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2023 will be a disaster, if...

--Sen. Snowe warns



Rep. Jeremiah Koon

Mr. Wellington Geevon Smith

Madam Botoe Kanneh

Mr. Brownie Samukai

Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe

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Continental News

Tanzania's president dies after Covid rumours

Tanzania's President John Magufuli has died aged 61, the country's vice-president has announced.

He died on Wednesday from heart complications at a hospital in Dar es Salaam, Samia Suluhu Hassan said in an address on state television. Mr Magufuli had not been seen in public for more than two weeks, and rumours had been circulating about his health. Opposition politicians said last week that he had contracted Covid-19, but this has not been confirmed.

Mr Magufuli was one of Africa's most prominent coronavirus sceptics, and called for prayers and herbal-infused steam therapy to counter the virus.

"It is with deep regret that I inform you that today... we lost our brave leader, the president of the Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli," Vice-President Hassan said in the announcement.

She said there would be 14 days of national mourning and flags would fly at half

mast. According to Tanzania's constitution, Ms Hassan will be sworn in as the new president within 24 hours and should serve the remainder of Mr Magufuli's five-year term which he began last year.

Mr Magufuli was last seen in public on 27 February, but Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa insisted last week that the president was "healthy and working hard".

He blamed the rumours of the

president's ill-health on "hateful" Tanzanians living abroad.

But opposition leader Tundu Lissu told the BBC that his sources had told him Mr Magufuli was being treated in hospital for coronavirus in Kenya.

When Covid-19 arrived in Tanzania, Mr Magufuli called on people to go to churches and mosques to pray. "Coronavirus, which is a devil,

cannot survive in the body of Christ... It will burn instantly," he said.

He declared Tanzania "Covid-19 free" last June, saying the virus had been eradicated by three days of national prayer.

He also mocked the efficacy of masks, expressed doubts about testing, and teased neighbouring countries which imposed health measures to curb the virus.

"Countries in Africa will be coming here to buy food in the years to come... they will be suffering because of shutting down their economy," he said, according to the Associated Press.

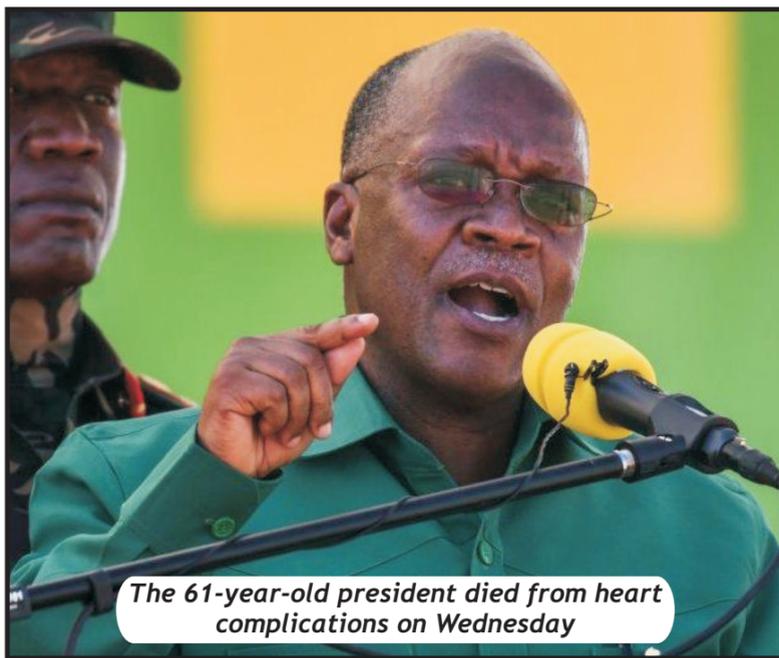
Tanzania has not published details of its coronavirus cases since May, and the government has refused to purchase vaccines. On Monday, police said they had arrested four people on suspicion of spreading rumours on social

media that the president was ill. "To spread rumours that he's sick smacks of hate," Mr Majaliwa said at the time. John Magufuli cultivated an image of a rambunctious action man, a departure from his predecessors' demure and stately styles.

His interventionist leadership won him fans beyond Tanzania, especially in the East African region where he once inspired the #WhatWouldMagufuliDo Twitter hashtag that was shared by supporters of his no-nonsense approach to fighting corruption.

There will be vigorous debate about his legacy and whether his successor should stay the course or change direction.

But this discussion cannot be divorced from the current trend on the continent, where support for democracy remains strong but most people are increasingly disillusioned by the failure to deliver the promised dividends. BBC



The woman set to become Tanzania's next president

On Wednesday evening she had the task of announcing to Tanzanians that President John Magufuli had died and on Thursday Vice-President Samia Suluhu Hassan is due to take his place as the country's head of state.

First elected as Magufuli's running mate in 2015, she was re-elected last year and will

serve out the rest of the five-year term in the top job.

She will become Africa's only current female political head of state - the Ethiopian presidency is a largely ceremonial role - and join a short list of women on the continent who have made it to the top.

The 61-year-old is affectionately known as Mama Samia - in Tanzanian culture

that reflects the respect she is held in, rather than reducing her to a gendered role.

But she was a surprise choice for a running mate in 2015, leaping over several other more prominent politicians in the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party, which has been in power in one form or another since independence in 1961.

First elected to a public office in 2000, she came to national prominence in 2014 as the vice-chairperson of the Constituent Assembly, created to draft a new constitution. There her calm demeanour in managing occasional outbreaks of pandemonium and the way in which she dealt with some of the more outspoken members earned her plaudits. In terms of personality she strikes a contrast with Magufuli.

Where he appeared impulsive, not afraid to speak off the cuff and let his feelings be known, she is more thoughtful and considered. She is also said to be a good listener who believes in

Italian court clears oil giants of corruption

An Italian court has cleared two global oil giants, Eni and Shell, over allegations of corruption in Nigeria.

The long-running case centred around the \$1.3bn (£936m) purchase of an offshore oil block in 2011.

Prosecutors had alleged that the majority of the money was used to bribe Nigerian politicians and officials.

But the court in Milan said the two firms, and 13 defendants including past and current executives, had no case to answer. Both companies and the accused managers, including Eni boss Claudio Descalzi, have repeatedly denied wrongdoing. Their acquittal on Wednesday came more than three years after the trial began, and there have been dozens of hearings in the time since.

However, the ruling can be appealed against. The verdict



"finally restores [Mr] Descalzi's professional reputation and Eni's standing as a large company", the manager's lawyer told Ansa news agency.

Shell also welcomed the ruling, adding the trial had been a "difficult learning experience".

"We have always maintained that the 2011 settlement was legal [and] designed to resolve a decade-long legal dispute," the company said in a statement.

Prosecutors had argued that both energy companies knew that most of the money would have been used as bribes - something they strongly denied. BBC

following the correct procedures. One MP, January Makamba, who worked with her in the vice-president's office, has called her "the most underrated politician in Tanzania". "I have observed at close quarters her work ethic, decision-making and

temperament. She is a very capable leader," he said.

But where this places her in terms of policy is not yet clear. Most significantly she has to decide whether to continue her predecessor's sceptical approach to dealing with coronavirus. BBC



EDITORIAL

Attack on NEC is an attack on democracy

MONDAY'S (MARCH 15) PETROL bomb attacks on the headquarters of the National Elections in Monrovia is a clear declaration of war on democracy in Liberia, and should be condemned by all who subscribe to rule of law and pluralistic democratic practices. They happened at a time when the nation just came from midterm senatorial election held in December 2020.

POLICE ARE CARRYING on investigation but we believe strongly that these attacks were carried out with motives. Whatever those motives are, they do not serve the common good of the country. Liberians should not forget that political violence in any form such as the one against the National Elections Commission sends out wrong messages with far-reaching consequences. It must be condemned by all peace-loving Liberians irrespective of sides.

WHAT WOULD LEAD a group or individuals to launch petrol bombs against the electoral house without any reason? Let those actors be told in no uncertain terms that violence would not give them what they did not get or cannot get at the ballot box.

POLITICIANS AND THEIR supporters should learn from the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine that the way to get doubts on electoral matters cleared is by challenging the process in court, rather than resorting to hooliganism. The late founder of the opposition Liberty Party took his concerns before the law after the first round of the 2017 presidential election and got redress from the highest court of the land.

SADLY, SOME UNSCRUPULOUS buffoons believe they can take the law into their own hands to satisfy their selfish desires at the detriment of the entire population. This is unacceptable!

THEY WANT TO take Liberia back to the dark days, which it has not fully recovered from. The economy is in shambles with scarcity of cash exacerbated by serious insecurity. In such an environment, people are throwing petrol bombs at a key public institution. What do they hope to achieve?

THOSE BEHIND MONDAY'S attacks should rethink if this is the way they want us to proceed as a people. No one Liberian's desire should take paramount over the whole nation. The action can be equated to nothing else but terrorism! It is too unfortunate.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS to put its feet down firmly. Lawlessness and insecurity is gradually taking over our society. It must be nipped in the bulb immediately before it becomes too late.

THE MINISTRY OF Justice along with the Joint Security should leave no stone unturned in expeditiously bringing perpetrators to book to avoid a recurrence of the action that poses serious threat to national security and the already tumbling economy.

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

COMMENTARY

By Laura Tyson, Susan Lund

The Post-Pandemic Labor Market's Long-Term Scars

BERKELEY - Thanks to the rapid deployment of vaccines, COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths in the United States are declining, and pandemic restrictions on economic activity are being eased. But even with labor markets gradually improving, the economic recovery has been slow and uneven, and there is a long way to go.

According to the latest official figures, overall US employment is still down by about 9.5 million jobs from when the recession hit, and by nearly 12 million from its pre-pandemic trend. Unemployment, adjusted for the sharp drop in labor-force participation, is around 10%, and the rate is even higher for African-Americans, Hispanics, women, and the less educated, reflecting both the dual nature of the pandemic and longer-running labor-market disparities.

Another trend that predates COVID-19 is the transformation of work through automation and digitalization - processes accelerated by how businesses and consumers have responded to the pandemic. This trend, too, threatens to deepen pre-existing inequalities, because black and Hispanic workers are overrepresented in the jobs that are at the greatest risk from automation.

A sustained recovery to an economy with full employment and ample "good jobs" will require a significant reallocation of workers from the low-wage, low-skill positions that have disappeared as a result of the pandemic to new ones requiring higher skills and more training. A recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) finds that up to 25% "more workers than previously estimated" may need "to switch occupations."

The pandemic has had a particularly severe impact on jobs requiring high levels of physical proximity and face-to-face contact, including waiters, shop clerks, hotel receptionists, stadium workers, stylists, and other low-wage positions. Again, women, minorities, and the less educated are overrepresented among these frontline workers.

Many of the physical-distancing practices adopted by consumers and businesses during the pandemic will likely persist. In 2020, e-commerce sales increased more than 32%, growing 2-5 times faster than their average rate over the previous five years. And now, many consumers say they will continue to shop online even after the pandemic is over.

Likewise, many companies' survival now depends on their ability to shift to remote work, a practice they had long resisted. With emerging evidence indicating that remote-working employees are sometimes working longer hours and are more productive, many businesses are planning to allow for various types of hybrid arrangements after the pandemic.

According to MGI's analysis of more than 2,000 activities across some 800 occupations, as many as one-quarter of workers in advanced economies could perform their jobs remotely 3-5 days per week without losing effectiveness. That would translate into 4-5 times more people regularly working from home.

Remote work, however, is concentrated in higher-wage jobs. According to a survey conducted in the US last April, approximately 60% of high-earning workers could do their jobs effectively from home, compared to 34% of low-earning workers. Not surprisingly, high-wage occupations in the US have suffered much smaller declines in

employment than low-wage categories.

A large permanent shift to remote work would have far-reaching implications for urban centers and the workers who provide services in office buildings, restaurants, hotels, and shops. Before the pandemic, such services accounted for an estimated one in four US jobs, as well as a large and rising share of employment among workers without a post-secondary education. Now, recent research confirms that as pandemic-related remote work has increased, the demand for local services in cities has begun to fall.

More telecommuting and remote work could permanently change the geography of work, spurring a longer-term migration of talent from large, high-cost cities that had been the engines of job creation. There is already evidence from residential rents and office vacancy rates in both the US and Europe that some workers and companies are moving from the highest-cost areas to smaller cities. Moreover, entire countries are now competing to attract footloose remote workers. For example, Estonia and Georgia have relaxed their requirements for short-term visas, and Greece is offering special tax incentives.

Businesses are also investing in digital technologies and automation to enable more physical distance between their employees, and to create flexibility to cope with changes in demand. Robots and artificial-intelligence applications have helped workers on assembly lines maintain safe social distancing; expedited e-commerce warehouse operations; allowed for more self-checkout in stores; helped banks process the surge in stimulus loans; and even filled in as cooks, flipping burgers and preparing French fries.

These forms of pandemic-driven automation are likely to displace workers on a larger scale than economists had previously expected. The largest impact will be in food services, retail, hospitality, customer service, and office support, which accounted for a significant share of pre-pandemic employment and comprise mainly low-wage jobs.

In the US, there could be 4.3 million fewer food- and customer-service jobs, and nearly one million fewer office support jobs in 2030 than would have been the case without the pandemic. All eight countries studied - China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the US - exhibit the same pattern of reduced demand for low-wage occupations and jobs. In these countries, an estimated 12% more workers will need to change occupations than we predicted before the pandemic.

Finally, jobs paying in the top 30% of wages - such as those in health care and the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) professions - are set to grow. But these require a very different mix of skills and credentials than the low-wage jobs that are disappearing. Training displaced workers thus will become a major priority.¹

The potential mismatch between future skill requirements and available jobs presents an opportunity to reimagine work, the workforce, and the workplace for employers of all sizes. But it also increases the urgency of funding and implementing effective training and income-support programs for workers who are forced to move to other occupations, industries, and locations.

Building a "good jobs" future is possible. But, as the California Future of Work Commission points out in a new report, getting there will require both public and private investment in workers' skills.

Open Letter to Tyneceploh Education Foundation

The Principal/Headteacher
Tyneceploh Education Foundation
Roberts International Highway, Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,
Expulsion of Catherine Karma for 'Witchcraft'

The Advocacy for Alleged Witches (AfAW) is shocked by the news of the expulsion of a 6-year-old pupil, Catherine Karma, from your school. According to the report, your school expelled Ms. Karma in connection with some suspicions of 'witchcraft'. Your management concluded that she was a 'witch' and was involved in 'witchcraft activities'. You claimed that her presence would endanger the lives of other pupils and staff.

The decision to expel Ms. Karma is shameful, outrageous, and difficult to comprehend. First of all, how did your school confirm that Ms. Karma was a witch? How were you able to ascertain that she indulged in witchcraft activities (whatever that means)? In fact, what does your school understand by witchcraft?

From the report, your school expelled Ms. Karma based on the notion that she had magical powers and could kill or harm other pupils and staff through occult means.

How could you believe this nonsense? How could you accept that this six-



year-old girl had such powers? Now think about this, if Ms. Karma had the supposed magical powers, don't you think that she would have used them to resist her expulsion from the school? Your school did not stop at merely entertaining this mistaken notion, the management went further to punish her and now truncate her education and training based on misplaced fears and anxieties.

Look, even if some students entertained such misconceptions, what should be your duty as a school? Your role is to educate and enlighten pupils and lead students out of ignorance and superstitions. Your role is to dispel irrational fears and anxieties, not reinforce these misconceptions. By expelling Ms. Karma, your school has failed in its role as an educational center. Your school has betrayed the academic and enlightenment trust that the parents and the society repose in it.

AfAW urges you to take all the necessary measures and ensure that Ms. Catherine Karma continues her education without any further disruption. Your management should ensure that this educational failure does not repeat itself in your school again.

Thanks in anticipation of thoughtful consideration of this letter
Sincerely,
Leo Igwe

OPINION

By Abdoulaye Ndiaye

Fear and Loathing in Senegal

NEW YORK - Large-scale protests have swept Senegal since the beginning of March, reflecting widespread anger at corruption, high unemployment, and what many regard as a politically motivated rape charge against opposition leader Ousmane Sonko (he denies the accusation). President Macky Sall's government has cracked down violently on the demonstrations - the West African country's largest in a decade. At least eight people have died, and restrictions on freedom of speech have been imposed.

Sall's government should step back and reconsider its approach. Rather than threatening the country's hard-won democratic gains, it should de-escalate tensions and promote economic recovery.

Senegal's long march toward democracy began seven decades ago, with demands for independence from French colonial rule. The country achieved that goal following a 1960 power-transfer agreement with France, and the poet Léopold Sédar Senghor became its first president.

The fight for democracy began anew in 1988, when opposition parties alleged fraud in the presidential election won by the incumbent, Abdou Diouf. In response, Diouf's government imposed a long-lasting state of emergency, including a cumbersome curfew. But when Diouf lost the 2000 presidential election, he handed over power peacefully to his opponent, Abdoulaye Wade, in a move that solidified Senegal's reputation as a regional bastion of political stability.

In 2012, the "June 23 Movement," a civil-society grouping led by young people and artists, fought to preserve Senegal's constitution and prevent Wade from winning what would have been a highly controversial third term as president. (A constitutional provision limiting presidents to two consecutive terms in office took effect in 2001, a year after Wade became president.) In the event, Wade lost a second-round runoff to Sall, who was re-elected in 2019.

But although Senegal now maintains the formal features of democracy, the country needs more than an institutional façade. In fact, Senegal has fallen short of being a true democracy in several worrying respects in recent years.

For starters, Sall's administration has been accused of embezzlement and corruption in the gas and natural resources sector. The government has also sought to sideline several political opponents through selective accusations of corruption and sexual harassment - including the rape allegation against Sonko that helped to trigger the recent countrywide protests. And the authorities' heavy-handed efforts to quash these demonstrations - with credible sources reporting that a 17-year-old boy was killed by gunfire in the protests - have further undermined its democratic credentials.

To prevent Senegalese democracy from being further imperiled, the government must defuse a volatile situation. If the government is to restore its reputation, it must give victims and their families justice, and assure the public that the security forces will not use such violence against peaceful protesters again. There also needs to be an investigation into the independently reported shutdowns of the internet, some media outlets, and messaging apps during the protests on March 4. In Senegal, legal matters must never be settled with force and violence, and political disagreements must never be managed by silencing opponents and curtailing freedom of speech.

As in 2012, Senegalese youth are prepared to protest peacefully in order to protect the country's constitution and the legitimacy of the next presidential election, which is scheduled to take place in 2024. Time and again, Senegalese governments have tried to twist the constitution for political gain, transforming the state into what Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson call a "Paper Leviathan" that manages to be both oppressive and ineffective. Unless Sall's government changes its ways, we may well see a replay of the protests that roiled the country a decade ago.

In any case, the current administration has too much to do to be focusing on the 2024 election already. In particular, it should continue to implement its Priority Action Plan, a series of bold reforms - including an industrial policy, special economic zones, industrial parks, and regional mining facilities - that could make Senegal a model for industrialization in Africa. The government should also be striving to deliver relief from COVID-19 by using its modest financial resources to secure vaccines.

Policymakers can promote a strong post-pandemic recovery through structural changes aimed at ensuring a more dynamic, inclusive economy. But this will happen only if they make industrialization a priority again and invest in Senegal's human capital.

International institutions strongly support the government's development plans. Their successful implementation would most likely ensure another peaceful transfer of power in 2024 to a new, legitimately elected president. Such an outcome would bolster Senegal's political stability - and thus its economic prospects - considerably.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The Judiciary...

By Hun-Bu Tulay

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The Judiciary is a system of courts that administers justice in the name of sovereign states. It hears cases and interprets, enforces and nullifies laws and status to reach verdicts.

It is the constitutional hope that the citizens of any country can look for help when their rights are jeopardized. For the realization of human rights, vibrant democratic machinery with the rule of law the judiciary is essential. This is only possible when the judiciary and the legal profession are independent and immune from political and ordinary influences such as inducement and bribery. Under such conditions, the judiciary and the legal profession shine with integrity and gain the respect of the citizens as well as encourage foreign investors

Our judiciary today is challenged because the Chief Justice has submitted the names of twelve (12) lawyers and judges and they are currently under investigation for unethical conduct. The United States Treasury Department's sanction of one of the nation's distinguished lawyers for allegedly bribing judges creates a dark cloud over the integrity of our judiciary. Our lawyers and the highest court have not seriously engaged the United States Treasury Department to provide evidence on such a serious allegation that has the potential to put the people against the judiciary.

Since the Supreme Court's Ruling in the J. Brownie Samukai and others v R. L., many citizens have commented negatively against the courts (lower and the high). These citizens have the feeling that the judiciary is corrupt because the United States Treasury Department said judges have been

It states, "The Minister of Justice shall send to the Commission annually in the month of December a list containing the names and addresses of all persons judicially convicted and sentenced for disenfranchise-able offense and disenfranchisement continues. He shall also furnish along with the list, the registration cards of all persons." Here, there are three questions that come to mind.

The first is, were J. Brownie Samukai Jr. and co-defendants convicted under our laws and status? The second question is, Are Samukai and co-defendants disenfranchised persons and third why did the Minister of Justice communicate with the National Election Commission in March 2021 instead of December each annually as prescribed by the New Election Law?

To answer the first question, we must first find the legal definition convict. A convict is a person who has been found guilty (convicted) of a crime and is serving a sentence in prison. J. Brownie Samukai Jr. and co-defendants are not serving prison sentences;



to invest, hence the country develops.

From the citizens' point of view, the judiciary is the most important organ of the government because it acts as their protector against the possible excesses of the Legislature and Executive. It plays the role of guardian/protector of the constitution and the fundamental rights of the people, and this makes it more respectable than the other two organs of a democratic government.

If the people have faith in the judiciary of their government, they will have faith in the quality, integrity and efficiency of their government.

The judiciary comprises judges and lawyers. If one lawyer or judge is corrupt, the people lose faith in the judiciary as well as the government. And in such a country, if not corrected immediately, the government eventually falls.

bribed and because of this, they are losing faith in the judiciary. This is dangerous for our country. Maybe the people are right, and this can be seen clearly in the opinion handed down by the court and the communication from the Ministry of Justice.

Ministry of Justice: The Solicitor General letter to the National Elections Commission (NEC), instructing the electoral body not to certificate Samukai because he (Samukai) was a convict; this action was unprofessional and illegal. The Solicitor General did not cite a law that served as the basis for his instruction. Because his letter was instructing the NEC, an independent body, it was withdrawn by the Attorney General (AG) but then the AG wrote the NEC informing it that Samukai was a convict, citing as his reliance Article 3.23 of the New Election Law; that section of the law is titled: Names of disenfranchised to be furnished by the Minister of Justice.

hence, they are not convicts. They were given suspended sentences that is why they are not in prison. To answer the second question, we need to define the word disenfranchisement. "The word means an action of taking away a right to vote from a person or group of persons." Was the right to vote taken from the defendants? The answer is a Big NO.

The answer to the third question is that Article 3.23 states that the Minister shall submit the names of disenfranchised persons annually in the month of December. So, the letter from the Attorney General was a violation of Article 3.23 of the New Election Law.

What was the motive of the Minister of Justice? Was he under some obvious, but invisible political pressure to send that communication? Your answer is as good as mine.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LCC President condemns wave of violence

-Wants Speedy Investigation

Amid the increasing wave of violence across the country, the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) President Bishop Kortu Brown has called on authority to act with

Election Commission and home of Associate Justice Joseph Nagbe of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Both occurrences which according to reports were affected by unknown men,

The LCC President who is known for his vocal stands in preserving the peace and stability of the country, encouraged law enforcement agencies including the Ministry of Justice to expedite these incidences and bring the perpetrators to Justice, something according to him will serve as deterrence.

“LCC calls on the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice to expeditiously investigate these unfortunate incidences in order to bring the perpetrators to justice and also further deter such unwholesome actions that could brew insecurity in our country” he averred.

The Liberia Council of Churches President also highlighted that the increasing wave of violence will also project a negative image of the country if the government doesn't introduce measures that will curb such occurrences.

Bishop Brown who is also former President of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL) at the same time cautioned the government to address the nation on assurance of a peaceful environment conducive for normal life, business and investment.

“It is critical for the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Bishop Kortu Brown

urgency, while terming the act as unfortunate.

Speaking in Browerville City on Thursday, the LCC President reacted to the recent attacks on the headquarters of the National

using petrol bombs.

Bishop Brown also mentioned the exchange of gunfire between the Liberia National Police (LNP) and alleged armed robbers in the Bushrod Island Community.

Rep. Jones wants Executive explains pension status

By Bridgett Milton

Margibi County Electoral District #2 Representative Ivar K. Jones has written the full plenary of the House of Representatives craving its indulgence to invite three agencies of the Executive Branch to furnish the House with information regarding the status of civil servants and other public workers' pension.

He is requesting the appearance of the Director General of the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), the Director General of the Civil Service Agency (CSA) and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning to provide the information.

The Margibi lawmaker informs the House that there is a case in which the Liberia Aviation Authority (LAA) at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) about twenty six employees who were served

retirement letters dated September 17, 2019.

According to him, the retirement of those employees took effect on December 31, 2019, lamenting that as it stands, those retirees like others, are yet to be processed

by the entity and NASSCORP because deductions made from their salaries and the employer's contribution are allegedly yet to be settled.

Jones explains that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Representative Ivar K. Jones

MICAT raises concern over Voice of Pleebo closure

The attention of the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism has been drawn to a news report stating that the Voice of Pleebo Community Radio Station in Pleebo, Maryland County, has been shut down by the Pleebo City Mayor, Wellington Kyne.

The Ministry has begun an investigation into the matter, working in consultation with the Press Union of Liberia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with a view of ascertaining what led to the abrupt closure of the station by the Mayor; but it wishes to emphasize that the Liberian Government has neither sanctioned nor endorsed the Voice of Pleebo's closure and has no part to play

in the entire saga.

MICAT advises the local authorities to restore the station's broadcast, pending an amicable resolution of issues that led to the closure.

The Ministry wants to reiterate that the Administration of President George M. Weah is committed to creating conditions necessary for a pluralistic media environment which is free of intimidation and muzzling regardless of dissenting views.

Meanwhile, the Government of Liberia emphasizes that MICAT remains the sole government agency clothed with the authority of regulating the media. It therefore urges everyone to ensure that its functions are not usurped.

Mysterious disappearance

Starts from back page

Police (LNP) authorities in Duazon, but the police have allegedly maintained they cannot go on the scene except the man was found.

A brother of Mr. Weah identified as Benson D. Hinneh, expresses shocks that his junior brother could face such fate. Alfred G. Weah hails from Maryland County, but settles in

called and informed him that his brother went missing on March 17.

This reporter, who visited the Duazon waterside, which serves as transit point for charcoal and planks offloading, observed that Mr. Weah's residence remained locked with some of his neighbors advising his family members not to break into the house.



The residence of the missing man

Duazon.

Benson explains that few days before the mysterious disappearance of his brother, he advised him to leave the charcoal production business because of his age and come live at his (Hinneh's) residence in Paynesville which he promised to do.

Mr. Hinneh says to his surprise, one of his nephews

When asked whether Weah and anyone in the town had any confusion or misunderstanding since he moved there, Town Chief Blain said no, adding that Mr. Weah had been a very friendly person loved by residents.

Meanwhile, police at the Duazon depot declined to comment on the matter, when contacted. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

12 months of COVID-19 reverse 12yrs of gains in the global fight against TB

The corona virus pandemic response is said to have pushed aside tuberculosis outreach and services resulting in 20% drop in diagnosis and treatment worldwide, a new study shows.

Experts say urgent recovery needed in the area to halt the drop in previous efforts made.

In Liberia data on TB was not readily available as one of the experts explained following a question from the New Dawn during the launch Thursday.

Thursday shared new data showing that nine of the countries with the most tuberculosis (TB) cases—representing 60% of the global TB burden—saw a drastic decline in diagnosis and treatment of TB infections in 2020, ranging from 16%-41% (with an average of 23%). The drop brought the overall number of people diagnosed and treated for TB in those countries to 2008 levels, a setback of 12 years.

“Twelve years of impressive gains in the fight against TB, including in reducing the number of people who were

higher mortality than people infected with TB alone. This makes contact tracing, case finding and bi-directional TB and COVID-19 testing essential.

“After less than a year, a vaccine was developed and is now being deployed to help contain, and hopefully end, the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Thokozile Phiri Nkhoma, Stop TB Partnership Board Member representing communities affected by TB. “But although TB has been around since the time of the pharaohs, the only approved vaccine is 100 years old and doesn’t fully work, especially in adults. First-line TB treatment for TB is several decades old, and drug resistance is on the rise, while the millions of people with TB who are not found and treated remain at risk of spreading the disease.”

In May 2020, a modelling study conducted by Stop TB Partnership in collaboration with Imperial College, Avenir Health, Johns Hopkins University and USAID predicted the impact of COVID-19-related measures on TB. In the study, the authors concluded that while stringent COVID-19 responses may only last months, they would have a lasting effect on TB in high-burden settings, seen mainly through how they limit outreach that focuses on TB diagnosis and treatment.

Projections showed that at the global level, a three-month lockdown followed by a protracted 10-month restoration could lead to an additional 6.3 million cases of TB between 2020 and 2025 and an additional 1.4 million TB deaths during this time. Global TB incidence and deaths in 2021 would increase to levels last seen in between 2013 and 2016, respectively - implying an estimated setback of at least 5 to 8 years in the fight against TB due to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Don't delay probe -G. Gedeh Bar urges LACC

The Grand Gedeh Bar Association (GGBA) reminds the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission (LACC) that delaying investigations into internal allegations of corruption against its Vice Chairperson, now acting Executive Chairperson, Cllr Kanio Bai Gbala, further bruised the anti-graft institution that has long struggled to win public confidence.

and related corruption without the commission dealing with its own internal allegations of corruption.

The Bar is concerned not only that the allegations made by LACC Executive Director, Mohammed E. Fahnbulleh further tainted the image of the LACC, and potentially undermined its standing to fight corruption, but the reputation of Cllr Gbala, who's also Vice



The Bar advises the commission to heed calls for a probe and make findings public as a clean start after the gloomy era of Cllr A. Ndubusi Nwabudike who resigned recently under public pressure.

The Commission could not rightly move forward pursuing wide ranging prosecutorial power to address public sector

President of the Grand Gedeh Bar.

The outcome of an impartial probe would serve a valuable purpose to establish whether Cllr Gbala was wanting or whether Atty. Fahnbulleh was engaged in a libelous campaign to undermine the prospect of Cllr Gbala taking over the LACC as Executive Chairperson proper.

COVID-19
Coronavirus Disease 2019

“We do not have data from Liberia on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on TB. Prior to Covid-19 pandemic, each year about 15,000 people developed TB in Liberia and 45% of them were not diagnosed and treated. Liberia had plans to reduce the people with TB missing from care. From what we have observed from other countries it is very likely that there were setbacks to the fight against TB in Liberia due to Covid-19 pandemic,” one of the TB Partner expert noted.

The Stop TB Partnership on

missing from TB care, have been tragically reversed by another virulent respiratory infection,” said Dr. Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership. “In the process, we put the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in jeopardy. I hope that in 2021 we buckle up and we smartly address, at the same time, TB and COVID-19 as two airborne diseases with similar symptoms.”

In addition to the worldwide drop in TB diagnosis and treatment, data emerging from India and South Africa shows that people coinfecting with TB and COVID-19 have three times

GOL to Resume Services for the issuance of Apostilles and Corporate Filing

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that it will resume the services for the issuance of Apostilles and Corporate filing of Article of Incorporation on Friday, March 26, 2021.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the

suspension of these services was to allow for a new regulation to approve fees for those services.

The release further stated that a joint Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and Ministry of Foreign Affairs' regulation No. 13.2102-1/MFDP/MOFA has prescribed the fees for the services, noting

that the details on the procedure and fees for the acquisition of the services will be announced to the public on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The Ministry expresses its deepest thanks and appreciation to the general public for the patience and understanding exhibited

while awaiting the resumption of the services.

Meanwhile, the release says persons needing these services should contact the

Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for further information on guidelines and procedures to obtain the services.

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Français

Burkina Faso : « Face à la menace terroriste, nous ne faisons que colmater les brèches »

Le président burkinabè Roch Marc Christian Kaboré pourra-t-il tenir ses engagements dans le domaine de la lutte contre le terrorisme ? L'analyse de Mahamadou Sawadogo, spécialiste des questions sécuritaires.

La crise sécuritaire a été l'un des enjeux majeurs des élections présidentielle et législatives de novembre 2020 au Burkina. D'abord localisées dans le Sahel, les attaques se sont multipliées depuis 2015 et concernent désormais la quasi-totalité du territoire. Plus d'un million de Burkinabè sont aujourd'hui des déplacés internes, selon le Haut-commissariat des Nations unies pour les réfugiés, et sur le terrain, malgré les opérations militaires, la situation semble se dégrader.

« Je tiens à rassurer sur le fait que je resterai attentif aux préoccupations de l'ensemble de mes compatriotes, surtout en ce qui concerne la réconciliation nationale, la paix et la sécurité, gages de toute action de développement », a

promis Roch Marc Christian Kaboré lors de son investiture, le 28 décembre. Pour répondre aux attentes de ses concitoyens, en reconduisant Chérif Sy au ministère de la Défense et Ossen Compaoré à la Sécurité, le président burkinabè a clairement fait le choix de la continuité dans la politique sécuritaire menée jusqu'ici.

Chercheur au laboratoire Carrefour d'études et de recherches-action pour la

démocratie et le développement (CERADD), Mahamadou Sawadogo, un ex-gendarme devenu spécialiste de l'extrémisme violent et des questions sécuritaires, livre son analyse du degré d'efficacité de la stratégie antiterroriste du Burkina. Il évoque également les risques de voir le phénomène s'étendre encore, notamment vers la Côte

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Côte d'Ivoire : Charles Blé Goudé prend ses distances avec l'opposition

Le parti de Charles Blé Goudé, ex-chef des Jeunes patriotes ivoiriens actuellement en liberté conditionnelle à La Haye, a annoncé lundi son retrait d'une coalition de l'opposition en dénonçant « des guerres de positionnement », sans préciser s'il participerait ou non aux législatives de mars.

Le Congrès panafricain

pour la justice et l'égalité des peuples (Cojep) « suspend sa participation aux activités liées aux élections législatives (...) avec les plateformes de l'opposition », a écrit le secrétaire général du Cojep, Patrice Saraka dans un communiqué.

Les deux principaux partis d'opposition, le Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) de l'ex-président Henri

Konan Bédié, et le Front populaire ivoirien (FPI) de l'ancien président Laurent Gbagbo, avaient annoncé début janvier avec leurs alliés leur participation au scrutin du 6 mars.

Le parti de l'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale Guillaume Soro, qui vit en exil, a en revanche annoncé mi-janvier qu'il n'y participerait pas.

Pour le Cojep, ces élections devaient être vues comme « une opportunité pour renforcer la cohésion et l'unité de l'opposition », mais ont « malheureusement mis au grand jour les appétits et autres guerres de positionnement entre des entités pourtant supposées être des partenaires ».

Ambitions présidentielles Charles Blé Goudé, surnommé le

« général de la rue » pour sa capacité à mobiliser ses partisans, avait fui la Côte d'Ivoire après la crise post-électorale de 2010-11. Il avait ensuite été arrêté en 2013 au Ghana, puis transféré à la CPI en 2014, pour être jugé aux côtés de Laurent Gbagbo.



Éditorial

Le bureau du président de la Chambre des Représentants a déçu

Le bureau du président de la Chambre des Représentants veut vaille que vaille défendre ce qui est manifestement indéfendable et accuser la police d'être responsable du récent accident de circulation qui s'est soldé par une fausse couche et des blessures graves. Cela est triste et décevant.

Pire, le Bureau du président Bhofal Chambers a fait valoir que jusqu'à présent, aucun décès n'a été enregistré contrairement aux dires de certains médias, et qu'aucun véhicule officiel de son convoi n'était impliqué dans l'accident.

A bon ? C'est maintenant que le bureau du chef du parlement fait une distinction entre le détachement de la police nationale du Libéria qui assure officiellement sa sécurité et les autres voitures de son convoi ? Ces autres véhicules dits officiels sont-ils sa propriété privée ?

Ce qui est plus dégoûtant, c'est le fait que M. Walkins nie qu'il y ait eu aucun mort à la suite de l'accident, même face à la confirmation des médecins de l'hôpital JFK selon lesquels la femme enceinte en question a fait une fausse couche, tandis que sa mère a eu les jambes cassées.

Dans un communiqué officiel publié le jeudi 11 mars, le bureau de presse de la Chambre, qualifiant l'accident de « malheureux », a indiqué que l'événement s'est produit vers 6 heures du matin alors que des éléments de la garde rapprochée du Président de la chambre basse du parlement libérien se rendait au travail.

« Les victimes de l'incident sont hospitalisées à l'hôpital John F. Kennedy aux frais du président de la Chambre des représentants, le Dr Bhofal Chambers, qui s'est rendu à l'hôpital pour s'assurer que les victimes bénéficient d'un traitement adéquat », lit-on dans le communiqué.

Selon le communiqué, le président Chambers a invité la famille des victimes au calme et à la prière pour un prompt rétablissement de leurs proches, tout en les rassurant de son engagement à tout faire en vue d'un dénouement heureux.

Pour sa part, le Bureau du Président Chambers a affirmé que ni le véhicule officiel ni le convoi du Président n'a été impliqué dans aucun accident.

Dans un courriel adressé à ce journaliste jeudi, le porte-parole officiel du Président, George Watkins, a déclaré qu'aucun décès n'était survenu à la suite de l'accident, contrairement aux informations publiées dans les médias.

Donnant sa propre version des faits, Watkins a dit qu'un véhicule utilisé par le service de sécurité de la police nationale du Libéria affecté auprès du président de la chambre basse, conduit par M. Lawrence Williams, un agent de police, est entré en collision avec une Chevrolet Seden bleue blessant ainsi la victime, une femme enceinte et sa mère le mardi 9 mars 2021 sur la 20e rue à Sinkor Monrovia, tôt le matin. Le véhicule était allé chercher le personnel de la sécurité.

Ce que le bureau du Président aurait dû dire, c'est que le convoi n'était pas en service au moment de l'accident. La vérité est que le président Bhofal Chambers doit être tenu responsable de tous les véhicules qui sont officiellement sous son commandement, où qu'ils soient.

Le Bureau du Président dit-il qu'une fausse couche n'est pas une perte de vie ? Quand commence la vie ? Est-ce au moment de la naissance ou à la rencontre des spermatozoïdes d'un homme et d'un ovule d'une femme dans l'ovaire de celle-ci après un rapport sexuel ?

En disant qu'aucun décès n'est survenu à la suite de l'accident, le bureau du chef du parlement veut-il dire que la victime n'était pas enceinte et que les médecins de l'hôpital JFK ont menti ?

Une valeur fondamentale des relations publiques est la vérité, dire les choses telles qu'elles sont pour attirer l'attention du public. A quoi bon mentir ou dissimuler ce qui est déjà connu ?

Français

Burkina Faso :

d'Ivoire. Il insiste également pour que la réconciliation nationale, pour qu'elle soit aussi un réel outil de lutte contre le terrorisme, ne se limite pas à la seule question du retour de exilés politiques.

Jeune Afrique : Comment expliquer la reprise des attaques terroristes au Burkina, alors qu'une accalmie avait été observée pendant les élections présidentielle et législatives ?

Mahamadou Sawadogo : Il y a effectivement une nette reprise. Depuis le début de l'année, on enregistre sept à huit attaques par semaine. Elles sont localisées dans la région du Nord, aux alentours de Ouahigouya, dans le Yagha, dans le Soum et à l'Est. Peut-être que le pacte a été rompu...

De quel « pacte » parlez-vous ? C'était quand même surprenant que, brusquement, pendant la campagne électorale, le rythme des attaques diminue... Concomitamment, les opérations anti-terroristes ont également été moins nombreuses. J'ai discuté avec des leaders locaux. Il s'avère que l'on a demandé à certains d'entre eux de rentrer en contact avec les groupes terroristes et de négocier une trêve, le temps du vote.

OFFICIELLEMENT, ON NE NÉGOCIE PAS AVEC LES TERRORISTES. MAIS DES CANAUX EXISTENT

Cela signifie donc que des canaux existent, si les autorités décident d'explorer la piste de la négociation officielle...

Le langage officiel est tout autre. La thèse reste : « On ne négocie pas avec les terroristes ». Mais cet épisode signifie, effectivement, que les canaux existent.

Djibo, dans la région du Sahel, est l'une des premières villes à avoir fait l'objet d'attaques. Mais les récentes déclarations des autorités laissent penser que la situation s'y est beaucoup améliorée. Est-ce vraiment le cas ? Les habitants de Djibo expliquent qu'en réalité, si des villages se sont reconstitués, et qu'ils ne sont plus attaqués, c'est parce que les groupes terroristes ont autorisé les populations à revenir. Mais quelques conditions ont été posées. Par exemple, les habitants ne doivent pas collaborer avec les forces de défense et de sécurité. Elles doivent également respecter des règles religieuses ou vestimentaires. Pour moi, ce

n'est pas une victoire.

La plus grande critique adressée à Roch Marc Christian Kaboré pendant la présidentielle concernait son bilan sécuritaire. Pourtant, il a décidé de reconduire la même équipe à la Sécurité et à la Défense. Pourquoi, selon vous, maintient-il ce cap ?

Peut-être pense-t-il avoir engrangé des victoires. Le fait que les élections aient été un succès pourrait justifier cette reconduction. Mais en réalité, nous n'avons pas de solutions pérennes. Nous ne faisons que réagir aux attaques et colmater les brèches.

La manière d'aborder la lutte contre le terrorisme n'a pas fondamentalement évolué. La réponse est essentiellement militaire. Mais le tout sécuritaire ne peut pas être une solution durable à cette menace. La seule chose qui a changé, c'est que l'on a compris qu'il fallait compter avec la population. Mais aucune stratégie n'a encore été mise en place pour la mettre en confiance et la « récupérer ».

Une des nouveautés du second mandat de Roch Marc Christian Kaboré est la création d'un ministère de la Réconciliation nationale, confié à l'ancien chef de file de l'opposition, Zéphirin Diabré. Est-ce un moyen de résoudre la crise sécuritaire ?

Cela va dépendre de comment on définit cette « réconciliation nationale ». Elle ne doit pas se cantonner aux politiciens, aux retours de Blaise Compaoré et de Yaouba Isaac Zida et à la libération de Gilbert Diendéré... Elle doit aussi prendre en compte les zones rurales. On parle de dédommager les victimes de l'insurrection populaire. Allons-nous également dédommager celles du terrorisme ? Il est impensable, par exemple, de ne pas se pencher sur le cas du massacre de Yirgou.

Si cette réconciliation se limite aux exilés politiques, cela pourrait être un succès politique, mais cela n'aura pas d'impact sur le plan sécuritaire. Au contraire, cela pourrait exacerber les colères.

En mars 2019, l'armée burkinabè lançait l'opération antiterroriste Otapuanu dans l'est du pays. Quelles leçons peut-on en tirer ?

Cette opération a duré un mois et, lorsqu'elle s'est achevée, le matériel et les hommes étaient hors service. Et très vite, on a commencé à recenser de nouveaux incidents dans la région - plus d'une centaine entre juin et décembre 2019.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Laura Tyson, Susan Lund

Après la pandémie : des cicatrices à long terme sur le marché du travail

BERKELEY (CALIF.) - Grâce au déploiement rapide des vaccins, les contaminations au Covid-19, les hospitalisations et les décès sont en baisse aux États-Unis, et les contraintes imposées par la pandémie à l'activité économique commencent à se relâcher. Pourtant, même si la situation des marchés du travail s'améliore, la reprise économique est lente et contrastée, alors même qu'elle ne fait que commencer.

Selon les derniers chiffres officiels, les États-Unis enregistrent encore, dans leur ensemble, environ 9,5 millions d'emplois perdus depuis que la récession a frappé et presque 12 millions par rapport à la tendance de créations d'emplois avant la pandémie. Compte tenu de la baisse d'activité, le chômage demeure aux alentours de 10 %, et le taux est encore plus élevé chez les Afro-Américains, les Hispaniques, les femmes et les moins diplômés, ce qui traduit la nature d'élle des disparités, tant de celles créées par la pandémie que de celles résultant des tendances plus anciennes enregistrées sur le marché du travail.

Autre tendance antérieure au Covid-19 : la transformation du travail par l'automation et la numérisation - processus que la réponse des entreprises et des consommateurs à la pandémie a encore accéléré. Cette évolution menace également de creuser les inégalités existantes, car les travailleurs noirs et hispaniques sont surreprésentés dans les emplois les plus menacés par l'automation.

Une reprise durable vers une économie créatrice de plein-emploi et pourvoyeuse de « bons emplois » nécessitera le reclassement à grande échelle de travailleurs peu payés, effectuant aujourd'hui des tâches peu qualifiées que la pandémie aura fait disparaître, vers de nouveaux postes requérant plus de compétences et une formation plus approfondie. Une étude récente du McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) évalue à plus de 25 % la hausse des salariés qui devront changer de métier par rapport aux estimations précédentes.

La pandémie a frappé plus particulièrement les emplois requérant un niveau important de proximité physique et des contacts en face-à-face, ceux notamment de serveurs et de serveuses, de vendeurs et de vendeuses, de réceptionnistes d'hôtel, de coiffeurs et de coiffeuses, et d'autres faiblement rémunérés. Là encore, les femmes, les minorités et les moins diplômés sont surreprésentés parmi ces travailleuses et travailleurs de première ligne.

De même, la survie de beaucoup d'entreprises dépend désormais de leur capacité à s'adapter au travail à distance, une pratique pour laquelle elles avaient longtemps affiché leurs réticences. Il apparaît de plus en plus que les salariés à distance travaillent plus longtemps dans la journée et sont plus productifs ; par conséquent, de nombreuses entreprises prévoient de permettre différents types d'organisation hybride après la pandémie.

Selon les analyses du MGI qui portent sur plus de 2 000 types d'emplois dans quelque 800 métiers, plus d'un quart des travailleurs dans les économies avancées pourraient exercer leur activité à distance de trois à cinq jours par semaine, sans que leur efficacité n'en soit affectée. Cela signifierait que quatre ou cinq fois plus de personnes travailleraient régulièrement chez elles.

Le travail à distance concerne plus particulièrement les emplois les mieux payés. D'après une étude conduite aux États-Unis l'année dernière, environ 60 % des travailleurs à revenu élevé pourraient effectuer leur travail depuis leur domicile, alors qu'il en irait de même pour 34 % seulement des travailleurs à faible revenu. Il n'est guère surprenant que les métiers les mieux payés connaissent des pertes d'emplois très inférieures à celles des catégories peu rémunérées.

Un basculement permanent vers le télétravail aurait des conséquences importantes pour les centres

urbains et les travailleurs qui fournissent des services dans les immeubles de bureaux, les restaurants, les hôtels et les magasins. Avant la pandémie, ces services représentaient environ un emploi sur quatre aux États-Unis, mais aussi une part importante et en hausse de l'emploi des personnes n'ayant pas poursuivi leurs études au-delà de lycée. De récentes enquêtes confirment qu'aujourd'hui, tandis que la pandémie augmente le recours au télétravail, la demande de services locaux commence à baisser dans les villes.

Effectué depuis des lieux de plus en plus éloignés, le télétravail pourrait affecter durablement la géographie du travail, en étant à l'origine d'une migration à long terme des talents hors des grandes villes, où la vie est chère, qui ont jusque-là été les moteurs de la création d'emplois. Les loyers résidentiels et les taux de non-occupation des bureaux indiquent déjà, tant aux États-Unis qu'en Europe, que certains employés et certaines entreprises se déplacent, des zones où les prix sont les plus élevés vers des villes de taille plus modeste. En outre, des pays entiers rivalisent pour attirer les travailleurs à distance sans attaches. Ainsi l'Estonie et la Géorgie ont-elles assoupli leur politique de visa de séjour et la Grèce offre quant à elle des incitations fiscales.

Les entreprises investissent également dans les technologies numériques et l'automation afin de permettre une plus grande distanciation physique parmi leurs employés et de garantir la flexibilité nécessaire pour faire face à l'évolution de la demande. Les robots et l'intelligence artificielle ont aidé les salariés des chaînes de montage à maintenir la distanciation sociale et la sécurité au travail, ont permis d'améliorer les opérations de manutention du commerce électronique, de multiplier les caisses en libre-service dans les magasins, assisté les banques pour répondre à la multiplication des prêts accordés par les plans de relance, et même remplacé des personnes en cuisine pour retourner les burgers et préparer les frites.

Ces formes d'automation dictées par la pandémie sont susceptibles de déplacer des emplois sur une plus grande échelle que ne l'avaient prévu les économistes. Ce sont dans les services de restauration et d'alimentation, dans le commerce de détail, dans l'hébergement, les services à la personne et l'entretien des bureaux que les conséquences se feront le plus vivement sentir, c'est-à-dire dans des secteurs qui représentaient une part non négligeable des emplois avant la pandémie et concentraient les bas salaires.

Aux États-Unis, la pandémie pourrait contribuer à la perte de 4,3 millions d'emplois dans les services d'alimentation et les autres services au consommateur ainsi qu'à la suppression de presque un million de postes d'employés ou de commis administratifs en 2030. Les huit autres pays étudiés - la Chine, la France, l'Allemagne, l'Inde, le Japon, l'Espagne et le Royaume-Uni - présentent les mêmes traits caractéristiques d'une réduction de la demande de métiers et d'emplois dans les catégories les moins rémunérées. On estime que, dans ces pays, la pandémie aura entraîné une hausse de 12 % des changements d'activité.

Enfin, les emplois qui se situent dans la tranche des 30 % des salaires les plus élevés - notamment dans les soins de santé et dans les domaines dits des STIM (science, technologie, ingénierie et mathématiques) - devraient voir leurs revenus augmenter. Mais ces métiers requièrent des niveaux de qualification et de diplômes très différents des profils majoritaires dans les emplois peu rémunérés et en voie de disparition. La formation des travailleurs déplacés va donc devenir une priorité.

Le rattrapage nécessaire entre le niveau de qualification requis et les emplois disponibles offre l'occasion de réinventer le travail, la main-d'œuvre et le lieu de travail pour tous les employeurs, quelle que soit leur importance. Mais il rend plus urgent encore de financer et de mettre en place des programmes efficaces de formation et d'aides au revenu pour les travailleurs contraints de changer de métier, de secteur d'activité et de lieu pour exercer leur profession.

The Judiciary...

Cont'd from page 5

It seems like the current Attorney General and the Solicitor General may not fully understand the meaning of the word convict and may not fully understand the New Election Law Article 3.23. The Attorney General advises the president and all government ministries and agencies and if he is having difficulties understanding the laws and statute, where are we heading as a country?

Supreme Court Opinion: Now let us come to the Supreme Court Opinion handled down during the March 2021 Term of court. Before we do that, let us go to the indictment. The Indictment states as follows: "Theft of Property, Criminal Conspiracy, and Misuse of Public Money, Economic Sabotage and Money Laundering." The defendants were acquitted on the charges of Economic Sabotage and Money Laundering.

During the Opening of the March Term of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice said he welcomes criticism because it helps make the judiciary better. The Chief Justice's Statement is good and healthy for a democratic society. And we pray and hope that those who will criticize will not be held in CONTEMPT by the high court.

Theft of Property: On the charge of Theft of Property, both the lower court Judge and four of the Justices of the Supreme Court cited Chapter 15 section 15.51 as reliance for the guilty verdict against the defendants. The text of Chapter 15.51 is below for your reading and understanding.

Chapter 15 section 15.51 of the Penal code as follow: "A person is guilty of theft if he (a) knowingly takes, misappropriate, converts, or exercise unauthorized control over, or makes an unauthorized transfer of an interest in the proper of another with the purpose of depriving the owner thereof; (b) knowingly obtains the property of another by deception or by threat with the purpose of depriving the owner thereof or, purposely deprives another of his property by deception by threat (c) knowingly receives, retains, disposes of property of another which has been stolen with the purpose of depriving the Owner thereof."

Before we continue, we need to define some of the words in (a) Misappropriate-steal/pocket; Convert—transfer to oneself. Theft of Property: One of the most authoritative legal definitions of Theft of Property is found in Black Law Dictionary eighth edition. Theft, as classified and is defined with specificity to an individual input as "A person is guilty of theft if he or she dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it." Another definition, which is generic, states that "theft is a crime in which a person intentionally takes personal property of another without permission or consent to convert it to the taker's use."

For the purpose of both the lower court Judge and the Supreme Justices to arrive at a guilty verdict the two courts reliance referenced Chapters 15.51, but for theft to take place, one must take the property and must pocket/steal/convert the property to oneself.

In order for the Judge to justify the crime of theft, the Criminal Court C presiding judge in this case said in his judgment on page 11, count 6 "Operational funds from the AFL Pension Account were authorized to be transferred into the account of the Minister of National Defense, except the amount of US\$16,000.00 USD paid directly to one Joseph Gegehd to be identified." But this was contradicted by the investigation report of the AFL High Command page 6, counts 6, which is included in the Opinion. It reads as follows, "Documents revealed that the expenditures made from the welfare account were for the benefits of AFL Personnel and their families."



Sections b and c do not apply to the defendants because they did obtain the account by deception or threat. Even the Supreme Court Opinion on page 19 states, "In the mind of the court, the Minister serving as the signatory to the account was not wrongful or illegal, because as stated supra, he was performing a fiduciary duty for and on behalf of the entire AFL."

But the high court, justifying Theft of Property, wrote in the Opinion, "In addition, four manager checks were issued in the name of defendant J. Brownie Samukai." But the high court failed to indicate the serial numbers of the four checks and amounts and dates. It would have been better, if a chart was displayed showing the particulars of these checks as was done on pages 8 and 9 referenced transactions approved by Defendants Samukai and Johnson. It is easy to write "four checks were written to Samukai" but we need evidence.

Page 11 count 6 of the opinion states: "As part of the herein named collusion, all authorization letters directly resulting into the commission of the crime of the theft of property (By deception), was done by Co-defendant J. Nyumah Dorkor. At the same time, on the 3rd day of the Month of October A.D. 2017, former AFL Deputy Minister for Administration, Co-Defendant Joseph P. Johnson criminally and intentionally authorized Ecobank Liberia Limited to change the "AFL-Pension account title to AFL Moral and Welfare Account" without any evidence, Consultation, administrative decision, and or will and consent of AFL High Command, [thereby depriving] the owner aforesaid of the use of their property (fund)." This statement of the trial Judge shows malice against the defendants in this case. The charge of Theft of Property was not proven as per the definition.

Criminal Conspiracy: Conspiracy is usually described as an agreement between two or more persons to commit an unlawful act or to accomplish a lawful end by unlawful means. As quoted above, it was not wrong or illegal for the defendants to be signatories to the account hence withdrawals/requesting transfers and signing checks were legal. They were simply performing their responsibilities.

Payment of the US\$460,000.00 to the AFL Pension Fund Account

This part of the opinion is very interesting. Page 21 the fifth paragraph from the bottom the second sentence reads "But in the instance case, it is a third party, the government of Liberia, who made the partial payment for a reason best known to itself." The court acknowledges that partial payment of the money by the defendants was paid. As for the reason, this stated in the opinion on page 21 second paragraph and it reads "First of all, the court says, assuming argued that ex-president Sirleaf made a commitment to pay, and President Weah also made a commitment to pay, the Act of an individual

president is not the Act of the government of Liberia. The government of Liberia is a Republican form of government that consists of three branches, the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary branch. To legally obligate the government of Liberia financially, that obligation must be sanctioned by both Executive and legislative branches of government."

If the court is correct, it implies that the payment to the AFL Pension Fund is illegal and this put the Minister of Finance, Planning and Development in the shoe with defendants and the Solicitor General should have charged the Minister and his deputies by now for the crimes of Theft of Property, Misuse of Public Fund and Criminal Conspiracy. And this Supreme Court Opinion directly implies that there should be NO NEED FOR TRANSITIONAL MEETING EVER, because this opinion nullified all that were agreed between the two presidents.

Presently, there is No Law to deny the certification of Brownie Samukai from our research. In the words of Jerome Frank, a distinguished American Lawyer and writer of "The court is on trial," a legal novel from his experiences as a lawyer, Circuit Court Judge and Appeal Court Judge of the United States of America, he pointed out in this book and many of his other writings that the court from the lowest to highest do make some faulty judgments and this may be one of them.

There is a principle in law that states "The court cannot do for the party litigant what the party litigant should do for himself." But in lower court judgment and the Supreme Court Opinion, we see the court doing for the party litigant, for example changing the charge of Public Fund to private fund just to get a guilty verdict. Ruling that the defendant pay US\$460,000.00, which was not a charge in the indictment.

As we close this argument, we wonder what Justices C. L. Pearson, J. J. Dossen, F. E. R. Johnson, Louise Arthur Grimes, H. Nimine Russell, James A. A. Pierre, Henry Reed Cooper, James G. Bull and Johnnie Lewis would have ruled in this case? After reading most of the opinions written by these Justices it is easy to predict what it would have been.

These Justices would have dismissed the charges of Theft of Property, Misuse of Public Fund and Criminal Conspiracy. A good Solicitor General would have charged the defendants for Misapplication. In law-Misapplication is defined as "The unauthorized, improper, or unlawful use of funds or other property for the purposes other than that for which it was intended." My distinguished Solicitor General might have blundered.

The public is watching with eagle eyes and waiting anxiously.

2023 will be a disaster, if...

By Ethel A Tweh

Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe has begun sounding a warning that if nothing is done with Liberia's Elections Law, 2023 will be a disaster when everyone pursue court cases against elections results.

Sen. Snowe who saw his certification as winner of the December 8, 2020 senatorial election delayed as a result of electoral disputes told reporters on Capitol Hill that there is a need for reforms of the country's electoral laws.

polls, Snowe observes that there are six outstanding senators that are yet to be seated due to legal disputes over the results.

He argues that some of these allegations are so cheap, but are just intended to stall the process.

"It's either we set up a special court for election dispute or we agree that when the elections commission announce you [as] winner, they should certificate you and you take your seat like it is done in other countries," Snowe recommends.

"When you're guilty, you

biometric system be applied in Liberia as it is done in other countries, so that people cannot register in more than one county.

Addressing other issues, Senator Snowe says he is supporting the wife of the late Lahai Lassana Madam Alice Finda Lassana to fill the representative seat he left vacant following his election to the Liberian Senate last December.

He recalls in 2017, Madam Lassana was a contestant in Bomi County, but withdrew from the election just to



He said this is because the issue of litigations after election tends to stall [the final] process of certificating the winner.

Speaking with Legislative reporters this week, Snowe warns that there will be candidates for 73 representative seats, 15 senatorial seats and presidential candidates in 2023, adding that if everyone decides to go to court, it will cause a serious problem in the country.

Following the 8 December

leave; and if you're not guilty, you continue your work," Snowe adds.

He fears that if nothing is done with the Elections Law, 2023 will be a disaster.

He also laments that during elections, one candidate is given all the National Transit Authority (NTA) buses in the country to truck people from one county to another to register potential voters. He describes this as a misuse of public property.

Meanwhile, Snowe suggests that there is a need that

support him.

The Bomi Senator says despite his support for women empowerment, Madam Lassana is a politician and she's competent to take over from him.

He notes that it is good for someone who understands him to take over from him, noting that someone who has different view will be a problem.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Cont'd from page 6

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Twelve months later, new data shows that the numbers are even worse. The findings released today were determined by looking at the diagnosis and treatment statistics for Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Tajikistan, and Ukraine—nine countries that together represent 60% of the global TB burden—and comparing data from 2020 with 2019. In these countries TB diagnosis and enrolment on treatment in 2020 declined by a total of 1 million, ranging from 16%-41% (an average of 23%) in individual countries.

Urgent recovery needed

12 months of COVID-19

The TB programs of several high TB burden countries have made efforts to recover. Some have been more successful than others. India was one of the first countries where the dramatic decline in TB notifications was seen—the national government's TB notification system, "Nikshay," reported a 70% drop between the 10th and 15th weeks of 2020. A high-level committee under the chairmanship of the Indian Minister of Health developed a rapid response plan by August 2020, with a primary goal of integrating TB outreach into all COVID-19 programming, taking advantage of how both infections attack people's respiratory systems.

"TB didn't go anywhere

when the COVID-19 pandemic hit," said Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, India. "People just got distracted, health workers were redirected, and health systems became overwhelmed. Recovery efforts succeed with political leadership and substantial resources, along with an insistence that COVID-19 outreach and prevention efforts include TB work, instead of replacing it."

Boosted by a public commitment from the Prime Minister, efforts to locate TB and COVID-19 cases in all health care facilities intensified, and rapid molecular testing for TB expanded.

First Lady assures

Starts from back page

reiterated the adage: "Water is life," adding that 'sanitation is the health that sustains it.'

The Liberian First Lady, however, charged the community to take full responsibility of maintaining the facilities, with a caveat that, "We will hold you absolutely responsible for them".

At the same time, the Liberian 'Mother of the Nation' expressed profound gratitude to the OPEC Fund for International Development for funding the projects, and to World Hope International, YMCA Liberia among others for their respective support.

She was also appreciative of the dynamic leadership of Honorable Paulita C. C. Wie, Deputy Internal Affairs Minister for Urban Affairs in

coordinating the development projects.

For their part, the Peace Island Community commended the government of Liberia and partners for the great development initiatives in their area, stressing that the projects will go a long way in easing their challenges.

They reaffirmed their willingness and readiness to properly maintain the facilities and ensure they are used for their intended purposes.

The dedication ceremony was held at the newly constructed social hall.

It was graced by a host of government officials including the Inspector General at the Ministry of Commerce Josephine Davis, Monrovia and Paynesville Mayors, Jefferson Kojee and Madam Pam Taylor among others.

Rep. Jones wants

Cont'd from page 6

employees are willing to allow stipulated amounts to be deducted from their earnings and payment made on their behalf with the hope that when they reach the age of retirement, their pension will serve as a source of income.

However, Jones indicates that unfortunately, some employers are deducting the employees' contributions from their salaries and making no remittance which denies the employees of benefitting their retirement pension from NASSCORP.

He argues that in keeping with Article 8 of the Liberian Constitution, it is mandated that the Republic shall direct its policy towards ensuring for the citizens without discrimination, opportunities for employment and livelihood under just and humane conditions and towards promoting safety, health and welfare facilities in employment.

Jones notes that the

Decent Work Act of 2015 was enacted to address the current realities, thus repealing Title 18 of the Executive Law and Labor Practices Law.

According to Jones, Chapter 22 of the Decent Work Act of 2015 talks about social welfare and includes scope, employers to pay pensions to employees, calculation and payment of retirement pension, among others.

Jones says he believes that such act is not only denying the workers of these institutions their just benefits, but also contributing to the over staffing of those institutions which eventually result to huge payroll envelop because institutions are renegeing on their responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the House Plenary has forwarded the communication to the Committee on Ways, Means and Finance to report in one week.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

LCC President

Cont'd from page 6

government to let the country know what it is doing to ensure and maintain a conducive environment for normal life, business and investment. We can't allow insecurity to overtake the news from Liberia, it will undermine the country's image and global standing" he said.

The LCC President also called on the Ministry of Justice, Liberia National Police and other security institutions to expedite investigations into

outstanding reports of mysterious deaths including the 3 missing children over the St. Paul's River, EPS Officer in Nimba County, amongst others.

Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown has however encouraged the Government of Liberia to strengthen her partnership with the religious community, civil society, political parties and other national stakeholders for collective efforts in addressing the political, economic, and social challenges facing the country.

First Lady assures government's commitment to improving lives -Dedicates Major Projects in Peace Island



First Lady Clar Marie Weah dedicated several major life-changing projects in the Peace Island Community on Thursday, reassuring the government's commitment to improving Liberians' standards of living.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, Mrs. Weah said the development initiatives manifest President George Manneh Weah's love for his people and his commitment to bettering their lives.

"Improving the living conditions of our people in

vulnerable communities is our priority; and we will not stop until we achieve this goal," the First Lady said.

The projects include a newly constructed and two renovated bio-gas and bio-fill toilets; a community social hall; a reservoir and a few water kiosks.

The Internal Affairs Ministry along with a host of public agencies spearheaded the projects which were funded by international partners under the theme: Peace Island "A Decent Place to Live: Slum upgrading in

Greater Monrovia".

While praising the government's swift intervention, Mrs. Weah said: "The people of Peace Island, you are blessed and will be more blessed with more development initiatives as economic conditions improve under this current Government."

Most of the projects are aimed at improving the poor water and sanitation condition of the community. On this note, Mrs. Weah

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Mysterious disappearance in Duazon

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A 63-year-old charcoal producer in Duazon, Lower Margibi County Alfred G. Weah, has mysteriously gone missing since Wednesday, March 17.

The Town Chief of Duazon Emmanuel Blain, narrates to this paper that Mr. Weah, who had lived and produced charcoal in the town for the past 20 years, went across the St John River where he usually brunt coal but is yet to be found.

Chief Blain explains that as a direct result of the situation,

he has directed all men in Duazon to vigorously search nearby bushes and waterways in finding the missing man.

According to the chief, he saw Alfred G. Weah leaving the town with a small bag under his arm and a cutlass in his hand, walking toward his canoe and subsequently departed the town Wednesday, but had not returned.

He laments that since the incident, his relatives along with residents of the town have been searching for his whereabouts.

Chief Blain notes that the situation has created serious fear amongst the residents, whom for



Duazon waterside in Margibi County

the past twenty years, Mr. Weah had supplied with charcoal.

Mr. Weah is father of five children, including Kpakay Weah who is also assisting community residents to find his dad.

However, the town chief discloses that mysteriously to the residents, while searching along the river bank they discovered Mr. Weah's canoe, including a pair of rain boots, a sack of mineral water, and his clothes.

Chief Blain reveals that the matter was immediately reported to the Liberia National

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