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# Government to tighten security



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# Continental News

## Senegal 'on the verge of an apocalypse'

**A** top Senegalese official whose job is to settle conflicts has said the country is on a dangerous precipice after four days of protests left at least five young people dead. Alioune Badara Cissé, known as the mediator of the republic, urged the authorities to stop threats and intimidation against protesters. He also called for those on the streets to act peacefully and stop looting.

The unrest was triggered by the arrest of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko. Mr Sonko appeared in court on Friday accused of disrupting public order. He also faces a rape allegation.

He denies the allegations and his supporters say the accusations are politically motivated. The protests have also been fuelled by economic inequalities and concerns over young people's standard of living.

In a press conference on Sunday, Mr Cissé said the authorities "need to pause and speak with our youth" and warned that "we are on the

verge of an apocalypse".

His statement came a day after a teenager in the southern city of Diaobe became the fifth person known to have died in clashes with security forces in various parts of the country.

But the respected mediator is warning of much more turmoil ahead unless the government acts fast to address the deepening poverty and lack of

job prospects for the youth, says BBC World Service Africa Editor Will Ross.

On Friday, following violence in the capital, Dakar, and elsewhere, Interior Minister Antoine Felix Abdoulaye Diome vowed to use "all the means necessary for a return to order".

Speaking on national TV, Mr Diome accused Mr Sonko of

"issuing calls to violence".

The opposition alliance known as the Movement to Defend Democracy (M2D), which is behind the demonstrations, has announced three further days of protests starting on Monday.

The West African regional group Ecowas has condemned the violence and called on "all parties to exercise restraint and remain calm" - adding that the authorities should "take the necessary measures to ease tensions and guarantee the freedom to demonstrate peacefully".

Mr Sonko, 46, was accused of rape in February. Following an investigation he was arrested on Wednesday and taken to court accompanied by a group of supporters.

Police said they then

arrested him for disrupting public order when he refused to change his route to the court. Mr Sonko says the allegations of rape are fabricated. He accuses President Macky Sall of trying to remove potential opponents ahead of the 2024 election.

Two other opposition leaders were excluded from the 2019 election after being convicted on charges which they say were politically motivated.

There are reports that Mr Sall may seek to change the constitution to allow him to run for a third term. Mr Sonko - who is particularly popular with young Senegalese - is the president's only remaining serious challenger, says BBC Afrique's Ndèye Khady Lo in Dakar.

In 2014 he founded his own political party, Pastef-Les Patriotes, and came third in the 2019 presidential election with 15% of the vote. BBC



Demonstrations like this one on Friday in the capital, Dakar, began on Wednesday

## Egypt and Sudan add to pressure on Ethiopia over Nile dam

**E**gypt and Sudan have once again called for international mediation to end a long-running dispute over the construction of Ethiopia's dam on the River Nile.

Both countries fear the dam could affect their water supply.

The call came as the Egypt's President Abdel

Fattah al-Sisi was on a visit to Sudan for the first time since the overthrow of its former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. During his visit to Khartoum Mr Sisi met Sudan's civilian and military leaders.

The fact that these were separate meetings points to the somewhat awkward relationship between the different personalities in

Sudan's transitional administration.

But it seems they all agreed on one key issue: Ethiopia's controversial dam.

In a statement after the talks, Egypt and Sudan called for a new round of dialogue with an expanded mediation team to include officials from the African Union, the United States, the EU and the UN.

They said an agreement had to be reached before Ethiopia starts the next stage of filling the dam's huge reservoir, which is expected to begin in June or July.

While Ethiopia says it is willing to keep talking, it wants to stick to the dialogue organised by the African Union and does not want to involve these additional international mediators. So for now the dispute rumbles on. Egypt has long opposed the construction of the dam because it relies so heavily on the water from the Nile. It's possible that Sudan could benefit from it though - experts say there would be less flooding and Sudan could



The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is a source of national pride for Ethiopia

## Huge explosions rock Equatorial Guinea's main city

**A**n estimated 300 people have been injured and an unknown number have died in a series of explosions in Equatorial Guinea's commercial hub, Bata, the health ministry has said.

Images on social media show a huge plume of smoke hanging over the city.

State TV has shown people

donations. It lists three hospitals where the "seriously and very seriously injured" are being transferred.

Video posted on social media of the aftermath of the explosions show a chaotic scene of distressed people fleeing from the site of the explosions.

In a tweet, France's



looking for survivors in the rubble, lifting up the blocks of collapsed buildings by hand. The cause of the explosions is unclear but they came from an area near a military camp.

In a series of tweets, the health ministry has asked for volunteer health workers to go to Bata Regional Hospital. It has also asked for blood

ambassador Brochenin Olivier sent his condolences to the victims, describing the event as a "catastrophe". The Spanish embassy has said that its country's citizens should remain at home and issued a series of emergency numbers. Equatorial Guinea was a Spanish colony until independence in 1968. BBC

get electricity in return.

But in recent months Khartoum has hardened its position taking Egypt's side.

With the two countries

signing military agreements and forming closer and closer ties

# EDITORIAL

## Welcoming the 96,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses

**HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN** Monrovia joined by senior officials of the Government of Liberia and foreign diplomats received the first consignment of 96,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County on Friday, March 5, 2021.

**ACCORDING TO THE** Ministry of Health, the consignment is the first of a total of 384,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses expected in the country and that formal vaccination commences within two weeks, starting with health care workers, members of the executive, the Legislature, the Judiciary branches of government, followed by the Military and para-military, marketers and the general population.

**UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR** to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy, speaking at the RIA Friday, congratulated the Government of Liberia for its continued commitment to reducing transmission and curbing the spread of COVID-19 both in the country and in the region.

**HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY** warned that the work does not stop here, hoping that Liberians will take the opportunity to receive safe and effective vaccines, if offered.

**AND THIS IS WHERE** our concern lies: Effective and impartial administration of the vaccine doses to protect the population. We do not want this exercise to be conducted the “Liberian way” where personal interest overrides the general good.

**WE RECALL VIVIDLY** during the peak of the Coronavirus in 2019 when front-liners such as doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers were left unprotected due to lack of PPEs despite emergency funds provided by donors.

**BUREAUCRATIC BOTTLENECKS AND** political influence suffocated a process that should have been professionally handled thus, leading to the deaths of several doctors and nurses.

**THIS TIME AROUND,** we hope that things would be done differently, so that areas and people that are most in need, including the elderly would get preference.

**AUTHORITIES AT THE** Ministry of Health should be able to advise the President on the way to proceed, because COVID-19 vaccine doses are intended to stabilize the entire population, beginning with most-at-risk persons such as health workers, security forces manning our borders and residents in congested communities.

**AS AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY** cautioned, the work does not stop at receiving the doses of vaccine. No, they are not to be stacked in warehouses and in private clinics for personal gains while the population remains vulnerable. Rather, we should endeavor to reach the most needed in order to make impact.



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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

## Asian Demonstrators and the American Dream

**N**EW YORK - One month ago, in Myanmar, protesters against the military coup gathered around the United States embassy in Yangon. They called on President Joe Biden to make the generals go back to their barracks and free Aung San Suu Kyi from detention. Her party, the National League for Democracy, won a big victory in the 2020 general election, which is why the generals, afraid of losing their privileges, seized power.

But is the US embassy the best place to protest? Can the US president do anything substantial apart from expressing disapproval of the coup? The protesters' hope for a US intervention shows that America's image as the champion of global freedom is not yet dead, even after four years of Donald Trump's "America First" isolationism.

Demonstrators in Hong Kong last year, protesting against China's harsh crackdown on the territory's autonomy, even regarded Trump as an ally. He was erratically hostile to China, so the protesters waved the stars and stripes, hoping that America would help to keep them free from Chinese communist authoritarianism.

America's self-appointed mission to spread freedom around the world has a long history. Many foolish wars were fought as a result. But US democratic idealism has been an inspiration to many as well. America long saw itself, in John F. Kennedy's words, as a country "engaged in a world-wide struggle in which we bear a heavy burden to preserve and promote the ideals that we share with all mankind."

As Hungarians found out when they rose up against the Soviet Union in 1956, words often prove to be empty. The Hungarian Revolution, encouraged by the US, was crushed after 17 days; the US did nothing to help those it had egged on.

Sometimes, however, freedom has been gained with American help, and not just against Hitler's tyranny in Western Europe. During the 1980s, people in the Philippines and South Korea rebelled against dictatorships in huge demonstrations, not unlike those in Hong Kong, Thailand, and Myanmar in the last two years. So, of course, did people in the People's Republic of China, where a ten-meter tall "Goddess of Democracy," modeled on the Statue of Liberty, was erected on Tiananmen Square in 1989.

The Chinese demonstrations ended in a bloody disaster, but pro-democracy forces toppled Ferdinand Marcos's dictatorship in the Philippines and South Korea's military regime. Support from the US was an important factor. In Taiwan, too, authoritarianism was replaced by democracy, again with some US assistance.

But what worked in the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan is unlikely to work in Thailand, Hong Kong, or Myanmar. The main reason is that the former three countries were what leftists called "client states"

during the Cold War. Their dictators were "our dictators," protected by the US as anti-communist allies.

Propped up by American money and military largesse, they could continue to oppress their people, so long as the US saw communism as a global threat. Once China opened for business and Soviet power waned, they suddenly became vulnerable. Marcos was pressed on American TV to promise to hold a free and fair election. When he tried to steal the result, a US senator told him to "cut and cut cleanly." Marcos duly ran for his helicopter and ended up in exile in Hawaii.

Similarly, when South Korean students, supported by much of the middle-class, poured into the streets, angry not only with their military government, but with its US backer, America finally came down on the side of democracy. Dependent on American military protection, the generals had to listen when the US urged them to step aside.

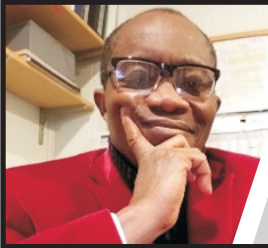
The generals in Thailand and Myanmar have no reason to do likewise. Biden can threaten sanctions and voice his outrage. But with China willing to step in as Myanmar's patron, the junta has no reason to worry very much (though the military has been wary of China up to now).

Thailand's rulers, too, benefit from Chinese influence, and the country has a long history of playing one great power against another. And because Hong Kong is officially part of China, there is little any outside power can do to protect its freedoms, no matter how many American flags people wave in the streets.

Dependence on the US in Europe and Asia, and the clout that Americans held as a result, was sustained by the Cold War. Now, a new cold war is looming, this time with China. But US power has been greatly diminished since its zenith in the twentieth century. Trust in American democracy has been eroded by the election of an ignorant narcissist who bullied traditional allies, and China is a more formidable power than the Soviet Union ever was. It is also vastly richer.

Countries in East and Southeast Asia still need US support for their security. As long as Japan is hindered from playing a leading military role, because of a tainted past and a pacifist constitution, the US will continue to be the main counterweight to China's increasing dominance. But as Thailand's deft balancing of powers demonstrates, US allies are unlikely to become "client states" in the way some were before. Even the South Koreans are careful not to upset their relations with China. The US is far; China is near.

This pattern is to be expected. US dominance can't last forever, and Asian countries, as well as Europeans, should wean themselves from total dependence on a not-always-dependable power to protect them. Being a "client state" can be humiliating. Yet, the day may come when some people, somewhere, might miss Pax Americana, when the US was powerful enough to push out the unwanted rascals.



## LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

### The Execution of the 13-Americo-Liberians by then Pres. Doe, was it justified, given the acute ongoing corruption under Pres. Weah and then Pres, Sirleaf?

**4**1-years ago, in 1980, the then Samuel Doe was hailed by courts of public opinion and fully supported by huge indigenous Liberians who overwhelmingly approved the opened Liberian army revolt which was forcefully accompanied by an open public execution of 12-Americo-Liberians including their leader the then Pres. William Tolbert according to the violent army for rampant corruption and their grip on political power for 133-years since Liberia declared its independence in 1847.

The killing of fellow Liberians for unproven massive corruption, and their grip on power for 133-years from 1847-1980, was a politically laughable agenda in some quarters. Such a politically motivated agenda would have been challenged in modern-day Liberian courts of competent jurisdiction for three convincing rationales: First, by default, Americo-Liberian owned the land by declaring its independence, July 26, 1847, with no indigenous input. Second, the Americo-Liberians later recognized the indigenous after 57-years of the nation's independence, in 1847. Thirdly, murdering the 13-Americo-Liberians was not legally justified by any stretch of political imagination.

During those 133-years, Liberia was very stable and peaceful. Other politically unacceptable variables made Liberia stable and peaceful in those 133-years. The first annoying variable is that the Americo Liberians limited their development only to coastal cities and towns and avoided the hinterlands where the bulk of the indigenous reside. Second, indigenous Liberians were not called Liberian citizens by the Americo-Liberians until after 57-years in 1904 when indigenous Liberians were officially called Liberian citizens.

Sources familiar with these annoying analyses revealed that after Doe seized power, he embezzled Tolbert's 33,041 personally reserved gold karats, along with 21,000 pieces of diamonds and other valuables worth tens of thousands of dollars from the executive mansion. Doe didn't stop there, he murdered hundreds and hundreds of other fellow innocent Liberians simply to keep his grip on political power.

Doe openly ragged the 1985 presidential and general elections and killed some of his opponents and chased hundreds and hundreds of innocent Liberians into exile. Something the Americo-Liberians did not do in their 133-year rule. In short, was the execution of the 13 Americo-Liberians truly and legally justified? Assuming Doe was still alive, should he be executed for all his atrocities and the rampant corruption during his 10-years of governance the answer is no. He could have been thrown in jail for a much longer jail time.

But Ex-Pres. Doe 10-year rule was more than the Americo-Liberian 133-years rule in a practical sense given its corrupt and brutal nature. Within the Americo-Liberian 133-years rule they did not introduce tribalism, they did not kill their opponents, they simply practiced corruption like any other governments in power and deprived their fellow citizens especially the indigenous some of the most needed development initiatives.

Since the execution of the 13 Americo-Liberians, Liberians under the then Presidents Doe, Taylor, Sirleaf and Weah have been denied basic social welfare facilities such as clean drinking water, electricity, improved education, affordable health care, improved economics, and decentralization of development across the 16-counties, but all we continued to witness is acute rampant corruptions and killing of innocent Liberians in their own country.

For example, the then President Taylor relocated the Central Bank of Liberia to his home in Congo town. All revenues collected from the Freeport of Liberia, Buchanan Ports, and Robert International Airport were reported directly in Taylor's house, why then were the 13-Americo Liberians killed?

The then Pres. Sirleaf's government was marred with daily rampant corruption, the ritualistic killing of innocent Liberians whose murderers were not caught. Prominent government officials like Harry Greaves have been murdered in cold blood under the watchful eyes of the Pres. Sirleaf with no accountability. Foreigners continued to exploit the nation's limited resources under the watchful eyes of the then Pres. Sirleaf, yet she did nothing. Why then did Doe execute the 13-Americo Liberians. Sirleaf's regime increased more impoverished Liberians than any other time in the history of Liberia according to other sources.

No doubt, 41-years on, it is believed that rampant corruption is no longer rampant, it has rather become an acute epidemic across all sectors of the Liberian society ranging from a systematic intuitional broad-day-light stealing of government's revenues, smuggling of limited resources, holding onto physical cash to bribes and sexual favor in schools for grades, etc, etc.

Arguably, three classic cases were not heard of during the 133-years of the Americo-Liberian dynasty in Liberia since Liberia gained its independence 176-years ago. The first classic corrupt epidemic case in post-war Liberia surrounds the missing billions at the Liberia Central Bank, involving the then Pres. Ellen Sirleaf's son (Robert Sirleaf) was acquitted because of his status as the ex-President son according to one source. Up to the present, the L\$2.645 billion is still unaccounted for under Pres. Weah government.

The second classic corrupt case involved the Former House Speaker Alex J. Tyler who and some other Liberians received a bribe of US\$950,000 to influence and/or change

# O-P-E-D

By British Ambassador,  
Neil Bradley

## Vaccines for all are the way out of this pandemic – We're in this together

**O**ver the past year, all across the world, we have felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, devastating the health of people and countries, and our interconnected economies. Applying lessons learned from the Ebola epidemic, the Liberian Government responded quickly and decisively; Liberia has been fortunate to have relatively few confirmed coronavirus cases or deaths.

But the human cost has still been high. In July 2020, the World Bank reported an additional 526,000 Liberians were at risk of falling into poverty due to the contraction of Liberia's economy amid the global downturn. Many families have been hit hard by reduced incomes. Government has lost much-needed revenue, constraining resources. The health sector in particular has been stretched by the COVID-19 response. Children have missed out on education while schools were closed, and cases of sexual and gender based violence increased.

To end this pandemic, we need a global response. We are only safe from this virus if we are all safe. No one country can go it alone.

The Gavi COVAX Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) is the world's best chance to provide global access to vaccines, by forming an international approach to ending the pandemic through the pooling of resources. This is why the UK has pledged £548 million (\$772 million) towards COVAX, which will contribute to more than one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses for up to 92 eligible countries in 2021. And this is why in September 2020 we joined forces with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN and the Government of South Africa to bring the world together to drive development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines.

COVAX has been supporting governments and partners, particularly for AMC-eligible participants, in readiness efforts and in preparation for this moment. This includes assisting with the development of national vaccination plans, the storage of vaccines at the right temperatures, as well as stocking up on half a billion syringes to deliver vaccines safely and safety boxes for their disposal. In addition, masks, gloves and other equipment is available to ensure that there is enough equipment for health workers to start vaccinating priority groups.

The past two weeks saw a big step forward in our efforts for global vaccine access as Gavi rolls out the first vaccines from COVAX to lower and lower-middle-income, and self-funding countries. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa were the first countries to receive the good news, and yesterday vaccines were delivered to Liberia. In the coming days and weeks, we will start to see jabs in arms.

In addition, the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed at the G7 leaders' summit that the UK will share the majority of any future surplus coronavirus vaccines from our own supply with COVAX to support other countries. He also encouraged G7 leaders to increase their funding to COVAX to enable equitable access for high priority populations.

I am proud that the UK is working hand in hand with partners across Africa. Academic and scientific researchers are working on every single piece of the COVID-19 puzzle. We have all come together during this unprecedented pandemic delivering new vaccines, treatments and tests at the speed and levels needed.

Such innovative collaboration between companies, countries and institutions has delivered for the good of the world. The development of multiple coronavirus vaccines in approximately 300 days is undoubtedly a global achievement and we have all played our part.

We are not doing this alone. Working with all of our international partners - including the G7, G20, the EU, the AU, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the new COVAX Facility and others - we are delivering a strong global response.

The UK's foreign policy has been clear from the onset of the pandemic: strengthen the resilience of vulnerable countries, ensure equitable access to vaccines which also helps stop new variants from emerging, and continue to support the global economy.

The UK not only has a longstanding record of supporting countries around the world to prepare for small outbreaks and to stop them becoming large ones, but also in responding to large disease outbreaks when they occur. Vaccines are the way out of this acute phase of the pandemic and an effective vaccine is the best way to protect people from the coronavirus. It will save thousands of lives around the world, enable health workers to get back to work and deliver other health services that have been disrupted and help begin the process of economic recovery from the impact of this crisis. As all viruses mutate over time, and new variants emerge regularly, the UK is proactively sharing its genomic expertise with our international partners around the world, allowing them to respond accordingly.

The UK will not be safe and able to rebuild our own economy until all our partners, across Africa and around the world, are safe and able to do so too.

Working as partners to overcome this pandemic, being unified in our vision and efforts, we can all get to the other side of this terrible pandemic and build back better and stronger, whether it is our economies, livelihoods or future prospects. This is a historic step towards our goal to ensure global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, in what will be the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history. The delivery is part of a first wave of arrivals that will continue in the coming days and weeks.

We are not in this alone. Together, we can overcome this pandemic.



**REPUBLIC LIBERIA**  
**THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

P. O. BOX 3010  
Whein Town, Mount Barclay  
Monrovia, Liberia

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as an Implementing Agency received financial support from African Development Bank (AfDB) under the Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) to promote the private sector by scaling up the participation of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the secondary wood processing industry to promote inclusive green growth, employment and economic diversification in the Republic of Liberia.

The FDA-AfDB-FAPA Project Implantation Unit and Joint Technical Committee TCO and Project is to conduct Mid-Term Progress Review workshop with stakeholders to review and discuss progress reports and deliverables on the FDA-AfDB-FAPA Project activities. The forthcoming Mid-Term progress review will take a broad synopsis of all the capacity building trainings that were conducted for Seven (7) weeks at BWI and also, the training in Chainsaw milling Operations and tree identification, as well as, log and timber scaling techniques in line with the Two modules conducted at Forestry Training Institute (F.T.I). In addition to other consultancies and activities to be rolled out by the FAPA PIU. The Workshop is scheduled to take place at the Corina Hotel, Snkor, Monrovia, Liberia and to be held on March 30 and 31, 2021. The Cooperation of all stake holders' members for this workshop is highly appreciated.

**Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) Project**  
Project Coordinator  
Forestry Development Authority  
Whein Town, Bernard Farm

**REPUBLIC LIBERIA**  
**THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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Whein Town, Mount Barclay  
Monrovia, Liberia

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The Cooperation of all stake holders' members for this workshop is highly appreciated.

**Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) Project**  
Project Coordinator  
Forestry Development Authority  
Whein Town, Bernard Farm

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Peace Island gets electricity

**-As Weah launches 'Light up Monrovia' Project**

Residents of Peace Island in Congo Town, a suburb of Monrovia exploded in to jubilation Friday when President George Weah switched on electric power in the community, as he launched his administration's

the community has been without electricity for over a decade.

The lighting up ceremony was performed by President Weah along with the European Union Head of Delegation, Ambassador Laurent Delahousse

project, over 38,000 homes are expected to be electrified including the installation of 2,100 streetlights.

Speaking during the LUM commissioning ceremony held on the Peace Island, President Weah described the European Union as key and strategic partner to Liberia's development and progress.

"I want to thank you, our partners and the European Union for your continuous support to the Government and people of this great nation," Weah said, as he expressed delight over the cordial relationship existing between the Government of Liberia and the developmental partners including the European Union.

"By working together, we continue to forge ahead in delivering on the promise of the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and positively changing the lives of the Liberian People," he narrated.

President Weah explained that electricity is not a luxury but a necessity; something every home needs to improve the mood of people, create warm and bright ambience, as oppose to glooming and unattractive spaces.

"Light provides a sense of security and brings together family and communities,"

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**



"Light up Monrovia" Project.

The Peace Island is one of Monrovia's largest squatters communities located behind the Ministerial Complex and home to mainly retired former soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Like most parts of the city,

who switched on hundreds of homes in the community.

The "Light Up Monrovia" is a Government of Liberia project funded by the 11th European Union Development Fund and the Monrovia Consolidation of Electricity Transmission and Distribution Project. Under the

# GTMS restores Liberia's maritime image

The pivotal role of Global Tracking and Maritime Solutions Holdings (GTMS Holdings) is highly acknowledged on the backdrop of a recent report from the United States Coast Guard by announcing that it was removing the conditions of entry on vessels arriving from Liberia into United States waters.

These restrictions had been in place since May 2, 2005 due to the fact that Liberia was labelled to be one of the countries not maintaining effective counter-terrorism measures at its ports.

However, according to the report from the US Coast Guard, recent assessments conducted in 2018 by their organization helped determine that Liberia was actively working on maintaining effective anti-

terrorism measures in its maritime operations.

"The Republic of Liberia is removed from the list of the Countries Affected in paragraph

B of the Port Security Advisory. Therefore, effective immediately, actions required in paragraphs C and D of this Port Security Advisory are no longer required for vessels arriving in the United States

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



# CENTAL calls for swift action at LACC

By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) expresses grave concern over recent allegations of corruption involving the Vice Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala and Executive Director, Mohammed E. Fahnbulleh.

CENTAL in a news conference Thursday, March 4, 2021, on 20th Street Sinkor, said such allegations are extremely troubling and damaging to the image of an institution of Government leading the fight against corruption.

CENTAL Executive Director Ander Miamen said the Commission and the Government of Liberia must do everything to ensure that the allegations are timely

the latter part of 2019.

"We wish to inform the public that we have received positive feedbacks from these institutions. Both the LACC and UNDP have launched separate investigations to establish the facts, which we hope will be timely communicated to the public", says Miamen.

He added that CENTAL welcomes the LACC's internal investigation, saying, "we strongly believe that such grave allegations involving senior officials of the Commission cannot be left to the institution alone to investigate."

At the same time CENTAL calls on President George Manneh Weah to constitute an independent committee to timely investigate the matter and inform the public about its outcomes.

The institution cautions that



investigated to establish the truthfulness or falsity of the matter.

"Upon learning of the LACC corruption saga, CENTAL reached out to the Commission to inquire about claims and counter-claims raised by the parties, including, but not limited to, unlawful salary payments, unaccountability of cash advances received, purchase of Government property", amongst others. He said.

Miamen noted that CENTAL reached out to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to get clarity on the date and other facts regarding the resignation of Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala, who is alleged to have been within their employ while simultaneously being paid by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, during

the allegations surrounding the corruption saga may detract from the goodwill anti-corruption institutions had received from the public over the years, including dampening public confidence in the country's leading anti-corruption institution.

Meanwhile CENTAL says in the wake of the resignation of LACC former chairperson, Cllr. Ndubuisi Nwabudike, the Commission has an all-male Board of Commissioners, thus falling short of the gender sensitivity provided for in section six (6) of the LACC Act.

Miamen says with all three (3) Commissioners being males, the need for ensuring gender mainstreaming at the highest level of the Commission cannot be overly emphasized, adding that the LACC has been in the media for all the wrong reasons

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# U.S. Amb. McCarthy welcomes first COVAX shipment to Liberia

The United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy has congratulated the Government of Liberia on

protect health care workers and the most vulnerable from this terrible disease”, Ambassador McCarthy said, but warns, “the

apart in public, and seek treatment if you feel sick. Together we can put an end to this pandemic.”

According to the United States Embassy in Monrovia, Ambassador Michael A. McCarthy joined dignitaries from the Missions of the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Great Britain, and France, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator at Roberts International Airport in Margibi County Friday, March 5, to welcome the first shipment of 96,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, donated through COVAX.

Ambassador McCarthy gave remarks along with Liberia’s Foreign Affairs Minister Dee-Maxwell Kemayah, Health Minister Wilhelmina Jallah, Ambassador Hubert Jäger of Germany, United Nations Resident Coordinator Niels Scott, and National Public Health Institute of Liberia Director General Jane Macauley.

The release says United States is committed to working with partners across the globe to end the devastating public health and

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their continued commitment to reducing the transmission and halting the spread of COVID-19 in Liberia and in the region.

“Liberia’s successful fight against COVID-19 to date takes a critical leap forward with the arrival of vaccines to

work doesn’t stop here.”

He continues: “ We hope Liberians will take the opportunity to receive safe and effective vaccines if offered. And, as always, we remind everyone to continue to wash your hands frequently, wear a mask, stay two arms-length

# NEC to certificate additional two winners -As Supreme Court affirms earlier declaration

The National Elections Commission, (NEC) says it has received two mandates from the Supreme Court of Liberia, affirming its declarations of the winners from the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Grand Kru County and in District Number #9, Representative By-election in Montserrado County.

A statement from NEC issued Friday, 5 March 2021, quotes the Supreme Court as mandating the Commission to resume full jurisdictions in the Grand Kru and District Number Nine Representative by-Elections after it carefully review the records.

In the district number Nine Representative By-election ruling between the Collaborating Political Parties, CPP through its Secretary General Aloysius Toe, and the Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC and Frank Saah Foko, the Supreme Court said the plaintiff did not produce a list of names and Identification

Cards or authorization power from voters to defend their legal rights.

The Court holds that because the motion was filed by an unknown person of the CPP and

Court in the Grand Kru case, Nathaniel Barway, through the Chairman of the Liberia National Union, LINU, Nathaniel Bloma, and Candidate Numene T.H. Bartekwn of Grand Kru, the Court said the plaintiff took



that no witness testify to the identity of the unknown person who signed the motion, the plaintiff lack legal standing to file for the CPP.

The ruling of the Supreme

the action without any legal basis thereto.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Administrative Court

# Speaker turns on street lights in Pleebo

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Days after Sasstown streets in Grand Kru County were switched on by President George Manneh Weah during his recent county tour, residents of Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2 jubilated over the weekend as House Speaker Bhofal Chambers switched on 191 pieces of streets in the provincial city.

The lights were provided as a gift from President George Manneh Weah to the people of Pleebo. Pleebo residents on Friday, March 5, 2021 were amazed for the first time to see electricity in their district.

Speaking during the lighting of the street lights, Speaker Chambers applauded

Fishtown road, which he said when completed, will serve as a means of reducing transportation cost.

Speaker Chambers stressed that in as much government is allowed to work freely, situation of farm to market roads, health care facilities, schools, and electricity, micro-loan for farmwews, vocational schools and other assistance programs to help lift communities from the shadows of backwardness and extreme underdevelopment will be address.

According to him, government is prepared to construct 21.3 megawatts dam valued US\$18 million to supply electricity to the people of Maryland and River Gee



President Weah and the government for the exercise in the district he currently representats in ther House.

The Speaker narrated that the street lights came at the appropriate time, adding that good things will continue to come to the people of Pleebo Sodoken District in as much as they are willing to work with the government headed by President Weah.

The Maryland County District#2 Representative promised that more development will be brought to the peoples of Pleebo Sodoken district due to good working relationship with the government.

He pointed to several ongoing projects including the Southeastern roads pavement, the Karloken- to-

counties ,respectively.

Meanwhile, Speaker Chambers has assured citizens of his district tro complete all projects being undertaken by him including the Small Market building, library and extension of the New Pleebo Elementary and Junior high School.

For his part, Edward McIntosh, said to be a close friend of President Weah in Pleebo Sodoken District said, the lights were brought to the district as gifts to the people from the President.

Mr. McIntosh lauded President Weah during the turnover of the street lights to Pleebo City Mayor Wellington Kyne and county development superintendent Robin Scott.

He called on citizens to

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Davidetta Browne Lansanah has ordered the Certification Committee of the NEC to work out modalities for the certification program for Senator elect Numene T.H. Bartekwa of Grand Kru county

and Representative elect Frank Saah Foko of district number Nine Montserrado County and to communicate the said date and time to Mr. Bartikwa and Mr. Foko, respectively.

# Français

## Tracasseries du stade SKD : « Dillon n'a pas été personnellement visé », le Sénateur Zargo

Le sénateur Stephen Zargodu comté de Lofa croit que le sénateur Dillon n'avait pas été personnellement visé lors des altercations qui ont opposé ce dernier à des éléments de la garde présidentielle le jour de la finale de la ligue régionale, il y plusieurs semaines.

Pour le président national du Parti de la Liberté (LP, opposition), le sénateur Dillon n'a pas été particulièrement visé. Il existe, selon lui, des problèmes systémiques au niveau du secteur de l'appareil de sécurité du pays, « qui doivent être résolus ». Il a ainsi souligné la nécessité d'un comité spécial pour mener des investigations concernant ces tracasseries.

Le sénateur Conmany B. Wesseh du comté de River Gee a abordé dans le même sens. Selon lui, Dillon n'était pas le seul à avoir été maltraité lors de la finale, car lui-même, il fut également bloqué à l'entrée du stade ce jour-là.

C'est ce que pense aussi le sénateur Henrique Togbadu

comté de Bong, car ce qui est arrivé au sénateur Dillon pourrait arriver à n'importe quel sénateur, d'ailleurs, cela aurait été plus chaotique si ce n'était pas le sénateur Dillon qui a réussi à garder son calme et à mettre la situation sous contrôle. « Il faut que nous entendions les forces de sécurité, il faut qu'elles nous expliquent la procédure pour les VIP pendant les matchs de football », a-t-il insisté.

Pour sa part, le sénateur Saah H. Joseph du comté de Montserrado et président du comité sénatorial sur l'exécutif a dit : « je n'accepterai qu'un membre de l'exécutif manque de respect à un membre du Sénat ». Le sénateur Joseph, membre de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, s'est rangé aux côtés de ses

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## La NEC veut plus d'un demi-million pour les élections partielles

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a présenté un budget de plus d'un demi-million de dollars américains à la Chambre des représentants pour les deux élections législatives partielles qui auront lieu dans les comtés de Bomi et de Grand Gedeh.

La NEC a soumis un budget de 699 173,04 \$ US pour les

élections partielles, soit 359 162,27 \$ US pour la circonscription électorale no 1 dans le comté de Grand Gedeh et 340 010,77 \$ US pour le district no 1, comté de Bomi.

Conformément à l'article 37 de la Constitution libérienne, la Commission électorale doit organiser des élections partielles pour pourvoir les sièges vacants au plus tard

quatre-vingt-dix jours à compter de la date de sa notification.

La NEC avait reçu une notification officielle les 18 et 23 février 2021 de la part de la Chambre des représentants, faisant état des vacances créées par l'élection du représentant du Grand Gedeh Zoe Emmanuel Pennue et du représentant de Bomi Edwin Melvin Snowe au Sénat à l'issue des élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat du 8 décembre 2020.

Le budget des deux élections partielles est différent du budget que la NEC avait soumis à la Chambre des Représentants le 15 février pour l'organisation de l'autre élection partielle dans le comté de Bong après l'élection du représentant en exercice, Prince Kemue Moye, au Sénat.

« Le budget pour l'élection partielle du comté de Bong a été soumis à votre honorable bureau le 15 février 2021. Une copie est jointe à la présente pour plus de commodité », a indiqué la NEC dans la

## Crises politique, sanitaire, économique, cas des détenus : voici les propositions de Mamadou Sylla à Alpha Condé (Mémo)

Le chef de file de l'opposition parlementaire, Mamadou Sylla a rendu public ce samedi 6 mars le contenu de son memorandum qu'il a adressé au président de la République Alpha Condé.

Entouré de ses conseillers et membres de son cabinet, le président de l'Union Démocratique de Guinée (UDG), Mamadou Sylla a annoncé que le chef de l'Etat, Alpha Condé a validé un de ses points à savoir la visite des détenus politiques à la Maison Centrale de Conakry.

Sur la question, il a déclaré que le chef de l'Etat Alpha Condé après avoir accepté, a aussitôt instruit son ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux pour lui faciliter les démarches. « Quand j'ai eu ce dernier au téléphone, il m'a confirmé qu'il a reçu les instructions du chef de l'Etat tout en me disant d'entamer les démarches. Le ministre m'a dit tout le protocole que je dois suivre. Le président Alpha Condé a également exigé à ce tous les membres de ma délégation, y compris les journalistes qui m'accompagneront fassent le test Covid avant. C'est-à-dire que personne ne pourra entrer parmi la délégation si tu n'as pas le résultat de ton test de négativité au Covid-19. Par ailleurs quand j'ai dit au président de la République que je voudrais voir tous les prisonniers, il m'a répondu que cela est impossible. Parce qu'ils sont nombreux. Il m'a dit de faire une liste des détenus que je veux rencontrer », a-t-il déclaré face à la presse.

Voici in extenso le contenu dudit memorandum :

« Excellence, Monsieur le Président,

Vous avez pris l'initiative en 2014 de créer le statut de chef de file de l'opposition et d'en faire une institution républicaine actée par l'adoption d'une loi à cet effet. Cette décision a été motivée pour améliorer la qualité de l'environnement politique de notre pays qui, hélas est jalonné par des crises répétitives et meurtrières. Ce climat n'est pas propice pour faire de la Guinée, un pays politiquement stable, économiquement attractif, socialement paisible, et humainement soudé et fraternel.

Avec l'aide de Dieu et en conformité avec les lois guinéennes, j'ai l'honneur d'assurer la charge de Chef de file de l'opposition, qui m'impose de veiller à maintenir un courant d'échanges fraternels, constructifs, responsables et productifs avec vous et avec votre gouvernement. En effet il est utile et impérieux de privilégier à tout moment le dialogue pour trouver ensemble les solutions aux problèmes de notre pays.

Le dialogue responsable et constructif est une nécessité pour permettre à la Guinée de se relever, de cicatriser les multiples blessures que notre société a en mémoire. A ma place, je mettrai en œuvre en toutes circonstances cette façon de « faire autrement la politique » pour « s'opposer autrement ».

Le présent dans notre pays est particulièrement difficile. La résurgence de la fièvre Ebola dans notre territoire accroît les inquiétudes de nos compatriotes alors que la pandémie COVID-19 n'est pas éradiquée. Ces difficultés supplémentaires doivent nous inciter tous, aussi bien gouvernants que gouvernés, de se souder afin de faire face ensemble contre les maux qui nous assaillent et qui sont en mesure d'anéantir les efforts et sacrifices de plusieurs années. Pour réussir cela nous avons besoin de la paix, de la concorde nationale et de la sérénité.

Excellence, Monsieur le Président, ce mémo que nous vous présentons est destiné à défricher les voies nous permettant de contribuer à l'apaisement et à la concorde nationale dont nous avons tous besoin. Nous saluons à cet égard la création du cadre permanent du dialogue politique et social sous la présidence du Premier Ministre.

L'institutionnalisation du dialogue politique et social par le biais de concertations nationales ouvertes et inclusives est une opportunité pour faire les diagnostics sans complaisance des maux qui gangrènent notre société et notre pays afin d'envisager par conséquent les voies et moyens d'y apporter des remèdes. Nous vous remercions par avance de

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# Français

## Tracasseries du stade SKD :

collègues. «J'étais à la porte quand la sécurité a malmené le représentant Gray et il a été très difficile pour moi d'entrer dans le stade », a-t-il dit. «Nous sommes avec Dillon sur cette question, mais il est important que nous entendions l'autre côté. Bien que je n'aie pas fait part des difficultés que j'ai eues, il faut savoir que c'est un problème général qui est arrivé à tout le monde à cause de la tension », a expliqué le sénateur Joseph.

Il reproche également au ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports d'avoir confié la vente des billets à Orange Liberia qui les a vendus sans tenir compte de la capacité

du stade.

Le président temporaire du Sénat libérien, Albert T. Chie, a constitué une commission ad hoc d'enquête pour mener des enquêtes sur l'incident. Les membres de cette commission sont : Gleh-bo Brown du Maryland, président ; Conmany B. Wesseh, Zoe E. Pennue, Stephen Zargo et Emmanuel Nuquay. Elle deux semaines pour soumettre son rapport.

A noter que le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, s'est officiellement plaint au Sénat libérien que son honneur entant que sénateur avait été bafouillé à plusieurs reprises par l'EPS (Executive Protection Service), la garde présidentielle.

## Crises politique, sanitaire, économique, cas des détenus :

bien vouloir revoir à la hausse le nombre de places allouées (deux) à l'opposition. La mise en place effective de ce cadre dans un délai proche sera également bien accueillie par l'ensemble des acteurs politiques et sociaux. Excellence, Monsieur le Président, La décripation politique est nécessaire pour restaurer un climat favorable aux affaires dans notre pays. Pour ce faire nous vous proposons les pistes suivantes : Solder le passif de la crise politique : Comme vous le savez, notre pays est sorti traumatiser des processus électoraux de l'année 2020. Plusieurs dizaines de personnes demeurent emprisonnées. Cette situation est une préoccupation nationale. Afin de contribuer à apaiser les esprits et de faire baisser les tensions politiques nous vous suggérons d'user de votre influence pour solder le passif de la crise post-électorale. Cela concerne principalement les détenus politiques dont les cas méritent d'être examinés de manière plus humaine par leur libération, ou par des libertés provisoires assorties

de contrôles judiciaires. Quand la justice aura terminé son office, nous sommes persuadés que vous aurez le loisir d'user de votre droit de grâce. Il est d'une grande importance pour notre pays de tourner dans le bon sens cette page sombre de notre histoire.

La réouverture des frontières terrestres avec les pays limitrophes : Les populations rurales notamment les paysans sont affectés par la fermeture des frontières avec nos pays limitrophes. Plusieurs secteurs de notre économie comme les transporteurs et les commerçants se retrouvent pénalisés. Nos capacités productives pour l'export sont réduites sans compter les pertes de parts de marchés. Cette situation a renforcé les méfaits de la pandémie COVID-19 dans le pays en accentuant la pauvreté et les difficultés pour nos populations. Nous vous remercions d'avoir signé avec votre homologue de la Sierra-Léone la réouverture de la frontière avec ce pays frère. Nous vous encourageons en dépit de tout d'aller dans ce sens avec l'ensemble de nos voisins car nos destins collectifs sont intimement liés.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

## Manifestants asiatiques et rêve américain

**N**EW YORK - Il y a un mois, en Birmanie, les manifestants opposés au coup d'État militaire se rassemblaient autour de l'ambassade américaine de Rangoun, pour appeler le président Joe Biden à demander aux généraux de regagner leur caserne et de libérer Aung San Suu Kyi. Le parti qu'elle dirige, la Ligue nationale pour la démocratie (LND), avait remporté une victoire écrasante aux élections législatives de 2020, ce qui avait conduit les généraux, qui redoutaient de perdre leurs privilèges, à s'emparer du pouvoir.

Mais l'ambassade américaine est-elle le meilleur endroit pour manifester ? Le président des États-Unis peut-il réellement agir, au-delà de la condamnation verbale du coup d'État ? L'espoir que placent les manifestants dans l'intervention des États-Unis démontre que l'image d'une Amérique œuvrant pour la liberté à travers le monde n'est pas morte, même après quatre années d'« Amérique d'abord » et d'isolationnisme de la part de Donald Trump.

L'an dernier, les manifestants de Hong Kong, qui s'opposaient à une répression chinoise brutale contre l'autonomie du territoire, avaient eux aussi considéré Trump comme un allié. Le président américain se montrait en effet ouvertement opposé à la Chine, ce qui avait conduit les manifestants à brandir le drapeau étoilé, dans l'espoir que l'Amérique les aide à rester libres vis-à-vis de l'autoritarisme communiste chinois.

La mission autoproclamée de l'Amérique consistant à promouvoir la liberté à travers le monde remonte à une histoire lointaine. Nombre de guerres absurdes ont été menées pour cette cause. Il n'en demeure pas moins que l'idéal démocratique des États-Unis constitue une source d'inspiration pour de nombreux pays. L'Amérique s'est longtemps considérée, pour reprendre la formule de John F. Kennedy, comme un pays « engagé dans une lutte mondiale dans laquelle nous portons le lourd fardeau de préserver et promouvoir les idéaux que nous partageons avec toute l'humanité ».

Comme les Hongrois en ont fait l'expérience lorsqu'ils se sont soulevés contre l'URSS en 1956, ces mots n'ont bien souvent pas été accompagnés d'actes. La révolution hongroise, encouragée par les États-Unis, a été écrasée en 17 jours, l'Amérique n'ayant rien fait pour aider ceux qu'elle avait galvanisés.

Parfois, en revanche, la liberté a été atteinte grâce à l'aide des États-Unis, et pas seulement contre la tyrannie nazie en Europe occidentale. Dans les années 1980, la population des Philippines et celle de Corée du Sud se révoltent contre la dictature en organisant des manifestations massives, comparables à celles de Hong Kong, de Thaïlande et de Birmanie ces deux dernières années. Le peuple de la République populaire de Chine en fera de même, en érigeant une « déesse de la démocratie » haute de dix mètres, inspirée de la Statue de la Liberté, sur la place Tiananmen en 1989.

Les manifestations en Chine prendront fin dans le sang, mais les mouvements démocratiques parviendront à renverser la dictature de Ferdinand Marcos aux Philippines, et le régime militaire en Corée du Sud, le soutien américain ayant constitué un facteur important. À Taïwan également, l'autoritarisme cédera la place à la démocratie, ici encore avec l'aide des États-Unis.

Mais ce qui a fonctionné autrefois aux Philippines, en Corée du Sud et à Taïwan ne fonctionnera probablement pas en Thaïlande, à Hong Kong ou en Birmanie, principalement parce que les trois premiers furent ce que la gauche a appelé des « États clients » pendant la guerre froide, dont les dictateurs étaient également « nos dictateurs », protégés par

les États-Unis comme autant d'alliés contre le communisme.

Bénéficiant de l'argent et des largesses militaires de l'Amérique, ces pays ont pu continuer d'opprimer leur peuple, aussi longtemps que les États-Unis considéraient le communisme comme une menace mondiale. Lorsque la Chine s'est ouverte, et que la puissance soviétique s'est effondrée, ils sont soudainement devenus vulnérables. Marcos sera appelé à promettre à la télévision américaine d'organiser des élections libres et régulières. Lorsqu'il tentera d'en fausser l'issue, un sénateur américain lui demandera de « s'en aller rapidement ». Marcos prendra place dans son hélicoptère, et finira en exil à Hawaii.

De la même manière, lorsque les étudiants sud-coréens, soutenus par une grande partie de la classe moyenne, envahirent les rues pour exprimer leur colère non seulement contre leur gouvernement militaire, mais également contre son soutien américain, les États-Unis finirent par se ranger du côté de la démocratie. Dépendants de la protection militaire américaine, les généraux n'auront d'autre choix que d'écouter l'Amérique, qui leur demandera de se retirer.

Les généraux de Thaïlande et de Birmanie n'ont aucune raison d'en faire de même. Biden aura beau exprimer indignation et menaces de sanctions, la Chine se tiendra prête à intervenir en tant que tutrice de la Birmanie, et la junte n'a par conséquent aucune réelle crainte à avoir (bien que l'armée se soit méfiée de la Chine jusqu'à présent).

Les dirigeants de Thaïlande bénéficient eux aussi de l'influence chinoise, et le pays a plusieurs fois au cours de l'histoire dressé une grande puissance contre une autre. Quant à Hong Kong, qui fait officiellement partie de la Chine, rares sont les chances de voir quelque puissance extérieure protéger les libertés de la presqu'île, peu importe le nombre de drapeaux américains qui seront brandis dans ses rues.

En Europe et en Asie, cette dépendance vis-à-vis de l'Amérique, et le poids ainsi exercé par les Américains, ont été perpétués par la guerre froide. Aujourd'hui, une nouvelle guerre froide se dessine, cette fois contre la Chine. Or, la puissance américaine a considérablement diminué depuis son apogée au XXe siècle. La confiance dans la démocratie américaine a été érodée par l'élection d'un narcissique ignorant qui a malmené ses alliés traditionnels, et la Chine est aujourd'hui une puissance autrement plus impressionnante que l'URSS l'a jamais été. La Chine est également beaucoup plus riche.

Les pays d'Asie de l'Est du Sud-Est ont encore besoin de la garantie de sécurité américaine. Tant que le Japon sera dans l'incapacité de jouer un rôle militaire majeur, en raison d'un passé terni et d'une Constitution pacifiste, les États-Unis demeureront le principal contrepoids à une domination chinoise croissante. Mais comme le démontre l'habile équilibre des pouvoirs en Thaïlande, il est peu probable que les alliés de l'Amérique deviennent les États clients que certains étaient hier. Les Coréens du Sud eux-mêmes prennent soin de ne pas dégrader leurs relations avec la Chine. L'Amérique est un pays lointain, la Chine un pays tout proche.

C'est à cette tendance qu'il faut s'attendre. La domination américaine ne pourra durer éternellement, et les pays asiatiques, comme européens, auraient tout intérêt à se libérer de leur dépendance totale vis-à-vis d'une puissance pas toujours disposée à les protéger. Le statut d'État client peut également se révéler humiliant. Pour autant, viendra peut-être un jour où certains, quelque part, regretteront le temps de la Pax Americana, l'époque à laquelle les États-Unis étaient assez puissants pour repousser les indésirables.

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# Gov't to tighten security

Amidst reports of mysterious deaths in the city, the Government is set to rollout several measures that would see tighter security in place to bring suspects to book and enhance protection for citizens.

A source within the corridor of power said the insecurity in the city with the number of reported deaths many of whom suspects are at large have triggered the

recently days after eight persons were found dead in Paynesville, one involving victim Florence Massaquoi and the other, an unidentified man mobbed by a crowd in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

A huge crowd gathered in shock around the corpse of the late Florence in the S.K.D. Boulevard, 72nd Community of Paynesville on Monday morning, 1 March. The body of the lady could be seen on the sidewalk,

unconscious in the ... [S.K.D.] Boulevard, 77and Community. Specifically, this citizen was a resident of the Rock Hill, GSA Community," Mr. Carter says.

According to Carter, police investigators were alerted about the situation by community residents following which the police's forensic and homicide teams moved in.

"We managed to make contact with the family of the Liberian female; and agreement was made. Madam Massaquoi, peace be to her ashes, was pronounced dead by nurses at our police clinic at ... our Police Academy, in the same 772nd Community," he explains.

At the same briefing, the police announced the death of a man in the Zayzay Community of Paynesville by a mob.

"Our attention has been drawn to the death of another citizen who was allegedly beaten to death by [an] angry crowd within the Zazay Community, Paynesville, on February 27, 2021 at about 2300hrs. The victim is yet to be identified," he says.

According to Carter, police are working to ensure that those responsible are made to face the full weight of the law. Last week, a gathering of families, friends and well-wishers following their relative Nancy Miller's graduation on Wednesday, 24 February from the University of Liberia (UL), had a tragic end when the graduate and seven others were reportedly killed by suffocation resulting from carbon monoxide which is toxic to humans. The eight victims were discovered Thursday morning, 25 February.



move.

It is not clear when the new security measures will be rollout but the source said President George Weah is concern and insists that a tough security measure is in place as soon as possible.

The fear of insecurity has come amidst increasing armed robberies and the discoveries of lifeless bodies on the streets with yet no trace to the perpetrators.

Two deaths were reported

covered under a banana leaf.

Later on Monday afternoon, the Spokesman of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Moses Carter told journalists that the unconscious body of a 46 year - old woman identified as Florence Massaquoi was found in the S. K. D. Boulevard Community, 772nd, in Paynesville.

"This morning, we were alerted of a sad, or you may say, a tragic incident where one of our citizens was found lying

# GTMS restores Liberia's

Cont'd from page 5

after visiting ports in the Republic of Liberia," The U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Advisory (2-20) stated.

In 2018, the Government of Liberia selected GTMS Holdings to become the Exclusive General Managing Agent with the License to implement the Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) system in the country's Maritime/Ports system and ensure full compliance in this regard. The CTN is a system that requires Advanced Data Declaration and the full integrity of the data from Shippers (imports & Exports)/Freight Forwarders before Cargo arrives in a country.

This system does not only pre-inform ports of expected cargo and all other security measures but helps them better prepare to scrutinize cargo entering the nation's ports as required by the ISPS Code Part B of the SOLAS Convention.

GTMS Holdings, a UK based company which was first established in 2014 and has created an effective and efficient cargo tracking system virtually interlinking all major ports to a central global database system using a SAAS and physical architecture employing the latest technology, infrastructure and human capacity.

This company was also responsible for the successful introduction and implementation of the CTN System in neighbouring Sierra Leone as the Exclusive General Managing Agent from 2014 to 2019.

The CEO of GTMS Holdings, Mr. Sahr William Ngegba, says

"This is great news for not only Liberia but for West Africa as a whole."

Mr. Ngegba, a dynamic entrepreneur of African-British descent with vast experience in the Global Shipping and Logistics industry, says "The potential and future of shipping and maritime industry in Africa is unimaginable."

"Thanks to the quantum leap in Industrial digitalisation. We have never been so busy as a company even in the advent of such global pandemic. At the moment, we now have six offices in all the continents and within the next 12 months we will be opening ... further 8 offices in Africa alone and investing tens of millions of dollars, creating thousands of direct employment in Africa, UK and China."

Meanwhile, this decision has saved vessels arriving from Liberia the embarrassment of special security measures upon arrival in the US.

In an interview with local media, Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe emphasized the commitment of the Liberian government to remain compliant with stipulated U.S. counter-terrorism measures and other international protocols governing maritime security.

For his part, US Ambassador Michael McCarthy thanked the Liberian government for helping fight terrorism and sanctions violation.

The US diplomat then urged the authorities to continue to take positive steps that would ensure they are compliant with local and international sanctions.--*Press release*

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economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this commitment, President Joe Biden announced \$4 billion in funding to support the international vaccine initiative COVAX, which facilitates procurement and equitable global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, including to 92 low- and middle-income economies supported through the COVAX Advanced Markets Commitment.

This contribution makes the United States the single largest contributor to the international response to COVID-19 and builds on decades of U.S. investments in global health, health security, and global health organizations, as well as demonstrating the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to build back better by strengthening

## U.S. Amb. McCarthy

multilateral cooperation on the response and advancing global health.

"We encourage other countries to make and fulfill concrete commitments to COVAX and to support expanding vaccine manufacturing and distribution to help end this pandemic and ensure future preparedness."

The U.S. Government provided an initial tranche of \$2 billion to COVAX and will provide the additional funding through 2022 and has promised to also work with other donors to make further pledges and commitments to meet the initiative's critical needs, saying. "We are committed to working with partners and governments to support global COVID-19 vaccination efforts, with a focus on vaccinating vulnerable populations."

The U.S. Embassy says for the last 60 years the U.S.

Government has been working with Liberia's health sector partners to strengthen services and build capacity. The U.S. Government provided \$2.3 million to Liberia's COVID-19 response. USAID supported risk communications, county-level coordination and response, cash transfers, hospitals and treatment facilities, and overall safety nets for the most vulnerable. In addition, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to provide critical technical assistance to strengthen contract tracing, surveillance, and laboratory activities. Finally, the U.S. Department of Defense coordinated the transfer of personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and medical equipment. - *Press Release*

## Samukai's certification

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before the MPC petitioned the court for a prohibition against the certification.

The Justice Ministry wants to deny Samukai of being certificated to sit in the Senate on the basis of his conviction in a criminal case in which he and his two deputies were found guilty of spending soldiers' personal pension savings without their consent. After being elected as Senator in Lofa, the Supreme Court later upheld a lower court's decision convicting Samukai and the two other former officials.

But the court gave the convicts a suspended sentence, with the options to make restitution within a year, or face jail term for two years each if they failed. The time for restitution has not elapsed.

Regarding a complaint filed by Ahmed and James, and

Kesselly and Peter, claiming elections irregularities in Lofa County which originally delayed Samukai's certification, the Supreme Court ruled that the complainants had no standings to challenge the results as they were not political parties and candidates.

Based on the Supreme Court's decision in the election irregularities case, the NEC's Board of Commissioners last week ordered its Certification Committee to officially arrange and workout all modalities to certificate Samukai, as well as James Binney of Maryland County.

Ahead of the planned certification of Samukai, the MPC suddenly filed a petition before the Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition which resulted to the Chambers Justice citing the parties to conference this Tuesday.

# Lawmakers bag US\$1.4 Million

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Despite huge challenges facing the public sector, coupled with serious financial constraint confronting the Weah administration, members of the 54th Liberian Legislature, including both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate have allotted unto themselves US\$1.4 million in the recently passed Supplemental Budget.

The amount is the highest budget line in the recast budget placed under the disguise of operations and services. The supplemental budget is expected to run from this March to June 30th.

domestic travels US\$400,000; vehicle repairs and maintenance US\$300,000; and constituency travels US\$900,000, which are public projects, the legislature managed to allot US\$1.4 million to itself, taking the giant share of the supplemental budget.

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 Missions

During debate for the passage of the Supplemental Budget, lawmakers argued that the budget should be in program form, meaning if money is allotted for arm chairs, the executive and the budget committee shall detail how many schools will benefit and how many chairs will be given to each school and it shall be spelt out in the budget.

But the US\$1.4 million allotted by lawmakers is not detailed, instead; it only carries 'operations and services.

Controversial Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darios Dillon, who refers to himself as "The Light" and Grand Bassa County Senator who refers to herself as 'integrity team' were both part of the budget deliberations and passage but said nothing about the huge allotment to themselves.

Every budget year, huge allotment is made for the management of the Capitol Building and its premises, but the Capitol still suffers poor sanitary conditions. All except for the office of the vice president, speaker, president pro-tempore and deputy speaker's, all bathrooms remain closed to employees and visitors on grounds that there is no water. Employees and visitors are constrained to go at the Capitol Building behind a container to urinate.

The William Richard Tolbert Joint Chambers, a place where joint sessions are held especially, deliberation of the President's Annual Message, leaks profusely during the rainy season, while elevators in the building had been grounded for decades. Yet, legislators every year made huge allocation for operations and services.

All buses for employees both in the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate are currently grounded due to poor maintenance and lack support from the leadership headed by the Speaker and the Senate President Pro-tempore. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



According to normal practice and acceptable norms, the legislature makes appropriations for every agency of government, including itself and the Office of the President.

While the executive branch through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning with approval from the legislature allotted to 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;

Operations US\$370,305 and subsidy compensation related, US\$600,000.

The supplementary budget was earlier submitted at US\$10.5 million but later the amount swelled to US\$24.3 million following an addition of US\$13 million intended for the clearance of Liberia Bank for Development and Investment's 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; that the total revenue envelop of US\$9 million was identified from revenue generating entities as "domestic revenue."

# Peace Island gets

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President Weah opined as he emphasized the importance of light.

He admonished the residents of Peace Island against power theft, urging them to protect light poles and other installations in their communities.

"To whom much is given, much is expected. To my people of Peace Island, please pay your bills and avoid power theft," Weah noted.

President Weah further instructed the ministers of Public Works and Finance and Development Planning to immediately begin paving the road leading to the Peace Island Community.

Also speaking, the Head of EU Delegation Ambassador Delahousse, expressing his delight of being part of the ceremony said the benefits of electricity are reaching a new part of society, together with the economic growth that power brings.

He also emphasized its positive consequences for the promotion of social and human development for women and children.

Amb. Delahousse disclosed that the European Union is spending 63 million US Dollars on the Monrovia Consolidation of Electricity, as part of its support to the Liberian Government in its effort to provide electricity to all citizens.

"We understand the urgency and need for all Liberians to be connected to the grid as soon as possible. These kinds of works are very complex and they take time. I

want to commend the speed at which this project was achieved, a mere 5 months after breaking ground in October last year". Said Delahousse.

The EU Ambassador also warned of against illegal connection to the electrical grid saying, they are unjustifiable... "Stealing electricity is not only an offence punishable by law, it also puts in danger the lives of many, with the risk of explosions and fires caused by the illegal overloading of the grid. And when electricity comes, it will have to be paid for, so that LEC can bring electricity to more people."

"We have heard your call that all projects from development partners should emphasize training and technical education. This project has already funded a traineeship and more than 40 young engineers, all Liberian girls and boys, have been trained by the contractor for 6 months during the execution of this project. Some of them have already secured stable employment.

Another significant aspect of this project resides in street lighting. I want to commend your Administration, Your Excellency, for bringing light to the streets of Monrovia. This is essential for security of women at night, for the security of families when they cross busy roads, for the security of traffic and that of businesses and that of communities. Power brings light that brings security." He added.

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# Speaker turns on

protect the facilities ast their own, saying, "As you can see how brighter they are, it is only left with you and myself to always see it as our own properties that have been given to us by President Weah."

Moreover, citizens of the district have commended President Weah for not forgotten about Pleebo Sodoken District in his street lights distribution exercise.

"We are happy to see such

a great development in our district, although we have current in the County but the street lights have added additional beauty to the City", they disclosed.

Prior to the arrival of the street lights, citizens of the district, including local authorities held a day-long meeting with high-powered delegation from Monrovia headed by Deputy Minister for Mines and Energy, the Project Engineer from the Liberia

Electricity Cooperation (LEC) and a representative from the Ministry of Finance and development Planning to turn over a electricity contract to an Indian firm, AFATND.

AFA TND has been contracted by the Liberian government in collaboration with African Development Bank to electrify the entire Pleebo Sodoken District and Fishtown, River County, respectively. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# CENTAL calls for

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lately, especially claims and counter claims about the citizenship and credibility of the immediate past chairperson and allegations of corruption involving its vice chairperson.

He said in the spirit of collaboration and partnership, as provided for in section 6.2 of the LACC Act, President George Manneh Weah should widely consult with critical

stakeholders (civil society and development partners) in making new nominations at the LACC. And that qualified females should be strongly considered in such appointments to avoid an all-male and gender-biased Board of Commissioners, in violation of section 6.3 of the 2008 LACC Act. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Samukai's certification halted again



By Winston W. Parley

Justice in chambers Joseph Nagbe, through the Clerk of the Supreme Court, has written National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Brown - Lansanah,

to stay all further actions in relation to the election matters concerning Lofa County Senator - elect Brownie Samukai.

"Meanwhile, you are hereby ordered to stay all further proceedings and / or actions in the matter, pending the outcome of the conference,"

the communication dated 5 March reads.

It follows a petition for a writ of prohibition filed against the NEC's planned certification of Mr. Samukaiby businessman - turned politician, Simeon Freeman's political party, the Movement for progressive Change (MPC).

The Chambers Justice cites the NEC, Samukai and the MPC to a conference due Tuesday afternoon, 9 March.

"By directive of His Honor Joseph N. Nagbe, Associate Justice presiding in Chambers, you are hereby cited to a conference with His Honor on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in connection with the above case."

Despite pressure mounted by the Ministry of Justice to thwart Samukai's certification, the National Elections Commissions had, in honor of the Supreme Court's mandate, scheduled to certificate the former Defense Minister early March

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# Man Utd secure derby win to end Man City's winning run

Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says Manchester United are not thinking about chasing down Manchester City despite bringing the Premier League leaders' sequence of 21 successive victories to a crashing halt with an impressive derby victory at Etihad Stadium.

Pep Guardiola's side still have what looks to be an unassailable 11-point lead at the top of the table, but the manner in which United subdued a previously

unstoppable City and enhanced their own top-four chances will be a huge confidence boost to Solskjaer and his players.

United, who have now gone 22 league away games unbeaten - including 14 wins - stunned City with a fast start and were ahead after a penalty was awarded inside the first 30 seconds when Gabriel Jesus fouled the impressive Antony Martial.

Bruno Fernandes scored from the spot despite City keeper Ederson getting a strong hand on the ball, then United fashioned



the win with a mixture of solid defence and constant menace on the break. Rodri almost equalised just after the break when his shot glanced off the angle of post and bar, but United effectively sealed the win - condemning City to their first loss since a 2-0 defeat at Tottenham on 21 November - when the outstanding Shaw, who had earlier missed a chance to double United's lead, led a counter-attack, exchanging passes with Marcus Rashford before beating Ederson with a low shot.

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