



**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>



**Advertize Here!**

**Subscribe to our website**  
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**Coming Up!**  
Who are the owners  
of the New Liberian  
Oil Companies?

VOL.10 NO. 155

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2020

PRICE LD\$40.00

# 2020 elections budget sliced



# Weah dismisses Mosoka Fallah

**-Orders probe report published**

**MTN MoMo**

Avoid the stress! Link your Ecobank account to your **MTN MoMo** account and transfer money with ease!

**Dial \*156\*7# to get started**

**#GoodTogether**  
everywhere you go





# Continental News

## Mali's ousted leader flies to UAE 'after stroke'

Mali's ex-President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who was ousted in a coup last month, has left the country.

Mr Keita, 75, flew to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday for medical treatment after suffering a minor stroke, military officials said.

The junta is currently in talks with opposition and civil society groups about a transition to civilian rule.

It says it will step down in two years, but West African leaders want a quicker transfer of power. Mr Keita was overthrown on 18 August following mass protests against his rule over corruption, the mismanagement of the economy and a dispute over legislative elections.

The coup sparked international condemnation, but it was welcomed by many Malians.

Mr Keita was detained by the military, but later freed. On Thursday, he left a hospital in the capital,

Bamako, after a two-day stay during which he was treated for a minor stroke, AFP news agency reported.

His former chief of staff said he could be away for up to 15 days. Mr Keita left for the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, after representatives of the regional body, the Economic Community

of West African States (Ecowas), and the United Nations (UN) held talks with the coup leaders, BBC West Africa reporter Seydina Alioune Djigo says.

Ecowas gave an undertaking to the junta that Mr Keita would return if he is wanted for any crimes

allegedly committed during his seven-year rule, our reporter adds.

It is the fourth coup in the West African state since it gained independence from France in 1960. A coup in 2012 led to militant Islamists exploiting the instability to seize territory in northern Mali.

French troops helped regain territory, but attacks continue.

On Saturday, two French soldiers fighting the militants in northern Mali were killed and a third was wounded after a roadside bomb destroyed their armoured vehicle.

In paying tribute to the

soldiers, French President Emmanuel Macron repeated his call for a swift transition to civilian rule in Mali. The coup leaders have promised to respect international agreements on fighting jihadists. Thousands of French, African and UN troops are based in the country to tackle the militants.

Meanwhile, more than 500 representatives of Malian opposition and civil society groups are holding talks with the junta in Bamako to discuss the transition to civilian rule.

"Since August 18, we are charting a new history for our country," junta number two Malick Diaw told the opening session, AFP reported.

The talks are scheduled to continue until 12 September. BBC



Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was detained by the military but later released

## Policeman killed in 'terrorist' attack in Tunisia

Security officials in Tunisia say a police officer has been killed and another wounded in a knife attack in the coastal resort of Sousse.

Three assailants were shot dead after the incident, which is being described as a terrorist attack.

In 2015 Sousse was the scene of one of Tunisia's worst attacks, when 38 people, most of them British tourists, were killed by a gunman.

The latest incident comes two days after a new government was sworn in.

The suspected militants rammed their vehicle into a National Guard checkpoint at a junction near the city's port.

"A patrol of two National Guard officers was attacked with a knife in the centre of Sousse," National Guard spokesman Houcem Eddine Jebabli said, according to the AFP news agency.

"One died as a martyr and

the other was wounded and is hospitalised," he said.

"This was a terrorist attack".

The knifemen stole guns and a police vehicle during the attack before making off, Mr Jebabli said. Security forces took off after them through the tourist areas of El Kantaoui.

"In a firefight three terrorists were killed," he said, adding that two guns and the car were recovered.

It is unclear if the assailants were tied to any particular extremist group, but the wider threat in Tunisia in recent years has been from dispersed sleeper cells composed of jihadists that returned from Syria, Libya, and Iraq, says the BBC's Rana Jawad in the capital Tunis.

Thirty-eight people lost their lives when a gunman opened fire on tourists staying in El Kantaoui in June 2015. Thirty of those killed were British tourists staying at the Hotel Rui Imperial Marhaba.

The Islamic State (IS) said it was behind the attack by Tunisian student Seifeddine Rezgui. The situation in Tunisia has improved greatly since then, although a state of emergency is in place.

Since 2015, successive

## Niger army accused of executing over 70 civilians



The killings allegedly happened earlier this year

Niger's national human rights commission has accused the army of executing dozens of civilians during counterinsurgency operations.

It said it had discovered more than 70 bodies in six mass graves in Tillaberi in the north-west of the country, an area affected by jihadist violence.

The killings allegedly happened earlier this year.

One of the investigators said the civilians had been killed with bladed weapons and small arms.

International rights groups have accused the armies of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso of carrying out dozens of extrajudicial executions during campaigns against jihadists and other armed groups in the Sahel region. Niger's National Commission on Human Rights was investigating allegations

that 102 civilians had gone missing in the troubled region between 27 March and 2 April after an army operation.

"There have indeed been executions of unarmed civilians and the mission discovered at least 71 bodies in six mass graves," said Abdoulaye Seydou, the president of the Pan-African Network for Peace, Democracy and Development, which took part in the investigation.

"It is elements of the Defence and Security Forces (FDS) which are responsible for these summary and extrajudicial executions," he added.

But Mr Seydou said it was not possible to say whether top levels of the army were responsible.

There has been no response to the claim from the Niger authorities. BBC



Security forces chased the attackers through the tourist areas of El Kantaoui

governments have changed their counter-terrorism strategy by focusing more on prevention, rather than response, our reporter says.

Countries like Germany and the UK have contributed to training security forces.

This week Tunisia's

parliament approved a new government formed by Prime Minister-designate Hichem Mechichi.

Mr Mechichi appointed technocrats to his government rather than members of political parties as had been the case in the past. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## President Weah is leading from behind

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, President George Manneh Weah needs to adjust his leadership style and governs Liberia from the front rather than being a backbencher. President Weah's posture of leading Liberians from the rear is not just harming the country in so many ways, but raising a shadow over the country.

FOR NEARLY THREE years, Mr. Weah has not mustered courage enough to take charge of leadership, instead, allowing his officials to call the shots at the expense of a people-centered Presidency.

We are talking about the 4.5 million Liberians in and out of the country including those from the opposition, not just partisans of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

THESE LAPSES BY the President has become very glaring so much so that outcries are pouring in about citizens not feeling the presence of the leader they elected at the ballot box in 2017 to govern their affairs.

PRESIDENT WEAH SEEMS to be confined or has allowed himself to be confined in a corner by so-called advisors and loyalists, who claim to know it all when their real motive is to have an opportunity to get at perceived enemies.

AS NIMBA COUNTY District#5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar observed here on Sunday, President George Manneh Weah has distanced himself from the masses, who popularly elected him.

HE CAUTIONED MR. WEAH not to destroy his popularity by avoiding people under the pretext of "security intelligence", which he described as fake.

REP. KOGAR SPECIFICALLY accused Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, of erecting blockage around President Weah to deny key officials from interacting with the President on major national issues.

THIS IS A VERY serious allegation coming from a member of the House of Representatives, who commands a voting constituent. He is not the only one decrying such posture of the President or those surrounding the Presidency.

SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIALS have similarly complained of being denied access to President Weah. Even if Mr. is pressurized to come out and speak, he throws nothing but jives at perceived critics and enemies, shamelessly justifying and defending inadequacies of his leadership. It is quite disappointing and embarrassing for a President so elected by popular votes to feel insecure, afraid, and to consider his subjects as enemies just half way into his term.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Maria Ramos  
& Achim Steiner

## Digital Finance for a Fairer Post-Pandemic World

*Digitalization provides a historic opportunity to reset private and public finance in order to help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. And the COVID-19 crisis is the ideal moment to seize it.*

JOHANNESBURG/NEW YORK - Today's unprecedented COVID-19 crisis has prompted billions of people to work, socialize, and consume digitally. This shift creates a historic opportunity to unlock the potential of digitalization to finance more inclusive, sustainable development.

Digitalization is transforming every aspect of finance. More than one billion people worldwide now use mobile payment platforms, which have turned mobile phones into financial tools. Digital finance is leveraging big data and artificial intelligence to underpin advances in cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets, peer-to-peer lending, crowdfunding, and online marketplaces. Algorithms are silencing noisy stock-exchange floors, with many equity trades in the United States now executed in the absence of any human input.

Investment in financial technology (fintech) is powering this transformation. In 2018, fintech attracted a record \$120 billion in venture-capital funding, or one-third of the global total. And financial investors are pouring tens of billions more dollars annually into enabling digital technology.

The pandemic has provided a major boost to these developments. Digital money transfers are enabling governments to provide immediate financial support to citizens. Crowdfunding platforms have mobilized resources for medical supplies and emergency relief. Algorithmic lending is accelerating life-saving funding for small businesses. Similarly, e-commerce platforms are enabling people to buy now and consume later in order to support local businesses and protect employment.

But such inspiring examples barely scratch the surface of what is both urgently needed and possible. The world is awash with literally trillions of dollars. This is ultimately the people's money, earned and borrowed and then spent, saved, invested, and handed to governments to use on their behalf. Too often, however, these funds do not flow to what people need and want. Inequality was already increasing before the crisis and is now accelerating. Moreover, the financial sector is not effectively channeling money and savings to address longer-term development challenges such as climate change and biodiversity destruction.

Digitally driven transformation can better align finance with people's needs, as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In November 2018, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres established a task force comprising leaders from the financial, policy, and development communities to identify ways of harnessing digitalization to finance the SDGs. The panel (which we co-chaired) has now completed its deliberations and presented its final report to

the secretary-general, having engaged with thousands of individuals and institutions across dozens of countries.

The task force's core conclusion is that the power of digital transformation provides an extraordinary opportunity to reset private and public finance in ways that can help to achieve the SDGs. Its call to action seeks to engage market participants and policymakers, including central banks and development-finance institutions, in implementing the task force's agenda of practical recommendations.

This agenda identifies five systemic opportunities for digital technologies to improve the social and environmental impact of financial flows, and recommends ways to advance each of them.

For starters, digitalization can play a critical role in ensuring that global capital markets, which currently have a value of about \$185 trillion, take greater account of social and environmental risks and outcomes. Second, big data and algorithmic analytics can accelerate the provision of the \$5.2 trillion in annual financing required by developing countries' small and medium-size businesses, which are the source of much of the world's employment.

Third, new digital pathways, from mobile devices to blockchain-enabled oversight of infrastructure investment, can enable citizens to channel more of their annual savings, which have tripled in the last two decades to over \$23 trillion globally, into investments in clean energy, transport, and health care. Furthermore, governments in developing countries, which collectively spend almost 20% of global GDP on behalf of their citizens, could save an estimated \$220-320 billion annually by digitalizing payments. Finally, rapidly growing online consumer spending supports greater data-driven messaging to encourage alignment with environmental and other societal goals.

The task force also recognizes the barriers and risks involved, the most obvious being exclusionary gaps in digital infrastructure and an unequal distribution of skills. Digitalization risks perpetuating discrimination against women and other groups. Digital finance, moreover, presents new possibilities for data-security breaches, embezzlement, and fraud, and could intensify short-termism and market concentration.

Our proposed agenda recommends steps to tackle many of these problems. At the national level, governments need to invest in digital infrastructure, expand access, protect citizens and their data, and align evolving digital-finance ecosystems with broader sustainable-development planning. In addition, governments need to cooperate internationally to ensure that global governance of fintech is both more inclusive and responsive to broader development imperatives.

## O-PED

By Dmitry Oreshkin

## The Putin-Lukashenko Tango

*After decades of maintaining a loveless geopolitical marriage, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin are trying to figure out how each can use the other. But, with Lukashenko facing ongoing mass protests, the Kremlin clearly has much more to gain from a quid pro quo.*

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin's public statements about the mass protests in Belarus have been at once forceful and ambiguous. For example, he says that a "law enforcement reserve" force has been prepared for potential engagement in Belarus. But that could mean personnel ranging from traffic cops and the police who break up demonstrations to the Federal Security Service (FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB) and heavily armed military units like the Rosgvardia (Russian Guard).

And what circumstances actually would prompt Russia to intervene? Putin says the "reserve" would "not be used until the situation starts getting out of control." But who decides that? If it is up to Belarus's beleaguered dictator, Aleksandr Lukashenko, Putin could say that the Kremlin will act only "at the request of the legally elected president of the republic." That, after all, is how the Soviet Union framed its military interventions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

But Putin has said nothing to this effect. In fact, his public statements suggest that he thinks he, not Lukashenko, should be in charge of the political process in Belarus. This has left Lukashenko hemmed in by a paradox: It would be better to risk being overthrown than to turn to Putin for military support.

Lukashenko understands that insofar as power in Belarus relies on force, it lies with whoever commands the most bayonets. If a significant number of bayonets loyal to someone else were to show up, Lukashenko could be transformed into a Putin puppet and effectively removed from power. This would work well for the Kremlin, but not for Lukashenko. From his perspective, peaceful protesters pose a lesser threat than armed Russian troops.

Lukashenko will most likely rely on his tried-and-true strategy for dealing with Russia. He will signal his intent to remain closely aligned with his eastern neighbor, emphasizing their centuries-old geopolitical connection (even though this relationship has long since passed its expiration date). Then, he will seek political and financial support in exchange for declaring these commitments.

Already, the Kremlin has announced its readiness to restructure Lukashenko's longstanding oil and gas debt. But writing off old debts does not mean new funds, which is what Lukashenko needs. Hence, he is probably hoping to stabilize the domestic situation somewhat so that he can then blackmail the Kremlin. Rather than demanding repayment, he would argue, the Kremlin should really be sending him more funds to support Belarus's role as a strategic buffer against NATO.

And yet, the threat of NATO aggression has increasingly become a bluff, and both Lukashenko and Putin know it. A growing number of citizens, particularly Internet users under 50, are not nearly as ready as previous generations were to believe Lukashenko when he claims that "NATO troops are clanging their tracks at our gates, there is a build-up of military power on the western borders of our country."

Nonetheless, such rhetoric does advance both Putin's and Lukashenko's interests. The supposed Western threat allows them to justify their own prolonged rule. Putin's motivation is transparent. During his long political career, he has enjoyed three bursts of popularity, each following small, seemingly victorious military campaigns - in Chechnya in 2000, in Georgia in 2008, and in Ukraine in 2014. Given this track record, it is no surprise that he would try to play the same game in Belarus, offering Russians yet another shiny object signifying Russia's greatness.

Moreover, Putin is doubtless seeking payback after Lukashenko's public refusal last year to consider deeper integration with Russia. At the time, Putin was worried about his 2024 term limit and hoping to reset the clock by uniting Belarus and Russia in a "new" country (with him in charge, of course). But Lukashenko is too jealous of his own power to make any such sacrifice.

In the event, Putin instead held a "popular vote" this year to amend the constitution and ensure his continued rule at least until 2036. And, because the plebiscite turned out to be more arduous, expensive, and controversial than expected, the Kremlin is now eager to humiliate and punish Lukashenko, even if it means writing off his debt.

Lukashenko, meanwhile, has also been trying to tilt the situation in his favor. He and policymakers in Europe were not the only ones parsing Putin's remarks about a "reserve" of law enforcement standing ready. The protesters in the streets of Minsk and other Belarusian cities face the risk of weakening one dictator only to have him replaced by a stronger, more remote one. And if events take a serious turn for the worse, Belarusians could even end up with a military conflict raging within their borders.

But the more likely scenario is that Belarusian security forces will continue trying to suppress the demonstrations, and Lukashenko will resist Putin's overtures to send in "little green men," as he did in occupying and then annexing Crimea in 2014.

Putin knows not to bother negotiating with Lukashenko unless he has a stick in the hand and a carrot in the pocket. Because the Kremlin is almost certain to have a few more economic trump cards up its sleeve, the Russian intervention in Belarus will remain strictly verbal for now.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

## OPINION

By Slawomir Sierakowski

## The Belarusian Kids Are Alright

*To mark the start of the academic year, Belarusian students have taken to the streets in solidarity with the growing opposition protest movement. And as has increasingly been the case in recent weeks, authorities' responses were haphazard and inconsistent, reflecting their fundamental powerlessness.*

MINSK - Belarusian university students marked the start of the academic year on September 1 by announcing a strike. They planned to gather in Victory Square and then march to the Ministry of Education, where they would present a petition criticizing the authorities' actions in the weeks since last month's fraudulent presidential election. But almost immediately upon reaching the square, they encountered the riot police (OMON).

Unlike in other recent protests, the authorities showed little restraint in arresting demonstrators. But news of the harsh response spread quickly, prompting more students to take to the streets. As the ranks of university and even some high-school students swelled, what was supposed to be an hour-long demonstration continued for the rest of the day. At one point, a procession of some 200 students with flags passed by Mickiewicz Square. It was followed by another procession, this one comprising several dozen OMON.

Soon, the authorities decided that it was time to intervene, and undercover policemen suddenly started rounding up students. These plainclothes officers are the most despised of the security forces, because they are widely seen as cowards. At least the OMON and other uniformed officers are willing to come face to face with the protesters, unlike those who hide in their cars, waiting for an opportune moment to snatch people off the streets.

To be sure, neither the regular police nor the OMON ever reveal their full faces, and when one loses his balaclava, he tends to be overcome by fear. Those who are photographed are quickly identified and logged on the "Black Book of Belarus" Telegram channel. These acts of unmasking are effective precisely because the opposition enjoys such widespread public support. Members of the security forces have every reason to fear social ostracism, as do the judges, prosecutors, and others complicit in the repression. Unfortunately, the judiciary remains completely subordinate to the regime.

At 6 p.m. the same day, students started gathering in Independence Square, where men in black quickly surrounded them. In what has now become a typical scene, police vans with loudspeakers barked warnings and blared Soviet-era songs in an effort to drown out the demonstrators' chants.

By 8 p.m., about a thousand students had gathered. This time, the authorities maintained their composure, and limited their response to checking people's bags and purses (the women protesters, in particular, displayed a clear disregard for the police). Soon enough, another mass march was in motion, proceeding down Independence Avenue toward Victory Square. Everyone anticipated that the police would again respond with mass arrests and a forceful crackdown. But it didn't happen.

This inconsistency on the part of the authorities is telling. It suggests that Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko has misplayed his hand. Rather than defanging the growing protest movement, his regime's behavior has stoked even more public anger. There are now countless images circulating online of OMON officers attacking high-school students, wrenching their arms, and perp-walking them into police vans. There are images of mothers and teachers trying to snatch their children back from the authorities, only to be pushed away by black-clad OMON.

Though we don't know who ordered this response, it certainly suggests that the regime is flailing. Far from demobilizing public opposition, the government is unwittingly fueling it. While the authorities sometimes beat protesters indiscriminately, they also sometimes target only the most active demonstrators, while giving everyone else a pass. And on some occasions, they even sit down and play pick-up sticks and other street games with civilians, as I witnessed on Monday. In the face of growing peaceful protests, their choice is lose-lose: they can respond violently, or they can feign friendship.

When the student march reached Victory Square, one could see Belarusian solidarity in a nutshell. Drivers honked their horns and handed out food. Nina Baginskaya, a 73-year-old retiree and the conscience of the Belarusian opposition, showed up to march with the students. For decades, Baginskaya has been threatened with detention for her activism, but she has been present at every rally, showing more courage than all the security forces combined. She will continue waving her flag in front of OMON's phalanxes until she overthrows the system.

This was the last demonstration that I could witness in Minsk. The next day marked the end of my 30-day visa-free stay. As I departed, I saw firsthand why I would not be able to return to Belarus anytime soon: another foreign journalist - a Spanish photographer - was being deported. He had flown to Minsk the previous day, whereupon he was immediately searched, googled, checked against a prepared list of journalists, and detained. After spending one night in lockup, he was escorted on to a Warsaw-bound flight, only then receiving his passport back.

Not surprisingly, hardly any foreign journalists are left in Belarus. While marching with the student demonstrators to Victory Square on Tuesday, I didn't see anyone else I recognized. Fortunately, Belarusians themselves are fantastic journalists. Citizen journalism has developed rapidly, such that nearly all of the regime's barbarous abuses of power are recorded and made available online.

For those of us watching from the outside, the task now is to help these citizen journalists however we can. Among professional foreign media, there is a tendency to lose interest in a story that isn't based on one's own materials or on-the-ground reporting. But regardless of how many obstacles there are for the press, ultimately it is the Lukashenko regime that is powerless. As I witnessed firsthand, such a widespread, creative, and politically astute protest movement cannot be stopped.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)



# LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## Rapes, Gang Rapes and Ritualistic Killings Will Continue in Liberia until Pres. Weah Fulfilled One of His Election's Promises

**A**nti-rape advocates shouldn't forget that Mama Liberia inherited a 16-year brutal civil genocide that left behind a: "War mentality", "Worriers' mentality", "Killing mentality", "Gang Rape mentality", "Hijacking mentality", "Threatening the lives of others mentality", "Stealing mentality", "Hostile mentality", "Corruption mentality", "Bloodletting mentality", "Property theft mentality", and "Raping mentality", as a result, a 3-year old baby was raped in Gbapolu and the perpetrator used a shape razor blade to cut the innocent baby's private parts to facilitate penetration with no impunity. The late Yatta Kamara was raped and killed in cold blood with no impunity. Student Odell Sherman was raped and murdered with no impunity. The Liberia National Police under President Weah has compromised rape cases with no action taken against them. Anti-rape demonstrators should be calling for the institution of the TRC that will weed out these dangerous criminals in Liberia rather than present a petition that to President Weah that will not see daylight.

The United Nations Mission in Liberia and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights revealed an estimated 803 cases between January 2015 through March 2016 and there was no solution in sight. The Gender Ministry reported 667 sexual assault cases on babies, girls, and women, and 43 girls and women were gang-raped but there was no solution in sight. Maj. Gen. Prince C. Johnson, Liberia Chief Staff, Armed Forces of Liberia called for a death penalty for rapists, but no one listens. The Action for Justice and Human Rights (AJHR) called for immediate action, no one heeds their calls. Rev. Dr. Simon L. Dunbar calls for more action no one listens. Reputable newspaper editorials joined the fight but to no avail. Opposition Cummings confronted President Weah with no solution in sight.

The Liberia Rape Law of section 2:14.70 which specifically referred to gang rape and qualified it as a first-degree felony crime with 10-years behind bars, the Weah Justice Minister Musa Dean has no time to enforce such law. The Justice Minister Musa Dean cannot be blamed because his boss, President Weah vehemently rejected the anti-rape demonstrators' petition to punish rapists across Liberia. The ongoing rapes, gang rapes, and ritualistic killings of innocent women and girls in Liberia were introduced in the Liberian civil war. It is being repeated because there had been no penalty for the perpetrators under the then President Sirleaf as well as President Weah's government.

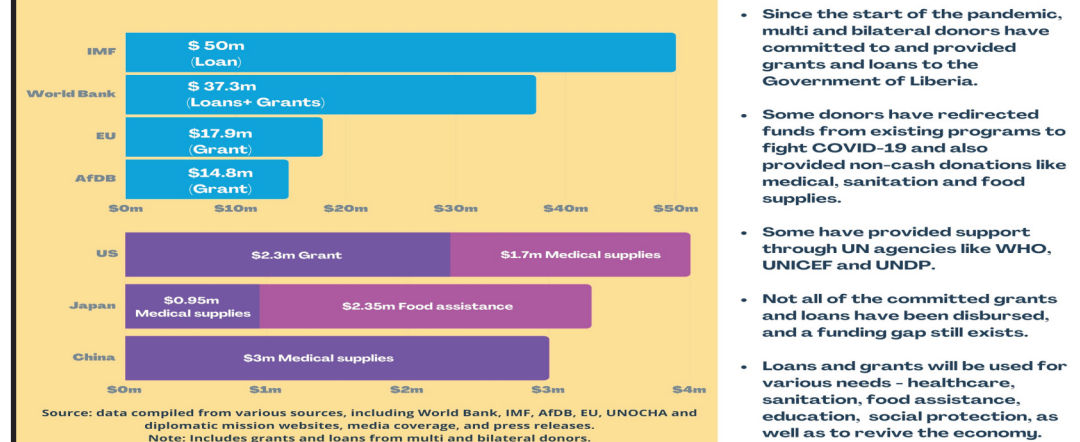
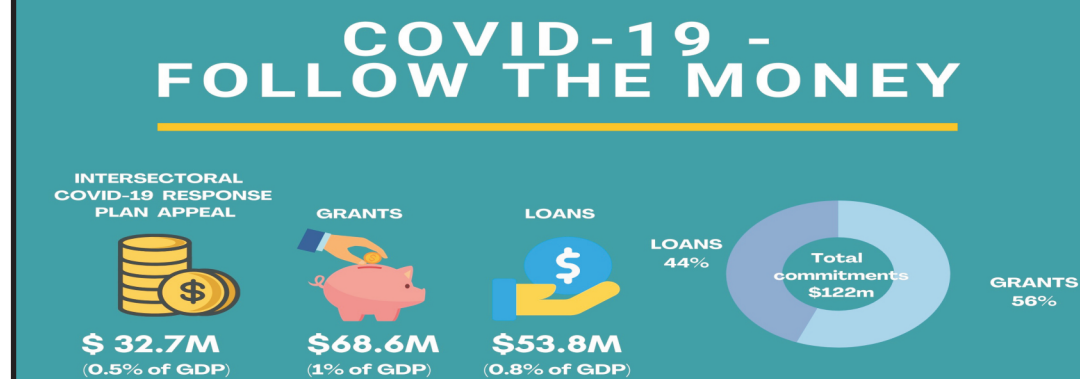
What is conspicuously shocking is the participation of the then President Sirleaf in the anti-rape demonstration which is more of a strong betrayal of Liberian babies, girls, and women who were themselves raped during President Sirleaf's 12-years in office. What did she do then, and what can she do now that power no longer resides in her domain? Others see her role in today's demonstration as a betrayal of babies, girls, and women in Liberia.

When President Weah embarked on his political career in 2012, he promised to undertake two important development as part of his many political promises made to Liberians. First, he promised to reinstitute the TRC, second, he promised to audit the then Sirleaf's administration. But he has blatantly Renate on these promises. This is a clear indication that Political elections in Liberia have an enormous consequence especially when promises made are not kept to the teeth.

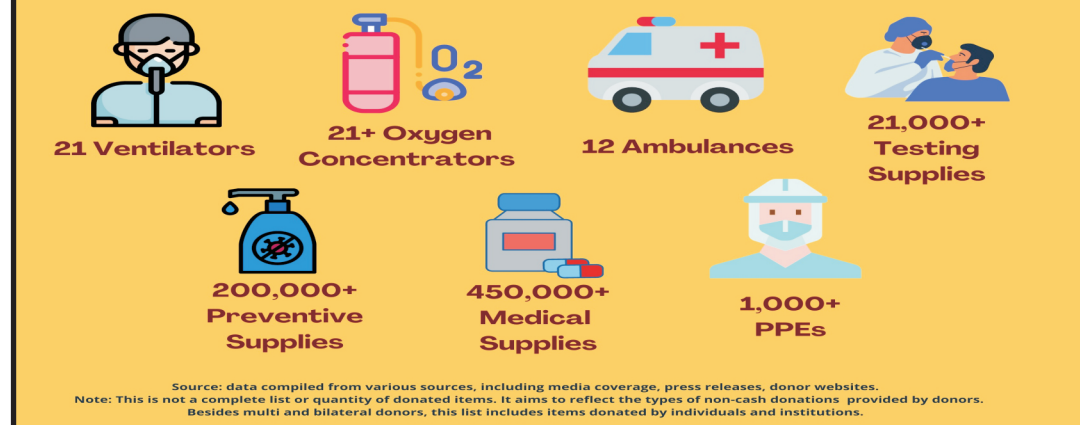
The ongoing gang rapes, rapes, and ritualistic killings of innocent girls and women across Liberia can be attributed to the blatant failures of President Weah to enforce the TRC's that would have tracked gruesome perpetrators of many different crimes since the demised of the Liberian civil genocide. Since there was no penalty for the perpetrators during the civil war, there will continue to be tripled gang rapes, rapes, and the killing of young innocent girls and women across Liberia until President Weah enforces the TRC.

Currently, there are over 16000 plus ex-rebels, and thousands and thousands of others criminals who committed different hideous crimes during the war are currently the so-called hardened criminals, domestic terrorists, hijackers, rogues, gang rapists, armed-Robbers, dangerous rapists, and day-light murderers in our midst walking free with impunity on the streets of Mama Liberia.

These groups were never punished as a result they still carry out gang-rapes, rapes in normal day Liberia under President Weah's watch, but before then it was under former President Sirleaf watch as well. Even the World Health Organization traces the high incidences of sexual abuse in the West African nations, in part, to the country's civil war in which about 61 to 77 percent of women and girls are raped and still being raped under President Weah's government.



- Since the start of the pandemic, multi and bilateral donors have committed to and provided grants and loans to the Government of Liberia.
- Some donors have redirected funds from existing programs to fight COVID-19 and also provided non-cash donations like medical, sanitation and food supplies.
- Some have provided support through UN agencies like WHO, UNICEF and UNDP.
- Not all of the committed grants and loans have been disbursed, and a funding gap still exists.
- Loans and grants will be used for various needs - healthcare, sanitation, food assistance, education, social protection, as well as to revive the economy.



**If you have any information on Covid-19 donations or spending, or any stories of great initiatives in communities, please contact us at [nyema@accountabilitylab.org](mailto:nyema@accountabilitylab.org)**



### COVID-19 - FOLLOW THE MONEY

#### Lawmaker Donates Nimba's First Quarantine Center



Representative Jeremiah Kpan Koung of District #1 has donated a medical facility as a quarantine center for residents of Nimba County. The donation is in response to the residents' prolonged request for a functional location for sick people to be quarantined. Over the past few months, citizens have engaged authorities in the county and health teams about setting up a regional facility in Nimba. But there was little progress as the two government hospitals that should have been used for such a purpose have limited capacity to cater for Covid-19 patients. Since the coronavirus outbreak in March, Nimba County has recorded 55 cases and 11 deaths. In early July, Representative Kpan donated his privately-owned E&J hospital to the Government for a period of ten years for it to be used as a quarantine center for the residents of Nimba. The hospital is the second largest medical facility, next to the Jackson F. Doe Memorial Hospital. Since its construction in 2016 the facility has served the Nimbaian community. The modern facility is located in Nimba's largest city, Ganta and contains several treatment spaces including a general testing lab, numerous treatment rooms and 150 beds for patients. The facility was officially handed over on July 1, and now serves a dual purpose - hosting Covid-19 patients, while at the same time providing medical services for individuals with other sicknesses and diseases. Since the handover, nine Covid-19 patients brought to the facility have fully recovered, following a 21-day observation period as per the health protocols.

\*Data gathered by our Community Frontline Associates in Nimba



Besides a \$50m loan from the IMF, the World Bank has committed most funds to the Government of Liberia. It has approved:

- a total of \$17.7m through the Government and WHO to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and in the longer-term, strengthen its response to disease outbreaks and emergencies.
- \$10.5 million funding support through the Ministry of Agriculture for its COVID-19 Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood Plan.
- \$8.8m to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to expand coverage of the Social Cash Transfer program in urban and rural areas affected by COVID-19.

Source: data compiled from various sources, including World Bank, AfDB, EU, UNOCHA websites. Bilateral donations based on media coverage, press releases and individual country's Embassy websites. Note: Total figures include grants and loan from multi and bilateral donors. Does not include IMF loan.

Get in touch with us on Facebook - [@accountabilitylabliberia](https://www.facebook.com/accountabilitylabliberia)



**WWW** **Advertize Here!**  
**Subscribe to our website**  
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Witch-hunting politicians

## -Nathaniel Blama brand political actors

By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

Dismissed Environmental Protection Agency director general and Chairman of the Liberia National Union (LINU) Dr. Nathaniel Blama calls on political actors to desist from using politics to witch hunt people they don't

pointing out that the platform was never created to be used to insult leaders.

Speaking at mini congress of the Liberia Nation Union when three senatorial aspirants of the party, including Grand Kru County Representative Nathaniel Bahway, Pual Kennedy of Gbarpolu and

provide every Liberian a free political space to participate in politics.

"Politics as craved for by past leaders was intended to express diverse views on issues surrounding government, the multi parties democracy Gabriel Baccus Mathews and others fought for was intended to express opinions, advocate for each others, advocate for the destitute and to talk for those who cannot talk for themselves in the supreme interest of the nation", he notes.

But he laments that unfortunately, the political platform has now turned by those in power to witch hunt others, while some are using the opportunity to insult and lie on one another in Liberia.

The LINU chairman continues that because of misuse of multi-party democracy platform in Liberia, people are now afraid to venture into the country's politics which was created purposely by past politicians to give every citizen the undeniable right to participate freely in any given political discussion.

Dr. Blama notes that unfortunately, it is disheartened to know that most Liberians now see politicians as cheats and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



like noting, that was never the basis for the creation of multiparty democracy in Liberia.

He expresses fury over the form and manner multiparty democracy, which the forerunners fought to establish in Liberia is being preached,

Johnny MonibaNdebe of Lofa were certificated as senatorial candidates for the pending special senatorial elections on December 08, 2020, he explained that the democratic platform was created to provide an undeniable environment that would

# Nimba lawmaker chides Pres. Weah

Nimba County District # 5 Representative Samuel G. Kogar, has called on President George Manneh Weah to stop distancing himself from the masses, who popularly voted him to power.

He cautioned President Weah not to destroy his popularity by avoiding people under the pretext of "security intelligence."

Speaking Sunday, 06 September at a meeting of Nimba citizens in Police Academy, Paynesville outside Monrovia, Representative

of the protest and receiving their petition with a promise to act swiftly in fighting rape in Liberia.

At the same time the Nimba lawmaker accused Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, of erecting blockage around President Weah, denying key officials from interacting with the President on major national issues.

According to him, Minister McGill is practically runs the country on behalf of President Weah, blaming the Minister for wrong decisions and actions



Rep. Samuel G. Kogar

Kogar also called on the President to be mindful of what he called "fake security intelligence" that continues to keep him away from the people.

He cited no specific instance, but President Weah recently rejected anti-rape protesters' demand to come out and receive a petition against endemic rape in the country, with the Executive Mansion pointing to security concerns and busy schedules of the President.

The move by Mr. Weah received nationwide condemnations, prompting the President to subsequently arrange a meeting with leaders

being taken by the Presidency, something, he noted, is impeding growth and development under the CDC-led regime.

He also decried practice of sex for employment, grades and financial aid in the country and called on Liberian women, especially young girls to resist those who demand sex for academic assistance and job opportunities.

Rep. Kogar urged Liberian voters not to trade their votes for cash and other short-term favors in the coming senatorial elections. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# GVL, government rehabilitate roads in southeast Liberia



The Management of Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) in collaboration with the Government of Liberia reached an agreement in December 2019 for the road rehabilitation of primary selected laterite

roads along Southeastern part of Liberia where GVL has operated its concession palm plantation.

Further, GVL and Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works have selected three road

contractors to carry out the works for rehabilitating about 272 kilometers of primary laterite roads, connecting Pleebo in Maryland County to Weah Town in Tarjuowon Statutory District, Sinoe County.

In a dispatched from the office of Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc., quotes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Vice President for Sustainability, Strategy and Stakeholders Engagement (VPSS) of the company as saying GVL does express its willingness to always work and collaborate with the government institutions to

improve lives of community members within its operational areas.

Road connectivity has been a major challenge in the Southeast causing the company high logistics cost, high vehicle and road maintenance costs since the commencement of its operations in 2010.

The constraint has also

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**LNP reports nine more rape cases**

By Ben P. Wesee

Authorities at the Liberia National Police (LNP) over the weekend reported additional nine alleged rape cases which occurred from 25 to 30 August. This latest report comes after days of mass protests against the alarming incidents of rape here, with children even less than a year - old sometimes victimized.

arrested based on a complaint filed against the accused for allegedly abusing a 13 - year - old girl sexually.

Mr. Carter explains that the lady who filed the complaint had alleged that her 13-year-old niece was sexually abused by suspect Emmanuel G. Flomo and resulted to the victim's pregnancy.

Police say during the preliminary probe, it was

Darvine, a 17- year-old resident of New Georgia was arrested for alleged gang rape.

Mr. Carter states that the case was reported by a male who had alleged that his 15 years old daughter, resident of Johnsonville, was sexually abused by suspect Francis Darvine and others to be identified.

The police spokesman narrates that suspect Darvine has been detained while efforts are underway by the police investigation to identify the other suspects in order to continue the investigation.

On Thursday, 27 August, another alleged rape case was reported to the RIA Police Station in Margibi County in which the complainant alleged that her 16 -year-old niece was sexually abused on 26 July 2020 by Junior Sanagho, a 23 - year-old resident of Pipeline, Paynesville.

According to Spokesman Carter, based upon the allegation, suspect Junior Sanagho was arrested. He says during police preliminary investigation, the victim was referred to the hospital for medical examination, adding that the medical report established that the 16 - year-old minor was tempered with.

He tells journalists at the

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



Police spokesman Moses Carter told a press conference over the weekend at LNP headquarters in Monrovia that on 25 August, a 21- year-old man identified as Emmanuel G. Flomo, resident of Weaver Street, Paynesville, was

established through medical report that the 13 - year-old minor was sexually abused and the suspect has been charged with rape and forwarded to court for prosecution.

Further, Mr. Carter says on Wednesday, 26 August, Francis

**Commerce Minister sounds caveat**

By Lewis S. Teh

Commerce and Industry Minister and Chairman of the Covid-19 Household Food Support Program Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh says government will not relent in taking drastic action against anyone caught stealing the stimulus package food.

Addressing the Ministry of Information's regular Thursday press briefing last week, the Commerce Minister said government can't be struggling to feed its citizens while others find pleasure in stealing the people's food.

Professor Wilson Tarpeh told of journalists at the briefing that his team is being challenged by people who allegedly find pleasure in stealing the food for

in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Professor Tarpeh however admitted that some individuals within some households have registered and have not received their supply after their areas have been served.

He further urged them to get at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry where a compliant desk can be utilized by citizens to register their complaints or any problem for redress.

"I have heard all these and witnessed that some people have registered and didn't get food. Some of them didn't believe it, so they never registered when team was around for registration," he said.

"Some came while the



Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh

**NaFAA form fisheries based organizations**

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority has disclosed formation of Fisheries Based Organizations (CBOs) into Cooperatives, ahead of distribution of huge supplies of free internationally approved fishing nets and motorized engines to fishing communities across coastal counties in Liberia.

According to a release issued in Monrovia, NaFAA in collaboration with the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) will this September begin first phase of the formation of Fisheries Cooperatives in Montserrado, Bomi, Margibi, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa Counties, respectively through trainings on management and sustainability of such ventures.

NaFAA said the formation of fisheries based organizations is to put local fishermen in the position to enhance their

capacity and increase income from having access to resources.

The release indicated that "the approved nets will shortly arrive in Monrovia for distribution across the coastal counties of Liberia and it is

intended to promote the use of multifilament net which is legal and thus lead to the immediate withdrawal of the mono filament net (illegal) from small-scale fishers here.

-Press Release



commercial purposes.

He threatened a serious measure depending on the current probe by the committee on covid-19 Household Food Supply program.

"We can't be trying to help our people and then people are there stealing the food. But we will take the necessary actions against them as soon as the investigation is finalized. This is unacceptable and we will act," he assured the public.

Professor Wilson Tarpeh has expressed the government's willingness to distribute the overdue stimulus package food.

According to Professor Tarpeh, the committee is targeting orphans and vulnerable as well as health workers, considering their role

distribution was on within their areas. So, just get at the office, go to the complaint desk and register. It will be handled. Don't worry," he continued.

Meanwhile, Minister Tarpeh says he cannot say the distribution will continue for a year or more, but noted that the distribution is ongoing until the target is fully met.

He concluded by saying hunger and difficulties don't know any barrier, calling on Liberians to unite to move the country forward.

He said currently, Liberia spends around 150 to 200 million dollars annually to import rice into the country with India claiming majority of the capital.—Edited by Winston W. Parley

**Advertise with us!**

# Français

## Le personnel du parlement perturbe une cérémonie de soutien au candidat Thomas Fallah

Un groupe de partisans du représentant Thomas Fallah a été empêché par des travailleurs du parlement d'avoir accès à l'édifice de l'Assemblée législative libérienne, où ils avaient l'intention d'apporter un soutien à leur candidat à l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Montserrado.

Le député Thomas Fallah, qui préside le comité parlementaire sur les voies, les moyens et les finances, brigue actuellement le siège sénatorial du comté de Montserrado sur le ticket de la coalition au pouvoir.

Mais, les membres du personnel de la chambre basse du parlement, qui réclament ces derniers temps des arriérés de salaire et des avantages

sociaux, exigent que la priorité soit donnée à la résolution de leurs préoccupations. Ils ont ainsi empêché jeudi des partisans du candidat de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC, mouvance au pouvoir) pour le comté de Montserrado d'avoir accès à l'édifice du parlement libérien, perturbant ainsi la cérémonie de soutien à ce dernier.

Le porte-parole des fonctionnaires en colère, Charles S. Brown, au cours d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes, a juré de ne permettre aucune cérémonie de soutien à Thomas Fallah dans l'enceinte de la clôture du siège du parlement tant que leurs revendications ne sont pas prises en compte.

« Quiconque veut soutenir le représentant Fallah est libre de le faire, mais pas dans l'enceinte du Capitole. Qu'ils aillent ailleurs pour le faire, pas ici », a-t-il défié.

Charles accuse le député Fallah d'être entièrement responsable de la souffrance des membres du personnel de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Revoir les salaires des employés de la chambre des représentants

Que chaque député rencontrent son personnel pour établir le salaire net réel, ce, pour valider le rapport de la section du contrôleur. C'est en tout cas ce que recommande la commission d'enquête parlementaire dont le Comité parlementaire sur les voies, les moyens et les finances est membre.

La plénière avait demandé à la commission mardi dernier d'ouvrir une enquête sur la masse salariale et les avantages sociaux du personnel de la Chambre des représentants avant l'opération d'harmonisation salariale initiée par le gouvernement du Libéria, et de s'en querir de ses effets nets sur les travailleurs.

La commission, au terme de son enquête, recommande ainsi dans son rapport une vérification complète de la masse salariale harmonisée et normalisée de la Chambre des représentants, du Sénat libérien, et de l'administration centrale.

La commission propose en outre que chaque employé de l'Assemblée législative reçoive un bulletin de salaire qui indique le salaire mensuel brut, les impôts et autres déductions en plus des

avantages.

La commission a fait état du fait que les lois budgétaires de l'exercice 2019/2020 reconnaissent l'harmonisation des salaires et les avantages sociaux au niveau de tous les trois pouvoirs de l'Etat, où il est question d'une réduction salariale de 6%, à l'exception des agents de santé non administratifs, des enseignants, du personnel de la sécurité et des personnes gagnant moins de 500 dollars par mois.

A en croire la commission

d'enquête, les membres du personnel de la Chambre des représentants qui gagnent un salaire inférieur à 500USD par mois n'ont pas subi de réduction de 6%, mais du fait de la fluctuation du taux de change et de l'ajustement à la hausse des tranches d'imposition en raison de l'effondrement de tous les avantages, y compris les indemnités et le salaire de base en dollars libériens de la fonction publique, et au titre de l'indemnité de carburant, auxquels tous les fonctionnaires n'ont pas droit, il existe d'autres

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La quête tumultueuse de Didier Drogba pour accéder à la présidence du football ivoirien

La candidature de l'ancien capitaine des Eléphants, très populaire dans le pays, a été rejetée par la Fédération de Côte d'Ivoire.

Luttes intestines, coups de théâtre et retournements de situation : le processus de nomination du prochain président de la Fédération ivoirienne de football (FIF) semble presque aussi mouvementé que la campagne qui s'ouvre pour l'élection, le 31 octobre, du président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire. Au cœur de cet imbroglio : Didier Drogba, ancien capitaine des Eléphants et l'une des personnalités les plus populaires du pays.

Au mois de mai, l'ex-attaquant avait annoncé son intention de succéder à Augustin Sidy Diallo, l'actuel président de la FIF. Sa candidature avait été validée une première fois le 9 août. Mais tout s'est grippé. Constatant un vice de procédure, la FIF a suspendu fin août la commission électorale puis rejeté la candidature de Didier Drogba dont les parrainages, a-t-elle estimé, n'étaient pas recevables.

Depuis, la Fédération internationale de football (FIFA), saisie par l'ancien buteur de Marseille et Chelsea, a décidé de nommer une commission conjointe avec la Confédération africaine de football (CAF) et l'Union des fédérations ouest-africaines (UFOA), qui sera chargée de procéder à plusieurs auditions. Une candidature qui ne laisse personne indifférent.

Comment en est-on arrivé à cette situation ? Selon les statuts de la fédération ivoirienne, chaque candidat doit être parrainé par les représentants de groupements d'intérêt. Outre Didier Drogba, trois autres candidats étaient en lice : Sory Diabaté, vice-président de la FIF et président de la Ligue, soutenu par les anciens joueurs, les médecins et les arbitres ; Idriss Diallo, un homme d'affaires, ancien vice-président de la fédération et parrainé par l'Association des footballeurs ivoiriens (AFI) et les entraîneurs ; et Paul Koffi Kouadio, président du centre de formation Aeternum Football Académie.

Mais des arbitres dissidents ont choisi d'adopter Didier Drogba. Souleymane Coulibaly, président des arbitres et qui soutient Sory Diabaté, a alors alerté la Commission électorale de la FIF, évoquant un faux.

Le cas de l'ancien attaquant ne laisse personne indifférent en Côte d'Ivoire. Plusieurs de ses anciens coéquipiers en sélection, tels Yaya Touré, Blaise Kouassi et Copa Barry, lui

ont publiquement apporté leur soutien. Mais certains estiment que l'ancien buteur n'a sans doute pas fait tous les efforts nécessaires pour renforcer sa stature de potentiel futur président.

Une attitude jugée distante, voire hautaine.

Didier Drogba, lâché par l'Association des footballeurs ivoiriens, dont il est pourtant l'un des vice-présidents, attend désormais les conclusions de la mission FIFA-CAF. Selon Paul Koffi Kouadio, dont la candidature a également été rejetée, « il semble évident que le système des parrainages, tel qu'il existe, est fait pour favoriser certaines candidatures. Didier Drogba est très populaire, il est le favori d'une grande majorité des Ivoiriens qui veut le voir présider la fédération. Ce qui explique pourquoi cette élection déchaîne autant de passions ».

Ce dernier regrette une situation susceptible de renforcer la crise que traverse déjà le football ivoirien, avec un championnat local ayant perdu de son attractivité et des clubs qui souffrent financièrement.

Dans le camp de l'ancien capitaine des Eléphants, on affirme que tous les moyens sont mis en œuvre pour barrer la route de l'un des meilleurs joueurs africains de l'histoire. « La popularité de Drogba, son aura, sa volonté de moderniser le football ne plaît pas à tout le monde. Et beaucoup estiment qu'il y a des manœuvres pour l'empêcher d'être élu. Tout le monde sait ici que Diabaté est soutenu par Augustin Diallo. Et que si Diabaté est élu, il mènera la même politique », résume un dirigeant de club.

L'attitude parfois distante, voire hautaine, de Didier Drogba a visiblement joué, au moins partiellement, en sa défaveur, au moment de la chasse aux parrainages. L'ancien Marseillais, dont les apparitions médiatiques ont toujours été très rares, même quand il était joueur, a braqué certains acteurs du football ivoirien. « Il a commis des erreurs dans sa façon de fonctionner, c'est vrai. Mais ce qui est regrettable, c'est que le foot ivoirien soit à l'arrêt et donne une mauvaise image », précise le dirigeant.

Didier Drogba pourra-t-il, en fonction des auditions menées par la FIFA et la CAF, défendre sa candidature ? Ou sera-t-il courtisé par les candidats en lice au cas où il ne puisse pas se présenter ? C'est la question qui agite désormais le Tout-Abidjan.



# Français

## Le personnel du parlement

La Chambre des Représentants. Il veut donc que « quiconque vient soutenir sa candidature au Capitole lui dise de s'assurer que les arriérés et les primes payées des travailleurs du parlement sont réglés », puisque le projet de budget national 2020/2021 est actuellement devant lui en tant que président du comité parlementaire sur les voies, les moyens et les finances.

Le représentant Fallah, soutenu par de hauts fonctionnaires de l'establishment au pouvoir, y

compris le ministre des Finances Samuel Tweah, distribue actuellement des milliers de dollars dans les diverses communautés du comté de Montserrado pour renforcer sa candidature dans le comté.

« Nous avons vu des gens vêtus de T-shirts de Thomas Fallah qui ne travaillent pas ici et nous avons décidé que personne ne soutienne personne ici, pas seulement Thomas Fallah, mais qui que ce soit, jusqu'à ce que nous obtenions notre argent », a conclu Brown.

## Revoir les salaires des employés

déductions.

A rappeler que la semaine dernière, le président de la Chambre des Représentants, Bhofal Chambers, député de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (coalition au pouvoir), avait essuyé sa première humiliation en tant que législateur. Le député du Maryland avait été hué par les membres du personnel de la première chambre du parlement qui exigeaient des salaires impayés.

En effet, les membres du personnel de la Chambre des représentants avaient pris d'assaut l'entrée de la Chambre basse pour exiger des arriérés de salaires et des avantages qui auraient été coupés sans raison valable.

Tout avait commencé lorsque des membres du personnel, sous la direction de Benjamin Myers, ancien président de la jeunesse du Congrès national alternatif (opposition), avaient convoqué une réunion dans le pavillon du Capitole pour discuter de la conduite à tenir pour que la composante en dollars libériens déduite de leur salaire leur fût restituée.

Mais, alors qu'ils discutaient, le co-président du comité parlementaire sur les voies, les moyens, les finances et le budget, le représentant du comté de Nimba, Jeremiah Koug, et le représentant du comté de Montserrado, Dixon Seibo, étaient intervenus dans l'espoir de calmer les esprits.

Une attention particulière leur avait été accordée et Koug et Seibo avaient demandé que la réunion fût transférée dans la salle William Richard Tolbert en vue d'une discussion fructueuse et une entente cordiale.

À leur arrivée dans la salle, les employés en colère, par la voix de leur leader Benjamin Myers, avaient indiqué que la réduction de leurs avantages et

salaires était illégale, d'autant plus que « la résolution signée à la fois par la Chambre des représentants et le Sénat libérien stipule clairement que les membres de l'Assemblée législative et du pouvoir judiciaire, en particulier les juges, connaîtront une réduction salariale de 31%, à l'exception des membres du personnel. Selon eux, la résolution indiquait clairement que la réduction salariale en question ne concernait que les membres de l'Assemblée législative, c'est-à-dire les représentants et les sénateurs, et non les travailleurs ordinaires.

A cela, le représentant Seibo avait répondu que cette partie de la résolution ne pouvait être interprétée que par des juristes. C'est la goutte d'eau qui avait fait déborder le vase. Il s'en était suivi un débat houleux. Et comme Koug et Seibo n'en pouvaient plus, ils s'étaient précipités vers la salle des conférences où se tenait une séance ordinaire, pensant qu'ils y seraient à l'abri. Mais c'était mal connaître les employés lésés, qui, sans hésiter, les y avaient suivis, criant « Chambers le voyou ! Chambers le voyou ! ». Le représentant Jimmy Smith avait tenté d'intervenir pour ramener le calme, mais c'était comme s'il avait mis le feu à la poudre. Les membres du personnel s'étaient mis à cogner les portes de l'édifice.

C'était la première fois que les travailleurs lésés s'en prenaient physiquement à l'édifice du parlement pendant que la session était en cours. Et comme le bruit était trop et que les agents de sécurité affectés à l'entrée ne pouvaient rien, le Président de la chambre du parlement, Bhofal Chambers, la mine serrée, avait demandé que le chef du personnel lésé fût autorisé en plénière pour parler au nom de ses collègues.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Maria Ramos  
& Achim Steiner

## La finance digitale peut aider à construire un monde d'après-pandémie plus juste

JOHANNESBURG/NEW YORK - La crise sans précédent liée à la COVID-19 que le monde vit actuellement a poussé des milliards de personnes à travailler, socialiser et consommer numériquement. Ce changement crée une opportunité historique de libérer le potentiel de la digitalisation pour financer un développement plus inclusif et durable.

La digitalisation transforme tous les aspects de la finance. Plus d'un milliard de personnes dans le monde utilisent désormais des plateformes de paiement mobile, qui ont transformé les téléphones mobiles en outils financiers. La finance digitale tire parti des big data et de l'intelligence artificielle pour soutenir les avancées dans les cryptomonnaies et les crypto-actifs, les prêts entre particuliers, le financement participatif et les marchés en ligne. Les algorithmes réduisent au silence les parquets boursiers bruyants, de nombreuses transactions boursières aux États-Unis étant désormais exécutées en l'absence de toute intervention humaine.

L'investissement dans la technologie financière (fintech) alimente cette transformation. En 2018, la fintech a attiré un financement record de 120 milliards de dollars en capital-risque, soit un tiers du total mondial. Et les investisseurs financiers investissent chaque année des dizaines de milliards de dollars dans les technologies digitales.

La pandémie a donné une impulsion majeure à ces développements. Les transferts d'argent digitaux permettent aux gouvernements de fournir un soutien financier immédiat aux citoyens. Les plateformes de financement participatif ont mobilisé des ressources pour les fournitures médicales et les secours d'urgence. Les prêts algorithmiques accélèrent le financement vital des petites entreprises. De même, les plateformes de commerce électronique permettent aux gens d'acheter maintenant et de consommer plus tard afin de soutenir les entreprises locales et de protéger l'emploi.

Mais ces exemples inspirants effleurent à peine la surface de ce qui est à la fois urgent et possible. Le monde regorge littéralement de milliards de dollars. Il s'agit en fin de compte de l'argent du peuple, gagné et emprunté, puis dépensé, économisé, investi et remis aux gouvernements pour qu'ils l'utilisent en leur nom. Trop souvent, cependant, ces fonds ne sont pas destinés à ce que les gens ont besoin et veulent. Les inégalités augmentaient déjà avant la crise et s'accroissent à l'heure actuelle. De plus, le secteur financier n'achemine pas efficacement l'argent et l'épargne pour relever les défis de développement à long terme tels que le changement climatique et la destruction de la biodiversité.

La transformation digitale a le potentiel pour mieux aligner la finance et les besoins des gens, tels que reflétés par les objectifs de développement durable (ODD). En novembre 2018, le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, António Guterres, a créé un groupe de travail composé de dirigeants des communautés financières, politiques et du développement pour identifier les moyens d'exploiter la digitalisation pour financer les ODD. Le groupe (que nous avons coprésidé) a maintenant achevé ses délibérations et présenté son rapport final au secrétaire général, après s'être entretenu avec des milliers d'individus et d'institutions dans des dizaines de pays.

La principale conclusion du groupe de travail est que la puissance de la transformation digitale offre une opportunité extraordinaire de repenser les mondes de la finance privée et publique de manière

à contribuer à la réalisation des ODD. Son appel à l'action vise à impliquer les acteurs du marché et les décideurs, y compris les banques centrales et les institutions de financement du développement, dans la mise en œuvre du programme de recommandations pratiques du groupe de travail.

Cet agenda identifie cinq opportunités systémiques pour les technologies digitales afin d'améliorer l'impact social et environnemental des flux financiers et recommande des moyens de faire progresser chacune d'elles.

Pour commencer, la digitalisation peut jouer un rôle essentiel pour garantir que les marchés financiers mondiaux, qui ont actuellement une valeur d'environ 185 billions de dollars, tiennent davantage compte des risques et des résultats sociaux et environnementaux. Deuxièmement, les mégadonnées et l'analyse algorithmique peuvent accélérer l'acheminement des 5,2 billions de dollars de financement annuel requis par les petites et moyennes entreprises des pays en développement, qui sont à l'origine d'une grande partie des emplois dans le monde.

Troisièmement, de nouvelles voies digitales, des appareils mobiles à la surveillance des investissements dans les infrastructures grâce à la technologie blockchain, peuvent permettre aux citoyens de canaliser davantage de leur épargne annuelle, qui a triplé au cours des deux dernières décennies pour atteindre plus de 23 billions de dollars dans le monde, vers des investissements dans les énergies propres, les transports et les soins de santé. En outre, les gouvernements des pays en développement, qui dépensent collectivement près de 20% du PIB mondial au nom de leurs citoyens, pourrait économiser environ 220 à 320 milliards de dollars par an en optant pour des moyens de paiement numériques. Enfin, la croissance rapide des dépenses de consommation en ligne prend en charge une meilleure communication basée sur les données pour encourager l'alignement sur les objectifs environnementaux et autres objectifs sociétaux.

Le groupe de travail reconnaît également les obstacles et les risques encourus, les plus évidents étant les lacunes dans l'infrastructure numérique qui peuvent exclure de nombreux bénéficiaires ainsi qu'une répartition inégale des compétences. La digitalisation risque de perpétuer la discrimination à l'égard des femmes et d'autres groupes. De plus, la finance digitale présente de nouvelles possibilités de violation de la sécurité des données, de détournement de fonds et de fraude, et pourrait intensifier le court-termisme et la concentration des marchés.

Le programme que nous proposons recommande des mesures pour s'attaquer à nombre de ces problèmes. Au niveau national, les gouvernements doivent investir dans l'infrastructure numérique, élargir l'accès, protéger les citoyens et leurs données, et aligner les écosystèmes en pleine évolution de la finance digitale avec une planification plus large de développement durable. En outre, les gouvernements doivent coopérer au niveau international pour faire en sorte que la gouvernance mondiale de la fintech soit à la fois plus inclusive et plus sensible aux impératifs de développement plus larges.

Les recommandations ambitieuses et pratiques du groupe de travail sont arrivées au bon moment. En permettant à la finance digitale de prospérer, le monde peut à la fois relever les défis et opportunités découlant de la crise actuelle et répondre aux besoins de développement de long terme.

# PUL Headquarters Bulgarized

**-Over US\$10k worth of properties stolen**

The Headquarters of the Press Union of Liberia was on Saturday morning, September 5, 2020 Bulgarized by unknown armed men believed to be Criminals with several valuables stolen.

The PUL in a release, quoted

eye witnesses as saying the criminals were armed with guns and other deadly weapons during the attack on its headquarters.

According to the PUL, the armed men forcefully entered the building using unorthodox means and burst into the offices

before carrying on their criminal act.

Several electronic materials including computers recently donated by China and the Media resource center computers central processing units (CPU) of all the computers in the media resource Center of the union. Other items including Canon Printer, One Digital Camera, One Acer Projector, Two Laptops, Internet Server, SATCON Decoder and other electronic devices were also taken away by the criminals. The PUL put the total cost of the stolen items to nearly US\$10,000.00.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the Liberia National Police has launched an investigation into the burglary following a complaint filed by the Union.

The President of the PUL, Charles B. Coffey Jr expressed shock over the situation, describing it as a sabotage and called on the Police to ensure the arrest of all those involved.



# Pres. Weah extend 54th Legislative sitting

President George Manneh Weah has issued a Proclamation for the 54th Legislature to convene in a Special Session for a period of one (1) Working month, beginning September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

The Third Regular Session of the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia adjourned Sine die on the 31st day of August, 2020.

Article 32(b) of the Constitution of the Republic provides that the President shall, on his own initiative or upon receipt of a certificate

signed by at least one fourth of the total membership of each House, and by Proclamation, extend a regular session of the Legislature beyond the date for adjournment or call a Special or Extraordinary Session of that Body to discuss or act upon matters of national emergency and concern.

According to a Foreign Ministry Release, the Proclamation states that the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia further requires that when the extension or call is at the request of the Legislature, a Proclamation shall be issued

not later than forty-eight hours after the receipt of the certificate by the President.

In accordance with the aforementioned of Article 32(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, a Certificate signed by at least one-fourth of the total membership of each house has been laid before the President on August 31, 2020 for the extension of the Third Regular Session of the 54th Legislature for a period of one month; commencing September 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2020.

Cont'd from page 7

# LNP reports nine

press conference that suspect Sanagho has been charged for rape and forwarded to court.

He continues that police in Saclapea, Nimba County are investigating a 21-year-old man identified as Prince Vahn, a resident of Saclapea, for allegedly sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl from July 2020 to August 24, 2020 respectively.

According to the LNP spokesman, the suspect was arrested predicated upon a complaint filed by the father of the victim.

"Police in Sannioullie, Nimba County have arrested, investigated and charged and forwarded to Court four alleged rapists for alleged gang rape," Carter says.

According to him, suspects Emmanuel Yini, Fredrick Yini, Saye Plaza and Alphonso Tokpah were arrested based on a complaint filed by a 48 year-old rape victim and resident of Kinnon Town, Nimba County.

Police say the victim had alleged that she was sexually abused by the suspects, saying have been sent to court for prosecution.

The LNP's Nimba County Detachment has launched a full-scale investigation into the 28 August alleged rape case in which a 12 year-old girl was also raped.

The LNP say the mother of the 12 years old rape victim alleged that her daughter was raped on 28 August by one

Jefferson to be identified.

Meanwhile the police in Ganta, Nimba County have arrested, investigated and charged a 38 - year-old man identified as Darius Luogon for alleged rape.

LNP disclosed that suspect Luogon was arrested based on a complaint filed by a resident of LPRC Community in Ganta City.

According to the complainant, his on 28 August, his 14 years old daughter was sexually abused by suspect Darius Luogon.

During Police preliminary probe, it was established through medical report that the 14 years old victim was sexually abused. Suspect

# Witch-hunting

Cont'd from page 6

dishonest people.

"We politicians defined the platform given to checkmate government and how to market our visions to politically oust existing government. If you listen to radio stations or read social media, people are destroying one another in the name of politics but unfortunately, that is not what the multi party democracy platform was created for. Let's discuss issues, let's our politics be based on beliefs and not to be insulting personalities," he urges.

At the same time, he calls on LINU supporters and Liberians generally to change the paradigm of politics by avoiding vices that have the tendency to derail the peace in Liberia.

"We need to put ourselves together and engage the political process peacefully - It is about persuasion, not force."

According to Blama, everyone in Liberia regardless of status needs to protect the peace, adding, "Today, we have our neighbors from the West African region in fact the entire world to come to our aid which, among other things, is from this peace we are enjoying today here. Let the membrane go down in our hearts to look at where we came from as a nation, think about the heinous crimes, devastation of the our beloved country and where we want to carry it by insulting leaders. Today, we have peace; we have stability and tranquility in our country. I think it behooves us to protect the peace here. Let's not allow political persuasions or believes to derail our peace in this country."

He reminds Liberians that war is nothing to be proud of, because it does not end on the frontline, rather, war ends on the peace table whatever the disagreement maybe, saying, let's come on the table and discuss it- that is the reason for the political platform."

The party's candidates in separate remakes vow to win their respective counties in the pending election, while Lofa senatorial aspirant Johnny Moniba Ndebe, promised to champion women's rights in the legislature if he is elected senator.

Meanwhile, LINU during the mini congress elected the national leadership for its women and young leagues thereby, completing the national executive committee of the party.

Blama did not name those he claim are preaching divisive politics but last month, President George Manneh Weah dismissed him from government for alleged fraud, a day after the President had lifted his indefinite suspension, according to the Executive Mansion.

According to report, while serving as EPA executive director, Dr. Blama unilaterally signed a US\$20million contract on March 7, 2020, without signatures of the Ministers of Justice and Finance, contrary to the law and established governmental principles and procedures.

Investigation conducted by the Ministry of Justice established that, he did not adhere to legal requirements, standard procedures regarding the selling of the Government of Liberia's assets.

Blama challenged the government to prosecute him with evidence if he did any wrong, disclosing that he had conversation with the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Nathaniel McGill and the Minister of Finance concerning the agreement and that both officials expressed optimism that it would be a fruitful agreement.

But State for Presidential Affairs Minister McGill denied ever giving approval to the deal, asking Blama to stop shifting blames and take full responsibility for his action. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Darius Luogon has been forwarded to court for prosecution.

Further, Mr. Moses Carter details that on 29 August, a resident of Rehab Community, Paynesville reported to the police station and alleged that his 17 year-old daughter was allegedly sexually abused by Jerome to be identified.

Carter says based on the allegation, the LNP has also launched a full-scale investigation into the matter.

In a related development, the Ganta Police Detachment has launched an investigation into the 30 August rape case involving a 21 year-old girl of Zlangbah Street Community, Ganta, Nimba County.

According to the victim, on 30 August, she came out during the early morning hours to fetch water when two unidentified men attacked her and sexually abused her. - **Edited by Winston W. Parley**

# 2020 elections budget sliced

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission announces in Monrovia that its US\$17 million budget for the 2020 special senatorial elections and the National Referendum has by reduced by US\$4million, setting the new operational budget for the polls at US\$13 million.

Addressing the Senate's committee on elections headed by Bong County Senator

through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning had made available US\$3 million.

She disclosed that the US\$3 million has been used to purchase materials from international vendors, something, she said, has been a worry of the commission.

She said in order for the commission to operate within the adjusted budget, the NEC board of commissioners has designed strategies by making the voter card replacement

The team is expected to register first time voters or Liberians who turned 18 years after the registration exercise of the 2017 Presidential and Representatives election will be given the opportunity to register and fully participate in the voting process of the country for the very first time.

"The Commission will also ensure the inclusion on the voter roll, individuals who have changed their locations since the 2011 voter registration exercise as well as Liberians who were not able to register during the 2011 Voter Registration Process due to the fact that they were not in the country at the time," she said.

According to her, the most of essential materials for the smooth conduct of the 2020 special Senatorial elections are already in process and the remaining ones will be gathered in-country.

Madam Lansanah assured the Liberian Senate that the electoral process is poised to be free, fair and transparent and that all international standards will be observed and practiced.

During the 2014 special senatorial election, former NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya, presented a budget for US\$15.3m, noting that if the NEC were to conduct a new voter registration exercise for eligible voters, a staggering combined cost of US\$21m was needed.

Liberians are preparing to go to the poll in December to elect 15 of the 30-member Senate at the Capitol. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Dr. Henrique Tokpah, the chairperson of the NEC said due to high economic constraints and reduction in some of the activities leading to the elections, the commission sliced the electoral budget from US\$17 million to US\$13 million with high anticipation of conducting the polls smoothly.

Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah said of the amount, the government

exercise one, meaning the registration team will spent three days in each of the 2080 precincts throughout the country.

Chairperson Lansanah explained that the amount will be used to facilitate and enhance the process of updating the voter's roll to ensure inclusion of people who have attained the age of 18 years in keeping with the Constitution of Liberia.

# Weah dismisses Mosoka Fallah

President George Mamneh Weah has dismissed with immediate effect National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Director-General Dr. Mosoka Fallah, following a probe into claims of breaches in the health and administrative protocols that guide the issuance of Covid-19 test results by NPHIL.

In a press release dated Friday, 4 September, the Executive Mansion says Mr. Weah's decision to dismiss Dr. Fallah is in consonance with findings and recommendations of the special investigative committee set up to probe the reported breaches at NPHIL.

Earlier On 10 August, President Weah suspended Dr. Fallah for time indefinite "for ethical, professional and administrative lapses."



It came in the wake of several allegations in against health authorities by aggrieved individuals who were tested for

Coronavirus as part of the protocols governing travels which prompted President Weah to meet with key health

# GVL, government

Cont'd from page 6

created serious economy challenges for citizens and impeded economic growth in Sinoe, Grand Kru counties, posing difficulty particularly for motorists, business people, commuters as well as concession companies.

The release says as the result of the bad road condition and excessive logistical spending, the company is losing millions of US Dollars yearly aside from other challenges.

The Management of Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. has however reaffirmed its commitment to work with government in ensuring that lives of Liberians in the employ of the company are improved by fully adhering to the Labor Laws of Liberia.

"GVL has been facing the challenges, we could do more to help the Government of Liberia support the people, our involvement in the rehabilitation of the roads from some areas in Maryland County to Grand Kru County continued to Sinoe County is our own way of saying we welcome development and we also thank and appreciate the Ministry of Public Works for embracing the idea for the roads to be rehabilitated." the CEO noted.

Currently, GVL, the Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Finance and Development are

in the process of finalizing the timetable for the implementation of the road contract agreements with the selected road contractors which are expected to start mobilizing their equipment and commencing the works between month of October and November 2020 entering the dry season. All Parties are looking forward to executing this road rehabilitation project.

According to the release, the road contractors include: (1) West Africa Construction Inc.: the rehabilitation of primary laterite road designated as lot # 1 Pleebo - BuahGeeken (115.5 km); (2) Prime Plus Construction Inc.: the rehabilitation of primary laterite road designated aslot # 2 Boa Geeken - Greenville (118.5 km); (3) Tarhini Construction: the rehabilitation of primary laterite road designated as lot # 3 Greenville - Wiah Town (38 Km).

Once the rehabilitation road along the Southeastern highway has been completed, it will help reduce the high maintenance cost faced by companies in the Southeast and it will also bring relief to thousands of citizens in the Counties, as the bad road condition has stopped people from trading and having free movement. -*Press Release*

**The NewDawn Newspaper is on the Newsstand Daily.**

**Grab a copy of today's edition or visit: <https://thenewdawnliberia.com/>**

stakeholders and international partners supporting the country's COVID-19 response.

Subsequently Mr. Weah set up a committee last month to look into the matter and submit its findings within 72 as of 10 August.

The committee included the President, Liberia Medical and Dental Council (LMDC) - Chair; the Minister of Justice; Madam Mawine Diggs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Country Representative, US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Country Representative, World Health Organization (WHO).

Having dismissed Fallah, President Weah says he remains committed to implementing the recommendations contained in the report and has ordered the publication of the

committee's full report in line with his promise not to leave any stone unturned in ensuring that the health and welfare of Liberians remain paramount.

President Weah thanked Dr. Linda Birch, Chair of the Probe Committee and the members of her committee for their professionalism, time, and manner they carried out the investigation.

The committee was charged with the responsibility of finding out whether there were systemic breaches in the reporting procedure of COVID-19 results and to recommend actions to be taken in order to remedy the situation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Patrick N. Kpanyen, Deputy Director-General for Administration at NPHIL, will continue to act as Director-General pending further action.

## Fati becomes Spain's youngest scorer



**B**arcelona forward Ansu Fati broke a 95-year national record to become Spain's youngest goalscorer at the age of 17 years and 311 days against Ukraine.

Fati - also the youngest goalscorer in Champions League history and Barcelona's youngest scorer in La Liga - curled home a fine 20-yard shot

off the post on his first start.

He had already won a penalty, scored by Sergio Ramos, as he became the youngest player to start a Nations League match.

Ramos added a header in the win.

The Real Madrid defender has now incredibly scored 10 goals in his last 15 caps.

The 34-year-old has 23 goals

for his country, as many as the great Alfredo di Stefano.

Manchester City defender Eric Garcia, 19, made his debut as a second-half substitute while new City signing Ferran Torres scored a late fourth with a volley at the far post.

Fati, who was born in Guinea-Bissau but moved to Seville aged six with his family, became Spain's youngest player in 84 years when he made his debut in last Thursday's 1-1 draw away to Germany.

Juan Errazquin was the previous youngest scorer, against Switzerland in 1925 at the age of 18 years and 344 days.

Ethan Ampadu - who played for Wales against Bulgaria earlier on Sunday - was the previous youngest player to start a Nations League game, aged 17 years and 357 days against the Republic of Ireland in 2018.

**MTN MoMo**

Avoid the stress!  
Link your Ecobank account to your **MTN MoMo** account and transfer money with ease!

**Dial \*156\*7#**  
to get started

**Ecobank**  
The Pan African Bank

**#GoodTogether**  
everywhere you go

**Lonestar Cell** **MTN**

## Suarez agrees three-year deal to join Juventus

**T**he 33-year-old is in the final year of his contract at Camp Nou, which will automatically renew for a further year should he feature in more than 60 per cent of matches.

New Barca boss Ronald Koeman has decided Suarez has no place in his plans for the future and the attacker called for clarity on his place in the squad from president Josep Maria Bartomeu last month.

The Catalan side could

release Suarez but it would cost €14m (£13m/\$17m) to terminate the former Liverpool star's contract, which is far from ideal considering the financial issues the club has had to contend with amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Barca are already plotting a move for Inter star Lautaro Martinez to take Suarez's place and partner fellow Argentina star Lionel Messi up front after the latter confirmed to Goal on Friday that he will stay despite



his desire to leave for free this summer.

Koeman's side have also been linked with a move for Lyon and Netherlands star Memphis Depay, who recently suggested he would be open to leaving the French side in the current transfer window. Lyon coach Rudi Garcia admitted on Sunday that he would not stand in the 26-year-old's way if Barca made an offer.

Juve, meanwhile, are in need of a new forward after

### The NewDawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines

We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...