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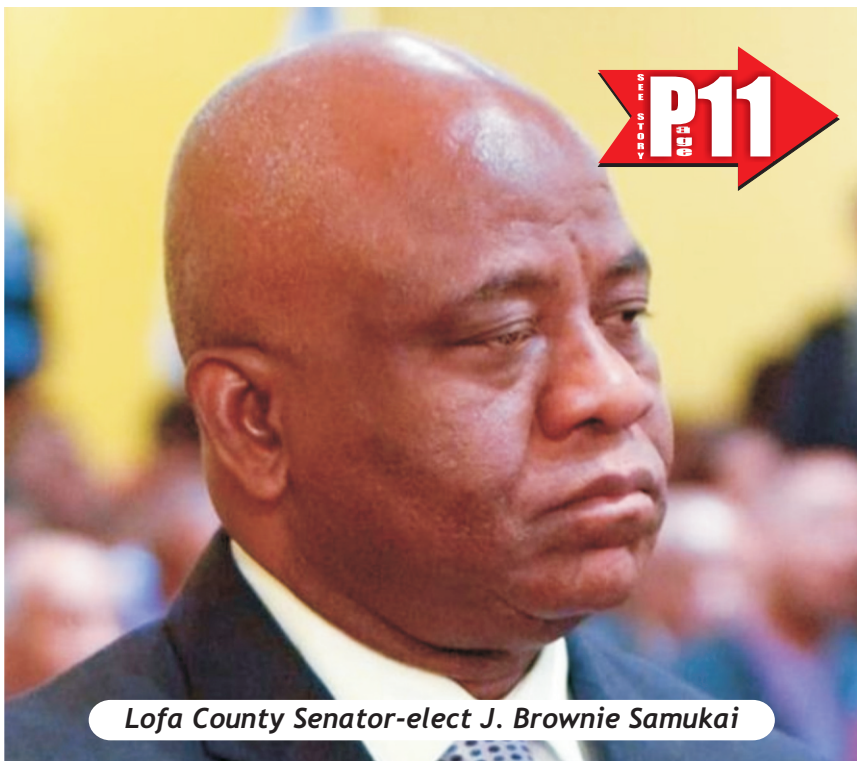
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Lofa County Senator-elect J. Brownie Samukai

NEC to ignore MOJ

-Orders committee to arrange certification of Samukai

Senate passes Supplemental Budget at US\$24m



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Continental News

Hundreds of kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls freed

Girls among the nearly 300 who were kidnapped from a school in north-western Nigeria have been describing their ordeal following their release.

"Most of us got injured," one of the schoolgirls told the BBC, adding that gunmen threatened to shoot them.

The girls were abducted by unidentified assailants from their boarding school in Jangebe, Zamfara state, on Friday and taken to a forest, police said. The state's governor said on Tuesday that the 279 girls had been freed.

Such kidnappings are carried out for ransom and are common in the north of the country. On Tuesday, dozens of the girls were seen gathered at a government building in Zamfara after they were taken there in a fleet of mini-buses. Speaking to the BBC, one of the schoolgirls said that some of those kidnapped had found it difficult to continue walking when instructed to do so by the gunmen because of their injuries.

"They said they [would] shoot anybody who did not continue to walk," she said. "We walked across a river and they hid us and let us sleep under shrubs in a forest." Another of the girls, aged 15, said that some of her classmates found it difficult "walking in the stones and thorns" and had to be carried. "They started hitting us with guns so that we [would] move," she told Reuters news

agency, adding: "While they were beating them with guns, some of them were crying and moving at the same time." Some of the fathers who had arrived to see their daughters for the first time since their abduction told reporters they were "very happy" at the news of their release.

The group's release was secured through negotiations

between government officials and the abductors, authorities in Zamfara state told the BBC. Local authorities said that an earlier figure provided by police of 317 for the number of girls kidnapped was not accurate. One official told Reuters that the discrepancy was because of the fact that some girls had fled shortly after being abducted.

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said he felt "overwhelming joy" at the news of the girls' release. "[I am] pleased that their ordeal has come to a happy end without any incident," he said.

The governor of Zamfara state, Bello Matawalle, tweeted that it "gladdens my heart to announce the release of the abducted students".

"This follows the scaling of several hurdles laid against our efforts," he added. "I

enjoin all well-meaning Nigerians to rejoice with us as our daughters are now safe." Mr Matawalle has denied paying for the girls to be released, but last week President Buhari admitted state governments had paid kidnappers "with money and vehicles" in the past and urged them to review the policy. The 2014 kidnap of 276 schoolgirls in the north-eastern town of Chibok by Islamist militants Boko Haram brought global attention to the scourge of raids on schools in Nigeria, but a surge in recent attacks is suspected to be the work of criminal gangs. The raid in Zamfara state was the region's second kidnapping in recent weeks. Some 27 students were kidnapped from a boarding school in Kagara in the north-central state of Niger last month before they were released on 17 February. BBC



The freed schoolgirls were taken to a government building in Zamfara state in a fleet of minibuses

BBC reporter detained by Ethiopia's military

The BBC reporter in Ethiopia's conflict-hit region of Tigray has been detained by the military.

Witnesses say Girmay Gebru, who works for BBC Tigrinya, was taken along with four other people from a café in the regional capital, Mekelle.

Mr Girmay is reported to have been taken to a military

camp in Mekelle.

The BBC is yet to establish the reason for his detention, but has expressed its concern to the Ethiopian authorities. A local journalist, Tamirat Yemane,

and two translators - Alula Akalu and Fitsum Berhane, who were working for the Financial Times and the AFP news agency, respectively - have also been detained in recent

days. Ethiopia's government has been fighting rebel forces in Tigray since November. After months of an effective media blackout since the start of the conflict in Tigray, the government granted access to some international media organisations last week.

Both AFP and the Financial Times had received permission to cover the conflict.

Eyewitnesses told the BBC the operation to detain Mr Girmay was carried out by soldiers in military uniform.

A spokesperson for the BBC said: "We have expressed our concern to the Ethiopian authorities and are awaiting their response."

"Fighting continues in Tigray despite the government declaring victory over the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

Hundreds have been killed and tens of thousands displaced.

There is international concern over growing reports of atrocities committed by all sides and the worsening

Chad opposition leader quits presidential race



Mr Kebzabo has accused veteran leader Idriss Déby of intimidating rivals

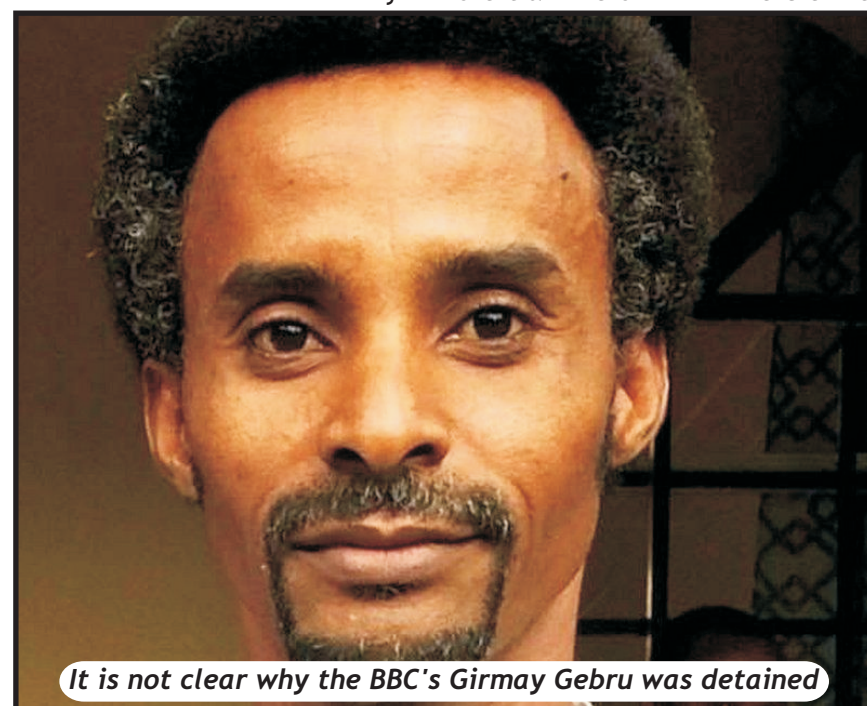
Chad's main opposition candidate Saleh Kebzabo has announced his exit from the presidential election set for 11 April.

Mr Kebzabo has accused the incumbent, Idriss Déby, of using force to intimidate rivals. President Déby came to power in a military coup in 1990 and is serving his fifth term in office. He is a strong ally of the West in regional

counter-terrorism operations.

The announcement by Mr Kebzabo follows the killing of at least two people as security forces tried to arrest another opposition leader, Yaya Dillo, at his home in the capital, N'Djamena.

"The climate of insecurity... will definitely overshadow the electoral campaign of candidates confronting [Déby's] Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS)," he said. BBC



It is not clear why the BBC's Girmay Gebru was detained

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humanitarian crisis, correspondents say. An official of Ethiopia's ruling party recently warned that

measures would be taken against people they said were

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.

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COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

Building Back Together

BERLIN - Human beings are creatures of habit. We tend to envisage a future much the same as the past, so we cling to familiar tools, approaches, and perspectives, even as the world changes. But, at this moment of profound social, political, and economic transformation, we must take care not to permit our habits to lead us astray.

Historically, major transformations - such as that following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact at the beginning of the 1990s - have not made societies collectively wiser, or even more skeptical. Instead, they have generally been met with the expectation that everyday life will remain largely the same - or at least return to "normal."

This tendency has been apparent during the COVID-19 crisis, which is often regarded as a temporary, if dramatic, disruption. In fact, the pandemic is a watershed moment - and it is not the only one we are facing today: the digital revolution and the imperative of rapid decarbonization are similarly consequential.

In the face of these three great ruptures, can we really expect a return to the "old normal"? Or should we expect something only slightly different? What if the future looks nothing like the past? Are we equipped to manage the challenges it brings?

There is good reason to doubt that we are. Already, traditional political institutions - first and foremost, the nation-state - are faltering. They have struggled to address the pitfalls of digitization, such as by reining in tech giants. And they have proved ill-equipped to cope with both the pandemic's global scope and its psychological dimension, particularly many people's experience of it as an abstraction.

COVID-19 is invisible to the human eye. Unless one is sick, caring for the sick, or grieving the loss of a loved one, it can be difficult to grasp the threat fully - and to accept the lifestyle changes that the response has demanded.

Of course, from the Black Death of 1347 to the influenza pandemic of 1918-20, the world is no stranger to disease outbreaks. But never before has the state derived so much of its legitimacy from the expectation that it will protect people's well-being, by technological and scientific means, regardless of what nature throws at them.

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis, together with ever-increasing infections and deaths, thus strike at the heart of the state's legitimacy. This is a

crisis of trust, and it is shaking societies to their core.

The only way to rebuild trust and stabilize societies is with an effective crisis response. And, given the global nature of the challenges we face, that will be impossible without extensive cooperation, facilitated by effective institutions.

Yet, so far, the world has clung to its old ways, indulging parochial national rivalries rather than pursuing forward-looking solutions. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the race for vaccine doses.

Using the nation-state to address the pandemic is tantamount to aiming an antiquated muzzleloader at an F-16. And if the COVID-19 crisis is a modern warplane, climate change is a nuclear missile. By failing to build systems capable of defending against such large-scale threats - including inevitable future pandemics - humanity is jeopardizing its very existence.

To be sure, calls to "build back better" from the pandemic imply some awareness of the need for systemic change. But the transformation we need extends beyond constructing modern infrastructure or unlocking private investment in any one country. We need to re-orient - indeed, re-invent - global politics, so that countries can cooperate far more effectively in creating a better world.

The 2015 Paris climate agreement was an important step in that direction. Nation-states are integral to the process: they negotiated the deal and are responsible for determining their own contributions to achieving its objectives. But they must also operate within a single shared framework, in order to achieve goals that have nothing to do with boosting their relative geopolitical or economic power.

Under former President Donald Trump, the United States abandoned the Paris agreement, in a backward-looking attempt to assert its dominance. Fortunately, the US has now rejoined the accord under President Joe Biden. Given that the US remains the world's most influential and technologically advanced economy, Biden's move is vital to the agreement's successful implementation - and thus to humanity's future.

Despite the Paris climate agreement, however, the world has not really come to grips with the political transformation today's great ruptures demand. It remains far from clear, for example, that the US is prepared to curb its strategic competition with China. In the twenty-first century, hegemony cannot be the goal. Instead, countries should be seeking to lead the pursuit of a world in which life is worth living for all people.

OPINION

By Ngairé Woods

The Green Shoots of COVID Solidarity

OXFORD - In a recent letter to her G20 colleagues, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen argued that a truly global COVID-19 vaccination program "is the strongest stimulus we can provide to the global economy." With rich countries vaccinating their populations while low-income countries have yet to receive even paid-for vaccine doses, the world seems a long way from that goal. But the first shoots of solidarity are beginning to appear, and leaders must strengthen cooperation to nurture them.

Such an approach is essential, because reopening the global economy requires containing the coronavirus everywhere. One recent study estimates that, even if advanced economies reach optimal vaccination levels by mid-2021, they could nonetheless suffer economic losses of up to \$4.5 trillion this year if developing countries' vaccine rollouts continue to lag far behind. Open economies such as European Union member states, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States would be most at risk, and output losses in sectors such as construction, textiles, retail, and automobiles could exceed 5%.

Uncoordinated vaccine distribution also poses grave health risks. Leaving poorer and needier countries out of the supply chain has resulted in the deaths of numerous desperately needed African frontline nurses and health workers. When Guinea declared an Ebola outbreak in February, the world relied on the country's own health-care workers to roll out a containment and vaccination campaign. Without such workers, the world is more vulnerable to future pandemics: in 2014, for example, a single case of Ebola in the US caused nationwide panic when it spread to the nurses treating the patient.

But ensuring a speedy global vaccine rollout is proving difficult. The COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, established by three international health agencies to speed up vaccine production and distribution, needs more money. Otherwise, poorer countries will be forced to divert scarce budget resources or slow down vaccination programs against other diseases such as polio, measles, and meningitis.

More funding is also needed for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which the World Health Organization and other partners created to develop tests, treatments, and vaccines to fight the disease. According to one estimate, a \$10 billion US contribution to this initiative would safeguard up to \$1.34 trillion in domestic output, giving America a more than hundred-fold return on its investment. Yellen's letter to the G20 recognizes this logic, and the group agreed on February 26 that granting equitable access to safe COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics for all countries "is a top priority."

But money is not the most immediate obstacle. African countries that have borrowed to purchase vaccines have discovered that there are no doses for them to buy. Although COVAX has concluded some deals for developing countries, by March 1 it had delivered only a few hundred thousand doses to Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. A first shipment reached Nigeria on March 2. And Guinea has administered a total of 55 doses to date.

Some blame intellectual-property (IP) protections for developing countries' lack of vaccine access. In late 2020, India and South Africa, as well as some NGOs, urged the World Trade Organization to waive current IP rules related to COVID-19, but the US, EU, and UK opposed the idea. Governments will debate the issue at the World Trade Organization in early March.

But patents are not (yet) the problem. The US pharmaceutical firm Moderna, which has developed an approved COVID-19 vaccine, has said that, while the pandemic continues, it will not enforce its coronavirus-related patents against those making vaccines intended to combat it. And AstraZeneca says that "for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic," it will proceed "with only the costs of production and distribution being covered."

Yet, these short-term arrangements will soon need attention. The voluntary licensing regime preferred by the UK and other rich countries may well be inadequate. At the least, policymakers should be considering non-exclusive licenses and technology transfer, as John-Arne Røttingen, who chairs the WHO Solidarity Trial of COVID-19 treatments, has proposed.

This still leaves two more immediate obstacles. First, there are manufacturing challenges related to increasing production speed. Each vaccine is different and relies on biological and chemical processes of variable efficacy that are sometimes difficult to scale up. And vaccine production requires intensive supervision and quality control. But these problems will ease as manufacturing improves and more vaccines - including a newly approved one from Johnson & Johnson - come on stream.

The other big problem is vaccine nationalism. Wealthy countries have stockpiled more COVID-19 vaccine doses than they need, and other governments also are competing to prove that they are procuring adequate supplies for their own citizens.

Two Brazilian research institutes had planned to produce millions of doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford and Chinese Sinovac vaccines, but have been hampered by unexplained delays in shipments of vital ingredients from China. And the Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, was aiming to make more than 300 million doses available to 145 countries through COVAX in the first half of 2021, before the Indian government recently ordered it to meet domestic needs first.

Still, some encouraging signs of vaccine solidarity are emerging. Forty-seven countries, as well as the African Union, which has 55 member states, have made or been offered COVID-19 vaccine deals with China, India, or Russia. India has shipped nearly 6.8 million free doses around the world, China has pledged around 3.9 million, and Israel is offering 100,000.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has pledged to donate most of his country's surplus doses

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OP-ED

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

What Could Cause a US-China War?

CAMBRIDGE - When China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, recently called for a reset of bilateral relations with the United States, a White House spokesperson replied that the US saw the relationship as one of strong competition that required a position of strength. It is clear that President Joe Biden's administration is not simply reversing Trump's policies.

Some analysts, citing Thucydides' attribution of the Peloponnesian War to Sparta's fear of a rising Athens, believe the US-China relationship is entering a period of conflict pitting an established hegemon against an increasingly powerful challenger.

I am not that pessimistic. In my view, economic and ecological interdependence reduces the probability of a real cold war, much less a hot one, because both countries have an incentive to cooperate in a number of areas. At the same time, miscalculation is always possible, and some see the danger of "sleepwalking" into catastrophe, as happened with World War I.

History is replete with cases of misperception about changing power balances. For example, when President Richard Nixon visited China in 1972, he wanted to balance what he saw as a growing Soviet threat to a declining America. But what Nixon interpreted as decline was really the return to normal of America's artificially high share of global output after World War II.

Nixon proclaimed multipolarity, but what followed was the end of the Soviet Union and America's unipolar moment two decades later. Today, some Chinese analysts underestimate America's resilience and predict Chinese dominance, but this, too, could turn out to be a dangerous miscalculation.

It is equally dangerous for Americans to over- or underestimate Chinese power, and the US contains groups with economic and political incentives to do both. Measured in dollars, China's economy is about two-thirds the size of the US economy, but many economists expect China to surpass the US sometime in the 2030s, depending on what one assumes about Chinese and American growth rates.

Will American leaders acknowledge this change in a way that permits a constructive relationship, or will they succumb to fear? Will Chinese leaders take more risks, or will Chinese and Americans learn to cooperate in producing global public goods under a changing distribution of power?

Recall that Thucydides attributed the war that ripped apart the ancient Greek world to two causes: the rise of a new power, and the fear that this created in the established power. The second cause is as important as the first. The US and China must avoid exaggerated fears that could create a new cold or hot war.

Even if China surpasses the US to become the world's largest economy, national income is not the only measure of geopolitical power. China ranks well behind the US in soft power, and US military expenditure is nearly four times that of China. While Chinese military capabilities have been increasing in recent years, analysts who look carefully at the military balance conclude that China will not, say, be able to exclude the US from the Western Pacific.

On the other hand, the US was once the world's largest trading economy and its largest bilateral lender. Today, nearly 100 countries count China as their largest trading partner, compared to 57 for the US. China plans to lend more than \$1 trillion for infrastructure projects with its Belt and Road Initiative over the next decade, while the US has cut back aid. China will gain economic power from the sheer size of its market as well as its overseas investments and development assistance. China's overall power relative to the US is likely to increase.

Nonetheless, balances of power are hard to judge. The US will retain some long-term power advantages that contrast with areas of Chinese vulnerability.

One is geography. The US is surrounded by oceans and neighbors that are likely to remain friendly. China has borders with 14 countries, and territorial disputes with India, Japan, and Vietnam set limits on its hard and soft power.

Energy is another area where America has an advantage. A decade ago, the US was dependent on imported energy, but the shale revolution transformed North America from an energy importer to exporter. At the same time, China became more dependent on energy imports from the Middle East, which it must transport along sea routes that highlight its problematic relations with India.

The US also has demographic advantages. It is the only major developed country that is projected to hold its global ranking (third) in terms of population. While the rate of US population growth has slowed in recent years, it will not turn negative, as in Russia, Europe, and Japan. China, meanwhile, rightly fears "growing old before it grows rich." India will soon overtake it as the most populous country, and its labor force peaked in 2015.

America also remains at the forefront in key technologies (bio, nano, information) that are central to twenty-first-century economic growth. China is investing heavily in research and development, and competes well in some fields. But 15 of the world's top 20 research universities are in the US; none is in China.

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BRANCH OF LIBERIA
 DECEMBER TERM A.D. 2020
 HONOUR: **SCHAPLOR R. DUNBAR** ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE PETITION OF **YAMAH ZAYZAY** OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PRAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED, AS "MELINA Y. KARWAY"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

YAMAH ZAYZAY filed a Petition through her legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of her name to "MELINA Y. KARWAY"

During the hearing, the Petitioner's testified that the change of her name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of her name proposed by her is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on APRIL 5, 1997 in ZOZOR DISTRICT, LOFA COUNTY unto the union of MR. AMOS KARWAY AND MRS. YARBAH KARWAY respectively, of Grand Gedeh County, Republic of Liberia and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being Satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREEED as follows:

That the PETITION having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name YAMAH ZAYZAY be changed to "MELINA Y. KARWAY" Beginning this 2ND day of MARCH A.D. 2021.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS _____ DAY OF MARCH A.D. 2021

COURT SEAL: **SCHAPLOR R. DUNBAR**
 ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING
 SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME _____ PAGE(S) _____

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT.CO, R. L.

Indian woman accused

Starts from back page

It appears that the Indian Consul General condoned this violation of law, as evidenced by the issuance of INDIAN PASSPORT NO- B 0250370 in favor of Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal; who was born on November 1, 1971 at NEW ABADI, JULLUNDER, PUNJAB INDIA.

Why have these critical facts and such sensitive information been repeatedly ignored by both the Government of India and Liberia? Is Madam Dhaliwal above the laws of Liberia and India? We say No!

We have received reliable information from multiple sources that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal is an imposter currently in possession of fraudulently obtained Liberian Citizenship documents that she has used to enjoy the benefits and privileges exclusively reserved for Liberians under the Liberianization policy. She is also a consistent Tax Evader as a fake Liberian citizen.

Below is a timeline chronicling her Criminal offenses and failure to comply with required Immigration rules, which is a threat to National Security and sanctity of the Rule of Law and Constitution of Liberia:

1. Marpu the imposter was born to an Indian Father and an Indian Mother,

only one brother who currently lives in the United States. He and Paramjit are both of the same Indian parents and were born in India.

5. During the mid-1990s when there was war and chaos in Liberia and Liberians were selling everything for pennies, Marpu the imposter was able to bribe and obtain a Liberian Passport using a fake birth certificate.

6. Marpu the imposter then traveled to the United States and applied for political Asylum claiming to be a natural born Liberian citizen. American authorities, being more thorough and honest in their investigation, discovered that she was not a Liberian therefore issued summons for her Deportation. When Marpu the imposter learned that she was about to be deported, she fled the United States and returned to Liberia. The United States government would not allow Marpu the imposter to abuse the American system and make a fool of their laws. Now India and Liberia need to do the same.

7. A year later, Marpu the imposter traveled back to the United States on an Indian Passport; she then obtained a Green Card from the U.S. Government as an Indian citizen.

8. Later, on a trip to the U.S. in February, 2008, Marpu the imposter was recognized by U.S. CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION officers as the same person who previously had applied for Political Asylum under the fake Name of Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal. She was detained for more than 10 months at a detention center and, in January, 2009, was deported to INDIA, her real country of birth.

9. Marpu the imposter claims to be in possession of a document issued by the Indian Government known as "OVERSEAS CITIZEN OF INDIA" (O.C.I.), which is only issued to bonafide Indian born Citizens.

10. Marpu the imposter has over the years bought land and various properties on Randall Street, Front Street, Paynesville and other areas as a Liberian Citizen in violation of Liberian Laws; thereby defrauding the Liberian Government and the People of Liberia. By this, she has avoided paying proper Taxes by reporting as a Liberian citizen.

We are deeply concerned that if proper action is not taken to ensure that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal is prosecuted according to law, convicted of her crimes and deported to her Country of birth- India, others will follow in her footsteps and flaunt the law without fear, hesitation, or reservation. Marpu the imposter must not get away with these serious crimes. Local, National, and International laws have been broken. This matter is highly sensitive and has National Security Implications.

Therefore, we call upon the INDIAN Government by and through its Consul General accredited to Liberia to act now. We call upon the Government of Liberia by and through the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honorable Minister of Justice and the National Security Agency to act in concert and in conformity with Law to ensure that crimes of this nature are not repeated and will not go unpunished.



Mohinder Pal Singh Dhaliwal and mother Rajminder Kaur Dhaliwal. Her real name is Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal and not Marpu Dhaliwal.

2. Marpu the imposter was born in India November 1, 1971, grew up in India and was educated in India until she arrived in Liberia in the 1980s. She cannot reference any academic institution in Liberia that she attended or identify persons who were her school or classmates.

3. Marpu the imposter never ever met her so called Liberian Mother Madam Jannie Zipporah Flemming Ward, because Ms. Jaine died of cancer in the early 1970s long before Paramjit/Marpu ever came to Liberia. Her Legal Children have also confirmed in a News Article that they never knew Marpu as their mother's child. Keep in mind Jannie Flemming was suffering from breast cancer through the late 1960's and had a mastectomy in the United States of America, after which she returned to Liberia but unfortunately still died of cancer in the early 1970's. She cannot be the mother of Paramjit/Marpu Dhaliwal.

4. If the blood test and DNA of Marpu the imposter is scrutinized properly, the results will confirm that she has

JUDICIAL BRANCH
 SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

Expression of Interest

- The Judiciary Branch of Government has received a budgetary allocation for the FY-2020-2021 and intends to apply same towards the Construction and Furnishing of the 14th Judicial Circuit Court, Rivercess County.
- The Judicial Branch now invites sealed bids from qualified bidders for the Construction and furnishing works of the 14th Judicial Circuit Court, Rivercess County. The Construction and Furnishing works period of this project is the date of notice to proceed 180 calendar days.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures, as specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions (PPCC) Act. The process is opened to all bidders from eligible source as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Architectural Consultant's office located on the 1st Floor Room 117, of the Temple of Justice Building, Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on March 26, 2021 @ 12: 00 noon at the same venue.
- Bids will be delivered to the Procurement Unit, Room 505, 5th Floor, Temple of Justice, Capitol Hill, Monrovia-Liberia, on April 5, 2021. Electronic bidding **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives in the Conference Room on the 3rd Floor of the Temple of Justice Building @ 1: 00 PM on April 5, 2021.
- Copy of working drawing together with the bill of qualities (BOQ) will be picked up from the office of the Architectural Consultant, 1st Floor Room 117, at a nonrefundable fee of **US\$100.00**. Bidders are required to submit a Bid Security in the form of Bank guarantee, No Check/Cheque is allowed. **BID SECURITY (US\$20,000.00)**.
- Requirements for qualification include: Valid Business Registration Certificate, Valid Tax Clearance, Certificate from the Ministry of Public Works, PPCC Vendor Registry Certificate, Record of past Performances (construction projects undertaken), Article of Incorporation, Performance Bond (at contract signing) for the construction of the above mentioned area. The bidder who becomes the most responsive evaluated bidder in this case and is successfully prequalified must demonstrate **Technical and Financial** capacity, i.e. Equipment, key personnel, projects completed in past five (5) years, credit facilities etc, to execute the project.
- Proposed Site visitation for said project starts on April 15th through the 30th of April 2021.**

Note: all interested bidders or their representatives are asked to visit the project site.

- A Successful Bidder/Company will be required to commence Construction and Furnishing works of all phases up to 30% completion, before receiving an advance payment from the owner.

Signed by: **Joyce L. Ndowar**
 Deputy Procurement Director

Attested by: **Francis K. Dadzie**
 Architectural Consultant-In-House

Approved by: **Elizabeth J. Nelson**
 Cllr. Elizabeth J. Nelson
 Head of Procurement Committee

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No political conditions to Africa's loans, assistance

-Chinese Ambassador Ren Yisheng

Chinese Ambassador accredited to Liberia, Ren Yisheng says, unlike Western practices, China never attaches any political conditions to its loans and assistance to Africa. The Chinese Envoy made

China's Development Achievements; and the cooperation between China and Liberia."

Ambassador Ren said the media has the functions to provide information services, undertaking early warning of

and impartially, avoid inaccurate reports and fake news, disseminate fresh experience, reflect the demands of the people, and promote fairness and justice.

He emphasized that in recent years, some Western media have fabricated a lot of fake news about China and China-Africa cooperation, adding, "We hope Liberian media will distinguish right from wrong and avoid being deceived. Seeing is believing. We welcome the Liberian journalists to visit China and see all the development and changes with your own eyes."

Mr. Ren assured that China will continue to implement the policy of "one country, two systems" and "Hong Kong patriots governing Hong Kong" to maintain the long-term prosperity and stability of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, HKSAR.

He pointed that Fox and some Western media have fabricated many lies about so-called "genocide" and "forced labor" in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region to discredit and attack the "one country, two systems" policy and the National Security Law implemented by the Chinese Central Government in the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



the statement recently when he addressed the Press Union of Liberia (PUL's) Annual Excellence Awards Ceremony.

He spoke on the "Role and Responsibility of the Press;

social conflicts, and supervising public power.

To gain credibility, he observed, the media must reflect the facts comprehensively, objectively

School administrator rejects fake inspectors

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Two individuals posting as inspectors from the office of Montserrado County District Education Officer have been turned away by the administrator of the Christ Shield Academy School in Johnsonville Township.

The two alleged impersonators had gone to inspect the school's premises without any official identification cards to prove they are employees of the Ministry of Education.

The Principal of the Christ Shield Academy School Rev.

He underscored the need for the Ministry of Education to ensure that people being dispatched to private schools for inspection purposes to be properly identified.

"Our institution is a private school that is registered with the Ministry of Education to provide education services and is working in partnership with the government, but what our school will not accept is for just anybody to walk unto its campus, as a government inspector, who bears no proper identification card to solicit vital information about the



Govt. to demolish wetland structures

The Liberian government through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has asked individuals, firms and residents currently undertaking projects within and along wetland around the National Police Academy to remove all existing structures within 30 days or face demolition.

The EPA said it would also impose administrative and regulatory sanctions against individuals, firms and residents currently undertaking projects within and along the wetland around the Police Academy Junction area in Paynesville City.

The warning is contained in a 'halt order and citation' released February 25, 2021.

EPA Executive Director, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh said unsustainable and unauthorized backfilling of the wetland; blocking of



waterways; discharge of wastewater and sewages into the wetland and water courses around the Police Academy Junction along the SKD Boulevard are compromising the

ecological integrity of the Montserrado Wetland.

The Montserrado Wetland around the Police Academy

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LawranceAmma Pearson narrated to this paper that it was very unfortunate to see the DEO office sending people, who bear no identity, at his institution.

He said due to their undefined status, the school did not allow them into its premises.

Rev. Pearson noted that as administrator of the school, he is very careful who he speaks with and the appearance of the two men at the school without any identity is something that needs urgent attention.

school." Rev. Pearson stressed.

He added the Christ Shield Academy School, which has a total enrollment of 120 students will not do business or speak with people who are not properly identified save the institution from any embarrassment.

According to him, the Ministry of Education has requested his school to provide a five-year operational plan, disclosing that the school intends to introduce computer training program to enhance learning of students.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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House passes Rural Teachers Fund act -pending Senate concurrence

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has passed an act to amend Chapter 9 financing education of the new education reform act of 2011, Title 10, Liberia revised code to provide for section 9.2 and all other

from a communication by River Gee County electoral district #1 Representative Alexander Poure, was discussed by plenary and that body subsequently mandated a five-member specialized committee to work on the proposed amendment of the education

Authority about the amendment.

The committee headed by Maryland County district #1 Representative P. Mike Jury noted that the Ministry of Education approved the establishment of the Rural Teachers Incentive Fund, describing it as a good step in attracting teachers to rural communities in Liberia.

“The MOE prays that the establishment of this fund will help the ministry realize some of its plans to provide housing to teachers and incentives as pull factors for teachers to take up assignment in rural communities”, the reported noted.

For its part, the LRA indicated that the small tax amounts levied on certain goods and commodities within the country for generating revenue for the rural teacher’s incentive fund are considerably acceptable and granted for the purpose.

At the same time the committee also noted that the NLLA is support of the rural teacher’s incentive fund as they exclaimed the tax amounts are invariably infinitesimal to their clients and affordable.

Other members of the committee are: Nimba County Representative Johnson N. Gwaikolo, Sinoe County Representative Matthew Zarzar and Grand Gedeh County Representative Kanie Wesso.



subsections for the establishment of rural teachers incentive fund.

Accordingly, the act has been forwarded to the Liberian Senate for its concurrence.

In March 2020, a discharge petition, which emanated

reform act of 2011.

According to report, during the process of analysis, review and consultation, the committee engaged key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education, Liberia Revenue Authority and the National Liberia Lottery

Community leaders urged to be transformative

Montserrado County District #9 Representative-elect, Frank Sarah Foko has challenged community leaders to transform their various communities thru development for the betterment of the people and the nation at large.

He urged community leaders to develop action plans to address matters confronting communities, including district #9.

Speaking Sunday during the induction of the community leadership headed by Chairman Eric K. B. Stanley, III, for the second time at the Willie K. Green Memorial School on the Mighty Barrolle Practice Ground in Airfield Sinkor, the newly elected Montserrado lawmaker noted



it is about time for community dwellers and their leadership to undertake initiatives to transform their own lives their areas.

He said the empowerment of community dwellers through vocational education

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Govt. to demolish

Cont'd from page 6

Junction along the SKD Boulevard is designated as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance of which Liberia is a signatory.

Prof. Tarpeh said the unapproved erecting of structures contrary to the zoning regulation and environmental law of Liberia within the wetland, the continuous degradation of the mangrove ecosystem and the illegal dumping of garbage into the wetland are also

Montserrado Wetland.

“As a principal authority in Liberia for the management of the environment and the sustainable use of the natural resources thereof, the EPA is empowered under section 75 of the Environment Protection and Management Law of Liberia (EPML) to prescribe measures for protection of wetlands,” the EPA Boss said.

Section 75 of the Environment Protection and Management Law of Liberia (EPML) provides measures for



compromising the integrity of the Montserrado Wetland.

According to him, there is a prohibition under both international and national laws of Liberia to encroach upon wetlands and destruction of mangroves and other protected species necessary for the conservation of biological diversity.

He warned individuals, firms and residents to with immediate effect desist from further development, construction in the

protection of wetlands.

Section 75 (2) of the EPML also provides that no person shall in relation to wetland, use, erect, construct, place, alter, extend, remove or demolish course in, on, under or over the bed” or to direct or block a wetland from its natural and normal course.

Section 75 (3) also empowers the EPA to by notice, impose any restrictions, as it considers necessary for the protection of the wetland from the environmental degradation.

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Français

Le Ministre Tweah nommé ministre africain des Finances de l'année

Le Ministre Libérien des finances et de la planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, a été nommé Ministre africain de l'année par le magazine African Leadership.

Il a été nommé parmi plusieurs autres récipiendaires dans plusieurs catégories le vendredi 26 février.

Le comité des prix de la personne de l'année a

également nommé le Directeur général de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, le Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Africain de l'année 2020 ; Le président du Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo, comme leader politique africain de l'année 2020 ; Graca Michel comme Championne Africaine du Climat de l'année 2020, aux côtés de 10 autres Africains distingués dans un sondage vivement contesté.

Le sondage a attiré plus de

120 000 votes sur le site Web de l'ALM ; plus de 7 millions d'engagement actif en ligne pendant la période de vote ; et plus de 5000 votes par e-mail, selon le magazine.

Les lauréats ont été décorés et présentés le vendredi 26 février 2021, lors de la cérémonie annuelle de remise des prix des personnes de l'année du magazine African Leadership.

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Il n'y a pas d'Ebola au Libéria

Il n'y a aucun signe de l'hémorragie à virus Ebola au Libéria. Les huit suspects ont tous été testés négatifs au virus Ebola. C'est le ministre libérien de la Santé qui a annoncé la bonne nouvelle après plusieurs jours d'attente impatiente du

résultat des tests réalisé sur huit suspects. Un ouf de soulagement !!

« Au jour d'aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire ce 26 février 2021, il y avait 8 suspects, et tous ont été testés négatifs. Au moment où nous vous parlons, il n'y a aucun signe de la maladie à virus Ebola

ici au Libéria », a dit le ministre de la Santé.

Le briefing de la Ministre de la Santé soulage ainsi les Libériens qui avaient subi de graves pertes lorsque l'Ebola a frappé le Libéria pour la première fois en 2013-2014. Tout le système de santé du pays avait été mis à l'épreuve pendant ces années.

Des milliers de Libériens et de ressortissants étrangers étaient morts pendant la crise d'Ebola à l'époque, et les récentes alertes concernant une réémergence présumée depuis la Guinée ont de nouveau suscité des craintes dans le pays qui essayait toujours de se remettre de la pandémie de la COVID-19 qui continue de secouer le monde entier.

Lors d'une conférence de presse spéciale tenue au Ministère de l'Information, des Affaires Culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT) sur la colline du Capitole ce week-end, le ministre Jallah a souligné qu'aucun cas du virus



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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

Le Ministre Tweahnommé ministre

L'événement a eu lieu virtuellement et a accueilli des Africains influents dans les affaires, la politique et toutes les sphères du spectre du leadership africain.

Les gagnants ont été dévoilés par l'éditeur du magazine, le Dr Ken Giami, au siège social britannique du groupe. L'annonce des gagnants a été précédée par le comité des prix qui a travaillé avec l'équipe éditoriale pour rassembler les votes et les soumissions en ligne et hors ligne de la base de plus d'un million d'abonnés / suiveurs de la publication.

Le prix des personnes de l'année du magazine du

leadership africain, qui est devenu le principal soutien de tiers basé sur le vote sur le continent, a enregistré une augmentation de plus de 50% des voix par rapport à l'année précédente, principalement des Africains de la diaspora.

L'éditeur, le Dr Giami, a soutenu que 2020 avait été une année très mouvementée, la pandémie COVID-19 ayant tiré les systèmes de santé fragiles de l'Afrique et exacerbé la pauvreté sur le continent. Cependant, il a souligné que certains Africains ont contribué à minimiser l'impact de la pandémie sur le continent et ont contribué à inspirer l'espoir pour l'avenir.

Il n'y a pas

Ebola n'a été enregistré.

Elle a toutefois mis en garde que la Covid-19 continue de faire ravage dans le monde. Selon elle, le Libéria a enregistré un nouveau cas le vendredi 26 février, portant le total des cas à 2 010 cas confirmés dans le pays.

La ministre Jallaha indiquée que pour mettre fin à cette pandémie, il est nécessaire que les pays travaillent ensemble, tout en appelant les Libériens à ne pas refuser de prendre les vaccins du Covid-19 qui sont attendus dans le pays.

Pour sa part, le directeur du programme national de vaccination au ministère de la Santé, M. Adolphus T. Clarke, a déclaré que les vaccins du Covid-19 sont attendus au Libéria cette semaine, révélant qu'il existe une

catégorie de personnes répertoriées pour prendre les vaccins.

Selon lui, le port d'un masque facial et le lavage des mains ne sont pas la solution miracle qui empêchera les gens de contracter la Covid-19 ou d'autres maladies. Il est donc nécessaire, d'après lui, d'instituer plusieurs mesures de santé qui permettront d'enrayer la maladie.

Il a révélé que le Libéria recevrait 384 000 doses qui seront administrées aux personnes répertoriées. Il s'agit des travailleurs de la santé, des personnes âgées de soixante ans et plus et des personnes qui ne peuvent pas se distancer socialement et physiquement des autres en raison de leur travail, c'est-à-dire l'armée, les enseignants et les commerçants.

Côte d'Ivoire : les paroles du premier ministre Hamed Bakayoko aux Ivoiriens

Évacué il y a peu, pour des soucis de santé, le premier ministre Hamed Bakayoko semble recouvrer la santé. Ce 1er mars 2021, le chef du gouvernement depuis la France, s'est adressé via sa page Facebook officielle, à ses concitoyens ivoiriens.

Chers tous,

Le mois de Mars est un mois spécial pour moi.

Je vous le souhaite excellent et vous invite à toujours garder vos valeurs ainsi que votre foi en Dieu, le Tout Puissant.

Pour les élections législatives du 6 mars, J'encourage tous les

candidats à œuvrer pour une campagne et des élections apaisées>>, s'est-il exprimé. Cette sortie du Ministre de la défense en dépit de sa situation, est perçue par beaucoup d'internautes, comme une preuve de la bonne santé de Hamed Bakayoko. En moins de 10mn, plus de 2000 personnes ont réagi à cette publication. Si tout se passe bien, le premier ministre ivoirien devrait regagner Abidjan dans le courant de ce mois de mars. Pour rappel, l'évacuation annoncée du maire de la commune d'Abobo avait attristé de nombreux ivoiriens qui continuent de prier pour lui.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

Reconstruire ensemble

BERLIN - L'être humain est une créature d'habitudes. Nous avons tendance à imaginer un avenir très semblable au passé et nous nous raccrochons donc à des approches, perspectives et outils familiers, alors même que le monde change. Cependant, en cette période de profonde transformation sociale, politique et économique, nous devons veiller à ne pas laisser nos habitudes nous égarer.

D'un point de vue historique, les périodes de transformation radicale - comme celle qui a suivi l'effondrement de l'Union soviétique et la dissolution du Pacte de Varsovie au début des années 1990 - n'ont pas rendu les sociétés collectivement plus clairvoyantes, ni même plus circonspectes. Au contraire, elles ont généralement engendré la présomption que la vie quotidienne resterait, pour l'essentiel, telle qu'elle avait toujours été - ou du moins, qu'il y aurait un retour à la « normale ».

Cette tendance s'est manifestée avec la crise du Covid-19, souvent perçue comme une perturbation, certes dramatique, mais temporaire. En réalité, la pandémie est un moment charnière - et il n'est pas le seul auquel nous sommes aujourd'hui confrontés : la révolution numérique et l'impérieuse nécessité d'une décarbonisation rapide ont des répercussions tout aussi importantes.

Face à ces trois grandes ruptures historiques, pouvons-nous vraiment nous attendre à un retour à l'ancienne « normalité » ? Ou devons-nous plutôt escompter une conjoncture légèrement différente ? Et si l'avenir ne ressemblait en rien au passé ? Sommes-nous équipés pour relever les défis qu'elles présentent ?

Tout permet d'en douter. Déjà, les institutions politiques traditionnelles - et en premier lieu, l'État-nation - sont en train de vaciller. Elles ont éprouvé les plus grandes difficultés à remédier aux périls du numérique, par exemple en cherchant à mettre au pas les géants du web. Et elles se sont révélées mal outillées pour gérer à la fois l'envergure mondiale de la pandémie et sa dimension psychologique, en particulier le caractère abstrait qu'elle revêt pour un grand nombre de personnes.

Le Covid-19 est invisible à l'œil nu. À moins d'être soi-même malade, de prendre soin de malades ou d'être endeuillé par la perte d'un être cher, il peut être difficile de saisir pleinement l'ampleur de la menace - et d'accepter les modifications des modes de vie imposées par la réponse à la pandémie.

Bien évidemment, qu'il s'agisse de la Peste noire apparue en 1347 ou de la Grippe espagnole de 1918-1920, le monde a été marqué par plusieurs pandémies. Mais jamais auparavant l'État n'a autant tiré sa légitimité de l'attente qu'il protège le bien-être des populations, par des moyens technologiques et scientifiques, quels que soient les aléas que leur impose la nature.

Les bouleversements provoqués par la crise du Covid-19, avec une augmentation constante des cas d'infections et des décès, remettent ainsi directement en question la légitimité de l'État. Il s'agit d'une crise de confiance, qui ébranle les fondements mêmes de nos sociétés.

La seule façon de rétablir la confiance et de stabiliser les sociétés est d'apporter une réponse efficace à la crise. Et compte tenu de la nature mondiale des défis à relever, cela ne sera pas possible sans une coopération de grande ampleur, facilitée par des institutions efficaces.

Pourtant, jusqu'à présent, le monde a persisté dans ses vieilles habitudes, se prêtant au jeu de rivalités nationales bornées au lieu de mettre au point des solutions originales, tournées vers l'avenir. Ce constat s'applique particulièrement à la course aux vaccins.

Compter sur l'État-nation pour juguler la pandémie revient à tenter d'abattre un avion de chasse avec un mousquet. Et si on compare la crise du coronavirus à un avion de chasse, alors le changement climatique est un missile nucléaire. En échouant à construire des systèmes capables de faire face à des menaces d'une telle ampleur - y compris les inévitables pandémies futures - l'humanité met en péril son existence même.

Assurément, l'appel du président américain Biden à « reconstruire en mieux » après la pandémie implique une certaine prise de conscience quant à la nécessité d'un changement systémique. Toutefois, la transformation nécessaire va bien au-delà de la construction de nouvelles infrastructures et de la mobilisation des investissements privés dans un pays donné. Nous devons réorienter - à vrai dire, réinventer - la politique internationale, afin que les pays puissent coopérer bien plus efficacement à la création d'un monde meilleur.

L'Accord de Paris sur le climat de 2015 était un pas important dans cette direction. Les États-nations font partie intégrante de ce processus : ils ont négocié l'accord et sont responsables de la détermination de leurs propres contributions à la réalisation des objectifs de l'accord. Mais ils doivent également fonctionner au sein d'un cadre unique commun pour réaliser des objectifs qui n'ont rien à voir avec le renforcement de leur puissance géopolitique ou économique relative.

Sous l'administration de l'ancien président américain Donald Trump, les États-Unis s'étaient retirés de l'Accord de Paris sur le climat, dans l'optique rétrograde de réaffirmer leur domination. Fort heureusement, le nouveau président Joe Biden a annoncé en janvier dernier le retour des États-Unis dans l'accord sur le climat. Étant donné que les États-Unis restent le pays le plus influent et le plus avancé au plan technologique, la décision de Biden est vitale pour la mise en œuvre réussie de l'accord - et par conséquent pour l'avenir de l'humanité.

Mais malgré l'Accord de Paris sur le climat, la communauté internationale n'a pas encore mesuré l'ampleur de la transformation politique requise par les grands bouleversements actuels. Il est par exemple loin d'être certain que les États-Unis soient prêts à modérer leur concurrence stratégique avec la Chine. Au XXIe siècle, l'objectif ne peut plus être l'hégémonie. Au contraire, les pays doivent aspirer à montrer l'exemple dans la quête d'un monde dans lequel la vie vaut la peine d'être vécue pour tous.

La préservation - et non plus la domination - doit être le nouveau mot d'ordre des dirigeants mondiaux.

Senate passes Supplemental Budget at US\$24m

By Ethel Tweh

Members of the Liberian Senate have overwhelmingly passed the Supplementary Budget at US\$24.3 million.

The senate, during its regular session sitting Tuesday, March 2, at the

US\$9 million was identified from revenue generating entities as domestic revenue.

US\$1.5 million was identified as External Revenue Grant from the United Kingdom and that the US\$10.5 million submitted to the Senate by the House of Representatives, US\$3.9 million is proposed as appropriation for the Public Sector Investment Programs with emphasis on roads infrastructure, health,

Planning and LBDI, and that the total budget of US\$24.3 million be passed by the Liberian Legislature as the supplemental budget."

Further, the Conference Committees proposed passage: "An Act to approve the Supplemental Budget for the Fiscal Period Beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, providing for the expenditure of the Government of the Republic of Liberia in the tone of US\$24.3 million be approved; that upon the passage, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MPDP) provides a schedule of the PSIP to the relevant committees for monitoring and accountability and that upon passage, MPDP provides the total liabilities owes LBDI after the payment of US\$13.8 million to serve as a guide to payments.

The executive branch through the Finance and Development Planning Ministry had detailed the expenditures of government for the given fiscal period including; the Roberts International Airport route pavement US\$900,000; public schools chair project US\$700,000; transformer project for the electrification of Monrovia US\$600,000; hospital beds US\$500,000; legislative goods and services US\$1.4 million; domestic travels US\$400,000; vehicle repairs and maintenance US\$300,000; and constituency travels US\$900,000.

Others are vehicle fuel and lubricants US\$400,000; generator fuel US\$600,000; printing, binding and publication US\$250,000; Telecommunication, internet and ICT supplies, US\$250,000; RIA residential lounge US\$250,000; public schools renovation \$250,000; GOL obligation to the African Union US\$1,129,695; Foreign

education and aviation related projects, while US\$0.600 million and US\$1.129 million for subsidies and debts, a special committed headed by Bong Senator Prince Moye said in plenary.

That additional proposal was submitted by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in the amount of US\$13.8 million be appropriated for the settlement and offset portion of Liberian government debt to LBDI. This amount resulted from Revenue in Transit reconciled by the Ministry of Finance and Development

Capitol Building voted for the passage and its onward submission to the Executive Mansion for signing into law by President George Manneh Weah.

The supplementary budget was earlier submitted at US\$10.5 million, but later the amount hit US\$24.3 million following an addition of US\$13 million intended for the clearance of Liberia Bank for Development and Investment debt owed by the government.

With approval of the senate, a revenue envelop of



No political conditions

Cont'd from page 6

HKSAR.

"The fact is that before the return of Hong Kong to China, none of the members of the HK Legislative Bureau, the legislature at that time, was nominated by the Hong Kong people, and none of them were elected through democratic procedures. All the Governors were British citizens directly appointed by the British government".

Ambassador Ren continued that after Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, it has held six Legislative Council elections, and four Chief Executives of the SAR have been elected by Hong Kong citizens. Her said over the past 20 years after Hong Kong's return, the riots that have occurred have been implicitly supported by Britain and other Western countries.

According to him, the

Sinkor Boulevard Road-bridge, clinical reference lab projects, and the provision of Chinese government scholarships and short-term training programs, among others.

Amb. Ren recalled that in 2014, when Ebola broke out in Liberia, China took the lead to assist and became the first country to send a large number of medical experts and supplies here, and that after the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, President Weah and other political leaders of Liberia supported China's fight against the pandemic.

He said the Chinese government and civil society organizations have successively aided many batches of anti-pandemic materials to Liberia; Chinese-funded enterprises and Chinese community in Liberia have made several rounds of



excuses are always so-called "democracy", and since the National People's Congress (NPC) passed and promulgated the "National Security Law" in 2020, a small number of criminals who seriously endangered national security have been punished, external forces interfering in Hong Kong affairs have been deterred, and Hong Kong has returned to stability.

He then made references to the SKD Stadium, the annexes to the Capitol building, the Ministerial Complex, and the Roberts International Airport terminal built with Chinese assistance, as landmark buildings in Liberia as well as the fly-over bridges on Tubman Boulevard, Somalia Drive-

donations of anti-pandemic materials to Liberia, making China's contribution to Liberia's fight against the pandemic notable.

He said China is ready to work with the international community to increase support for African countries with severe epidemics and financial pressures, and extend debt relief period to help them overcome current financial difficulties.

The Chinese envoy stressed that China will continue to promote friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Liberia to bring more tangible benefits for both countries and their respective peoples.

Cont'd from page 7

Community leaders

will go a long way to prevent unnecessary confusion and unproductive ventures being carried out in more communities across the country.

He observed that lack of vocational and technical skills among Liberians has created serious social and economic problem for more community dwellers, especially the youth.

Rep. Foko promised to embark on vocational and technical training programs in various communities in the district when he is certificated by the National Elections Commission after the electoral dispute case at the Supreme Court of Liberia.

He said Liberians should not expect everything from government all the times, but they should engage into meaningful ventures that could improve their living standards and the society.

He assured the residents of Raymond Field Community that plans are underway to bring electricity to the community as soon as possible.

At the same time the lawmaker warned young people in the community to desist from violence, stressing that violence cannot solve any problem.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Raymond Field Community, Mr. Eric K. B. Stanley said his administration will embark on several development projects,

including sanitation.

Chairman Stanley recalled that during his first term in office, he implemented various projects such as water, electricity and scholarship programs for students in the community.

He said individuals and institutions offered scholarships for students who maintain A and B averages in schools.

He urged community dwellers to continue to work with his leadership to improve development of the community.

Those inducted are Eric K. B. Stanley, III Chairman; Alberta Z. Harmadu, Co-Chair; John Darkolon,

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Secretary General; Joseph S. Parker, Assistant Secretary General; James D. Seh, Financial Secretary; Garmal G. Gray, Treasure; Moses Bacon, Chaplain; Sandra Y. Wilson,

Chairlady; Fotee B. Palgar, Co-Chairlady; Kolwuo T. Flomo

NEC to ignore MOJ

The National Elections Commissions (NEC) may ignore a communication sent to it by the Minister of Justice (MOJ) Cllr. Frank Musa Dean requesting that body not to confirmed and certificate Lofa County Senator-elect J. Brownie Samukai because he (Samukai) has been found guilty of criminal charges.

The NEC Board of Commissioners on Tuesday March 2, ordered its Certification Committee, under the Political Affairs Section, to officially arrange and workout all modalities for the certification Ceremony

In a statement issued following the NEC Board of Commissioners sitting, the Board instructed its Certification Committee to arrange for the certification

and James as first complainants and Kesselly and Peter as Second Complainants all of Lofa County. But the Highest Court said they had no standings to challenge the results as they were not Political Parties and Candidates.

The NEC Board also heard a motion to dismiss the appeal taken by defeated Maryland County Senator H Dan Marias paving the way for the certification of James Biney.

Lawyers representing Sen. H. Dan Marias led by Cllr. Wilfred Sayer after representations by both the Complainant and Respondent, first made a submission and informed the Administrative Court that they interposed no objection to the motion to dismiss the appeal and expressed no interest to continue the case against Biney,

Prior to the NECs decision, a group calling itself Citizens Movement in Solidarity with Brownie Samukai staged a peaceful protest at the premises of NEC demanding the commission to certificate Mr. Samukai.

The protesters widely made of students activists hailing from Lofa County, also paraded the street chanting slogan such as "Certificate Samukai now and NEC stop playing politics with Samukai".

Most of the protesters who appeared at the NEC with the notion that the Lofa County Senator elect would had been officially certificated by NEC appeared disappointed when the commission ordered its Certification Committee to arrange another date for the certification.

Most of the protesters who were dressed up in jean trousers, white T-Shirts with red and blue berets on their heads, asserted that the NEC was heading for trouble due to its failure to certificate the Lofa County Senator elect.

For his part, the lawyer of Mr. Samukai Cllr. Augustine Fayah accused the government of playing politics with the certification of his client by dragging Samukai's confirmation.

Cllr. Fayah disclosed that the action by the government is also intended to deny Mr. Samukai the opportunity to begin official work as Senator elect of Lofa County.

He warned the government to stop playing politics with the Lofa County Senator elect to enable him join his colleagues at the National Legislature to do the Liberian people business.

There was no arrest made by the police and no injury reported during the protest on Tuesday, 3 March.

Mr. Samukai was charged by the Government of Liberia (GOL) of misapplication of over USD 1 million-money belonging to soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) along with two other high profiled former officials of the Ministry of National Defense during the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf regime.

The trio were convicted of criminally conspiring to siphon the money. They were asked to retribute with first installment over the period of six months or face jail sentences.

Dillon summersaults

Starts from back page

address through the law," he said.

He added that he will submit a bill seeking to amend the Alien a Nationality Law of Liberia, which according to him, creates confusion that needs clarities for Liberians to still enjoy citizenship.

During the argument at the time, Dillon said that the referendum should not be held because of its untimeliness, only to see just two months after, the Montserrado County lawmaker is submitting a bill for dual citizenship.

Dillon said, he currently enjoys support of Liberians globally on the decision of amending the Citizen-Alien laws of Liberia and that he's lobbying with his colleagues

citizenship.

This Proposition is significant because many Liberians believe that article 28 prohibits dual citizenship under all circumstances. However, the Proposition restricts those with dual citizenship from occupying certain positions in the Government of Liberia.

It states that those with dual citizenship "shall not qualify for elected national or public service positions...", unless they renounce the other citizenship. These restricted positions include Chief Justice and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, ministers and deputy ministers, heads of autonomous commissions, agencies and non-academic research and scientific



Mrs. Davidetta Brown - Lansannah

of both Samukai and James Biney of Maryland Counties respectively.

The decision follows the reading of the mandate of the Supreme Court, which among other things confirmed the election of the embattled former defense minister as the winner of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Lofa County.

The mandate of the Supreme Court signed by its Clerk Sam Momolu also instructed the Elections Commission to resume jurisdiction of the Lofa County appeal case of elections irregularities.

NEC Chair Davidetta Browne Lansannah said having resumed jurisdiction of the matter, the Certification Committee, led by the Political Affairs Office is instructed to work out all modalities of the time and date for certification of J. Browne Samukai as Senator of Lofa County and suspended the matter.

The case grew out of the action of elections irregularities filed by Ahmed

the declared winner of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Maryland County.

The Chairperson of the BOC Davidetta Browne Lansannah in the ruling said after the complainant listened to the soundness of the motion to dismiss and interposes no objection to the motion to dismiss, the Administrative Court granted the motion to dismiss as pray for by the Complainant. The Chairperson then suspended the Lofa and Maryland counties elections dispute cases as a matter of law.

Attempt by reporters to get comment from the Lofa County senator elect about the decision of NEC, refused to speak to Journalists.



for a smooth passage.

He explained that under the law, the rights of being a Liberian cannot be taken away by any means unless through the laws.

Senator Dillon builds his argument on the Jalloh case of September 2019, the Legislature adopted a Joint Resolution ("The Resolution") proposing a constitutional referendum to amend various articles of the Liberian Constitution. Proposition One of the Resolution ("The Proposition") seeks to amend article 28 of the Constitution, repeal (by implication) section 22.1 of the Alien and Nationality Law, and grant all Liberians the right to acquire another nationality without losing their Liberian

institutions, ambassadors, chief of staff and deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

The Constitution does not prohibit dual citizenship in all instances. Rather, article 28 of the Constitution only imposes a restriction on one category of Liberians from obtaining dual citizenship. The Proposition will resolve this by expanding the right to dual citizenship to all Liberians, and by implication, repeal section 22.1 of ANL, if the referendum is successful.

While expanding the right of dual citizenship, the Proposition imposes an uneven burden on Liberians with dual citizenship by barring them from participating in "...elected national or public service positions..."

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Dillon summersaults on dual citizenship



By E. J. Nathaniel Daybor

Barely two months following the reported defeat of the National Referendum particularly, the proposition on dual citizenship, Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darios Dillon, who had joined the Collaborating Political Parties in opposing the Referendum, has now

somersaulted.

Sen. Dillon is now about to proffer a bill, seeking for dual citizenship for Liberians in the diasporas who may have had Liberian citizenship prior to leaving here, to enjoy said rights.

Alternative National Congress leader Alexander Cummings said, the CPP of which Dillon is a stalwart, was

never against the conduct of the referendum, but wanted it postponed based on what he calls 'illegal conduct of the process and the lack of public awareness.'

According to him, the CPP supports the reduction of tenures and supports four year tenure for President, but wants the Referendum postponed. "Just in case, the government refuses to adhere to our calls, we want to urge our people to boycott the referendum and only vote for the Senatorial candidates," he had stressed.

However, speaking in a news conference Tuesday, March 2, Senator Dillon said it is totally unfair for Liberians to be denied dual citizenship all because of circumstance which they have no control of.

"Me Darios Dillon of Grand Bassa, born and schooled in Bassa and later moved out of the country and to return I must apply for visa to come to Liberia is something that we must

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Indian woman accused of faking citizenship dragged in tax evasion (pt2)

This report though urgent is not new to the news media but is consistently swept under the rug by those in authority who are charged with the responsibility to deal with such matters, but have opted to ignore the issue. Why did the past government ignore this matter so much so as if there was a hidden agenda? Why did the entire enforcement apparatus of the Liberian government resort to total paralysis whenever this matter was brought to the

public?

We are also concerned that the Indian Consul General assigned to Monrovia, Liberia, has not taken any relevant action against this lady Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal who is in gross violation of the laws of Liberia, India and the United States. Why has the Indian Consul General failed to protect the laws of India and Liberia?

It was under the Consulship of this Consul General that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal was



able to obtain an Overseas Citizen of India (O.C.I.) designation, knowing fully well she had also claimed Liberian Citizenship by stating under oath that she is a natural born citizen of Liberia. Why didn't he bring such a critical issue to the attention of the Indian authorities, that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal had obtained and was in possession of Fake Liberian Citizenship through Fraudulent means?

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