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VOL.11 NO. 028

THURSDAY, MARCH 04, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00



Sen. elect J. Brownie Samukai

Samukai back to S/Court?

-NEC yet to receive writ



NEC Boss, Mrs. Davidetta Browne

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Continental News

France admits killing activist during Algerian War

France has admitted that a prominent Algerian nationalist was tortured and murdered by its army more than 60 years ago.

Ali Boumendjel was arrested during the Algerian War of Independence in 1957, and his death shortly after was covered-up as a suicide. But, in a meeting with Boumendjel's grandchildren on Tuesday, President Emmanuel Macron reassessed the death. "[He] did not commit suicide. He was tortured and then killed," he said.

Algeria gained independence from France in 1962 after a bloody seven-year war.

Boumendjel, a 37-year-old lawyer and nationalist, was active in the campaign against French colonial rule. He was detained during the Battle of Algiers and placed in solitary confinement by French troops.

The activist was then killed and thrown from the sixth-floor of a building in an effort to disguise his death as

a suicide. The BBC's Ahmed Rouaba says that Algerian and French organisations have been campaigning for decades for the truth about Boumendjel's death.

In 2001 Gen Paul Aussaresses, who was at the time head of French intelligence in Algeria, confessed to ordering the killing of dozens of Algerian prisoners, including Boumendjel. Mr Macron said the latest admission was made "in the name of

France".

The rare act is one of a series of measures aimed at improving relations between France and Algeria and the way both countries remember the war that ended colonial rule. The conflict has cast a long shadow, and it is only in recent years that Paris has begun to acknowledge some instances of torture and abuse.



Algerian lawyer Ali Boumendjel's widow, Malika, pictured in 2001

There are conflicting reports about the Algerian death toll during the war. French historians estimate that up to 400,000 Algerians were killed, while the Algerian government says more than one million people died.

There are also millions of people with links to Algeria living in France, and the conflict remains a deeply contentious issue that has strained relations between both nations.

On Tuesday, Mr Macron reiterated his desire to give "the families of the disappeared" the opportunity to find out the truth about the war.

"No crime, no atrocity committed by anyone during the Algerian War can be excused or concealed," the statement, released by the

Elysee Palace, said. In 2017, during his election campaign, Mr Macron described the colonisation of the North African country as a "crime against humanity". He has also expressed a desire for French-Algerian relations to be forward-looking despite historical enmities.

But the president faced a backlash earlier this year when he refused to issue an official apology for crimes committed during the conflict. He said there would be "no repentance nor apologies" rather "symbolic acts" aimed at promoting reconciliation.

He agreed to form a "truth commission" aimed at shedding light on the conflict after a government-commissioned report recommended doing so. But the report has since been criticised by the Algerian government, which said it was "not objective" and fell "below expectations". BBC

45 Suspected Land Grabbers Arrested in South Sudan

Forty-five people were arrested in South Sudan's Central Equatoria state last week on suspicion of trying to grab land illegally according to a police spokesperson. A local chief in the area said some of the suspects are military officers. An official in the state governor's office said the suspects, all of whom are from Jonglei state, were apprehended while illegally

the land department to know who owns the land and also to make documents first, somebody just builds in the land using the power of his status; being from the forces or the security and threatening people who own the land," Dak told VOA's "South Sudan in Focus."

He said eight of the suspects were later released on bail while the others remained in police custody



demarcating land in Mangalla Village.

Colonel James Dak, deputy spokesperson for South Sudan's National Police Service, said the suspects were rounded up by police officers on Thursday.

"They started occupying people's land without knowing who owns that land and they started building in it, then at the end of the day the dispute will start. Instead of going to

Monday and were interrogated before appearing in court. Dak said the suspects will be arraigned in court once the police investigations are complete.

Derick Derickson, press secretary in the office of Central Equatoria Governor Emmanuel Adil Anthony, said the suspects were arrested following a new order from the governor. VOA

Ghana and UK sign post-Brexit trade deal

Ghana and the UK have signed a new trade agreement worth £1.2bn (\$1.6bn) that will allow free access and tariff reductions for certain goods between the countries.

Before Brexit, the UK was automatically part of any trade deal the European Union had negotiated with another country.

In its negotiations to leave the EU, the UK government managed to roll over most of the third-country trade deals it had as part of the union, but that did not include Ghana's - meaning importers faced tariffs and extra paperwork.

For example, in January a shipment of bananas arriving into Portsmouth from Ghana was charged a tariff of £17,500.

This meant the UK was no longer a profitable market for Ghanaian banana producers.

But now Ghanaian products including bananas, tinned tuna and cocoa will benefit from tariff-free access to the UK.

The UK's exports, including machinery, electronics and chemical products, will also benefit from a reduction in import duty taxes.

"This deal secures tariff-free access for products that British shoppers love - and supports jobs in Ghana - paving the way for further economic growth as we build back better from Covid-19," said Ranil Jayawardena, the UK's minister for international trade.

Ghana's largest exports to the UK include mineral fuels and oil, preparations of fish, fruit, cocoa and cocoa preparations, a statement from the UK government website noted.

Its top imports from the UK include textiles, machinery and mechanical appliances, and chemical products. BBC



In January a shipment of bananas arriving into Portsmouth from Ghana was charged a tariff of £17,500

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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Hannah Wanjie Ryder,
Gyude Moore

When Special Drawing Rights Aren't So Special

BEIJING - With the arrival of US President Joe Biden's administration, calls for a fresh allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs), the International Monetary Fund's reserve assets, have gained new momentum. Yet while such proposals are supposedly geared toward assisting developing countries hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, SDRs are allocated according to a country's IMF quota and voting share, rather than its needs. As such, the vast majority of any new allocation would go to wealthy countries.

This was fine in September 2009, when the IMF sought to mitigate the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis by issuing \$117 billion in SDRs. That crisis had hit wealthy countries particularly hard, and it was those economies that rightly benefited the most from the additional liquidity. But now that poorer countries are bearing the brunt of the economic crisis, the calculus has changed.

There is a strong economic and humanitarian rationale for supporting poor countries. Consider Africa, where 33 of the continent's 55 countries are classified as least developed. Although the continent has borne a relatively small disease burden - accounting for under 5% of recorded cases and deaths in 2020 - it has suffered disproportionately in economic terms.

Overall, African countries had to put aside a total \$68 billion to respond to the public-health crisis in 2020. They spent, on average, 2.6% of GDP supporting trade, tourism, and other hard-hit industries, and helping an estimated 175 million vulnerable people survive lockdowns. That translates into just \$49 per person, compared to per capita support of \$3,900 in the G20.

Under these conditions, would a new SDR allocation offer African countries a way out? In a recent joint commentary, four European leaders, the United Nations secretary-general, and the president of Senegal argue that it would. Other commentators have made specific proposals for allocations ranging from \$500 billion to \$2 trillion - all considerably larger than the 2009 package. But one common feature of all these proposals is that they downplay the question of how new SDRs would be distributed.

If one runs the numbers, one finds that Africa's 55 countries would be allocated just 7% of the total. Within this sliver, South Africa would receive 14%, while smaller countries such as São Tomé and Príncipe would receive just 0.05%. In other words, a new \$500 billion SDR issuance would raise just \$35 billion for the entire African continent - around half of what African governments spent in 2020, let alone need

to spend in the coming year.

Even before the pandemic, African countries needed external support to close a \$68-108 billion annual infrastructure investment gap, and to provide basic needs such as electricity. In the post-pandemic period, African governments will need to invest even more in expanded digital access, climate resilience, and green growth. Given these needs, a standard SDR allocation will not be nearly enough to alleviate Africa's current plight.

Most proponents of a new SDR allocation recognize these limitations, but their solution is to redistribute SDRs after the fact. One popular suggestion calls for rich countries to "donate" their allocations back to the IMF, which could then lend to qualifying poorer countries on a case-by-case basis.

But it is not clear that this would ensure optimal redistribution, which is what really matters. The failure to ensure equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines illustrates the deficiencies of raising money first and worrying about distribution later. The COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) mechanism was created in April 2020 with an initial funding target of \$2 billion, which has now been met. Yet while 47 African countries are eligible for COVAX support, 25 still have not been able to secure any vaccine orders. Moreover, COVAX has so far provided for just 14% of all African vaccine orders, the same percentage that has been procured through an African Union mechanism created in January this year.

Clearly, distribution cannot be a secondary issue. But maldistribution is not the only risk associated with a standard SDR allocation. Some policymakers see an opportunity to condition reallocated SDRs on developing countries' introduction of otherwise unpalatable domestic economic reforms such as tax cuts or privatization. The problem with this approach should be well known by now. The IMF and the World Bank attached such strings to economic rescue packages ("structural adjustment programs") throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and the vast majority of recipient countries ended up in even deeper poverty.

Ever since SDRs were created in 1969, there have been proposals to allocate them disproportionately to poorer countries as a form of development finance. It is now time to pursue this idea in earnest. To ensure that any new issue of SDRs is truly in the developing world's interests, it should be accompanied by a transparent redistribution plan up front.

There are many ideas for how this could work. Our own proposal is that all countries agree now to redirect at least 25% of their new SDRs - the equivalent of \$125 billion for

OPINION

By William R. Rhodes,
Stuart P.m. Mackintosh

The Threats to Recovery

NEW YORK - Over the past year, rich-country governments and central banks have provided unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus to help mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Getting back to economic normalcy - whatever modified form that takes in 2021 and 2022 - will require advanced economies to start weaning themselves off official support before too long, and thereby avoid dangerous new complications.

On the monetary-policy front, central banks around the world did whatever was necessary to calm financial markets when the pandemic struck in the spring of 2020. They have since maintained a highly supportive stance, with historically low and in some cases negative real policy rates. Monetary policymakers reused and enlarged existing tools, and fashioned new ones as needed.

These crucial efforts have greatly inflated major central banks' balance sheets. In December 2020, the combined assets of the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, and the People's Bank of China stood at a staggering \$28.6 trillion. The ECB accounted for \$8.5 trillion of this total, and the Fed \$7.3 trillion, while the BOJ and the PBOC had total assets of \$6.8 trillion and \$5.9 trillion, respectively.

Likewise, advanced-economy governments have pursued historically aggressive fiscal policies, casting aside spending restraints to provide broad and largely indiscriminate support to many who needed and deserved it. The Group of Thirty estimates that direct fiscal support for firms, employees, and the unemployed during the COVID-19 crisis now exceeds \$12 trillion globally. That assistance, supported by a broad political consensus, has prevented a great depression and widespread hardship.

Many of these emergency measures were necessary and unavoidable. But as policymakers eye a possible recovery in 2021-22, they must be vigilant about the side effects of prolonged monetary and fiscal stimulus. The United States and other rich countries face several risks as they try to rehabilitate and refashion their economies.

For starters, the current equity high could quickly turn into a nasty headache as policy stimulus fades. Equities have been on a tear, fueled by huge liquidity flows and easy money, with yield-hungry investors piling into risk assets.

Moreover, markets implicitly understand that central banks currently stand behind most asset classes, elevating risk tolerance. This helps to explain the recent run-up, wobbly retreat, and subsequent rebound for Bitcoin, and the social media-driven surge that squeezed hedge funds that had been short-selling the retailer GameStop. And the craze for special-purpose acquisition companies (SPACs), which raise capital through an initial public offering and then look for private firms to buy, continues unabated.

But it is doubtful that the current equity boom and search for yield can be sustained if policymakers withdraw monetary and fiscal stimulus. The resulting market correction may be sharp and painful, and many investors will pay a heavy price.

A second risk relates to corporate pain. The extent of state support until now has kept business-closure and bankruptcy rates lower than normal in most advanced economies. But as governments and central banks dial back support, as they must, the process of creative destruction will resume among small- and medium-size companies, and even some bigger firms.

Many struggling firms currently being kept afloat by government largesse will not be solvent and sustainable in the post-pandemic economy. Policymakers need to allow them to go bankrupt, be taken over, or close. Recognizing this and allowing normal market processes to play out will hurt many companies and employees, and saddle banks with non-performing loans. But economies will have to stand the pain, because there is no alternative.

A third danger is that other sources of infection - which central bankers and supervisors may be ill-prepared to tackle - trigger a new economic contagion. For example, risks may come from the massive and growing shadow banking sector, which the Financial Stability Board estimates had financial assets in 2018 of \$50.9 trillion, equivalent to 13.6% of the global total.

Other threats to economic stability abound, from cyberattacks and artificial-intelligence failures to bond-market stresses and sovereign-debt defaults. As economies recover from the pandemic, central bankers and regulators cannot afford to discount emerging new risks in unsupervised financial markets and technologies, or relax their vigilance in supervised sectors.

Lastly, there is the danger of relapse. If we fail to inoculate fully populations outside the core advanced economies against the coronavirus, we risk allowing unvaccinated groups to incubate new strains, leading to new COVID-19 surges. Vaccinating the world to avert this scenario would cost an estimated \$38 billion - a negligible price to pay for fostering a robust global economic recovery. Rich countries must make the necessary funds available and stop hoarding vaccines.

Faced with these risks, policymakers in the advanced economies must be mindful of the side effects of their aggressive monetary and fiscal measures. Their task will be even harder if G20 governments - led by the US - fail to commit the modest resources needed to inoculate the world against COVID-19. We simply cannot afford repeated relapses, pandemic surges, and economic standstills.

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O-P-E-D

By Charles C. Krulak

The US Military and the Capitol Mob

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA - Revelations that the insurrection at the US Capitol included many former and current members of America's armed forces have been met with alarm. And yet, as a 35-year veteran and retired commandant of the US Marine Corps, I saw the events of January 6 as the predictable culmination of a growing disconnect between the US military and civilian society.

It is a rift with deep historical roots. When the United States emerged victorious from World War II, it had met a series of clearly articulated strategic goals. Whether or not they wore a uniform, Americans had been "all in," eagerly making the sacrifices necessary to defeat the Axis powers. When the war was over, US servicemen and women returned to a country that was proud of what they had accomplished, united, and eager to move forward.

Once home, many veterans joined organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, where they were surrounded by like-minded people who had served, suffered, and sacrificed together. Jobs were plentiful, and Americans took pride in their country and their military.

Similarly, in the Korean War less than a decade later, though America was never "all in," it nonetheless had clear strategic goals. As in WWII, US servicemen and women did a remarkable job and came home to an appreciative country.

But then came Vietnam, where most Americans never really knew what their country was fighting for. When the conflict finally came to its ignominious end in April 1975, there was no victory to celebrate (and it certainly was not fireworks that flew from the roof of the US embassy in Saigon). Unlike previous generations, those who fought in Vietnam were not honored for their service and sacrifice. Equally important, the public backlash against the war led to the end of military conscription, which fundamentally transformed the relationship between the military and the American people. The rift created by the shift to an all-volunteer military has grown wider ever since.

After Vietnam, America's next major war was Desert Storm, in 1990. Again, clear strategic goals were met in a dramatic fashion, and US servicemen and women returned to a proud country - on the cusp of becoming the world's only remaining superpower with the collapse of the Soviet Union the following year.

Yet by the end of the Gulf War, globalization and technological change had already begun to reshape American society. Old-line industries were being upended, and many manufacturing jobs were disappearing. Although immigration had only a minor effect on the big economic picture, it became a hot-button political issue for those who found themselves out of work. At the same time, a new wave of social-justice issues also started gaining momentum during this period. As a microcosm of America, the US military was not immune to these political dynamics.

It was against this political, social, and economic backdrop that America embarked on its "long war." Much like Vietnam, the "War on Terror" lacks clear strategic goals and has lost public buy-in over time. Many of those who have fought it subscribe to the apocryphal refrain that while the military was at war, America was at Walmart. After serving multiple tours in Iraq or Afghanistan, servicemen and women who sacrificed years of their lives have received little recognition.

In his 1973 book, *The American Way of War*, the historian Russell F. Weigley quoted US General George C. Marshall as saying, "a democracy cannot fight a Seven Years' War," because any protracted conflict eventually will lose the support of the electorate. The longer a war runs - particularly when it becomes cross-generational - the greater the disconnect between the typical citizen and the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who serve.

The War on Terror is an abiding case in point, helping to shed light on the unrest and extremism that burst into public view at the Capitol. A small minority of alienated former and active service members have concluded that something is wrong in the America for which they fought and sacrificed. The past two presidential elections have fueled this discontent and convinced some that they have a duty to confront perceived domestic "enemies." Political leaders, meanwhile, have exploited these sentiments for their own advantage.

The COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to a perfect storm. As the economy shed jobs - particularly at the lower end of the income distribution - face-to-face interactions were no longer possible. With deepening social atomization, it has become more difficult to experience solidarity. Angst or boredom have afflicted many, and some have found refuge in online communities espousing extremist ideologies. The 2020 presidential election brought the situation to a boiling point. A sitting commander-in-chief openly sought to overturn a free and fair election with lies and intimidation, and a small minority of his acolytes answered his call to action.

But Americans should have faith. Notwithstanding a few outliers, the US military is unwavering in its support of, and dedication to, the US Constitution. Those in its ranks who harbor extremist views will be discovered and dealt with appropriately. Looking ahead, recruitment methods will be strengthened to weed out extremists. Recruiters will have to look not only at candidates' social-media activity but also at their "body paint" (tattoos) and other potential indicators of extremist or racist sympathies. Interviews will need to be more pointed, and education for active members improved.

While the troubling trajectory of US military-civil relations has created fertile ground for some members to be radicalized, it is important to remember that the insurrectionists represent an exception. The US military has defended American democracy for centuries and will continue to do so, in keeping with our noblest traditions.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

COVID vaccines and its power dynamics where does Africa stand?

By Amara Quardu Mohammed Kamara
Email: amaraquardumohammed@gmail.com

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID 19 as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). This eventually allowed the World Health Organization to play coordinating and advisory roles in global response mechanisms. A month later, on March 11, a pandemic was declared to over 118,000 cases of coronavirus illness in over 110 countries and territories worldwide, with more than 4300 deaths attributed to the disease. To date, the global statistics of the infection is 106 million, with the total recovered placed at 59.3million, while the death toll at current is 2.32million. Out of these statistics, Africa has so far recorded 3.5% of global virus cases and 4% of global deaths, according to Africa- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC, 2020).

“Even though the disease has not affected Africa as other places but the worsening economic conditions of most African nations could potentially place them at a disadvantage of acquiring COVID 19 vaccines, and the expectation for donor interventions remains a question to ponder.”

Given the power dynamics surrounding medicines, especially the current pandemic, rich and powerful nations primarily address the challenges facing their people in receiving the vaccines. In contrast, Africa continues to play at the dictates of these nations. This probably gives annoying reasons why many would think that the future of Africa remains bleak, and the possibility of attaining our vaccines remains questionable. This worrying situation continues to undermine the global efforts against Coronavirus and several preventable diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, among others. Now, the question that one would ask is where does Africa stand amid the power dynamics with regards to COVID Vaccines?

The Saga- Doubts, Insinuations, and Rejection of COVID 19 Vaccines

It is emphatic that there are frequent doubts and insinuations about the vaccines' effectiveness given the timeframe used to produce those vaccines and the new strains that continue to emerge. Another argument that ensues is that the world has placed more attention on COVID 19 than other deadly diseases. In several regions across the continent, denial and aspersion against the pandemic's existence remain increasingly cumbersome. For instance, Tanzania has insisted the country is free from Covid-19 - so there are no clear plans for vaccination. According to BBC, since June last year, when President John Magufuli declared the country “Covid-19 free”, he, along with his top government officials, have mocked the efficacy of masks, doubted if testing works, and at the same time teasing neighboring countries that have imposed health measures to curb the virus. The President also warned - without providing any scientific evidence - that Covid-19 vaccines could be harmful and has instead been urging Tanzanians to use steam inhalation and herbal medicines, neither of which have been approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) as treatments or the Center for Disease Control.

Also, the Madagascar scenarios on COVID treatment only exacerbated the exponential increment of cases than expected. The herbal used for COVID 19 treatment has not proved effective. On average, the coronavirus cases have quadrupled in

the past months in the Indian Ocean Island, with more than 13,000 infections and 162 deaths from which has spread to all of its 22 regions. Though several countries received the herbal treatment from Madagascar, yet on average, there is no scientific evidence pointing to the effectiveness of such herb in treating or preventing the virus. Liberia, for example, received a few boxes of herbal tea dubbed “COVID organics.” Yet, the health authorities cannot show how these treatments are scientifically administered. There is no scientific information about the effect of these treatments. These expressions could simply be pointed to conspiracy theories about outbreaks and global health threats because of a lack of trust from their governments.

On the other hand, many believe that Malaria has killed over (274,000) persons in Africa, representing 67% of global statistics, and it is yet to be systematically addressed. It is noted that malaria has more deadly consequences on Africans' lives than COVID and Ebola combined. The WHO African Region carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2019, the region was home to 94% of malaria cases and deaths (WHO, 2020).

In the same year, six countries accounted for approximately half of all malaria deaths worldwide:



Nigeria (23%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11%), United Republic of Tanzania (5%), Burkina Faso (4%), Mozambique (4%) and Niger (4%). Children less than five years of age are the most vulnerable group affected by malaria; in 2019, they accounted for 67% of all malaria deaths worldwide (WHO, 2020). Now, the question that resonates with the people is, has Africa done much in investing in scientific knowledge to address the dreadful impacts of Malaria and its related diseases?

Unfortunately, it is argued that most governments in Africa are bent on retaining and strategizing for political leadership rather than primarily addressing socio-economic issues like providing comprehensive healthcare delivery and improved living conditions as emphasized in the Sustainable Development Goals. There are more robust and powerful military institutions than strong and equipped medical institutions in Africa. Nigeria, for instance, is expected to spend a total of US\$9.5 billion on its defense from 2018-2022 (Future of the Nigerian Defense Industry - Market Attractiveness, Competitive Landscape and Forecasts). While public spending on health care amounts to just 3.75% of its \$495 billion GDP, according to the latest available figures from the World Bank. Despite these allocations on defense, the country is yet to be free from frequent insurgency orchestrated by terrorist networks (Boko Haram). These painstaking realities will continue to exist unless we underscore the

necessity of investing in scientific work/research, or the continent's future will be at a critical juncture, if not bleak.

Africa We Want - Investing In Scientific Knowledge

One would dream of an Africa that will invest its abundant resources into building and strengthening a resilient healthcare system that prevents its people from life-threatening diseases. This requires health financing and strengthening the capacity of our institutions to respond to possible public health threats and to conduct scientific research by African scientists. Sub-Saharan African nations that receive massive support from development institutions should begin adjusting their national development agendas by giving priority to building comprehensive healthcare delivery. The Africa Center for Disease Control should advocate for resources to invest in medicine, both traditional and modern treatments that will be a beacon of hope for its underprivileged populations. Investing in good governance will similarly address socioeconomic conditions and rekindle the people's confidence and ensure full compliance.

Conclusion

To date, the global statistics of the infection is approximately 106 million, with the total recovered, is 59.3million, while the death toll currently stands at 2.32million. Out of these statistics, Africa has so far recorded 3.5% of global virus cases and 4% of global deaths, according to Africa- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC, 2020). Instituting lockdown across the continent has proved no scientific significance but to serve as a barrier to the socio-economic sustainability of poor and impoverished families that are in extreme poverty and hunger due to systemic corruption and income disparity. African governments have spent millions of dollars on military strategies, arsenals, coverts, and political alliances, while infant and maternal mortalities remain incremental. Simultaneously, life expectancy and the human development index are discouragingly

appallingly, with the average life expectancy at birth from 2008 - 2018 was 61.27 years (H. Plecher, 2020). The way to resolve some of these challenges is that the continent invests in good governance, scientific knowledge, and economic sustainability by committing significant components of our natural endowments on health financing, research, and empowering our scientific communities. African institute for mathematical sciences, West Africa College of Physicians and Surgeons, will enable Africa's youth, especially those in the sciences, to shape the continent's future through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Also, as advanced by the International Economic Forum on Africa, vaccines should be considered global public goods. The international community must strive to ensure the equitable and timely distribution of vaccines against COVID-19 and enable 60% of the African population to be vaccinated. These steps are deemed necessary for policy actions by the African Union and African governments to be committed to ensuring outcomes and subsequent impacts.

About the author: Amara Quardu Muhammad Kamara holds double masters in Development Studies and Project Management at Mount Kenya University, Kenya, and the University of Kigali, Rwanda. He can be reached at amaraquardumohammed@gmail.com

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UN Resident Coordinator visits NEC -calls for biometric voter registration

The National Elections Commission of Liberia says it welcomes the visit to the Commission by the new United Nations Resident Coordinator here, Mr. Niels Scott, at the head of a three-member delegation.

The Commission views the successfully conducting the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections despite challenges faced by the Commission.

NEC Chairperson, Davidetta Browne Lansanah lauded the role of the UNRC's Office in Liberia which sought to strengthen relations amongst

of Commissioners were the transition from Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) to the integration of a Biometric System for Voter Registration in particular, and in the context of lessons learnt from a regional perspective that could inform the NEC's adaptability of Biometric System before the 2023 General Elections. The need



Commissioner Dukuly, Ms. Solomon/Ms. Gulavic of UNDP, RC-Scott, Chairperson Lansanah, Commissioners Kpangkai and Sayor.

introductory meeting held with Mr. Scott as furthering the ideals of the United Nations in maintaining and ensuring a democratic space for all Liberians as a precursor to sustaining national peace and security.

At the same time, the UNRC extolled the NEC for

key electoral actors in continuing the dialogue on electoral matters, thus ensuring greater participation in galvanizing support for the conduct of non-violent election in Liberia.

Key to the discussions between the UNRC, Mr. Scott and members of the NEC Board

to follow up with the dialogue on 30 percent quota for Women's Political Participation, support to and training of Women Candidates were emphasized.

The UNRC assured of stock

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EBID signs €40 million framework agreement with ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft

The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), the regional development bank for the ECOWAS sub-region (Economic Community of West African States), and ODDO BHF AG, the Franco-German financial services group with a longstanding track record and expertise in ECA financing, signed a framework agreement. Dr. George Donkor, President of EBID, and Florian Witt, Head of International & Corporate Banking at ODDO BHF, sealed this new partnership between ODDO BHF and EBID via video conference.

The framework agreement consists of an uncommitted credit line of €40 million provided by ODDO BHF AG to EBID under which individual loan agreements can be concluded. Its scope is flexible as it is designed for project-related transactions throughout the ECOWAS

region, which include supplies from Europe officially supported by export credit agencies (ECAs) like Atradius of the Netherlands, Bpifrance Assurance Export of France or Euler Hermes of Germany.

This cooperation between EBID and ODDO BHF AG is an important contribution to promoting the development of various industrial sectors in

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Citizens benefit Social Cash Transfer Program

Sass Town Grand Kru - Thousands of beneficiary households of the Gender Ministry's Social Cash Transfer Program are currently receiving cash in Grand Kru and Maryland counties. The unconditional cash transfers are intended to support beneficiary households' livelihood and help raise their standard of living.

Speaking briefly after she symbolically presented cash to beneficiaries in SassTown, Grand Kru County, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr said, "I want you to use the money for the betterment of your family. You were selected over other equally deserving people. Let's make sure we use these funds for education, health,

Development Office (FCDO/UKaid) formerly DFID, has recently committed 5 million dollars to the rural cash transfers (in Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee and Bomi), and 3.4 million dollars to the urban cash transfer (currently ongoing in Monrovia), to respond to shocks created by the COVID-19 pandemic in urban Montserrado County. At current, household registration is taking place in Bomi, Bong, Maryland and Nimba Counties, sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development USAID.

Minister Tarr further noted that she was delighted to see the high number of women beneficiaries as cash recipients in the current two counties receiving cash. "I am happy that more women are cash recipients and are here representing their households



Minister Tarr presents cash to a beneficiary in Sass Town, Grand Kru County

better nutrition and to invest in your family's future".

According to a press release, Minister Tarr hoped that the living standards of most of the beneficiaries, if not all, will improve as the program reaches its midpoint. She said, "The Pro-Poor Agenda aims to move one million people out of poverty and this program is one of the many strategies that President Weah is using to make that possible".

The Social Cash Transfer Program is a component of the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSN), financed by the World Bank and FCDO/UKaid. The ongoing payment is the combined third and fourth out of eight since the resumption of the transfers under the LSSN.

The Foreign Commonwealth and

on this program. When women are empowered, the whole society is empowered" - The Liberian Gender Minister noted.

"For me, this represents a milestone achievement in our quest to empower more women in Liberia, especially in rural areas, where there are less opportunities" - Minister Tarr told the cheering crowd in SassTown.

She expressed excitement over the transition from physical cash to mobile money, which has greatly alleviated the stress of traveling and created more alternatives for beneficiaries to get their cash from where and when they want. "Now your money is coming through the phones we gave you, you can either decide to come to the cash out points where we have brought MTN

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Donor partner to renovate public schools

-Sen. Moye

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

As public schools in Liberia face huge infrastructural and institutional challenges, since the ascendency of the Weah administration, Bong County Senator and Chairman of the Supplemental Budget

the supplemental budget just passed by the 54th Legislature public schools in some counties were not captured because of low budgetary attachment, but the Minister of Education, Professor D. AnsuSonii informed (Moye) that the government has secured funding from donor partner to renovate all public schools.

“We did not include all schools because the education minister informed the committee that they have secured funding for the renovation of all schools, with such information we only focused on the ones that are in deployable conditions. Beware that this is just supplementary budget, it is little amount to support the previous budget passed by the legislature to enable the government underwrite some urgent challenges,” he said.

The Liberian Legislature has appropriated about US\$700,000 for public schools’ chairs project for some targeted counties. Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Cess Counties did not benefit from the project.

The supplementary budget was earlier submitted at US\$10.5 million but later increased to 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.

The passage of the supplemental budget in the tone of US\$10.5 million from the Executive Branch was approved by the senate; total revenue envelop of 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 out of the

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discloses that a donor partner has committed to renovating and equipping public schools throughout the country.

Speaking to this paper via mobile on Wednesday, March 3, in Monrovia, Senator Moye said during the distribution of

The Bong County Senator says on that basis, some counties in little good condition were left out.

The Government of Liberia is expected to receive over US\$5 million from foreign partners for that exercise.

“As women leaders, we can change Liberia”

-Rural women leader Kebber Monger

Since her election in 2008, as President of the National Rural Women Structure of Liberia, Kebbeh Monger, 67, has contributed immensely to transforming lives of women in various communities.

Under Ms. Monger’s leadership, women who did not have any vocational skills were empowered to develop various skills including tailoring, climate smart agriculture, business skills and adult literacy.

The National Rural Women Structure of Liberia is a grassroots organization championing women’s economic empowerment in rural Liberia.

“I feel proud when I see women who were unable to write, being able to write. I

feel proud when I see women making their own clothes, yet they were not able to sew before they joined the rural

women structure. I am proud that rural women can make their own money and be able to make savings, says Ms.

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Kebber Monger - Right - shares her vision with UN Women Liberia Country Representative, Marie GorethNizigama and Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Sweden, Ingrid Wetterqvist

Local fishing communities engage UNDP boss

Fishing communities in West Point and New Kru Town have engaged UNDP Liberia and partners to support several requests.

According to UNDP, the engagement happened with community residents in the two densely populated slum areas on Monday 1, March 2021, during a visit by the Resident Representative of UNDP Liberia Mr. Stephen Rodriques.

During the visit in New Kru Town, Mr. Rodriques had the opportunity to directly interact with beneficiaries of the Coastal Add-on project. The project was implemented by the Ministry of Mines and Energy with support from UNDP Liberia and funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

It is part of UNDP support to

for the population.

UNDP says the coastal revetment has halted the frequent destruction of properties and the migration of the local population due to sea erosion. The government school in the area, D. Tweh High School, is now protected from the threats posed by the frequent coastal erosion with enrollment continuing to increase.

However, the population particularly women, are faced with many challenges including the poor quality of fish drying ovens which poses threat to their health. The women made a request for support from UNDP Liberia and partners to assist them replace the current ovens with solar dryers and energy efficient fish drying smoke ovens.

Many women who have limited access to cash, to



UNDP Liberia Resident Representative Stephen Rodriques speaking to residents of New Kru Town, during his visit to two densely populated slum communities.

the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency (#EPALiberia) to enhance resilience of vulnerable coastal areas to the risks of Climate Change.

Due to the construction of 1.25km coastal revetment in New Kru Town, the structural erosion with threats to major public and private infrastructures, which was predicted to worsen because of climate change, has been stabilized.

The project has also allowed local fishermen and women who rely on the coast for livelihood, to continue to access the area. They are grateful to the Government of Liberia, UNDP and its partner-Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the intervention, which has brought relief to the community and provided hope

enable them to buy more fish that they can trade to raise income to support their families, also made a request for small loans/grants.

The local fishermen and women spoke of the poor quality of their fishing gears which are sold locally but quite expensive and unaffordable. Additional request was made for new fishing gears to be made available and accessible.

The UNDP Resident Representative recognized the resilience of the community and its population. Rodriques acknowledged their requests and noted that UNDP will work with the government and partners to identify ways in which they can continue to support the community.

In West Point where the conditions are very similar, the

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Français

La NEC veut certifier Samukai malgré l'opposition du ministère de la justice

Au mépris de l'injonction du ministère de la Justice (MOJ), la commission électorale nationale (CEN) sera sur le point de procéder à la confirmation et la certification du sénateur élu du comté de Lofa, J. Brownell Samukai.

Le ministère de la justice, dans une communication, avait demandé à la commission électorale nationale de ne pas certifier M. Brownell Samukai pour avoir été jugé coupable de plusieurs crimes.

Mais, dans un communiqué public le mardi 2 mars à la suite de ses travaux, le Conseil des commissaires de la NEC a chargé son comité de certification de procéder à la certification de Samukai et James Biney.

La décision fait suite à la lecture de la décision de la Cour suprême, qui a notamment confirmé l'élection de l'ancien ministre de la Défense comme vainqueur des élections sénatoriales spéciales du 8 décembre 2020 dans le comté

de Lofa.

La décision de la Cour suprême signée par son greffier Sam Momolu a également ordonné à la Commission électorale de reprendre sa compétence dans le contentieux électoral du comté de Lofa.

La présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, a déclaré qu'ayant repris compétence sur la question, le comité de certification, dirigé

par le bureau des affaires politiques, est chargé de définir toutes les modalités de l'heure et de la date de certification de J. Browne Samukai en tant que sénateur du comté de Lofa.

L'affaire est née des recours déposés par des individus pour causes d'irrégularités. Mais la Cour suprême a prononcé un non-lieu car les plaignants ne sont

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Lofa County Senator-elect J. Brownie Samukai

Riposte à Ebola : voici les recommandations des ministres de la Santé des pays voisins de la Guinée

Comme annoncé par votre quotidien électronique, les ministres de la Santé de la Guinée, du Sénégal, de la Côte d'Ivoire, de la Guinée-Bissau, du Liberia et de la Sierra Leone ont tenu une réunion à Conakry ce 02 mars 2021 dans un hôtel de la

place.

Cette rencontre s'est tenue sous la présidence du Premier ministre, chef du Gouvernement, Ibrahima Kassory Fofana.

Au cours de la réunion, « les ministres ont soulevé l'importance de la rencontre

pour convenir des stratégies de prévention, préparation et réponse face à la maladie à virus Ebola déclarée en Guinée, le 14 février 2021 », indique-t-on dans le communiqué final dont Guineenews dispose d'une copie.

Mais avant, les participants « ont pris connaissance de la situation de l'épidémie de la maladie à virus Ebola ainsi que le Plan National de réponse en cours en Guinée. »

C'est ainsi que les « ministres ont salué la prompt réaction du gouvernement de la République de Guinée et les actions de riposte en cours ».

Ainsi, les ministres participants ont fait des recommandations pour freiner la propagation de l'épidémie Ebola. Il s'agit entre autres d'engager « une coordination régionale de la lutte contre la Maladie à Virus Ebola avec une collaboration transfrontière

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Le sénateur Darius Dillon fait volte-face sur la question de la double nationalité

À peine deux mois après s'être véhément opposé à la double nationalité et appelé à voter non au référendum national, le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, vient de faire volte-face.

Le sénateur Dillon est maintenant sur le point de présenter un projet de loi portant double nationalité pour les Libériens de la diaspora qui avaient la nationalité libérienne avant de quitter le pays.

Le chef du Congrès national alternatif, Alexander Cummings, avait fait valoir que la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), dont Dillon est membre, n'avait jamais été contre le référendum, mais elle souhaitait qu'il fût reporté à une date ultérieure et organisé dans des conditions légales.

Selon lui, la CPP veut la réduction du mandat présidentiel à quatre ans. « Juste au cas où le gouvernement refuserait de suivre nos appels, nous voulons exhorter notre peuple à boycotter le référendum et à voter uniquement pour les élections sénatoriales », avait-il souligné.

Cependant, lors d'une conférence de presse le mardi 2 mars, le sénateur Dillon a déclaré qu'il était totalement injuste pour les Libériens de se voir refuser la double nationalité en raison de circonstances sur lesquelles ils n'ont aucun contrôle.

« Moi Darius Dillon originaire de Grand Bassa, qui suis né et scolarisé à Bassa et plus tard ai déménagé hors du pays et pour revenir, je dois demander un visa pour venir au Libéria. C'est quelque chose que nous devons régler par la loi », a-t-il déclaré. Il a ajouté qu'il soumettrait un projet de loi visant à modifier la loi sur la nationalité, ce qui, selon lui, crée une confusion qui nécessite des éclaircissements pour que les Libériens continuent de bénéficier de la citoyenneté.

Au cours des débats à l'époque, Dillon avait déclaré que le référendum ne devrait pas avoir lieu car ce n'était pas le moment opportun. Le législateur du comté de Montserrado a soumis un projet de loi pour la double nationalité.

Dillon a déclaré qu'il bénéficie actuellement du soutien des Libériens du monde entier sur la décision de modifier les lois sur cette question et qu'il fait du lobbying auprès de ses collègues pour une adoption en douceur. Il a expliqué qu'en vertu de la loi, le droit d'être Libérien ne peut être enlevé d'aucune manière que par la loi. Le sénateur Dillon construit son

argumentation sur l'affaire Jalloh de septembre 2019, les législateurs avaient adopté une résolution commune proposant un référendum constitutionnel pour modifier divers articles de la Constitution libérienne. La première proposition de la résolution visait à modifier l'article 28 de la Constitution, à abroger (par implication) l'article 22.1 de la loi sur les étrangers et la nationalité et à accorder à tous les Libériens le droit d'acquérir une autre nationalité sans perdre leur citoyenneté libérienne.

Cette proposition est significative car de nombreux Libériens estiment que l'article 28 interdit la double nationalité en toutes circonstances. Cependant, la proposition empêche ceux qui ont la double nationalité d'occuper certains postes.

Elle stipule que ceux qui ont la double nationalité « ne peuvent prétendre à des postes électifs dans la fonction publique nationale ou publique... », à moins qu'ils renoncent à l'autre nationalité. Ces postes restreints comprennent le juge en chef et



le juge associé de la Cour suprême, les ministres et sous-ministres, les chefs de commissions autonomes, d'agences et d'institutions scientifiques et de recherche universitaire, les ambassadeurs, le chef de cabinet et le chef de cabinet adjoint des forces armées du Libéria.

La Constitution n'interdit pas la double nationalité dans tous les cas. Au contraire, l'article 28 de la Constitution n'impose qu'une restriction à une catégorie de Libériens dans l'obtention de la double nationalité. La proposition résoudra ce problème en étendant le droit à la double citoyenneté à tous les Libériens, et par implication, abrogera l'article 22.1, si le référendum réussit.

Tout en élargissant le droit à la double nationalité, la proposition impose un fardeau inégal aux Libériens ayant la double nationalité en les empêchant de participer à certains postes de responsabilité dans la fonction publique.

Français

La NEC veut certifier Samukai

ni des partis politiques, encore moins des candidats.

Le conseil d'administration de la NEC a également rejeté l'appel du sénateur sortant du comté de Maryland, H Dan Marias, ce qui ouvre la voie à la certification de James Biney.

L'équipe juridique du sénateur H. Dan Marias dirigée par Me Wilfred Sayer avait présenté un mémoire et informé le Tribunal Administratif qu'ils n'avaient interposé aucune objection à la requête en rejet de l'appel et n'a exprimé aucun intérêt à poursuivre l'affaire contre Biney, le vainqueur déclaré des Élections sénatoriales spéciales du 8 décembre 2020 dans le comté de Maryland.

Les tentatives des journalistes de parler au sénateur élu du comté de Lofa sur la décision de la NEC ont été vaines, celui-ci s'étant refusé à tout commentaire.

Avant la décision de la NEC, un groupe qui se fait appeler le Mouvement des citoyens en solidarité avec Brownie Samukai avait organisé une manifestation pacifique dans les locaux de la NEC pour demander à la commission de certifier M. Samukai.

Les manifestants, largement constitués d'étudiants militants originaires du comté de Lofa, ont également défilé dans la rue en chantant « Certifiez Samukai maintenant et arrêtez de faire de la politique avec Samukai ».

La plupart des manifestants qui s'étaient rendus à la NEC, croyant que le sénateur élu du comté de Lofa aurait été officiellement

certifié, avaient semblé déçus lorsque la commission a ordonné à son comité de certification de fixer une autre date pour la certification. Les manifestants, tous vêtus de pantalons en jean, d'un T-shirts blancs avec des bérets rouges et bleus sur la tête, avaient demandé à la NEC de certifier leur sénateur si elle ne veut pas s'attirer des ennuis.

De son côté, l'avocat Augustine Fayah, conseil juridique de Samukai, avait accusé le gouvernement de « faire de la politique avec la certification de mon client en traînant sa confirmation ».

Pour Me Fayah, l'action du gouvernement visait également à empêcher M. Samukai de siéger officiellement au parlement en tant que sénateur élu du comté de Lofa. « Nous demandons au gouvernement d'arrêter de faire de la politique avec le sénateur élu du comté de Lofa et de lui permettre de rejoindre ses collègues de l'Assemblée législative pour s'occuper des affaires du peuple libérien », avait-il dit.

Aucune arrestation n'a été effectuée ce jour-là par la police et aucune blessure n'a été signalée lors de la manifestation du mardi 2 mars.

M. Samukai, avec deux autres anciens hauts fonctionnaires du ministère de la Défense nationale au cours du régime d'Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, avait été poursuivi par le gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) pour détournement de plus d'un million de dollars US appartenant à des soldats des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL).

Ils avaient été reconnus coupables de complot criminel et étaient demandés de restituer l'argent.

Le sénateur Darius Dillon

y compris la mobilisation des communautés, de renforcer les dispositions pour un échange d'informations en temps réel sur la situation épidémiologique et le suivi des contacts et les mouvements transfrontaliers, de promouvoir les innovations et les bonnes pratiques qui ont fait leur preuve au cours de la riposte à Ebola, de faciliter la régulation des importations et l'utilisation des vaccins et médicaments contre la maladie à virus Ebola, d'impliquer davantage les communautés tant dans les zones affectées que dans les zones en alerte pour augmenter l'acceptation des mesures de réponse ; de prévenir les

actes d'abus liés à la réponse et promouvoir les aspects sécuritaires, de revitaliser et pérenniser les structures et autres acquisitions mise en place pour la Maladie à Virus Ebola et la Covid-19 avec une intégration des domaines de la réponse aux épidémies dans le système de santé, et enfin de renforcer la résilience et la réinsertion sociale des survivants par la prise de mesures facilitant l'adhésion des communautés.

Dans l'ensemble, les ministres ont salué les efforts des partenaires techniques et financiers pour leur implication dans la gestion de la maladie à virus Ebola.

Cette montre d'inspiration militaire est l'invention la plus incroyable de 2019

COMMENTAIRE

By Hannah Wanjie Ryder ,
Gyude Moore

Quand les droits de tirages spéciaux ne sont pas si spéciaux

PÉKIN - Avec l'arrivée de l'administration du président Joe Biden, les appels à une nouvelle allocation de droits de tirages spéciaux (DTS), les actifs de réserve du Fonds monétaire international, se sont faits plus pressants. Pourtant, si ces plans sont censés être destinés à aider les pays en développement durement touchés par la pandémie de Covid-19, les DTS sont alloués en fonction des quotes-parts respectives des pays membres du Fonds, et non en fonction de leurs besoins. Ainsi une nouvelle allocation irait-elle, dans sa grande majorité, aux pays riches.

Cette situation ne pose pas problème en septembre 2009, lorsque le FMI se préoccupa d'atténuer les retombées de la crise financière de 2008 en émettant 117 milliards de dollars de DTS. Cette crise avait frappé avec une violence particulière les pays riches, et ce furent ces mêmes économies qui, à juste titre, bénéficièrent le plus de ces liquidités supplémentaires. Mais aujourd'hui, alors que les pays pauvres sont frappés de plein fouet par la crise économique, l'arithmétique n'est plus la même.

Il y a, pour venir en aide aux pays pauvres, un argument économique et rationnel fort. Considérons l'Afrique, où 33 des 55 pays du continent sont classés parmi les moins développés. Quoique la maladie, en tant que telle, n'ait été jusqu'à présent qu'un fardeau relativement faible pour le continent - qui compte moins de 5 % des cas et des morts enregistrées en 2020 -, son économie en a souffert de façon disproportionnée.

Dans l'ensemble, les pays africains ont dû mettre de côté un total de 68 milliards de dollars pour répondre en 2020 à la crise de santé publique. Ils ont dépensé, en moyenne, 2,6 % de leur PIB pour soutenir le commerce, le tourisme et d'autres industries durement touchées, ainsi que pour aider les personnes vulnérables, environ 175 millions d'après les estimations, à survivre aux confinements. Cela ne représente que 49 dollars par personne, qu'on peut comparer aux aides de 3 900 dollars par personne des pays du G20.

Dans ces conditions, une nouvelle allocation de DTS offrirait-elle aux pays africains une voie de sortie ? Dans un récent communiqué commun, quatre dirigeants européens, le secrétaire général des Nations Unies et le président du Sénégal ont répondu positivement à la question. D'autres commentateurs ont fait des propositions spécifiques pour des allocations allant de 500 milliards de dollars à 2 000 milliards - toutes beaucoup plus importantes que le programme d'émissions de 2009. Mais l'une des caractéristiques communes de ces propositions, c'est qu'elles ne prennent guère en compte la façon dont sont distribués les DTS.

Si l'on regarde les chiffres, on constate que les 55 pays d'Afrique ne se verraient allouer que 7 % du total. De cette portion congrue, l'Afrique du Sud recevrait 14 %, tandis que de petits pays comme São Tomé et Príncipe ne recueilleraient que 0,05 %. En d'autres termes, une nouvelle émission de 500 milliards de dollars de DTS ne rassemblerait que 35 milliards pour la totalité du continent africain - environ la moitié de ce qu'ont dépensé les gouvernements africains en 2020, sans parler des dépenses de l'année à venir.

Avant même la pandémie, les pays africains avaient besoin d'un soutien extérieur pour les aider à combler un déficit de financement annuel des infrastructures estimé entre 68 et 108 milliards de dollars et pour garantir les besoins élémentaires comme l'électricité. Dans la période qui suivra la pandémie, les gouvernements africains devront investir plus encore pour faciliter l'accès au numérique, renforcer la résilience climatique, et

favoriser la croissance verte. Si l'on tient compte de ces besoins, une allocation ordinaire de DTS ne permettra pas, tant s'en faut, de soulager les maux actuels de l'Afrique.

La plupart des partisans d'une nouvelle allocation de DTS ont conscience de ces limitations, mais ils proposent de redistribuer ces DTS après coup. Une suggestion retient la faveur de beaucoup : il s'agirait d'appeler les pays riches à « redonner » leurs allocations au FMI, qui pourrait alors les prêter aux pays pauvres habilités, en traitant au cas par cas.

Mais il n'est pas certain que cela garantirait une redistribution optimale, ce qui est le plus important. Les promesses non tenues d'un accès équitable mondial aux vaccins contre le Covid-19 illustrent les inconvénients inhérents aux dispositifs qui consistent à recueillir d'abord les fonds avant de se préoccuper de leur répartition. Le mécanisme d'accès mondial aux vaccins contre le Covid-19 (Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access - COVAX) a été créé en avril 2020 avec un objectif initial de 2 milliards de dollars de financement, somme qui a aujourd'hui été rassemblée. Pourtant, si 47 pays africains sont habilités à recevoir l'aide de Covax, 25 sont jusqu'à présent dans l'incapacité d'obtenir aucune commande de vaccins. En outre, Covax n'a pour l'heure contribué qu'à 14 % de toutes les commandes de vaccins en Afrique, le même pourcentage auquel est parvenu le mécanisme de l'Union africaine créé en janvier de cette année.

À l'évidence, la répartition n'est pas une question secondaire. Mais une mauvaise répartition n'est pas le seul risque associé à une allocation standard de DTS. Certains responsables politiques voient dans leur réallocation l'opportunité d'introduire, à titre de condition, des réformes de politique économique intérieure autrement déplaisantes, notamment des réductions d'impôts et des privatisations. Le problème d'une telle approche devrait pourtant être désormais reconnu. Le FMI et la Banque mondiale avaient assorti les programmes de sauvetage économique de conditions telles (les « ajustements structurels ») dans les années 1980 et 1990 que la vaste majorité des pays bénéficiaires ont fini dans une pauvreté plus grande encore.

Depuis la création des DTS, en 1969, des propositions ont été faites pour les allouer de façon relativement plus importante aux pays pauvres, afin de financer leur développement. Il est temps aujourd'hui de reprendre sérieusement cette idée. Pour garantir que toute nouvelle émission de DTS serve véritablement les intérêts du monde en développement, celle-ci devrait être systématiquement accompagnée d'un plan transparent préalable de répartition.

Les idées pour qu'un tel système fonctionne ne manquent pas. Nous proposons quant à nous que tous les pays s'accordent désormais à rediriger au moins 25 % de leurs nouveaux DTS - soit l'équivalent de 125 milliards de dollars pour une allocation globale de 500 milliards - vers un nouveau véhicule prévu à cet effet sur lequel les pays en développement pourraient mutuellement s'accorder des débours en fonction de leurs besoins et, si nécessaire, avec le FMI ou la Banque mondiale au conseil d'administration (comme c'est le cas du Fonds vert pour le climat des Nations Unies). Cela permettrait que des sommes plus importantes soient orientées vers les pays pauvres, et que les pays riches soient, comparativement, les premiers contributeurs. Cela limiterait aussi, ce qui compte tout autant, la latitude avec laquelle pourraient être imposées des conditions paternalistes.

Quoiqu'il advienne, ce sont des Africains, comme nous-mêmes, qui doivent définir le programme de sauvegarde à long terme de nos propres intérêts. L'Afrique détient plus de 50 voix dans les institutions de l'ONU, et représente 17 % de la population mondiale. Elle doit compter pour quelque chose.

“As women leaders, we

Cont'd from page 7

Monger. Among her achievements as President of the National Rural Women Structure of Liberia are the establishment of offices, creation of a membership database and empowerment of rural women through various initiatives that include training in business skills and agriculture with support from UN Women. From their 100-acre piece

with her guests of the community grain reserve for rural women in Passama, in northern Liberia.

“When you are a leader, you have to show love and concern to the plight of the people. You must listen and be able to involve people in decision making. Networking, sharing information and being creative is very important,” affirms Ms. Monger.

Ms. Monger believes that it is important for women to be

talk shows to raise awareness about the virus and encouraged rural women to prevent themselves from the virus and take precautionary measures. UN Women supported her initiatives with hygiene materials, while training women to make soap and food products processed from local cereals.

Her message to young people is that they should not be afraid to reach out to the elderly leaders so that they



of land in Passama, Lofa County, Northern Liberia, acquired after an exchange visit to Ethiopia with support from UN Women, 150 women are working on the farm to produce various crops to enable them to feed people in Liberia. The rural women are also planning to construct a community grain reserve with support from UN Women.

Kebber Monger leading a groundbreaking ceremony

leaders. “Women have focus and they have vision. They want the best for the communities and people that they lead. Women are always making changes.”

Members of the National Rural Women Structure of Liberia who benefitted from the women’s economic empowerment programs showcase their skills.

When COVID-19 came, Ms. Monger participated in radio

learn from them and be able to take over.

“What keeps me strong as a leader is the love that the women are giving me, the unity and bond we have created and the changes in their lives. I want to see the lives of women changing,” explains Ms. Monger.

A native of Lofa County in northern Liberia, Ms. Monger has eight children - two girls and six boys. She also has five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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Barcelona ex-president arrested

Former FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu was arrested Monday in connection with “Barcagate,” the scandal in which the club allegedly paid a third-party marketing firm to defame its own players on social media.

Catalan police raided Barcelona’s offices on Monday morning as part of a fresh investigation into accusations of a smear campaign, which allegedly targeted Lionel Messi and others.

Barcelona said in a statement Monday that it has “offered up [its] full collaboration to the legal and police authorities to help make clear facts which are subject to investigation.”

After seizing documents

from Barca’s offices, police then reportedly arrested Bartomeu and at least three others: club CEO Oscar Grau, former presidential adviser Jaume Masferrer, and chief legal counsel Roman Gomez Ponti.

Around a year ago, a patchwork trail of evidence led to allegations that Barcelona officials had paid I3 Ventures, a local PR consultancy, to disparage players and others who had been critical of club leadership. Social media accounts were allegedly created or weaponized to tarnish the reputations of prominent figures such as Messi and Gerard Pique.

The scandal erupted as those in and around the club sparred over who was responsible for Barcelona’s decline. On the field, last season, the team slumped to its worst league finish since 2007-08, and didn’t win a single major trophy. Off the field, the club is more than a billion euros in debt.

Bartomeu was considered chiefly responsible for that decline, and for ruining the club’s relationship with Messi.

EBID signs €40 million

Cont'd from page 6

the ECOWAS region. It aims to further strengthen the prospects for small and medium scale enterprises and industries to enable them to contribute to the growing economy and generate employment. Both financing partners are already in advanced discussions on various projects in areas such as renewable energy, agribusiness and pharmaceutical production.

During the official signing ceremony, Dr. George Donkor, President of EBID, stated, “The credit facility illustrates the commitment of the two institutions to the region’s transformation agenda through sustainable support to the vital sector of agribusiness.”

Florian Witt, Head of International & Corporate Banking at ODDO BHF, reiterated: “ODDO

BHF AG, with its International Banking Division and its strong focus on Africa,

has been supporting the West African region for many years and is very much looking forward to working with the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development.”

About ODDO BHF

ODDO BHF is a Franco-German financial group whose history goes back over 170 years. The Group evolved from a French family-owned bank and a German private bank focused on the Mittelstand.

About EBID

The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) is a leading regional investment and development bank, based in Lomé, Togolese Republic. Over the past 4 decades, EBID has invested approximately 2.8 billion USD in inter- and intra-regional development programs covering diverse initiatives from infrastructure and basic amenities, rural development and environment, industry, social sectors, and services.

-press release

Local fishing communities

Cont'd from page 7

Community is being earmarked for the Monrovia Metropolitan Coastal Resilience Project to be funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The project is designed to protect the West Point community from the impacts of the sea level rise (SLR) and related extreme events. It will implement critical soft and hard coastal protection measures to reduce the exposure of the area to

climate change induced sea-level rise and incidences of extreme precipitation events.

West Point is one of Monrovia’s most densely populated slums, which is home to approximately 75,000 people. Poor sanitation of the community and widespread littering of plastics continue to pose risk to public health and the environment. UNDP-Liberia

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SURVEY NOTICE

March 5, 2021

This general public is hereby notified based upon the request of Henrietta Vallhum.

The undersigned land surveyors have been dually authorized to conduct one (1) lot of land survey.

The property to be survey is lying and situated at GSA Road, Kissi Community.

The survey will commence on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at the hour of 10:00am.

Therefore all adjoining property owners and these having claims to said property (ies) are requested to be present on the date and time of survey.

This notice should claim the immediate attention of the following representative(s) and surveyor(s).

1. Massa Boima
2. Ballah youmger
3. Deborah William
4. Doris Doe
5. Emmanuel Wayne
6. Fatu Gray

Signed:
 Abdullah M. Sheriff
 GIS Land Survey Tech

Approved:
 Morris Kanneh
 Registered Land Surveyor

Samukai heads back to Supreme Court?

By Othello B. Garblah

Lofa County Senator elect J. Brownie Samukai is not out of the woods yet and must as well be headed back to the Supreme Court hours after the National Elections Commission (NEC) indicated that it would go ahead with his certification.

The anticipated court recall follows the filing of a writ of prohibition by the Movement for Progressive

Johnson and Mr. James Nyumah Dorkor for the unauthorized spending of soldiers' pension money.

The former defense Minister and his two deputies were given suspended jail sentences by the Criminal Court "C" last year, on grounds that they retribute the full amount of US\$1.147, 656 over a period of time or face two years jail sentence.

Samukai and others took an appeal at the Supreme Court and while the case was pending,

and order NEC not to certificate him as winner.

At a news conference Tuesday, MPC chair John Barlonesaid his party's decision to file the writ of prohibition was based on the prior conviction of Samukai.

He says the Laws of Liberia prohibit any citizen from enjoying their rights as provided for under the Constitution for the commission and subsequent conviction of any infamous crimes.

He noted that the senate "is meant for people with an unimpeachable character".

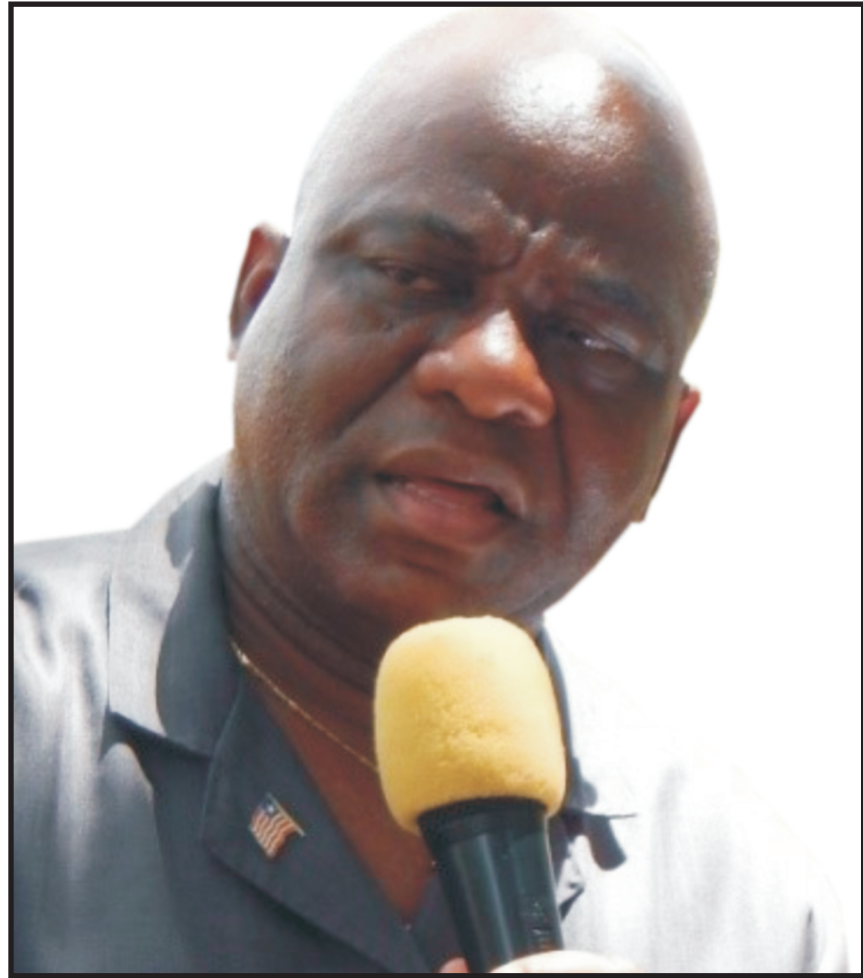
"J. Brownie Samukai is certainly not one of such persons and the process of certification leading to his eventual sitting as a member of the Upper House contravenes the laws of Liberia," he said.

But legal experts here have however, argued that a person is not consider a convict if he or she has not been placed behind bars.

They continued that in the case of Samukai and others they were given suspended sentences with two options to retribute or face two years in jail. They maintained that once those options have not been exhausted, Samukai and others are still free and therefore the argument that he is a convict and should be barred from taking elected office does not hold water.

They further argued that the Ministry of Justice was discriminatory in its letter to NEC and at the same time did not followed the instrument as provided by law in doing so.

The revised election law states that the names and voting cards of those convicted should be presented every December to form part of the NECs record not letter as was done by the Justice Ministry officials.



Change (MPC) at the Supreme Court seeking to overturn the decision by NEC to certificate Samukai who was found guilty on criminal charges.

The NEC informed this paper Wednesday that it is yet to receive copy of the said writ against Samukai.

On Monday, 8 February 2021, the Supreme Court upheld an earlier ruling by a lower court which found Samukai, his deputy Joseph P.

he contested and won the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election in Lofa County.

Days later the same Supreme Court again ruled in an election contest brought against him in Lofa, this time in his favor paving the way for his prolonged certification as Senator of Lofa County.

But the MPC has asked the Supreme Court to issue an alternative writ of prohibition

Somalia drive to

Starts from back page

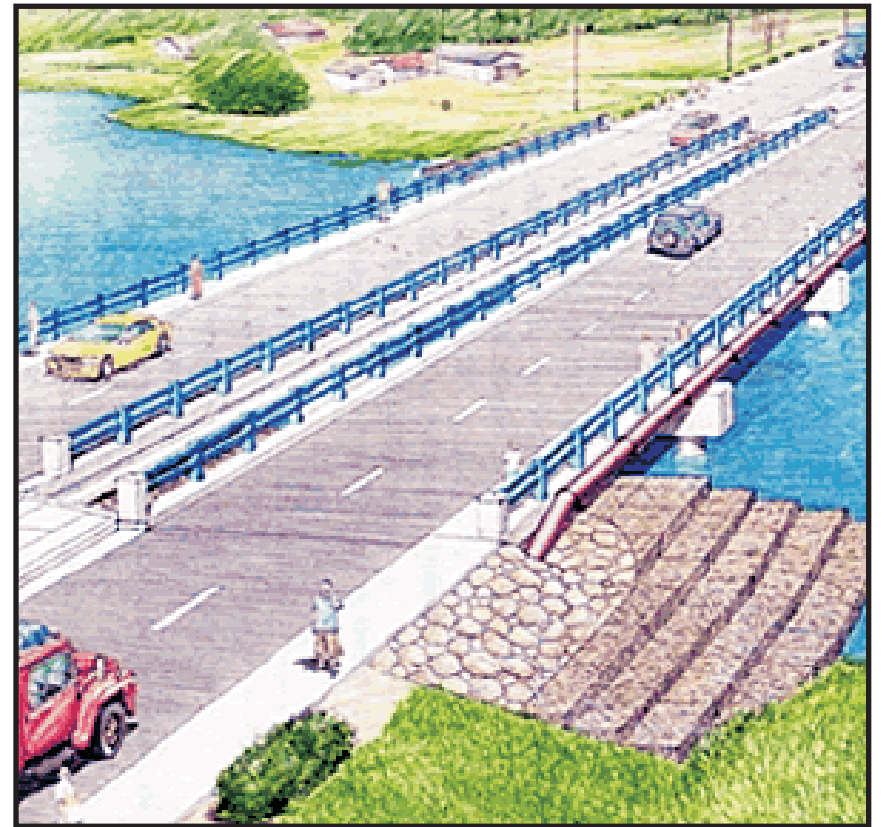
saying Japan will transfer maintenance technologies for the maintenance of diesel generators..

As for the diplomatic reciprocation and issues, Ambassador Tsutomu commended the support expressed by Liberia through the Note Verbale for the upcoming election for the United Postal Union (UPU) director general post in August 2021, of the International Law Commission, member of the commission, Prof. ASADA Masahiko, Autumn 2021; Committee Against Torture, member of the committee, Dr. MAEDA Naoko, October 2021 and United Nations Security Council, non-Permanent member for 2023-2024, September 2022.

noting that discussion with the Japanese Ambassador center around both bilateral and multilateral issues.

Minister Kemayah reiterated that the government of Liberia will like to express thanks and appreciation for the level of support from the government of Japan, stating that through this support difference projects are been implemented in time pass, up to present and for projects in the future.

"As you know Japan is working on the 'Japan Freeway', which will be completed sometime in May 2021, we agreed that following the completion Japan and Liberia will together host a ceremony, hopefully sometime in June, which will mark the formal completion of the



He said Japan will continue its food assistance program to Liberia, improved safety and livelihood for fisher men in Montserrado County and build the capacity of Liberians against illegal fishing through FAO, livelihood of empowerment of women in small scale fisheries during and after the COVID-19 through FAO among others.

In response, Liberian Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr, said the government of Liberia is pleased with the level of relationship with Japan,

'Japan Freeway' project, something the Liberia people will appreciate, and that will help open up the corridor that have been contributing to the congestion of traffic in that area", Minister Kemayah noted.

In conclusion, Minister Kemayah requested that the next TICAD conference be held in Monrovia, which Ambassador Tsutomu was very passionate about.

Cont'd from page 6

Citizens benefit Social

agents, or you go to where you want to go to cash out your money".

In 2020, the project began a process of transition from physical cash to mobile money transfers due to the huge overhead cost, and the risk associated in moving with money from one point to the other.

In its response to the

COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is also currently transferring cash to 15 thousand households in urban Montserrado County. The initiative is led by the Ministry's Social Cash Transfer (SCT) Program, under the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSN), Financed by Foreign

Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO/UKaid) and the World Bank. This effort is an expansion of the Government's Social Protection portfolio as these households will be added to the Liberia Household Social Registry.

Cont'd from page 7

Donor partner to

US\$10.5 million submitted to the Senate by the House of Representatives, US\$3.9 million is proposed as appropriation for Public Sector Investment Programs

with emphasis on roads infrastructure, health, education and aviation related projects, while US\$0.600 million and US\$1.129 million for

subsidies and debts, Senator Moye-led Special Committee said in plenary. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

UN Resident

Cont'd from page 6

taking of the Special Senatorial Elections of 2020 with NEC playing a key role in the review process.

The United Nations remains a critical voice in supporting Liberia's peace process, with strong linkages to free, fair,

transparent and credible elections in the country, even after its troops departed here in the last four years. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Somalia drive to be completed in May

-To be renamed Japan Freeway



Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Ambassador Tsutomu, who is residence in Ghana, said the bilateral relations between Japan and Liberia is moving from strength to strength, stating that in the near future, Japan will be hosting that of the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8), noting that through this meetings Liberia and Japan will be engaged which will further strengthen the relationship between the two peoples.

On the issue of Economic and social development cooperation, Ambassador Tsutomu said Japan planned to further commit grant assistance in the area of power generation, which will focus on the transmission and distribution of the electricity to many homes in the country,

The visiting Japanese Ambassador accredited to Liberia, H.E. HIMENO Tsutomu, has disclosed that work on the Somalia Drive, soon to be renamed the 'Japan Freeway' is expected to be completed in May 2021.

The Japanese Envoy indicated that his

Government is very pleased with progress being made thus far and the level of knowledge transfer to the local engineer, who are prepared to carry out retain maintenance.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Ambassador Tsutomu made these remarks when he paid a courtesy call on the Liberian Foreign Minister,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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Juventus complete permanent €18.5m signing of Weston McKennie

The United States international signed on a season-long loan for a fee of €4.5m last August.

The 22-year-old has impressed in his first few months with the Serie A champions, scoring five goals in 31 appearances in all competitions, including in the 3-0 Champions League win away to Barcelona.

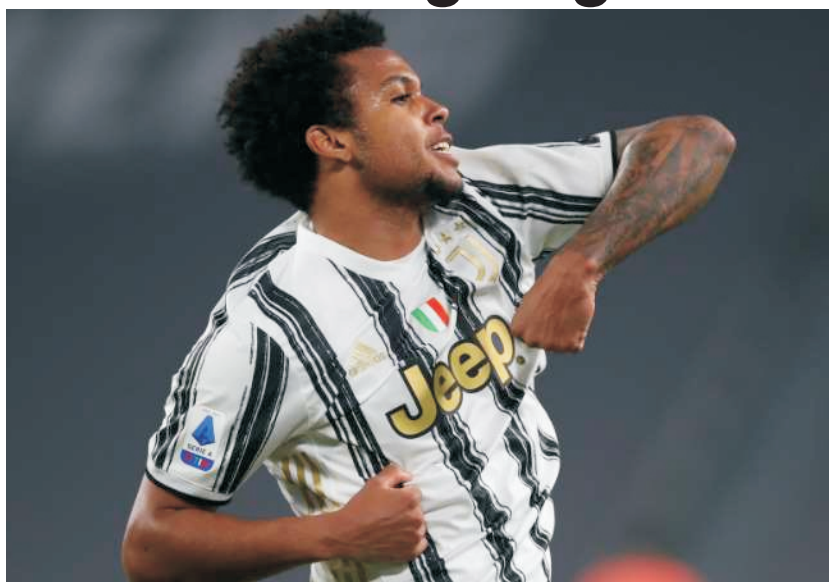
His five goals in Serie A have already made him the leading American scorer in the history of Italy's top

flight.

On Wednesday, Juve announced McKennie had signed a four-year contract. The €18.5m will be paid to Schalke over three years and could rise by a further €6.5m in variables.

"Weston McKennie's adventure with the Juventus shirt started very well and, as they say, the numbers don't lie," Juve said in announcing the deal.

"Wes has proven to be a very important resource for coach [Andrea] Pirlo, having already put his signature on important



performances and goals. It's impossible not to think about his goal against Barcelona at Camp Nou, or the one in the Derby della Mole - his first in the black and white jersey.

"It's also important to note that he is also the youngest midfielder in this league with at least four goals, as well as the best American scorer in Serie A history. In six of the goals he has actively participated in (four goals and two assists), Juventus have always won.

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