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Brink of crisis

-As political violence increases



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Continental News

NMS boss Mohamed Badi hints at seeking political office after 2022

General Mohamed Badi has hinted at seeking a political seat after 2022 General Election.

Badi who was appointed to steer Nairobi county in March 2020 following the signing of a deed of transfer of functions between Governor Mike Sonko and President Uhuru Kenyatta that saw four key county roles taken up by the

national government said he had already delivered on all the tasks he was assigned.

Speaking to NTV on Sunday, September 27, night, the NMS boss said he was still a military officer hence would remain apolitical until his retirement which is due in the next two years.

"I am still a serving officer, we remain apolitical and I am not aligned to any political...I

still have two more years to serve, so maybe after the next elections, not this coming one," he said. Badi has been at loggerheads with Governor Sonko over administration of the capital city with the latter accusing the former of attempting to outshine him by portraying him as a failure.

The hostile relationship between the two recently

attracted the attention of the president who urged them to work together insisting Badi was his appointee and had no political ambitions.

The two agreed to bury the hatchet and promised to work together for the betterment of Nairobi city county.

"We had cross-cutting issues in terms of finance and administration but we have sorted them out, I can say we are now in talking terms with the governor and I don't see any major issues. I am focussed on service delivery," said Badi.

The four key functions that were handed to NMS are health, transport, public

works, utilities and ancillary services and county government planning and development. The major general's popularity and political influence have been growing tremendously ever since he was ushered in as the NMS boss six months ago.

His recent secret swearing-in as a member of the cabinet stirred a storm with many questioning his role in the executive's top decision making organ.

Kandara MP Alice Wahome who accused the president of violating the constitution by allowing Badi to seat in the cabinet moved to court to challenge it. AFP



Ex-Malian Diplomat Named PM in Transitional Government

Former Mali foreign minister Moctar Ouane has been named the West African nation's prime minister as it struggles to return to normalcy following last month's overthrow of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Ouane was named to the post Sunday by transitional President Bah N'Daw, who was installed by

the ruling junta Friday, with coup leader Colonel Assimi Goita named vice president. Ouane served as foreign minister from 2004 to 2011, after representing Mali as its envoy to the United Nations from 1995 to 2002.

The installation of Ouane as prime minister could lead to the removal of sanctions imposed on Mali by the regional economic bloc ECOWAS

(Economic Community of West African States) after the 75-year-old Keita and then-Prime Minister Boubou Cisse were arrested by military troops on August 18 at Keita's house in the capital, Bamako. Mali had been mired in months of protests led by the main opposition party, June 5 Movement, over an economic crisis, corruption and Keita's failure to quell an eight-year-old Islamic insurgency that has gained a foothold in central Mali. Anger also brewed over the results of 31 disputed legislative races held in April.

ECOWAS suspended all financial transactions between Mali and its 14 other member states and closed their shared borders after the coup. The bloc has called for the junta to return the country to civilian leadership and hold elections within a year for a president and prime minister in exchange for ending the sanctions.

The military has been seeking a three-year transition, to include the writing of a new constitution. VOA



A supporter holds a placard in French reading "Long live the transition", outside where a ceremony to swear in the transitional president and vice president took place

New West Africa currency 'delayed for five years'

A plan to launch a new currency to replace the CFA franc used by several countries in West Africa may not happen for at least five years.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara, has said the coronavirus pandemic has derailed the project to introduce the eco currency this year.

Last December, the eight

Saharan Africa's economy will contract more than 3% this year.

Nations in the bloc, former French colonies, like Benin, Mali, Niger and Senegal have agreed to work towards reducing their budget deficits to below 3% of GDP, a measure of the value of their economies.

But according to the Ivorian president, that is unlikely to



countries of West Africa's monetary union decided to sever the financial colonial link with France by switching to a new currency, the eco, which would be pegged to the European Union's euro.

But the ambitious plan has been torpedoed by the economic fallout of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

The International Money Fund has forecasted sub-

happen for three to five years.

Other countries which do not use the CFA franc, like Nigeria and Ghana, are also interested in adopting the new regional currency.

But Ghana does not want the eco pegged to the euro and Nigeria wants the former French colonies to break all financial ties with Paris. BBC

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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.

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COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

The Vise Tightens on the Dollar

In the second quarter of this year, the US experienced the sharpest plunge in domestic saving on record, dating back to 1947. Because that will continue, and the current-account balance is following suit, the dollar's real effective exchange rate can head in only one direction.

NEW HAVEN - The US dollar has now entered the early stages of what looks to be a sharp descent. The dollar's real effective exchange rate (REER) fell 4.3% in the four months ending in August. The decline has been even steeper as measured by other indexes, but the REER is what matters most for trade, competitiveness, inflation, and monetary policy.

To be sure, the recent pullback only partly reverses the nearly 7% surge from February to April. During that period, the dollar benefited from the flight to safety triggered by the "sudden stop" in the global economy and world financial markets arising from the COVID-19 lockdown. Even with the recent modest correction, the greenback remains the most overvalued major currency in the world, with the REER still 34% above its July 2011 low.

I continue to expect this broad dollar index to plunge by as much as 35% by the end of 2021. This reflects three considerations: rapid deterioration in US macroeconomic imbalances, the ascendancy of the euro and the renminbi as viable alternatives, and the end of that special aura of American exceptionalism that has given the dollar Teflon-like resilience for most of the post-World War II era.

The first factor - America's mounting imbalances - is now playing out in real time with a vengeance. The confluence of an unprecedented erosion of domestic saving and the current-account deficit - joined at the hip through arithmetic accounting identities - is nothing short of staggering.

The net national saving rate, which measures the combined depreciation-adjusted saving of businesses, households, and the government sector, plunged into negative territory at -1% in the second quarter of 2020. That had not happened since the global financial crisis of 2008-09, when net national saving fell into negative territory for nine consecutive quarters, averaging -1.7% from the second quarter of 2008 to the second quarter of 2010.

But the most important aspect of this development was the speed of the collapse. At -1% in the second quarter, the net saving rate fell fully 3.9 percentage points from the pre-COVID 2.9% reading in the first quarter. This is, by far, the sharpest one-quarter plunge in domestic saving on record, dating back to 1947.

What has triggered this unprecedented collapse in net domestic saving is no secret. COVID-19 sparked a temporary surge in personal saving that has been more than outweighed by a record expansion in the federal budget deficit. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act featured \$1,200 relief checks to most Americans, as well as a sharp expansion of unemployment insurance benefits, both of which boosted the personal saving rate to an unheard of 33.7% in April. Absent these one-off injections, the personal saving rate quickly receded to a still-lofty 17.8% in July and is set to fall even more sharply with the recent expiration of expanded unemployment benefits.

Offsetting this was a \$4.5 trillion annualized widening of the federal deficit in the second quarter of 2020 (on a net saving basis), to \$5.7 trillion, which swamped the \$3.1 trillion surge in net personal saving in the same period. With personal saving likely to recede sharply in the months ahead and the federal budget deficit exploding toward 16% of GDP in the current fiscal year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the plunge in net domestic saving in the second quarter of 2020 is only a hint of what lies ahead.

This will trigger a collapse in the US current-account deficit. Lacking in saving and wanting to invest and grow, the US must import surplus saving from abroad and run massive external deficits to attract foreign capital. Again, this is not esoteric economic theory - just a simple balance-of-payments accounting identity.

The validity of this linkage was, in fact, confirmed by the recent release of US international transactions statistics for the second quarter of 2020. Reflecting the plunge in domestic saving, the current-account deficit widened to 3.5% of GDP - the worst since the 4.3% deficit in the fourth quarter of 2008 during the global financial crisis.

Like the saving collapse, the current-account dynamic is unfolding in an equally ferocious fashion. Relative to the 2.1%-of-GDP current-account deficit in the first period of 2020, the 1.4-percentage-point widening in the second quarter was the largest quarterly deterioration on record (dating back to 1960).

With the net domestic saving rate likely headed into record depths of between -5% and -10% of national income, I fully expect the current-account deficit to break its previous record of 6.3% of GDP, recorded in the fourth quarter of 2005. Driven by the explosive surge in the federal budget deficit this year and next, the collapse of domestic saving and the current-account implosion should unfold at near-lightning speed.

It is not just rapidly destabilizing saving and current-account imbalances that are putting downward pressure on the dollar. A shift in the Federal Reserve's policy strategy is a new and important ingredient in the mix. By moving to an approach that now targets average inflation, the Fed is sending an important message: zero-interest rates are likely to persist for longer than previously thought, regardless of any temporary overshoots of the 2% price stability target.

This new bias toward monetary accommodation effectively closes off an important option - upward adjustments to interest rates - that has long tempered currency declines in most economies. By default, that puts even more pressure on the falling dollar as the escape valve from America's rapidly deteriorating macroeconomic imbalances.

In short, the vise is tightening on a still-overvalued dollar. Domestic saving is now plunging as never before, and the current-account balance is following suit. Don't expect the Fed, focused more on supporting equity and bond markets than on leaning against inflation, to save the day. The dollar's decline has only just begun.

O-PED

By Joschka Fischer

The Transatlantic Tragedy

While today's mounting global disruptions have accelerated an ongoing shift in global power dynamics, neither China's rise nor the emergence of COVID-19 can be blamed for the West's lost primacy. The United States and the United Kingdom took care of that on their own, with a complacent Europe watching it happen.

BERLIN - Between the intensifying Sino-American drama and the persistent COVID-19 crisis, the world is undeniably undergoing fundamental, historic change. Seemingly immutable structures built up over many decades are suddenly exhibiting a high degree of malleability, or simply disappearing altogether.

In the ancient past, today's unprecedented developments would have put people on guard for signs of a coming apocalypse. In addition to the pandemic and geopolitical tensions, the world is also confronting the climate crisis, the balkanization of the global economy, and the far-reaching technological disruptions brought on by digitization and artificial intelligence.

Gone are the days when the West - led by the United States, with the support of its European and other allies - enjoyed unchallenged political, military, economic, and technological primacy. Thirty years after the end of the Cold War - when Germany was reunified and the US emerged as the world's sole superpower - the case for Western leadership is no longer credible, and East Asia, with an increasingly authoritarian and nationalistic China at the helm, is moving swiftly to replace it.

But it wasn't the escalating rivalry with China that weakened the West. Rather, the West's decline has been driven almost entirely by internal developments on both sides of the Atlantic, particularly - though not exclusively - within the Anglo-Saxon world. The United Kingdom's Brexit referendum and US President Donald Trump's election in 2016 marked a definitive break in the transatlantic commitment to liberal values and a global rules-based order, heralding the revival of a narrow-minded fixation on national sovereignty that has no future.

The transatlantic West, a concept embodied in the establishment of NATO after World War II, was the result of the military triumph of the US and UK in the Pacific and European theaters. It was these two countries' leaders who created the post-war order and its principal institutions, from the United Nations and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (the precursor to the World Trade Organization) to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. As such, the "liberal world order" - and indeed "the West" generally - was wholly an Anglo-Saxon initiative, one that victory in the Cold War further vindicated.

But in the ensuing decades, the Anglo-Saxon world's powers have been exhausted, and many of its people have begun to long for a return to a mythical imperial golden age. The prospect of reclaiming past greatness has become a successful political slogan in both countries. Between Trump's "America First" doctrine to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's effort to "take back control," the common denominator is a yearning to relive idealized moments of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In practice, these slogans amount to a self-defeating reversal. The founders of an international order that enshrines democracy, the rule of law, collective security, and universal values are now dismantling it from within, thereby undercutting their own power. And this Anglo-Saxon self-destruction has created a vacuum, leading not to a new order but to chaos.

Of course, Europeans - starting with the Germans - are in no position to sit back complacently or point the finger at the Anglo-Saxons. By free-riding on security matters and simply shrugging their shoulders at persistently high trade surpluses, they, too, bear responsibility for today's nationalist resurgence.

If the West - as an idea and as a political bloc - is to survive, something will have to change. The US and the European Union will each be weaker alone than as a united front. But Europeans now have no other choice but to transform the EU into a genuine power player in its own right. A deep rift has opened up between continental Europeans - who must hold on to the traditional Western construct - and increasingly nationalistic Anglo-Saxons.

After all, Brexit is not really about pragmatic questions of trade; rather, it represents a fundamental break between two value systems. More to the point, what happens if Trump is re-elected in November? The transatlantic West almost certainly would not survive the next four years, and NATO would probably face an existential crisis, even if Europeans increase their defense spending in response to US demands. For Trump and his followers, the money isn't really the issue. Their primary concern is with American supremacy and European fealty.

By contrast, if former US Vice President Joe Biden is elected, the tone of transatlantic relations would certainly become friendlier. But there is no going back to the pre-Trump era. Even under a Biden administration, Europeans would not quickly forget the deep distrust that has been sown these past four years.

Whoever wins in November, the US will have to deal with a Europe that puts much greater stock in its own sovereignty - particularly on technological matters - than it has in the past. The cozy interdependencies of the immediate post-Cold War years are long gone. The relationship will have to be remodeled, and both sides will need to adjust. Europe will have to do much more to safeguard its own interests, and America would do well to understand that Europe's interests may diverge from its own.

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OPINION

By Chris Patten

China's Leaders Can't Be Trusted

Four examples of the Chinese leadership's duplicity and mendacity demonstrate that the last thing the world should do is trust the Communist Party of China. If governments recognize this and act together, the sooner the Beijing bullies will have to behave better.

LONDON - When I was governor of Hong Kong, one of my noisiest critics was Sir Percy Cradock, a former British ambassador to China. Cradock always argued that China would never break its solemn promises, memorialized in a treaty lodged at the United Nations, to guarantee Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and way of life for 50 years after the return of the city from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Cradock once memorably said that although China's leaders may be "thuggish dictators," they were "men of their word" and could be "trusted to do what they promise." Nowadays, we have overwhelming evidence of the truth of the first half of that observation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's dictatorship is certainly thuggish. Consider its policies in Xinjiang. Many international lawyers argue that the incarceration of over one million Muslim Uighurs, forced sterilization and abortion, and slave labor meet the UN definition of genocide. This wicked repression goes beyond thuggery.

A recent Australian Strategic Policy Institute study based on satellite images indicates that China has built 380 internment camps in Xinjiang, including 14 still under construction. Having initially denied that these camps even existed, some Chinese officials now claim that most people detained in them have already been returned to their own communities. Clearly, this is far from the truth.

So, what about Xi and his apparatchiks being "men of their word"? Alas, that part of Cradock's description has no basis in reality. The last thing the world should do is trust the Communist Party of China (CPC). Four examples of the Chinese leadership's duplicity and mendacity - four out of many - should make this obvious to all.

First, consider the China-sourced COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed almost one million people globally and destroyed jobs and livelihoods on a horrendous scale in recent months. After the 2002-03 SARS epidemic, which also originated in China, the World Health Organization negotiated with its members - including China - to establish a set of guidelines known as the International Health Regulations. Under these rules, especially Article 6, the Chinese government is obliged - like all other signatories to the agreement - to collect information on any new public-health emergency and report it to the WHO within 24 hours.

Instead, as the University of Ottawa professor Errol Patrick Mendes, a distinguished international human-rights lawyer, has pointed out, China "suppressed, falsified, and obfuscated data and repressed advance warnings about the contagion as early as December" last year.

The result is that the coronavirus has become a far greater menace than it otherwise would have been. This is the CPC's coronavirus, not least because the party silenced brave Chinese doctors when they tried to blow the whistle on what was happening.

Former US President Barack Obama also can attest to Xi's lack of trustworthiness. In September 2015, Xi assured Obama that China was not pursuing militarization in and around the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

But this was a pledge with Chinese communist characteristics: it was completely untrue. Satellite imagery released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a US think tank, provides convincing evidence that the Chinese military has deployed large batteries of anti-aircraft guns on the islands. At the same time, the Chinese navy has rammed and sunk Vietnamese fishing vessels in these waters and tested new anti-aircraft carrier missiles there.

A third example of the CPC's dishonesty is its full-frontal assault on Hong Kong's autonomy, freedom, and rule of law. Hong Kong represents all those aspects of an open society that Chinese communists, despite their professed confidence in their own technological totalitarianism, regard as an existential threat to the surveillance state they have created.

Xi has therefore torn up the promises that China made to Hong Kong and the international community in the 1984 Joint Declaration (and subsequently) that the city would continue to enjoy its liberties until 2047. Moreover, the law that China imposed to eviscerate Hong Kong's freedom has extra-territorial scope. Article 38 of the National Security Law can apply to anyone in Hong Kong, mainland China, or any other country. So, for example, an American, British, or Japanese journalist who wrote anything in his or her own country criticizing the Chinese government's policy in Tibet or Hong Kong could be arrested if he or she were to set foot in Hong Kong or China.

Finally, one can add China's sackful of broken trade and investment promises, which overturned both the letter and spirit of what CPC officials had previously pledged. China's coercive commercial diplomacy includes threats not to buy exports of countries whose governments have the courage to stand up to Xi. This has happened to Norway, Australia, South Korea, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, the United States, and others. The end result is often less than China had threatened, but not before an industry or economic sector has begged its government to back down.

One thing is clear: the world cannot trust Xi's dictatorship. The sooner we recognize this and act together, the sooner the Beijing bullies will have to behave better. The world will be safer and more prosperous for it.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Religiosity and Failed African States

The greatest tragedy of all African states is the introduction of foreign gods and languages, cemented by tribes, decimated by education without interrogation or intelligence.

Before the advent of foreign intrusion into Africa, African societies have their concept of Supreme Being or High God, which is generally held to be the creator of the world (Lord of the universe) and the source of all powers operating it. African Gods are usually associated with particular cultures and tribes with an elaborate system of worship, ethics, morals, and levels of discipline which imposed dos and don'ts on the activities of humanity concerning nature.

Africans worshiped our Gods in harmony with our neighbors. There were no levels of superiority or rivalry between our Gods. We respected each other's Gods despite our tribes, cultural spaces, and intellectual differences. Africa was a borderless state, yet we were abig familyof people with no defined boundaries and many Gods.

In the past, Africans were capable of learning to attribute meanings to our surroundings and situations, drawn from our religious resources (our original Gods). Our spirituality forms the fundamental pillars of all aspects of African societies.

The spirit of Godliness is within us, and we are the temple of God. Hence, no one can give Africattheir Gods, because the essence of God is in all of us humans. And, according to a Ghana proverb, no one teaches the child to know God, and the consciousness of God is deemed inherent in the child from birth. Thus, Africa did not need foreign religions or gods to be spiritual or Godly. Africa was the quintessence of Godliness and the glory of all Gods manifested in Africa.

However, the arrival of foreign incursion changed everything, and it disrupted our Gods, cultures, languages, and cultural spaces. Although there is no right or wrong culture, every culture has its logic of philosophy guiding it. Africans operated in other dimensions of realities that have parallelism to our cosmologies and mythologies that continued to dictate behaviors in our societies.

Our culture is not an accident or trivial, it is not decorative or the songs we sing as the west contended but culture is about the body of moral and ethical values we place on each human being lies in each of us.

Thus, cultural diversity is not an academic pursuit, it is the fundamental indications of the ways things are meant to be. Hence, our culture guided us in harmony with our neighbors concerning our religions and languages with man-for-nature or eco-centric acclimatization mentality.

Africans were later cursed, brainwashed and indoctrinated with foreign religions to believe that they were people of inferior Gods and languages. And the only gods and languages Africans should value and respect were theirs. Thus, we guiltily resented our Gods and languages along with our meaningful names; it became shameful and tormented to us. Africa's identities were compressed, polluted, and converted, and it became fashionable to acquire the colonial master's attitudes and ways of life, particularly their gods.

And anytime someone says your God is ugly and you release your God and join their god, there is no hope for your freedom until you once more believe in your own concept of the God – Dr. John Henrik Clarke.

On behold to the Africans that they signed their

death warrant to foreign inferior gods at the detriment of our superior Gods. Our Gods were devalued, relegated to the bottom while they introduced their gods in their image, and elevated their gods above ours, what a tragedy of faith.

You may westernize me, but my God, do not Christianize me—Jerry Rawlings, former president of Ghana.

Foreign religions were used to dominate, manipulate, and oppress Africans. They were the subtle key elements in masking class and race superiority. This foreign religion manipulation was vividly evident in the use of the Slave Bible to push a message of servitude to enslaved Africans.

British colonists created the Slave Bible, a truncated version of the bible, by removing portions, and in some cases, entire books out from it for the fear that it would encourage insurgency among enslaved Africans.

On average, a typical standard Bible edition (Roman Catholic-66 books, Protestant-77 books& Eastern Orthodox-78 books), contains roughly 72.3 books while the Slave Bible contains only 14 books, an approximately 81% reduction. The Slave Bible was published in London in 1807 and used by British missionaries to convert and manipulate enslaved Africans about Christianity while



inculcating obedience and safeguarding the slavery institutions throughout their colonies.

The Slave Bible is the openly recorded history of abuse and manipulation of religion in the modern era. It provides insight into how the Slave Bible performed a vital role in race relations (racism), discrimination, and economic gains.

Unfortunately, Africans are so embedded in these foreign religions that they failed to understand their discriminatory, chauvinistic, and detrimental nature. Thus, Africans refused to develop, refine, make our Gods palatable, and sell it to the world like other religions.

Today in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, they are doomed to the forces of foreign gods; Christians against Muslims, fighting over religious hypothesis, an abstraction of ideas. Currently, in Nigeria, ninety-nine percent worship foreign gods, only one percent worship their original Gods. Nigeria is not the only country in Africa susceptible or prone to this religious calamity and malady.

Africans are prisoners of sorrows and lamentations. They have relegated what they should do to God when God is an exaggerated worship of the cultural self. God

is as the wind, which touches everything. Africans failed to conquer, master, and nurture their natural environments. Instead, they solely rely on divine intervention in their survival.

The Bible and the Quran is a collection of religiously authoritative texts or books, a documentary hypothesis. A hypothesis is an assumption or concession for an unexplained occurrence that does not fit into current accepted scientific theory. In other words, the hypothesis implies insufficient evidence to provide more than a tentative explanation.

Religion has no place in any business equation. In Africa today, research and development along with common sense have been relegated to divine intervention. Africans must understand that religion is about morality and ethics, while science is about the natural order of things or nature.

Hence, religion and science are mutually exclusive. Likewise, wishes and hopes are not business strategies, while denial is not a life strategy. Religions can hardly fit into the generalized theoretical categories employed by social scientists, a contestable character of religions.

Africans are slaves to their colonial masters who govern them, and the religions they gave them, manages their conscience. Hence, Africans will continue to be under the control of their colonial master's bondage.

The danger to the development of Africa is in the hands of the so-called educated Africans, education without interrogation. They are the architects of Africa's failures due to their religious zealotry. Even though we are defined by courage and redeemed by character rather than religion, Africans tend to be more religious than the foreigners that introduced these doctrines to them. They have no common sense approach to religion and development.

Africa is the only continent where we do not value and worship our Gods. Research and studies indicated that the mother tongue (thinking language) is the best instructional language, an enabler that facilitates better learning, understanding, and transfer of knowledge. Africa is the single continent where we use foreign languages as lingua franca, both in our institutions of learning and business.

Yet, Africans cherished the inviolability of language, because the most fundamental aspect of human identity is their language and name, a foundational part of the conscious self. Hence, Africans considered our names with meanings as a powerful concept of self-identity, and self-esteem which should be honored.

The energies and creativities Africans infused to foster foreign religions, and languages, if channeled to develop African Gods and languages, it will catapult Africa to the pinnacle of developments. And, Africans will be respected around the world. This creative tenaciousness will also lead to further developments within the continent, particularly in Nigeria.

According to Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Benin, and Togo proverb, until the lion tells the story of the hunt, the tales always glorify the hunter.

Until Africans develop and make their Gods palatable, think, and teach in their mother tongues, speak in one voice, break the border barriers both mentally and physically, Africans will never have peace or harmony, not anytime soon.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GC stresses strict compliance in extractive sector

The Officer-In-Charge of the Governance Commission, Commissioner Elizabeth Dorkin, has called on all institutions, including

accountability in the governance of the sector. Compliance to LEITI regulatory framework brings several benefits to government and its people especially,

key in the management of the Liberia extractive industries and support efforts to enhance national development.

Addressing a recent policy dialogue in Monrovia on Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the Management of Extractive Industries to Enhance National Development in Liberia the OIC stressed that the Governance Commission is Liberia's premium policy making institution, established by Legislative Act with mandates to promote good governance by advising, designing and formulating appropriate policies and institutional arrangements and frameworks required for achieving good governance.

The Commission will therefore, in keeping with its mandate continue to engage all relevant institutions and stakeholders to adhere to good governance principles aimed at improving the EITI governance system.

She said, the just-ended dialogue centered on existing governance frameworks and how the extractive institutions can be further



Officer-In-Charge Elizabeth Dorkin

government offices involved in the management of the extractive industry to fully comply with regulations setup to promote transparency and

revenues generation which support development and management of the environment. Compliance is also translated in good governance behaviors, which is

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Maryland joins World Pharmacists Day celebration

By Patrick N. Mensah

Members of the Maryland County Pharmacist Team have celebrated World Pharmacists Day in Harper City, Maryland County, amid protests by health workers here in demand of incentives and better conditions of work

The celebration held in Maryland over the weekend on the theme "Transforming Global Health" brought together health workers, local officials, and students, among others.

Speaking on a community radio station in Harper City, Pharmacist George S. Dokie said World Pharmacists Day is always set aside by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to celebrate pharmacists around the world for their work.

According to him, the day is aimed at promoting and transforming people lives through quality health care.

Mr. Dokie noted that Pharmacists play a major role in the health sector, so they deserve special attention.

He said Pharmacists give patients prescriptions for drugs, working along with

doctors, nurses and Physician Assistants to help reduce pressure they face at health facilities.

Mr. Dokie noted the role of Liberia's pharmaceutical sector can't be over emphasized due to their contribution to the health sector of Liberia.

He lauded pharmacists for working with patients in making show they take their medication properly.

"Let me commend all of our

pharmacists across the country for the times and efforts showing always at the health sectors; those efforts and times can't be paid for, it is all about encouragement", he said.

He lamented though there are several calls by health workers across the country for salaries payments but that alone can't stop the dreams

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Extend VR Update

-Blind, physically-challenge citizens appeal to NEC

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Scores of physically-challenged citizens Lower Montserrado County are calling on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to extend the VR update exercise to enable Liberians living with disabilities register to participate in the pending 08 December special senatorial election.

Making the call over the weekend in Mount Barclay, Montserrado County, the President of the M. B. Disables Union, Jefferson Thomas, disclosed that the union has observed that most Liberians living with disabilities have not replaced their voter's cards.

According to him, there are huge numbers of physically-challenged persons in their

who are yet to receive replacement cards, something he said, should claim the attention of the National Elections Commission (NEC).

He noted that participation of physically-challenged and visually-impaired citizens in the NEC VR update exercise should be considered by the commission to avoid confusion during the pending senatorial election.

He emphasized persons with disabilities are very key to the electoral process in the country because of their status and physical conditions unlike their counterparts who are physically strong and can see and move by themselves if elections were held today.

The appeal by Thomas was



vicinity and other parts of Montserrado County who could not get their cards due to serious constrains.

He named some of the constrains as refusal of people who supposed to take them to the VR update centers for registration because they themselves have to go to replace their lost voter's cards.

Mr. Thomas disclosed that those in such category include blind and handicapped persons whose movement is restricted by their conditions.

Thomas said few days ago, he was contacted by some members of the union in Bentol City, Harrisburg and Mount Coffey respectively, in Lower Montserrado County

buttressed by several physically-challenged persons, including Kollie Kessessly, Morlu Gbessay and Miama Gboto, who say most of them have not received their replacement cards in preparation for the December polls due to their plight or relocation though they voted in the 2017 presidential elections.

"We have some of our colleagues in other counties who have also complained they have not received their replacement voter's cards due to what they described as long distances that they have to cover to reach places they registered and voted. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LMC conducts forum on Forest Governance

The Liberia Media Center (LMC) with support from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through the Multi-Stakeholders Forest Governance Project (MFGAP) has concluded a one-day editors' forum to build a leading network of editors from the print and electronic news organizations throughout Liberia.

The editors' forum, held last Friday, September 18, 2020 at the Corina Hotel in Monrovia, was attended by several editors from both the print and electronic media.

It focused on Forest Governance within the context of the Voluntary Partner Agreement (VPA) between the European Union (EU) and Liberia aimed at building upon a commitment to improve reportage around the forest sector and to promote editorial

Mr. Coffey pointed out that there are concerns in the public that journalists of the local media are under reporting the forest sector and other developmental initiatives, saying most of their reportage is on politics.

He said the media can influence good forest governances that could engender best practices as provided for in the VPA, provided reporters and editors make those issues media agenda items.

For his part, the HPA representative, Atty. Kamara implored forest trained journalists to accomplish the tasks for which they were trained, adding that it does not need special forest reporting training in colleges and universities to equip journalists to effectively create awareness amongst the people on forest preservation and governance.

Kamara noted that it is

operations goes to the government's consolidated account.

He disclosed that the key in forestry is "sustainable forest management" and added that 30% of the Liberian forest by law is put aside for conservation, explaining that 1.2 million hectares of the forest is off limit to human activities.

Mr. Doyen said 400, 000 hectares of the forest is protected and pointed out that there are three national parks, adding "All of these are done to promote environmental stability in the country."

Speaking about economic stability of the forest, Doyen said the Voluntary Partnership Agreement signed between Liberia and the EU in 2011, along with other laws, intends to protect the use of the forest, and therefore focus on forest governance. "Each log



excellence.

Addressing the forum, panelists called on journalists to also focus on development stories in their reportage.

Press Union of Liberia's (PUL) President Charles Coffey; Heritage Partners and Associate (HPA) representative Atty. Sagie F. Kamara, Sr.; and the Forestry Development Agency (FDA) Managing Director C. Mike Doyen, said the forest sector of Liberia needs attention in the reportage of the media.

The three panelists observed that the media is focused more on politics than development.

Mounting the podium, PUL President Coffey called on journalists to begin to set the agenda for forest governance and best practices in the country that will create awareness amongst the people from destroying Liberian wildlife and nature.

difficult to achieve the kind of specialization that some journalists may want to shift their trend of reporting from politics to other spheres of societal engagements. He said researching the Constitution and the laws in relation to the sector and the VPA will generate the appropriate awareness of forest governance amongst the citizenry of the country. The VPA, he said, is part of the international laws Liberia is signatory to.

He implored journalists to take advantage of the Freedom of Information Act to enhance their reportage of forest governance and other development stories.

At the same time, FDA Managing Director Mike Doyen historicized the establishment of the Forestry Development Authority and disclosed that the FDA does not have autonomy, saying that funds generated by the institution from its

extracted from the forest is from a source," he explained, adding "... at least 50% of the logs cut from the Liberian forest stays in the country in the form of taxes."

He also intimated that traditional forests containing sacred places are protected from harvesting, but clarified that logging in these forest sources is done based on negotiation.

Regarding "livelihood versus forest protection," the FDA boss said the FDA is moving forward with its green economy program and has conducted a study from which data obtained will be used to monitor deforestation and the health of the Liberian forest, as well as eco-tourism development in the country, etc.

He noted that Liberia is moving from wildlife hunting to a country that respects animals' rights.

Police interrogate man

Starts from back page

recently in Maryland County by hanging, after he accused his 50-year-old wife of involvement in extra marital affairs.

The late ZaahSwen was discovered hanging on a rope tied around his neck in front of his resident in Zone 10B Scottville Community in

love affairs with someone at their charcoal mining site, though she denied.

They disclosed there was a prolonged conflict between the couple prior to discovery of the late Swen's lifeless body hanging on a rope, adding that family members, including community residents made



Plebeo District (#2) Maryland County, southeast Liberia.

Community sources narrated that prior to the incident at 3A.M. Saturday, 19 September the late Swen had repeatedly accused his widow Helena Doe, 50, of being in

several interventions, but the case of Mother Helena allegedly loving to a man, who helped her late husband in burning charcoal was not properly settled up to him taking his own life allegedly. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Besides, he indicated that there are policies in place against pit-sawing, and for cut-off residue regulation. The policies, he maintained, would create more jobs in the sector.

"We have taken significant steps towards forest governance and have made enormous progress in the sector, but there are still challenges," Mr. Doyen concluded.

Meanwhile, a staff at the LMC, Mr. Bill Jarkloh, who moderated the forum, said the occasion was intended to help editors of media institutions associated with the MFGAP to identify newsroom

innovations, trends, tools and practices.

By this, he said participants will share intelligence through their interactions, networking events, research and editorial policies.

For his part, the Project Coordinator for MFGAP at the LMC, Mr. Francis S. Brewer disclosed that the Forum followed the training of 52 Liberian journalists who benefitted from two rounds of training that focused on basic facts about the VPA and other legal frameworks that govern the forest sector and investigative reporting. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

Cité dans le scandale de vente illégale de passeports, le ministre Findley réagit et accuse

Accusé par son adversaire d'être entièrement responsable de la vente de passeports libériens à des étrangers, l'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères, Gbehzohngar Milton Findley, a réagi.

Le gouvernement libérien a récemment ouvert une enquête dans cet énième imbroglio qui concerne cette fois-ci la vente des passeports

libériens à des étrangers, quelques jours après que le gouvernement américain a interdit l'ancien directeur des passeports Andrew Wonplo et sa famille d'accès au territoire américain pour des allégations de corruption.

Le gouvernement libérien avait initialement abandonné les accusations contre Wonplo, mais il y a deux semaines, un mandat d'arrêt a été émis contre lui et plusieurs autres

personnes.

Wonplo, pour se défendre, accuse de hauts responsables, dont notamment le président George Weah et des fonctionnaires du ministère des Affaires étrangères, d'être impliqués dans la délivrance desdits passeports à des étrangers.

Même le ministère de la Justice qui a initialement

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Cote d'Ivoire/3è mandat de Ouattara : La réaction claire obscure de l'ONU, ça craint

Le Représentant spécial du Secrétaire général et Chef du Bureau des Nations Unies (ONU) pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, a terminé ce dimanche 27 octobre 2020 sa mission pré-électorale, entamée le lundi 21 septembre à Abidjan.

Présidentielle : Voici ce que l'ONU a décidé au terme

de la mission pré-électorale de Mohamed Ibn Chambas

L'objectif de cette mission était de renouveler le soutien des Nations Unies pour l'organisation d'une élection présidentielle pacifique, inclusive, transparente et crédible en Côte d'Ivoire le 31 octobre prochain, et d'encourager les parties prenantes à œuvrer ensemble

en faveur de la paix et de la stabilité. Au cours de sa mission, le Représentant Spécial pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et le Sahel a été reçu en audience par le Président de la République de la Côte d'Ivoire, S.E.M Alassane Ouattara. Il s'est entretenu avec le Monsieur le Premier Ministre ainsi qu'avec les Ministres en charge de l'Administration, et celui en charge de la Sécurité et de la Protection Civile.

Le Représentant Spécial a également eu des séances de travail avec le Conseil Constitutionnel, la Commission Électorale Indépendante (CEI), le Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH), les candidats à l'élection présidentielle, les partis politiques, ainsi que Monsieur le Président de l'ex-Commission Dialogue, Vérité et Réconciliation et des organisations de la société civile. Il a aussi rencontré, le groupe informel des partenaires au développement, ainsi que l'équipe pays des Nations Unies.



La CPP traîne la commission électorale en justice

La Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), la coalition des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, a traîné la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) devant la Cour suprême, et exige la suspension du processus de mise à jour de la liste électorale.

Des militants de la CPP dirigée par le chef de file de l'opposition Alexander B. Cummings et des leaders politiques des partis membres ont pris d'assaut la cour du Temple de la justice, provoquant un affrontement avec les forces de l'ordre le weekend dernier.

Cette action en justice intervient au moment où le processus de mise à jour de la liste électorales en vue des élections sénatoriales de décembre 2020 est marqué par des irrégularités, dont la transhumance illégale des

se sont pas inscrits lors de la dernière inscription électorale en 2017 », a dit la plateforme de l'opposition.

« Pourtant », rappelle-t-elle, « L'intégrité de la liste électorale utilisée pour les élections présidentielle et législatives de 2017 a été contestée par le Parti de l'unité (UP) et le Parti de la liberté (LP) au lendemain du premier tour. Et la Cour Suprême, dans son verdict, a reconnu plusieurs irrégularités dans cette liste électorale et a ordonné à la NEC de procéder au nettoyage complet en consultation avec les partis politiques », a-t-elle rappelé.

« Mais c'est avec regret que la CPP constate qu'avec un mépris insensible des conséquences qui peuvent en découler la NEC a catégoriquement refusé de



électeurs en échange des miettes.

La CPP, qui est composée de l'ancien parti au pouvoir (Parti de l'Unité), du Congrès national alternatif, du Parti de la liberté et du Parti libérien, a mise en garde qu'il ne peut y avoir d'élection démocratique, libre, juste et transparente sans une liste électorale crédible.

Selon la CPP, au lieu de nettoyer la liste des électeurs, la NEC a, avec la complicité du gouvernement, unilatéralement entrepris la mise à jour de la liste électorale en mettant l'accent sur les Libériens en âge de voter, à savoir ceux qui ont atteint l'âge de 18 ans et au-dessus.

« La NEC s'est concentrée sur ceux qui ont déménagé d'un ancien bureau de vote à un autre, ceux qui ont perdu leur carte de vote et ceux qui ne

nettoyer cette liste électorale comme l'a ordonné la Cour suprême, et soutenu par le Sénat libérien, la Chambre des représentants et recommandé par la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO).

Selon la CPP, depuis l'affichage du fichier provisoire des électeurs le 12 juin 2017, le nombre total d'électeurs inscrits valides consultés dans la base de données était de 2045483 électeurs.

À partir de cette analyse, la CEDEAO a conclu qu'entre le moment de l'exposition du fichier et sa déclaration, un total de 138 146 électeurs a été ajouté à la liste électorale.

La CPP déplore qu'il n'y ait

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Français

Cité dans le scandale de vente illégale de

refusé de poursuivre Wonplo en abandonnant ainsi les charges est lui aussi soupçonné d'être impliqué dans cette affaire.

L'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères Findley, dans un communiqué de presse publié la semaine dernière, a nié toute implication dans cet énième grand scandale sous le régime Weah.

Au cours d'une conférence de presse dans le comté de Grand Bassa le dimanche 27 septembre, le ministre Findley a plutôt accusé son adversaire politique, le sénateur Karngar Lawrence, d'être un criminel pour avoir cru aux propos de Wonplo qui est actuellement en fuite.

Findley, qui dit ne rien à voir dans le scandale en dépit du fait qu'il soit ministre des Affaires étrangères, a fait valoir qu'à aucun moment, il n'a mandaté l'ancien directeur des passeports de délivrer des passeports à des étrangers.

Pourtant, à en croire le ministre, pour chaque passeport libérien délivré, « le demandeur passe par les canaux appropriés qui incluent une vérification dont l'objectif est d'établir la preuve de citoyenneté ».

« Le sénateur Karngar Lawrence qui a perdu le contrôle politique sur le comté de Grand Bassa, devrait s'excuser auprès des habitants et leur demander pardon pour n'avoir pas tenu ses promesses au cours des 8 dernières années, au lieu de m'accuser de distribuer des passeports à des étrangers », a-t-il dit.

Le ministre s'est toutefois dit prêt à se soumettre à toute enquête sur le scandale. Il a aussi nié l'implication du président Weah. Selon lui, il est totalement impossible pour le chef de l'Etat libérien de se rendre coupable d'une telle

affaire criminelle.

Récemment, la sénatrice Karnga Lawrence a écrit sur sa page Facebook que les allégations croissantes de vente criminelle de passeports diplomatiques libériens à des criminels et des terroristes internationaux sont graves et profondément inquiétantes.

« Ces allégations ont des implications profondes pour le pays, notamment compromettre l'image et la réputation internationales du Libéria, et met en danger tout Libérien détenant un passeport, y compris des fonctionnaires et des diplomates », a-t-elle dit.

« Les passeports sont liés à la sous-région ouest-africaine. Chaque passeport désigne son titulaire comme représentant l'espace plus large de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Vendre criminellement ces passeports, comme on le prétend, à des criminels et terroristes internationaux, c'est mettre en péril notre crédibilité au sein de la CEDEAO, et saper la position régionale et à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur. Et comme si les allégations n'étaient pas assez graves, l'espace public est inondé d'informations qui relient les plus hauts responsables du pays chargés de maintenir la bonne image du Libéria et de protéger la réputation internationale du pays - le cabinet du président et celui du ministre des Affaires étrangères », a-t-elle dénoncé.

« Fiers libériens, sénateurs et membres de la commission des affaires étrangères, j'espère que ces allégations qui tourbillonnent maintenant autour du président et de l'ancien ministre des affaires étrangères ne sont pas vraies. Parce que si elles sont avérées, elles auront terni notre image sur l'échiquier international, ce sera le plus grand embarras et la plus grande honte depuis que la guerre a mis notre nation à genoux », a-t-elle mis en garde.

La CPP traîne la commission

aucune preuve à ce jour que ces 138 146 électeurs supplémentaires ajoutés aient été rayés de la liste électorale. Elle a insisté que les conclusions de l'équipe technique déployée au Libéria par la CEDEAO ont clairement montré que la liste électorale de 2017 était défectueuse et ne pouvait pas constituer une base pour des élections libres, justes et crédibles.

La CPP a affirmé en outre que la seule conclusion

inéluable qu'il faut faire est que les 170 000 doublons présumés n'ont jamais été extraits de la liste électorale et y sont à ce jour.

Selon elle, si les 170 000 doublons présumés avaient été supprimés de la liste, le nombre total des électeurs inscrits serait de 2 012 956 et non de 2 183 629 électeurs, comme l'a indiqué la NEC sur sa liste électorale définitive le 11 septembre 2017.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Stephen S. Roach

L'étau se resserre sur le dollar

NEW HAVEN (CONN.) - Le dollar américain est désormais entré dans les premières phases de ce qui ressemble à une descente brutale. Le taux de change réel effectif (TCER) du dollar a chuté de 4,3 % au cours des quatre mois échus à la fin août. La baisse est plus vive encore lorsqu'on la mesure à l'aune des autres indices, mais le TCER est celui qui importe le plus pour le commerce, la compétitivité, l'inflation et la politique monétaire.

Certes, ce récent recul n'inverse que partiellement le bond de 7 % survenu entre le mois de février et le mois d'avril. Durant cette période, le dollar a bénéficié d'une fuite vers les placements sûrs suite à l'arrêt soudain de l'économie mondiale et des marchés financiers face aux mesures de confinement prises pour lutter contre la diffusion du Covid-19. Même si l'on tient compte de sa récente et relativement modeste correction, le billet vert demeure la devise la plus surévaluée du monde, avec un TCER supérieur de 34 % à son plancher de juillet 2011.

Je continue de penser que cet indice large peut plonger de 35 % d'ici la fin de l'année 2021. Cela traduit trois considérations : la détérioration rapide des équilibres macroéconomiques pour les États-Unis, l'ascendant crédible que prennent l'euro et le renminbi comme solutions de substitution durables, et la fin de cette aura particulière de l'exceptionnalisme américain, qui aura donné au dollar la résistance du téflon pendant presque toute la période qui a suivi la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Le premier facteur - l'exacerbation des déséquilibres de l'Amérique - joue aujourd'hui en temps réel et avec d'autant plus de force. La conjonction d'une érosion sans précédent de l'épargne intérieure et du déficit des paiements courants - dont la froide arithmétique des égalités comptables montre combien elles sont inséparables - apparaît comme rien moins qu'impressionnante.

Le taux d'épargne nationale nette, qui mesure l'épargne cumulée, déduction faite de l'amortissement, des entreprises, des ménages et du secteur public, est passé en territoire négatif, à - 1 %, au deuxième trimestre 2020. Ce n'était pas arrivé depuis la crise de 2008-2009, lorsque l'épargne nationale nette est tombée en territoire négatif pour neuf trimestres consécutifs, avec une moyenne de - 1,7 % du deuxième trimestre de l'année 2008 au deuxième trimestre de l'année 2010.

Mais le point le plus important de cette évolution tient à la vitesse de l'effondrement. Avec - 1 % au deuxième trimestre, le taux d'épargne nette enregistre une chute totale de 3,9 points de pourcentage si l'on considère le niveau d'avant la crise du Covid-19, c'est-à-dire 2,9 % au premier trimestre. C'est, de loin, la baisse la plus brutale de l'épargne intérieure jamais enregistrée depuis 1947.

Ce qui a déclenché cet effondrement sans précédent de l'épargne intérieure n'est pas un secret. Le Covid-19 a provoqué une envolée temporaire de l'épargne individuelle qui a été plus que contrebalancée par une croissance record du déficit budgétaire fédéral. La loi Cares (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) instituait le versement d'un chèque d'assistance de 1 200 dollars à la plupart des Américains ainsi qu'une augmentation importante des allocations d'assurance chômage, mesures qui ont toutes deux fortement renforcé le taux d'épargne individuelle, ayant atteint en avril le chiffre sans précédent de 33,7 %. Passé l'effet de ces injections uniques, le taux d'épargne individuelle est rapidement redescendu à 17,8 % en juillet - un niveau encore relativement élevé. Il est censé tomber plus bas encore, consécutivement à l'expiration récente de l'extension des allocations chômage.

Une part largement compensée toutefois par l'accroissement annualisé de 4 500 milliards de dollars

du déficit fédéral au deuxième trimestre 2020 (calculé d'après les taux d'épargne nette), passé à 5 700 milliards, hausse qui submerge celle des 3 100 milliards de l'épargne individuelle sur la même période. Si l'on prend en compte la diminution probablement brutale, dans les mois à venir, de l'épargne individuelle et l'explosion du déficit budgétaire fédéral, qui devrait atteindre, selon les estimations du Bureau du budget du Congrès, 16 % du PIB pour l'année budgétaire en cours, le plongeon de l'épargne intérieure nette au cours du deuxième trimestre 2020 n'est que portion congrue par rapport à ce qui se profile.

Cela va déclencher un effondrement de la balance des paiements courants des États-Unis. Dépourvus d'épargne et cherchant à investir et à croître, les États-Unis vont devoir importer de l'extérieur l'épargne excédentaire et enregistrer des déficits extérieurs énormes pour attirer les capitaux étrangers. Encore une fois, il ne s'agit pas là d'une théorie économique ésotérique, mais tout simplement des égalités comptables de la balance des paiements.

La validité de cette corrélation s'est trouvée, à vrai dire, confirmée par la publication récente des statistiques des transactions internationales des États-Unis pour le deuxième trimestre 2020. Traduisant la chute de l'épargne intérieure, le déficit de la balance des paiements courants s'est creusé à 3,5 % du PIB, le pire déficit enregistré depuis les 4,3 % du quatrième trimestre 2008, durant la crise financière mondiale.

À l'instar de l'effondrement de l'épargne, l'évolution des paiements courants s'oriente vers un dénouement tout aussi féroce. Relativement aux 2,1 % du PIB enregistrés par le déficit de la balance des paiements courants au cours du premier trimestre 2020, le creusement de 1,4 point de pourcentage au cours du deuxième trimestre représente la plus forte détérioration trimestrielle jamais enregistrée depuis qu'existent ces statistiques, c'est-à-dire depuis 1960.

Avec un taux d'épargne intérieure voué aux grandes profondeurs - entre - 5 % et - 10 % du revenu national -, je m'attends sans qu'il n'y ait guère de doute possible à ce que le déficit de la balance des paiements courants dépasse son précédent record, à 6,3 % du PIB, enregistré pour quatrième trimestre 2005. Entraînés par la hausse explosive du déficit budgétaire fédéral, cette année et l'année prochaine, l'effondrement de l'épargne domestique et l'implosion des paiements courants devraient survenir à une vitesse proche de l'éclair.

La pression à la baisse exercée sur le dollar n'est pas seulement imputable à l'accélération des déséquilibres de l'épargne et de la balance des paiements courants. Le revirement stratégique de la Réserve fédérale apporte au mixte un nouvel ingrédient, et non le moindre. En se décidant pour une politique qui cible désormais l'inflation moyenne, la Fed envoie un message important : les taux d'intérêt nuls perdureront probablement plus longtemps que prévu, quels que soient par ailleurs les dépassements temporaires de la cible de 2 % de stabilité des prix.

Ce nouveau biais en faveur des facilités monétaires ferme assez nettement la porte à une autre option efficace - le réajustement à la hausse des taux d'intérêt - qui sert depuis longtemps à ralentir une chute de la monnaie dans la plupart des économies. À défaut, cette politique renforce encore la pression sur une baisse du dollar comme soupape de sûreté à la détérioration rapide des équilibres macroéconomiques de l'Amérique.

En somme, l'étau se resserre sur un dollar toujours surévalué. L'épargne intérieure chute désormais comme jamais auparavant, et la balance des paiements lui emboîte le pas. N'attendons pas de la Fed, plus préoccupée de soutenir les marchés d'actions et d'obligations que de peser contre l'inflation, qu'elle sauve la mise. La chute du dollar ne fait que commencer.

GIYLS Liberia ends leadership training

By Lewis S. Teh

Global Innovation Youth Leadership Summit or (GIYLS) Liberia Chapter has ended daylong leadership training for dozens of young people in Paynesville City, outside Monrovia.

GIYLS is an international nonprofit community-based organization that aims to promote and create ideas for social and entrepreneurial changes for young people and students in the country.

GIYLS Liberia Ambassador Alfred Kollie said the leadership training which focuses on personal development in leadership,

According to Amb. Kollie, the organization also envisions to increasing opportunities in low-to-middle income countries around the globe, saying, "We need you to be a part of our community, and we know that once you are in, you will play a huge role."

He said in order to succeed in any organization, leaders should have basic skills and knowledge about leadership and the institution they serve.

"As we embark on this journey, I urge all of us to engage in to volunteerism and serve as ambassadors of positive change that will transform our lives and society by wisely using the skills

love, peace and joy in the human spirit to encourage others who have already given up in life."

Meanwhile, the Founder and Executive Director of the Young African Leadership Development Institute, Young Leaders of Africa YOLEAF Network, Ambassador Clarence H. Cole urged young people to create the passion for leadership in making Liberia a better place.

He urged young people to pledge commitment to their visions and dreams in order to develop personal leadership style by being passionate, seeking knowledge and volunteering their services.



leadership qualities and building network is intended to bring together young people who have expressed interest in working GIYLS-Liberia Chapter and to deepen their leadership skills, personal development and team building knowledge as well as foster active participation.

He said GIYLS is focus on entrepreneurship, education, cultural, religious tolerance, anti-media falsehood, poverty eradication, innovative and sustainable ideas on economic stability, and more in low to middle income countries.

attained here today", he said.

According to him, it's about time Liberians offer their resources, time, energy and passion for their respective communities, Country and the world by large by helping to improve living conditions of young people and avoid doing things that would damage them as future leaders.

He encouraged participants to volunteer their services in giving back by positively making difference to people around and providing opportunities for young people particularly.

"At GIYLS Liberia Chapter, let us cultivate the spirit of volunteerism to foster greater

Speaking on behalf of the participants, one of the beneficiaries of the training, Cassandra Walker, thanked the organization for the opportunity to form part of the leadership.

"Let me first of all thank you all, the participants and especially the speakers despite their busy schedule found time to grace this occasion, I also like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Alfred Kollie for his valuable contribution in making this training a success."

Maryland joins

Cont'd from page 6



and efforts being exerted by pharmacists.

However, he called on pharmacists and health workers across the country to exercise patience in serving the public.

Meanwhile, in a recent interview with Maryland County former Senator John A. Ballout, who is seeking reelection said, government should stop threatening health workers with dismissal and instead, find solutions to their problems.

"We need them in the hospitals, not in the streets. We need to engage them and find a compromise instead of threatening them with dismissal," Ballout said.

Having frowned on the government's action, he however, cautioned health workers to understand that the government is currently faced with lots of challenges, so they need to find a compromise with the authorities.

"At the same, these health workers must understand that we have a government that is faced with lots of challenges, which we will have to overcome together as people. They cannot continue to stay in the street when people are dying in the hospital. So, whatever offer the

government has made, let them keep it up and if there is something to add on it, let them do it. Their cause is just but they have to keep working and keep talking. It's their rights and no one can take it from them," Mr. Ballout added.

He acknowledged that it is health worker's right to protest, but they should take advantage of dialogue and see how they could build on it to have the government meets some of their demands.


"This, too, will not happen overnight and they will not get everything they want and the government will not threaten them with dismissal because they cannot employ these people overnight. The mass dismissal is out of the question and it is wrong."

Mr. Ballout further said both sides need to come in the middle and find a solution since this is a Liberian problem, especially when they are the ones in the frontline, battling the coronavirus pandemic.

The former senator's recent comment comes in the wake of ongoing actions by health workers across the Country, including the Maryland County Health Team. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

KFS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA)
MONTSERRADO COUNTY)



IN THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW
MONTSERRADO COUNTY SITTING IN ITS
JUNE TERM, A.D. 2020

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: J. KENNEDY PEABODY RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

IN RE: MR. ARTHUR SATURDAY GBORPLAY, BY AND
AND THRU HIS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT, WILSON
GBORPLAY OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA,
LIBERIA.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

MRS. VENUS M. GBORPLAY, ALSO OF THE
CITY OF MONROVIA, LIBERIA
.....DEFENDANT

**ACTION OF DIVORCE FOR INCOMPATIBILITY
OF TEMPER**

WRIT OF RE-SUMMONS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO THE SHERIFF/DEPUTY SHERIFF OF MONSERRADO COUNTY,
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, G R E E T I N G:

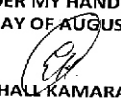
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMON THE ABOVE NAMED
RESPONDENT(S)/DEFENDANT(S) AS YOU WERE BEFORE COMMANDED TO SUMMON THE
ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT(S)/DEFENDANT(S), TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SIXTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT COURT, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, SITTING IN ITS JUNE TERM,
A.D. 2020, SAME BEING THE 15TH DAY OF JUNE, A. D. 2020, AT THE HOUR 10:00A.M.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO SUMMONS THE DEFENDANT(S) HEREIN TO FILE THEIR
RETURNS TO THE PETITIONER'S PETITION, ON OR BEFORE THE 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D.
2020, THAT UPON THEIR FAILURE TO APPEAR, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE RENDERED
AGAINST THEM.

MEANWHILE, YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGINAL WRIT OF SUMMONS TO MY OFFICE ON/OR
BEFORE THE 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D. 2020, WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON
THE BACK OF THE ORIGINAL AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

COURT'S SEAL

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT
THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, A.D. 2020.


ELLEN HALL KAMARA
CLERK OF COURT

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Brink of crisis

By Othello B. Garblah

The West African nation of Liberia appears to be on the brink of another round of crisis ahead of a crucial senatorial election on December 8, 2020 if care is not taken.

There are at least 15 senatorial seats up for grab this December with Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Bomi Counties being the hotly contested between the ruling party of former football star George Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and candidates of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

The CPP is comprised of former ruling Unity Party (UP, Alternative National Congress (ANC, Liberty Party (LP) and All Liberian Party (ALP).

Already, there have been series of reported violent clashes between supporters of the CDC candidate

the Liberty Party near the Catholic Junction in Monrovia.

As if that was not enough, on Sunday September 27, 2020 unknown men attacked the home of Representative Yekeh Kolubah, a member of the opposition Alternative National Congress and vandalized his home.

The ANC, which Rep. Kolubah represents in the House of Representatives on Monday issued a statement condemning the attack and describing it as state sponsor and that such acts only demonstrates that members of the opposition have no protection under Liberian laws.

"This is unacceptable and counterproductive to the maintenance of peace and tranquility for the benefit of the people of Liberia," the statement added.

"We therefore call on all well-meaning Liberians, leaders and members of other political parties, civil society organizations, and our

place the man living and he can be putting his mouth on the president's Y'all must unroof it!" Yekeh alleges quoting Koijee to have instructed.

"So my security called me, I decided to leave to come on the Old Road. When I came on the Old Road...when the people got to know I was on the Old Road, I saw my former security Keita, I got recording ... if the independent people can investigate this case, I can give them evidence to prove that the police facilitated the people in my place.

"The police saw Keita leading troop to damage my property. I got evidence. I cannot give it to the police, I cannot give it to the Justice Ministry," he continues.

"The people destroyed my zinc, destroyed my cars, went in my office, you know my office is side my place, they burst everything, carried the television in my staff office. They carried everything from



Representative Thomas Fallah on one hand and that of the CPP incumbent Senator Darius Dillon on another in Montserrado.

In Bomi, where former House Speaker Alex Tyler and Rep. Edwin Snowe are fighting to unseat incumbent Sen. Sando Johnson, violent clashes erupted there days after supporters of Rep. Fallah and Sen. Dillon were engaged in a stone throwing battle that left some people wounded.

On Friday September 25, 2020, hours after the CPP filed its motion before the Supreme Court seeking the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus against the National Elections Commission and the ruling CDC, to halt the Voters' Roll update process, there were reported clashes between the police and partisans of the CPP at the Headquarters of

international partners (representatives of UN, AU, ECOWAS, EU and US government) that have worked tirelessly to secure the fragile peace in Liberia to impress upon the CDC-led government to stop these acts of political violence," the ANC said while calling for the conduct of full independent investigation of the situation and put the Liberian government on notice that it will bear full responsibility for any breakdown of the peace.

In an interview on Monday Rep. Kolubah alleged that the men involved were spotted with Monrovia City Major Jefferson Koijee earlier.

He claims that his security had earlier called to inform him that Koijee had come to open a market hall just after his Old Road residence on Sunday.

"According to my security, when he was passing, somebody said oh, here's Yekeh's house here. He said oh, that this dirty

there and damaged everything" Rep. Kolubah added.

Authorities at the Liberian National Police have since issued a statement saying they have arrested 14 persons in connection to the vandalizing of Rep. Kolubah's home, even though according to the lawmaker he had not been called by the police.

"So the issue is that I have not been called by any police. The same thing happened when my former security came here when the citizens arrested them and turned them over to the police, the police said they released them because they called me, I didn't go there," Kolubah says.

"We need to stop this thing. This country [is] going nowhere with this kind of attitude. This country is going nowhere with these kinds of attitudes. You need to see

GC stresses strict

Cont'd from page 6

strengthened to ensure transparency and good governance in the management of the industries and to boost more revenues for development.

She expressed profound thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Governance Commission to stakeholders in the extractive industries, government and non-government actors as well as international partners, and the general public for their turnout and encouraged all to continue the policy engagement processes, noting the dialogue is the beginning of a new policy initiative towards improving Liberia's EITI framework that covers the mining, timber, agriculture, oil and gas sectors.

She said, the commission is highly impressed with the level of cooperation received in identifying the problems faced by the extractive industry. According to the Commissioner, the various presenters outlined numbers of policy and management problems that the commission is going to emphasize in its policy recommendation to government to improve the overall governance system of the sector.

Liberia joined the EITI regime in 2008, becoming its 14th member. The EITI, is the global standard to promote an

open and accountable management of natural resources. This framework is guided by EITI standard and requires the disclosure of information along the extractive industry value chain from the point of extraction, to how revenue makes its way through the government and how it contributes to the economy and benefits the public.

Article 4(b) of the LEITI Act of 2009, requires all extractive companies, Government's ministries and agencies to disclose, at least once every year, the data of all payments made and revenues received relating to the extraction of Liberia's forest and mineral resources. By doing so, the EITI seeks to strengthen public and corporate governance, promote understanding of natural resource management.

The Commissioner also disclosed that the commission is making all efforts in the near future to hold a policy dialogue on substance abuse and its implications on the country's youthful population. The dialogue will bring relevant stakeholders together to study cause(s) of drug abuse and proffer workable recommendations through policy measures to government to find a lasting solution.

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how properties, people's properties were damaged here, you understand what I'm saying? You need to come and see," he laments.

Mr. Kolubah says since the incident, the police have not called him, challenging them to show the number they used to call him so that the conversation can be traced through call log.

He also denies claims by the police that his home was attacked due to an alleged land conflict he has with one Mr. Kollie.

"Look, Kollie and myself do not have a land issue; this is not about land," he says, claiming that when things happen, the police try to find means to justify why the people should behave the way they behaved.

Meanwhile, authorities say at least (14) persons are said to be facing Police investigation involving the violent incident but claimed instead of an attack, it was an incident between Rep. Kolubah and one Morlu Kollie which resulted to properties damage.

The police listed those arrested as Chris B. Andison 25 yrs, Rebecca Williams 32yrs, Mohammed Kromah 41yrs, Kelvin Fahnbuilleh 41yrs Daniel Dukuly 26yrs, Nathan Gueh 27yrs, and Lassana S. Kamara.

Others are: Lincoln Brooks 27yrs, Daniel Boikai 28yrs, Siafa S. Kamara 23 yrs, Michel Myers 20yrs, Alison Zaza 34yrs, Aaron Kollie 33yrs and Paul Geekpain 21yrs.

Police interrogate man for killing girlfriend



(L-R) Suspect Melvin Chea and the corpse of his butchered girlfriend, Florence Jullue

Police in Grand Gedeh County are investigating 34-year-old Melvin Chea for allegedly killing his pregnant girlfriend, Florence Jullue over jealousy, using a shovel. Suspect Chea was reportedly arrested in neighboring Ivory Coast, where he had escaped after committing the act on 20

September in Grand Gedeh, Liberia. According to correspondent in the country, the couples have had series of quarrels prior to the incident. The suspect allegedly sliced the victim's throat with a shovel while she was in bed sleeping and then escaped to the neighboring country. The crime happened in Car

Center community, Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County. The late Florence Jullue hailed from Gbarzon District, Grand Gedeh County. Domestic violence over suspected unfaithfulness in relationships are widespread across Liberia with a 53-year-old man taking his own life

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Ten positive in latest Premier League COVID-19 tests

The Premier League said on Monday that 10 people had returned positive results in its latest round of COVID-19 tests conducted on players and staff last week, the highest number of cases in a single round since the new season began this month. The league said the individuals who had tested positive for the virus would now self-isolate for 10 days. "The Premier League can today confirm that between

Monday 21 September and Sunday 27 September, 1,595 players and club staff were tested for COVID-19. Of these, there were 10 new positive tests," the Premier League said in a statement <https://www.premierleague.com/news/1814863>. A total of 20 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in four rounds of testing since the new campaign began on Sept. 12. Last week, West Ham United manager David Moyes and



players Issa Diop and Josh Cullen tested positive for the virus. Premier League clubs recorded 10 positive cases of coronavirus in the latest round of testing. The confirmed cases came from a total of 1,595 players and staff tested between September 21 and September 27. It is the highest number of positive results for a single week within the 2020-21 season and an increase of seven from the last week's tests.

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