wildlife.

The area also contains wetlands designated as a site of international importance by the Ramsar convention on wetlands. The sight of dead dolphins has caused much anger among residents.

"Waking up this morning to witness so many dead

dolphins on our seashore is worse than a nightmare. Many non-governmental organisations, fishermen, experts said not to sink that ship at the place they did as it was like a home for the dolphins but once again the authority took a bad decision," resident Nitin Jeeha told the BBC.

"I have seen around eight to 10 dead dolphins. Are there

more in the lagoon?" he added.

The Department of Fisheries confirmed 17 deaths, saying many of the dolphins were dead, while others were weak or dying, when they were found on the seashore. Oceanographer Vassen Kauppaymthoo said the dolphins smelled of fuel oil.

"In my opinion, this situation will continue to deteriorate as time goes on," he was quoted by local media as saying. Environmentalist Sunil Dowarkasing said either the oil spill from the bulk carrier or the sinking of its front last week caused the deaths. "The scuttling probably disturbed marine

mammals in their natural habitat. There will be after-effects, and this is just the beginning," Mr Dowarkasing added. Greenpeace Africa has warned that "thousands" of animal species are "at risk of drowning in a sea of pollution, with dire consequences for Mauritius's economy, food security and health". BBC



Residents woke up to the sight of dead dolphins

Kenya extends night-time curfew



Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced an extension of the countrywide 21:00 to 04:00 curfew for a further 30 days.

Mr Kenyatta also extended the closure of bars and pubs for another 30 days. Hotels are, however, allowed to sell alcohol to residents.

Conversely, he has increased the number of guests allowed at funerals and weddings from 15 to 100 people.

He also announced that the

ministries of sports and health will jointly issue guidelines on the gradual resumption of sporting events in the country.

This comes as the nation reported 213 new Covid-19 cases, pushing the total number of confirmed infections across the country to 33,016.

Five new deaths have brought the total number of fatalities to 564. Just over 19,000 people have recovered. BBC

Africa declared free of polio

Africa has been declared free from wild polio by the independent body, the Africa Regional Certification Commission.

Polio usually affects

children under five, sometimes leading to irreversible paralysis. Death can occur when breathing muscles are affected. Twenty-five years ago thousands of children in Africa were paralysed by the virus.

The disease is now only found in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

There is no cure but the polio

vaccine protects children for life. Africa Live: Updates on this and other stories

Nigeria is the last African country to be declared free from wild polio, having accounted for more than half of all global cases less than a decade ago. The vaccination campaign in Nigeria involved a huge effort to reach remote and dangerous places under threat from militant violence and some health workers were killed in the process. Polio is a virus which spreads from person to person, usually through contaminated water. It can lead to paralysis by attacking the nervous system.

Two out of three strains of wild polio virus have been eradicated worldwide. On Tuesday, Africa has been declared free of the last remaining strain of wild poliovirus.

More than 95% of Africa's population has now been immunised. This was one of the conditions that the Africa Regional Certification Commission set before

declaring the continent free from wild polio. Now only the vaccine-derived polio virus remains in Africa with 177 cases being identified this year.

This is a rare form of the virus that mutates from the oral polio vaccine and can then spread to under-immunised communities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified a number of these cases in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and Angola. Without a cure a vaccine developed in 1952 by Dr Jonas Salk gave hope that children could be protected from the disease. In 1961, Albert Sabin pioneered the oral polio vaccine which has been used in most national immunisation programmes around the world.

In 1996 poliovirus paralysed more than 75,000

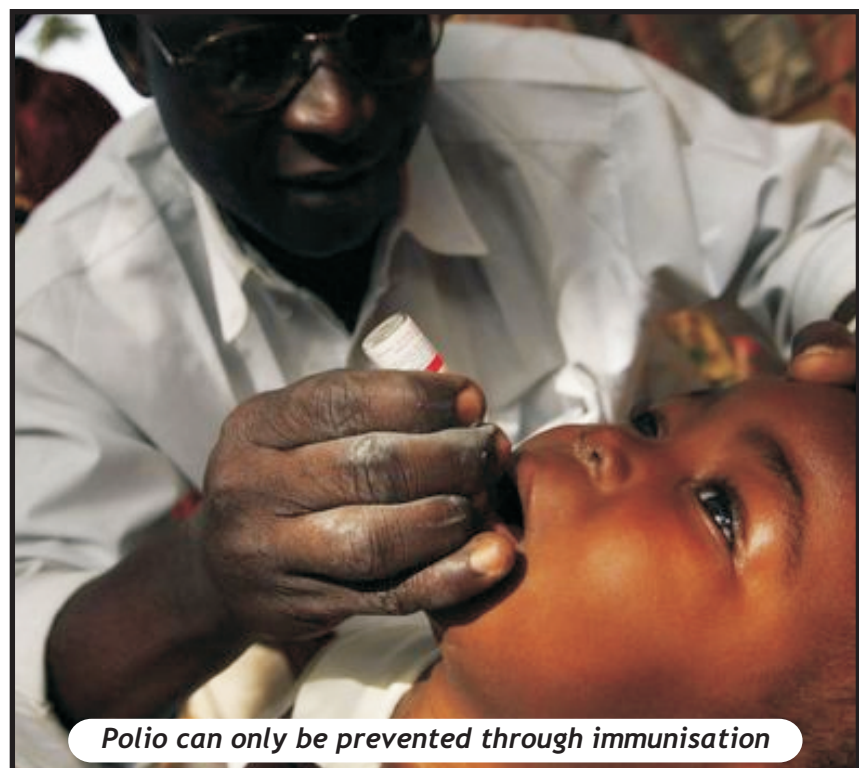
children across the continent - every country was affected.

That year Nelson Mandela launched the "Kick Polio Out of Africa" programme, mobilising millions of health workers who went village-to-village to hand-deliver vaccines.

It was backed by a coalition of groups including Rotary International which had spearheaded the polio vaccination drive from the 1980s.

Since 1996 billions of oral polio vaccines have been provided, averting an estimated 1.8 million cases of wild poliovirus. The last communities at risk of polio live in some of the most complicated places to deliver immunisation campaigns.

Nigeria is the last country in Africa to have reported a case of wild polio - in Borno state in Nigeria's remote north-east, and the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurrection, in 2016. BBC



Polio can only be prevented through immunisation

EDITORIAL

Pres. Weah must release NPHIL Probe Committee findings

IT'S NEARLY TWO weeks since the special investigative committee established to probe breaches in the health and administrative protocols governing the issuance of Covid-19 test results by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia submitted findings and recommendations to President George Manneh Weah.

THE PRESIDENT OF the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, Dr. Linda Birch headed the committee, which presented its findings to President Weah on August 14, 2020 in Monrovia, accompanied by pieces of evidence.

PRESIDENT WEAH ON Monday, August 10, 2020 suspended the Acting Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Dr. Masoka Fallah, for alleged fraud and ethical breach, which came after three officials of NPHIL issued a negative COVID-19 traveler's certificate to a Liberian born American Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson, who was bundled out of an airplane on Sunday August 2, 2020, by Liberian Immigration Service officials after authorities discovered that the certificate issued was forged.

MS. WILSON HAD earlier tested Covid-19 positive and through the Incident Management System (IMS) treatment protocol was informed about her positive results and placed under treatment, but less than a week, a certificate under the signature of Dr. Masoka Fallah was issued to the patient, declaring her negative of the virus hence, qualifying her to travel abroad only to be asked out of a flight at the Roberts International Airport for being in possession of forged clearance or certificate.

DR. FALLAH CLAIMED his chief of office staff Jonathan G. Ender affixed his (Dr. Fallah's) electronic signature on the document without his knowledge, saying, "I never even knew that this was happening under my nose."

SIMILAR SCENARIO OCCURRED with University of Liberia Professor Alaric Tokpah, whom the NPHIL certificated Covid-19 negative and was subsequently on his way to the airport to visit his wife in the United States when authorities at the Health Institute called and informed him that he was issued wrong certificate, as his health status had not been certified.

PRESIDENT WEAH DID the right thing by suspending the NPHIL boss and instituting a probe to get to the roots of the matter. But since the Dr. Birch-led committee submitted findings, nothing has been heard about accountability and responsibility at the health entity, which is drawing anxiety among the public on a critical matter such as health.

WE ARE FULLY aware that government initially suspended three officials of NPHIL, including the deputy director for environmental and occupational health, Amos F. Gborie, the deputy director for national public health and reference laboratory, Fahn Taweh and Jonathan G. Ender, chief of office staff of Dr. Masoka Fallah, respectively.

IT IS IMPORTANT that President Weah release findings from the probe to the public as quickly as possible in order to re-establish public confidence in the entire Covid-19 fight, especially test results of suspected cases so as to allay all doubts, fears, suspicions and disbeliefs about the government's handling of the health pandemic.

COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

America's Coming Double Dip

Soaring financial markets are blithely indifferent to lingering vulnerabilities in the US economy. But the impact of consumers' fear of COVID-19 on pandemic-sensitive services are unlikely to subside, undermining the case for the uninterrupted recovery that investors seem to expect.

NEW HAVEN - The double dip is not a dance. It is the time-honored tendency of the US economy to relapse into recession after a temporary recovery. Over the years, it has happened far more often than not. Notwithstanding frothy financial markets, which currently are discounting the nirvana of an uninterrupted V-shaped recovery, there is a compelling case for another double dip in the aftermath of America's devastating COVID-19 shock.

The daunting history of the US business cycle warns against complacency. Double dips - defined simply as a decline in quarterly real GDP following a temporary rebound - have occurred in eight of the 11 recessions since the end of World War II. The only exceptions were the recessions of 1953-54, the brief contraction of 1980, and the mild downturn of 1990-91. All the others contained double dips, and two featured triple dips - two false starts followed by relapses.

The double-dip does not, of course, come out of thin air. It reflects the combination of lingering vulnerability in the underlying economy and aftershocks from the initial recessionary blow. As a general rule, the more severe the downturn, the greater the damage, the longer the healing, and the higher the likelihood of a double dip. That was the case in the sharp recessions of 1957-58, 1973-75, and 1981-82, as well as in the major contraction that accompanied the 2008-09 global financial crisis.

The current recession is a classic set-up for a double dip. Lingering vulnerability is hardly a question in the aftermath of the 32.9% annualized plunge in the second quarter of 2020 - by far the sharpest quarterly decline on record. Damaged as never before by the unprecedented lockdown to combat the initial outbreak of COVID-19, the economy has barely begun to heal. A sharp rebound in the current quarter is simple arithmetic - and virtually guaranteed by the partial re-opening of shuttered businesses. But will it stick, or will there be a relapse?

Financial markets aren't the least bit worried about a relapse, owing largely to unprecedented monetary easing, which has evoked the time-honored maxim: "don't fight the Fed." Added comfort comes from equally unprecedented fiscal relief aimed at mitigating the pandemic-related shock to businesses and households.

This could be wishful thinking. The basic problem is the virus, not the need for Fed-induced liquidity injections or the temporary support of a fiscal package. Monetary and fiscal measures can temper financial markets' distress, but they can do little, if anything, to resolve the underlying health security issues weighing on the real economy.

With the US remaining in the grips of the pandemic, the case for sustainable recovery looks tenuous. While rebounds in production and employment underscore significant progress on the supply side of the economy, these gains are far from complete. Through July, nonfarm employment has recouped only 42% of what was lost in February and March, and the unemployment rate, at 10.2%, is still nearly triple the pre-COVID level of 3.5%. Similarly, industrial production in July remained 8% below its February high.

Healing has been even more tentative on the demand side. That is especially the case for key components of discretionary consumption - notably, retail shopping, as well as spending on restaurants, travel, and leisure. Full participation in these activities - all of which entail face-to-face human contact - implies health risks that most of the population is unwilling to take, especially given elevated infections, the lack of robust therapeutics, and the absence of a vaccine.

To put the pandemic's impact in perspective, consider that transportation, recreation, restaurants, and accommodations - the most COVID-sensitive segments of consumer demand - accounted for 21% of total household expenditures on services in the first quarter of 2020, before the pandemic hit full force. Combined spending on these categories plunged at an 86% annual rate in real (inflation-adjusted) terms in the second quarter.

The monthly data through June underscore the lingering headwinds from these important segments of discretionary consumption. While combined consumer spending on durables and nondurables bounced back to 4.6% above pre-pandemic levels (in real terms), household spending on total services - by far, the largest component of total consumption - has recouped only 43% of its lockdown-induced losses.

On balance, this points to what can be called an asynchronous normalization - a partial recovery that is drawing greater support from the supply side than from the demand side. The US is hardly unique in this respect. Similar outcomes are evident in other economies - even China, whose state-directed system is much more effective at command and control of the supply side than it is in influencing the behavioral norms shaping pandemic-sensitive household consumption on the demand side.

But the asynchronous normalization of the US economy is very different in one key respect: America's abysmal failure at containing the virus not only underscores the lingering fears of infection, but also raises the distinct possibility of a new wave of COVID-19 itself. While there has been a reduction in the incidence of new cases over the past month, the daily infection count of nearly 48,000 in the week ending August 20 is more than double the pace recorded in May and June.

Together with a death rate that has averaged a little more than 1,000 per day since late July - and projected to remain at that level for the rest of the year - this elevated pace of infection takes on even greater importance as a predictor of what lies ahead. Consumer fears - and their impact on pandemic-sensitive services - are unlikely to subside in such a climate and could well intensify if a new wave hits.

Therein lies the case for a double dip. Partial and asynchronous normalization in the aftermath of the worst economic shock on record signals lingering vulnerability in the US economy. And failure to contain the virus underscores the distinct possibility of aftershocks. This is precisely the combination that has led to previous double dips. Yet frothy financial markets are wedded to the narrative of a classic V-shaped recovery. The rhymes of history suggest a very different outcome.

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O-PED

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

Belarus Is Putin's to Lose

Each new day of protests works against Russia's long-term interests in Belarus, and fuels distrust and hostility toward the Kremlin. Russian President Vladimir Putin should openly express solidarity with Belarusian society instead of cautiously supporting President Alexander Lukashenko.

MINSK/MOSCOW - Huge protests have swept Belarus since Aleksandr Lukashenko fraudulently claimed to have won 80% of the vote in the August 9 presidential election. The country's future may now hinge on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Lukashenko has ruled Belarus since 1994, not without popular support, even gaining the sobriquet Batka ("father"). But in recent weeks, enraged citizens from all walks of life - including factory workers, doctors, and journalists - have been demonstrating and striking, and young women have suddenly become the face of the opposition. Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, the former teacher whom many believe won the election, is not organizing the protests, but her resolve is channeling the widespread discontent.

Belarus, which has been stable for most of Lukashenko's rule, has often seemed to visitors like a neverland between Europe and the former Soviet Union. The country borders three European Union member states (Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland), and its capital, Minsk, has clean streets and comfortable cafes. But shopkeepers sell bronze statues of Stalin and mugs emblazoned with the hammer and sickle and "Long Live USSR."

I passed through Minsk last month en route from New York to Moscow. There were grumblings about political arrests, including those of Tikhanovskaya's husband, Sergei Tikhanovsky, and Viktor Babariko, the millionaire and former Belgazprombank CEO who had been the clear front-runner in earlier presidential opinion polls. But many observers thought that peaceful and obedient Belarusians - who even stopped at traffic lights when occasionally demonstrating for their rights - would not protest en masse.

"Now that [Tikhanovsky and Babariko] are neutralized, Batka is going to stay in power," Svetlana Alexievich, winner of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature, told me. Alexievich now says that she "doesn't recognize" her formerly acquiescent fellow citizens who have taken to the streets. So, what is motivating them?

Lukashenko's election in 1994 bucked the prevailing liberal trend in Central and Eastern Europe, where pro-Western, pro-market governments quickly consolidated power. He initially governed as an autocratic social populist, appealing to ordinary, Soviet-minded citizens who were comfortable working for the state and fearful of private ownership. But his rule became increasingly bureaucratic, with modern professional managers working under a president who was in charge of distributing wealth.

As a result, unlike Russia, Belarus has few oligarchs, and private capital is subordinate to the state bureaucracy. This arrangement has cultural and ideological roots. Lukashenko poured resources into supporting industry, agriculture, infrastructure, and social benefits. He portrayed Belarus (which had never existed as a separate country until the Soviet Union collapsed) as a young state that needed his firm rule in order to remain independent from both the West and Russia.

Until recently, most Belarusians were economically secure: the country wasn't rich, but it was free of poverty. But economic security came at the expense of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Moreover, with the economy slowing and inequality rising - a paternalistic redistribution system can last only for so long - even Lukashenko's political base become increasingly alienated from his oppressive rule. The numerous strikes at factories and institutions that Lukashenko once saved from "predatory privatization" show that most citizens are ready to support free elections.

In his post-election speeches, Lukashenko has argued that the West would leave Belarus to fend for itself, jeopardizing calm and stability. This argument might have worked had he not paired it with brutal suppression of the protests.

But it is a mistake to regard events in Belarus as another post-Soviet "color revolution," as Lukashenko insists. Many of the demonstrators lead perhaps the most Western lifestyles in the former Soviet Union, and they have come to recognize that paternalism means further stagnation, not stability, and is preventing them from achieving personal goals. Lukashenko's regime thus finds itself in an existential struggle with a value system based on individualism and freedom of choice.

Had Lukashenko stepped down in time, he could have become a figure like Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew: the founder of a state who left it with a strong identity. Of course, Lukashenko has accused the West of masterminding the opposition, pointing out that Tikhanovskaya fled to Lithuania after the election result was announced. The EU, meanwhile, has described the election as "neither free nor fair," and refused to recognize the outcome. The EU has also begun to impose individual sanctions against Belarusian officials responsible for electoral fraud and violence, and has offered financial assistance to the opposition.

Many argue that Belarus faces a binary choice between the West and Russia, although the protesters have not made that claim. But they could if the Kremlin, having quickly congratulated Lukashenko on his victory, remains silent.

The Belarusian Batka has become an increasingly difficult economic and political partner for Russia, which explains why Putin doesn't want to intervene openly on his behalf. But, instead of cautiously supporting Lukashenko, Putin should have acted more strategically, like the West. Even if Lukashenko manages to cling to power, he has lost his legitimacy, because Belarusians will find it impossible to forget the beatings, torture, and even murder with which the regime suppressed the protests.

They will also not forget the Kremlin's silence. Each new day of protests works against Russia's long-term interests in Belarus, and fuels distrust and hostility toward the Kremlin among those who never felt it before. Putin should openly express solidarity with Belarusian society, because the people's goodwill has become more important than that of Lukashenko's regime.

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OPINION

By Andrés Velasco

Are We All Keynesians Again?

A common refrain nowadays is that after COVID-19, Milton Friedman is out and John Maynard Keynes is in. But if, as the famous quote often attributed to Richard Nixon puts it, "we are all Keynesians now," we must remember what Keynes taught: fiscal policy should be tightened during good times, precisely so that it can be expansionary during bad times.

LONDON - Among the pieties repeated at every online COVID-19 conference, one is universally acknowledged: the pandemic has ushered in an era of larger, more robust state intervention in the economy. But what does this mean for the future? In what areas of economic life should and can the state do more?

Many believe that governments should address inequities and redistribute more income, or that they should fight climate change more aggressively. Those are two urgent priorities. But, given that COVID-19 is a shock that caught almost every country unprepared, the natural starting point is to prod governments to provide more and better social insurance against shocks.

Walter Bagehot, one of the earliest editors of *The Economist*, called on governments and central banks to be lenders of last resort. The current crisis has confirmed that when confronted with a shock this large, governments are also to be insurers of last resort. No private entity could simultaneously provide and finance the indispensable public-health response, pay furloughed workers' wages, save jobs by lending to cash-strapped firms, and make emergency transfers to vulnerable families. Only states can do that.

Statisticians and economists distinguish between idiosyncratic shocks (affecting some people some of the time) and aggregate shocks (affecting everyone simultaneously). This helps fix priorities for what government should do in the future.

Private insurance markets can work reasonably well if shocks are idiosyncratic. Your car insurer pays to repair your scraped fender, without government help, because most other insured people did not have a collision at the same time. So, part of the premia they pay goes to you.

But private insurance is not foolproof. It works poorly in health care, for example, if insurance causes complacency about risky behavior like alcohol consumption or overeating, or leads physicians to prescribe expensive tests that are not strictly necessary. Such behavior drives up insurance premia and leaves the poor with no coverage. That is why well-designed plans like the US Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") both compel everyone to get insurance and provide a subsidy for low-income families.

In rich countries, varying combinations of private and public insurance protect most citizens against idiosyncratic risks - whether of illness, unemployment, or insufficient income in old age. The same cannot be said of emerging and developing countries, where social insurance systems are weak or limited to the formally employed.

Too many families can lose the fruits of decades of hard work if a family member becomes ill or suffers an accident. A recent World Bank white paper on the subject concludes that "many social protection systems currently lack protection against catastrophic losses for those without a history of contributing to traditional social insurance plans."

Filling this gap, precisely because private insurance cannot do it all, will require mobilizing more state resources. But there is no obvious reason why countries like Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia or the Philippines cannot afford to do it: until the current crisis, these countries' central government expenditure was below one-fifth of GDP.

Yet a caveat is in order. More government financing of social insurance does not imply that government should provide the services paid for by that insurance. The British NHS treats patients at state hospitals and foots the bill; under the Canadian single-payer system, government pays for services that are provided mostly by private hospitals and clinics. Emerging economies should be able to choose between the British and Canadian systems, or opt for some other formula. And their choice should be based on effectiveness, not ideology.

Aggregate shocks are a different story, because there is no subset of unaffected citizens that can bail out the victims. And if, as with COVID-19, there is no subset of lucky countries untouched by the disease, help from abroad will be limited at best. So countries are forced largely to self-insure, making government the insurer of last resort.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that governments have spent an additional \$11 trillion in response to the pandemic - in many cases one-tenth of GDP or more. To paraphrase former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, rich countries are spending whatever it takes. Emerging and developing countries, with less ability to borrow, are spending whatever they can.

In a global environment of extraordinarily low interest rates, rich-country governments can comfortably borrow far more than fiscal prudes once thought possible. In the United States, the United Kingdom, and much of the European Union, gross public debt now exceeds annual GDP, and markets have yet to bat an eyelash. And when the nominal interest rate is at or near zero, currency and short-term public debt become close substitutes, so savers are happy to hold the dollars, pounds, and euros central banks are printing with abandon. Inflation is nowhere on the horizon.

Loose limits on public-debt issuance in developed countries do not mean that there are no limits. As former IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard has argued, it means that "if safe interest rates are expected to remain below growth rates for a long time," then "debt rollovers, that is the issuance of debt without a later increase in taxes, may well be feasible."

But the if is doing a lot of work. In the past, financial repression kept the interest rate on government debt artificially low. Today, low world interest rates reflect the combination of aging populations, slow productivity growth, weak investment demand, and an overall shortage of safe assets. Whether and how long this combination of factors will persist is a matter of tentative conjecture at best.

There are issues of intergenerational equity as well. If higher taxes in the future are needed to repay at least some of that debt, it is our children and grandchildren who will pay. Saddling them with a huge debt burden seems unfair, given that, in developed economies, they may not be better off, in part because we are already leaving them a massive climate debt.

Governments can and should serve as the insurer of last resort in the face of a catastrophic aggregate shock. But they can perform that crucial function only if we ensure that they have the necessary resources today. This is especially true in emerging and developing economies, where limits on public borrowing are anything but loose.

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JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation for Bids for Vehicle Repairs

DATE: August 3, 2020

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to Vehicle Repairs. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Vehicle Repairs Maintenance & services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The items will be divided into lots. Bidders are allowed to bid for more than one lot. Bid submission begins on August 3, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is September 3, 2020.
Packages: Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services

Bid Security

Lot	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Bid Security
JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021 Lot-1	Mercedes	1 unit	US \$150.00	
JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021 Lot-2	Repairs of Ford	9 units	US\$ 400.00	
JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021 Lot-3	Repairs of Nissan	18 units	US\$ 600.00	
JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021 Lot-4	Repairs of Hyundai	6 units	US\$210.00	
JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021 Lot-5	Repairs of Toyota	40 units	US \$1,100.00	

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2011. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice: (a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; and, (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 50 for each set of bid documents for the aforementioned services for Vehicle Repairs. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers; (e) Availability of spare parts at all times; and, (e) Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(e) All Supplier should have high standard spare parts to meet the demand of the Judiciary.
 (f) Suppliers should have the capacity of repairing vehicles within the Judiciary fleet.
 (g) Availability of spare parts.
 (h) Should be capable of having specific tow truck.
 (i) Contact duration will be taking into consideration as per our Bidding process.
 (j) All Suppliers should have professional mechanic that are license within their employed.
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates copies all in one envelope and sealed:
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/002/2020/2021 – (Lot 1 to lot 5) - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Vehicle Repairs maintenance Services to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021; and shall be addressed to: DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT, TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501 MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before August 3, 2020 @ 11:00 A. M. However, no ELECTRONIC BIDS will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on September 1, 2020 @ 12: 00 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process for Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on Thursday, September 3, 2020 as follows: (a) Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services for Lot 1 @ 11:00 am Lot 2 @ 11:30 am, Lot 3 @ 12:00 am, Lot 4 @ 12:30 am Lot 5 @ 1:30 P.m.,. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Printing Materials

DATE: August 4, 2020

IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2020/2021

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2020/2021 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to Printing Materials. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Printing Materials. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service. As stated in this document.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Liberian bidders for the provision of the services described below. The item will be contained in one (1) package. Bid submission begins on August 4, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is September 4, 22, 2020 @ 1:00 pm.

Package: Printing Materials.

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Printing Materials.	Assorted	US \$360.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPCC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Printing Materials may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 respectively.
 - Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;
 - Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US 50.00 for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Printing Materials.

Bidders are required to submit the bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(g) Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.
 (h) PPCC Vendor registry certificate.
 (i) Business Activity Code
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501 & 505 Monrovia, Liberia; and from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates to be sealed in one envelope including other requested information.
 - IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/001/2020/2021 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Printing Materials; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2020– 2021 and shall be addressed to:

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before September 4, 2020 @ 1:00 P. M. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on September 1, 2020 @ 1:00 P. M. in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for printing materials will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on September 4 2019 @ 1:00 P. M. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator

2020 Annual Meetings of the AfDB: a renewed commitment to economic resilience in Africa

The 55th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank and the 46th meetings of the Board of Governors of the African Development Fund (ADF) began in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on Wednesday, 26 August 2020.

In his opening speech, the President of Côte d'Ivoire, Alassane Ouattara, highlighted the unusual context of this year's Annual Meetings, taking place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also underscored the Bank's critical support for his country and other regional members.

"This is an opportunity for me to acknowledge the African Development Bank, its President and Board of Directors, for the unwavering support expressed in these difficult times to African states. Indeed, the Bank's COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility has made it possible to finance and support African countries in the fast implementation of plans to fight the pandemic."

President Ouattara praised the "remarkable capacity to adapt that the Bank has shown by continuing its operations and functioning in virtual mode, since March 2020," and the work accomplished by Bank President Akinwumi Adesina "who has successfully led the transformation of

growth. Africa's recovery will be long and difficult. Now we must help Africa to build back, boldly, but smartly, paying greater attention to quality growth: health, climate and the environment

Back in April, the Bank reacted swiftly to the pandemic, with a series of bold measures to support its regional member states to help cushion them against the impacts of the outbreak. One example was the launch of the COVID-19 Response Facility of up to \$10 billion. The response, like the crisis, is now on a continental scale. From the north to the south of the continent, the Bank has provided massive support to strengthen the resilience of regional member states.

The Bank has provided support worth \$22 million to regional bodies such as ECOWAS in West Africa, to strengthen the health systems of low-income countries, and to CEMAC in central Africa. It also assisted the G5 countries in the Sahel to the tune of \$20 million.

During the meetings, Governors from the Bank's 54 regional member states in Africa and 27 non-regional member states, will also evaluate the response to the pandemic, which will help to build a truly resilient post-COVID-19 Africa.



the African Development Bank and has given it great credibility and visibility, of which we are proud."

This year's meetings are being held virtually due to restrictions occasioned by the COVID-19 health crisis. The highlights of the 2020 sessions are the election of the Bank Group's president and the statutory meetings of its Governors, which are being held behind closed doors.

President Ouattara wished Adesina good luck in his re-election bid.

According to estimates by the African Development Bank, Africa could lose \$173.1 billion in GDP in 2020 and \$236.7 billion in 2021 because of the pandemic. The restrictions and strict lockdown measures imposed at the start of the crisis, some of which are being gradually relaxed, have resulted in mass closures of businesses and millions of job losses. The aim is, therefore, to soften the impact of the anticipated recession.

Addressing the audience, Adesina celebrated the excellent relationship between the institution and Côte d'Ivoire, which is home to the Bank's headquarters. He also paid tribute to the country's steady economic progress.

"With the pandemic, Africa has lost over a decade of gains of economic

Nialé Kaba, Ivorian Minister for Planning and Development in Côte d'Ivoire and president of the Bank's Board of Governors, stressed that the pandemic was, in spite of all, an opportunity to "take up the challenge of the digitization of our economies". She encouraged the Bank's management "to provide substantial support to African countries individually and collectively in order to strengthen national and regional digital infrastructure for greater connectivity."

The African Development Bank's Annual Meetings are attended by Ministers of Finance, central bank governors, political decision-makers, civil society organizations, heads of international organizations and key representatives of industry and the private sector.

The Governors will vote to elect the Bank's president on Thursday, 27 August 2020. Adesina, the first Nigerian to occupy the role, was elected by the Bank's Board of Governors for a five-year term on 28 May 2015 at the 50th Annual Meetings, which took place in Abidjan.

In his speech, Adesina welcomed Ireland as the Bank Group's 81st member.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah's silence on rape angers protesters

President George Manneh Weah, also self-declared Liberia's chief feminist, has failed to respond to anti-rape protesters' demand here to personally appear and receive their petition against increasing wave of rape in the country.

The Liberian society is saturated with rape and sexual and gender base violence

Liberian presidency to petition President Weah for his intervention in the persistent abuse and violation of women, children and babies.

Unfortunately like Tuesday, 25 August on their first day of gathering, the protesters on Wednesday, 26 August never succeeded in having Mr. Weah appear in person to receive their petition.

They have therefore,

including strengthening the entire judicial system to ensure speedy trial of rape and sexual and gender base violence cases.

They also called for hiring of more judges to try such cases in a speedy and expeditious manner, including strengthening the capacity of the women and children protection division of the Liberia National Police to investigate and bring suspected rapists to book.

A representative of one of the protesting groups, Youth Action Movement, Ms. KuluboKoquoi stressed a need for national government to address constant abuse of women and girls in the country.

"This is alarming and it has claimed our attention that we can no longer sit and wait for government to take action; we need to hold their feet to the fire", she said.

The conspicuous silence of President Weah over rape issues has been described as not only quite disappointing, but clear act of insensitivity especially, when the President has tagged himself as chief feminist of Liberia, but paradoxically showing no concern for issues affecting women's lives.

Rape in Liberia is a crime that is punishable by ten (10) years or lifetime imprisonment depending on the degree of the rape (rape of a minor, rape resulting to serious bodily harm, rape using a weapon, and gang rape). -Story by Jonathan Browne



Pres. Weah

cases, including sodomy almost daily in all 15 counties, affecting scores of victims some of them as old as three years.

Protesters numbering over one thousand under the banner Affiliation of Women and Child Rights Advocates are staging a three-day march in the street of Monrovia beginning from Vamoma House, Sinkor to the Executive Mansion, seat of the

resolved to take the petition to the private residence of the President today, Thursday, in Rehab community along the Robertsville highway outside Monrovia to get his attention.

However, the protesters on Tuesday petitioned the 54th National Legislature, among others, calling for increment in budgetary support to Criminal Court 'E' that is exclusively responsible to hear rape cases,

Dillon wants APM Terminals probed

By Ethel A. Tweh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has written plenary of the Liberian Senate, asking that body to investigate alleged bad labor practices at APM Terminals, a British-owned company.

In a communication to the plenary Wednesday, August 26, 2020, Senator Dillon requests his colleagues to investigate, including illegal dismissals by the Management of APM Terminals that is involved in cargo handling at the National Port Authority.

He notes that such practices, if they existed, violate the company's collective bargaining agreement with workers, the Decent Act and its own handbook.

The Montserrado Senator, who is seeking re-election in December, recalls that the matter has been as far back as 2014 wherein the Dock Workers

Union of Liberia has written many communications to relevant government

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Sen. Dillon

Govt.'s response to rape is weak

- YALDA

By Lewis S. Teh

In the wake of increase rape cases in Liberia, the Government of Liberia has come under serious criticism for demonstrating weakness and poor response in curtailing the act.

The latest criticism comes after recent reports and picture circulating on social media about a three-year-old child who was allegedly raped by an 18-year-old man in Gbarpolu County, inflicting wounds on the victim.

Speaking to this paper in an exclusive interview recently, an advocate at Youth Alliance Leadership for Development in

government is truly concerned about the future of the country particularly, young people, it must rise to institute tangible measures, because whenever a child gets rape the stigma lives with the victim up to adulthood.

She said mere incarceration of rapists, pending trial is something that encourages perpetrators to get more involved in carrying on the act, saying, "we should not send them to prison whenever they commit such act, but rather hang them."

Commenting on activities of her organization, she said YALDA is an international organization that began at Stanford University in the



Africa or YALDA Ms. Lisa T. Cooper blasted government for its failure to institute touch measures in curtailing the act.

"For me anyone being accused and found guilty should be given a death penalty; I think with this punishment, we will have zero cases on rape matter in this country", she said.

According to her, whenever a minor is sexually molested, "it boils my blood and puts me in the mood to take the life of that perpetrator, because the only thing that can be done is to put them in prison where government will say they are conducting investigation."

Ms Cooper said if the

United States, and has branches in various African countries with headquarters in Uganda.

She added explained that group of young people came together and decided to look at issues affecting the African continent.

Ms Cooper noted that YALDA's focus is to improve wellbeing of university students, who are passionate about making a change in society, including speaking against sexual and gender based violence, something, she lamented is undermining the growth of Africa. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Illegal migrants' incursion rocks G. Gedeh

-Sen. Dennis alarms

Grand Gedeh County Senator Marshall Dennis alarmed that illegal migrants are gradually taking over bordering towns of the county with Ivory Coast on a daily basis. Dennis explains furthered that illegal migrants who are believed to be Burkinabe (citizens from

illegal minerals including gold and diamonds mining in the area.

According to the Grand Gedeh County lawmaker, the presence of the reported illegal migrants poses serious national security threats to both the county and the country at large.

"These migrants presence in our territory is a serious

presence is totally absent," he said.

He noted that the illegal migration within the bordering towns of the county began during the early years of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf led administration but the administration did little in handling the matter.

He narrated that over the period of time there had been series of confrontation between the 'illegal migrants' and some Grand Gedehans.

A recent report by the United Nations panel of experts in Liberia highlighted the ongoing insecurity in the border area between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, and the risk of an upsurge in violence there as the corona virus abates and campaigning for this year's Ivorian presidential elections intensifies.

Underpinning this insecurity is the large number of disaffected young men working for a pittance in dozens of gold-mining camps along both sides of the frontier. Much of the mining is unlicensed and illegal, and the governments in Monrovia and Abidjan have little idea of how much gold is produced, who buys it, or where it ends up.

During the Ivorian crisis

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Senator Marshall Dennis

Burkina Faso) are in the neighborhood of over 9,000 inhabitants.

Speaking at a press conference Wednesday August 26, at his Capital Building, Sen. Dennis alarmed that the reported illegal migrants are engaging in cocoa farming and

national security. In some of the towns and villages they are hoisting their national flag instead of our national flag. This is very scaring you don't see the presence of the government in those towns. The police and other security institutions operating here

Justice Ministry's inadequacy blamed

-As CBL officials celebrate their acquittal

By Winston W. Parley

Cllr. Abraham Sillah, the defense lawyer for acquitted former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, says his client's production of more cogent evidence than the state in a trial to account for alleged excess LD\$2 billion plus, speaks to the inadequacy of the Ministry of Justice.

Addressing journalists

myself to say it speaks to the inadequacy of the Ministry of Justice," Sillah says.

"But for this to come out, it was ... purely on the strength of the evidence that we adduced at trial. The judge, you heard it clearly, the defendant has no burden of proof. The state had the burden," Cllr. Sillah says, thanking God that the judge had the courage and spine to render justice.



Ex-CBL Governor Weeks



Madam Elsie Dossen Bardie



Mr. Kollie Tamba

outside the court after the ruling Tuesday, 25 August in Monrovia, Cllr. Sillah argued that the defendant has no burden of proof, but the state does, adding that his client produced even more cogent evidence than the state produced because he thought it necessary to clear his name.

"All of this speaks to the inadequacy of the Ministry of Justice; and I can repeat

Sillah says he is glorified by the judge's decision to look at the facts and evidence and rule purely on the basis of the evidence, adding: "If we have many judges of this kind, this country will be better than what it is today."

Notwithstanding prosecution lawyer Cllr. Jerry D. K. Garlawolo says the fact

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Protest awaits Rep. Fallah's endorsement

By Ethel A Tweh

Legislative staffers have threatened to stage a protest against a planned endorsement of Representative Thomas Fallah for his bid to contest in the Montserrado County Senatorial election this December.

The endorsement is scheduled to take place on the grounds of the Capitol Building. Mr. Fallah is the senatorial candidate on the ticket of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) for the 8 December 2020 special senatorial election.

Addressing a group of reporters Wednesday, 26 August, the chairperson of the Legislative staffers Charles Brown said that until the both houses can address the issues of the Liberian dollars component of their salaries, no lawmaker should go on the grounds of the Capitol for any endorsement.

He warns that there will be a serious resistance, noting that

they have been informed that a group wants to endorse the senatorial bid of Rep. Fallah.

Mr. Brown indicates that if any group dares to do so, there will be serious violence on Capitol Hill, stressing that Fallah is the head of the Ways, Means and Finance at the House

of Representatives and he's in favor of the staffers salaries being cut.

"There has never been a day that Rep. Fallah will advocate for us whenever the National Budget reaches the Legislature. For the past weeks now, we have been



Rep. Thomas Fallah

complaining [about] our salaries being cut off, not a

The aggrieved staffers have been calling on the Legislature to reinstate their salaries that have been cut off for one year.

Staffers at the House of Representatives were reported to have complained of not receiving their gas benefits for over six months.

Brown notes that until these issues are addressed, no endorsement will take place at the Capitol.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Les anciens responsables de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) ont été acquittés

Les quatre anciens responsables de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) accusés d'avoir imprimé 2 milliards de dollars libériens supplémentaires ont été acquittés par le juge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay pour « manque de preuve qu'ils ont empoché ce montant ». Ils ont cependant été jugés coupables d'impression non autorisée de 10 milliards de dollars libériens.

« Pour répondre à la première partie de cette question, c'est-à-dire si l'État a établi et [prouvé] que les accusés sont coupables d'une impression non autorisée de 10 milliards de dollars libériens ? La Cour [répond] oui », a déclaré le juge Gbeisay mardi 25 août à Monrovia.

Le juge Gbeisaya mis en liberté les quatre accusés, dont notamment l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la CBL Milton A.

Weeks et les trois autres anciens membres du conseil d'administration de la banque (David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio et Kollie Tamba), affirmant qu'il n'y a aucune preuve que l'argent imprimé a fini sa course dans les poches des accusés.

Il a réitéré que les accusés ont collectivement ignoré et désobéi à l'injonction du parlement et se sont octroyés le devoir et les fonctions des parlementaires en imprimant sans le consentement de ces derniers 10 milliards, y compris un excédent de 359 759 000 LD. Le montant a été importé au Libéria, il a été reçu et enregistré dans les différents coffres par la CBL.

Mais sur la question de savoir si l'impression non autorisée des 10 milliards de LD \$ par la CBL est une infraction pénale, le juge Gbeisaya déclaré que « la réponse évidente est NON ».

À certains moments de cette décision, le tribunal a été interrompu par les acclamations et les applaudissements du public

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Ex-CBL Governor Weeks

Madam Elsie Dossen Bardio

Mr. Kollie Tamba

Barack Obama : « Un Dirigeant Qui Dit Être Le Seul Capable De Maintenir L'unité D'un Pays, A Échoué À Édifier Une Nation »

Alors que les Présidents Alpha Condé de Guinée et Alassane Ouattara de la Côte d'Ivoire se sont lancés dans des entreprises de modification de la Constitution et sont candidats à un troisième mandat, le discours de Barack Obama, prononcé le 28 juillet 2015 à Addis-Abeba, au siège de l'Union africaine, parle à ces derniers. Afriksoir reproduit pour vous, ce passage sur la limitation de mandat.

Je dois ajouter que les progrès démocratiques de l'Afrique sont également menacés lorsque des dirigeants refusent de s'effacer à l'échéance de leur mandat. Et, à vrai dire, c'est quelque chose que je ne comprends pas. J'en suis à mon second mandat. Cela a été un extraordinaire privilège pour moi d'être président des États-Unis. Je ne peux imaginer plus grand honneur ni poste plus intéressant. J'adore mon travail. Mais, conformément à la Constitution, je ne peux me représenter. Je ne peux me représenter. En fait, je pense que je suis un assez bon président - je pense que si je

me représentais, je pourrais gagner. Mais je ne peux pas.

Il y a beaucoup de choses que j'aimerais faire pour faire avancer l'Amérique, mais la loi est la loi. Et nul n'est au-dessus des lois. Pas même le président. Et honnêtement, je me réjouis à l'avance de ma vie après mes fonctions de président. Je ne serai plus constamment accompagné de toute une escouade de gardes du corps.

Cela veut dire que je pourrais aller me promener. Je pourrais passer du temps avec ma famille. Je pourrais trouver d'autres moyens de servir mon pays. Je pourrais me rendre en Afrique plus souvent. Le fait est que je ne comprends pas pourquoi les gens veulent rester aussi longtemps. Surtout lorsqu'ils ont beaucoup d'argent.

Quand un dirigeant tente



Réunions annuelles de la BAD 2020 : mieux reconstruire l'Afrique après la pandémie COVID-19

La Banque africaine de développement a annoncé que ses assemblées annuelles de cette année se tiendraient virtuellement pour se conformer aux directives de distanciation sociale liées à la pandémie COVID-19.

Le dialogue des gouverneurs et l'élection d'un président figureront en tête de l'ordre du jour des prochaines réunions prévues du 26 au 27 août 2020, selon un communiqué de presse publié à Abidjan ce week-end.

Cette année, qui marque la 55e réunion du Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque et la 46e réunion annuelle du Fonds africain de développement, la branche concessionnelle de la Banque, a la signification supplémentaire d'être une année d'élection pour le président de la Banque. Le titulaire, le Dr Akinwumi Adesina, se présente comme seul candidat pour un nouveau mandat de cinq ans.

Depuis que la pandémie de COVID-19 a frappé les côtes du continent début mars, plus d'un million de cas confirmés de virus ont été enregistrés en Afrique. La pandémie a durement frappé les économies de la région à la suite de la chute des prix des produits de base et des mesures de confinement des gouvernements qui ont conduit à des fermetures de pays.

Depuis plusieurs mois, la Banque apporte son soutien aux pays membres régionaux pour protéger leurs économies, leurs systèmes de santé et les moyens de subsistance des citoyens contre les impacts sanitaires et économiques parallèles du COVID-19.

En avril 2020, la Banque a mis en place une facilité de réponse au COVID-19 d'un montant maximal de 10 milliards de dollars pour étendre un soutien flexible aux opérations souveraines et non souveraines africaines. Au 20 août, 2,29 milliards de dollars de financement du CRF avaient été approuvés pour les pays membres de la BAD.

Un montant supplémentaire de 1,186 milliard de dollars a été décaissé en faveur des pays membres de la BAD, avec des approbations en cours.

En mars, la Banque a également levé un montant



record de 3 milliards de dollars grâce à une obligation sociale COVID-19 introduite à la Bourse de Londres.

L'institution a franchi des étapes importantes pendant les périodes difficiles de verrouillage, les agences de notation Fitch et Standard & Poor ayant réaffirmé la notation AAA de la Banque avec une perspective stable.

Au cours des réunions, les gouverneurs devraient recevoir des mises à jour sur une série de développements de la Banque depuis les précédentes assemblées annuelles tenues à Malabo, en Guinée équatoriale en juin 2019. Cela comprendra la septième augmentation générale de capital de la Banque, approuvée par le Conseil des gouverneurs à Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire le 31 octobre 2019, et qui a augmenté le capital de base de la Banque d'un montant historique de 115 milliards de dollars à 208 milliards de dollars.

En décembre 2019, les donateurs du Fonds africain de développement ont promis 7,6 milliards de dollars, la quinzième reconstitution de ce type, pour aider les pays les plus pauvres d'Afrique.

Les gouverneurs voteront le 27 août pour élire le huitième président de la Banque. Le Dr Adesina, le premier Nigérian à occuper ce poste, a été élu pour un mandat de cinq ans le 28 mai 2015 par le Conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque lors des assemblées annuelles tenues à Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire.

Les gouverneurs de banque sont généralement les ministres des finances et de l'économie ou les gouverneurs des banques centrales des 54 pays membres régionaux africains et des 27 pays membres non régionaux.

Français

Les anciens responsables

composé des proches, amis, partisans et sympathisants des accusés. Ils n'ont pas pu se retenir quand ils ont constaté que la décision allait en faveur des accusés, tandis que les avocats de l'État, dont principalement le solliciteur général, Saymah Syrenius Cephus, ne se sentaient plus à l'aise dans leurs sièges.

Les acclamations ne sont pas autorisées dans la salle d'audience pendant que le juge rend sa décision, mais cela arrive parfois quand, comme dans le cas présent, l'accusé est une haute personnalité.

Dans sa décision, le juge Gbeisay a déclaré que le ministère public lui-même avait accepté l'impression erronée des nouveaux billets de banque et en avait grandement bénéficié du fait que ces billets de banque imprimés et expédiés au Libéria ont été introduits dans l'économie ouvertement et légalement et sont utilisés par le Gouvernement du Libéria.

« En vertu du principe de l'acquiescement, quand une personne bénéficie d'un acte illégal, elle est forclosée à répudier son propre acte. Le gouvernement du Libéria ne fait pas exception à cette règle, car devant la cour de justice, le gouvernement et tout citoyen [individuel] sont égaux », a déclaré le tribunal.

« En d'autres termes », dit le juge, « l'action du gouvernement en recevant l'argent et en l'injectant dans l'économie, il a ratifié l'acte illicite du gouverneur exécutif de la banque centrale et du Conseil des gouverneurs, effaçant ainsi la criminalité, le cas échéant ».

« Pour que cela constitue un sabotage économique, il doit y avoir un impact négatif. Au contraire, l'économie a été [sauvée] par l'impression des 10 milliards de LD. Le fardeau [incombe] à l'État de prouver que l'impression a eu un impact négatif sur l'économie libérienne », a-t-il fait savoir.

Le gouvernement a inculpé les anciens responsables de la CBL, y compris le Conseil des gouverneurs de la banque, les accusant d'avoir imprimé et expédié au Libéria 13 004 750 000,00 L \$ sans autorisation, et n'aurait déclaré que 10 359 750 000 LD et dissimulé 2 645 000 000 LD.

M. Charles E. Sirleaf, le fils de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, figurait initialement parmi plusieurs responsables de la CBL inculpés en 2019 pour leurs rôles présumés dans cette affaire.

Leur mise en accusation en

2019 faisait suite à une série de manifestations de masse qui ont poussé des institutions locales et internationales à ouvrir une enquête sur l'allégation selon laquelle l'argent avait disparu.

Cependant, lorsque l'accusation a rédigé sa dernière version de l'acte d'accusation sur la base de laquelle ce procès a eu lieu, M. Sirleaf, qui était gouverneur adjoint des opérations de la CBL lorsque le scandale financier a éclaté à la banque, n'a pas été incluté parce qu'un non-lieu avait été prononcé en sa faveur au mois de mai de cette année.

Outre M. Sirleaf, l'accusation avait également abandonné les charges retenues contre les accusés comme Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba et Joseph Dennis.

A la question de savoir si l'accusation a établi et prouvé hors de tout doute raisonnable que plus de 13 milliards de dollars libériens ont été imprimés par Crane Currency, expédiés au Libéria et que 2,6 milliards de dollars libériens ont disparu par la suite, il a répondu non.

Cette réponse rejette les affirmations de l'accusation dans l'acte d'accusation selon lesquelles les accusés prétendaient avoir imprimé 10 359 750 000 dollars, alors qu'en réalité ils en avaient imprimé 13 004 750 000 et dissimulé criminellement 2,6 milliards, commettant ainsi les crimes de décaissement illégal de fonds publics, de complot criminel et de vol de biens.

Réagissant à la décision du juge devant le tribunal pénal « C », l'avocat du parquet Me Jerry D. K. Garlawoloa dit que le fait que le juge a statué contre « nous », quelle que soit la manière dont il statue, l'intention du parquet était de faire en sorte que les faits soient établis.

Me Garlawoloa insisté sur le fait que l'accusation a effectivement établi le fait qu'il y avait un écart en termes de montant d'argent introduit dans le pays, mais c'est la décision du juge que l'accusation n'a pas prouvé cela.

Pour sa part, M. Milton Weeksa dit que le fait qu'il a été blanchi par le tribunal prouve que le système judiciaire du Libéria, « malgré les pressions politiques qui peuvent exister », peut encore se lever et faire ce qu'il faut.

« Je n'étais pas triste, j'ai toujours été sérieux. Si quelqu'un vous avait gardé pendant deux ans, il vous avait harcelé, il vous avait mis en prison deux fois menotté, que penseriez-vous, comment vous sentiriez-vous? Deux ans de ma vie, deux ans de ma vie après avoir rendu service au pays.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Stephen S. Roach

Le double dip approche aux États-Unis

NEW HAVEN - Le « double dip » n'est pas une danse de salon. C'est une tendance de longue date qui veut que l'économie américaine replonge en récession après une reprise temporaire (reprise en W), et qui a été observée à maintes reprises au cours de l'histoire. En dépit de l'effervescence des marchés financiers, qui comptent sur l'idéal d'une reprise ininterrompue en forme de V, il y a fort à parier que surviendra un nouveau double dip au lendemain du choc dévastateur engendré par le COVID-19 aux États-Unis.

La redoutable histoire du cycle économique aux États-Unis doit nous mettre en garde : définis comme une diminution du PIB réel trimestriel à la suite d'un rebond temporaire, les double dips sont survenus lors de huit des 11 récessions observées depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, avec pour seules exceptions les récessions de 1953-1954, la brève contraction de 1980, et le léger ralentissement de 1990-1991. Toutes les autres récessions ont été marquées par une reprise en W, et deux d'entre elles ont connu un triple dip - deux faux départs suivis d'une rechute.

Ces reprises en W ne sont évidemment pas le fruit du hasard. Elles s'expliquent par la vulnérabilité persistante de l'économie sous-jacente et par les répliques sismiques ressenties après le choc récessionniste initial. En règle générale, plus le ralentissement est sévère, plus les dégâts sont conséquents, plus la durée de convalescence est longue, et plus la probabilité d'un double dip devient élevée. Ce fut le cas lors des fortes récessions de 1957-1958, de 1973-1975 et de 1981-1982, ainsi que pendant la contraction majeure qui a accompagné la crise financière mondiale de 2008-2009.

L'actuelle récession présente tous les ingrédients propices à une tendance en W. La persistance d'une vulnérabilité ne fait aucun doute après une chute annualisée de 32,9 % au deuxième trimestre 2020, qui constitue de loin la plus nette plongée trimestrielle jamais observée. Abîmée comme jamais par des confinements sans précédents mis en place pour lutter contre l'épidémie initiale de COVID-19, l'économie recommence tout juste à respirer. Un net rebond au cours du trimestre actuel est une simple question d'arithmétique, ce rebond étant quasiment garanti par la réouverture partielle des entreprises jusqu'ici fermées. Mais ce rebond se confirmera-t-il, ou sera-t-il suivi d'une rechute ?

Les marchés financiers ne s'inquiètent pas le moins du monde d'une rechute, principalement en raison d'un assouplissement monétaire sans précédent, qui évoque le vieil adage « Don't fight the Fed ». À ce confort s'ajoutent des allègements fiscaux tout aussi inédits, destinés à atténuer le choc de la pandémie pour les entreprises et les ménages.

Peut-être s'agit-il d'un vœu pieux. Le problème de fond n'est autre que le virus, pas la nécessité d'injections de liquidité par la Fed, ou celle d'un soutien temporaire via un plan budgétaire. Les mesures monétaire et budgétaires ont beau atténuer la détresse des marchés financiers, elles ne résolvent pas réellement, voire pas du tout, les problématiques sous-jacentes de sécurité sanitaire qui pèsent sur l'économie réelle.

Les États-Unis étant encore en pleine pandémie, la probabilité d'une reprise durable apparaît mince. Bien que le rebond de la production et de l'emploi signale d'importants progrès du côté offre de l'économie, ces avancées sont encore largement incomplètes. Au mois de juillet, l'emploi non agricole n'avait recouvré qu'environ 42 % des pertes subies en février et mars, et l'actuel taux de chômage (10,2 %) est encore trois fois supérieur au niveau pré-COVID (3,5 %). De même, la production

industrielle au mois de juillet restait inférieure de 8 % à son niveau le plus élevé du mois de février.

La convalescence est encore plus difficile du côté de la demande. C'est particulièrement le cas pour les composantes clés de la consommation discrétionnaire - notamment le shopping physique, ainsi que les dépenses dans les restaurants, voyages et loisirs. Une pleine participation à ces activités - qui sous-entendent toutes un contact humain direct - implique des risques sanitaires que la population n'est pas prête à prendre, notamment compte tenu du nombre élevé d'infections, du manque de traitements fiables, et de l'absence de vaccin.

Pour saisir l'impact de la pandémie, songez que les transports, les loisirs, les sorties au restaurant, et le logement - segments de la demande de consommation les plus sensibles au COVID - représentaient 21 % du total des dépenses des ménages dans le domaine des services au premier trimestre 2020, avant que la pandémie ne frappe le pays de plein fouet. Les dépenses cumulées dans ces catégories ont plongé de 86 % à un taux annuel en termes réels (ajustés à l'inflation) au deuxième trimestre.

Les données mensuelles de juin révèlent la persistance de vents de face dans ces segments majeurs de la consommation discrétionnaire. Bien que les dépenses de consommation en biens durables et non durables aient rebondi jusqu'à 4,6 % au-dessus des niveaux pré-pandémiques (en termes réels), les dépenses des ménages dans l'ensemble des services - de loin la plus importante composante de la consommation totale - n'ont permis de recouvrer que 43 % des pertes induites par les confinements.

On peut ainsi globalement parler d'une normalisation asynchrone - une reprise partielle davantage soutenue par l'offre que par la demande. Les États-Unis ne font ici pas figure d'exception. Une situation similaire s'observe clairement au sein d'autres économies - même en Chine, où le système étatique est beaucoup plus efficace pour diriger et contrôler le pan de l'offre que pour influencer les tendances comportementales qui façonnent la consommation des ménages, sensible à la pandémie, du côté de la demande.

La normalisation asynchrone observée dans l'économie américaine est toutefois très différente à un égard majeur : l'échec lamentable de l'Amérique dans le contrôle du virus prolonge non seulement la peur d'être infecté, mais soulève également la possibilité distincte d'une nouvelle vague de COVID-19. Bien qu'une réduction de l'incidence des nouveaux cas ait été enregistrée le mois dernier, le nombre quotidien d'infections (près de 48 000 dans la semaine achevée le 20 août) est plus de deux fois supérieur à celui observé aux mois de mai et juin.

Associé à un nombre de décès en moyenne légèrement supérieur à 1 000 par jour depuis fin juillet - qui devrait d'après les projections conserver ce niveau jusqu'à la fin de l'année - ce rythme élevé d'infection revêt encore plus d'importance en tant que signal de ce qui nous attend. La peur des consommateurs - et son impact sur les services sensibles à la pandémie - ne s'atténuera certainement pas dans un tel contexte, et pourrait bien s'accroître si une nouvelle vague survenait.

Autant d'ingrédients propices à une reprise en W. Une normalisation partielle et asynchrone, au lendemain du plus violent choc économique jamais observé, signale la persistance d'une vulnérabilité de l'économie américaine. L'incapacité à contrôler le virus souligne par ailleurs la possibilité distincte de répliques. Telle est précisément la combinaison qui a conduit à des double dips par le passé. Les marchés financiers restent convaincus par le discours d'une reprise classique en forme de V. L'histoire suggère un tout autre scénario.

Anti-rape group calls for more citizens' pressure on Legislature

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Anti-rape organization Brighter Future Foundation for Children (BFFC), is calling for more citizens' pressure to be push on the 54th National

Monrovia, the Executive Director of the organization Mr. Eastman Josiah Sackee, disclosed that much more increased pressure is needed to ensure that the Legislature acts

seeks to eradicate rape from the country.

Mr. Sackee wonders what is the future of those babies and girls abused in the wake of the country's underdevelopment without safe homes for victims.

He calls on the Legislature to wake up to the true reality of the prevailing wide-spread and rampant rape of innocent Liberians.

He wants more drastic action taken against people involved in killing babies before their 1st birthday, lamenting that some of those heartless individuals are allowed to go with impunity by some parents.

Mr. Sackee blames some of the Liberian parents for being careless in protecting victims from perpetrators whose true intent is to kill these babies.

"Liberians should be mindful of the kind of society that we are living in today. There are very wicked people rooming around our communities to destroy the future of those human beings, particularly babies that the country depends [on]," he notes.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Legislature of Liberia if child's rape must stop in the country.

Speaking to reporters on 25 August at the beginning of a mass protest against rape in

on the recommendations made by Liberian protesters.

According to him, there can be changes if lawmakers concord on the citizens' rape petition which he believes

LUSA frowns on government

--Calls for the opening of Universities and colleges

By Ben P. Wese

The Liberian Universities Students Association (LUSA) has frowned on the government through the Ministry of Education for the impartial reopening of schools in the country.

The group on Wednesday, 26 August called on the Ministry of Education to immediately open all higher learning institutions within the country.

"Besides, such premature calculation and decision of sending 6th graders to schools while their parents, guidance and sponsors, those men and women who are in the various universities and colleges are home has a proclivity and propensity to cause chaos among the school-going young people of Liberia because no one has more educational rights than the other," the group warns.

The student group's president Darius Toweh condemns the alleged deprivation and violations of university students' rights to quality education.

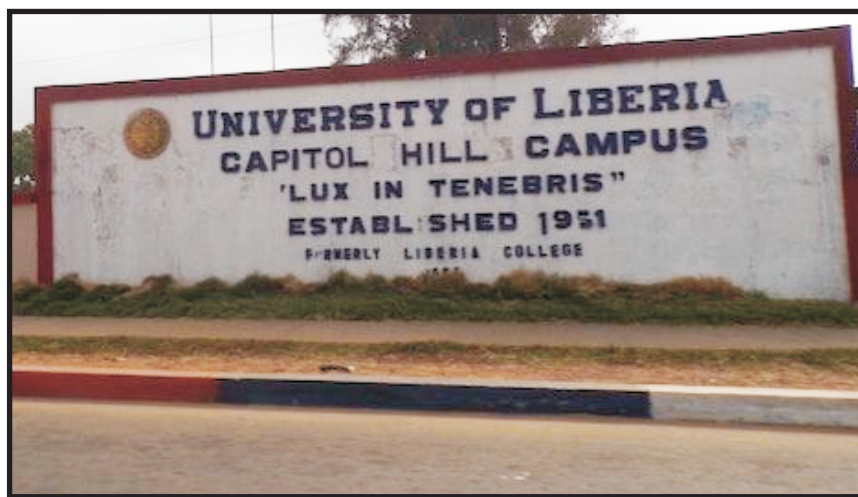
He calls on all students from various universities and colleges in Liberia to boycott the 8 December 2020

senatorial elections and gives the Weah-led government 15 days ultimatum to reopen tertiary institutions.

According to LUSA president, in 2019 they cautioned the Executive Branch of government, specifically the office of the President via a press conference that the political pronouncement of the declaration of tuitions free at

said declaration is yet to be presented to the leadership of the University of Liberia (UL) and other public community colleges and universities.

The Liberian Universities Students Association has frowned on the reopening of secondary schools by government for the completion of their academic year, while universities and colleges are closed and are yet to complete their second



the state-operated universities should not be a mere pro-poor cliché.

Instead, Mr. Toweh states that they asked the government to rather actualize, pass into law and fully support and implement the policy by the Weah-led government.

But he claims that a single paper as a policy document for

academic semesters.

The students group narrates that the World Health Organization in its recent August 20, 2020 release indicated that it is very safe for schools to open around the world.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Justice Ministry's

Cont'd from page 7

that the judge has ruled against "us," whatever way he rules, the State's intent is to ensure that the facts come out.

Clr. Garlawolo insists that the prosecution did establish the fact that there was a variance in terms of the amount of money brought into the country, but it's the judge's decision that the prosecution didn't prove this.

Mr. Milton Weeks for his part says his vindication by the court proves that Liberia's judicial system, "despite whatever political pressures there may be," can still stand up and do the right thing.

"I was not sad, I have always been serious. If somebody kept you for two years, harass you, put you in jail two times in handcuffs, what you think you will, how you think you will feel? How you think you will feel? Two years of my life, two years of my life after giving service to the country, two years. How you think I will feel?" he says in response to this writer's question.

Weeks says he is happy that he has been vindicated, and he intends to work in the private sector but he has no planned action against the government for this case.

Mr. Weeks laments that so many false allegations have been made against him, and that two years of his life have been spent trying to prove his innocence.

"But God is in control and he has proven and vindicated me," he says, adding that his purpose was not to get involved into politics but to prove his innocence and he has done.

On Tuesday, 25 July, Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay set free four former CBL officials held to account for alleged excess LD\$2 billion plus because there is no scintilla of evidence that it ended up in their pockets, but he said they are guilty of unauthorized printing of LD\$10 Billion.

They include former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, former CBL Board Members David Fahart, Elsie Dossen Bardio and Kollie Tamba.

Meanwhile Judge Gbeisay says since the prosecution

sufficiently established and proved the defendants' guilt of collectively ignoring and disobeying the Legislature's caveat and wrongfully printing 10 Billion and the excess of 359,759,000.00, the defendants could be reprimanded civilly under the Code of Conduct.

But on the question whether or not the unauthorized printing of the LD\$10bn by the CBL is a criminal offense, Judge Gbeisay rules that "The obvious answer is NO."

The judge says the action of the government in receiving the money and infusing it in the economy, the government has ratified the wrongful act of the Central Bank Executive Governor and the Board of Governors, thereby erasing criminality, if any.

As such, Judge Gbeisay says it will be unfair, illegal and not prudent to criminally punish those who printed the money.

Judge Gbeisay rules that the presidential investigative team's (PIT's) report was in error with reference to the mathematical calculation and its limitation to the parking list only.

He answers in the negative to questions whether or not the prosecution established and proved beyond a reasonable doubt that LD\$13 Billion plus was printed by Crane Currency, shipped to Liberia and that LD\$2.6 Billion is missing or not accounted for.

Mr. Charles E. Sirleaf, the son of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, was initially among several CBL officials indicted by the government here in 2019, but having been nolleprosequi with prejudice in May this year, he was not included in the last version of the indictment based on which this case has ended.

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.

Their indictment in 2019 followed a series of mass protests that led local and international institutions to investigate a claim that the money had gone missing.

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Protesters to besiege Weah's home

By Lewis S. Teh & Bridgett Milton

Women and other civil society groupings under the banner Affiliation of Women and Child Rights Advocates that converged at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia Wednesday with a petition for President George Manneh Weah in day two of a three-day anti rape protest have decided to instead, storm the residence of the President today, Thursday, 27 August in Rehab community along the Robertsfield highway outside the capital.

This followed two previous unsuccessful attempts by the protesters to meet President Weah at his temporary office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Capitol Hill to present their petition against rampant rape and sexual and gender based violence across the country.

Carrying placards that read, "Say No to Rape" and "GOL

President Weah hasn't been coming to work, and for this reason our final protest will reach his house to claim his attention, and show our seriousness on this matter", said Mercy Sewon, one of the protesters.

The group of protesters comprised of predominately youths and children with ages ranging from five to 35 years.

They sang songs and chanted slogans such as, "Enough is enough!" We want justice for our women and girls", among others.

Ms. Sewon recommends death penalty for convicted rapists, lamenting, "Our government can't continue to remain silent, because [rape] has the ability of destroying our children's future."

According to the protesters, the decision to stage three days protest is as the result of increase wave of rape cases in the country, putting the number of cases at about 902 as

"You can't call yourself feminist-in-chief and refuse to show up and receive our petition, for this reason, we are going to besiege his house until he meets our demands", says Alphonso Togbah, another protester.

The protesters stormed the grounds of the Capitol Building and presented a petition to some members of the House of Representatives.

Reading the petition on behalf of the group, Iren Smith, a teenager and one of the lead campaigners said, there are hundreds of rape cases across the country and the numbers keep climbing exponentially.

According to her, mothers and daughters of this country are under serious attack on a daily basis by predators that have no fear of bearing the full weight of the law.

She said these outrageous acts are only persisting because the justice system



Must Take Action", among others, the protesters took the main route leading to the city center, demanding to see the President to present to him their petition, but Mr. Weah failed to show up as in the previous day. Instead, Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah, who went on the scene to perhaps receive the petition on behalf of President Weah, was booed and turned away, as protesters, in their thousands, insisted on seeing Mr. Weah himself.

Making the announcement Wednesday, August 26, 2020 on the ground of the Executive Mansion on Capitol Hill, organizers of the protest urged their colleagues to converge at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, where they will begin a march to President Weah's private residence.

"We understand that

of January 2020, with the latest incident occurring in Gbarpolu County, northwestern Liberia where a three-year-old was sexually abused by a man believed to be 18. The alleged perpetrator reportedly used a razor and tore the minor to enable penetration.

Ms. Sewon explains that her decision to form part of the anti-rape campaign is mainly as a result of the gruesome act in Gbarpolu County.

"Every time you listen to the radio, you hear a child is being raped and this saddens me though I'm not a victim, but I feel the same way because I am a lady and I will one day have a girl child."

The protesters are calling on the authorities to take tough actions against convicted rapists to deter others from such humiliating act, but President Weah has shown no interest since the inception of the protest, despite being aware of their protest.

has been so weak that perpetrators commit atrocities and go with impunity.

In their petition to the House, they recommended that the Legislature increase budgetary allocation in the FY 2020/2021 national budget and subsequent budgets for Criminal Court 'E', responsible exclusively to try rape cases and to strengthen the judicial system of Liberia, including hiring of more judges, among others.

Receiving the petition on behalf of the Legislature, Lofa County district #2 Representative Julie F. Wiah, who is also chairperson on Gender and Protection, assured the petitioners that they are going to take the petition very serious because the issue of rape is everybody's business. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Illegal migrants'

Cont'd from page 7

few years, about 40,000 refugees live in camps and communities along the border with Côte d'Ivoire, which they fled during the political crisis of 2010. The vast majority are from the Guere ethnic group that inhabited the forests of western Côte d'Ivoire for centuries, and over the past 150 years traded cocoa with Europe and the United States. Though the United Nations

repatriated refugees back home but is yet to be established as to whether all refugees return home, Ivory Coast.

Initially these refugees were housed in three camps set up by the UN High Commission for Refugees - PTP, Duogee and Solo - in Grand Gedeh County, not far from the border, but they later moved in deep in Grand Gedeh County.

Dillon wants APM

Cont'd from page 6

agencies, including the Ministry of Labor.

However, he discloses that the House of Representatives' Labor Committee in May 2014 convened a meeting with the Management of APM Terminals and workers and told the management to live up to its side of the bargaining agreement, but to no avail.

Besides, he notes that the Ministry of Labor in its finding of March 21, 2018, after an investigation into the same issue, requested the APM management to amongst other things, create a conducive work environment, expedite the process of contract review with the intention of reviewing all third party contracts, pay all leave allowances unpaid during previous leave periods and past annual leave entitlements.

Meanwhile, Senator Dillon in his communication reveals

that up to date, none of such things had happened, while employees continue to complain, while the work environment is un-conducive and workers' rights allegedly violated.

Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay then made a motion, accepting the communication, which has been sent to the Senate Committee on Labor and Judiciary to report to the plenary within two weeks.

APM Terminals is an international container terminal operating company headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. It is one of the world's largest port and terminal operators as well as providing cargo support and container Inland Services. The company is ranked the fifth largest container terminal operator. -*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Senate probes bad

Starts from back page

to live up to its side of the bargaining agreement but to no avail.

In addition, Mr. Dillon indicates that the Ministry of Labor in its findings of 21 March 2018, after an investigation into the same issue, requested the APM Terminals management, among other things, to create a conducive work environment.

He says APM Terminals was requested to expedite the process of contract review

with the intention of reviewing all third party contracts, pay all leave allowances unpaid during previous leave periods and pay annual leave entitlements.

Meanwhile, Senator Dillon in his communication say up to date, none of such things has happened while the people continue to complain and work in an environment that is un-conducive and their rights violated in their country.-- *Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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Senate probes bad labor practice at APM Terminals

With Emmanuel B. Juduh



By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has mandated its Committee on Labor and Judiciary to look into a complaint of bad labor practices alleged against APM Terminals and to report to the plenary within two weeks, based on a communication presented by Montserrado County Senator Darius Dillon.

Grand Bassa County Senator

Jonathan Kaipay made the motion accepting the communication and it was sent to the Senate's Committee on Labor and Judiciary to report within two weeks.

The committee was given the task after Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon wrote the plenary of the Liberian Senate, asking it to investigate the issue of alleged bad labor practice at the APM

Terminals.

In his communication to the plenary Wednesday, 26 August, Mr. Dillon requested that the plenary look into what is alleged to be bad labor practices, including illegal dismissals on the part of the management at APM Terminals.

Dillon notes that it is in violation of the company's Collective Bargaining Agreement with workers, the Decent Act and its own handbook.

He further states that the matter has been as far back as 2014 wherein the Dock Workers Unjoin of Liberia has written many communications to the relevant government agencies, including the Ministry of Labor.

He however says the House Labor Committee in May 2014 convened a meeting with the management of PAM Terminals and the workers and told the APM Terminals management

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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Chelsea sign England left-back Chilwell from Leicester for £45m

Chelsea have signed England left-back Ben Chilwell from Leicester on a five-year deal for £45m.

Chilwell is Chelsea's third addition of the summer after the arrivals of winger Hakim Ziyech, 27, from Ajax and striker Timo Werner, 24, from RB Leipzig.

The defender, 23, is a Leicester academy product who made his debut for the club in 2015, and had a contract with the Foxes until 2024.

He missed the final five

matches of the 2019-20 season with a foot injury.

Chelsea took fourth place and a Champions League place at the expense of Leicester on the final day of the Premier League season in July.

"I'm looking forward to being a part of this young, dynamic squad led by Frank Lampard as we challenge for honours next season," said Chilwell, who has 11 England caps.

"He [Lampard] does play the younger players if they are good



enough and just from speaking to him, I'm really excited to be here. I think the way the gaffer sets his teams up suits my game perfectly."

Chilwell made a total of 123 appearances for Leicester and scored four goals, three of them coming in the Premier League last season.

Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia added: "We are confident Ben will adapt very quickly to being a Chelsea player and with the fixture programme

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