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Continental News

S Africa issues warrant for millionaire preacher

South Africa has issued an arrest warrant for controversial millionaire pastor Shepard Bushiri, who skipped bail and returned home to Malawi.

On Saturday he told his social media followers that he had left South Africa because he had received death threats.

The preacher, who was on bail and awaiting trial for money laundering and fraud, had previously said he wanted to clear his name.

It is not clear how or when Mr Bushiri left South Africa. In an interview with the BBC, Mr Bushiri refused to reveal how he escaped.

But the BBC's Nomsa Maseko in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe, reports that one possibility being considered is that he and his wife Mary were smuggled out by a sophisticated syndicate which specialises in taking stolen cars from South Africa to Malawi.

There have also been suggestions in the South African press that he was smuggled out in Malawi's presidential jet - something which has been denied by the authorities in both



Preacher Shepherd Bushiri skipped bail in South Africa and turned up in Malawi

countries. Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera was in South Africa on a state visit last week, and there has been speculation in South Africa that a member of his entourage had aided Mr Bushiri's escape.

This has been denied by officials in both Malawi and South Africa, but a diplomatic row is brewing.

Malawi's foreign minister told the BBC that he thought the South African authorities suspected the Malawians were trying to smuggle out the

controversial preacher.

"When we were coming to Malawi leaving South Africa, we were exposed to stringent checks. It is just now that we are beginning to realise that maybe there was a suspicion that we were trying to smuggle Bushiri out of South Africa," Malawi's foreign minister Eisenhower Mkaka told the BBC's Nomsa Maseko on Saturday.

On Monday morning he then complained, very publicly, on Twitter about the

seven-hour delay to the president's journey, which included "vague security reasons" for thorough checks of the presidential plane. He noted that the South African authorities had categorically stated that Mr Bushiri had not escaped on the presidential plane.

But he described South Africa's treatment of President Chakwera as "improper". Mr Bushiri has been described as one of the richest religious leaders in Africa.

He claims to have cured people of HIV, made the blind see, changed the fortunes of the impoverished and, on at least one occasion, appeared to walk on air, although none

of these claims have been scientifically proven. He grew up in Mzuzu, a city in northern Malawi and moved to Pretoria in South Africa where he leads his church - the Enlightened Christian Gathering.

He is so popular that he has been known to fill sports stadiums with followers.

But he has also been accused of preying on poor people, desperate to improve their lives, by selling merchandise including "miracle oil".

The authorities in Botswana shut down his church after it claimed that money could be summoned out of nothing, which contravened financial regulations. BBC

Kenya doctors' fury over Covid-19 deaths



The union wants the government to provide all healthcare workers with PPE and comprehensive medical cover

The doctors' union in Kenya has accused the government of not protecting healthcare workers who are treating Covid-19 patients, after the deaths of four medical practitioners last week.

They all died in a 24-hour period, although it is unclear if they had contact with coronavirus patients.

The union, which is threatening strike action, wants all health workers to get PPE and comprehensive medical cover.

Kenya has reported 1,239 Covid-19 deaths since its first case in March.

Thirty healthcare workers, including 10 specialist doctors, have so far died from Covid-19, according to the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Doctors Union. "Our members have worked in extremely difficult,

draining, hazardous and injurious working environments," it said in a statement which issued a 21-day strike notice to the government. The union's acting secretary general, Mwachonda Chibanzi, said that they would not call off the strike until all their demands, which also include hiring more doctors, are met.

"We will be available for any engagement within those three weeks, failure to which we will have no choice but to rally our members for our nationwide strike," Mr Mwachonda said. Health Minister Mutahi Kagwe said that a meeting would be held on Monday to discuss the rise of Covid-19 infections in the country and among healthcare workers. There are 7,333 registered doctors in Kenya serving a 46 million population. BBC

Zuma seeks judge's recusal from state capture inquiry

South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has applied for Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo to recuse himself as the head of a commission investigating corruption during his presidency.

The inquiry, known as the

Zondo Commission, was established to investigate the "state capture" scandal during Mr Zuma's tenure as president.

The scandal revolves around allegations that the wealthy Gupta family, who are close friends of the former president, used their relationship to be unfairly awarded millions

worth of dollars of government contracts.

It is also alleged that they were able to influence political decisions, including the naming of ministers.

The former president and the Gupta family deny any wrongdoing.

Mr Zuma, who first testified before the commission last year and was due to return to give further evidence, has previously said that the inquiry is biased against him.

He claimed that the investigation was politically motivated and that the evidence against him was part of a witchhunt.

Mr Zondo at some stage suggested the inquiry would subpoena the former president when he announced that he would no longer willingly present himself.

Accusations of graft dogged Mr Zuma's presidency before he was forced to step down in February 2018. BBC



Jacob Zuma was president from 2009 to 2018

EDITORIAL

We need party agents in polling centers

COMMISSIONER BOAKAI DUKULY of the National Elections Commission stressed the need for party agents to be present at various polling centers across the country during the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election to monitor the polls. He made the call last Friday, 13 November at a Training of Trainers Workshop for political parties, alliances, coalition and Independent Candidates, ahead of the special senatorial election.

COMMISSIONER DUKULY FURTHER noted the role of political party agents during elections is critical to legitimacy of election results throughout the country, as their presence during voting significantly help in validating free, fair, credible and transparent election.

WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREED with the NEC Commissioner that candidates, parties, alliances and or coalitions vying in the December poll should do everything necessary in having their agents deployed at various polling centers across the country to monitor the elections. This is important to avoid wild or unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud that could undermine the process.

IN OTHER WORDS, claims of electoral malpractices coming from the pending elections should be backed by facts or documentary evidence to authenticate their validity.

OVER THE YEARS, we have observed repeatedly with great disappointment that most political parties and or Independent Candidates failed to send agents or representatives to polling centers to observe both casting and counting of ballots. Yet, they are the first to alarm about malpractices, which does not demonstrate good intentions.

WHILE THE NATIONAL Elections Commission is statutorily and constitutionally responsible to conduct free, fair and transparent elections in Liberia, the Commission is not perfect in all of its activities because they are carried out by human beings, who may err or who may what to do something selfish.

HOWEVER, IF AGENTS of various political parties, alliances, coalition and Independent Candidates are present to watch the polls, they may quickly raise concerns and bring them to NEC's attention for prompt redress.

COMMISSIONER DUKULY CHALLENGED party agents to be truthful and to report exactly what they see but also to be careful in handling complaints arising out of the elections. And this is very important because if complaints are not carefully handled by parties or candidates involved, they may have the propensity to spark violence, which is counterproductive in a democratic process.

THE SUPREME COURT of Liberia has assured Liberians that it would remain fully active during and after the polls, ready to receive and address all electoral complaints in the interest of justice and peace. Political actors should learn from late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, ex-leader of the opposition Liberty Party, who mustered courage and complained to the High Court during the 2017 presidential election. That was demonstration of leadership at its highest level!

EMULATING CLLR. BRUMSKINE'S style of politicking by using the law would surely go a long way in not just strengthening our growing democracy, but setting good example for our respective followers and zealous loyalists other than choosing means of violence.

COMMENTARY

By Laurence Tubiana

Europe and China Take the Climate Reins

While it might be tempting to dismiss the recent commitments by China and the European Union to achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions within the next few decades, doing so would be a mistake. Both powers recognize that the future belongs to those who move quickly and decisively toward decarbonization.

PARIS - In the space of just a week during this year's United Nations General Assembly, representatives of the world's largest single market and the world's second-largest economy each laid their climate cards on the table. One need not be a national-intelligence analyst to parse the results: the European Union and China have both committed to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions, thus creating common ground for much deeper cooperation.

To be sure, these commitments will need to be backed by concrete policies. But even words carry power. Neither Chinese President Xi Jinping nor European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is known for hyperbole or making major declarations without prior deliberation. If they set a concrete target, that means they have some sense of how to reach it.

Moreover, it is not as though it will be easy for the EU's 27 member states to agree on a more ambitious 2030 target that is in line with its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. European leaders are well aware of the many vested interests standing ready to oppose the new goal. Nor is it easy for China's leadership to announce that it will hit peak emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060. Reorienting an economy as large as China's is no small task. Yet both powers recognize that the reality of climate change makes an economic transition inevitable, and that whoever moves first will have a major competitive advantage for decades to come.

Overhauling an economy at the speed needed to reduce national emissions in line with the 2015 Paris climate agreement has never been done, and will require strong distributed leadership of a kind that is already coming into view. Countries, regions, cities, and major business and financial actors have all started to set net-zero targets of their own. Five years after the Paris accord was signed, these commitments indicate that a critical mass is building. Chinese and European leaders recognize that this is the moment to press ahead with concrete, detailed plans of action.

There is no "one size fits all" plan. Some plans are about technology changes, but many other transitions will require the ownership of citizens, a stronger emphasis on restoring nature, or a systemic approach. We can all learn from each other's experiences along the way.

For its part, China will need to map out a long-term strategy with specific milestones for reaching its 2060 goal. Having such a plan in place is necessary to ensure that short-term decision-making - from the next five-year plan to its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris agreement - is consistent with China's longer-term development trajectories. Otherwise, it is all too easy to continue kicking the same can down the road

indefinitely.

For China, key benchmarks include reaching peak CO2 emissions by 2025, setting more ambitious carbon intensity (70-75% reduction), non-fossil fuel targets, and setting targets for the reduction of domestic coal consumption. Whether China can end the construction and financing of new coal facilities - both at home and abroad through the Belt and Road Initiative - will be a crucial test.

Fortunately, aside from coal's destructive impact on the climate, it is no longer even economically viable. In 2019 alone, coal-power generation fell by 24% in the EU and by 16% in the United States, bringing it down to half the 2007 level. In China itself, nearly 60% of the country's enormous coal capacity is running at a loss, giving the government every reason to extend its global lead in solar and wind power, and to use its international reach to boost renewables beyond its borders.

Like China, the EU also will need to demonstrate how it can meet its long-term targets. The European Commission has determined that a 55% emissions reduction by 2030 - at least - will be necessary to reach its climate-neutrality target. It now must win the support of all 27 member states. The EU Parliament has asked for a 60% target. The sooner a deal is reached, the better the EU's chance to leapfrog ahead.

With the same goal in mind, China and the EU will have ample opportunity to deepen their cooperation. Both are confronting similar challenges when it comes to recovering from the COVID-19 crisis, elevating the role of sustainable finance, managing debt relief, and ensuring a just transition for workers in carbon-intensive and other soon-to-be impacted sectors. Cooperation need not be limited to the national level. Partnerships between cities, regions, provinces, and industries have already shown great promise.

If China and the EU do hit their next major benchmarks, the global implications will be broad and deep. China, the "factory of the world," was the single largest exporter and the third-largest importer in 2018. By setting cleaner standards and focusing an all-of-society effort on achieving its net-zero target, it can effect significant change on supply chains spanning Brazil, Australia, and Indonesia, as well as entire regions from Africa to the Middle East. Simply put, the world's governments will need to reevaluate their long-term economic plans through a green lens.

Coming on the tail of talks with the EU, China's announcement also reminds us of the vital role that diplomacy has to play. Even though the US has spent the last four years undermining multilateral institutions, international cooperation is still possible, and continues to offer profound benefits for those who engage in it.

The New Dawn
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O-PED

By Philippe Legrain

Populism After Trump

While more than 72 million Americans cast their votes for Donald Trump, over five million more chose Joe Biden - a 3.4 percentage-point difference. The implication is clear: right-wing populism is not dead, but it can be defeated.

LONDON - Before he was US president, Donald Trump built a reality-television persona on the catchphrase, "You're fired." Now, the American people have fired him. And Trump's defeat has also dealt a devastating blow to nationalist populists in Europe and elsewhere. Might it prove lethal?

The swamps that breed populist nationalism have not been drained. Too many people remain frustrated over their perceived (or anticipated) loss of economic and social status, and feel disregarded or maligned by establishment politicians. Wage stagnation, deindustrialization, and economic injustice continue to be serious challenges. Many are convinced that immigration and cultural change pose a threat to their safety and way of life. The COVID-19 crisis has compounded these anxieties.

The persistence of these fears and frustrations was reflected in the US election results. Though President-elect Joe Biden won over five million more votes than Trump - a 3.4 percentage-point lead - more than 72 million Americans still cast their votes for the outgoing president.

Nonetheless, Biden has demonstrated that populism can be defeated - and not just with more populism. Far from employing populists' tactics, endorsing their worldviews, or pandering to their prejudices, Biden built a broad electoral coalition around a promise of positive change, sober moderation, and competent governance. This holds a crucial lesson for center-left and center-right political parties in Europe, which have at times succumbed to the populist temptation - such as by echoing their socially conservative, anti-immigrant views - to try to win votes.

Trump's loss also amounts to a warning for other far-right populists, such as Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Earlier this year, Orbán proclaimed, "We used to think that Europe was our future; today we know that we are the future of Europe." But with Trump's defeat, his words ring hollow. Even if these leaders remain popular for now - in Bolsonaro's case, thanks to generous COVID-19 handouts to citizens - the rise or persistence of far-right populism is hardly inexorable.

Beyond shattering this self-serving narrative of inevitability, Trump's loss discredits his deeply flawed policies, thereby reducing their attractiveness to others. Over the past four years, Trump has pursued an approach that unabashedly purports to put "America first," trampling on trade treaties and misusing sanctions to try to give US businesses and workers an edge.

In this context, it seemed almost naive for others, including European governments, to pursue multilateral, cooperative open-market solutions. As mainstream politicians leaned toward protectionism, the extreme economic nationalism espoused by the likes of France's National Rally (formerly the National Front) - whose leaders favor putting "France and French people first" - seemed increasingly reasonable. Moreover, as I explain in my new book, *Them and Us: How Immigrants and Locals Can Thrive Together*, Trump's xenophobic rhetoric and encouragement of nativist sentiment opened the way for harsh immigration policies at home and abroad.

Of course, some European governments needed no encouragement to demonize Muslims, erect barbed-wire border fences, or detain asylum-seekers in squalid camps; indeed, they began doing so before Trump was elected, notably during the 2015-16 refugee crisis. But the Trump administration's actions - including separating children from their parents and detaining them in awful conditions, deporting asylum seekers without due process, banning immigrants from Muslim-majority countries, and building a wall on the US border with Mexico - gave Europe's anti-immigrant forces a major boost.

For example, Matteo Salvini, the leader of Italy's far-right League party and the country's interior minister in 2018-19, reveled in his status as "Italy's Trump," as he blocked boats carrying rescued migrants from docking in Italian ports. When the Trump administration refused in 2018 to agree to the non-binding Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, nine EU governments - as well as other countries, such as Australia - followed suit.

Biden will set a very different example, which is likely to strengthen internationalists and weaken nationalists in Europe. To be sure, the president-elect - like Democrats more broadly - is not pushing for unfettered free trade and immigration. But he does recognize the foreign-policy benefits of trade cooperation with America's European allies, and he has pledged to reverse some of the Trump administration's most controversial immigration policies within days of taking office, as well as to reshape America's immigration system over the longer term. Biden will also scrap Trump's approach to climate change, beginning by rejoining the Paris climate agreement on the first day of his presidency.

With Trump gone, populist politicians will not only enjoy less domestic legitimacy; governments will face a higher international price for nationalist stances. Trump was a powerful ally for Europe's nationalist governments, especially in Hungary and Poland. When Poland's ruling Law and Justice party picked fights with Germany and challenged EU policies on asylum, judicial independence, and much else, it felt confident that, even if its European partners turned on it, Trump would protect it from the likes of Vladimir Putin's revanchist Russia. With Biden in the White House, the Polish government will feel more pressure to be constructive.

The same goes for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Trump championed Brexit as an expression of sovereignty and encouraged Johnson to take a tough line with the European Union, dangling the prospect of a bilateral trade deal as a prize.

Biden is no fan of Brexit - or, one might guess, of Johnson, whose racist slight about President Barack Obama's "part-Kenyan" ancestry during the referendum campaign Biden is unlikely to have forgotten. Moreover, Biden, who has often discussed his Irish ancestry, has made clear that he will not accept any threat to peace in Northern Ireland. With time running out to negotiate a post-Brexit trade agreement, Johnson is now under far greater pressure to compromise.

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OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

Vaccine Apartheid

Because a pandemic can be overcome only when it is overcome everywhere, embracing an every-country-for-itself approach would seem irrational. And yet, as the unseemly competition for vaccine doses indicates, that is exactly what many countries have done.

NEW DELHI - The American pharmaceutical company Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech have announced that the COVID-19 vaccine they are jointly developing was more than 90% effective in early clinical trials. The news raised hopes around the world that life may soon return to pre-pandemic normal.

Those hopes may not last long. The announcement also sent governments scrambling to lay claim to vaccine doses, apparently realizing a bleak prediction: wealthy countries and individuals will monopolize early doses of any effective vaccine.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX) - led by the World Health Organization, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - was established precisely to prevent this outcome. The COVAX Facility aims to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine development, secure doses for all countries, and distribute those doses fairly, beginning with the highest-risk groups. In other words, the facility was created partly to prevent hoarding by rich-country governments.

So far, more than 180 countries, representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population, have joined. This includes 94 higher-income countries, all of which have made legally binding commitments. All will have access to the vaccines in the COVAX list, and pay for their doses individually. The 92 lower-income countries that are parties to the facility will receive their doses free of charge.

The COVAX plan would have the vaccine distributed in two phases. In the first phase, all participating countries would receive doses proportionate to their populations. It would begin with enough vaccines to immunize the 3% of their population at highest risk, especially frontline workers in health and social care. Additional doses would then be delivered, until immunization covers 20% of each country's population - beginning with others most in danger from COVID-19, such as the elderly and those with co-morbidities.

In the second phase, vaccines would be delivered to specific countries based on how quickly the virus is spreading; whether other pathogens (like measles) are also spreading; and how vulnerable the country's health infrastructure is to being overwhelmed. Given the constraints at work - the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine, for example, must be administered in two doses three weeks apart, and only 1.35 billion doses, at most, will be produced by the end of next year - it is difficult to imagine a fairer system.

And yet there are major barriers to the system's implementation. First and foremost, while China finally joined COVAX in early October, the United States has not.

Of course, given his "America First" approach, US President Donald Trump surprised no one by refusing to join. There is, however, reason to hope that President-elect Joe Biden will be more receptive. After all, Biden plans to re-join many international agreements from which Trump withdrew, and has already established a COVID-19 task force. Seth Berkley, the head of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is set to hold talks with Biden's team.

Meanwhile, China has been working aggressively and largely independently to develop and test its own vaccine. At least four candidates are currently undergoing Phase-3 trials. Though none are yet proven, Chinese officials have reportedly attempted to inoculate tens of thousands of people - possibly many more - outside the traditional testing process.

But there is another problem: COVAX participants are still competing to secure bilateral deals with pharmaceutical companies, as there is no rule against it. The United Kingdom, for example, has reserved 40 million doses of the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine. Several other European governments have also placed orders, or are negotiating deals.

Moreover, the European Union has finalized a deal for up to 300 million doses. The US, with its population of 328 million, has ordered 100 million doses, with the rights to acquire 500 million more - a target so high that it smacks of an attempt to corner the market. Brazil - another COVAX participant - is also in talks with Pfizer, as are many others.

Within days of its announcement, Pfizer had sold more than 80% of the vaccine doses it will be able to produce by the end of next year to governments representing only 14% of the global population. In other words, if this is the first safe and effective vaccine to get to market, the vast majority of the world's population will have almost no access to it.

Many other vaccine candidates - there are currently over 200, around 50 of which are in the clinical-trial phase - are also spoken for. Rich-country governments have already cut deals for privileged access to vaccines being developed by Moderna (which has also reported promising results from clinical trials), Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca, among others, should these candidates make it through the approval process. Obviously, low-income countries do not have this option.

Because a pandemic can be overcome only when it is overcome everywhere, embracing an every-country-for-itself approach would seem irrational. And yet, as the unseemly competition for vaccine doses indicates, that is exactly what many countries have done. Unless we change course, global health apartheid will become increasingly entrenched and drive inequality to new heights. And the pandemic will still be with us. We will have merely added new problems to the one we didn't solve.

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A MEMO

A MEMO

President George Weah: a struggling economy & "Yes-men"

By Ike D. Coleman

In business, as in politics, "yes-men" are among the worst groups of people from whom a leader could solicit advice. They are people that play it safe-never thinking outside the box to challenge the assumptions of a thin-skinned "chief-bossman"-as Liberians are accustomed to calling people in power, even for screwing up, as many have done so far, considering the current dire state of affairs. Challenging Liberian politicians for many ordinary citizens is equivalent to a punishable "social crime," only because they dared inadvertently hurt the feelings of a thin-skinned "chief-bossman" by questioning his behavior and/or actions, which did not square with the facts. Despite the boastfulness of their educational level, many Liberian politicians are just not trained in handling personal issues differently from dealing with the people's business.

Essentially, the self-pitying ones have a terrible habit of treating their job functions and responsibilities as if they were similar to a husband-wife quarrel at home from which they expected sympathy from friends and relatives. On that continuum, they switch gears to expecting sympathy from "yes-men" subordinates. Hey, Liberian politicians, the purpose of your job is to perform with positive outcomes hopefully, not necessarily to be liked. People do not have to like you as much as your ability to perform, which in turn aligns people behind your intent if it was any good and rewarding.

Liberians by nature are security-seekers, not risk-takers, which explains why corrupt individuals swindle the public coffers of much-needed funds and siphon them off to offshore accounts for safekeeping, rather than making domestic investments to create job opportunities for the many unemployed. One would think that with so much boasting of advanced degrees in economics, for example, many would apply common sense to the difference between investing to enjoy a better return on their investment(s) than settling for a meager 5% annual interest gained on their foreign deposits. Imagine the huge loss of purchasing power of liquid cash by which Liberians measure net worth, during a recession, for instance.

A million dollars in an account in a country experiencing serious inflationary pressures will remain a million dollars, but not its purchasing power/value, which would be reduced by the percentage of what that pressure was. If, for instance, a Liberia Minister of BS Affairs realized his savings account wasn't growing at the same rate as inflation in a particular country at a JP Morgan, HSBC, Deutsche, Barclays, Lloyd's Banking Group Citi, it meant he was effectively losing money, which could have grown much faster in Liberia had he/she invested in any number of businesses that catered to the numerous demands for consumer goods that outpace supply and availability.

After all, the banks mentioned above were among the many whose stock value plummeted considerably on 9/21/2020 after a US Department of Treasury's Financial Crime Enforcement Network reported 2,100 money laundering schemes amounting to more than 2 trillion dollar fund transactions from 1999-2017. Did the reporting of these illicit transactions by the US mean that something big was about to be uncovered for leaders of third world countries, including Liberia, many of whom had parked their ill-gotten funds at those and other financial institutions promulgated

by the reports! Is a major investigation in cooperation with Transparency International about to take place?

The security-seeking, non-risk-taking dynamic is a contradiction quite difficult to comprehend; that is, Liberian politicians of fortune have a bad habit of pretending to attract foreign investments, amid choosing to transmit their ill-gotten loots to Europe and the US for safekeeping. How is that suppose to calm the nerves of potential investors, who might conclude that if Liberia was not a safe bet to protect the assets and wealth of local politicians, it definitely could not serve as a safe investment hub for foreign investors? Come on people, are you that limited in your thoughts in believing that potential foreign investors are too ignorant to recognize how rampantly corrupt Africa/Liberia is. Are they that dumb not to be clued in on the uncontrollable capital flight that burdens African/Liberia!

More so, for all of those supposedly smart Economic Advisers circling Mr. Weah, when will they begin to think outside the box of limitations that Liberia's economy ain't going a damn place but remaining in neutral until there is the recognition that a trained workforce in technical skillset, not liberal arts, is that country's meal ticket to jobs, employment and honefullv a robust economy. Based on observation at



social gatherings and similar outlets, the majority of Liberians—but mainly men with a college degree in economics—a dismal social science and business administration, for example, strongly believe that a successful Liberia needs nothing more than a bunch of paper-pushers, sitting behind desks evaluating feasibility studies all day, without recognizing the necessity of experienced hands to implement rewarding projects.

It is as if the entire nation will succeed if it depended on people deriving public policies at the conceptual level, without regard for technocrats—operational types, to do the analyses, followed by tactical individuals to implement them. Seemingly, no Liberian calling him- or herself a "development expert" has recognized, much less cracked the "escape hatch code," which suggests that in a struggling economy as Liberia's, manufacturing, underlined by workforce investment and training in skilled industrial trades, vocational education, and apprenticeship programs is the top requirement that attracts foreign investors. Come on, if an American investor was interested in building a manufacturing facility in Liberia, that firm would likely bring in its senior accountants and administrators, but might buck at bringing in skilled labor, which they would be required to pay at the

prevailing wage back in the US. Therefore, since Liberia does not have an hourly wage regime, it would be cheaper for an Ohio company to hire Liberian welders, electricians, plumbers... at penny-on-a dollar wage, than \$29/hr for a certified electrician, plumber, welder, et al, brought into Liberia.

Considered as lackeys, "yes-men" also lack the wherewithal in providing honest opinions to a leader/supervisor/manager, when it might count in helping that person make informed decisions. But isn't that precisely what insecure Liberian politicians desire, anyway-sycophants; people lacking a spine to point out the many flaws of politicians—many of whom thrive on braggadocio, textbook, and advanced degree knowledge, rather than demonstrating the necessary technical skills to 'build and make things with their hands!' Recently, we read about the negative reaction of some African leaders after hearing that Donald Trump asked his long-time lawyer—Michael Cohen, to show him one country run by a black leader that was not a "shit-hole" country. Controlling for the dislike of Trump by so many people, we have not noticed a single African leader who took the lead to challenge Trump's assertion. No African leader has shown the spine, needless to say, the gravitas to tell Trump, "Look at me, look at my country, people, and economy, we represent the best in integrity and commitment to my country." None / Zip!

Thin-skinned leaders as many Liberian politicians are, surround themselves with cheer-leading "yes men" to not only stoke their low self-esteem, if at all, but also hopefully boost their flattened egos with undeserved praises. As Abe Lincoln once said, "you can tell the greatness of a man by what makes him angry;" in Liberia as in all third world countries, it does not take much to discern the simplest of questions that would drive politicians nut, only because they had become accustomed to being lavished with undeserved praises.

▶ TO BE CONT'D

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

0000

Judge's chambers
Sixth Judicial circuit court
Civil Law Court
Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia

SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER A.D. 2020 TERM

BEFORE HIS HONOR: SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF ANNIE A. WESLEY OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTSERRADO, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE ISSUED IN FAVOR OF HER TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED AS "MERCY ANNIE ASENATH WESLEY WHO WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 25, 1978, IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

WHEREAS, Petitioner's Petition by and thru her counsel, in the above entitled cause of Action, having filed a Petition with an Affidavit attached thereto, requesting an Order from this Honourable Court to have her name formally change from ANNIE A. WESLEY TO MERCY ANNIE ASENATH WESLEY, "

WHEREAS, After Court thoroughly examined Petitioner's Petition and having been satisfied with the truthfulness of the allegations set forth:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, ORDERED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Petitioner's Petition is hereby granted and the name of the aforesaid Petitioner is now formally and legally changed from "ANNIE A. WESLEY TO MERCY ANNIE ASENATH WESLEY, "

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE:

This Order shall be registered in the Office of the REGISTRAR OF DEEDS for Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and shall be published twice in any recognized NEWSPAPER operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days as of today's date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER A.D. 2020

COURT'S SEAL: *S. R. Dunbar*
SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR
JUDGE, PRESIDING, CIVIL LAW COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 11-2020 PAGE (5) 00006573

REGISTRAR NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

Nov 2020 1420 9/2

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mo Ibrahim launches 2020 index on African Governance

The 2020 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched on Monday November 16 by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, highlights a decline in African governance performance for the first time since 2010.

The 2019 African average score for Overall Governance falls by -0.2 points below that of 2018, registering the first year-on-year score deterioration since 2010. This recent decline is triggered by worsening performance in three of the four IIAG categories: Participation, Rights & Inclusion, Security &

The 2020 IIAG is the most comprehensive assessment of governance performance in 54 African countries. It tracks Africa's trajectory across four main categories: Security & Rule of Law; Participation, Rights & Inclusion; Foundations for Economic Opportunity; and Human Development. The new IIAG incorporates three significant upgrades: an expanded governance scope, including new areas such as environment and equality; strengthened indicators, thanks to better data availability; and a new section fully dedicated to Africa's Citizens' Voices.

Over the last decade,

Inclusion (-1.4) and Security & Rule of Law (-0.7) have registered worrying declines.

Over the past decade, 20 countries, home to 41.9% of Africa's population, while achieving progress in Human Development and Foundations for Economic Opportunity, have at the same time declined in both Security & Rule of Law and Participation, Rights & Inclusion.

Only eight countries manage to improve in all four categories over the decade: Angola, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Seychelles, Sudan and Togo.

COVID-19 heightens existing challenges and threatens economic progress.

The 2020 IIAG provides a picture of the continent before it was hit by COVID-19. In terms of Participation, Rights & Inclusion, progress was slowing long before the pandemic, which only worsens the existing negative trajectory. Conversely, economic opportunity was set on a positive course of sustained progress, and the impact of COVID-19 is now threatening this hard-won achievement.

Africa's citizens are increasingly dissatisfied with governance delivery in their countries.

In 2019, new analysis of the Citizens' Voices section in the IIAG reveals that Public Perception of Overall Governance registers the lowest score over the decade, with the pace of deterioration nearly doubling within the last five years.

A balanced approach to governance is key to progress, as well as improvements in rule of law, justice, inclusion and equality.

The strongest correlations of Overall Governance performances are found with the sub-categories Rule of Law & Justice and Inclusion & Equality. The indicators showing the strongest relationships with high overall governance scores span all four IIAG categories, underlining the importance of a balanced approach to governance.

The growing imbalance between the various governance dimensions outlined above is likely to threaten overall governance performance.



Mo Ibrahim
FOUNDATION

Rule of Law and Human Development.

The report notes that progress had already been slowing down since 2015. It said over 2015-2019, performance slackened in both Human Development and Foundations for Economic Opportunity, while deterioration continued in both Security & Rule of Law and Participation, Rights & Inclusion, even worsening for the latter.

However, it points out that over the decade, overall governance performance has slightly progressed, and in 2019, 61.2% of Africa's population lives in a country where Overall Governance is better than in 2010.

governance dimensions have followed diverging paths.

The report further notes that progress achieved over the last decade has mainly been driven by improvements in economic opportunities and human development. Foundations for Economic Opportunity (+4.1) and Human Development (+3.0) have made good progress, primarily led by improvements in the sub-categories Infrastructure and Health, complemented by advances in Sustainable Environment.

This is threatened, however, by an increasingly precarious security situation and concerning erosion in rights as well as civic and democratic space. Over the last decade, both Participation, Rights &

Arifu-SOMO educational partnership adopts Infobip's WhatsApp Business API solution to train entrepreneurs in Africa

Infobip, a global cloud communications platform that enables businesses to build connected customer experiences across all stages of the customer journey at scale, has delivered a WhatsApp for Business API solution to a Kenya-based educational partnership - Arifu-SOMO - that focuses on entrepreneurship training.

Earlier this year, Arifu, a platform that provides digital educational content to low-income and hard to reach communities, partnered with SOMO, an accelerator that supports entrepreneurs in low-income communities.

The partnership delivers SOMO's content on Arifu's platform, focusing on training in the areas of agricultural good practice, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and has just expanded into the area of insurance.

SOMO on this project. The partnership has a large footprint in Africa and the move from SMS to WhatsApp will yield more positive results and higher adoption due to the rich media content the platform enables," he says.

"We are expecting the WhatsApp API solution to empower more disadvantaged people and give rise to a new spirit of entrepreneurship in the continent," he continues.

Beyond SMS

"We felt that increasing the channel beyond SMS to other rich media channels made sense. As such, we expanded to Telegram and Facebook, and also adopted WhatsApp. However, we realised that we need to work with a communications specialist that could assist us with a WhatsApp Business API solution.



Amelia Hopkins: SOMO Africa Founder and Executive Director

Currently, the initiative has reached over 1.5 million people across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria, and Zambia.

MandeepBirdi, Chief Commercial Officer at Arifu, explains that the organisation has used SMS as its main channel to disseminate content to trainees since its inception in 2015. However, the increase in smartphone penetration and data usage across Africa prompted Arifu to look at expanding its digital channels to include WhatsApp.

Marko Reis, Regional Manager for East Africa at Infobip, says that the partnership between Infobip and Arifu-SOMO, is underpinned by the digital transformation strategy of the initiative.

"It has been a great pleasure to work with Arifu-

"With Infobip having a local presence in Kenya, it made sense to work with them as our WhatsApp Business API partner."

In addition, says MandeepBirdi, Infobip's global presence also made it an attractive choice as Arifu looks to eventually expand its services to other parts of the world, such as India, Asia and LATAM.

"One of the main reasons we are turning to rich media channels is that we can add graphic images and animated videos to enhance the learning journey beyond text-based messaging," he says.

"Aside from WhatsApp Business API, we also have some other services below the WhatsApp layer, and will look into additional platforms that

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC's IDHOs begin workshop ahead of 2020

The Independent Dispute Hearing Office of the National Elections Commission, (NEC) has commenced a two-day Adjudication Dispute workshop for 19 Elections Magistrates throughout the Country, with a call for Elections Workers to take

of NEC will take full responsibility of actions of Elections Magistrates.

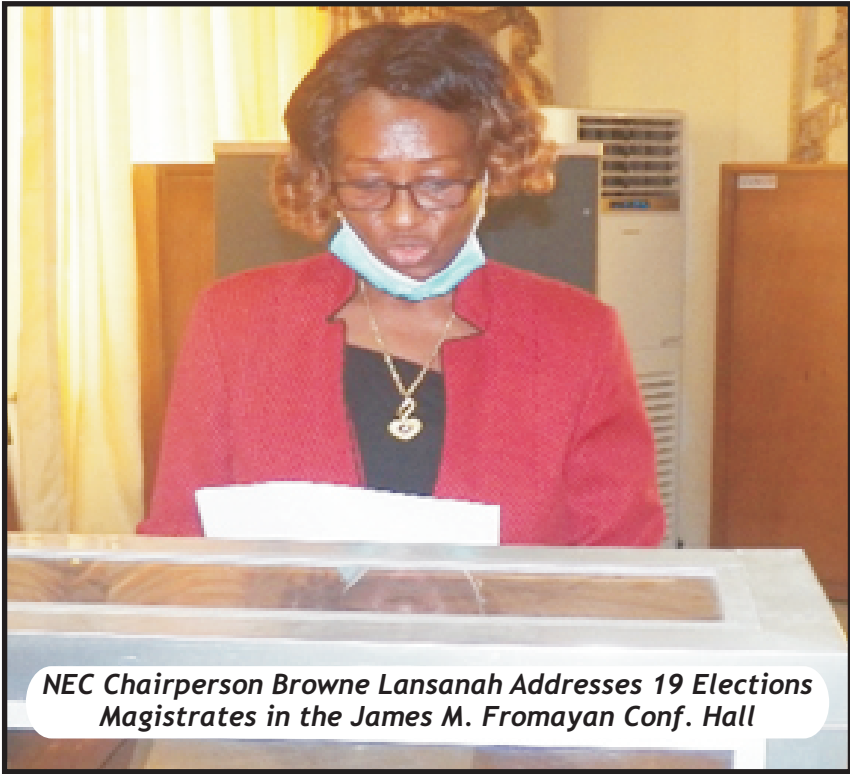
Chairperson Browne Lansanah said NEC Magistrates are very powerful group of people during elections and must take full responsibility of their actions.

The NEC Boss said this is way the BOC takes very seriously the

Responsibility for Political Affairs said the attitudes of Magistrates during this election period will critically under the spot length of all Liberians mainly the Political Parties.

Commissioner Dukuly warned Magistrates to be careful in their deeds and actions, warning them not to attend what he describes as other people's meeting or not to act as partisans but to maintain the highest level of confidence reposed them over the years by Commission to conduct free, fair and transparent elections.

The Head of the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, Electoral Support Project to Liberia LenkaHomolkova said the UNDP with funds from the German Government was glad to collaborate with the NEC's Dispute Hearing Office to help train Elections Magistrates to properly handle elections related cases during and after the conduct of elections. The UNDP Electoral Support Project Boss said the Magistrates will receive training manual in the areas of an impartial and informed arbitral, Established burdens of proof and standards of evidence, availability of meaningful and effective remedies and a system that judicially expedites decisions.



NEC Chairperson Browne Lansanah Addresses 19 Elections Magistrates in the James M. Fromayan Conf. Hall

responsibility of their actions.

Making the call today, Monday 16 November 2020 in the James M, Fromayan Conference Hall, the Chairperson of the NEC Davidetta Browne Lansanah said gone are the days when the Board of Commissioners

ongoing investigation of three of its Elections Magistrates from Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh and Bomi counties on allegations of electoral irregularities mainly during the 2020 Voter Roll Update exercise.

Earlier, Commissioner Boakai A. Dukuly who has Oversight

US - based Bong citizen blames leaders for poor development

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

An eminent son of Bong County based in the United States of America, Dennis Garsinii has blamed leaders of the county for contributing to the "undeveloped" status of Bong, citing poor management of resources and lack of innovation.

Mr. Garsinii speaking to a local radio station from his USA home recently said Bong County has power to be developed, but that will not be done when those in leadership keep mismanaging the county's resources.

He laments that it is completely shameful to have a centrally located county like Bong without a proper development.

He notes that things can only change for the better when those in leadership are



properly using the resources for the intended purposes.

Garsinii explains that prior to the war, Bong County had responsible leadership that was focused on the county's

development, but claims that those in leadership today are not focused on the county's progress.

The US - based Bong County citizen believes that things

GoL denies knowledge of CoP protest

The government of Liberia attention is drawn to plans by a group of people to agitate before the Capitol Building offices of the National Legislature, when lawmakers are on their annual

right to peaceful assembly, it also emphasizes that all such gatherings must be done in keeping with law. At this point, no authorization has been requested or granted to protesters for a march.



constituency break. There has been no notice of such protest to the government including the legislature.

As the government reiterates its commitment to upholding the fundamental

The government therefore calls on the public to go about its normal business, while cautioning potential troublemakers to refrain from testing the limits of the law.

Mo Ibrahim launches

Cont'd from page 6

Mo Ibrahim, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, says:

"This is a testing time for Africa. Pre-existing weaknesses and challenges in African governance, as uncovered by the 2020 IIAG, are exacerbated by COVID-19, which also threatens economic progress. Citizens'

dissatisfaction and mistrust with governance delivery are growing. African states have an opportunity to demonstrate both their resolve to safeguard democracy and their ability to drive a new growth model that is more resilient, more equitable, more sustainable, and more self-reliant."

will be fine in the county when leaders put aside their personal ego and make the county's interest their priority.

He names good financial management and youth empowerment as paths to nation building.

"We need to put our leaders' feet to fire by telling them what they need to do for the interest of the ordinary people. When money comes to you, use it for the right purpose," MrGarsinii says.

"Let's also help develop our young people, if we don't do that then how do we expect them to be independent? They will continue to sing behind politicians, which are some of

the reasons contributing to the underdevelopment of the County" Mr. Garsinii adds.

He also blames the lack of development of the county on citizens' inability to resist leaders who do not serve well.

He indicates that if a leader doesn't perform and comes to the citizens for election, "the best thing to do is eat their money and vote against them at the ballot box."

Mr. Garsinii concludes that giving fuel and providing medical equipment that cost hundreds of thousands of United States Dollars has been an obligation for him as a son of the county.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Charles Taylor pourrait bénéficier d'une libération anticipée si...

L'ancien président libérien Charles Taylor purge actuellement une peine de 50 ans au Royaume-Uni pour crimes de guerre commis dans la Sierra Leone voisine. Mais il pourrait être éligible pour une libération anticipée après avoir purgé les deux tiers de sa peine de prison.

Taylor a passé 8 ans en prison, et si le tribunal comptait 6 ans de détention avant sa condamnation, il compterait désormais près de 14 ans

contre ses 50 ans.

En vertu du statut de la Cour spéciale résiduelle (RSCSL), les personnes condamnées peuvent demander une libération conditionnelle anticipée après avoir purgé les deux tiers de leur peine, et si le président de la RSCSL détermine qu'elles ont rempli un certain nombre de conditions.

Une fois jugés éligibles, la Cour enquêtera pour établir qu'ils ne constituent pas un danger pour la communauté dans laquelle ils ont l'intention

de résider ou pour les témoins qui ont témoigné contre eux. Le condamné peut alors être autorisé à purger le reste de sa peine dans cette communauté, sous réserve de conditions et de contrôles stricts.

Taylor 72, avait 64 ans au moment de sa condamnation en avril 2012 et a été condamné à 50 ans de prison le mois suivant le 30 mai 2012.

L'ancien président libérien, avec l'acte d'accusation au-dessus de sa

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



ARRESTATIONS MASSIVES D'OPPOSANTS EN GUINEE

Après avoir marché sur les macchabées de « ses fils » et « petits-fils », après s'être fait élire par sa CENI (Commission électorale nationale indépendante) et après que son Conseil constitutionnel a validé sa victoire, Alpha Condé cherche maintenant à régner tranquillement sur la

Guinée. Et le meilleur moyen pour parvenir à ses fins est de mettre à contribution la Justice pour casser de l'opposant. En effet, le procureur de la République près du Tribunal de première instance de Dixinn, a annoncé que plusieurs personnalités de l'opposition et de la société civile étaient « activement

recherchées » dans le cadre d'une Commission rogatoire. Ces personnalités sont soupçonnées d'avoir pris part aux violences qui ont entouré la présidentielle du 18 octobre dernier. Le procureur a cité des noms de hauts cadres du parti de l'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo, mais aussi des noms de leaders du FNDC (Front national de défense de la Constitution). Il faut rappeler que plusieurs figures du FNDC ou de l'UFDG (Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée) sont déjà derrière les barreaux. C'est clair et net, le régime de Conakry est en train de sévir contre tous ceux et celles qui ont tenté de contrarier la marche obstinée d'Alpha Condé vers un 3e mandat. Et il n'est pas exclu que toute la Guinée se transforme en une prison à ciel ouvert ; tant les Guinéens et les Guinéennes qui ont voulu faire barrage à Alpha Condé sont nombreux.



Éditorial

Que chaque candidat ait des représentants dans tous les bureaux de vote

Le commissaire Boakai Dukuly de la Commission électorale nationale a souligné la nécessité que des agents des partis soient présents dans tous les bureaux de vote à travers le pays lors de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale du 8 décembre 2020 pour surveiller le scrutin.

Il a lancé cet appel vendredi 13 novembre lors d'un atelier de formation des formateurs pour les partis politiques, les alliances, les coalitions et les candidats indépendants, en vue de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale.

Le commissaire Dukuly a en outre noté que le rôle des agents des partis politiques pendant les élections est indispensable à la légitimité des résultats des élections, car leur présence pendant le scrutin aide considérablement à valider des élections.

Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec le commissaire de la NEC. Oui les candidats, les partis, les alliances et / ou les coalitions en lice devraient faire tout ce qui est nécessaire pour que leurs agents soient déployés dans tous les centres de vote à travers le pays pour surveiller les élections. Ceci est important pour éviter des allégations sauvages ou non fondées de fraude électorale qui pourraient compromettre le processus.

En d'autres termes, les allégations de malversations électorales devraient être étayées par des faits ou des preuves documentées pour authentifier leur validité.

Au fil des ans, nous avons observé à plusieurs reprises avec une grande déception que la plupart des partis politiques et / ou des candidats indépendants n'envoient pas d'agents ou de représentants dans les bureaux de vote pour observer le dépouillement des bulletins de vote. Pourtant, ils sont les premiers à s'alarmer des malversations, ce qui peut être considéré comme une démonstration d'une mauvaise intention.

Quoique la Commission électorale nationale est légalement et constitutionnellement responsable de la tenue d'élections libres, équitables et transparentes au Libéria, elle n'est pas parfaite car elle est composée d'êtres humains qui peuvent soit se tromper ou avoir des affiliations politiques.

Cependant, si des agents de divers partis politiques, alliances, coalitions et candidats indépendants sont présents pour surveiller les élections, ils peuvent rapidement soulever des inquiétudes et les porter à l'attention de la NEC pour procéder à une réparation rapide.

Le commissaire Dukuly a invité les agents du parti à faire preuve d'honnêteté et à rapporter exactement ce qu'ils voient, mais aussi à faire preuve de prudence dans le traitement des plaintes découlant des élections. Et cela est très important car si les plaintes ne sont pas traitées avec soin par les partis ou les candidats impliqués, elles peuvent avoir la propension à déclencher la violence, ce qui est contre-productif dans un processus démocratique.

La Cour suprême du Libéria a rassuré les Libériens qu'elle resterait pleinement active pendant et après les élections, pour recevoir et traiter toutes les plaintes électorales dans l'intérêt de la justice et de la paix. Les acteurs politiques devraient apprendre de feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine, ancien chef du parti de la Liberté, qui a rassemblé son courage pour porter plainte devant la Haute Cour lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2017. C'était une démonstration de leadership à son plus haut niveau !

Suivre l'exemple de Brumskine en faisant usage de la voie légale contribuerait certainement non seulement à renforcer notre démocratie croissante, mais à donner le bon exemple à nos partisans respectifs et à nos fidèles zélés.

Français

Charles Taylor pourrait bénéficier

tête, a été arrêté le 29 mars 2006, à peine 24 heures après que le gouvernement libérien ait demandé son extradition. Taylor a été arrêté alors qu'il tentait de traverser la frontière avec le Cameroun par la ville frontalière de Gamboru, dans le nord-est du Nigéria.

À son arrivée à l'aéroport international Roberts de Harbel, sur un vol spécial, Taylor a été arrêté et menotté par la police nationale libérienne et immédiatement transféré à la Mission des Nations Unies au Libéria (MINUL) pour y être gardé.

Il a été immédiatement escorté à bord d'un hélicoptère des Nations Unies à Freetown, en Sierra Leone, où il a été livré au Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone (SCSL) soutenu par les Nations Unies.

Dans une déclaration publiée par le Tribunal spécial résiduel sur la libération anticipée conditionnelle des prisonniers condamnés par le Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone, la Cour note que la libération ou le transfert de prisonniers est une décision judiciaire uniquement prise par le Président du Tribunal spécial résiduel conformément au Statut RSCSL et au Règlement de procédure et de preuve.

Il a déclaré que ni les Nations Unies ni le gouvernement de la Sierra Leone ne jouaient un rôle dans ces décisions. « Il est important de rappeler que ces prisonniers ont été condamnés par un tribunal international, chaque chambre ayant une majorité de juges internationaux », indique la déclaration de la cour.

« La durée de leurs peines est basée sur la gravité des crimes pour lesquels ils, en tant qu'individus, ont été reconnus coupables. Les prisonniers purgent leurs peines en dehors de la Sierra Leone, au Rwanda et au Royaume-Uni, pour éviter le risque d'effraction de prison », a-t-il ajouté.

Le RSCSL a expliqué que Moinina Fofana a obtenu une libération conditionnelle anticipée en 2015 après avoir purgé les deux tiers de sa peine à la prison de Mpanga au Rwanda.

Il a purgé sa peine de 15 ans en mai 2018.

Selon lui, en outre Allieu Kondewa, un autre condamné, a purgé les deux tiers de sa peine de 20 ans et

purge actuellement le reste de sa peine en liberté conditionnelle anticipée.

Augustine Gbao a été approuvé pour une libération anticipée conditionnelle en septembre après avoir purgé les deux tiers de sa peine de 25 ans. Avant d'être libéré, Augustine Gbao suit une formation de trois mois axée sur sa compréhension et son acceptation de la responsabilité du préjudice qu'il a infligé par ses crimes.

Cinq autres personnes, dont Taylor à la prison HM Frankland au Royaume-Uni, n'ont pas encore purgé les deux tiers de leur peine et ne sont donc pas encore éligibles pour demander une libération anticipée conditionnelle.

Ils sont détenus conformément aux normes internationales, leurs peines supervisées par le RSCSL et leurs conditions de détention surveillées par des organisations internationales de défense des droits de l'homme, dont le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge.

Le RSCSL a indiqué qu'il a été contraint de publier cette déclaration sur la libération anticipée des prisonniers en raison de la désinformation diffusée en ligne et en particulier par certains prisonniers.

« Nous prenons ces tentatives de désinformation au sérieux en raison de leur potentiel d'interférence avec l'administration de la justice. En vertu de l'article 77 du Règlement de procédure et de preuve de la RSCSL, le tribunal spécial résiduel, dans l'exercice de son pouvoir inhérent, peut punir pour outrage toute personne qui interfère sciemment et volontairement dans l'administration de la justice par le tribunal spécial ou le tribunal spécial résiduel. »

Une condamnation pour outrage au tribunal est passible d'une peine pouvant aller jusqu'à sept ans de prison, d'une amende pouvant aller jusqu'à 20 millions de Leones, ou les deux », estime le RSCSL.

Le Tribunal spécial résiduel pour la Sierra Leone est chargé des obligations juridiques permanentes du Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone, qui a achevé son mandat en décembre 2013. Il s'agit notamment de la supervision des peines d'emprisonnement, de la protection et du soutien des témoins, de l'entretien et de la conservation des archives, et assistance aux autorités nationales de poursuite.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Laurence Tubiana

L'Europe et la Chine prennent les rênes du climat

PARIS - En l'espace de seulement une semaine lors de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de cette année, les représentants du plus vaste marché unique de la planète, et ceux de la deuxième plus grande économie mondiale, ont mis cartes sur table concernant la question climatique. Nul besoin d'être analyste du renseignement national pour en observer les résultats : l'Union européenne et la Chine se sont toutes deux engagées à atteindre une neutralité des émissions de dioxyde de carbone, établissant ainsi un terrain commun propice à une coopération beaucoup plus profonde.

Bien entendu, ces engagements devront être suivis de mesures politiques concrètes. Pour autant, les mots même les plus simples revêtent de la puissance. Ni le président chinois Xi Jinping, ni la présidente de la Commission européenne Ursula von der Leyen ne sont connus pour leur tendance à l'hyperbole, ou pour formuler de grandes déclarations sans délibération préalable. S'ils se fixent un objectif concret, cela signifie qu'ils ont une certaine idée de la manière de l'atteindre.

Par ailleurs, ce n'est pas comme s'il était facile pour les 27 États membres de l'UE de s'entendre sur un objectif 2030 plus ambitieux, dans la lignée de leur engagement visant à atteindre zéro émissions nettes d'ici 2050. Les dirigeants européens savent pertinemment que de nombreux intérêts particuliers viendront s'opposer à leur nouvel objectif. Il n'est pas non plus facile pour les dirigeants chinois d'annoncer qu'ils atteindront un pic d'émissions avant 2030, et la neutralité carbone d'ici 2060. Réorienter une économie aussi colossale que celle de la Chine n'est pas une mince affaire. Or, les deux puissances ont reconnu que la réalité du changement climatique rendait inévitable une transition économique, et que ceux qui agiraient les premiers bénéficieraient d'un avantage compétitif majeur pour les décennies à venir.

La refonte d'une économie, à la cadence nécessaire pour réduire les émissions nationales conformément à l'accord de Paris 2015 sur le climat, est quelque chose qui n'a jamais été fait, et qui exigera un solide leadership réparti, sous une forme qui commence d'ores et déjà à apparaître. États, régions, villes, acteurs commerciaux et financiers majeurs ont tous commencé à fixer leurs propres objectifs de neutralité carbone. Cinq ans après la signature de l'accord de Paris, ces engagements démontrent qu'une masse critique est en train de se construire. Les dirigeants chinois et européens reconnaissent qu'il est temps d'avancer, dans le cadre de plans d'action concrets et détaillés.

Il n'existe pas d'approche à taille unique. Si certains plans portent sur les changements technologiques, beaucoup d'autres nécessiteront la participation des citoyens, un accent plus fortement placé sur la restauration de la nature, ou encore une approche systémique. Nous aurons tous quelque chose à apprendre de l'expérience des autres dans ce processus.

Pour sa part, la Chine va devoir élaborer une stratégie à long terme, intégrant plusieurs grandes étapes spécifiques sur la voie de son objectif 2060. La mise en place d'un tel plan est nécessaire pour veiller à ce que le processus décisionnel à court terme - qu'il s'agisse de son prochain plan sur cinq ans, ou de sa contribution déterminée au niveau national en vertu de l'accord de Paris - s'inscrive en phase avec les trajectoires de développement à plus long terme de la Chine. À défaut, il sera trop facile de continuer de cacher indéfiniment la poussière sous le tapis.

Pour la Chine, les principaux points de repère

incluent l'atteinte d'un pic des émissions de CO2 d'ici 2025, la mise en place d'une intensité carbone plus ambitieuse (70-75 % de réduction), ainsi que la fixation d'objectifs concernant les combustibles non fossiles et la réduction de la consommation domestique de charbon. La capacité ou non de la Chine à mettre un terme à la construction et au financement de nouvelles centrales au charbon - dans le pays comme à l'étranger dans le cadre de son initiative de Nouvelle route de la soie - constituera un test crucial.

La bonne nouvelle, c'est qu'au-delà de son impact dévastateur sur le climat, le charbon n'est tout simplement plus viable économiquement. Rien qu'en 2019, la production d'électricité au charbon a diminué de 24 % dans l'UE, et de 16 % aux États-Unis, ce qui la place à la moitié de son niveau de 2007. Au sein même de la Chine, près de 60 % de l'immense capacité de charbon du pays fonctionne aujourd'hui à perte, ce qui donne au gouvernement toutes les raisons de développer son avance mondiale en matière d'énergie solaire et éolienne, ainsi que d'user de sa portée internationale pour promouvoir les énergies renouvelables par-delà ses frontières.

Tout comme la Chine, l'UE devra démontrer comment elle peut atteindre ses objectifs à long terme. La Commission européenne a déterminé qu'une réduction d'au moins 55 % des émissions d'ici 2050 était nécessaire pour atteindre l'objectif de neutralité pour le climat. Il va désormais lui falloir obtenir le soutien de l'ensemble des 27 États membres. Le parlement européen a demandé à ce que l'objectif soit fixé à 60 %. Plus tôt un accord sera trouvé, meilleures seront les chances de l'UE d'accomplir un bond en avant.

Avec ce même objectif à l'esprit, la Chine et l'UE auront largement l'opportunité d'approfondir leur coopération. Toutes deux sont confrontées à des défis semblables dans la résolution de la crise du COVID-19, le renforcement du rôle de la finance durable, la gestion de l'allègement de la dette, ainsi que dans une juste transition pour les travailleurs des secteurs à forte intensité de carbone et autres secteurs voués à être impactés prochainement. La coopération ne doit pas nécessairement être limitée au niveau national. Les partenariats entre villes, régions, provinces et industries se révèlent d'ores et déjà très prometteurs.

Si la Chine et l'UE parviennent à atteindre leurs prochains grands objectifs repères, les implications mondiales seront multiples et profondes. Véritable « usine de la planète », la Chine était le plus grand exportateur et le troisième principal importateur en 2018. En fixant des normes plus écologiques, et en axant l'effort de toute une société sur l'accomplissement de l'objectif neutralité carbone, elle pourra créer un changement significatif dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement à travers le Brésil, l'Australie et l'Indonésie, ainsi qu'au sein de régions entières de l'Afrique jusqu'au Moyen-Orient. Autrement dit, les gouvernements du monde vont devoir repenser leurs plans économiques à long terme au travers du prisme écologique.

Directement consécutive à ses discussions avec l'UE, l'annonce de la Chine nous rappelle également le rôle vital que peut jouer la diplomatie. Bien que les États-Unis aient mis à mal les institutions multilatérales ces quatre dernières années, la coopération internationale demeure possible, et continue de conférer de profonds avantages à ceux qui y prennent part.

Quelle que soit la vitesse à laquelle les États-Unis pourront renouer avec la communauté internationale, la trajectoire mondiale est claire. La destination est celle de la neutralité carbone, et tous les dirigeants feraient bien de fixer leur cap en conséquence.

Call to negotiate with Ja'neh

By Winston W. Parley

Barely a week after the ECOWAS Court awarded impeached Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice he suffered for the violation of his rights, Bomi County Rep. Edwin Snowe wants the Liberian government to negotiate with Ja'neh and solve the problem to avoid ECOWAS sanctions.

"So my only suggestion is, let's negotiate, let's sit down, let's find a way, let's get some elders involved, let's find a way and we pay this man some of his money. I know it is difficult to say we pay him everything," Mr. Snowe, a senatorial candidate of Bomi County told local broadcaster Truth FM Monday, 16 November.

Snowe also suggests that Mr. Ja'neh could also be seeking restoration of his

body could affect the country.

Rep. Snowe indicates that Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. SaymaSyreniusCephus has been at the ECOWAS Court and he is aware that it is not a court of appeal, in a apparent reaction to the top lawyer's utterances against the court's decision which appear to show defiance.

Snowe warns that people should make no mistake, recalling that Liberia is a signatory to the statutes that created the ECOWAS Court of Justice, thereby subjecting itself to the jurisdiction of the court.

"You wouldn't be a member of a body or an organization and when there's something against you then you say no, I don't respect the decision or I don't respect the institution, and when there's something in your favor, then you respect the decision or the institution," he says.

Snowe says though he is not a

with impeached Justice Ja'neh to find a way out of this.

According to Snowe, in other situations negotiation have been reached with parties who have won cases at the ECOWAS court, citing the situations with the Gambian Chief Justice winning a case, former Sierra Leone vice president under President Ernest BaiKoroma and other instances in the region.

In reaching its decision regarding Justice Ja'neh, Rep. Snowe observes that the court acknowledged that replacement has been made on the Supreme Court bench after Ja'neh's removal through impeachment proceedings.

However, he says the regional court ordered Ja'neh's reinstatement, but it also gave another option that the government here pays his benefits from the time government stopped paying

the Court's judgment.

It further ordered his reinstatement as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or in the alternative, to grant him the right to retire from service on the date of notification of the judgment of the Court with full pension's benefits as if he had retired at the normal retirement age for justices of the Supreme Court.

Ja'neh in filling his complaint before the ECOWAS Court had sought to be awarded general damages in an amount not less than US\$25,000,000.00 as compensation and an order directing the Republic of Liberia to restore him to his position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

He also asked the court to declare that the entire impeachment trial, conviction and replacement on the

Supreme Court constitute violations of his rights to fair hearing, dignity of his person and work under equitable and satisfactory conditions, among others.

But the Republic of Liberia represented by the Solicitor General Cllr. SaymaSyreniusCephus denied violating the human rights of Mr. Ja'neh and submitted that the impeachment was done through a political process which also followed the due process of law as laid down in Section 43 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia. The State urged the Court to declare that Ja'neh's application is inadmissible because the Community Court is incompetent to review, interpret and apply the national constitution and domestic laws of Member States.



license to practice law here as part of the negotiation, warning that it is not in Liberia's best interest to be seen to be at loggerhead with the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

"I'm sure one of the things he wants too is not to be debarred to not practice law in his own country. You negotiate, you solve these problems, you move on. I hear people challenging the ECOWAS Court and say, oh, ECOWAS can't force it," he notes.

"It's true ECOWAS can't force it, but ... you talk about the elections today in Liberia, ECOWAS has a team here to bring credibility to the election by helping to clean up the voter roll," Rep. Snowe reminds Liberians.

He continues that there are lot of technical support that Liberia enjoys from ECOWAS, saying to be at loggerhead with the regional

lawyer, but as ECOWAS Parliamentarian, he knows the workings of the court, emphasizing that there is no appeal but the court's decision is final.

"So what could happen? There could be sanctions! Now when people talk about sanction, everybody thinks it's economic sanction. Not necessarily. You have statutory positions in ECOWAS ..., so those statutory positions you could be denied of some of those statutory positions," he cautions.

He adds that Liberia could be deprived of some of the technical assistance that ECOWAS can give, warning that "it is not in Liberia's best interest to be seen at loggerhead with ECOWAS Court of Justice."

He states that the politics of it is not something that Liberia can benefit from, suggesting that Liberia should negotiate

him up to his retirement age.

He concludes that his only suggestion is that the government should sit down and negotiate with Ja'neh, pay him some of his money, restore his legal license and move on.

Snowe's caution comes after the ECOWAS Court of Justice last week ordered the Republic of Liberia to pay Cllr. KabinehJan'neh, an impeached Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, the sum US\$200,000 as reparation for moral prejudice suffered for the violation of his rights.

Delivering judgment on Tuesday, 10 November, the Court also ordered the Republic of Liberia to restore, calculate and pay to Ja'neh all his withheld entitlements, including salaries, allowances and pension benefits as from the date of his impeachment to the date of notification of

Arifu-SOMO educational

Cont'd from page 6

Infobip can offer to enhance what we have on the WhatsApp."

Transitioning to digital

SOMO founder and CEO Amelia Hopkins Phillips notes that WhatsApp is the most widely used chat app across Africa, with Kenya and Nigeria already seeing a 70% WhatsApp penetration rate among their smartphone users. Businesses on the continent are increasingly seeing the benefits of using WhatsApp Business API as part of adopting omnichannel strategies.

Digital transformation, she explains, has accelerated over the past six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this has also driven the adoption of smart devices in Africa.

"A lot of our training used

to be done in person, but COVID-19 has forced us to transition many of our programmes to digital channels. The fact that people have had to adopt smart devices during this period has driven our transition to a large extent."

Hopkins Phillips says that providing learning content over WhatsApp makes sense, as it is better suited for this purpose than SMS or accessing it online.

"Pulling up a web browser and streaming or downloading video content uses a lot of data and storage, so being able to access this material through WhatsApp makes it a lot more accessible to a lot more people," she says. -Press release

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In "missing taxes" saga: CBL raises hands

By Othello B. Garblah

Authorities at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) in a Pontius Pilate style Monday appeared to have distanced the Bank from reports of "missing" taxes from the Government of Liberia's consolidated account at the Bank amounting to millions of United States Dollars.

The banks says it is not a signatory to the account, suggesting that the LRA and commercial banks should rather do the explaining.

The amounts which are captured in a leaked internal audit memo copy of which is in the possession of this paper had emanated from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Chief Audit Executive James Kerkula to LRA Commissioner General Thomas Nah Doe regarding an audit of Direct Transfer Payments at Commercial Banks.

The audit, which is said to have covered the periods 2017, 2018 and 2019 indicates that the amounts of US\$25.1 million and LD2.3 billion representing taxes collected by commercial banks and remitted to the Government of Liberia's (GOL) Consolidated General Revenue Account (CGRA) at the CBL could not be accounted for (see full memo attached).

Reports suggest the death of the four auditors could be linked to this leaked audit report.

But the CBL in a statement issued late Monday November 16, appeared to have denied knowledge about the disappearance of the money saying "it is not a signatory to the procedural channels regarding the movement of GOL's revenue from commercial banks account to

the consolidated revenue account."

The CBL further noted that it only implements the movement of funds from the accounts based on directive from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP).

"All taxes mobilized by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) are paid into the transitory accounts at commercial banks consistent with the Public Financial Management (PFM) Law, and eventually moved into the Government's Consolidated Account held at the CBL, exclusively under the

CBL neither participates in the setting of revenue target, nor has any jurisdiction or knowledge about the actual amount received by commercial banks prior to any movement of funds into GOL's accounts.

The bank stresses further that "it has no statutory control over the operational functioning of GOL's transitory accounts at the commercial banks, nor does it have any control over the movement of cash from the Consolidated Account of the Government unless by a



transparent and accountable mandate of the MFDP and LRA," the CBL continues, adding "Transitory accounts are issues for LRA and commercial banks."

The bank explained that at the end of every reconciliatory period, and in support of proper accountability, a routine validation is done between the LRA and the commercial banks (excluding the CBL) to confirm that all funds collected and placed in the transitory accounts are appropriately handled in line with policy. The

formalized instruction from MFDP."

Reports of missing tax revenues have come at the time questions are still hovering over the CBL as to what exactly happened to the reportedly "missing" L\$16 billion. Though authorities claimed that there were no "missing billions", Liberians continue to queue at local banks for the local currency which is said to be in short supply.



OFFICE OF CHIEF AUDIT EXECUTIVE

To: Mr. Thomas Doe Nah
COMMISSIONER GENERAL

From: James Kerkulah
Chief Audit Executive

Subject: **IA'S REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF DIRECT TRANSFER PAYMENTS AT COMMERCIAL BANKS**

Date: August 26, 2020

Dear CG:

I extend my professional compliments.

This is to submit Internal Audit's findings from the audit of Direct Transfer Payments (DTP) between commercial banks and Government of Liberia's (GOL) Consolidated General Revenue Account (CGRA) at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) covering the years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The Internal Audit performed this audit for purposes of ascertaining the accuracy, completeness, reliability and validity of amount of taxes commercial banks collected and remitted to GOL's CGRA at the CBL in accordance with memorandum of understanding.

Internal Audit planned and performed the audit to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence to determine whether the amount of taxes remitted by commercial banks to GOL's CGRA at CBL accurately and completely reflects the true and fair amount of taxes collected by the commercial banks for the period under audit.

The Auditors obtained annual bank statements from commercial banks for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 and CBL swift confirmation reports for all remittances made by commercial banks to the Central Bank of Liberia for the same period. The Auditors analyzed and reviewed all the bank statements for deposits received from taxpayers and remittances made to the Central Bank of Liberia. The Auditors also interviewed key management staff of commercial banks and the CBL for purposes of corroborating information gathered from documents and records of revenue transactions performed during the period under audit.

Based on the analysis and evolution of commercial banks' statements, CBL's swift confirmation reports and comparison with revenue data in LRA's Tax Administration System (TAS) for the period under audit, the Auditors identified the following issues:

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- 1-
- Revenue transactions amounting to US\$2,043,813.75 and LD\$327,130,712.16 on commercial banks' statements were not captured in the 2017 CBL swift confirmation reports and therefore not reflected in GOL's CGRA. **Please see schedule of analysis.**

Table I: Year - 2017

No	Banks	USD\$	LRD\$
1.	International Bank (IB)	111,343.48	45,088,347.48
2.	Ecobank Liberia	243,726.30	168,146,745.67
3.	Access Bank Liberia	86,796.95	5,468,139.16
4.	Global Bank Liberia	29,842.64	44,864.53
5.	GT Bank Liberia	14,150.00	25,410,232.00
6.	LBDI	1,549,070.80	39,028,964.96
7.	United Bank of Africa (UBA)	8,883.58	43,943,418.36
TOTAL		2,043,813.75	327,130,712.16

- Revenue transactions amounting to US\$8,357,651.67 and LD\$1,131,749,625.77 on commercial banks' statements were not captured in the 2018 CBL swift confirmation reports and therefore not reflected in GOL's CGRA. **Please see schedule of analysis.**

Table II: Year - 2018

No	Banks	USD\$	LRD\$
1.	International Bank (IB)	1,809,208.50	137,742,128.40
2.	Ecobank Liberia	1,260,899.39	187,290,209.08
3.	Access Bank Liberia	2,837.91	4,629,059.93
4.	Global Bank Liberia	140,550.19	5,334,015.81
5.	GT Bank Liberia	71,749.53	57,456,426.40
6.	LBDI	3,834,053.94	669,288,492.79
7.	United Bank of Africa (UBA)	726,387.72	69,878,733.36
8.	GN Bank Liberia	511,964.49	130,560.00
TOTAL		8,357,651.67	1,131,749,625.77

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- 2-
- Revenue transactions amounting to US\$14,700,701.70 and LD\$887,777,506.07 on commercial banks' statements were not captured in the 2019 CBL swift confirmation reports and therefore not reflected in GOL's CGRA. **Please see schedule of analysis.**

Table III: Year 2019

No	Banks	USD\$	LRD\$
1.	International Bank (IB)	1,450,779.82	57,142,608.22
2.	Ecobank Liberia	500,000	209,998,000
3.	Access Bank Liberia	94,683.28	22,456,533.78
4.	Global Bank Liberia	952,261.80	9,876,107.22
5.	GT Bank Liberia	316,864.23	9,381,984.26
6.	LBDI	10,480,607.02	527,439,022.81
7.	Afriland Bank Liberia	204,692.49	7,935,973.11
8.	United Bank of Africa (UBA)	170,726.51	30,788,156.66
9.	GN Bank Liberia	530,086.55	12,759,120.01
TOTAL		14,700,701.70	887,777,506.07

The Central Bank of Liberia and commercial banks need to provide explanations for these irregularities (amounts reflected on commercial banks' statements as remittances to GOL's Consolidated Revenue Account at CBL but not reflected in CBL's Swift Confirmation Reports and GOL's CGRA) for purposes of accurately, completely and reliably accounting for taxes collected on behalf of Government of Liberia in accordance with memorandum of understanding.

Please accept my assurances as the Internal Audit assists the LRA do the right thing in the right way.

CC: Internal Audit Agency
File

Internal Audit Department - "Helping you do the right thing in the right way"

Starts from back page

Mr. Tweahway broke the news that the President of Liberia Mr. Weah had instructed the NPA to fund the dux of the 2019/20 WASSCE Exam through undergraduate and graduate studies depending on her academic demands for higher education.

"We are excited that you have made your family and the nation proud for your brilliant performance and award as the most outstanding student to have dux this year's Senior Secondary School Exams and the NPA will not hold back to live up to Dr. George Weah's Mandate for the Port to finance your studies at the

WASSCE Dux

highest level," Mr. Tweahway told the dux in scholarly tone.

The NewDawn Newspaper is on the Newsstand Daily.

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

WASSCE Dux appreciates Pres. Weah

- As NPA commits to execute the President's mandate



Student Blessing Jalieba

Student Blessing Jalieba, speaking when she and her uncle Varney Konuwa met in audience with NPA Managing Director Bill Tweahway on Monday, 16 November expressed excitement for such opportunity and described it as a dream come true.

"I'd like to use this medium to wholeheartedly appreciate the President for this golden gesture as I had always wished to become a medical doctor through diligence and hard studies to make my dream a reality," Blessing Jalieba says.

Student Jalieba thanks President Weah and informs the NPA Boss Mr. Tweahway that she desirous of attending the Mother Pattern College of Health Sciences to pursue her studies in biology as she envisions rendering professional services to the country as a medical doctor.

Her comments follow after

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

The dux of this year's West African Secondary School Certificate Council Exam (WASSCE), student Blessing

Jalieba has hailed President Gerge Manneh Weah for mandating the National Port Authority to underwrite her studies at tertiary level.

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'Arsenal climate action can inspire millions'

The club are the first in the Premier League to join the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

It means pledging to help fight climate change and helping others do the same.

"We've already implemented a number of environmentally friendly practices across the club," Arsenal operations director Hywel Sloman said.

"We will continue to use

the power and reach of Arsenal to inspire our global communities and push each other towards a more sustainable future," he added.

Signing up to the framework commits the club and their staff to five key principles aimed at reducing their climate impact as part of attempts to limit global warming:

Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility

Reduce overall climate



impact
Educate on climate action
Promote sustainable and responsible consumption
Advocate for climate action through communication.
In 2019 Arsenal finished joint-top in a BBC Sport Premier League sustainability table - produced in partnership with UN-backed Sport Positive Summit.
"One year on, we are proud to build on the work we are already doing in this area and

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