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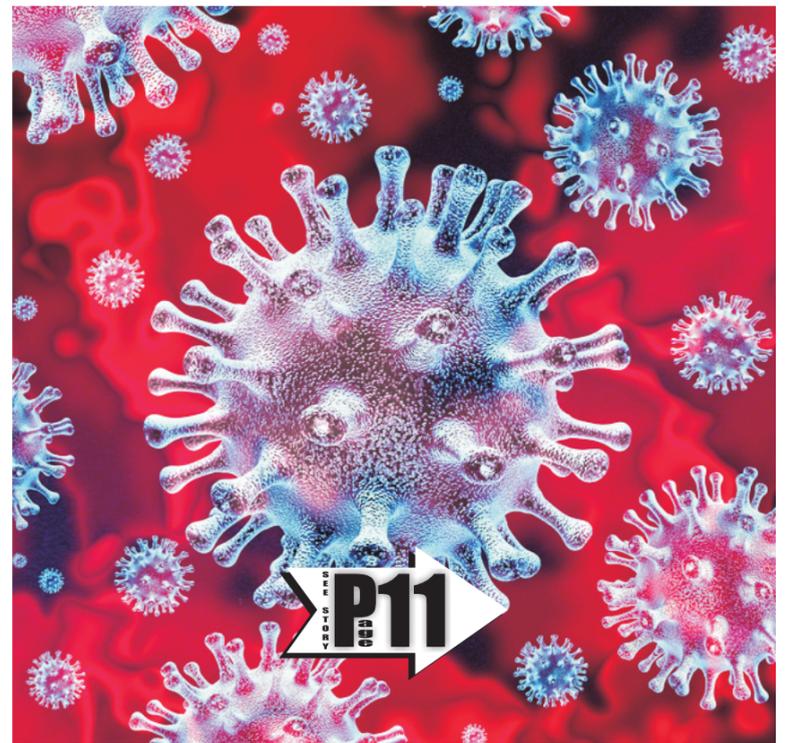
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Continental News

Sierra Leone rebel on trial for Liberia war crimes

The trial of a suspected warlord accused of atrocities during Liberia's civil war has started in Finland.

Prosecutors say Gibril Ealoghima Massaquoi, from Sierra Leone, was a senior member of a rebel group that fought in Liberia from 1999 to 2003.

He is accused of killing civilians and soldiers who had just been disarmed, rape and recruiting child soldiers.

He denies the charges and says he was taking part in peace talks at the time of the alleged crimes.

Some 250,000 people were killed in the Liberian conflict, which was intertwined with the war in neighbouring Sierra Leone. The 51-year-old was a commander and a spokesperson for the notorious Sierra Leone rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which also fought in Liberia.

The RUF was known for atrocities such as hacking off the limbs of civilians, as well as murder and rape.

He gave evidence to the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone set up to investigate war crimes committed in that conflict. He was relocated to Finland in 2008 as part of a witness protection programme, which provided immunity for crimes committed in Sierra Leone,

but not Liberia.

In March, he was arrested in the Finish town of Tampere, where he is standing trial. He is accused of murder, aggravated war crimes and aggravated crimes against humanity.

The AFP news agency reports it has seen court documents which contend he held an "extremely senior and influential position" in the RUF, one of the main militias fighting alongside President Charles Taylor's NPFL forces in Liberia.

According to witnesses, he ordered civilians, including children, to be locked inside two buildings, which were then set on fire.

In another alleged atrocity, Prosecutor Tom Laitinen says some of his victims' bodies were cut up and "made into food which Massaquoi also

ate".

Prosecutors have demanded a life sentence, which, in Finland tends to mean 14 years imprisonment, reports AFP. The court will move to Liberia and neighbouring Sierra Leone in the next few weeks, reports AFP.

It will do this to hear testimony from up to 80 witnesses and visit sites where the atrocities are alleged to have been carried out under Mr Massaquoi's orders.

This makes it the first such case to be partly held on Liberian soil, although Mr Massaquoi will remain in Finland. Ex-warlord Mohammed "Jungle Jabbah" Jabateh has been jailed for 30 years in the US for lying about his past as a leader of a force that carried out multiple murders and acts of cannibalism. BBC



Gibril Ealoghima Massaquoi denies murder, rape and recruiting child soldiers

RwandAir begins flights to besieged CAR capital

Rwanda's national carrier RwandAir has launched its new route to the Central African Republic's capital, Bangui, amidst rebels closing in on the city. The airline says it will be flying to Bangui twice a week as part of efforts to "recover

from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic".

Rwanda's trade and infrastructure ministers were among dozens of passengers who boarded the inaugural flight and landed in Bangui on Wednesday morning, local media reports.

In 2019, Rwanda and CAR presidents signed a bilateral defence agreement, which saw hundreds of Rwandan troops deployed to protect Bangui a little before December 2020 elections.

Rebel forces surround Bangui and control almost two thirds of the country. They dispute the December presidential election won by incumbent Faustin Archange Touadéra, and want him ousted.

Last week, former Prime Minister Martin Ziguélé said the situation in Bangui was "apocalyptic" as rebels encircle the city.

Bangui is being defended by government forces backed by the UN and Russian troops, a state of emergency was declared earlier this month.

RwandAir flew to nearly 30 destinations across 24 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, before some flights were suspended last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. BBC



RwandAir begins flights to besieged CAR capital

Tanzania denies hospitals packed with Covid cases

Tanzania's health ministry has denied claims being circulated on social media that hospitals are overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients.

The ministry's permanent secretary, Mabula Mchembe, said the public should not spread fear among people. The government has repeatedly been accused of playing down the threat posed

from onions, ginger, lemons and green peppers, and encouraged the public to take it as a precautionary measure.

There is no scientific evidence that it helps to combat the virus.

A blogger shared photos of Dr Gwajima and other officials inhaling steam and taking the concoction: Tanzania is one of the few countries in the world to not publish any data on



by Covid-19.

Prof Mchembe said that he had visited Mloganzila and Muhimbilia - two major hospitals in the main city Dar es Salaam - and was "satisfied that not everyone admitted here is suffering from Covid-19 as said by social media". His comments came a few days after Health Minister Dorothy Gwajima showed journalists how to make a concoction

Covid-19 cases. It last did so in May 2020, when about 500 cases and 20 deaths were recorded. The following month, Mr Magufuli declared Tanzania "coronavirus-free".

Last month, President John Magufuli said some Tanzanians had travelled abroad to take the vaccine but "ended up bringing us a strange coronavirus". BBC

EDITORIAL

Nwabudike must go

IF THE NIGERIAN-BORN fraudster Cllr. A. Ndubuisi who sits at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission as chairperson after faking his Liberian citizenship thinks members of the Liberian Senate are on a floor show over his removal, he should rethink. Nwabudike should be told in no uncertain terms that he has no time in his favor and the only option is to quite immediately.

IT IS HIGHLY incomprehensible and disgraceful that the Weah administration would continue to keep a foreigner like Cllr. Nwabudike as head of the LACC, a position that is statutorily reserved exclusively for Liberian citizens. And President George Weah is fully aware but has adamantly kept a blind eye on the matter.

LAST WEEK, SENATORS on Capitol Hill debated why the Executive still keeps Cllr. Nwabudike at the LACC after he lied under oath about his Liberian citizenship despite his rejection by the senate during confirmation hearing from heading the National Elections Commission following nomination by the President.

RUMORS HAVE BEEN circulating in Monrovia that the Nigerian fraudster who used fake Liberian naturalization document and enrolled at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia as a Liberia citizen where he graduated from with a Law degree is expected to resign this week.

THE SENATE IS resolved in making sure that Nwabudike, who carries Liberian Passports with inconsistencies in his date of birth, does not continue to occupy such an important integrity institution like the LACC when his entire life is shrouded in cheat and dishonesty.

SENATOR CONMANY WESSEH of River Gee County during session last week noted that Cllr. Nwabudike managed his way criminally through all sectors of the Liberian government including the judiciary, executive and legislative branches and later duped the Liberia National Bar Association into being inducted as a member.

BUT THE LNBA has since expelled Nwabudike from its membership after his ugly deeds were uncovered and brought to the public. And so with both the Bar and the Senate having no confidence in this foreign con-artist, it makes no sense in keeping him in the Liberian government because he does not serve the interest of the Liberian people.

WITH THE POWER invested in the Liberian Senate as direct representatives of the Liberian people, we urge that august body to ensure Nwabudike is prevented from presiding over Liberian taxpayers' money at the LACC or from conducting any transaction on behalf of the Republic of Liberia, as a Nigerian.

THE SENATE SHOULD not rest until this is achieved. It is in the interest of the Liberian people and the state to ensure this foreign fraudster, who has criminally invaded our system, is booted out and prosecuted in accordance with the laws of Liberia.

COMMENTARY

By Emmanuel Macron, Angela Merkel,

Macky Sall, António Guterres,
Charles Michel,
Ursula Von Der Leyen

Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery

We should not be afraid of a post-pandemic world that will not be the same as the status quo ante. We should embrace it and use all appropriate fora and available opportunities to make it a better world by advancing the cause of international cooperation.

PARIS - In September 2000, 189 countries signed the "Millennium Declaration," shaping the principles of international cooperation for a new era of progress toward common goals. Emerging from the Cold War, we were confident about our capacity to build a multilateral order capable of tackling the big challenges of the time: hunger and extreme poverty, environmental degradation, diseases, economic shocks, and the prevention of conflicts. In September 2015, all countries again committed to an ambitious agenda to tackle global challenges together: the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our world has experienced diverging trends, leading to increased prosperity globally, while inequalities remain or increase. Democracies have expanded at the same time that nationalism and protectionism have seen a resurgence. Over the past decades, two major crises have disrupted our societies and weakened our common policy frameworks, casting doubt on our capacity to overcome shocks, address their root causes, and secure a better future for generations to come. They have also reminded us of how interdependent we are.

The most serious crises call for the most ambitious decisions to shape the future. We believe that this one can be an opportunity to rebuild consensus for an international order based on multilateralism and the rule of law through efficient cooperation, solidarity, and coordination. In this spirit, we are determined to work together, with and within the United Nations, regional organizations, international fora such as the G7 and G20, and ad hoc coalitions to tackle the global challenges we face now and in the future.

Health is the first emergency. The COVID-19 crisis is the greatest test of global solidarity in generations. It has reminded us of an obvious fact: in the face of a pandemic, our health safety chain is only as strong as the weakest health system. COVID-19 anywhere is a threat to people and economies everywhere.

The pandemic calls for a strong coordinated international response that rapidly expands access to tests, treatments, and vaccines, recognizing extensive immunization as a global public good that must be available and affordable for all. In this regard, we fully support the unique global platform Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, launched by the World Health Organization and G20 partners in April.

To deliver on its mission, the ACT-Accelerator urgently needs wider political and financial support. We also promote the free flow of data between partners and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property. In the longer term, we also need an independent and comprehensive evaluation of our response to draw all the lessons of this pandemic and better prepare for the next one. The WHO has a central role to play in this process.

The pandemic has caused the world's worst economic crisis since World War II. Recovery of a strong and stable world economy is a fundamental priority. Indeed, the current crisis is threatening to undo the progress we have made over two decades in fighting poverty and gender inequality. Inequalities are threatening our democracies by undermining social cohesion.

No doubt, globalization and international cooperation have helped billions of people escape poverty; but nearly half the world's population still struggles to meet basic needs. And within many countries, the gap between rich and poor has become unsustainable, women still do not enjoy equal opportunity, and many people need to be reassured about the benefits of globalization. 1

As we help our economies overcome the worst recession since 1945, it remains our core priority to ensure rules-based free trade as an important engine of inclusive, sustainable growth. We must, therefore, strengthen the World Trade Organization and fully use the potential of international trade for our economic recovery. At the same time, protection of the environment and health as well as social standards must be placed at the heart of our economic models while ensuring the necessary conditions for innovation.

We need to ensure that the global recovery reaches everybody. That means stepping up our support to developing countries, particularly in Africa, by building on and going beyond existing partnerships such as the G20's Compact with Africa and its joint effort with the Paris Club within the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. It is crucial to further support those countries in reducing their debt burden and ensure sustainable financing for their economies, using the full scope of international financial instruments such as the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, the special drawing rights (SDRs).

The rise of new technologies has been a great asset for progress and inclusion, contributing to the openness and resilience of societies, economies, and states, while proving lifesaving during the pandemic. Yet, almost half the world's population - and more than half the world's women and girls - remain offline and unable to access their benefits.

Moreover, the considerable power of new technologies can be misused to limit the rights and freedoms of citizens, to spread hatred, or to commit serious crimes. We need to build on existing initiatives and involve the relevant stakeholders toward effectively regulating the Internet in order to create a safe, free, and open digital environment, where the flow of data in a trusted environment is guaranteed. Benefits must accrue especially to the most disadvantaged including by addressing the tax challenges of the digitalization of the economy and combating harmful tax competition.

Finally, the health crisis interrupted the education of millions of children and students. We must keep the promise to provide education for all and to equip the next generation with understanding for basic skills and science, as well as an understanding of different cultures, tolerance and acceptance of pluralism, and respect for freedom of conscience. Children and youth are our future, and their education is key.

To meet these challenges, multilateralism is not just another diplomatic technique. It shapes a world order and is a very specific way of organizing international relations based on cooperation, the rule of law, collective action, and shared principles. Rather than pitting civilizations and values against one another, we must build a more inclusive multilateralism, respecting our differences as much as our common values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato

From Moonshots to Earthshots

The pandemic has highlighted the cost of neglecting public investment, both in the welfare state and value creation. But the crisis has also created a huge opportunity to pursue industrial policies beyond traditional sectoral and technological silos, and to restore mission-driven governance in the public interest.

LONDON - COVID-19 has exposed the myriad weaknesses of modern capitalism. And in many countries, past cuts to social services and public health have amplified the damage wrought by the pandemic, while other self-inflicted wounds to the state have led to inadequate policy coordination and implementation. Mass testing and tracking, production of medical equipment, and education during lockdowns have all suffered as a result.

By contrast, countries and states that have invested in their public-sector capabilities have performed much better overall. This has been most striking in the developing world, where Vietnam and the Indian state of Kerala stand out.

Instead of acting as investors of first resort, far too many governments have become passive lenders of last resort, addressing problems only after they arise. But as we should have learned during the post-2008 Great Recession, it costs far more to bail out national economies during a crisis than it does to maintain a proactive approach to public investment.

Too many governments failed to heed that lesson. Faced with another society-wide challenge, it is now clear that they have relinquished their proper role in shaping markets, allowing public institutions to be hollowed out through outsourcing and other false efficiencies. The retreat of the public sector has given way to the idea that entrepreneurship and wealth creation are the exclusive preserve of business - a perspective endorsed even by those who advocate "stakeholder value."

In fact, the more we subscribe to the myth of private-sector superiority, the worse off we will be in the face of future crises. To "build back better" from the current one, as US President Joe Biden's administration and many other governments have committed to do, will require renewing the public sector, not just by redesigning policy and expanding the state's organizational capabilities, but by reviving the narrative of government as a source of value creation.

As I explain in my new book *Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism*, landing a man on the moon required both an extremely capable public sector and a purpose-driven partnership with the private sector. Because we have dismantled these capabilities, we cannot hope to repeat earlier successes, let alone achieve ambitious targets such as those outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris climate agreement.

The original moonshot model offers insights and inspiration for pursuing "earthshots" today. For example, to achieve the 17 SDGs, we should transform each into several clearly defined missions that would lay the groundwork for more multisectoral, bottom-up innovation. A plastic-free ocean, for example, will require investment and innovation in areas as different as marine transport, biotech, chemicals, waste management, and design. That is what the Apollo program did by sparking innovation in aeronautics, nutrition, materials science, electronics, software, and other areas.

A mission-oriented approach is not about government "picking winners," but about choosing directions for change - like a green transition - that require investment and innovation in many sectors. The full power of policy instruments should be used to create projects that elicit solutions from many different willing actors. NASA designed its procurement contracts to focus on goals, while encouraging bottom-up solutions and including "no excess profits" clauses and fixed costs, so that going to the moon involved sharing both risks and rewards. This is an important lesson for many governments that have suffered higher costs and lower quality from outsourcing.

Earthshots have much in common with moonshots, but the two are not synonymous. Among their similarities, both require bold, visionary leadership from governments that have been properly equipped to "think big and go big."

Consider the COVID-19 vaccine. The collective spirit and outcome-driven approach to vaccine research and development last year recalled the Apollo program.

While technological breakthroughs can provide new tools, they are not necessarily solutions in themselves. Earthshots require attention to political, regulatory, and behavioral changes. Safe and effective vaccines were created and tested in record time through public-private collaborations, with public investment proving absolutely crucial. But a disparity in vaccine acquisition between high-income and lower-income countries appeared immediately and has only deepened.

When it comes to an earthshot like global vaccination, technological innovation is only as useful as its real-world application. "Vaccine apartheid" - rather than a People's Vaccine - would constitute a moral and economic catastrophe. If pharmaceutical companies are serious about their stated support for the principle of stakeholder value, they should be sharing COVID-19 vaccine patents, data, and know-how through the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool, which remains unused.

Governments, too, must truly embrace the principle of stakeholder value, which does not apply only to corporate governance. Public-private collaborations also must be governed in the public interest, and not repeat the failures associated with today's digital economy, which emerged in its current form after the state provided the technological foundation and then neglected to regulate what was built on it. As a result, a few dominant Big Tech firms have ushered in a new age of algorithmic value extraction, benefiting the few at the expense of the many.

Technology alone will never solve social and economic problems. In applying the moonshot principle to complex challenges here on earth, policymakers must pay attention to myriad other social, political, technological, and behavioral factors, and capture a common vision across civil society, business, and public institutions.

Thus, earthshots must also involve extensive citizen engagement. Carbon neutrality, for example, must be designed with citizens where they live, such as social housing. By truly adopting an inclusive stakeholder approach, a mission can develop into a powerful civic platform and an engine of sustainable growth, as envisioned in calls for a Green New Deal, Health for All, and plans to bridge the digital divide.

These lessons could not be more relevant to the Biden administration, which will be able to tap the power of an existing entrepreneurial state comprising organizations like the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Institutes of Health, which invests up to \$40 billion per year in drug innovation.

O-PED

By Michael Spence

Biden's Vaccine Challenge

In confronting the COVID-19 crisis, US President Joe Biden will avoid many of his predecessor's mistakes, not least by heeding the advice of scientific experts. But, unless Biden also enlists adequate management, operations, and logistics expertise, even his best-laid plans may go awry.

MILAN - US President Joe Biden's plan for ending the COVID-19 pandemic and hastening the economic recovery is well designed and comprehensive, with clear objectives and priorities. But implementing it will not be easy, not least because it depends on rapid vaccine deployment.

The damage the pandemic has wrought has been far-reaching. In October, Lawrence H. Summers and David M. Cutler estimated that its cumulative financial costs (including lost output and health reduction) in the United States exceed \$16 trillion - about 90% of annual GDP. For a family of four, the estimated loss - including income and the costs of a shorter and less healthy life - amounts to nearly \$200,000.

But these costs are not being borne equally. Those in the bottom 50% of the income and wealth distribution have suffered the most, exacerbating already-high economic inequality.

Moreover, the pandemic has produced a major shock to education, especially for the very young. It is not yet possible to know the long-term consequences of school closures and remote learning for young people's cognitive and social development. But it is safe to assume that the longer the disruption continues, the more serious they are likely to be.

Fortunately, Biden's plan recognizes all of this. It also recognizes that the only way to achieve a full economic recovery (and get students back in school) is to get COVID-19 under control - and fast.

Many of the sectors most vulnerable to plummeting demand during the COVID-19 crisis - including travel, tourism, hospitality, sports, museums, and live entertainment - are labor-intensive. As long as they are struggling, employment cannot recover. And they will stop struggling only when public-health measures can be safely rolled back.

If one views containing and eliminating COVID-19 as an investment in economic recovery, the rate of return is huge. The OECD's high-frequency data tracking suggests that, in the US, the recovery has stalled at a contracted level of close to 8-10% of GDP, or \$1.9 trillion per year. But rapid vaccine deployment (within 6-9 months) would bring economic benefits worth at least \$1 trillion. In other words, an effective vaccination program that costs the federal government \$500 billion would have an annual rate of return of 100% (not counting the lives saved and other benefits).

And make no mistake: large-scale vaccine deployment is the only way the US can credibly hope to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. That much has become clear over the past year, as the vast majority of countries (with a few exceptions in Asia) have failed to bring the coronavirus under control by other means.

Will Biden's vaccination plan work? Although the plan has been shaped by scientific experts, rapid vaccine deployment poses massive implementation challenges. Meeting them will require Biden to approach the COVID-19 pandemic much as he would a war.

In wartime, civilian leaders set military objectives, and identify what is needed - in terms of materiel, manufacturing, and logistics - to meet them. Then the economy's resources are redeployed accordingly, even if it causes disruptions and shortages in affected sectors. Rationing is instituted, with price controls ensuring that supply constraints don't fuel inflation.

In many ways, the US is at war against COVID-19. But the existing systems - both public and private - for delivering what is needed to win are weak, fragmented, and, especially, uncoordinated. The Biden administration has inherited a chaotic, disorganized, and decentralized mess. They will rely on expansive and authoritative federal leadership, backed by public funding, to overcome these shortcomings. That is a good start. But the outcome will depend on how federal leadership is exercised.

For starters, Biden must enlist the help of managers with experience in operations, logistics, and service delivery, and who can work with private-sector partners to create the right incentives. This is not typically government's strong suit. The military, however, is adept in this area; its expertise should be tapped.

With the help of such experts, the federal government must secure adequate supply to meet ambitious vaccination targets. It may also need to establish new distribution channels to supplement existing ones.

At the same time, the federal government must decide how to prioritize access to the vaccine, and ensure that the system is consistent at all levels. Otherwise, states, municipalities, and health-care providers will continue to act independently - with economically (and morally) perverse consequences. For example, conflicting policies among various levels of government and other participants have already led to unused doses being thrown away, while others struggle to meet the demand.

Moreover, different prioritization schemes undermine perceptions of fairness and lead to a disorderly scramble to get vaccinated sooner. Vaccine tourism is already reported to be in full swing. The last thing a deeply divided and unequal US needs is for secondary markets to emerge, enabling people to buy their way to the front of the line.

In fact, the Biden administration should ensure that all vaccine doses are provided free of charge. And its strategy must address the impact of lack of universal health insurance, as well as local residency requirements, on people's ability to get vaccinated.

Finally, the government must ensure that vaccine-administration systems are reliable, regardless of how many users flock to them. We cannot continue to repeat the experience of last spring, when many state unemployment systems proved unable to handle the sudden surge in applications.



Republic of Liberia
Ad hoc Committee for the Recruitment
of the Auditor-General of Liberia



Invitation for the Position of
Auditor General of Liberia

Background

Established by an Act of the National Legislature in 2014 ("the Act"), the General Auditing Commission (GAC) supports Legislative oversight of the management of public resources. As the independent constitutional external auditor of Liberia, the GAC serves the people of Liberia by conducting quality and timely financial, compliance and performance audits. Headed by the Auditor General of the Republic of Liberia, the GAC is mandated to periodically conduct professional audit of all government ministries and agencies, and reports audit results and recommendations to the Legislature with copies to the President.

According to Section 2.1.5, the Auditor General shall hold office for a term of seven (7) years and shall not be eligible for reappointment. Consequently, given the tenure of the current Auditor General is nearing expiration, the Government of Liberia, in compliance with Part 2, Section 2.1 of the ACT, is recruiting to fill the position of Auditor-General of the Republic of Liberia.

The Duties and Responsibilities of the Auditor General:

- The Auditor General shall be the auditor of the public accounts and public funds of the Republic of Liberia. Subject to sub-section (b) below, the Auditor General shall carry out such audits and inquiries as he/she considers necessary of public entities and funds owned or controlled by the Government to enable reporting as required by the General Auditing Commission Act of 2014.
- Notwithstanding the generality of Section (a) above:
 - The Auditor-General shall carry out the annual audit of the Government's annual consolidated financial statements and
 - The scope of audits by the Auditor General for the Judicial Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to court decisions and for the Legislative Branch of Government shall exclude matters relating to the merits of legislation.
- The Auditor General shall have the right to determine which audits are to be carried out, to select the type of audit to be carried out, when to carry them out and report the findings.
- In the performance of his/her operational duties as set out in sub-section (c) above, the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.
- The Auditor General and the staff of the General Auditing Commission shall carry out audits, but shall not be involved, or seen to be involved, in any manner, in management's responsibilities of the organizations being audited

Basic Qualification for Selection and Appointment

A person shall be appointed as Auditor General only if:

- the person is a Liberian citizen;
- the person possesses at least one professional certification such as a CPA, CA, or ACCA from a recognized professional accountancy body;
- the person possesses at least a Bachelor degree in accounting, audit, business, finance or a related field;
- the person possesses a minimum of fifteen (15) years of relevant work experience, including an understanding of the role of a Supreme Audit Institution; and
- the person is of a high moral character, with integrity and impartiality, and who has neither been convicted of any criminal offence nor judgement or been declared bankrupt, in any jurisdiction.

Core Competencies Required for the Auditor General:

Behavioral

- Integrity;
- Objectivity;
- Professional competence and due care;
- Confidentiality;
- Professional behavior;
- Ability to work with others; and

Technical

The Auditor General must understand:

- Financial Statement, Compliance, Performance and Information Technology Audits;
- Public Financial Management Act and Regulation of 2009 of Liberia as amended in 2019;
- Public Procurement and Concessions Commission Act of 2005 as amended in 2010;
- Revenue Code of Liberia of 2000 as amended in 2011;
- INTOSAI Standards;
- International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and
- IFAC Standards.

Others:

- Information technology systems for financial accounting and reporting, including relevant current issues and developments;
- Principles and practices for evaluating financial accounting and reporting systems, including evaluating controls and assessing risk;
- Computer-assisted auditing packages and techniques; and
- Have an understanding of the LICPA Act and Regulations.

SUBMISSION OF INTENT

To be considered for inclusion in the recruitment process, please submit your CV, Cover Letter, and all relevant Credentials to:

In Person Delivery: Office of the Ad hoc Committee
C/o Office of the Legal Advisor
5th Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Via Email: adhoccommittee2021@gmail.com

Deadline for Application: Friday, February 26, 2021 @ 4 0'Clock P.M. (GMT)

Note: All Applications already delivered in-person to the Civil Service Agency or via email to agapplication@csa.gov.lr are valid.

Committee Room
5th Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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OPINION

By Kaushik Basu

This Decade's Growth Champions

Which countries will be the big economic success stories of the next ten years? South Korea is a safe pick, while Vietnam and Mexico also are poised to prosper, whereas India's divisive politics put that country out of the running for the time being.

ITHACA - With 2021 still young, and hope in the air thanks to new COVID-19 vaccines and a new occupant of the White House, we can finally stop covering our eyes in horror and peer furtively into the future. As the decade unfolds, which countries are likely to be the biggest economic success stories?

My bet is on South Korea, Vietnam, and Mexico, three countries at markedly different stages of development. South Korea is an advanced economy, while Vietnam is what the World Bank calls a lower middle-income economy, like India or Bangladesh. Mexico, an upper middle-income country like Colombia, Botswana, or Indonesia, is somewhere in between. I predict that each of these economies will outperform others in its cohort over the next ten years.

South Korea is the safest pick of the three. Beginning in the late 1970s, during the last years of Park Chung-hee's presidency, its economy gathered steam and sustained a two-decade-long growth run, before hitting the roadblocks thrown up by the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

Rich countries have less growth potential than poorer ones. But among rich countries, South Korea's prospects stand out - mainly because of its investment in human capital. With 3,319 patent applications per million population in 2019, South Korea is head and shoulders above other countries. Japan had the second-highest number, with 1,943, while China and the United States had 890 and 869, respectively. In April 2019, South Korea became the first country to launch a nationwide 5G campaign, and South Korean firms plan to capture 15% share of the global 5G market by 2026.

Moreover, South Korea has gone some distance toward solving a market failure that plagues all countries: teacher selection. As many studies, such as by Abhijit Banerjee and Andrew Newman, and Oded Galor and Joseph Zeira, have shown, schoolteachers are typically paid less than they should be, which I believe is because the effect of a good education cascades down to future generations. Good teachers are thus a bit like good climate policy: future generations benefit, but they have no influence over today's decisions.

South Korea has drawn some of its most talented people into teaching, and schoolteachers are among the country's richest people. The story of Cha Kil-yong, who earned \$8 million in one year teaching school mathematics online, has few parallels anywhere.

President Moon Jae-in's efforts to create a more equitable and inclusive society also augur well. Acts like moving the president's official residence from the palatial Blue House to a more ordinary government complex in downtown Seoul are symbolic but important gestures. My expectation is that South Korea's per capita income will overtake that of Japan within the next ten years.

Vietnam had a per capita income of just \$1,297 in 2010, when it was one of the world's three fastest-growing economies, along with India and China, both of which were richer. The country maintained its impressive growth rate since then, and its per capita income now exceeds India's.

This success story began in 1986, when the Communist Party of Vietnam's Sixth National Congress adopted the Doi Moi policy of moving away from a command economy to a more market-oriented model. In recent years, Vietnam has cut its tariff rates, opened its borders to trade and foreign investment, and invested heavily in human capital.

Vietnam's impressive management of the COVID-19 pandemic has given the economy an additional shot in the arm. The country's low crude mortality rate of 0.4 COVID-19 deaths per million people and 2.9% economic growth in 2020, a year when most economies shrank, are remarkable achievements. The steady inflows of foreign investment that Vietnam is now attracting could make it one of the world's leading manufacturing hubs.

Unlike Vietnam, Mexico is reeling under the pandemic, and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), the latest world leader to be infected, must take responsibility for some of the mismanagement. Nevertheless, since AMLO became president in 2018, there has been a resurgence of hope. He initiated what he called Mexico's "Fourth Transformation," a progressive economic agenda that aims to promote growth and remove some egregious elite privileges. To emphasize this, AMLO refused to live in the presidential mansion, Los Pinos, opting for a simpler residence.

Along with Vietnam, Mexico has the greatest potential to become a global manufacturing hub. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which entered into force last year, can further these three economies' integration. In fact, with the US and Canada providing capital and advanced technology, and Mexico marshaling its ample labor force, the region could experience a major resurgence and outcompete China. Now that US President Joe Biden has taken office, trilateral relations should improve. All three countries will benefit, but Mexico will gain the most, because it has more scope for catch-up growth.

Finally, there is the puzzling case of India. Until a few years ago, the country's rapid growth of about 9% per year made it a major global economic success story. But the economy has since slumped, with falling growth from 2016 to 2020 - the longest slide since independence.

Yet, fundamentally, India is one of the strongest emerging economies. It has a world-class information-technology sector, a strong pharmaceutical industry, and a small segment of highly educated workers. The stumbling block is the country's divisive politics, which have eroded trust and caused the investment rate to fall steadily over the last few years.

If India can clean up its political act, it can be a global growth leader. But that is a big "if." At least for now, it puts India out of the running when it comes to picking this decade's likely economic winners.

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Liberia pays off AU's debt

Ahead of the African Union's 34th Ordinary Session of Heads of state, Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dee-Maxwel Kemayah, has disclosed that the Government of Liberia has fulfilled its financial

Chairperson, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The meeting will be held via videoconferencing on the theme "Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want," in support of efforts to showcase the significant contribution of the rich and

contribution and the legacy arrears which accumulated and were assessed in 2020 were made available. He reaffirmed the Weah Administration's commitment to settling the country's financial obligations to International and continental institutions. "Settling our financial obligations signals that Liberia takes its role and responsibilities seriously as a member in the international system", the Minister said.

It can be recalled that Member States of the Africa Union in 2016 decided on the need for equitable and predictable funding source to finance the Union so as to reduce dependency while implementing development and integration programs on the Continent. Each country is therefore required to make regular financial contributions to the Union, based on assessment of its capacity.

During the upcoming Session, the Heads of State are expected to receive reports and debate on matters of continental priority, including reports on the Institutional Reforms of the Union and the AU Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



obligations to the pan-African body.

He made known the country's readiness to participate in the upcoming session scheduled for February 3-7, 2021, under the auspices of the AU's current

diverse African heritage, as an essential tool for bringing about sustainable development, integration, and peace in Africa.

Minister Kemayah thanked President George Weah, through whose leadership he said the needed funds to settle the 2021

58-year-old woman completes high school

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The graduation hall of the Effort Baptist Church in Paynesville City outside Monrovia was the scene of excitement and joy when the name of a 58-year-old female graduating candidate of the Nathan E. Gibson Memorial Academy (NEGMA) was announced by the school administration.

Madam Faith R. Reeves was among 310 successful students of the school that were qualified and certificated as graduates during the 35th

She thanked her teachers and the school administration for the wonderful work done in imparting knowledge into students who are prepare to secure a better future in life.

Also speaking in joyous mood, Principal Samuel A. Fogara Sr., congratulated parents and guardians for supporting their children education with merger resources from sale of bitter balls.

He encouraged them to continue to standby their



graduation and honoring program.

Making brief remarks after she received her high school diploma from the Principal of NEGMA, Mr. Samuel A. Fogara Sr., Faith said she was overwhelmed that after several years of study she was able to finally graduate from high school.

She expressed hope that with God on her side, she will persevere until she also obtain college education, adding that there is no limit for anyone to acquired sound education once there is focus and determination.

children because they are the ones that will lead the family after they shall retire from life or be in their old age, while urging the graduates to move forward in pursuit of higher education.

Speaking earlier, the Guest Speaker and Chief Administrator of LICOSESS Teachers Training Institute of Paynesville Joe Bar Mr. Benjamin Y. Wehye challenged the graduates to be more proactive until they can acquire college education.

Mr. Wehye, a veteran

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Rep. Dennis wants drug abusers rehabilitated

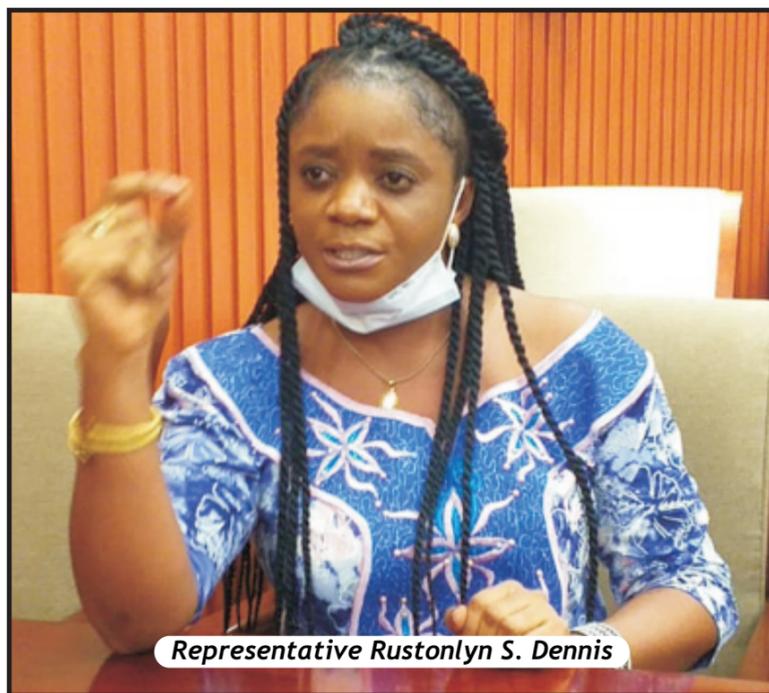
By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado county electoral district#4 Representative Rustonlyn S. Dennis, has introduced a bill before the House of Representatives, seeking establishment of a rehabilitation center for cannabis users.

She said when enacted, the center will help to rehabilitate victims of cannabis and substance abuse, while providing them technical and vocational skills.

Rep. Dennis noted that the absence of a rehabilitation center in Liberia for victims poses serious danger to the society and threatens national security thereby, damaging the future of Liberia's young generation.

The female lawmaker said majority of the youth affected by cannabis and controlled substance are out of school and currently involved in criminal activities.



Representative Rustonlyn S. Dennis

She called for decisive action in rehabilitating victims of drugs abuse in Liberia, noting that cannabis, controlled drugs and substances are the most common form of abuse of the young generation in Liberia eventually, leaving them with

no skills and professions.

Rep. Dennis added that cognizant of attempts by the Government of Liberia especially, the National Legislature and the Ministry of Justice, including the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency

(LDEA) and other institutions aimed at prohibiting use of cannabis and other unacceptable drugs hasn't yielded the desired results.

Meanwhile, the full plenary

of the House has forwarded the bill to its Committee on Health, Gender, Judiciary and Ways, Means and Finance to report in two weeks. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Weah to dedicate US\$125,000 projects

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President George Manneh Weah is expected during his pending county tour to dedicate US\$125,000 school projects in Grand Kru County. Speaking to reporters Wednesday, February 03, Deputy House Speaker, Cllr. J. Fonati Koffa said that the three schools' projects were undertaken by him (Koffa) for

since the creation of the county, residents and nationals had suffered lack of improved education thereby, pushing school children to go to nearby counties for better education, something he thinks, should be brought under control in his days on earth.

Cllr. Koffa had earlier during the day served as guest speaker for the newly elected student council government of the

students that they should work so that their generation would be proud of them and not something that would bring negative reflection in the near future.

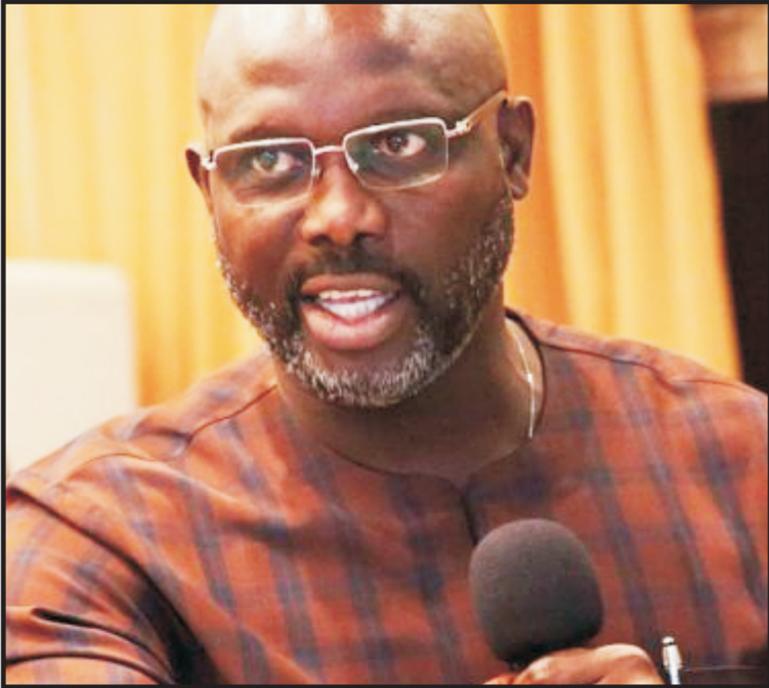
He added that one factor that holds many bright students back is fear, adding; fear should not be used as a stumbling block in the education sojourn in order to serve society at a greater level.

The deputy speaker also said young people should make positive impact on tomorrow's actions and plans.

He noted of recent many youth are focusing and blasting national leaders for not creating jobs for them, stressing that nothing comes on silver platter instead; young people should work hard with dream of where they want to be in the next five years then blaming leaders for short-live opportunities.

According to him, young people shouldn't demand things they did not work for, stressing that many of the influential persons and leaders struggled to be where they are and it did not come as the result of quick-fix project.

Meanwhile, Koffa donated US\$2,000 to the students' government for their computer laboratory project undertaken by the council. The computer laboratory is expected to provide access to internet for over 3,000 students. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



the people of that county.

According to him, the schools are intended to provide quality and affordable education to the children of Grand Kru.

Cllr. Koffa is the Representative of Grand Kru County Electoral District #2, and deputy speaker of the House of Representatives. He noted that for little now

United Methodist University in central Monrovia.

He admonished the students to be focused on positive things and change their style of engagement on national issues. He urged them to be more positive about change then being combative.

Speaking on the theme, "The role of students' leadership in nation building, he told the

Minster Kemayah stresses institutional reform at AU

Liberia's Foreign Minister Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr. has underscored the need for an urgent institutional reform at the AU, given the role the organization is expected to play in driving the vision of inclusive economic growth and development Africa.

Minister Kemayah said Africa need a commission that will transition to a high performing, efficient and effective organization that is able to deliver on agreed continental priorities, and attract and retain the best quality staff at all levels, noting that a strong accountability and performance based framework cannot be overly emphasized.



Minister Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Ambassador Kemayah made these remarks

on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at the 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive

NTA in ticket syndicate?

-passengers alarm

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Tension is brewing onboard several buses of the National Transit Authority or NTA that ply the route from Duala to Paynesville City after commuters alarmed that they were allegedly issued duplicated tickets with different prices.

When the government of President George M. Weah announced the arrival of nearly 50 brand new buses from India for the National Transit Authority with fares at 15 Liberian dollars per students for one trip and 30 Liberian dollars for adults,

Several commuters, including Betty Watson, Samuel Koon, and Felecia Wilson, who boarded one of the NTA buses from Duala and Paynesville Redlight respectively, explained that the conductor on the Duala bus instead of receiving LRD35, requested them to deposit into the cash box onboard the bus the sum of LRD50, but issued them LRD30 tickets.

Similarly, they noted that on the NTA bus commuting passengers from Central Monrovia to Paynesville City, conductor also requested passengers to deposit LRD50 but issued LRD60 ticket.

According to the commuters, after discovering the



many Liberians welcomed the government's gesture.

But after the buses ply various routes in the capital and out of town for some times, the Management of the NTA situated in Gardnersville outside Monrovia, increased the fares to LRD35 per student and LRD50 for adults for each trip.

However, what seems a scam or financial syndicate aimed at duping commuters through the sale of duplicated tickets was uncovered by commuters, which nearly led to serious tension between some conductors and commuters onboard the buses.

They observed that instead of the NTA conductors selling the regular tickets to commuters for the printed price on each ticket, they were doing the opposite.

discrepancy, they immediately alerted the conductor onboard, sparking confusion between them and the conductors that nearly resulted to fistfight had it not been for timely intervention of other passengers.

Moreover, it was also observed that one of the fares was written with ink pen, instead of the regular machine printing.

This paper has in its possession some of the tickets in question.

When this reporter contacted the NTA head officer in Gardnersville to ascertain facts surrounding the situation that seems to have engulfed the NTA, security guards there said the appropriate person to speak on the matter was out in the field. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Council of the African Union, via videoconference.

"Let me pay special tribute to the Chairperson of the AU, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahammat for his keenness and dedication to the work of our Union, and for his intuitive

leadership character which continues to keep the AU focused on its objectives in the face of daunting challenges.

"This session is taking place at a time of unprecedented

Français

“L'Ange Gabriel” jugé en Finlande pour des crimes de guerre au Liberia

Le procès d'un ancien rebelle sierra-léonais, accusé de crimes de guerre et d'une longue liste d'atrocités durant la guerre civile au Liberia voisin, s'est ouvert mercredi en Finlande, avant une longue délocalisation inédite sur le sol libérien dans deux semaines.

Surnommé à l'époque “l'Ange Gabriel”, Gibril Massaquoi encourt la perpétuité pour des “crimes de guerre aggravés” et “crimes contre l'humanité aggravés” qu'il est accusé d'avoir commis ou ordonné entre 1999 et 2003.

Il était alors un haut responsable du Front révolutionnaire uni (RUF), une milice armée sierra-léonaise dirigée par le caporal Foday Sankoh, proche de l'ex-chef de guerre libérien devenu président Charles Taylor.

L'audience s'est ouverte mercredi matin devant un tribunal de Tampere, ville du sud du pays où l'accusé avait été arrêté en mars 2020 après la mobilisation d'ONG.

Agé de 51 ans, l'accusé, qui vit en Finlande depuis



2008, nie toute implication. Vêtu d'un costume gris et portant un masque, il a écouté via un traducteur la liste des charges lue par le procureur Tom Laitinen, a constaté un journaliste de l'AFP.

Ce rare procès contre un acteur d'une des pires guerres du continent africain (250.000 morts et des millions de déplacés entre 1989 et 2003) va

être l'objet d'une première historique.

Mi-février, la cour se déplacera pour au moins deux mois au Liberia et au Sierra Leone pour entendre quelque 80 témoins et visiter les lieux de crimes dont Gibril Massaquoi est accusé.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Guinée : Morts en détention et prison ferme pour des opposants

Les autorités guinéennes doivent faire la lumière sur les conditions de la mort en détention d'au moins quatre personnes et mettre fin à la vague d'arrestations ciblant depuis la publication des résultats de l'élection présidentielle d'octobre, au

moins 400 militants de l'opposition et de membres de la société civile dans tout le pays, a déclaré Amnesty International aujourd'hui.

En deux mois, quatre personnes dont trois militants ou sympathisants de l'Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée

(UFDG, opposition) sont mortes pendant leur détention provisoire à la prison centrale de Conakry la capitale. Elles ont été arrêtées dans le cadre de la contestation du référendum constitutionnel et des résultats de l'élection présidentielle en mars et octobre derniers.

Ces personnes sont décédées alors qu'elles étaient détenues dans des prisons qui sont de notoriété publique des mouroirs où les règles du droit international pour le traitement des détenus ne sont pas appliquées.

Fabien Offner, chercheur sur l'Afrique de l'Ouest à Amnesty International.

« Ces personnes sont décédées alors qu'elles étaient détenues dans des prisons qui sont de notoriété publique des mouroirs où les règles du droit international pour le traitement des détenus ne sont pas appliquées, a déclaré Fabien Offner, chercheur sur l'Afrique de l'Ouest à Amnesty International.

« Conclure à des décès naturels sans faire d'enquête approfondie, et n'autoriser la

libération ou l'hospitalisation des détenus que quand leurs cas sont désespérés, comme le font les autorités, témoigne d'un profond mépris pour la vie humaine, et d'une indifférence totale à la déshumanisation des lieux de détention dans le pays. Les autorités doivent faire la lumière sur les circonstances de ces morts en détention et améliorer de toute urgence les conditions de détention. »

« On ne m'a jamais dit que mon mari était malade... »

Mamadou Oury Barry qui avait été placé sous mandat de dépôt le 5 août 2020 « pour coups et blessures volontaires » est mort en prison le 16 janvier dernier. Selon le ministère de la Justice, « il est décédé d'une mort naturelle liée à une occlusion intestinale et une anémie bioclinique au service des urgences de l'Hôpital Ignace Deen. »

Barry a déclaré le 14 janvier à un de ses parents qu'il avait mal au ventre. Malgré son arrivée à la prison avec des médicaments et de la nourriture, le parent a été interdit d'accès.

« Quand je suis arrivé à la prison avec de la nourriture et des médicaments, on m'a dit que je ne pouvais pas rentrer. En début d'après-midi du 21 janvier, on m'a appelé pour me dire qu'il était gravement malade. Une fois arrivé sur place, on m'a appris son décès, » a déclaré le proche parent de M. O. Barry à Amnesty International.

A la date du 29 janvier, la famille n'avait toujours pas pu récupérer le corps, malgré une demande de restitution adressée dix jours auparavant au procureur du tribunal de première instance de Dixinn.

Roger Bamba, membre du conseil national des jeunes de l'UFDG, est mort le 16 décembre 2020 en détention « des suites de maladie », selon le ministère de la Justice. Il avait été arrêté le 6 septembre 2020 au siège de l'Assemblée nationale où il travaillait comme attaché parlementaire, et envoyé en prison quatre jours après, accusé de « production, diffusion de propos de nature à troubler la sécurité publique ». »

« On ne m'a jamais dit qu'il était malade, jamais ... À chaque fois que je parlais là-bas je présentais mon permis de communiquer mais on me refusait la visite en me disant qu'il était interdit de voir les prisonniers politiques. Je n'ai pu le voir qu'une seule fois le 23 novembre et il se portait bien. Ensuite je ne l'ai plus revu avant le 16 décembre, et quand j'y suis allée c'était trop tard, » a déclaré la femme du défunt à Amnesty International.

La femme de Roger Bamba, attaché parlementaire à l'Assemblée nationale, a déclaré à la mort en prison de son mari, qu'on ne lui avait jamais dit qu'il était malade.

Mamadou Lamarana Diallo,

25 ans, est décédé le 5 décembre 2020. Il avait été arrêté le 2 avril 2020 à Conakry, ville traversée par des troubles à la suite du référendum contesté du 22 mars 2020.

« Depuis son arrestation on n'a pas revu Mamadou Lamarana Diallo jusqu'au 4 décembre, » a déclaré un parent. Le jeune homme est décédé quelques heures après sa libération, après avoir été conduit quasi-mourant auprès de parents par des membres des forces de défense et de sécurité.

Un autre détenu de la prison centrale de Conakry, Thierno Ibrahima Sow, est décédé dans la nuit du 17 novembre 2020.

Un médecin pour 2000 détenus à la prison de Conakry

Les conditions de détention sont en flagrante violation avec les standards minimum requis par le droit international, notamment tels qu'édictés par la Commission africaine des droits de l'Homme et des Peuples dans les lignes directrices dites de Robben Island.

Les témoignages recueillis par Amnesty International auprès de parents de détenus décédés et d'ex-détenus montrent que les autorités guinéennes ne respectent pas les standards internationaux en matière de protection des droits des détenus. Par exemple, à la prison centrale de Conakry, construite pour une capacité de 300 personnes environ, un seul médecin sur place est censé s'occuper de près de 2 000 détenus.

Des délégués d'Amnesty International se sont rendus quatre fois entre 2015 et 2019 à la prison centrale de Conakry. L'organisation a recueilli le témoignage d'un militant de l'UFDG détenu à la prison centrale de Conakry à la fin de l'année 2020 :

« On se couche les uns sur les autres, la nourriture arrive déjà pourrie. Les prisonniers font leurs besoins les uns à côté des autres... Un jeune est là-bas depuis six mois, arrêté seulement parce qu'il dansait dans la rue sur des musiques qui faisaient l'éloge de Cellou Dalein Diallo... Il n'y a pas d'infirmerie, c'est seulement une inscription sur une porte. Un seul médecin vient pour tous ces détenus. Quand les gens se révoltent, on les envoie à l'hôpital Ignace Deen. »

« Les conditions de détention dans la prison de Conakry sont inhumaines. Tout détenu a le droit d'être traité avec dignité, de recevoir de la nourriture, des conditions d'hygiène et des soins adéquats et appropriés. Lorsqu'un détenu est malade, il doit pouvoir consulter un médecin dans les plus brefs délais et avoir accès aux traitements nécessaires, » a déclaré Fabien Offner.

Vague d'arrestations et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

“L’Ange Gabriel” jugé

Ex-porte-parole du RUF, il comparait pour une litane d'accusations de crimes, viols et d'actes de torture commis en personne ou par ses soldats, selon le dossier d'accusation de près de 4.000 pages compilé par la justice finlandaise. Celle-ci permet de poursuivre des crimes graves commis à l'étranger. - “Souffrance irréparable” -

Dans le village de Kamatahun, proche de la frontière sierra-léonaise, dans le nord du Liberia, des témoins accusent Massaquoi d'avoir ordonné d'enfermer des civils, don't des enfants, dans deux bâtiments avant de les réduire en cendres.

Au moins sept femmes ont été violées et tuées dans la même localité, tandis que les cadavres d'autres habitants ont été découpés en morceaux et “transformés en nourriture que Massaquoi a également mangée”, selon le dossier lu par le procureur.

Ce dernier inclut également des accusations de meurtres et de viols de masse ailleurs dans la province de Lofa (Nord) et dans la capitale Monrovia, ainsi que des mises en cause pour esclavage et recrutement d'enfants soldats.

Les crimes ont “délibérément et systématiquement” violé le droit humanitaire international, infligeant “une souffrance et des dommages irréparables” aux familles des nombreuses victimes, selon les procureurs.

Gibril Massaquoi affirme, lui, qu'il était engagé dans des négociations de paix ailleurs dans la région à l'époque des atrocités.

“Il nie toutes les accusations (...) il n'était pas là”, a affirmé à l'AFP son avocat, Kaarle Gummerus.

Jadis professeur, l'accusé avait été autorisé à s'installer en Finlande après avoir donné des preuves en 2003 à la Cour spéciale pour la Sierra Leone mise en place par l'ONU.

Il avait alors reçu une immunité pour les actes commis dans son pays, mais pas au Liberia. Après la guerre civile, la plupart des commandants des différents groupes armés ont fui le pays et les condamnations restent l'exception, même si des condamnations ont été prononcées aux Etats-Unis et des procès et des poursuites sont en cours en Suisse et en France.

L'ex-président Charles Taylor purge une peine de prison depuis 2012, mais pour des crimes commis au Sierra Leone, pas dans son pays, où aucun tribunal pour crimes de guerre n'a été institué.

- “Un signal” -

L'annonce du procès en janvier par la justice finlandaise a été saluée au Liberia.

“C'est un signal que les crimes commis pendant la guerre civile ne resteront pas impunis”, a déclaré à l'AFP le militant des droits de l'homme Adama Dempster, à Monrovia.

A l'origine des poursuites en Finlande, Civitas Maxima, une ONG qui oeuvre à faire juger les criminels de guerre, s'est réjouie d'une décision “révolutionnaire” pour établir “les responsabilités des pires atrocités de ce monde”.

La cour de Tampere prévoit de revenir en Finlande en mai pour deux mois supplémentaires d'audience, avec un verdict attendu en septembre.

Guinée : Morts en détention et

condamnations

Oumar Sylla dit Foniké Mengué un des cadres du Front national pour la défense de la Constitution (FNDC) avait été arrêté à Conakry le 29 septembre 2020, alors qu'il mobilisait contre la candidature du président Alpha Condé à l'élection présidentielle.

Après quatre mois de détention arbitraire, il a été condamné le 28 janvier 2021 à 11 mois de prison ferme pour « participation à un attroupement interdit susceptible de troubler l'ordre public. » Amnesty International considère que la détention d'Oumar Sylla est arbitraire et appelle à sa libération immédiate et sans condition.

Amnesty International considère que la détention d'Oumar Sylla est arbitraire et

appelle à sa libération immédiate et sans condition.

Selon une liste nominative établie par des avocats représentant des opposants, et consultée par Amnesty International, 167 militants ou sympathisants du FNDC ou de partis politiques de l'opposition sont actuellement détenus à la maison centrale de Conakry. Ils font partie des quelques 350 à 400 personnes du même profil qui seraient détenus dans l'ensemble du pays, selon cette même liste, présentée comme non exhaustive.

On compte parmi eux Souleymane Condé, coordinateur du FNDC aux Etats-Unis et Youssouf Dioubaté, membre du FNDC. Tous deux ont été condamnés le 13 janvier 2021 à un an de prison ferme et 20 millions de francs guinéens d'amende (1500 euros).

COMMENTAIRE

Emmanuel Macron, Angela Merkel, Macky Sall, António Guterres, Charles Michel, Ursula Von Der Leyen

Coopération multilatérale pour une reprise mondiale

PARIS - En septembre 2000, 189 pays signaient la Déclaration du Millénaire, dessinant les principes de la coopération internationale pour une nouvelle ère de progrès autour d'objectifs communs. Au sortir de la guerre froide, nous avons confiance dans notre capacité à bâtir un ordre multilatéral qui permette de faire face aux grands enjeux de l'époque, comme la faim et l'extrême pauvreté, la dégradation de l'environnement, les maladies et les chocs économiques, et de prévenir les conflits. Au mois de septembre 2015, tous les pays ont de nouveau pris l'engagement de relever ensemble les défis mondiaux par l'intermédiaire du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

Notre monde a connu des évolutions contradictoires, conduisant à une augmentation de la richesse à l'échelle planétaire tandis que dans le même temps, les inégalités persistaient ou s'accroissaient. La démocratie a gagné du terrain en parallèle à la résurgence du nationalisme et du protectionnisme. Au cours des dernières décennies, deux crises majeures ont bouleversé nos sociétés et fragilisé nos cadres d'action communs, semant le doute sur notre capacité à surmonter les chocs, à lutter contre leurs causes structurelles et à garantir un avenir meilleur aux générations futures. Elles nous ont également rappelé à quel point nos destins sont liés.

Pour préparer l'avenir, nous devons apporter des réponses inédites et ambitieuses aux crises les plus graves. La crise que nous traversons actuellement peut, nous en sommes convaincus, être l'occasion de forger un nouveau consensus au service d'un ordre international fondé sur le multilatéralisme et l'état de droit grâce à une coopération efficace, à la solidarité et à la concertation. Dans cet esprit, nous sommes déterminés à travailler ensemble avec les Nations Unies, les organisations régionales, les enceintes internationales comme le G7 et le G20 et des coalitions ad hoc pour relever les défis mondiaux d'aujourd'hui et de demain.

L'urgence est d'abord sanitaire. La crise de la COVID-19 met à l'épreuve la solidarité internationale comme jamais auparavant. Elle nous a rappelé une évidence : face à une pandémie, la chaîne de notre sécurité sanitaire est aussi solide que son maillon le plus faible. Partout, la COVID-19 menace la population et l'économie.

Cette pandémie exige une réponse internationale forte et concertée pour étendre rapidement l'accès aux tests, aux traitements et aux vaccins, étant entendu qu'une large couverture vaccinale est un bien public mondial qui doit être accessible à tous à un prix abordable. À cet égard, nous apportons notre soutien plein et entier à l'accélérateur « ACT », dispositif inédit lancé par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et les partenaires du G20 en avril dernier pour accélérer l'accès aux outils de lutte contre la COVID-19.

Pour atteindre son but, ce dispositif a besoin urgemment d'un soutien politique et financier plus large. Nous encourageons également la libre circulation des données entre les partenaires et l'octroi volontaire de licences en matière de propriété intellectuelle. À plus long terme, nous devons procéder à une évaluation indépendante et globale de notre réponse afin de tirer tous les enseignements de cette pandémie et de mieux nous préparer à la perspective d'une éventuelle pandémie future. L'OMS a un rôle crucial à jouer dans ce processus.

Mais l'urgence est aussi environnementale. Dans la perspective de la COP26 de Glasgow, nous devons intensifier nos efforts pour lutter contre le changement climatique et rendre nos économies plus durables. D'ici au début de l'année 2021, les pays représentant plus de 65 % des émissions mondiales auront vraisemblablement pris des engagements ambitieux en matière de neutralité carbone. L'ensemble des gouvernements, des entreprises, des villes et des institutions financières doivent désormais adhérer à la coalition mondiale pour parvenir à la neutralité carbone comme le prévoit l'Accord de Paris, et

commencer à agir en mettant en œuvre des mesures concrètes.

La pandémie a provoqué la pire crise économique que le monde ait connue depuis la seconde Guerre mondiale. Il est absolument essentiel de rebâtir une économie mondiale robuste et stable. En effet, la crise actuelle menace d'anéantir les progrès accomplis depuis plus de vingt ans dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et l'inégalité entre les femmes et les hommes. Les inégalités menacent nos démocraties en portant gravement atteinte à la cohésion sociale.

Il est certain que la mondialisation et la coopération internationale ont permis à des centaines de millions de personnes de sortir de la pauvreté mais près de la moitié de la population mondiale rencontre toujours des difficultés pour satisfaire ses besoins de base. Dans de nombreux pays, le fossé entre riches et pauvres est devenu insoutenable, les femmes ne bénéficient toujours pas des mêmes opportunités que les hommes et nombreux sont ceux qui ont besoin d'être rassurés quant aux bienfaits de la mondialisation.

À l'heure où nous aidons nos économies à surmonter la pire récession depuis 1945, notre priorité absolue demeure de garantir des échanges commerciaux libres et fondés sur des règles, sans lesquels la croissance solidaire et durable ne peut s'envisager, de renforcer l'Organisation mondiale du commerce et de tirer pleinement parti du potentiel du commerce international au profit de notre reprise économique. La protection de l'environnement, de la santé et des normes sociales, doit être au cœur nos modèles économiques tout en permettant l'innovation nécessaire.

Nous devons faire en sorte que la reprise mondiale bénéficie à tous. À cet égard, nous devons accroître notre soutien aux pays en développement, en particulier en Afrique, en nous appuyant sur des partenariats existants comme le Pacte avec l'Afrique du G20, ou son effort conjoint avec le Club de Paris dans le cadre de l'Initiative de suspension des services de la dette. Il est essentiel d'aider davantage ces pays à réduire le fardeau de leur dette et d'assurer le financement durable de leurs économies en ayant recours à tout l'éventail des instruments financiers internationaux tels que les droits de tirage spéciaux dans le cadre du Fonds monétaire international.

L'essor des nouvelles technologies constitue un atout précieux au service du progrès et de la solidarité : il a permis de sauver des vies pendant la pandémie et il contribue à l'ouverture et à la résilience des personnes et des sociétés, des économies et des États. Pourtant, près de la moitié de la population mondiale n'est pas connectée et ne peut pas accéder aux avantages de ces technologies, et c'est aussi le cas pour plus de la moitié des femmes et des filles.

Par ailleurs, l'incroyable puissance des nouvelles technologies peut être détournée afin de limiter les droits et les libertés des citoyens, de semer la haine ou de commettre des crimes graves. Nous devons tirer profit des initiatives existantes et mobiliser les acteurs concernés pour réguler efficacement l'internet afin de créer un environnement numérique sûr, libre et ouvert, dans lequel la circulation des données est sécurisée et les avantages sont multipliés, surtout pour les personnes les plus défavorisées. Nous devons aussi traiter les problématiques fiscales de la transformation numérique de l'économie et lutter contre la concurrence fiscale dommageable.

Enfin, la crise sanitaire a interrompu les études de millions d'écoliers et d'étudiants. Nous devons tenir la promesse de dispenser un enseignement à toutes et à tous et permettre aux nouvelles générations d'acquérir les compétences et les connaissances scientifiques de base, mais également de développer leur curiosité envers d'autres cultures, leur tolérance, ainsi que leur respect du pluralisme et de la liberté de conscience. Les enfants et les jeunes sont notre avenir et leur éducation est une nécessité.

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

Presidential Power

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
January 29, 2021

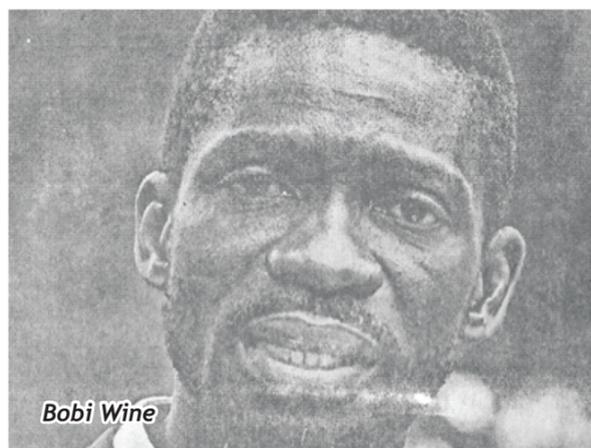
Introduction

This Exercise takes a comparative look at the power relationships of the three Branches of government - the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary - of the Republic of Liberia and some of the other governments of the African Continent.

Although the Republic of Liberia had been historical and a diligent participant of the African Continental **Politics - Corruption**(massive theft of public resources with public display of ostentatious lifestyles by government officials); **Constant Votes-rigging**; **Constitutional manipulations for illegal third Term**; and numerous, other **non-democratic activities** since political independence on **July 26, 1847**, but the Republic of Liberia is, apparently, alone, in implementing and maintaining power superiority over and control of the other two Branches - **Legislative and Judiciary** - by the **Executive Branch**.

Thus in Liberia, the **Executive Branch** has become superior with its **Head, the President of the Republic, a Presidential-Emperor who controls all "co-equal" branches of government with other two reduced to rubber stamps**, unlike the **Federal Republic of Nigeria** and others in which the **Legislatures and Judiciaries** are diligently aggressive in exercising their powers and action of expression consistent with constitutional provisions. For examples:

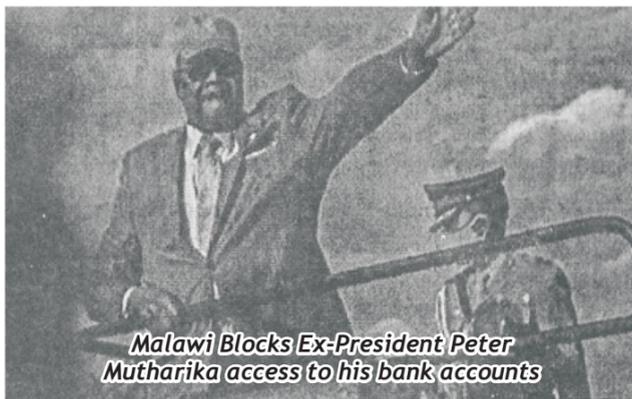
The **Uganda High Court ordered the Military and Police** (of the Executive Branch) to leave the home of a leading opposition politician, **Bobi Wine**, held under house arrest. The Court "ruled that **Bobi Wine's** detention was unlawful, with **Justice Michael Elubu** telling the Court (and Executive Branch) it was also an infringement of his (Bobi Wine's) **personal liberties**".



Bobi Wine

Also, the **Malawi High Court** refused to allow former **President Peter Mutharika** access to his bank accounts frozen by the country's **Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA)** pending trial.

Based on **past, resent past and prevailing activities**, it is reasonable to conclude that these legal, courageous actions **could not and would not have been taken here in Liberia**. For example, **Mr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike**, proven citizen of a foreign country, an illegal act, but still serves as **Chair of Liberia Anti-**



Corruption Commission (LACC) in flagrant violation of law and, even, after **Mr. Nwabudike** was removed from membership of the **Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA)**.

Deeply Troubled and Disappointed

Indeed, we are deeply troubled and disappointed by **President Weah's recent Annual Message** because of several missed opportunities. Major examples are that **President Weah's Cabinet and general administration** are dominated by the former **President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's loyalists - rebels, civil war fighters, generals, NPP mass murderer, civil and human rights violators, criminals, thieves, and corrupt officials**.

Moreover, it is reported that the **former President is now king-maker behind the George Weah Presidential Throne**, although she was booted out as **Standard Bearer of the UNITY Party** for, reportedly, financing opposition political party campaign for **protection from prosecution** for alleged economic and war crimes.

For, we had hoped that young **George Weah**, experienced victim of **Monrovia's ghetto slum, indigenous citizen and now President of the Republic**, will not and must not fail for obvious reasons. But now, all of these difficult, protracted conditions!!

The Liberian Supreme Court

Now, the **Liberia High Court "slams US Department of Treasury allegations of bribery** within **Liberian Judiciary**" with the statement of **"zero tolerance for corruption"**.

But just recently, the **Liberian Senate** mustered the courage to try, convict and removed an **Associate Justice of the Supreme Court** upon validated evidence that he (the Associate Justice) then in Chambers:

- a) Advised his **business partners-petroleum importers** (who collected some \$30 million US from Liberians as tax for roads/highway construction/repairs but failed and refused payment to Government) to **submit request to the High court for prohibition to stop government from demanding payment** and he, the **Associate Justice in Chambers** issued the **Prohibition** that stopped the government. He, the **Associate Justice**, was and is paid **continuous bribes**;
- b) All other **Associate Justices** approved the unlawful action of the **Chamber Justice**, including the **Chief Justice** who presided the **Senate trial** and the recently-retired

Associate Justice who appeared as **defense witness**; and

- c) That we, **Liberians**, at the receiving end **know that the Judiciary is a Den for the highest bidder - corruption payments, jury tampering and bail manipulations with corrupt "insurance" companies**. We are sure that the **US Government** knows that the **Liberian Judiciary's** statement of **"zero tolerance"** is a **blatant lie and falsehood**.



Chief Justice Korkpor

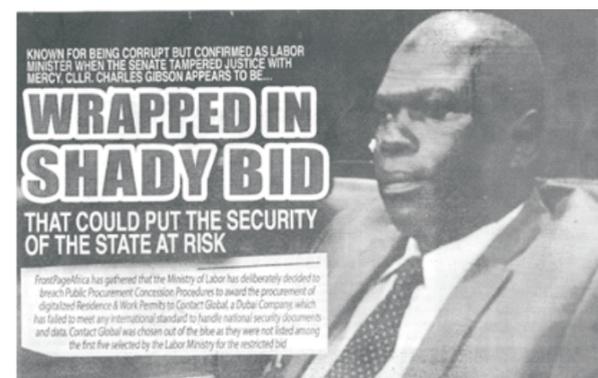
The Recurring problem of Cllr. Charles Gibson

The man is a trained professional, a lawyer, who should and must be treated just like any other, not on the flimsy, corrupt excuse of **"mercy"** that exposes the nation to the **absence of collective security**. **Cllr. Charles Gibson** has been appointed and submitted for **Senate confirmation** twice but rejected each time. Something must be wrong with **Lawyer Gibson** in terms of character and behavior.

According to **Front Page Africa**, "**Cllr. Charles Gibson** is back in the spotlight for allegedly tampering with the bidding process that could see **Liberia's residence and work permit data** land in the hands of a **Dubai company** which has no experience in handling national security documents and data. Documents obtained by **Front Page Africa** show that the **Ministry of Labor** (with **Cllr. Gibson** as Minister) in collaboration with **Liberia Immigration Service (LIS)** crafted the tender in a manner that sought to suppress local companies' ability to ably compete the bid".

Moreover, "the **UAE delegation**, according to **Executive Mansion**, was invited to the country by the **Minister of State W/O Portfolio, Mr. Trokonkpui** and **Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Nathaniel McGill**". These reported activities are classic examples for **Liberian corruption payments**. The icing on the cake is the personal reasoning by **Senator Milton Teahjay** of **"mercy" for corrupt action** (**FrontPageAfrica, January 21, 2021**).

Editor's note: The views expressed in this article are that of the author and not of this paper.



Counselor-at-Law Charles Gibson

Pres. Weah's son arrested

President George Manneh Weah son, George Manneh Weah, Jr, alias Champ is reported to have been arrested in Paris, France during the early hours of Tuesday morning February 2. According to Today 24 News, media alert based in

in Paris, located on the avenue du President-Wilson (8th arrondissement), in the Alma-Marceau district. There, in an apartment rented through Airbnb, officials came face to face with a gang of eight revelers. All were fined for "non-compliance with the measures

"very alcoholic" notes a police source, insulted the police and took out a diplomatic passport. He was arrested for contempt and rebellion, brought back to the 17th arrondissement police station, presented to the nightjudicial police officer.



Paris, Weah Jr., has been scheduled to meet with French Justice Officials Thursday. The report says on the night of Monday to Tuesday, at 3.20 am, the police intervened for nighttime noise during a clandestine party in an opulent building

in force related to the health context". Among them, George Weah junior, 33, whose father, Liberia's current president was catapulted to stardom via the Paris based club- Paris SG. The report adds that during the police intervention, the tone rose. George Weah junior,

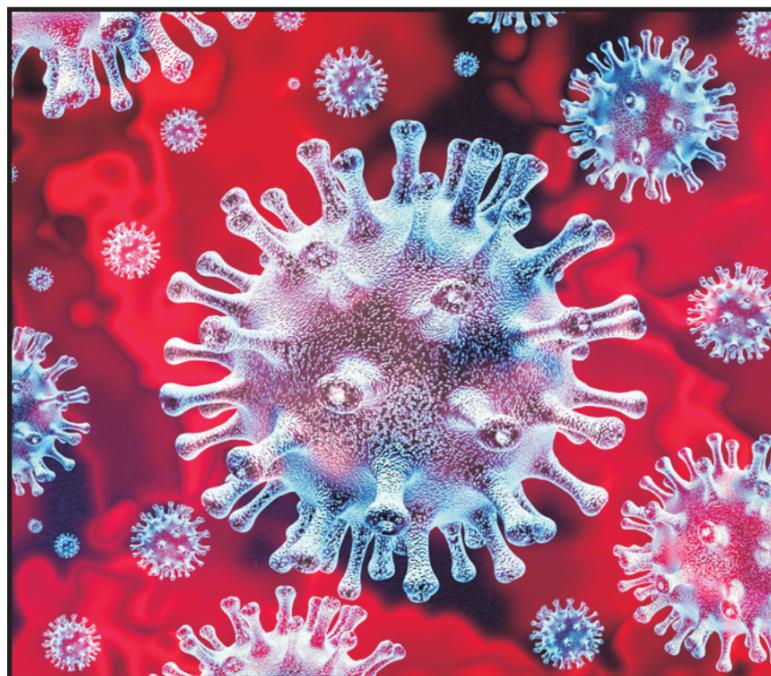
"The Quai d'Orsay has been warned," said a senior police official. Another warns: "We are going to check his possible diplomatic immunity."

MoH: no new COVID variant here

The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Health, clarifies that contrary to public speculation, no new variant of the COVID-19 virus has been confirmed in the country.

Health Minister WilheminaJallah has said that in keeping with World Health Organization protocols, some test samples were sent overseas for examination.

She insists that the practice is standard with countries in the region and should not suggest the emergence of a new variant of the disease. She however urges the general public to continue to strictly abide by the health protocols in spite of the relative success the country has scored to prevent further local spread



of the virus. The government therefore encourages those spreading the rumor of a new variant to desist as health authorities have received no such

confirmation. As has always been the case, the public will be duly notified of any new development in the fight against Coronavirus in the country.

Minster Kemayah

Cont'd from page 6

collaboration between the AU Commission and Member States, as a result of a global COVID-19 Pandemic. This situation has led to uncertainty, Economic Meltdown, the impeding of Free Trade and Movement of persons on our continent and loss of lives among others. While it is true that Member States have acted swiftly to support their economies; nonetheless, these efforts have been constrained by falling revenues and limited fiscal space", the Liberian Foreign Minister indicated.

Ambassador Kemayah further explained that the Continent's resilience is being tested, stating that the Continent has come through much, and will definitely come through this crisis. But with stepped up support from ourselves and international partners, the Continent will be able to boost local containment effort and enjoy robust recovery during the 2021 period.

"I am pleased for the opportunity to address this distinguished Council as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia. Let me recall the untiring efforts of the founders of the OAU, including my country, Liberia, and their commitment to build a united and integrated Africa. We are glad; that aspiration remains the motivation of the AU.

"Considering the importance of the items on our Agenda, we are quite convinced that they are all in line with our Roadmap - "Agenda 2063, the Africa we want. We would like to use this medium to assure you once again that our Government remains quite supportive, and will work cooperatively with other Member States with the view

of ensuring that we come out with decisions that will positively impact our Continent", Ambassador Kemayah concluded.

For her part, the Chairperson of the Executive Council of the African Union, Her Excellency Madam Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa welcomed the new Liberia's Foreign Affairs Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr. to the council, noting that the Executive Council will consider the draft agenda and the draft decisions and declarations of the Assembly with appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Heads of State Assembly, scheduled to take place from 6-7 February 2021.

The Executive Council meeting brings together all the Ministers from the 55 African Union Member States, as well as AU officials.

For two days, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs/External Relations and other ministers or authorities duly designated will reconvene in close session to deliberate on the different items on their agenda including the consideration of the report of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC); Annual Report on the Activities of the Union and its Organs for the period of January to December 2020; consideration of the report on the African Union Response on COVID-19 pandemic in Africa; consideration of the progress report on the operationalization of the African Inclusive Market Excellence Centre (AIMEC); the report on the second mid-year coordination meeting, held on 22 October 2020, as well as elections and appointments of the AUC leadership.

58-year-old woman

Cont'd from page 6

Liberian educator, awarded two scholarships to two of the graduates whose goal is to become teachers in the country.

The scholarships, the LICOSESS boss notes, are his institution's way of encouraging Liberian students with the desire of becoming trained, professional, and career teachers especially at the time the country needs more qualified teachers.

He assured that LICOSESS would not rest until all 15 political subdivisions of Liberia have professional classroom teachers for service to the nation.

The LICOSESS Teachers Training Institute has over the

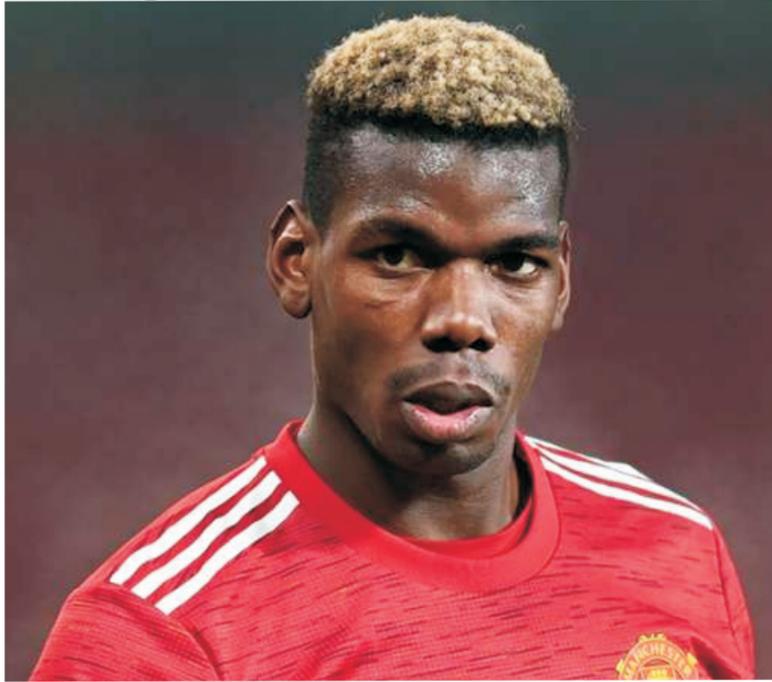
years trained and graduated hundreds of teachers most of whom are providing instructional services to students across the country.

During the graduation ceremony, several hardworking faculties and deserving students of the institution were honored for the dedicatory services.

Meanwhile, statistics shows that Bong County top the list of counties with graduates from the NEGMA with a total of 78 graduates; followed by Lofa with 69 graduates; Nimba County 55 graduates; Grand Bassa, 36; Montserrado, 12; Maryland, 9; Sinoe, 6; Margibi and Gbarpolu 5 each; and Bomi County, 4 graduates,

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Pogba's brother warns Man Utd to sell him



The Frenchman's older sibling has added fuel to rumours that the World Cup winner is approaching the final stages of his Old Trafford career. Paul Pogba's brother has warned Manchester United that they need to look at selling him now if they want to earn a transfer fee, claiming

that he will be willing to leave on a free transfer. The Frenchman has constantly been linked with a move away from Old Trafford, having been outspoken about his ambitions to take in a new challenge abroad at some point. Back in October 2020, the 27-year-old revealed that playing for Real Madrid has been a long-

held "dream" for him, and United's decision to trigger the one-year extension option in his contract did little to curtail speculation over his future.

Mino Raiola, who serves as the World Cup winner's agent, then dropped a huge bombshell before the Red Devils Champions League group stage decider against RB Leipzig in December, claiming his client's career in Manchester was "over".

However, Pogba has knuckled down behind the scenes to rediscover his best form since then, helping Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side emerge as genuine Premier League title contenders.

During a recent interview with BT Sport, Pogba said of his current situation at the Theatre of Dreams: "I am on contract, I am here, I am enjoying myself."

"Everybody knows that I have one year left, I'm going to speak with the club and see what's going on."

"For now, my objective, my goal is to win something. That's all I'm thinking about is to win."

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Kabak confident he will suit Liverpool style

Ozan Kabak believes he will fit into Liverpool's style well after joining the club from Schalke. The Turkey defender joined the Premier League champions on loan, with an option to buy, on Monday as the injury-hit Reds also added Ben Davies. Kabak, 20, feels he will be well suited to playing for Liverpool, who are third in the Premier League ahead of hosting Brighton and Hove

Albion on Wednesday. "Yes, of course. First of all, Liverpool play offensive football and press high; sometimes they leave some space in the back so I think Liverpool centre-backs need to be fast, so I think I suit it in this way," he told LFC TV. "Also, they like to play and build the game, so you need to have good feet to build up the game. So I think I suit Liverpool very well." Kabak said he grew up dreaming of one day playing for the Premier League giants.



"Liverpool was my childhood team. So I always wanted to come to this club, to play at this amazing stadium, in front of these amazing fans," he said. "It's a dream for me. Now the dream comes true." Ozan Muhammed Kabak (born 25 March 2000) is a Turkish professional footballer who plays as a centre-back for Premier League club Liverpool, on loan from Schalke 04, and the Turkey national team.

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