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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Who are the owners  
of the New Liberian  
Oil Companies?

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# VRU stirs protest



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# Continental News

## Kenyan officials accused of Covid-19 corruption

**K**enyan investigators are to recommend the prosecution of at least 15 top government officials and businesspeople over the alleged misuse of millions of dollars meant for buying Covid-19 medical supplies, the BBC has learned.

The probe uncovered evidence of tenders being allegedly given to politically connected individuals and businesses.

The government ordered an investigation following a public outcry.

It received about \$2bn (£1.6bn) in aid and grants to fight Covid-19. But health workers have complained about a shortage of public protective equipment (PPE), saying their lives are at risk.

The state body responsible for purchases, the Kenya Medical Supply Authority (Kemsa), has denied that any money was stolen. The first phase of investigations has centred around the alleged misuse of \$7.8m meant to purchase emergency PPE for healthcare workers and

hospitals across the country.

Investigators from Kenya's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) say preliminary findings have shown that several laws on public procurement were flouted during the awarding of the tenders. In a report to a joint Senate Committee on Health and Covid-19 on

Wednesday, the EACC said: "Investigations had established criminal culpability on the part of public officials in the purchase and supply of Covid-19 emergency commodities at Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kemsa) that led to irregular expenditure of public funds."



Police have fired tear gas to break up protests about alleged corruption

The EACC has recommended the prosecution of all officials at Kemsa and the Ministry of Health who it believes were behind the scandal. The second phase of investigations will target companies that are alleged to have benefitted from the tenders, although there is no suggestion any of the companies misappropriated Covid-19 funds.

Documents submitted to the Senate committee, and which the BBC has seen, show the nature of contracts handed out by Kemsa.

In some cases, tenders were given to companies that had been formed just weeks earlier. A good example is Shop and Buy limited, which, the documents allege, got tenders worth \$10m despite being formed in February, just weeks before the first case of Covid-19 was reported in the country. Other examples are of businesses associated with politicians. According to the documents, one company was owned by relatives of a sitting

governor.

Also contained in the documents are contracts worth millions of dollars given to people with personal connections to the very highest levels of power.

In other instances, PPE was supplied to Kemsa at what is claimed to be hugely inflated prices, sometimes as high as three times the current market rate. The scandal hit the country even as doctors and nurses complained about a lack of PPE as the country battled the coronavirus outbreak. In August, health workers went on strike over poor working conditions and lack of supplies.

Some took to social media to show the sub-standard gloves, hazmat suits and face shields that had allegedly been distributed by the government.

They have since gone back to work but have issued another strike notice over the government's failure to pay the Covid-19 allowances that had been agreed. BBC

## Hunger stalks thousands in Northern Mozambique as Conflict Escalates

**T**he U.N. World Food Program warns northern Mozambique's volatile Cabo Delgado province is facing a hunger crisis as escalating conflict forces thousands to flee their homes and abandon farms.

An armed insurgency in Mozambique's oil-rich northern province of Cabo Delgado has displaced more than 300,000 people since 2017. As fighting has intensified in recent months,

thousands have fled to neighboring Tanzania, raising fears of a regionalization of the conflict.

Most of the displaced have no means to feed themselves, and WFP spokesman Tomson Phiri says many are totally dependent on international food aid for survival.

"We know that Cabo Delgado is a farming area," said Phiri. "This is a region that produces both crops for commercial as well as for the subsistence of the farmers there. And, we

know that when there is violence and if the farmer is not guaranteed to be there to harvest, they hardly put any seeds into the ground."

The WFP plans to send food aid to reach 310,000 people in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa. But it notes insecurity, poor infrastructure and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of money are threatening the operation.

Phiri says the agency urgently requires \$4.7 million a month to assist the internally displaced. He tells VOA the WFP will be forced to cut back on rations as early as December, if it doesn't receive the needed funds. This, he adds will have serious consequences.

"When you cut rations, the adults, particularly the mothers in the family—they start skipping meals," said Phiri. "They start reducing the meal portions in order to stretch whatever resources are available for the children to have something...We are also concerned because Cabo Delgado has very high malnutrition rates." BBC



A World Food Programme (WFP) helicopter takes off, in Beira, Mozambique, March 22, 2019.

## Students killed in Nigeria fuel tanker explosion



Vehicles and pedestrians were caught up in the inferno

**A**t least 25 people have been killed in central Nigeria after a fuel tanker exploded following a collision with other vehicles.

A primary school pupil and students are reported to be among the dead.

The crash happened on Wednesday morning on a major highway in Lokoja when the driver lost control of the tanker after the brakes failed, local police said. These type of incidents are common on Nigerian roads, reports the BBC's Chris Ewokor in the capital, Abuja. Lokoja police spokesman Willy Aya said that several victims were burnt

beyond recognition.

Many of them were pedestrians, including the students who were crossing the road to go to college, local resident Iliyasu Zakari told the BBC. Others who died included a group who were killed inside their car, he said.

Footage of the aftermath shared on social media shows a huge plume of black smoke rising into the air at the site of the crash.

In June, four people were killed in the country's biggest city, Lagos, after two petrol tankers collided. The fire then spread to another tanker carrying natural gas. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Replacing striking health workers is counter-productive

THE GOVERNMENT OF President George Weah has resorted to recruiting new health practitioners, including army personnel to replace striking health workers demanding hazard benefits and salary increment, which may not be the right approach to addressing challenges faced by citizens sacrificing in the poorly managed health sector.

IN A GOVERNMENT statement, Liberia's Information Minister Lenn Eugene Nagbe said the Ministry of Health has been instructed to solicit applications from "qualified health workers of various grades, including nurses, nurse aides, midwives and laboratory technicians" to replace aggrieved health workers.

WE LIKE TO state categorically that the path being taken by the government may not provide permanent solutions to mountains of challenges, ranging from poor work conditions, lack of supplies, delayed salaries and incentives, among others that professionals in the health sector continue to endure.

IN THE FIRST place, the current strike is not the first by health workers. In their previous protest, the government and aggrieved health workers dialogued and reached a common ground with the protesters returning to work. We wonder why this insensitivity posture by the state this time around.

THIS IRON-CLAD APPROACH comes at the time the country is still grappling with the deadly Corona virus, which has killed nearly a thousand people, most of them, doctors and nurses. They died, while trying to save lives without proper tools such as PPEs and other gadgets.

IN FACT, WE recalled vividly that the health workers downed tools between May and June this year and the Minister of Health Doctor Wilehmina Jallah intervened, which led to their return to work.

LET'S FACE IT. Health practitioners on the Continent earn very little unlike politicians and loyalists in government. Yet, they spend long hours on the job without benefit of holidays or breaks to spend quality time with family members.

MINISTER NAGBE TALKS about volunteers receiving first preference in the recruitment exercise. But would this improve the appalling conditions at the various hospitals and health facilities across the country? It would not be long before disillusion surface again, once conditions remain the same.

THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL go down in history as the first Liberian government to tell health workers seeking solutions to their plight to go to hell when ruling party candidates are ditching out millions on pre-campaign activities.

WHERE IS THE much-heralded ruling CDC slogan of "power to the people" or where is the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development? Are these mere rhetoric?

WE CALL ON the government to remain engaged with the protesting health workers until a common ground can be found instead of adapting a draconian posture that would soon boomerang.

# COMMENTARY

By Edmund S. Phelps

## The Economic Case for Biden

*US President Donald Trump has seeded the investment environment with uncertainty, trashed America's trade relationships, blown up the fiscal deficit, and left American workers worse off than they were when he took office. He is the polar opposite of Joe Biden, a politician who understands precisely what the US economy needs.*

NEW YORK - Commentators have offered many reasons why one should vote in November for Joe Biden, the Democratic nominee for US president. Yet the economic dimension of the election has been of little interest to pundits, and few, if any, economists speaking on the subject have bothered to highlight how the outcome bears directly on people's welfare. But the economy is the stage on which people work in the hope of gaining personal development and the satisfaction of succeeding. It isn't just about the money.

The economic case for Biden begins with the economic case against President Donald Trump. Consider Trump's costly corporate tax cut. It did not deliver anything like the investment and growth he promised, and the main effect was to run up fiscal deficits in the first three years of his presidency.

Trump's disregard for this fiscal profligacy has set a precedent for unnecessary deficits in future administrations. (Of course, the deficit incurred more recently in responding to the pandemic was unavoidable and, under the circumstances, beneficial.)

His habitual threats to American businesses have added new uncertainty to investment and trade decisions. He practices Mussolini's doctrine of corporatism: the government as puppet master pulling the strings of puppet companies. That economic policy inhibits enterprise and innovation at a time when they are desperately needed.

Trump's misguided crusade to reduce the harmless trade deficit has shrunk world trade, thus worsening the efficiency of resource allocation at home and abroad.

His populist rhetoric has not translated into better pay for less advantaged workers or victims of discrimination. He has sought to erase any sense of economic justice. He cares nothing about the appallingly low wage rates for those at the bottom or about the terrible living standards that these wages afford. And he has done nothing to support the eradication of statistical discrimination - racial, gender, and LGBT+. His weakening of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) has heavily affected people with low incomes.<sup>1</sup>

Trump's insistence that climate change is a hoax has put the world economy and the viability of the planet in further danger. He says that the wildfires ravaging the American West are the result of poor "forest management." He has depreciated American soldiers' heroism and sacrifice, and has no appreciation or understanding that the economy needs people's heroism to dream up new ideas and risk investing in their development and market entry.

In attacking institutions from the FBI to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

Trump is hollowing out the governmental structure. In imposing pointless obstacles that lead to trade wars, he has alienated America's allies. In his admiration for dictators and authoritarian leaders, he is helping them to establish twenty-first-century fascism. And his chronic lying from the Office of the President undermines the people's confidence in their government.

There are other outrages too numerous to mention. But one of the most appalling was his effort to eliminate the so-called DACA program for undocumented aliens who were brought to the US as children, who, after being raised and educated in America, now face deportation. Yet another outrage is his tactic of instilling fear of reprisals and arrest. As a result, there is a growing climate of anxiety and distrust.

Today, a great many people support Biden on these grounds and others. Trump stands in the way of the nation regaining a sense of flourishing, equity, and social harmony. But it is not clear that he could be defeated on these grounds alone. Many Americans dread a government devoted to ministering to a mélange of social groups without a thought to core matters of economic growth and job satisfaction.

But there is also a positive argument for supporting Biden.

First, Biden understands that in America there is still a crushing disparity between the wages of the seriously less-advantaged and those paid to middle-income people - and payments for single mothers do not change that. Biden, having grown up in the steelmaking region of Pennsylvania, can hardly be blind to the deprivations and pain of low-paid workers. So, if elected, we would have a president responsive to legislative initiatives for subsidies designed to pull up these workers' meager compensation.

Biden is also attentive to the existential threat of continuing climate change. There is a vast litany of problems, such as the burning of fossil fuels causing increased levels of carbon dioxide and rising temperatures. Addressing these problems will require government intervention and international cooperation, such as that mandated by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, from which Trump withdrew the US. No one can doubt that, if elected, Biden would be eager to play a central role in the resumption of the battle against global warming.

Finally, Americans are living with the virtual stagnation of the economy since the early 1970s (interrupted for about a decade by the Information Revolution). This continuing malaise lies behind wage earners' increased frustration over their relative standing in wage distribution - a sentiment that, more than anything else, accounted for Trump's rise. There can be no question that a President Biden - unlike President Trump - would want to restore the economy to its former glory.

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



## Lord, let them continue fanning the fire

Dear Father;

Hmm, you know, the book people can say power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Let them be there and be fanning the fire since the only way they know how to live is to grab on to power and steal our village money. Ehn our old people can say the monkey that is really to die can't hear whistle sound-we inside!

Uh, my son what is going on in your village again that get you talking all by yourself. I can hear your voice way up here thinking you were having a conversation with someone not knowing you are all by yourself.

Yes mehn Father, is it not our people in this village? They are so inept that the only thing they think on is how to either grab our village power or how to stay on it and continue stealing our money. Some of them na form all kinds of two by four companies around here parading themselves as Angels of light not knowing they are the main devils in disguise.

Hmm, my son, all this for there one?

But Father what you want me to say? Is it not greed and ineptitude driving them crazy? Some of them are only used to free money. They can't start anything from scratch and hustle like the way some of us are hustling. They must get it free and it has to come from the village covers. So they must fight and win power at all cost or stay there at all cost.

Ehn, is that so, tell me about it.

Oh, but Father, you having been listing to the way they have been talking all over the village from every side like imbeciles? Yes, like imbeciles! There is not a day you will listen to the Town Criers in this village and not here their threats of war or see them recruiting young boys and girls who supposed to be in school to serve as militants.

You mean at this stage where the global village is fighting one big sickness, they are here fanning war fire?

Ah, Father, that the one we inside so oo. And they think when they start the fire our neighbors will come from their villages to put it off-da one da lie, already to even leave one village to another that big challenge, who will be willing to come put off a fire caused by some people who are so ingrained in their appetite for looting.

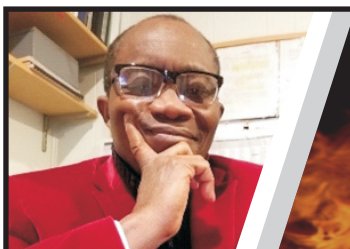
God forbid, my son!

Ah Father, what I must say na. The people have no sense of patriotism. It must be for them. If it is not them it should not be anybody else because they in their little minds think it's time for them to control the village for life.

I see the other people from the other side, but the Footballer's Camp that supposed to be there to quiet things are the ones who are also adding fuel to the fire.

Father, don't mind them, they think they are still on the other side. Let them be there, if this village is gutted by fire they will be held liable.

I heard one of them saying the other day that when anything happens, that the ordinary villagers will suffer but their militants will protect them-okay, just be there and think you are more villager than the other.



With Jones Mallay

## LIBERIA POLITICAL

# HOT-FIRE

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## If Liberia's 5th President Was a Nigerian, who Then is or isn't a Liberian?

**T**he 5th President of Liberia Edward James Roy, was a Nigerian. He was the first pure descendent of an Ibo tribe in Nigeria. His Nigerian parents were taken as slaves to North Carolina but later migrated to Newark, Ohio USA, where he was born on February 3, 1815. Roye was the first pure black slave to occupy the executive mansion as head of state and commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of Liberia. He arrived in Liberia in 1846 one year before independence was announced and he became president in 1870.

What is seriously and exceedingly laughable, is the fact that a Nigerian and other strange national like Jamaicans, Ghanaians, and Senegalese all of whom from systemic slave backgrounds served as Presidents of Liberia at different times interval. The question becomes; who then is or not a Liberian? Even the so-called natives or inhabitants of the land before the emergence of the so-called slaves did not own the land legally or constitutionally, it was the slaves who finally named the land, and legalized its existence.

The inhabitants of natives who occupied the land now called Liberia before the advent of the slaves from the US didn't have any legitimate, legal, or constitutional documentation to claim land, the slaves did. The natives were rather a group of loose individuals who were potential wanderers and traders from Mali, Ghana, Ivory Coast Guinea, Sierra Leone, etc., who settled in those dark forests and later owned multiple spots for themselves illegally.

The so-called natives were rather covered by slaves who officially discovered the land, named it, legitimized its status, created a government, created a constitution, and declared official independence in 1847 under the very noses of those who called themselves natives or inhabitants of the Land, before the emergence of the slave's junta. The land was first named by a Portuguese explorer Oct. 6 1462 as Grain Coast or Pepper Coast under the noses of the same so-called natives who had no idea of statehood, needless talks about a constitution. Who then is a Liberian and who owned the land officially, the Native or the Slaves?

Who is or isn't a Liberian is a big issue? Millions of other nationals around the world possess Liberian passports and also call themselves Liberians who are involved in the multinational business as Liberians around the world. For example, Liberia Maritime head office in the US is heavily possessed by foreigners who called themselves Liberians. Today there are 3, 377 ships currently flying the Liberian flags and every worker at the US Maritime office carries Liberian passports but doesn't know where Liberia is even located in Africa.

The majority of other Africans bordering Liberia called themselves citizens of Liberia as soon they crossed into Liberia. For example, Guinea borders Liberia in the North. Guineans who crossed to Liberia referred to themselves as Liberians. The bulk of them hides under the shield of the religious Muslim culture as well as the Mandigo tribe especially when the late Doe referred to them as citizens.

Today the Mandigo tribe is protected by the feeble 1986 Liberian Constitution initiated by the late Pres. Samuel Doe. Today, the Mandigo tribe has succeeded to have their district call "Quinobodo" exclusively to themselves with no other tribe in their midst which is one of the most dangerous precedents the late Doe ever put into motion in the constitution. Sierra Leone also bordered Liberia on the West. A great deal of the Mandi tribe crossed from Sierra Leone into Liberia and referred to themselves as Liberians, the same is with those who hailed from Ivory Coast and Guinea.

When the Liberian civil genocide broke and many Liberians settled in foreign parts especially in refugee camps across Africa, those countries nationals, like Ghanaians, Togolese, Nigerians, Guineans, Sierra Leoneans, and Ivorians took advantage of huge overseas traveling opportunities under the banner of Liberian refugees and were opportune to travel as Liberian all over the world as Liberian refuse to escape from the civil wars brought upon them by Charles Taylor, Prince Johnson, and other warlords.

Most of the above nationals are getting ample benefits as Liberians when the true native Liberians are being denied regularly. Another emerging group that is using their leverage to become citizens of Liberia are the Lebanese, Fulani, Jamaicans, Ivorians, and ordinary Nigerians and Ghanaians especially those in the fishing category in Liberia.

Today, the question remains who is a Liberian, and who owns Liberia? Is it the natives, the foreigners, or the slaves who discovered the land under the noses of the so-called natives and the mixture of other close inhabitants? The issue of who is a Liberian will one day trek another war in Liberia.

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# OP-ED

By Carl Bildt

## Europe's Digital Emergency

Although the European Union already has a lot on its hands as it confronts a new wave of COVID-19 infections and seeks to position itself for a sustainable recovery, it must not ignore another crisis looming on the horizon. The bloc is rapidly and inexcusably falling behind China and America in the digital transition.

**S**TOCKHOLM - EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered an upbeat assessment in her first annual policy report ("state of the union" address) to the European Parliament this month. Clearly, the agreement this summer on an unprecedented €750 billion (\$879 billion) recovery fund and renewal package has given the European Union a new sense of strength.

But now is not the time for complacency. While Europe can take pride in leading the world toward carbon neutrality and a "green recovery," COVID-19 cases on the continent are spiking again, and the region remains at serious risk of falling behind in the global technology race.

In terms of the broader economy, there is now talk of a "K-shaped" recovery in which some sectors decline sharply while others boom, often by seizing on opportunities created by the crisis itself. The EU has every reason to worry that its economy comprises more sectors in the first category than in the second, which invariably centers on information and communication technology (ICT).

The pandemic has accelerated the digital transition. China, for its part, has stepped up its efforts to achieve technological dominance in artificial intelligence (AI) and other key sectors of the future. And companies like Zoom have gone from being non-entities to household names in the space of just months. ExxonMobil, once the most valuable company in the United States, now doesn't even make it into the top 30, having been surpassed by companies like Netflix. Despite a recent correction, US tech giants' combined market capitalization now exceeds that of all companies listed in Europe.

But even though hundreds of millions of people's daily lives during the pandemic have been mediated by US tech companies' products and services, the US cannot afford complacency, either. Chinese giants like Huawei and TikTok are enlarging their global market share by the day. According to Eric Schmidt, a former executive chairman of Google and Alphabet and chair of the US Department of Defense's Defense Innovation Advisory Board, "China is on its way to surpass us in many, many ways ... we need to take them seriously." Otherwise, he warns, China will "end up with a bigger economy, more R&D investments, better quality research, wider applications of technology, and a stronger computing infrastructure."

There was a time when Europe could proudly claim to have helped launch the era of mobile communications. But now that the world is on the verge of upgrading from 4G to 5G, Europe's technological contributions are notably absent. A new report from the European Round Table for Industry finds that the EU trails the US by three years, and China by nearly as much, just when it comes to implementing 4G, which is already yesterday's technology. Needless to say, it is lagging even further behind in its rollout of 5G base stations, even though it is home to major ICT companies like Ericsson and Nokia.

Europe's slow adoption of 5G will have far-reaching implications for its future competitiveness. Many of the industries that 5G could revolutionize are those in which Europe has traditionally demonstrated strength: manufacturing, design, and health care. Now, there is a high risk that China, through digitalization, will achieve dominance in these industries.

And 5G is just one technology. Even more important is AI, where the situation for Europe is particularly grim. According to a 2019 study by the Center for Data Innovation, the US leads the global AI race "in four of the six categories of metrics" examined (talent, research, development, and hardware), and China comes out on top in the remaining two (adoption and data). The EU commands primacy in none, though it is close behind the US in terms of talent.

This last observation is crucial. Europe's problem is not a scarcity of talent but rather a lack of appropriate institutional arrangements and leadership in this critical domain. Fractured, old-fashioned governance frameworks are hampering the rollout of 5G infrastructure. Insufficient funding for basic research is hampering innovation. And the absence of deep capital markets is making it difficult for start-ups to get the financing they need to grow and scale up, leaving them to be snatched up by deep-pocketed US companies.

The results of these failures are clear to see in the rankings of the world's unicorns (start-ups valued at \$1 billion or more). According to one recent index, six of the ten largest are from the US, three are from China, and one is from Singapore. Other indices give China the biggest share of major unicorns; but none show European start-ups anywhere near the top.

Though many start-ups eventually will fail, at least some of today's highly valued companies will go on to become the giants of tomorrow's digital economy, dominating our lives as much as today's Big Tech firms do. It's no use complaining about Chinese state support or less-regulated US markets. The companies that succeed will be built on innovative business models that deliver what customers want.

Late last year, to lend new momentum to the transition to a carbon-neutral economy, the European Parliament declared a "climate emergency." That is a perfectly understandable objective to prioritize. But Europe also needs to declare a domestic "digital emergency," lest it continue falling behind in the industries that will be necessary for achieving all other development goals - including a green economy.

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# OPINION

By Brahma Chellaney

## China Is Paying a High Price for Provoking India

For Xi Jinping, the COVID-19 pandemic - which has preoccupied the world's governments for months - seemed like an ideal opportunity to make quick progress on his expansionist agenda. But by provoking India, he may have bitten off more than he can chew.

**N**EW DELHI - China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, recently declared that aggression and expansionism have never been in the Chinese nation's "genes." It is almost astonishing that he managed to say it with a straight face.

Aggression and expansionism obviously are not genetic traits, but they have defined President Xi Jinping's tenure. Xi, who in some ways has taken up the expansionist mantle of Mao Zedong, is attempting to implement a modern version of the tributary system that Chinese emperors used to establish authority over vassal states: submit to the emperor, and reap the benefits of peace and trade with the empire.

For Xi, the COVID-19 pandemic - which has preoccupied the world's governments for months - seemed like an ideal opportunity to make quick progress on his agenda. So, in April and May, he directed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to launch furtive incursions into the icy borderlands of India's Ladakh region, where it proceeded to establish heavily fortified encampments.

It wasn't nearly as clever a plan as Xi probably thought. Far from entrenching China's regional preeminence, it has intensified the pushback by Indo-Pacific powers, which have deepened their security cooperation. This includes China's most powerful competitor, the United States, thereby escalating a bilateral strategic confrontation that has technological, economic, diplomatic, and military dimensions. The specter of international isolation and supply disruptions now looms over China, spurring Xi to announce plans to hoard mammoth quantities of mineral resources and agricultural products.

But Xi's real miscalculation on the Himalayan border was vis-à-vis India, which has now abandoned its appeasement policy toward China. Not surprisingly, China remains committed to the PLA's incursions, which it continues to portray as defensive: late last month, Xi told senior officials to "solidify border defenses" and "ensure frontier security" in the Himalayan region.

India, however, is ready to fight. In June, after the PLA ambushed and killed Indian soldiers patrolling Ladakh's Galwan Valley, a hand-to-hand confrontation led to the deaths of numerous Chinese troops - the first PLA troops killed in action outside United Nations peacekeeping operations in over four decades. Xi was so embarrassed by this outcome that, whereas India honored its 20 fallen as martyrs, China refuses to admit the precise death toll.

The truth is that, without the element of surprise, China is not equipped to dominate India in a military confrontation. And India is making sure that it will not be caught off guard again. It has now matched Chinese military deployments along the Himalayan frontier and activated its entire logistics network to transport the supplies needed to sustain the troops and equipment through the coming harsh winter.

In another blow to China, Indian special forces recently occupied strategic mountain positions overlooking key Chinese deployments on the southern side of Pangong Lake. Unlike the PLA, which prefers to encroach on undefended border areas, Indian forces carried out their operation right under China's nose, in the midst of a major PLA buildup.

If that were not humiliating enough for China, India eagerly noted that the Special Frontier Force (SFF) that spearheaded the operation comprises Tibetan refugees. The Tibetan soldier who was killed by a landmine in the operation was honored with a well-attended military funeral.

India's message was clear: China's claims to Tibet, which separated India and China until Mao Zedong's regime annexed it in 1951, are not nearly as strong as it pretends they are. Tibetans view China as a brutally repressive occupying power, and those eager to fight the occupiers flocked to the SFF, established after Mao's 1962 war with India.

Here's the rub: China's claims to India's vast Himalayan borderlands are based on their alleged historical links to Tibet. If China is merely occupying Tibet, how can it claim sovereignty over those borderlands?

In any case, Xi's latest effort to gain control of territories that aren't China's to take has proved far more difficult to complete than it was to launch. As China's actions in the South China Sea demonstrate, Xi prefers asymmetrical or hybrid warfare, which combines conventional and irregular tactics with psychological and media manipulation, disinformation, lawfare, and coercive diplomacy.

But while Xi managed to change the South China Sea's geopolitical map without firing a shot, it seems clear that this will not work on China's Himalayan border. Instead, Xi's approach has placed the Sino-Indian relationship - crucial to regional stability - on a knife edge. Xi wants neither to back down nor to wage an open war, which is unlikely to yield the decisive victory he needs to restore his reputation after the border debacle.

China might have the world's largest active-duty military force, but India's is also massive. More important, India's battle-hardened forces have experience in low-intensity conflicts at high altitudes; the PLA, by contrast, has had no combat experience since its disastrous 1979 invasion of Vietnam. Given this, a Sino-Indian war in the Himalayas would probably end in a stalemate, with both sides suffering heavy losses.

Xi seems to be hoping that he can simply wear India down. At a time when the Indian economy has registered its worst-ever contraction due to the still-escalating COVID-19 crisis, Xi has forced India to divert an increasing share of resources to national defense. Meanwhile, ceasefire violations by Pakistan, China's close ally, have increased to a record high, raising the specter of a two-front war for India. As some Chinese military analysts have suggested, Xi could use America's preoccupation with its coming presidential election to carry out a quick, localized strike against India without seeking to start a war.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## CDC official ordered arrested

By Ben P. Wese

The Brewerville Magisterial court has issued an arrest order against Mr. Soko D. Wiles, the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC's) Montserrado County Chairman for Mobilization and Recruitment for the alleged crime of criminal

trespass. sheriff to arrest the living bodies of Boimah Massalay and Tete Sarnor, defendants charged with the crime of criminal trespass levied against them by the Brewerville Magisterial Court by one Emmanuel K. Jallah.

The court document further notes that defendant Soko D. Wiles and the rest of the

Brisbane and Sebastian S. B. Kemokao of the late Jallah Barkon Estate of Gborken, Banjor, Lower Brewerville.

It continues that the CDC Montserrado County official who is also chairman of the Brewerville City Council allegedly criminally conspired with his co-defendants, PSU officer Boimah Massalay and Tete Sarnor and forged the signatures of Theophilus A. Nimneh, Zwannah B. Sarnor, late Ansumanah Garsuah and Momo Tarweh.

Nimneh is said to be based in the United States of America, Zwannah B. Sarnor, and that the late Ansumanah Garsuah and Momo Tarweh are all immediate past administrators of the Estate.

The defendants allegedly conspired to criminally convey more than ten acres of land from nearby Jallah Barkon Estate of Gborken, Banjor.

The court document points out that a formal letter of complaint through a written communication by the administration of the estate dated 20 January was addressed to Brewerville City Mayo Bedell Fahn, among other things, accusing the CDC Montserrado county chapter Chairman of criminally selling of land.--  
*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



trespass.

According to the court document, others to be arrested include Boimah Massalay of the Police Support Unit (PSU) and Tete Sarnor, a resident of the Kpallah Community, among others.

The court has ordered its

defendants are on the run and have placed themselves into hiding.

According to the court document, the West Coast Concepts headed by Mr. Emmanuel K. Jallah, bought a four - acre land from the late James D. L Shaw, W. Loluwar

## 250 MNG Gold contractors' redundancy unjustifiable

--Martin Kollie

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan  
in Bong County

Student advocate Martin Kollie says reasons given for the redundancy of about 250 contractors by the management of Turkish mining company MNG-Golda is unjustifiable.

The company operating in Kokoyah Statutory District in Bong County, last month laid off about 250 of its

Kollie then attributes the high poverty rate and underdevelopment in Bong County to bad leadership.

He alleges that leaders of the county have over the years squandered the resources that are intended for the development of the county and improvement of the citizens' livelihoods.

"They have only cared for themselves and not the ordinary people. If they cared for the citizens, our leaders would not have sat there and



contractors, citing "unfavorable market condition" in Liberia and a "fall in the world market price for gold" as reasons.

The company had warned that at least 800 of its 1,700 Liberian contractors would be laid off this year and more could follow in subsequent years.

But our correspondent says Mr. Kollie who hails from Bong County recently phoned in to a local radio from exile, arguing that MNG Gold's decision is intended to render the people of Kokoyah untold suffering and also deprive the national government of adequate revenue generation.

allowed MNG Gold to make such fun out of our people in Kokoyah," he adds.

According to him, MNG Gold is exporting millions of dollars from Liberia in Gold, but the self-seeking politicians have only cared about their interest and are doing nothing towards the suffering citizens.

Our correspondent says further that since the laying off of the workers, the district's Representative Albert Hails is yet to make public comment as he has been accused of being in the know of the company's action since August of this Year.--  
*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## Weah urges nations to rise above divisions

In an address to the 75th United Nations General Assembly, President George Manneh Weah says coronavirus (COVID-19) has taught countries, whether rich or poor, developed or undeveloped, that they are all united by their common humanity.

"We must all rise above normal divisions to work for a better, fairer and more united world," he said Wednesday, 23 September.

"The world has stood together. Rich countries and poor countries have all been affected and are working together to eradicate this scourge," he adds.

In the address, Mr. Weah tells world leaders that Africa has been hit hard by the pandemic, although the continent has not seen the number of deaths and affected persons as has been the case in many advanced countries.

However he notes that this can only be attributed to the mercy of the Almighty God who has made sure that predictions of massive



numbers of deaths on the continent of Africa did not materialize.

In Liberia, he says, the authorities here build on the previous experience six years ago with the Ebola Viral Epidemic, saying he is proud to say that the government and its development partners have mounted a robust National Covid Response that seems to

have contained COVID-19 for the time being.

"As a result, only about One Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty-one (1,320) Liberians have been affected by COVID-19 to date, of which approximately One Thousand Two Hundred and Thirteen (1,213) of these have fully recovered, with some 82 Liberians falling to the

epidemic," he continues.

Mr. Weah therefore extends special thanks to Liberia's bilateral and multilateral partners for the strong support Liberia received to deal with the COVID-19 emergency and help sustain the Liberian economy.

He notes that the government has now developed a Post-Covid Economic Recovery Plan that prioritizes short term actions and investments in key sectors

such as agriculture and tourism, as a means of reducing the impact of COVID-19 but also providing the basis for economic recovery.

Without a doubt, he notes that the the United Nations remains today as the most important forum for peace, conflict resolution, the prevention of war, and the settlement of disputes between nations of the world,

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Women NGOs Secretariat calls for judicial reform

By Lewis S. Teh

The Women NGOs Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) is calling for reform of the judicial system to ensure speedy trial of sexual and gender base violence cases, including

Wednesday, September 23, at the Secretariat head office in Fiamah, Sinkor, acting executive director and program advisor Ms. Lena T. Cummings said government should employ a holistic approach to addressing domestic violence and sexual and gender base

also fund implementation of SGBV roadmap developed and adopted during the just ended inter-ministerial national Anti-Rape conference held at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

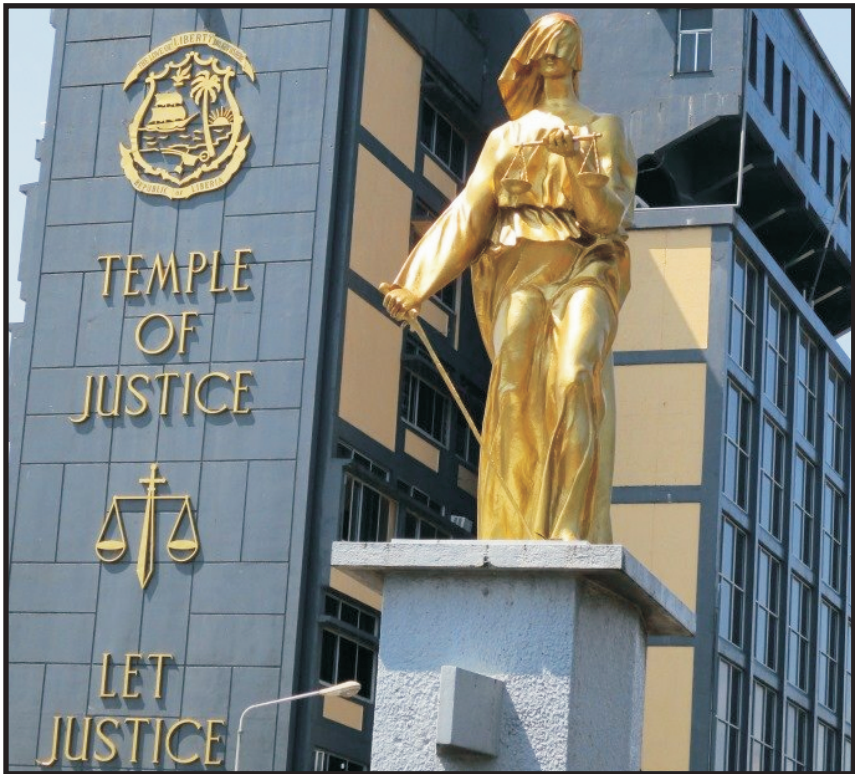
She stressed a need for adequate resources towards community-based and community-led prevention, psychological and economic empowerment activities, targeting at-risk girls and women as well as SGBV survivors.

She said notwithstanding, significant progress has been made toward addressing pervasive and gruesome scale of domestic violence and sexual and gender base violence.

She pointed out that the just-ended anti-rape conference presents policy and programmatic window to reform Liberia's political and judicial system that would ensure full utility of various gender sensitive laws and policies.

According to her, the major contention is that the expressed policy intention the President Weah to address sexual gender base violence in Liberia could be trapped by Liberia entrenched corruption

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rape.

"We are recommending that the government reform the judicial system; this we think will ensure speedy trial of reported cases to the police", WONGOSOL says.

Reading a press statement

violence, covering key thematic value chains of SGBV prevention, protection, health, legal, and psychological, considering the culture of social norms and masculinity, and situational factors.

She said government should

## Mayor Koijee distances from suspect robber released

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee has denied his involvement in the release of alleged notorious armed robber Kesselle Mulbah from the Monrovia Central Prison.

Mayor Koijee called on Chief Justice Francis Korkpor to order Judge Sikajipo A. Wollor, Resident Judge of Criminal Court "D" at the Temple of Justice to provide clarity to the public as to how the alleged armed robber was released.

Addressing a press conference in Monrovia on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, he said some members of the media have accused him of releasing the alleged armed robber, though he had no knowledge of how "this gentleman was released and did not participate in his release."

In a communication to Chief Justice Korkpor, Mayor



Koijee said due to alleged "dangerous lie" in the public against him, he wants an independent investigation into the processes and procedures leading to the release of the alleged suspect from the

Monrovia Central Prison.

Koijee however indicated that during the investigation, he discovered that the alleged armed robber was released based on legal application by the late Atty. Moses W. Sondah

## LIS to relocate on Ashmun Street?

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The New Dawn newspaper has a hint that the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) is planning to relocate from its Sinkor office to a building at the intersection of Ashman and Randall Streets in Central Monrovia.

A source close to the LIS hints that the planned relocation exercise follows several appeals from aliens working, living, and doing business in Liberia who think that the current location of the LIS in Sinkor is not accessible.

According to the source, relocating the LIS to Central Monrovia will provide aliens

Prior to relocating to Sinkor, LIS was operating in an old building situated on Broad Street for several years, but it had to relocate due to the dilapidated condition of the building.

Meanwhile, some aliens spoken to by our reporter have welcomed news about the planned relocation of the Liberia Immigration Service, saying it is a positive step in the right direction.

According to Mohammed Bah and Alpha Diallo of Paynesville City and Monrovia respectively, most of the time they had to spend so much money on transportation to go



residing in the country the opportunity to have easy access whenever they want to renew their alien and naturalization documents and other important traveling documents.

The source further discloses that the exercise will assist the LIS and its officers to go about monitoring the movement of aliens, some of whom lack required documents to live in the country.

It was disclosed that another factor responsible for the planned relocation is the current capacity of building hosting the institution in Sinkor.

to the LIS Sinkor office to acquire documents for their relatives visiting Liberia.

They express appreciation to the authorities at the Liberia Immigration Service for seeking to relocate to central Monrovia, adding that this will help aliens here to have easy access whenever the need arises for LIS documents.

When the LIS office in Sinkor was contacted by this paper to verify the information, our reporter was told by a female staff that those responsible to speak on the matter were out of the building.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

to Criminal Court "D."

Accordingly, the records show that on 8 March, A.D. 2019, Atty. Moses W. Sondah (late) filed with Criminal Court "D" a "Motion for Admission to Bail" and it was on the basis of this motion that defendant Kesselle Mulbah was released.

According to him,

investigation further revealed that the release of defendant Mulbah was done on a "Criminal Appearance Guarantee Bond" obtained by the defendant which was accepted and approved by Judge Wollor.

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# Français

## Le climat des affaires au Libéria devient de moins en moins attractif (le gouvernement américain)

L'ambassade des États-Unis au Libéria se dit inquiète de la détérioration du climat des affaires au Libéria marqué par le ralentissement, la suspension ou l'arrêt total des opérations des entreprises concessionnaires. L'ambassade a spécifiquement pointé du doigt les secteurs minier, agricole et industriel du pays.

Elle a insisté sur la nécessité de créer un environnement favorable pour attirer des entreprises réputées qui feront progresser l'économie du Libéria et créer des emplois. « La richesse du sous-sol du Libéria en minerai de fer, en diamants, en or et la qualité du climat pour la culture du caoutchouc et de l'huile de palme ne peuvent pas compenser l'environnement des affaires incertain », a mis en garde le gouvernement américain.

« Du côté de l'ambassade des États-Unis, nous avons été témoins d'un certain nombre de cas où des entreprises américaines ont exprimé leur intérêt à faire des affaires au

Libéria. Mais elles ont préféré investir leur argent et leurs ressources ailleurs à cause des difficultés dans la négociation des contrats et le non-respect de ces contrats, la difficulté dans l'obtention des permis et l'incapacité de maintenir de bonnes relations avec le public », a regretté la Chargée d'Affaires Alyson Grunder lors d'une table ronde sur la promotion de la transparence et de la responsabilité dans la

gestion des industries extractives pour améliorer le développement national au Libéria.

Elle a dit reconnaître que les industries extractives sont indispensables au développement économique du Libéria et à la survie de la quasi-totalité des populations, mais encore faut-il que des discussions

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Chargée D'Affaires Alyson Grunder

## « L'essentiel, c'est de rester un bloc... » : Hamed Bakayoko aurait-il révélé l'agenda secret de Ouattara ?

Dans cette période pré-électorale marquée en Côte d'Ivoire par une crise née de la volonté d'Alassane Ouattara de briguer un troisième mandat, les acteurs politiques lancent des propos par-ci par-là. Certains de ces propos, apparemment assez banals, peuvent au fond charrier des réalités assez profondes, parfois même trahir des secrets. Nous revenons ici sur quelques

propos tenus par le Premier ministre ivoirien, Hamed Bakayoko.

On le savait très intéressé pour succéder à Alassane Ouattara, et d'ailleurs il apparaissait comme l'un des deux favoris pour prendre la relève du Président ivoirien. Mais à l'arrivée, ce dernier lui préféra Amadou Gon Coulibaly. Alors, on le disait très mécontent de ce choix du Président ivoirien. Tellement il

aurait voulu être l'heureux élu, Hamed Bakayoko. C'est un secret de polichinelle.

Après le décès brutal du dauphin désigné, la succession devient vacante. Les regards se tournent encore vers Hamed Bakayoko. Mais l'homme, certainement mû par la volonté de témoigner sa loyauté à son patron, invita ce dernier à se représenter. « Nous, population du Woroba, demandons avec insistance au Président Alassane Ouattara d'accepter de se porter candidat à l'élection présidentielle d'octobre 2020 », avait-il déclaré, le 25 juillet dernier, avant de poursuivre : « Pour notre parti, le plus important, la priorité au-delà de tout, c'est d'abord de maintenir la stabilité. Et c'est lui le garant. Et après il pourra se préparer à la transmission de ce pouvoir à une nouvelle génération dans des conditions idoines ».

Cinq jours plus tard, cette marque de fidélité de Hamed Bakayoko est récompensée

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## Editorial

### Grogne sociale : licencier les agents de santé en grève n'est pas la solution

Le Président George Weah croit pouvoir résoudre pour de bon le problème du secteur de la santé en recrutant de nouveaux professionnels de la santé pour remplacer les travailleurs qui exigent des indemnités de risque et une augmentation de salaire. Cette approche n'est pas la bonne approche pour relever les défis auxquels sont confrontés les citoyens qui se sacrifient dans un secteur mal géré.

Dans une déclaration, le ministre libérien de l'Information, Lenn Eugene Nagbe, a déclaré que le ministère de la Santé avait reçu pour instruction de solliciter des candidatures « d'agents de santé qualifiés de différents niveaux, y compris des infirmières, des aides-soignantes, des sages-femmes et des techniciens de laboratoire » pour remplacer les agents de santé en grève.

Nous voudrions affirmer ici de manière catégorique que la voie empruntée par le gouvernement ne peut pas résoudre les nombreux défis auxquels sont confrontés les travailleurs de la santé, allant des mauvaises conditions de travail, au manque de fournitures, en passant par le retard des salaires et des primes.

En premier lieu, la grève actuelle n'est pas la première du genre. Lors de leur précédente manifestation, le gouvernement et les agents de santé lésés ont dialogué et ont trouvé un terrain d'entente. On se demande pourquoi cette posture d'insensibilité de l'Etat cette fois-ci.

Cette approche à toute épreuve intervient au moment où le pays est toujours aux prises avec le virus mortel du Coronavirus, qui a tué près d'un millier de personnes, la plupart d'entre elles, des médecins et des infirmières. Ils sont morts en essayant de sauver des vies sans les outils appropriés tels que les EPI et autres gadgets.

En fait, nous avons rappelé avec éclat que les agents de santé ont abattu des outils entre mai et juin de cette année et que la ministre de la Santé, le docteur Wilehlmina Jallah, est intervenue, ce qui a conduit à leur retour au travail.

Avouons-le. Les praticiens de la santé sur le continent gagnent très peu contrairement aux politiciens et aux loyalistes au gouvernement. Pourtant, ils passent de longues heures au travail sans bénéficier de vacances ou de pauses pour passer du temps de qualité avec leurs familles.

Selon le ministre Nagbe, les volontaires seront prioritaires dans ce recrutement. Mais cela améliorerait-il les conditions épouvantables dans les divers hôpitaux et établissements de santé du pays ? Il ne faudra pas longtemps pour que les désillusions refont surface, tant que les conditions resteront les mêmes.

Cette administration restera dans l'histoire comme le premier gouvernement libérien à dire aux agents de santé cherchant des solutions à leur sort d'aller en enfer lorsque les candidats du parti au pouvoir gaspillent des millions de dollars dans des activités de pré-campagne.

Où est passé le slogan de la coalition au pouvoir (CDC), « le pouvoir au peuple » ? Ou est passé le programme pour les pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement ? S'agissait-il d'une pure rhétorique ?

Nous appelons le gouvernement à rester engagé avec les travailleurs de la santé qui protestent jusqu'à ce qu'un terrain d'entente puisse être trouvé au lieu d'adopter une posture draconienne qui ferait bientôt du boomerang.



# Français

## Le climat des affaires au Libéria

transparentes et ouvertes sur l'environnement politique nécessaire et susceptibles de faire prospérer les secteurs extractif, agricole et industriel soient favorisées à travers un dialogue inclusif.

Le forum a été organisé à Monrovia le mercredi 22 septembre par la Commission de la gouvernance, une institution étatique dont la mission est d'élaborer un plan pour des réformes politiques sur le plan national.

Quoi que la pandémie du COVID-19 et son impact sur les cours des matières premières sur le marché mondial soient en partie responsables du récent ralentissement économique, il faut aussi reconnaître que le climat local des affaires difficile affecte également de manière disproportionnée les investissements, a fait remarquer l'ambassade américaine.

«Les obstacles sur le marché des affaires au Libéria, comme en témoigne le rapport Doing Business 2020 de la Banque mondiale, sont des facteurs de dissuasion pour les particuliers et les entreprises qui décident dans quels pays s'installer », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a souligné la nécessité d'un mécanisme de surveillance solide qui puisse permettre au Libéria de tirer profit de ses ressources naturelles et, en fin de compte, se développer. «À cet égard, nous espérons sincèrement que l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives du Libéria (LEITI) et les autres agences de surveillance présentes ici continueront de bénéficier du soutien du secteur public pour renforcer

leur expertise et leur indépendance conformément aux normes internationales. »

Par ailleurs, l'ambassade des États-Unis a réaffirmé son intérêt constant pour le développement du Libéria et s'est dite prête à soutenir les efforts du pays pour créer un environnement des affaires ouvert et transparent.

«Les histoires de nos deux pays sont étroitement liées et nous continuerons à soutenir ce grand pays pendant que vous cherchez à rendre le Libéria non seulement « ouvert aux affaires », mais aussi attrayant et compétitif parmi les marchés émergents du monde », a rassuré la diplomate américaine.

Trois panélistes, dont le responsable de l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives du Libéria, Jeffery Nukata Yates ; le Ministre des mines et de l'énergie, Gesler E. Murray, et le vérificateur général du Libéria, Mme Yusador S. Gaye, ont facilité le dialogue.

Le patron de la LEITI, Yates, a déploré le refus des ministères et des agences de mettre à disposition les informations pertinentes qui devraient permettre aux rapports de l'agence de refléter fidèlement les réalités sur le terrain. Le ministre des Mines et de l'Énergie, Murray, a pour sa part réitéré ses préoccupations concernant les activités minières alluviales illicites à travers le Libéria dont sont responsables des étrangers, avec la complicité des autorités locales et des citoyens. Il a fait un certain nombre de recommandations, dont la mise à disposition du matériel informatique et des logiciels, des moyens de déplacement et des drones.

## « L'essentiel, c'est de rester un bloc... » :

par Alassane Ouattara qui confirma son collaborateur dans ses fonctions de Premier ministre qu'il occupait en tant qu'intérimaire, cumulativement à ses fonctions de ministre de la Défense.

Le 6 août 2020, à la veille de la célébration du 60e anniversaire d'indépendance du pays, Alassane Ouattara annonce son désir de briguer le troisième mandat, conformément à l'appel de ses partisans.

Depuis lors, Hamed Bakayoko est devenu très actif sur le terrain pour défendre la candidature de son patron, lançant au passage des piques aux opposants. Le samedi 19

septembre, par exemple, il était l'invité d'honneur du meeting organisé à Yopougon, fief de l'opposition pro-Gbagbo, par le député Touré Alpha Yaya. Il décocha à l'occasion quelques flèches à son ancien ami, Guillaume Soro. Ce même weekend, il rencontre, dans sa résidence à Cocody, une délégation des enseignants militants du RHDP pour les galvaniser : « Je serai votre avocat. Je serai votre allié pour qu'on puisse vous donner des moyens à la faveur de cette campagne qui s'annonce. Votre implication pendant les élections n'est plus à relever. Le président de la République, Alassane Ouattara, m'en a souvent parlé.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Edmund S. Phelps

## L'argumentaire économique en faveur de Biden

**N**EW YORK - Les commentateurs formulent de nombreuses raisons pour lesquelles il faudra au mois de novembre voter pour Joe Biden, le candidat démocrate à la présidentielle américaine. La dimension économique de l'élection semble en revanche peu intéresser ceux qui commentent, et rares sont les économistes qui se penchent sur le sujet en prenant soin de souligner combien l'issue influencera directement le bien-être économique des Américains. Or, c'est bien l'économie qui permet ou non aux citoyens d'espérer gagner en développement personnel et en satisfaction via la réussite. Elle n'est pas qu'une question d'argent.

L'argumentaire économique en faveur de Biden commence par l'argumentaire économique en défaveur du président Donald Trump. Prenons le cas des réductions d'impôts très coûteuses mises en place par Trump au profit des grandes sociétés. Ces mesures n'ont pas produit l'investissement et la croissance qui avaient été promis, avec en revanche pour effet principal le creusement des déficits budgétaires au cours des trois premières années de la présidence Trump.

La négligence de Trump à l'égard de cette dilapidation budgétaire crée un précédent, celui de possibles déficits inutiles sous les administrations futures (sachant bien entendu que le déficit enregistré plus récemment en réponse à la pandémie était inévitable, et bénéfique dans le contexte actuel).

Les menaces habituelles que représente le président pour les entreprises américaines ont ajouté une nouvelle incertitude aux décisions commerciales et d'investissement. Trump pratique une doctrine du corporatisme que l'on retrouve sous Mussolini, dans laquelle un gouvernement marionnettiste tire les ficelles d'entreprises marionnettes. Or, cette politique économique inhibe l'entreprise et l'innovation, à l'heure où toutes deux sont cruellement nécessaires.

La croisade malavisée lancée par Trump pour réduire un déficit commercial pourtant sans grandes conséquences a mis à mal le commerce mondial, impactant ainsi l'efficacité de l'attribution des ressources dans le pays et à l'étranger.

Le discours populiste du président américain ne s'est pas traduit par de meilleurs salaires pour les travailleurs moins privilégiés ou les victimes de discriminations. Trump a tout fait pour supprimer le moindre sentiment de justice économique. Peu lui importent les salaires effroyablement bas des travailleurs du bas de la pyramide, et le niveau extrêmement précaire que permettent ces salaires. Trump n'a rien fait pour lutter contre les discriminations statistiques - raciales, sexuelles, et LGBT+. Ses assauts contre l'Affordable Care Act (l'Obamacare) ont par ailleurs violemment impacté les Américains aux revenus faibles.

Son insistance sur l'idée selon laquelle le changement climatique serait un canular fait également peser un danger plus grand encore sur l'économie mondiale et la viabilité de notre planète. Pour Trump, les feux de forêts qui ravagent actuellement l'Ouest américain ne sont que la conséquence d'une mauvaise gestion forestière. Sous Trump, l'héroïsme et le sacrifice des soldats américains ont été dépréciés, le président échouant à apprécier ou à comprendre que l'économie a besoin de l'héroïsme des individus pour rêver à de nouvelles idées, ainsi que pour prendre le risque d'investir dans son

développement et l'entrée sur le marché.

En s'attaquant aux institutions, du FBI aux Centres américains de contrôle et de prévention des maladies, Trump vide de sa substance la structure de l'État. En imposant des obstacles inutiles, qui conduisent à des guerres commerciales, il se met à dos les alliés de l'Amérique. À travers son admiration pour les dictateurs et les chefs d'État autoritaires, il les aide à établir le fascisme du XXIe siècle. Ses mensonges chroniques au poste de président des États-Unis érodent la confiance des Américains dans leur gouvernement.

La liste de ses comportements indignes est trop longue pour autoriser l'exhaustivité. L'une de ses démarches les plus scandaleuses réside dans la suppression du programme dit DACA, relatif aux étrangers sans papiers arrivés aux États-Unis pendant leur enfance et qui, après avoir grandi et suivi une scolarité aux États-Unis, risquent désormais l'expulsion. Autre démarche indigne, le président applique une tactique consistant à instaurer la peur des représailles et des arrestations, avec pour conséquence actuelle un climat croissant d'anxiété et de méfiance.

Aujourd'hui, nombreux sont ceux qui soutiennent Biden sur ces fondements et sur d'autres. Trump fait obstacle à la nation sur la voie du renouveau d'un sentiment d'épanouissement, d'équité et d'harmonie sociale. Rien ne garantit cependant qu'il pourra être battu sur ces seules bases. De nombreux américains redoutent un gouvernement qui œuvrerait pour un mélange des catégories sociales sans s'intéresser aux questions clés de la croissance et économique et de la satisfaction au travail.

Mais il existe également un argumentaire positif en faveur de Biden.

Pour commencer, Biden a conscience que l'Amérique connaît encore une disparité frappante entre les salaires des plus sérieusement désavantagés et ceux des Américains de la classe moyenne - une réalité à laquelle les prestations aux mères célibataires ne changent rien. Élevé dans la région sidérurgique de Pennsylvanie, Biden ne peut rester sourd aux privations et à la douleur des travailleurs faiblement rémunérés. S'il est élu, il se montrera nécessairement réceptif aux initiatives législatives de subvention visant à en finir avec les salaires dérisoires de ces travailleurs.

Biden est également attentif à la menace existentielle que représente le changement climatique. La liste des phénomènes problématiques qui s'annoncent est longue, la consommation de combustibles fossiles entraînant notamment une augmentation des niveaux de dioxyde de carbone et des températures. La résolution de ces problèmes exigera l'intervention de l'État ainsi qu'une coopération internationale, telle qu'observée à travers l'accord climatique de Paris 2015, dont Trump a exfiltré les États-Unis. Il ne fait aucun doute que si Biden est élu, il entendra jouer un rôle central dans la reprise de la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique.

Enfin, les Américains connaissent une quasi-stagnation de l'économie depuis le début des années 1970 (interrompue pendant une dizaine d'années par la révolution de l'information). Ce malaise persistant sous-tend la frustration croissante des salariés quant à leur place dans la répartition des revenus - un sentiment qui, plus que tous les autres, explique l'ascension de Trump. Il ne fait aucun doute qu'un président Biden - contrairement à Trump - entendra rétablir l'économie dans sa gloire d'hier.

Starts from back page

# I never authorized sales

In the wake of Mr. Wonplo's recent revelations attempting to link Mr. Findley and other top officials to the passport scandal, the former Foreign Minister says he is constrained to respond to the "outlandish comments oozing out of the unfounded accounts from the former Director of Passport & Visas, Mr. Andrew Wonplo."

Findley explains that his service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Republic of Liberia was characterized by service to country, commitment to duty, strengthening bilateral and multilateral relationships, upholding the rule of law, and dedication to delivering the statutory mandate of the Ministry.

He insists that he did this to the best of his ability in conformity with law.

Mr. Findley argues that noteworthy is the fact that as per the Executive Laws on the issuance of Liberian Passports, a Liberian passport is an official document issued by the Government of Liberia by which the bearer is recognized in foreign countries either as a Liberian citizen, an honorary consul, a diplomatic agent or emissary

designated by the President of the Republic of Liberia or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Consistent with this provision, he says the Republic of Liberia has had, and continues to have, Honorary Consuls representing its relations in varied countries and states.

He names Liberia's Honorary Consul to Florida, Mr. David Straz who contributed US\$1 Million for the construction of a US\$2 Million Polytechnic Project in Sinje (named after him in 2016) but died on November 18, 2019, Italy, Spain, Saudi Arabia, among others, who by law are entitled to Diplomatic Passports.

"The aforementioned is a separate case from the unfounded claims of the former Director of Passport & Visas, Mr. Andrew Wonplo, that Liberian Passports were traded to non-Liberians," Findley says.

According to the former chief diplomat, applicants for Diplomatic Passports must give written proof or evidence that they are employees of the Government of Liberia with a rank or status as contained in these Regulations or individuals who are or may be required or assigned to serve the Republic

of Liberia as diplomatic emissaries to foreign nations or Governments.

He says further that they must show proof that a specific waiver of these requirements have been approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or a dispensation given by the President of the Republic of Liberia, adding that the dispensation was at no time abused, but legally utilized under the discharge of his statutory functions.

"As such, I am bewildered by the unprovoked outburst from Mr. Wonplo wherein he's making claims that he smartly designed as a retaliation to his re-indictment, as well as his designation by the Government of the United States of America," Findley says.

The Grand Bassa County Senatorial aspirant says his bid for the senatorial race in the county is not his decision, but the overwhelming decision of the good loving people of Grand Bassa County, his birth place.

According to Findley, when he served them, he did so with dedication, selflessness, love for county and country, and above all, patriotism to the Republic of Liberia.

"These interventions, they've realized, have greatly impacted the citizenry; which is why they have solicited my consent to return to the Senate; and this solicitation I have embraced for the good of Grand Bassa," he continues. Findley indicates that his deeds can clearly speak for him, and no chicanery can thwart the resolve of the peace loving people of Grand Bassa County.



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## Mayor Koijee distances

He continued that information on the bond indicates that in order to secure the release of defendant Kesselle Mulbah, he produced three (3) human sureties in persons of Mr. Ernest B. Kezelee, Mr. Forkpayea C. Kesselle and Ms. Korto Kezzellee.

Mayor Koijee said information gathered from the court indicates that he neither served as human surety nor was his name in any of the court's documents that granted the release of the alleged suspect.

"Your Honor, I am quite disappointed that the Resident Judge of Criminal Court "D,"

Judge Sikajipo A. Wollor being fully aware that he approved the release of the alleged armed robber and that I did play absolutely no part in said process, chose to remain silent on this matter when my character and reputation is being aspersed", Mayor Koijee said.

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## Women NGOs Secretariat

culture, rigid social norms, and various other challenges at community and personal level of women and girls, making it difficult for survivors to access justice and for the pattern of sporadic incidents of SGBV against women and girls.

Meanwhile, WONGOSOL added that the rape pandemic in Liberia seems to

be taking a new gruesome trend, accelerating from gang rape, and rape of babies and extending to reported abduction and subjection of girls to sexual slavery.

The acting executive director however noted that with the support they received from USAID through LAVI, WONGOSOL has commenced

implementation of a three-month monitoring and observation reporting of domestic violence activities to track, document and communicate reported cases of violence. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Three charge

Starts from back page

The minor is reportedly in critical condition at the Pleebo Health Center due to severe pain suffered at the hands of her tormenters.

Speaking to this paper in Pleebo, the head of the Police Women and Children Protection Section said the suspects have been charged with Gang Rape and Criminal Intent.

Mr. DehmisKarplehKanneh described the alleged act as shocking and worrisome news. He disclosed that there had been previous rape cases in the county, but the act of three persons allegedly raping a minor is first of such incident reported.

Though one of the suspects identified as Suraze is allegedly on the run, Police said they have launched a search in the county to bring him before the law.

Meanwhile, after spending days behind bar, the other two suspects have been charged and turned over to the Pleebo Magisterial Court, awaiting trial.

The Pleebo Women and Children Protection Section of the Police said the crime contravenes Section 14.70 of the Revised Rape Law of Liberia.

The law states that a person who has sexual intercourse with a male or female forcefully has committed rape; that is, if the perpetrator(s) intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus,

mouth or any other opening of another person (male or female) with his penis, without the victim's consent; or, he/she intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus or another person with a foreign object or with any other part of the body (other than the penis), without the victim's consent.

A person has committed Gang Rape, a first degree felony here if: He or she purposely promotes or facilitates rape or agrees with one or more persons to engage in or cause the performance of conduct which shall constitute Rape. Penalties range from 10 years imprisonment to life sentence.

In August, a 38-year-old man Daniel Toe, was arrested and jailed for allegedly raping an 11-year-old minor in the same Zone#6 community in Pleebo.

President George Manneh Weah has declared rape as a national emergency following rise in the crime across the country.

"As President of Liberia, it is my responsibility to lead all efforts to address social and societal irregularities and threats that befall our people or any segment of it. I have stated on many occasions that, as Feminist-in-Chief, I have zero tolerance for Sexual and Gender Based Violence. And I mean it", the Executive Mansion quoted Mr. Weah as saying. -Editing by Jonathan

## Weah urges nations

Cont'd from page 6

as well as the premier international organization for serving the needs of all mankind through its various humanitarian agencies.

Nevertheless, he says the world has changed considerably since it came into existence after World War II, and the configuration of powers which obtained when its Charter was first written and upon which its decision-making structures were based, has witnessed many significant transformations over these past Seventy-Five years.

Mr. Weah indicates that there is therefore an urgent need to review, re-focus and re-adjust the priorities of the United Nations so that it can become more relevant and more effective in meeting the challenges that are today presented by new global alliances and realities.

"In this regard, more

attention has to be paid to inclusiveness of the most vulnerable in our societies, whose special needs require a new and different mind-set," he notes.

As part of this process of re-evaluation, he says the United Nations adopted in 2015 a set of 17 Global Goals to be met by 2030.

These Sustainable Development Goals, he says, as they are commonly called, are intended to serve as a roadmap for collective efforts to bring peace and prosperity to all mankind.

"We are already five years into the 15-year Agenda, and with only ten (10) years left, it is already clear that we will have to re-double our efforts and accelerate our actions in many areas if we are to attain any or all of these lofty goals by the end of this decade," he adds.

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# VRU stirs protest

Four opposition parties under the banner Collaborating Political Parties or CPP, poised to become the main challenger of President George Manneh Weah in 2023, head to the Supreme Court of Liberia today, Friday, 25 September to file a prohibition against the National Elections Commission, calling for an immediate halt and cancellation of the ongoing Voter Roll Update Exercises until issues bordering on credibility of midterm senatorial elections on December 8th are addressed

as follow: On Friday of this week, our lawyers will file a Petition for the Writ of Prohibition before the Supreme Court, calling for an immediate halt and cancellation of the ongoing Voter Roll Update Exercises until these issues which border on the credibility of the elections are fully addressed", CPP chairman Mr. Alexander Cummings announced during the week.

At least two aspirants - incumbent Representative Edwin Melvin Snowe and ex-speaker Alex Tyler from Bomi County in Western Liberia had been linked to trucking people from various localities in the

for Democratic Change candidate Representative Thomas Fallah and opposition Senator Abraham Darius Dillon have been engaged in stone battle at every rally, indicating early signs of what to expect in the poll.

News coming from vote-rich Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties in the southeast speaks of multiple registration and voter's cards stuffing, leading the National Elections Commission to recall several electoral magistrates to Monrovia for interrogation.

The CPP has vowed to conduct comprehensive



fully.

Constituent parties of the CPP, including the former ruling Unity Party, the Alternative National Congress, Liberty Party and the All Liberian Party are nervous about widespread reports of voters trucking by politicians and multiple registrations at centers across the country that could lead to fraud on polling day.

The parties had earlier written a formal complaint to the NEC, outlining several missteps in the ongoing exercise.

"Therefore, we seize this moment to inform all of our people across Liberia and abroad that the actions of the NEC have left us with no other alternative than to commence legal and sustained political actions to correct all the missteps we raised in our communications of September 10th and 18th

country and from neighboring Sierra Leone to register and vote, but Rep. Snowe has denied.

However, supporters of Snowe and Tyler clashed recently in Tubmanburg, Bomi County in a face-to-face battle, using machetes and other weapons, bringing the provisional city to a standstill momentarily.

The violence started when the government-operated National Transit Authority buses arrived in Tubmanburg with group of people in their youthful ages onboard, believed to be supporters of Ex-speaker Tyler to participate in the ongoing voters' registration by the National Elections Commission. Riot officers of the Liberia National Police made two arrests from the incident.

Here in Monrovia, supporters of ruling Coalition

nationwide awareness to inform Liberians about impending danger the CDC-led government and its election commissioners pose to the coming elections.

It has called on its partisans, supporters and well-wishers to assemble today at the headquarters of the Alternative National Congress to parade to the Supreme Court to file a Writ of Prohibition against the entire electoral until these missteps are corrected.

The NEC has warned those aspirants allegedly involved in trucking voters to desist immediately, as the practice contravenes the electoral law of Liberia.

NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the Commission is concerned about reports of "trucking" of citizens by some aspirants.

"We note that trucking is prohibited under Chapter 10.1(a) of the New Elections Law and is punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to six months", Madam Lansanah said in a recent press conference held at the NEC headquarters between 9th and 10th Streets in Sinkor, Monrovia.

# ALJA condemns targeted attacks on Liberia's opposition

The Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) says the current wave of targeted physical attacks on opposition Liberian politicians by alleged supporters of the Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) are detrimental to Liberia's peace and stability, and the rule of law.

ALJA says the repeated orchestration and the execution of physical attacks on opposition Liberian politicians; and the disruption of their political rallies by individuals believed to be supporters of the CDC and President George Manneh Weah run contrary to the principle of peaceful coexistence.

The Association says these attacks, are polarizing Liberians; and they have the proclivity of plunging Liberia into another civil war. ALJA in a press release issued on September 21, 2020, condemned in the strongest term individuals believed to be supporters of the CDC for the September 13, 2020, threat on

run up to the Senatorial bye elections scheduled to be held in December. The organization also expressed disappointment that too often the perpetrators of these attacks are not held accountable, creating the impression that they are state sanctioned.

ALJA recalled that in recent months, alleged CDC members attacked Senator Dillion and his supporters in Clara Town while attending a political rally. The Liberian government instituted a probe into the matter but the outcome of the probe remains pending.

The Association also, cited the violent attacks on the Chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties, Alexander Cummings, and members of his entourage including Representative Yekeh Kolubah of Montserrado County in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County while on a political mission; and Ms. Telia Urey, a former representative hopeful in Montserrado County and her supporters as some of the foremost targeted violent acts perpetrated against the



Joe Mason: National President

the life of Montserrado County Senator, Abraham Darius Dillon, and his supporters in District-16 based in Montserrado County.

Senator Dillion was speaking at a political rally organized by his supporters in the St. Paul Bridge Community in Montserrado County when a man believed to be a CDC supporter, reportedly armed with a tear gas canister and a knife tried to bulldoze his way to where the Senator was speaking.

ALJA said had it not been for the swift intervention of the Senator's bodyguards and supporters, the individual would have physically attacked the Senator. ALJA maintained that this action endangered the life of the Senator and those of his supporters that attended the rally.

The Americas based Liberian Journalists organization expressed concern over the increased level of violence, primarily on opposition politicians, in the

opposition politicians in the country.

The Association says it is troubling that despite all of these brazen acts of violence reportedly committed against opposition Liberian politicians by alleged supporters of the CDC and President Weah, the President and the Liberian government are yet to take any concrete actions in punishing the perpetrators and curtailing a recurrence.

Meanwhile, the Association says it welcomes Montserrado County Senator, Abraham Darius Dillon, retraction of the threat he made against President Weah. On September 13, 2020, Senator Dillion in the wake of the reported foiled attack on him and his supporters in District-16 threatened that he and his supporters would stone the President's convoy and his residence should the attack perpetrated against him and his supporters be repeated.

ALJA says it strongly condemns the Senator's

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# Three charge with gang rape



By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Police in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral District #2 have arrested and sent to court two of three suspects for allegedly gang raping a 14-year-old minor.

The suspects identified as 18-year-old Alfred Griffith, 17-year-old Bill Johnson and Suarez (reportedly on the run) were arrested on Saturday, September 19, 2020 in Zone #6 Catholic Mission.

Parents of the victim over the weekend reported to the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police in Pleebo, Maryland, about the alleged gang rape of their daughter.

The 14 years old victim was immediately rushed to the Pleebo Health Center in the county for thorough examination where health authorities medically confirmed multiple discharge of semen in her body.

According to Police Charge Sheet, the three suspects lured the victim from her parents' home in Zone #4 Community with the influence they were taking her to an entertainment center in Zone #6 Catholic Mission to buy food.

But instead, they took her to an isolated area in the same community and allegedly raped her multiple times.

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# I never authorized sales of passports

**-Findley reacts to Andrew Wonplo's claim**

Liberia's former Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar M. Findley says at no time did he instruct the indicted former Director of Passport & Visas, Mr. Andrew Wonplo to trade Liberian Passports to non-Liberians.

"I must indicate categorically that at no time did I, Amb. Gbehzohngar M. Findley, as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of

Liberia, instruct the former Director of Passport & Visas, Mr. Andrew Wonplo to trade Liberian Passports to non-Liberians," Mr. Findley stated Thursday, 24 September.

The authorities here claim that Mr. Wonplo and 10 other defendants caused the government to lose over US\$30,000 through illegal sales of Liberian passports to non-Liberians, as well as people looking for space to travel to



Former Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar M. Findley

the United States and Canada who were willing to pay as much as US\$2,000 each for a Liberian Passport.

He was recently re-indicted after the U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo earlier announced on 10 September the public designation of Liberia's former Director of Passport and Visas Andrew Wonplo, "due to his involvement in significant corruption," making Wonplo and his immediate family members ineligible for entry into the United States.

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