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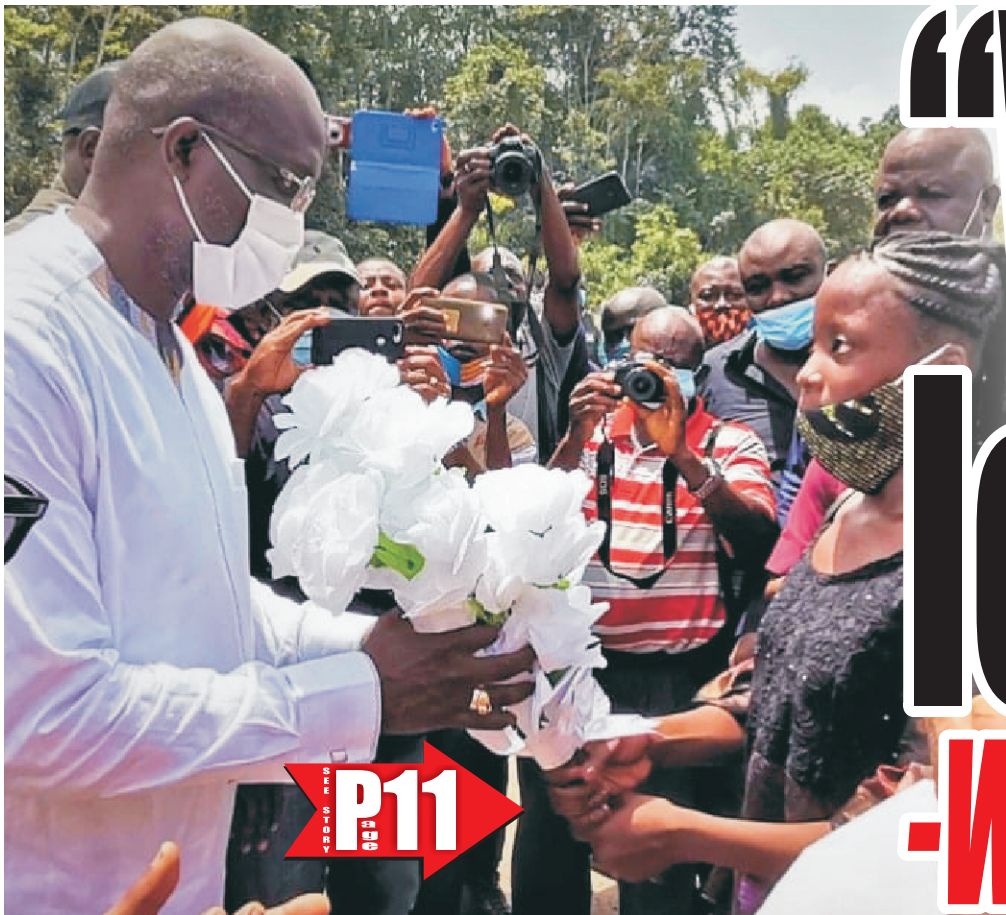


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P11

# "We want to leave a mark"

## -Weah raps up county tour

# No sign of Ebola

## After 8 suspects test negative



P10

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# Continental News

## US 'gravely concerned' about Ethiopia atrocities

The US has condemned reported atrocities in Ethiopia's conflict-hit northern region of Tigray, urging the African Union to help resolve the "deteriorating situation."

"We are deeply concerned by the worsening humanitarian crisis," Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said. An Amnesty report said crimes against humanity may have been committed. Hundreds have been killed and tens of thousands displaced in four months. The conflict erupted on 4 November 2020 when Ethiopia's government launched an offensive to oust the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) after its fighters captured federal military bases in Tigray. In a report released last week rights group Amnesty International accused troops from neighbouring Eritrea of killing hundreds of people in the ancient city of Aksum on 28 and 29 November, saying the mass killings may amount to a crime against

humanity. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, told parliament on 30 November that "not a single civilian was killed" during the operation.

But witnesses have recounted how on that day they began burying some of the bodies of unarmed civilians killed by Eritrean soldiers - many of them boys and men shot on

the streets or during house-to-house raids.

Amnesty's report has high-resolution satellite imagery from 13 December showing disturbed earth consistent with recent graves at two churches in Aksum, an ancient city considered sacred by Ethiopia's Orthodox Christians.

An eyewitness told the BBC how bodies remained

unburied on the streets for days, with many being eaten by hyenas. A communications blackout and restricted access to Tigray has meant reports of what has gone on in the conflict have been slow to emerge. However Eritrea's Information Minister Yemane G Meskel has dismissed the accusations from Amnesty, calling them "preposterous" and "fabricated". In a tweet, he suggested that the eyewitnesses quoted were militiamen allied to Tigray's former ruling party, the TPLF. But the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has said Amnesty's report should be "taken seriously" and that it was investigating the allegations. He welcomed the Ethiopian government promise for unhindered humanitarian access to Tigray and its invitation for international support for investigations into

human rights violations.

He also called for the "immediate withdrawal" of Eritrean forces and other militia fighters from the region, urging the African Union and neighbouring countries to help resolve the crisis. But Ethiopia and Eritrea have both denied the presence of Eritrean troops in Tigray. Despite Mr Abiy declaring victory after pro-government troops took the regional capital Mekelle in late November, clashes have persisted in the region. The security and humanitarian situation has deteriorated, with reported sexual assaults against women on the rise.

Last week the UN World Food Programme (WFP) made an urgent appeal for more than a \$100m (£72m) to ease severe shortages in Tigray. It said three million people - about half of Tigray's population - need food aid. BBC



The conflict has displaced tens of thousands to neighbouring Sudan

## Cameroon soldiers 'raped women in revenge raid'

Human Rights Watch (HRW) says it has gathered evidence of a revenge attack nearly a year ago by Cameroonian soldiers on a village where they raped at least 20 women. The raid on Ebam in the Anglophone South-West region, an area where separatists are fighting for an independent state of

Ambazonia, was one of the worst atrocities carried out by Cameroon's army in recent years, the rights organisation said. It had gone largely unreported because of stigma and fear of reprisal which discourages survivors of sexual violence from speaking out, HRW said, adding that there had been no effective investigation.

"One year on, survivors of

the Ebam attack are desperate for justice and reparations, and they live with the disturbing knowledge that those who abused them are walking free and have faced no consequences," said HRW's Ida Sawyer in a statement. HRW's investigation included interviews between August and January with witnesses, rape survivors and a doctor who had treated them. Witnesses said that more than 50 soldiers entered Ebam on foot at about 03:00 on 1 March 2020, breaking into almost all the 75 houses in the village. A number of soldiers rounded up men, while others raped women, including four with disabilities, HRW said. Dozens of men were detained and severely beaten and a 34-year-old man was also killed by soldiers in a forest by the village, the rights group said.

"Five masked soldiers entered my home," a 40-year-old woman told HRW.

"It was dark, and I was alone. BBC



Cameroonian soldiers have been fighting separatists for several years

## Ten killed in DR Congo militia attack



A soldier of the FARDC (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo) takes position during exchanges of fire with members of the ADF

The army in the Democratic Republic of Congo says at least ten people have been killed by a militia in the east of the country.

A military spokesman said the Allied Democratic Forces beheaded eight people in one village Boyo and shot two more in another nearby

Kainama. They also burned down houses.

The ADF has stepped up attacks on civilians since the military launched an offensive against the group eighteen months ago.

The militia originated as an Islamist movement in Uganda, but has not staged attacks there for several years. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## Leave Brownie Samukai alone

**WE DO NOT** see the logic behind the Solicitor General of Liberia Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus asking the National Elections Commission not to certificate Lofa County Senator-elect, J. Brownie Samukai after the court had convicted him and his accomplices and stipulated timeframe in which they should refund US\$1.4 million misapplied from a benefit scheme for soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

**IN THE FIRST** place, where was the Solicitor General during the candidate nomination process when the NEC qualified former Minister Defense Samukai to contest for the senate in the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election? Why the SG did not act there and then, but waited for Samukai to get elected Senator before going after him?

**SHAMELESSLY, HERE IS** the Justice Minister Frank Musa, trying to defend Cllr. Syrenius Cephus before the Liberian Senate on his letter to the NEC, asking the Commission not to certificate the Senator-elect, Samukai because he (Samukai) was convicted by the court.

**AND SO LAST** week, both the Solicitor General Cephus and the Attorney General Dean on one hand, and the Liberian Senate on the other, had been pulling and hauling over the certification of the Senator-elect with the Senate instructing the two officials to withdraw the communication sent to NEC.

**THE SENATE IN** plenary last Thursday argued that Solicitor General Cephus has no authority over election matters, particularly on who should be certificated winner or not, except the National Elections Commission.

**WE JOIN THE** leadership of the senate presided over by Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor in calling on Cllr. Cephus and Minister Dean to muster enough courage and withdraw the letter to NEC if they have not already done so, as they seem to be treading on strange grounds.

**SAMUKAI AND HIS** colleagues involved in tempering with soldiers' benefit scheme had their days in court, were convicted and told to retribute the US\$1.4 million within a timeframe. If the court had wanted, they would have been incarcerated until the money is paid. More so, the people of Lofa County are mobilizing funds to pay on behalf of their senator.

**THE COURT THAT** convicted Samukai and others is watching; if they failed to pay within the one year period provided, the judge would take the next course of action, not the Solicitor General, who seems to be moving with political emotions.

**SOLICITOR GENERAL CEPHUS** and Attorney General Dean should be told in no uncertain terms that going after perceived political enemies, as was in the case of impeached Associate Justice Kabinah Ja'neh is counterproductive and should not be encouraged.

**WE HAIL SENATE** presiding officer, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor and the entire leadership of the Liberian Senate for standing up for justice and coming to the defense of their colleague Senator-elect Samukai.

# COMMENTARY

By José Antonio Ocampo,  
Joseph E. Stiglitz, Jayati Ghosh

## An Open Letter to Joe Biden on International Corporate Taxation

**T**he world has welcomed your election and commitment to restore diplomatic engagement with the international community to the center of US foreign policy. By rallying governments to create the conditions for an equitable and environmentally sustainable global economic recovery, your leadership can encourage transformative changes.

For too long, international institutions have failed to deal with one of the most toxic aspects of globalization: tax avoidance and evasion by multinational corporations. Fair taxation of multinationals is needed to create the type of societies that we aspire to, and it must be a central part of any progressive tax system aimed at driving economic growth and creating high living standards for all. Ending corporate tax avoidance is also one of the best ways to tackle rampant inequality of wealth and income.

By shifting their profits to tax havens, large companies deprive governments worldwide of at least \$240 billion per year in fiscal revenues. This shortfall affects not only the United States, where some 50% of overseas profits made by US multinationals are transferred to tax havens each year, but also the Global South, where revenue sources are more limited and hence reliance on corporate tax receipts to fund public services is greater.

As members of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), we urge you to fulfill your promise to "lead efforts internationally to bring transparency to the global financial system, go after illicit tax havens, seize stolen assets, and make it more difficult for leaders who steal from their people to hide behind anonymous front companies." To do that, your administration should engage actively in ongoing efforts to overhaul the international tax system to ensure fair taxation of multinationals, which is currently being discussed within the G20-mandated OECD process.

Unfortunately, these negotiations have not gone well. The governments of leading member states (including the previous US administration) have negotiated under the misplaced assumption that their national interest is best served by protecting those multinationals headquartered within their borders. Discussions on the reform of international taxation have thus sacrificed common ambition to the lowest common denominator.

Meanwhile, multinationals continue to avoid taxes that could help pay for public expenditure to support the post-pandemic recovery. The world cannot afford this.

The negotiating process has, nonetheless, reached agreement that multinationals should be considered unitary businesses. This means that their worldwide profits should be taxed in line with their real activities in each country. This is a familiar concept in the US, where corporate profits are allocated to different states on a formulaic basis, according to the key factors that generate profit: employment, sales, and assets. But the current proposal applies this allocation criterion to only a small share of a firm's global profits - particularly those of highly digitalized multinationals, which are mainly US-based.

E-commerce grew by nearly a third during the pandemic, and it is critical that not only digital

multinationals, but all multinationals' digital business operations pay their fair share of taxes. An ambitious and comprehensive reform therefore should be adopted to replicate the US system at the international level, without distinction between digital and non-digital businesses. Such a rule would help to establish a more level playing field, reduce distortions, limit opportunities for tax avoidance, and provide certainty to multinationals and investors.

This system should be supported by a global minimum tax on multinationals, putting an end to harmful tax competition between countries and reducing the incentive for multinationals to shift profits to tax havens. But the 12.5% minimum rate being discussed at the OECD and elsewhere could become the global ceiling, in which case the laudable initiative to oblige multinationals to bear their fair share of taxes would end up doing the opposite.

Your campaign promised to raise the US minimum tax on US corporations' foreign earnings (known as "GILTI") to 21%. This measure would not only have the merit of increasing your country's fiscal resources; it would also provide the political support for other countries' policymakers to follow suit.

An ambitious global minimum tax could be a game changer in the fight against tax avoidance. If G20 countries were to agree to impose a 25% minimum corporate tax (as the ICRICT advocates) on the global income of their multinational firms, more than 90% of worldwide profits would automatically be taxed at 25% or more. Of course, it is also essential that such a tax should be designed to allocate taxing rights fairly between firms' home and host countries.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said at her confirmation hearing that your administration looked forward "to actively working with other countries" in order to "try to stop what has been a destructive, global race to the bottom on corporate taxation." There is no evidence that the recent trend toward lower corporate tax rates has stimulated productive investment and growth. The 2017 US rate cut mainly ended up funding dividend payments and stock buybacks.

Corporate taxation is in effect a tax on pure profits, and so lowering the rate has little effect on economic activity. In other words, corporate taxes are essentially a withholding tax on dividends, and thus an income tax on the wealthy, because equity holdings (directly, or indirectly through, say, pension funds) are even more unequally distributed than income.

We ask you to ensure that the US once again leads by the power of example and cooperates with other countries willing to deliver a comprehensive reform that is equitable for the US and the rest of the world. Until such equitable reform is adopted, trade sanctions against countries that have already decided to tax digital businesses - many of them developing countries desperate for additional revenues - will be counterproductive.

Re-engaging with the multilateral system while accepting a weak international compromise on taxation of multinationals will further erode, not restore, trust in the system. It is fully within our power to build a post-pandemic world that is more sustainable, cooperative, and fair, where multinationals pay the taxes they should. The ICRICT would be honored to support your administration in achieving this crucial goal.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT





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  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Via Email:** [adhoccommittee2021@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:agapplication@csa.gov.lr) are valid.

Committee Room  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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# OPINION

By Richard Haass

## A Realist Reset for US-Saudi Relations

**N**EW YORK - The report issued Friday by the US intelligence community on the murder of Saudi journalist and permanent US resident Jamal Khashoggi in October 2018 at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey mostly confirms what we already knew. The operation to capture or kill Khashoggi was approved by Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and in many ways already the Kingdom's most powerful person. MBS, as he is widely known, wanted Khashoggi dead, both to rid himself of a nettlesome critic and to intimidate other would-be critics of his rule.

We are unlikely to find a smoking gun, but MBS's fingerprints are all over Khashoggi's killing. There is not only abundant photographic and communications evidence that it was carried out by people close to the Crown Prince. There is also the simple reality that nothing of significant political magnitude happens in Saudi Arabia without MBS's authorization.

Former President Donald Trump's administration looked the other way at the time, as it often did in the face of flagrant human rights violations. Moreover, Trump wanted to avoid a rupture with MBS, whose anti-Iranian policies were appreciated and who was seen as central to his government's willingness to purchase armaments from US manufacturers.

President Joe Biden's administration feels differently. It has already distanced the United States from involvement in Saudi military operations in Yemen. And human rights are occupying a central role in its approach to the world. The fact that Biden has not communicated directly with MBS, and instead called the ailing King Salman, underscores Biden's desire to separate the US relationship with the Kingdom from the relationship with the Crown Prince.

But this separation will likely prove impossible to sustain. The US is not in a position to prevent his ascension to the throne when his father dies. Any attempt to do so would almost certainly fail, in the process triggering a nationalist backlash, causing domestic instability, or both. And the fact is that the US has many reasons to maintain a working relationship with an individual who will likely lead for decades a country that is critical to setting world energy prices, containing Iran, frustrating terrorism, and, if it elects to do so, promoting Middle East peace.

Saudi Arabia is hardly the only country in the world where the US has to deal with a flawed leader. The Biden administration just signed an important nuclear arms control agreement with Russia, even though President Vladimir Putin tried to kill - and has now imprisoned - his main political rival. The principal difference between him and the Saudi Crown Prince in this instance is their competence at eliminating opponents.

Or consider China. Biden administration officials have accused the Chinese government of carrying out genocide against the Uighur minority. If so, they are accusing Chinese President Xi Jinping of genocide, as there is no way what is taking place in Xinjiang province could happen without his approval. Yet Biden recently spoke with Xi and is sure to meet with him regularly to discuss North Korea, trade, climate change, and much else.

Don't get me wrong. Biden is not wrong to strike deals with Putin and Xi. US strategic and economic interests demand it, and America's ability to influence Russian and Chinese behavior at home is limited. The US can and should criticize and sanction, but it would be feckless and self-defeating to hold the entire bilateral relationship with Russia or China hostage to their domestic policies. Foreign policy is not about virtue signaling; it is about advancing interests. Prioritizing and compartmentalizing are essential.

In the case of MBS, such realism might lead to opportunity. The promise of meetings with Biden administration officials should be traded for a firm commitment that he will never again target a political opponent in this way and that he will release imprisoned human rights advocates.

Bringing the Saudis into diplomacy might preserve the possibility of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United Arab Emirates agreed to normalize relations with Israel only when Israel agreed not to annex occupied Palestinian territory for at least three years. MBS reportedly is ready to build bridges to Israel, but his father is not, and much of the Saudi population might resist. Even an Israeli government committed to expanding Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories might find it difficult to resist curbing them in exchange for peace and diplomatic ties with the Kingdom.

It should be a long time before the now publicly-exposed MBS is invited to the US, much less to visit the Oval Office. But refusing to deal with him is not the answer. Pragmatic, conditional relations with him could bring protection and freedom to many Saudis, make possible collaboration to impede Iran's nuclear ambitions, wind down the war in Yemen, and advance prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace. None of this would bring Khashoggi back to life, but it would give added meaning to his death.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Pres. Weah to build VIP Annex at Jackson F. Doe Hospital

## -To reduce foreign medical travels

The Liberian Government headed by President George Manneh Weah has promised to build a new equipped VIP annex at the Jackson F. Doe Hospital in Tapita, Nimba County to upgrade the

disclosure when he toured the hospital during his ongoing County Tour.

The Hospital is the country's second largest referral medical facility, next to the John F. Kennedy Hospital. The 206-

under-utilized more so due to bad road condition and other constraints.

The Weah Government is now stepping in, and very soon, to maximize the potential of this gigantic medical complex.

One of the main problems the new effort will mitigate is the tendency of Liberians, mainly government officials and others considered elite, seeking specialized medical care and treatment abroad.

During the President's visit to the Hospital as part of his nationwide tour, he inspected facilities there, and also engaged authority of the Hospital on the need to set a special section that will focus on VIP treatment and bring to an end Liberians seeking treatment out of the country.

The President who spent two nights of his visit in Tappita City on the compound of the Hospital, said the infrastructure and the environment are fantastic and conducive, capable of hosting any VIP.

"This is a fine facility, and the environment looks good," the President said, toying with the idea with the management of the Hospital. "All we need to do now is to take another step forward: create a special department

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



services and care of the hospital to topnotch levels to provide medical services to Government officials and other dignitaries to reduce the frequencies of foreign medical travels.

President Weah made the

bedroom hospital was constructed based on a US\$10 million contract signed between the Governments of China and Liberia.

Despite its strategic location and other high-tech facilities, the Hospital has been woefully

# Weah dedicates 1500KVA transformer to reduce electricity cost at Jackson Doe Hospital

President George Weah on Friday, February 19 cut ribbons and dedicated a 1500kva transformer for the Jackson F. Doe Regional Referral Hospital to ensure stable electricity supply and at reduced cost at the facility.

The President performed the ceremony when he visited the Hospital as he continues his nationwide tour, familiarizing himself with citizens and developments around the country.

With the transformer provided and dedicated, the cost for electricity is reduced by \$800 per day and this contributes to power stability to this second largest public health facility in the country.

According to official sources, 95 percent of funding and other supports is provided by Government to the JFD Hospital that also serves the entire Southeastern Liberia and patients from Ivory Coast

and Guinea.

Dr. Weah also cut ribbons and dedicated the new dental clinic of the Hospital and provided two ambulances.

Dedicating the transformer, President Weah pledge

Government's unflinching support to the hospital which is one of the well-equipped referral facilities in Liberia.

The President thanked the administration and staff for their continued dedicated



# NAFEBOL supports printing new Liberian banknotes

The National Association of Foreign Exchange Bureau of Liberia (NAFEBOL) says it supports calls by the Central Bank Of Liberia to print new family of Liberian dollar notes.

NAFEBOL president Nimely Sayeh, says the printing of new money will foster adequate business transaction

critical toward monetary value of the local currency, which plays a major in monetary transaction.

Sayeh discloses that NAFEBOL is working on a process of decentralizing foreign bureau across Liberia.

He add the association is currently providing identification cards it all its



among Liberians and foreign residents.

He spoke recently in an interview with reporters in Monrovia. According to him, introducing fresh family of banknotes on the market will go a long way in stabilizing the Liberian economy.

The NAFEBOL leader notes that stabilizing the economy is

members across country to prevent money laundry.

He says more young Liberians have engaged the foreign exchange bureau for some training to enhance their capacity in the sector.

President Sayeh emphasizes to strengthen the economic system of Liberia, the monetary policy should be prioritized.

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service to Liberia, and called on them to remain effective and professional in the discharge of their duties.

He invoked the patriotic spirit of the JFD Hospital family, stating, "Let us strive to give our best in service to our motherland, Liberia, and compete with other countries in every field of human endeavors including healthcare.

"There is no better way to show love for country than being extraordinary in whatever duty one has to perform," he told the medical workers. "For you, the health sector is your area, and we look up to you to make Liberia proud in the way you serve; in the way you treat and care for

sick people—big or small, rich or poor, politician or ordinary citizen."

The management of the Hospital heaped praises on President Weah for always being practical and intentional in his development pursuit.

They thanked the President for his donation of three ambulances and the installation of a 1500kva transformer.

According to them, as the second largest hospital in the country, the JFD Hospital provides instructional services for residents, interns and health workers.

The Hospital also provides specialized services in internal medicine, surgery, pathology, pediatrics, Anesthesiology, OB/GYN and Radiology.



# President Weah ends county





# tour in Grand Kru County





# Français

## Ebola : Les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest intensifient leur préparation (OMS)

**A**lors que la vaccination contre Ebola s'intensifie en Guinée, les pays limitrophes sont en état d'alerte. Selon l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), la Côte d'Ivoire, la Guinée-Bissau, le Mali, le Libéria, le Sénégal et la Sierra Leone se préparent en urgence pour « détecter, isoler et gérer tous les cas, ainsi qu'à enrayer d'éventuelles épidémies transfrontalières ».

En Guinée, neuf cas d'Ebola, dont cinq décès, ont été enregistrés. Bien qu'aucun cas confirmé d'Ebola n'ait été signalé en dehors du pays, l'épidémie actuelle a été déclarée dans la préfecture de N'Zérékoré qui est située près « des frontières poreuses » avec le Libéria, la Sierra Leone et la Côte d'Ivoire.

L'ensemble des six pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest limitrophes de la Guinée finalisent actuellement leurs plans opérationnels de préparation, en ligne avec l'outil d'évaluation de l'état de préparation de l'OMS. Selon l'agence sanitaire onusienne, l'état général de

préparation dans les six pays est de « près de 66% », ce qui demeure inférieur au seuil de référence de 80%.

20 alertes de cas suspects ont été rapportées dans trois pays

« Nous avons appris les dures leçons de l'histoire et avec Ebola et les autres urgences sanitaires, nous avons appris que la préparation est efficace », a déclaré la Dre Matshidiso Moeti, Directrice

régionale de l'OMS pour l'Afrique. « Soit nous agissons maintenant, soit nous en payons le prix plus tard en vies perdues et en économies ruinées ».

L'objectif de tous les pays de la sous-région est d'intensifier la surveillance et le contrôle aux différents points de passage frontaliers et au sein des communautés à haut risque. Des équipes

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Tragédie ! Huit personnes tuées par du monoxyde de carbone

La célébration du diplôme de fin d'études universitaires de Nancy Miller a connu jeudi matin une fin terriblement tragique, le diplômé et sept autres personnes ayant été tués par du monoxyde de carbone, un gaz toxique pour les humains. C'est M. Moses Carter, porte-parole de la Police nationale libérienne (LNP), qui a annoncé la tragédie aux journalistes le jeudi 25 février lors d'une conférence de presse. Selon

lui, l'enquête a établi que huit citoyens libériens, dont un diplômé de l'Université du Libéria et deux mineurs, sont morts des suites d'une asphyxie due à l'inhalation du monoxyde de carbone émis par un groupe électrogène.

« C'est très triste », a dit Carter, avant de présenter les condoléances de la direction de la Police Nationale du Libéria aux familles des victimes.

Qualifiant la mort des

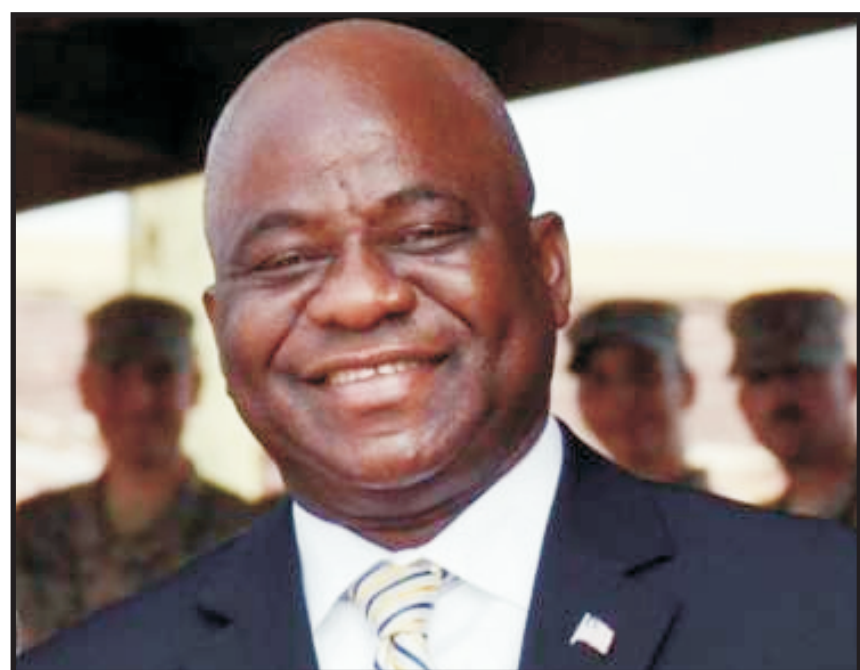
victimes de tragique, il a appelé les citoyens et les ressortissants étrangers à observer les normes prescrites par l'Agence de protection de l'environnement (EPA) pour éviter des drames pareils.

« Le jeudi 25 février, vers 6 heures du matin, la police a été alertée au sujet des décès à ELWA. Les circonstances du décès n'étaient pas établies à ce moment-là. Notre équipe médico-légale et notre section des crimes se sont tout de suite mises au travail. Il a été conclu plus tard que toutes les victimes étaient mortes d'intoxication au monoxyde de carbone », a expliqué Carter.

Quant aux huit corps des victimes, ils ont été déposés à la morgue ELWA. « Par ma voix, la police exprime ses plus sincères condoléances aux familles, amis, parents de nos citoyens qui ont connu leur décès prématuré ce matin, en particulier pour le diplômé », a-t-il dit.

M. Carter a saisi cette occasion pour exhorter

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### La tolérance politique est la clé de la paix et de la stabilité

Dans son message de départ du comté de Grand Gedeh le samedi 20 février 2021, le président George Manneh Weah a souligné la nécessité d'une tolérance politique dans le comté afin de sauvegarder la paix sociale et relancer l'économie. Il a exhorté les habitants de Grands Gedeh qui ont voté massivement pour lui lors des élections de 2017 à tolérer les opinions de l'opposition et favoriser la culture démocratique.

L'appel fait directement référence à la violence qui avait éclaté dans la ville de Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, le jeudi 30 juillet 2020, lorsque des centaines de voyous s'étaient mis à lapider le leader de l'Alternative National Congress et ancien président de la coalition des principaux partis de l'opposition. Ce jour-là, Alexander B. Cummings et le représentant du district n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, n'ont pas pu s'adresser à leurs partisans dans le comté, en ayant été empêchés.

Ce jour fatidique du 30 juillet était pour la délégation de l'opposition qui s'était rendue dans cette partie du pays un véritable cauchemar. Des jeunes en colère, armés de pierres, de gourdins et de machettes avaient pris d'assaut et barricadé le Motel où la délégation (M. Cummings, le représentant Kolubah et d'autres) avait élu domicile, au cœur de la ville de Zwedru. Ils menaçaient de lyncher le représentant Kolubah à qui on reprochait d'avoir l'habitude d'injurier le président George Manneh Weah.

Cet incident a été condamné par le caucus législatif du comté de Grand Gedeh et la communauté internationale qui a appelé à une enquête rapide pour traduire les auteurs en justice. Les conclusions de l'enquête du gouvernement n'ont pas encore été rendues publiques.

Mais le président Weah a été très catégorique samedi lorsqu'il a déclaré aux citoyens du comté que malgré leur soutien à son administration, ils devraient tolérer les politiciens de l'opposition comme le garantit la Constitution.

Nous pensons que la déclaration du président est non seulement remarquable, mais elle est aussi indispensable à la tolérance politique et à la promotion de la diversité des opinions, comme l'exige la liberté d'expression. M. Weah a en outre souligné que sans paix, il n'y aurait pas de développement dans tout le Libéria, encore moins dans le comté de Grand Gedeh. D'où la nécessité de promouvoir encore une fois la tolérance politique et de chérir et de sauvegarder la paix dont nous jouissons.

Nous nous joignons ainsi au Président pour appeler les citoyens de ce comté à chérir la tolérance et la paix au nom de l'unité nationale et du progrès économique. Il ne peut y avoir de développement et de prospérité dans le chaos.

De plus, il faut rappeler aux Grand Gedehans en des termes clairs que le Libéria n'appartient pas à un président ou à une administration. Au contraire, l'espace démocratique, à travers la Constitution, permet à une personne d'être élue aux urnes pour gouverner l'État pour un mandat spécifique.

Peu importe qui est élu président, cette personne devient automatiquement le chef de toute la République, qui comprend à la fois ses propres partisans et l'opposition. Il peut être aimé ou haï de certains citoyens, mais la tolérance exige que des opinions critiques ou contraires soient exprimées sans menaces pour ceux qui expriment de telles opinions.

En fait, les opinions critiques renforcent la démocratie et le gouvernement au pouvoir pour bien gouverner dans l'intérêt de tous les citoyens, y compris l'opposition. Si un président réussit dans son administration, c'est le Libéria qui en a le mérite.

C'est le message que le président Weah a bien voulu livrer aux habitants du comté de Grand Gedeh. Certes, il apprécie tellement le fait qu'il est si aimé par ces habitants, comme en témoigne les résultats des urnes, mais s'en prendre à ceux qui expriment des opinions contraires sur son leadership ne serait pas de son goût. Il est convaincu que les partisans n'ont pas le droit de s'en prendre à ceux qui critiquent son gouvernement. L'histoire a prouvé à maintes reprises que cela était contre-productif.



# Français

## Ebola : Les pays d'Afrique

d'intervention rapide sont déployées dans les zones frontalières pour soutenir les plans de préparation des districts sanitaires. Les structures de diagnostic et de traitement sont agrandies et s'attèlent à garantir que les communautés s'approprient et se rallient aux réponses de santé publique en cours.

Jusqu'à présent, 20 alertes de cas suspectés ont été rapportées dans trois pays. Tous ces cas ont été testés négatifs à Ebola, indique l'OMS.

« Une surveillance systématique, des préparatifs complets et une forte coordination transfrontalière sont essentiels pour détecter tous les cas et s'assurer qu'ils sont promptement isolés et traités, et que la vaccination des cas contacts à haut risque commence rapidement », a précisé la Dre Moeti.

225 personnes ont été vaccinées en Guinée

L'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014-2016 en Afrique de l'Ouest a débuté en Guinée et s'est étendue au Libéria et à Sierra Leone. Elle a fait plus de 28.000 cas dont 11.000 décès, ce qui en fait l'épidémie la plus mortelle depuis que le virus a été découvert pour la première fois en 1976.

Face à la nouvelle épidémie, la Guinée a donc agi sans tarder pour commencer à fournir le vaccin contre Ebola aux personnes à haut risque. Une campagne de vaccination a ainsi été lancée à Gouakro, le centre de l'épidémie situé dans la préfecture de Nzérékoré, un peu plus d'une semaine après l'enregistrement du premier cas.

À ce jour, les rapports de l'OMS font état de 225 personnes vaccinées en

Guinée, dont 66 cas contact à haut risque. Sur le terrain, près de 65 experts internationaux et nationaux de l'OMS sont déployés pour soutenir la riposte.

Par ailleurs, l'appui du gouvernement guinéen a permis l'affrètement d'un vol spécial qui a acheminé des doses du vaccin anti Ebola rVSV-ZEBOV, des conteneurs frigorifiques à températures ultra-basses, des équipements de protection individuelle et d'autres fournitures médicales de Conakry jusqu'à Ziguinchor.

650 personnes vaccinées et 8.000 doses de vaccins toujours disponibles en RDC

S'agissant de l'épidémie en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) huit cas confirmés d'Ebola et quatre décès ont été enregistrés, lors de la dernière épidémie qui a débuté le 7 février dans la province du Nord-Kivu à l'est du pays. « L'insécurité persistante, tragiquement illustrée par le récent décès de l'ambassadeur italien Luca Attanasio dans la région, entrave les efforts de détection des cas et de traçage des cas contacts de personnes infectées », note l'OMS.

En RDC, plus de 650 personnes ont été vaccinées jusqu'à présent. Environ 8.000 doses de vaccins étaient toujours disponibles dans le pays à la fin de la 11e épidémie d'Ebola. 4.320 autres doses devraient être livrées en début de semaine prochaine.

La maladie à virus Ebola est une maladie sévère et létale qui tue généralement environ la moitié des personnes infectées. Elle se propage entre les personnes par contact direct avec le sang et les fluides corporels des personnes infectées et à partir de surfaces et de matériaux contaminés par ces fluides.

## Tragédie ! Huit personnes

tous ceux qui possèdent des groupes électrogènes chez eux à la maison à prendre toutes les précautions nécessaires pour éviter que ces tragédies pareilles se répètent. « L'Agence de la Protection de l'Environnement ne se rendra pas à votre domicile à tout moment pour vous dire

l'endroit où placer les groupes électrogènes », a-t-il prévenu.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que le monoxyde de carbone émis par des groupes électrogènes endeuille des familles au Libéria. Un incident similaire a tué des membres de la famille du représentant Richard Koon à Barnesville il y a environ deux ans.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par José Antonio Ocampo,  
Joseph E. Stiglitz, Jayati Ghosh

## Lettre ouverte à Joe Biden concernant l'impôt international sur les sociétés

JOSÉ ANTONIO OCAMPO, et al. urge the US president to support reforms intended to compel multinationals to pay their fair share.

Le monde a salué votre élection et votre engagement en faveur du rétablissement de l'action diplomatique auprès de la communauté internationale au cœur de la politique étrangère des États-Unis. En ralliant les gouvernements pour créer les conditions d'une reprise économique mondiale équitable et durable sur le plan de l'environnement, votre leadership peut encourager plusieurs changements transformateurs.

Depuis trop longtemps, les institutions internationales échouent à gérer l'un des aspects les plus toxiques de la mondialisation : la fraude et l'évasion fiscales à laquelle se livrent les sociétés multinationales. Une juste imposition des multinationales est aujourd'hui nécessaire pour créer le type de sociétés auquel nous aspirons, et doit s'inscrire au centre de tout système fiscal progressiste visant à promouvoir la croissance économique et l'élevation du niveau de vie pour tous. La fin de l'évasion fiscale d'entreprise constitue également l'un des meilleurs moyens de lutter contre les inégalités endémiques de richesse et de revenus.

En expédiant leurs profits vers des paradis fiscaux, les grandes entreprises privent les États du monde entier d'au moins 240 milliards \$ de recettes fiscales chaque année. Cette privation n'impacte pas seulement les États-Unis, où environ 50 % des bénéfices des multinationales américaines à l'étranger sont transférés chaque année vers des paradis fiscaux, mais également les pays du Sud, où les sources de revenu sont plus limitées, et qui dépendent par conséquent davantage de l'impôt sur les sociétés pour le financement des services publics.

En tant que membres de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de l'impôt international sur les sociétés (l'ICRICT), nous vous appelons à honorer votre promesse consistant à « mener des efforts au niveau international pour apporter de la transparence au système financier mondial, s'attaquer aux paradis fiscaux illicites, recouvrer les actifs soustraits, et rendre plus difficile pour les dirigeants qui spolient leur population la possibilité de se cacher derrière des sociétés écrans anonymes ». Pour ce faire, votre administration doit s'impliquer activement dans les efforts actuels de refonte du système fiscal international, afin d'aboutir à une juste imposition des multinationales, démarche actuellement à l'étude dans le cadre du processus de négociation mené par l'OCDE et mandaté par le G20.

Malheureusement, ces négociations peinent à aboutir. Les gouvernements des principaux États membres (dont la précédente administration américaine) négocient en effet sur la base de l'hypothèse malavisée selon laquelle leur intérêt national passerait par la protection du siège de ces multinationales au sein de leurs frontières. C'est ainsi que les discussions sur la réforme de l'impôt international sacrifient une ambition commune au profit du plus petit dénominateur commun.

Pendant ce temps, les multinationales continuent d'échapper à une imposition qui pourrait contribuer aux dépenses publiques de soutien à la reprise post-pandémique. Le monde ne peut plus se le permettre.

Le processus de négociation a néanmoins abouti à un accord selon lequel les multinationales devraient être considérées comme des entreprises unitaires, ce qui signifie que leurs bénéfices mondiaux devraient être imposés en phase avec leurs activités réelles dans chaque État. C'est un concept courant aux États-Unis, où les bénéfices des sociétés sont affectés aux différents États sur une base déterminée, en fonction des facteurs clés qui génèrent les profits : emploi, chiffre d'affaires et actifs. Or, la proposition actuelle n'applique ce critère d'affectation qu'à une infime fraction des bénéfices mondiaux d'une société - notamment dans le cas des multinationales digitalisées, principalement basées aux États-Unis.

Le e-commerce a enregistré une croissance de presque un tiers pendant la pandémie, et il est indispensable que non seulement les multinationales digitales, mais

également toutes les activités commerciales digitales des multinationales, s'acquittent de leur juste part d'impôts. Une ambitieuse réforme globale doit par conséquent être adoptée pour reproduire le système américain au niveau international, sans distinction entre les entreprises digitales et non digitales. Cette avancée contribuerait par ailleurs à établir des règles du jeu équitables, à réduire les distorsions, à limiter les possibilités d'évasion fiscale, ainsi qu'à conférer de la certitude aux multinationales et investisseurs.

Il est nécessaire que ce système repose sur un impôt global minimum pour les multinationales, afin de mettre un terme à une compétition fiscale nuisible entre les États, et de limiter ce qui incite les multinationales à transférer leurs bénéfices vers des paradis fiscaux. Or, le taux minimum de 12,5 % évoqué par l'OCDE et d'autres pourrait devenir le plafond mondial, auquel cas l'initiative judicieuse visant à contraindre les multinationales de s'acquitter de leur juste part d'impôts finirait par produire un résultat inverse.

Lors de votre campagne, vous avez promis d'augmenter aux États-Unis l'imposition minimum sur les bénéfices des sociétés américaines à l'étranger (revenus intangibles dits « GILTI ») jusqu'à un taux de 21 %. Cette mesure aurait non seulement le mérite d'accroître les recettes fiscales de votre pays, mais elle encouragerait également politiquement les dirigeants d'autres États à en faire de même.

Un ambitieux impôt mondial minimum pourrait changer la donne dans la lutte contre l'évasion fiscale. Si les pays du G20 convenaient d'appliquer aux sociétés un impôt minimum de 25 % (comme le préconise l'ICRICT) sur les bénéfices mondiaux de leurs activités multinationales, plus de 90 % des profits à travers le monde seraient automatiquement imposés à 25 % au moins. Bien entendu, il est également essentiel que cet impôt soit conçu pour répartir les droits fiscaux de manière équitable entre le pays d'origine et les pays d'accueil des sociétés.

La secrétaire du Trésor, Janet Yellen, a déclaré dans son audience de confirmation que votre administration entendait « travailler activement avec les autres pays » pour « s'efforcer de stopper une course internationale destructrice vers le bas en matière d'imposition des sociétés ». Aucun élément ne prouve que la récente tendance de baisse des taux d'imposition des sociétés ait stimulé les investissements productifs et la croissance. La baisse d'impôts opérée aux États-Unis en 2017 a pour l'essentiel fini par financer les paiements de dividendes et les rachats d'actions.

L'impôt sur les sociétés est en effet une taxe sur les bénéfices purs, et c'est pourquoi la réduction de son taux produit très peu d'effets sur l'activité économique. Autrement dit, les impôts prélevés sur les sociétés équivalent dans le fond à une taxe anticipée sur les dividendes, et par conséquent à une imposition sur les revenus des plus fortunés, dans la mesure où les participations en capital (de manière directe, ou indirecte via par exemple les fonds de pension) sont encore plus inégalement réparties que les revenus.

Nous vous appelons à œuvrer pour que les États-Unis agissent à nouveau par la puissance de leur exemple, et coopèrent avec les autres pays désireux de mener une réforme complète qui soit équitable pour les États-Unis et le reste du monde. Tant que cette réforme équitable n'aura pas été adoptée, les sanctions commerciales contre certains pays qui ont d'ores et déjà décidé de taxer les sociétés digitales - et qui pour beaucoup sont des pays en voie de développement en quête désespérée de recettes supplémentaires - demeureront contreproductives.

Renouer avec le système multilatéral tout en tolérant un compromis international défaillant sur la question de l'imposition des multinationales ne pourra qu'éroder encore davantage, et non rétablir, la confiance dans le système. Nous sommes pleinement en capacité de bâtir un monde post-pandémique plus durable, plus coopératif et plus juste, dans lequel les multinationales s'acquitteraient de leur juste contribution fiscale. L'ICRICT serait honorée de soutenir votre administration sur la voie de cet objectif essentiel.

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# No sign of Ebola

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia's Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah says there is no sign of Ebola virus disease in the country, announcing that all eight Ebola alerts have been tested negative so far.

"As of today's date, February 26, 2021, there were 8 alerts, and all of them have been tested negative. As we speak, there is no sign of Ebola virus disease here in Liberia as it has been speculated or reported," the Health Minister says.

The update by the Health Minister could bring a sign of relief for Liberians, having suffered severe casualties when Ebola first hit Liberia from neighboring Guinea and Sierra Leone at the end of 2013 and broke down the country's weak health system throughout 2014.

confirmed cases since the outbreak in Liberia.

Of that number, she details that 1,884 have recovered, but added that no patient is in any of the treatment units because they are being provided "home based care."

Minister Jallah continues that those that are receiving home based care are not in any critical conditions, adding that healthcare authorities are ably prepared to handle their situation and carry on daily monitoring of the cases.

"We know a lot of people have their own reservation about not taking any form of vaccines, but we should all know that no country is safe until the world becomes safe," Dr. Jallah cautions Liberians.

She says health authorities are continuing the testing exercise, thereby urging everyone traveling to making

diseases, but there is a need to institute multiple health measures that will help in curbing the disease.

He discloses that Liberia will receive the first Covid-19 vaccines in the tune of 384,000 doses that will be administered to people who are listed of taking the vaccines.

Mr. Clarke names healthcare workers, the elderly from sixty years and above and people who can't socially and physically distance themselves from others based on their work they do, including people in the executive, the army, teachers and marketers, among others.

Clarke tells scores of reporters that health authorities are hopeful of administering the vaccines at least two weeks after their arrival here.

He stresses the need for massive education about the vaccines.

Meanwhile, the Program Manager on Immunization says there are plans to conduct a nationwide polio campaign which is slated to begin from March 4-15.

Mr. Clarke notes that during that time, health authorities are hoping to vaccinate 972,870 children between the ages zero to 59 months.

He narrates that in 1974, the World Health Organization (WHO) sent an official communication to all WHO member countries, asking that there should be a program called an expanded program on immunization.

But he says Liberia didn't put that into effect until 1978, four years after they founded the Program on Immunization.

According to him, the goal of the program is to reduce the mobility and modality of vaccines - preventable disease in children from zero to 23 months.

He says when the program started in 1978, there were six diseases that were being looked at including Bacteria, Tuberculosis, Measles, Tetanus and Open Cough, among others.

Mr. Clarke says since 1978, Liberia has made significant progress on immunization, noting that in 2009 Liberia introduced a vaccine that prevents liver cancer. In 2016, he says, the country also introduced another vaccine to prevent polio and other sicknesses. —*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# Japanese Ambassador begins five-day visit to Liberia on Monday

The Ambassador of Japan to Liberia, HIMENO Tsutomu with residence in Ghana, will be visiting Liberia beginning Monday, 1 March 2021 to Friday, 5 March 2021. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ambassador is expected to meet with President George Manneh Weah and an array of other government officials.

Ambassador Tsutomu will be accompanied by Ms. TERAGAKI Yuriya, First Secretary and Ms. UENO Hidemi, Coordinator of the Embassy.

According to a Foreign

Others include construction of warehouses in Nimba, Bong and Lofa Counties to address the perennial post-harvest storage challenges. Japan is also funding the construction of 240 local housing units in Sasstown, Grand Kru County, the construction of Gorbachop Market at the Omega Village Community and the on-going Duala Market Project.

Further, it is funding the opening of alleys along the Roberts Field Highway under the CIDP by the Ministry of Public Works, the Small Medium Enterprise development project at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well



Thousands of Liberians and other residents died as a result of the Ebola crisis back then, and recent alerts of its suspected reemergence from Guinea created fears again in a country still trying to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic that rocked the globe throughout last year.

In a special press conference held at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) on Capitol Hill over the weekend, Dr. Jallah emphasized that "No case of Ebola virus [is] in Liberia before somebody quotes me wrong, and I'm speaking at 12:pm."

But says explains during the press conference that Covid-19 is still bothering the world, and at such people are still struggling to know whether the virus is still in Liberia.

According to her, Liberia recorded one new case of Covid - 19 as of Friday, 26 February, bringing the Covid - 19 cases up to a total of 2,010

sure of taking their test prior to departing Liberia.

She also advises that people should read the guidelines of any country that they are traveling to help them avoid any embarrassing situation.

Dr. Jallah indicates that to end this pandemic, there is a need for countries to work together, saying those in Liberia must not refuse taking the Covid-19 vaccines which is expected in the country.

For his part, the National Program Manager on Immunization at the Ministry of Health, Mr. Adolphus T. Clarke says the Covid-19 vaccines are expected in Liberia this week, disclosing that there are category of people listed to take the vaccines.

Mr. Clarke explains that wearing of facemask and washing of hands will not be the magic bullet that will prevent people from Covid-19 or other



Ambassador HIMENO Tsutomu

Ministry release, Ambassador HIMENO's visit is in two (2) fold, including conferring with President Weah on a number of diplomatic matters and Japan's possible development cooperation projects as well as visiting the Japanese Counterpart Value Funded Projects in Liberia.

The Government of Japan is financing a number of economic recovery projects under its KR Food Aid and Non-Project Grant Aid Programs in Liberia. These projects include, but not limited to, the construction of bridges in Deah, Tallah and Kaylia, in Grand Cape Mount.

as the Human Capacity Building Project at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others.

In addition to the Japanese Counterpart Value Funded Projects in Liberia, the Government of Japan is also a driver of major development efforts such as the Somalia Drive Highway that is expected to be renamed "Japan Highway", support to the Ministry of Health to build a resilient health sector, and provision of 400 out boat motor engines to NaAFA. —*Press release*

# Tweah wins African

Starts from back page

spheres of African leadership spectrum.

The winners were unveiled by the Publisher of the Magazine, Dr Ken Giami, at the U.K. Head Office of the group. The announcement of the winners was preceded by the awards committee working with the editorial team to collate online and offline votes and submissions from the over 1 million subscribers/followership base of the publication.

The African Leadership Magazine Persons of the Year Awards, which has become the

leading vote-based third-party endorsement in the continent, recorded an upsurge of over 50% votes from the previous year, mainly from Africans within and the Diaspora.

The Publisher, Dr Giami, maintained that 2020 had been a very turbulent year, with the COVID-19 pandemic stretching Africa's fragile health systems and exacerbating poverty in the continent. However, he stressed that certain Africans contributed towards minimizing the impact of the pandemic on the continent and helped in inspiring hope for the future.

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# “We want to leave a mark”

By Othello B. Garblah

Barclayville-Grand Kru County - President George Weah rapped up his first county tour in his native Grand Kru County on Friday, February 26, telling his kinsmen that he wants to leave a mark-at least something he can be remembered for.

“We want to leave a mark and we are not boasting,” President Weah told a jubilant crowd in his native town Friday.

“If I will not be successful in governance, at least there is one thing I must do to be

tirelessly with the legislature every day discussing what we can do for our people,” Weah went on, “When you look in to your villages and you don’t see hut there again, you have a (concrete) house with kitchen and bathroom there, you will say its Manneh that built this.” The president said in Kru.

Mr. Weah disclosed that this is what he has been telling (Pro Temp) Albert Chie and (Deputy Speaker) Fonati Koffa that “if we don’t fix where we come from, who will fix?”

The President began his six counties tour on February 12, after opening the National

seeing them because of politics,” he bemoaned.

President Weah told the citizens that every county deserves a facelift “and this is why we are here to listen to you. We have heard and listened to your ideas and we will make sure that those things you want will be done.”

“Every time I speak those in opposition wonder why I talk the way I talk. Because I know you have confidence in me for what I am doing. They will not do it because they are not like you. I am like you. I lived where you live. I have an experience like you. The hut



remembered-I have decided to pave all the major highways in the country,” he said to a cheering crowd that have endured bad road network for more than 173 years.

“So tomorrow when you are driving and you can go 5-hours and come back, you will say it’s George Manneh Weah that built this road. At least, I will be remembered for something,”the President continued as he echoed his statement in his native Kru dialect to a rousing joyful response.

“Am working very hard,

Agriculture Fair at CARI in Bong County and continued his journey to Nimba three days later before traveling to Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru.

In all of these six counties, the president broke grounds for new projects, mainly roads, hospitals, housing projects and a 21.3 megawatts dam to supply River Gee and Maryland. He also dedicated road projects, hospitals, housing units, and launched 2000 solar panel project in Kawheakan, River Gee, among others.

“There are lot of things going on in this country but we are not

you see behind us, I lived in that hut. If they live in that hut, they will not survive.

This is our time. We cannot fix the entire country and forget about ourselves. That will be an injustice to where we come from. We have uplifted Montserrado. We are doing Saclepea road. We have secured US\$50million for Barcaville up to Rivercess that project will soon be starting. In the next three years you will decide.” The President concluded as he reminded citizens to keep the peace noting that without peace there can be no development.

# Pres. Weah to build

Cont’d from page 5

that will exclusively focus on and handle special cases and particularly for individuals like government officials and other VIPs who may think that both the environment and the care they need when they are sick are not available anywhere else in the country, which is why they spend so much travelling abroad for treatment.”

He added: “I believe we have the experts and experienced men and women and some measure of tools and equipment in Liberia to treat any disease or sickness. What is seemingly lacking is, one, the appropriate environment because most of our medical facilities like the JFK are overwhelmed and the environments are just not conducive for the psyche of some sick people, mainly VIPs. And two, the special attention, focus and speed needed for sick people.”

In our present situation, and again because of the fact of that most medical facilities are overwhelmed and

overstretched, the President noted, the special attention, focus and speed is scarce. This is why most VIPs think the option is to attend to their medical situations abroad.

The President asked the Jackson F. Doe Regional Medical Hospital management to begin working with other stakeholders in and out of Government to speed up discussions and arrangements on what will be needed to achieve the objectives of bringing to an end or reducing the tendency of Liberians going abroad to seek medical treatment.

Weah said this is important because it is a shame that Liberia, which is Africa’s oldest republic, continues to witness a situation where its citizens, particularly government officials, run to other countries for treatment and medical care when that could, and should be done.

The Chief Executive recalled that the Johnson F. Kennedy Medical Hospital was the melting point and biggest

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investigated and proven that Teahjay did not only lied on his boss, but wrongfully attacked him. Investigative committee at the time established the money was intended for another purpose, and that Teahjay was found guilty for wrongfully attacking his boss and made to apologize.

Teahjay is also on record for accusing Sinoe Representative Matthew Zarzar for reportedly creating a statutory district within Sinoe County.

Investigation conducted by the government through its agencies established that Teahjay, who at the time was Superintendent for the county lied, as the administrative district in question was since created in 2005, during the Transitional Government of late Charles Gyude Bryan, at which time Matthew Zarzar was still in the United States.

NEC chairperson, Davidetta Brown Lassanah said the commission categorically denies the reports and that it has never been approached by authorities of the NPA or anyone on such issue.

Meanwhile, the Board of Commissioners, (BOC) of the National Elections Commission, (NEC) has reserved rulings in two electoral dispute cases currently before the Board.

They include Nimba County Senatorial Election case of Complainant Edith Gongloe-Weh of the Collaborating Political Parties, CPP and the announced winner Jeremiah Koug of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction, MDR.

The second is hearing into an appeal filed by Mr. Othello D. Nagbe of MOVEE as Complainant versus the Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC and the National Elections Commission, NEC from the Sinoe County district number two Representative By-Election conducted on 8 December 2020.

The Board took the decision Friday, 16 February 2021 through the Head of the Administrative Court Davidetta Browne Lassanah following arguments between lawyers representing Edith Gongloe Weh and Jeremiah Koug. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# NEC debunks

recount ballots in 104 polling places across Rivercess County, the NEC, being cognizant of government’s responsibility to finance elections, developed a proposed budget for the exercise in the amount of Fifty-eight Thousand Fourteen United States Dollars (US\$58,014) and submitted it to authorities of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to source funding in the event the Supreme Court upheld the Board’s ruling.

She said this preemptive action of the NEC was necessary given the fact that government’s sourcing of funds to the NEC requires sufficient time for such money to be received in time for the implementation of any electoral activity.

But the NEC maintains that Senator Teahjay’s allegation is unfounded; far from the realities, total lies and a statement that does not represent the facts, instead, total myth.

This latest allegation bring to

fourth, lies told in the national space by the Sinoe County Lawmaker namely; during the administration of jailed former President Charles Taylor, Senator Teahjay then deputy minister of Information engaged in fistfight with his former boss, the late ex-Minister of Information Professor Joe W. Mulbah, reportedly for tempering with special allowance intended for a special public relations program.

The matter was



# Tweah wins African leadership awards

## -As African Finance Minister of the year



Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel Tweah has been awarded African Minister of the Year by the African Leadership Magazine.

He was named among several other recipients in several categories on Friday February 26.

The Persons of the Year Awards committee also named the Director-General of the World Health

Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the African of the year 2020; Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo, as the African Political leader of the year 2020; Graca Michel as the African Climate Champion of the year 2020, alongside 10 other distinguished Africans in a keenly contested poll.

The poll attracted over 120,000 votes on the ALM website; over 7 million active online engagement during the voting period; and over 5000

votes via email, according to the Magazine.

The winners were decorated and presented with honour instruments on Friday February 26th, 2021, during the annual African Leadership Magazine Persons of the Year Award ceremony.

The event was held virtually and hosted influential Africans in business, politics, and all

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# NEC debunks Teahjay's claim

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission has sharply reacted to allegation against the commission by Sinoe County Senator j. Milton Teahjay that the Management of the National Port Authority has committed to provide US\$40,000 for the recount of votes in River Cess County.

"The attention of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has been drawn to media reports and

discussion in the public that authorities of the National Port Authority (NPA) have offered to give the NEC US\$40,000 to underwrite the cost of recounting ballots in Rivercess County as mandated in the recent ruling of the Honorable Supreme Court. The NEC wishes to categorically deny these reports and inform the Liberian people that it has never been approached by authorities of the NPA or anyone on such issue. Besides, the NEC does not receive funds for electoral activities from private entities



or individual citizens. Funding for elections is the sole responsibility of the Government of Liberia, which sometimes requests donor partners to assist the Commission," says NEC chairperson Davidetra Browne Lassanah.

Speaking in a news conference over the weekend at the commission headquarters in Monrovia, Madam Lassanah said following the decision of the Board of Commissioners to

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