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Isaac Jackson



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

P11

# Dillon is inconsistent

## -Isaac Jackson

# GoL, World Bank sign

## US\$74.2M financing agreement



P11

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# Continental News

## Chad Counts Votes as Deby Seeks Sixth Term after 30 Years in Power

Vote counting has started in Chad after a tense presidential election on Sunday that is likely to see President Idriss Deby extend his three-decade rule, despite signs of growing discontent over his handling of the nation's oil wealth.

Election officials began counting ballots at a polling station in center of the capital N'Djamena immediately after polls closed, watched by a group of observers, a Reuters reporter said.

The election commission has until April 25 to announce provisional results.

Deby, 68, was the first to cast his ballot at a polling station in the capital N'Djamena. He is one of Africa's longest-serving leaders and an ally of Western powers in the fight against Islamist militants in West and Central Africa.

"I'm calling on all Chadians to come out and vote for the candidate of their choice who will have to tackle the major challenges facing our country over the next six years," Deby told journalists after voting.

Deby seized power in 1990 in an armed rebellion, and in 2018 pushed through a new constitution that could let him stay in power until 2033 - even as it reinstated term limits.

He has relied on a firm grip over state institutions and one of the region's most capable militaries to maintain power. Deby said recently he knew in advance that he would win again "as I have done for the last 30 years."

"Many of you, my daughters and sons, were not yet born when I took power in

1990," he said at his final campaign rally on Friday. "You have asked me to be a candidate for this sixth term."

### Rivals

Among Deby's six rivals is former prime minister Albert Pahimi Padacke, but several leading opponents are boycotting the race, including the 2016 runner-up Saleh Kebzabo, who has vowed to make Chad "ungovernable" if Deby wins.

Observers are closely watching the turnout after several recent anti-government demonstrations turned violent. A heavy military presence patrolled the capital on Sunday.

In the Moursal and Chagoua southern neighborhoods of N'Djamena, considered as opposition strongholds, few voters had shown up at polling stations by mid-morning.

Jules Ngarbatina, a resident of Moursal said were scared of coming out in large numbers because they feared reprisals from other who supported the boycott.

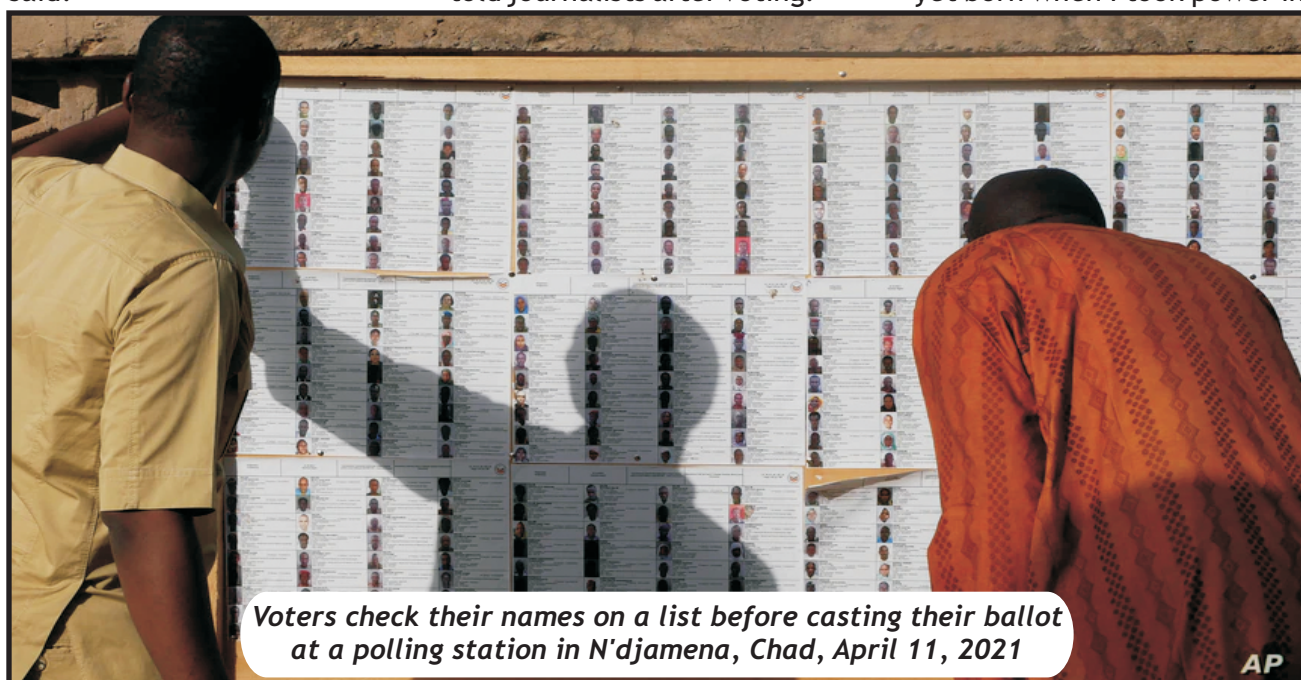
Yacine Abderaman Sakine, leader of the Reformist Party, who joined the call for a boycott, said Chadians were tired of pretending that elections are free and fair.

"The lack of enthusiasm in polling stations today is a strong message to those who confiscate power by force," Sakine told Reuters.

On Friday authorities said they had arrested several people, including at least one opposition leader, for what they said was a plot to assassinate politicians and bomb polling stations and the electoral commission headquarters.

The opposition said the arrests showed mounting repression under Deby. The government rejects the accusations of human rights abuses.

Chad has come under increasing public pressure over a flagging economy as low prices for its main export, oil, in recent years forced cutbacks in public spending and sparked labor strikes. VOA



Voters check their names on a list before casting their ballot at a polling station in N'djamena, Chad, April 11, 2021

## Benin's president lauds polls despite 'low turnout'

Benin's President Patrice Talon lauded the conduct of Sunday's elections saying his country had proven "expertise" in managing elections.

Mr Talon is widely expected to win the elections, which have been boycotted by the

(Cena) polling stations were largely able to open on time. This is despite reports that roads to northern and central Benin had been blocked by opposition supporters.

But according to RFI, voting could not take place in Savè, an opposition stronghold in



bulk of the opposition.

Turnout was low with several polling stations in the capital reporting low levels of participation, French public radio RFI has reported.

According to the chairman of Benin's Autonomous National Electoral Commission

central Benin, after youths blocked electoral workers from accessing polling centres.

Savè was the scene of violent clashes earlier in the week between opposition supporters and security forces, in which at least two people were killed. BBC

## Tanzania and Uganda sign \$3.5bn oil deal

Uganda and Tanzania have signed three key agreements aimed at developing Uganda's oil and gas industry, during Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan's first trip abroad.

The agreement on host government and shareholding

for the pipeline, as well as the transportation and tax deals, are a step towards the start of construction of the crude oil pipeline.

The two countries entered a partnership to build a 1,443km (896 mile) oil pipeline to pump Uganda's oil from the Albertine basin in the west of the country,

to Tanzania's Indian Ocean port of Tanga.

When built, the \$3.5bn (£2.5bn) pipeline project will be the longest heated oil pipeline in the world.

A final investment decision - a commitment of funds - will have to be reached by the two countries and oil companies before the pipeline construction can begin.

They hope that the pipeline will bring socio-economic benefits and revenues to the region, by creating an estimated 10,000 jobs during construction and operation of the project.

But the project has been met with fierce criticism from environmentalists, who say that it will upset fragile ecosystems in the Lake Victoria basin and the Serengeti wildlife park.

Uganda is projected to pump its first of an estimated 1.4 billion barrels of commercially viable oil in 2025. BBC



The two countries hope the project will bring benefits and revenues to the region



# EDITORIAL

## The US\$20,000 probe at the Liberian Senate

**THE LIBERIAN SENATE** is probing itself over claim by a staffer that senators on Capitol Hill in Monrovia recently received US\$20,000 bribe to sign a resolution, approving request by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to print new family of Liberian bank notes, totaling more than US\$48 Billion.

**SENATE PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE** Albert T. Chie has instructed the Secretary of the Senate to review the accusation made against the body and report to the leadership following the Easter Break.

**THAT THE ALLEGATION** came from the Administrative Assistant in the office of Grand Bassa County Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence tends to indicate there is smoke in the Senate, particularly when this same body in 2020 distributed money totaling about US\$180,000 among its members and kept silent after it signed a joint resolution with the House, approving President Weah's COVID-19 Stimulus Package.

**IT TOOK OPPOSITION** Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of Montserrado County who went public and disclosed that each senator received US\$6,000 of the amount for what he termed "operational cost." The following day, Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, appeared on radio and confirmed that he received US\$7,000 of the amount for 'special or extra sitting' and then, the Pandora box came to light amid public outcry.

**WE HOPE THIS** is not a replay of that ugly scenario from 2020 that received widespread public condemnation at a time Liberians were facing total lockdown characterized by lack of food and money.

**WE UNDERSTAND THAT** already, Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence has suspended her Administrative Assistant Daniel Sando for one month without salary for accusing members of the Senate, while the entire leadership of the Liberian Senate headed by Pro-Tempore Albert Chie has called for an investigation.

**WE LOOK FORWARD** to outcome of the investigation. But it is hardly possible the Senate would indict itself for corruption or receiving money for the approval of the CBL's request to print new family of bank notes.

**ADDITIONALLY, DANIEL SANDO** is already being punished by his boss for the allegation he made, and would not be prepared to persist any further without proof. The only option he has available is to succumb and say that he lied, which could even bring more heavier punishment.

**BUT WHAT COULD** have led him to make such allegation against the entire Liberian Senate that includes his boss, Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence? Why such suspicion in the first place if there were no smoke? Something smells here, given past history at the Senate.

**WE CAN ONLY** but advise senators on Capitol Hill to conduct themselves transparently before their staff to avoid such suspicion that leaves a stain on public perception about them, particularly when the whistle is blown from within because it clearly presents a likelihood of believability more so when staffers at the Capitol generally have seen the Liberian dollar component of their monthly salary disappeared without remedy despite several investigations by the leadership.

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FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

# COMMENTARY

By Karina Gould

## The Key to Beating COVID-19

**O**TTAWA - It has been a year since the coronavirus pandemic started dominating headlines and our lives. For so many here in Canada and around the world, it has been a period of unprecedented stress and grief. We have all been waiting to heave a sigh of relief once our families, friends, and communities receive their vaccines.

It is only natural that we would focus on the health of our loved ones. But we must not forget that the virus observes no borders. Focusing solely on our domestic responses is not enough. At the same time that we focus on vaccinations for high-risk Canadians, we must also ensure that the rest of the world is on track to being vaccinated, too, and that everyone has access to safe and effective tests and treatments. Beating this virus anywhere requires beating it everywhere.

Fighting a virus on a global scale is a daunting task, but there is much cause for hope. We cheered in December, when a personal support worker in Toronto received Canada's first COVID-19 vaccine. But now that the global rollout of vaccines through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility is well underway, we have even more reason to celebrate.

Since February 24, tens of millions of doses have been delivered to over 70 countries around the world, making this the largest and most rapid global vaccination campaign in history. In Ghana and Ivory Coast, health-care workers and high-risk populations were among the first to be vaccinated with COVAX doses, and similar campaigns are now proceeding in Nigeria, Jamaica, and Albania. We are witnessing the global response at work, and we should recognize it for the important milestone that it is.

Canada joined COVAX last September because we believed wholeheartedly in its mission to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines and ensure equitable delivery. The facility was created to guarantee access to a wide variety of vaccines, and to put smaller and poorer countries on a more equal footing vis-à-vis larger and wealthier ones. By purchasing in bulk, COVAX can spread doses around the world in the fairest and most cost-effective way possible.

COVAX was designed as a truly cooperative partnership. With 190 participating countries, it represents more than 90% of the global population, and can command far more purchasing power than most countries could on their own. Moreover, when COVAX was created, no one knew which vaccines would work, or which would be approved first. That is

why Canada called upon COVAX to procure some of its own doses. Our agreement with COVAX complemented our other contracts, and increased our chances of carrying out a successful domestic vaccination campaign, while doing our part globally.

Complementing our own procurement efforts, Canada has launched investments that will also help to make vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics affordable and accessible globally. Owing to our various advance purchase agreements, we could eventually end up with a surplus of vaccine doses. Precisely when that might happen will be determined in the coming weeks and months, as Health Canada completes its review of vaccine candidates, and as we confirm the deployment of vaccines in Canada.

Regardless of when we reach a surplus, we will work closely with our international partners - including other countries, Gavi, COVAX, and vaccine manufacturers - to explore all possible options for delivering doses to those who need them. It will take time to vaccinate the entire global population. COVAX has already secured more than two billion doses for 2021, but we now need to muster the same spirit of global cooperation to ensure that this supply continues to increase, so that no vulnerable populations are left behind.

We can take heart in knowing that we are not starting from square one. Canada has been funding global health projects in developing countries for decades, and we will continue to do so. These investments are aiding the fight against polio, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and Ebola, and they have proved critical in helping countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis with proven, adaptable public-health responses, such as mass testing and contact tracing.

If this crisis has taught us anything, it is that we must maintain the capacity to adapt to fast-changing conditions. Less than a year after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, we had developed and approved safe and effective vaccines, which are now reaching the people who need them most.

The importance of the COVAX facility cannot be understated. It is one of the signal achievements of the current era. For the first time ever, the world has come together to ensure equitable, universal vaccine access.

Our global and domestic responses to the coronavirus are inextricably linked, which is why COVAX is our best bet for overcoming the pandemic. When international cooperation succeeds, we all succeed.



# OPINION

By Shamshad Akhtar, Ulrich Volz,  
Moritz Kraemer, Stephany  
Griffith-jones

## The G20's Missed Opportunity

**I**SLAMABAD - This month, G20 finance ministers agreed to a proposal to issue \$650 billion worth of the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, special drawing rights (SDRs), and an additional six-month moratorium on debt payments for up to 73 developing countries. But while the agreement represents a step in the right direction, the G20 missed the opportunity to address the looming debt crisis in the Global South head on. Past debt crises ought to have taught us that doing too little, too late will delay recoveries and drive up the cost of debt restructuring for debtors and creditors alike. The world is still at high risk of repeating the mistakes that resulted in two lost decades of development in the 1980s and 1990s.

Even before the pandemic, the Global South was heading for a debt crisis; but now, the situation has deteriorated dramatically. To its credit, the G20 was quick to respond in April 2020, when it approved the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. But while the DSSI gave some 43 countries breathing space by allowing them to postpone payments to public creditors, it did not change the net present value of those countries' debts.

Thus, in November 2020, the DSSI was complemented by a Common Framework for Debt Treatments Beyond the DSSI, which allows the 73 low-income countries that are eligible for the DSSI to request debt restructuring. But this, too, was a step in the right direction that fell short.

For starters, the new Framework applies only to low-income countries. Many of these countries do indeed need relief, but so do highly indebted middle-income countries that have been hit hard by the pandemic. Of the 124 million people estimated to have been pushed into extreme poverty in 2020, the World Bank reckons that 80% were in middle-income countries.

Moreover, the Framework deals with countries' debt problems on a case-by-case basis, and thus fails to address the problem of lasting stigmatization of any country that avails itself of relief. Aside from the fact that many developing countries have already effectively lost access to capital markets, those that can still finance themselves through international bonds face growing risks. In anticipation of tighter credit conditions, emerging-market economies have weakened across the board since the beginning of this year. And developing countries have accounted for 95% of all downgrades by the three leading credit rating agencies since the start of the pandemic.

Finally, the Framework lacks a commitment by creditors and debtor countries alike to align newfound fiscal space with globally agreed climate and development goals. There is ample empirical evidence to show that climate-vulnerable countries tend to pay a higher cost on their public debt, and that climate change heightens sovereign risk. Countries that cannot invest in climate resilience and development will have even less debt sustainability in the future.

Even without accounting for the additional climate risks facing low-income countries, an IMF analysis suggests that, as of the end of February 2021, more than half of those the Fund assessed were already in or at high risk of debt distress. Making matters worse, many developing countries are experiencing continuing net capital outflows, and the pandemic-aid money provided by international organizations is being used to repay private creditors.

Given these problems, the Framework urgently needs to be revamped to allow for comprehensive debt relief oriented around a green, inclusive recovery. To that end, we suggest the following amendments.

First, instead of waiting for countries to come forward and apply for debt relief individually, the framework should recognize that a systemic crisis demands a systemic solution. The G20 should encourage all low- and middle-income countries whose debt is considered unsustainable to participate in debt restructuring. And when assessing debt burdens, the analysis must include climate and other sustainability risks as well as estimates of a country's financing needs for climate-change adaptation and mitigation.

Equally important, governments receiving debt relief would need to commit to reforms that align their policies and budgets with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris climate agreement. Some portion of the restructured repayments should be channeled into a Fund for Green and Inclusive Recovery that would be used by the government for investment in SDG-aligned spending.

Moreover, the Framework needs to incorporate adequate incentives to ensure that private creditors participate and bear a fair share of the burden. If a debt-sustainability analysis asserts that a country's sovereign debt is of significant concern, the IMF should make its programs conditional on a restructuring process that includes private creditors.

Here, Brady-type credit enhancements for new bonds that would be swapped for old debt would facilitate restructuring negotiations. To this end, we propose a Guarantee Facility for Green and Inclusive Recovery managed by a multilateral development bank. If payments on the new bonds are missed, the collateral would be released to the benefit of private creditors, and the missed payment would have to be repaid by the sovereign to the guarantee facility.

Delaying an inevitable debt restructuring will leave overindebted countries and their populations worse off. Governments will fail to safeguard their populations during this terrible health and social crisis, and they will be unable to invest in climate-proofing their economies. There is still time for the G20 to step up and provide all countries with the opportunity to pursue a green, inclusive, and resilient recovery.

# O-PED

By Jayati Ghosh

## Employment in the Platform Age

**N**EW DELHI - One of the most significant socioeconomic changes accelerated by COVID-19 must surely be the rise of digital labor platforms. Of course, platform-based employment had already been growing exponentially before the pandemic. But the combination of lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, and the consequent greater reliance on remote work, has dramatically increased both their spread and intensity of use.

Until recently, there had been relatively little discussion of what the rapid proliferation of digital employment platforms meant for the nature of work and the employment relationship. But an important recent report from the International Labour Organization provides answers to many questions - and raises several more that policymakers and regulators need to address.

What exactly is platform-based work? Platforms are effectively digital marketplaces, connecting producers and consumers of goods and services - and in the case of employment platforms, connecting workers with those who would use their labor.

Digital labor platforms differ significantly from employment exchanges of old, owing to their diffuse and apparently non-hierarchical nature. They also give the impression of hands-off objectivity, by supposedly simply aggregating agents' desires and responses, although the algorithms used in such aggregation have been shown to generate their own forms of hierarchy and discrimination.

The ILO report focuses on two main types of digital labor platforms. Location-based platforms provide work or services within a specified physical area. They include taxi and delivery services, domestic services like cleaning and repair, and various forms of care provision.

Online web-based platforms, meanwhile, cover tasks that could be performed anywhere in the world. These could be specific short-duration assignments like annotating images or transcribing videos, or involve complex and highly skilled work such as translation, legal or financial services, design and software development, and data analytics.

Both types of platform have expanded dramatically, but people tend to be more aware of location-based platforms because of their near-ubiquity in some places. The ILO estimates that the number of platforms worldwide increased from 142 in 2010 to almost 800 in 2020, with online web-based platforms tripling in number while location-based platforms grew almost tenfold.

Today, all kinds of businesses - from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups and small enterprises seeking people to perform specific tasks - rely on online employment platforms. In general, platforms drastically reduce search costs for both workers and those who would use their services.

Estimates of the number of people who obtain work through these platforms are hard to come by, partly because it is not clear how many regard them as their only source of income. But some surveys suggest that the proportion of the population in Europe that has done some platform work ranges from 9-22%.

Most digital labor platforms operate by accessing and sharing information about workers with those who might use them. Their own employee base tends to be very small compared to the number of workers with whom they deal indirectly. For example, the freelance work platform PeoplePerHour has only around 50 employees, but as an intermediary it provides work for around 2.4 million skilled workers.

The ILO report provides much new information, based on a global survey of 12,000 platform workers. Workers engaged in location-based platforms generated the bulk of their earnings from that source, and around one-third of online-platform workers (more in developing countries) relied primarily on this employment for their income.

Interestingly, cross-country wage differentials persist on online platforms, even though platforms should confer no geographic disadvantage. The ILO survey found that on freelance platforms, for example, workers in developing countries earned on average 60% less than those in developed countries, even after controlling for basic characteristics like age and education and the types of tasks performed.

The crux of the issue is that those obtaining work through digital labor platforms are effectively self-employed, with the platform itself bearing no responsibility for wages or remuneration, or working hours and conditions. Some location-based platforms, particularly delivery and taxi services, have come under regulatory and legal scrutiny in countries seeking to treat them as employers, but this is still the exception.

Furthermore, platform work - no matter how highly skilled - typically commands piece-rate wages. All the problems facing piece-rate workers since time immemorial are starkly evident: income insecurity, a highly unequal distribution of risk, and a tendency to self-exploitation that undermines any notion of worker autonomy and flexibility.

Then there are the concerns about the platforms' often opaque algorithms, and the fees and commissions they charge workers, who generally lack redress for any grievance, and often have no real communication with those running the platform. Moreover, their awareness of faceless global competition may intensify their feeling of powerlessness, and subject workers to ever greater downward pressure on the pay rate.

This is truly a brave new world for workers, with some fresh opportunities and numerous challenges. In many advanced economies, platforms are typically associated with the informalization of the workforce. But in developing countries with mostly informal workers, platforms can sometimes be a step to formalization.

How can regulation address this new-old employment relationship that seems so skewed against workers? Clearly, we need to rethink what constitutes an employer, and specify both their responsibilities and workers' rights in more detail. We also need more extensive and flexible considerations of labor standards that extend to piece-rate work.

Only some of this can be done at the national level. Because digital labor platforms operate across multiple jurisdictions, international policy coordination also is essential. Now that the world is once again recognizing the importance of global dialogue and cooperation, regulation of platform work should be put on the agenda.



## SPECIAL

## ARTICLE

# COVID-19 Travel Restrictions: How a Second Passport Can Help | New Dawn Liberia

At the peak of the global COVID-19 lockdown, most countries shut their borders to international travellers. The restriction was more telling on those from countries with high infection rate. This made many people stranded at different locations against their wish. Interestingly, those with dual citizenship had a better chance at international travel as they could access at least two countries despite the lockdown.

Passport has become a must-have tool for international travel since after World War I. Before then, people didn't need a piece of document to move from one country to another. Ever since then, it determines where people can and cannot visit. And as witnessed during the lockdown, passport will continue to matter for international movements. However, having more than one means you are much less restricted even during a crisis. The following are some of the areas a second passport can be helpful during a crisis.

## Safety

The COVID-19 experience has once reminded us that nothing can be as important as the safety of lives. Fortunately, a second passport can be harnessed for safety during a crisis. At the pandemic outbreak, the epicentre kept shifting from one location to another, increasing tensions among residents in those countries. At that moment, home no longer felt like home for many people. A Pew Research report shows that 1 in 10 young adults in the United States had someone who moved into their household due to COVID-19.

Given the heightened fear of contracting the disease in those epicentre countries, many residents' biggest wish would have been to relocate to another country they considered safest for them and their families. This is because as the virus ravages many places, some countries had very low cases of infections and deaths, and the atmosphere was much calmer in those places. Unfortunately, most people with a desire to move couldn't actualize it because the passport they carry doesn't support that. With border closures in almost all countries and rigorous international travel process, running for safety was difficult or impossible. Having a second passport will make it much easier to move to another country considered safer during a crisis.

## Mobility

Everyone desires the ability to move about - to anywhere and at any time they want. Unfortunately, a crisis-induced movement restriction can be a huge barrier to this, as witnessed during the pandemic outbreak. Even those from countries with strong passports were stranded as no nation was ready to welcome them. For instance, when the US became the epicentre, almost all countries shut their doors to their citizens. As a result, crucial travel plans were put on hold. The United States has one of the highest annual global health tourism rates. Millions of Americans seek healthcare services in other countries due to reasons ranging from costs and regulations. The movement restriction also affected international business travel, leaving many entrepreneurs stranded. But for travellers

with more than one passport, it was easier to move from one country to another.

This has been the greatest advantage of multiple passports, as you are less restricted by a country's laws because you have multiple options. In addition, a second passport will automatically increase the number of countries you can visit visa-free or visa-on-arrival. Some passports are so powerful that they can unlock the doors to many places. A good example is the British citizenship, which according to UK Immigration Lawyers, can be obtained through various routes. The passport grants access to over 180 countries, either visa-free or visa-on-arrival. Other countries with such high passport privilege include the United States, Canada, and Singapore.

## Family Ties

Having a second passport can help you stay close to



your family during a crisis. At the outbreak of COVID-19, many families were torn apart as a result of global travel restrictions. Various reports show the devastating effects of the restrictions on people stranded at different destinations abroad - away from their loved ones. Among the most affected were the international students who were caught amid borders closure and administrative difficulties and couldn't return home to their families. In August 2020, African News reported how tens of thousands of African students were stuck in France and their struggles coping with confinement, isolation, and loneliness thousands of miles away from their relatives.

On top of the excruciating mental effects of the restrictions, some of them also faced financial downturns and had to rely on food banks on several occasions. "It's hard. Not only without work but at the same time you can't see your family," an Algerian student complained. Thousands of couples were also divided for several months, as spouses got stuck thousands of miles apart. Also, many children couldn't see their parents for several months, and families had to catch up via digital means such as video calls. Despite the digital avenues, many people still expressed frustrations due to the sudden lockdowns that tore their families apart.

## Health Purposes

A second passport can be one of the most important possession during a crisis, especially a health-related one like coronavirus. The rapid spread and high fatality of the virus quickly put pressure on the healthcare

system in many epicentre places. Coronavirus treatment became the highest priority, and many patients suffering from other conditions were given less attention. In many countries, thousands of patients with chronic non-COVID-19 cases faced difficulties accessing a specialist. For instance, in Italy, one of Europe's epicentres, there was a drastic reduction in hospital admissions for non-COVID conditions. The fear of being infected by the virus also discouraged many people from visiting the hospital.

The situation was even worse in countries with inadequate health facilities and a shortage of medical professionals. The best option for many people who found themselves in this situation would have been to access their much-needed healthcare service abroad. Unfortunately, the global travel restriction made medical tourism practically impossible. According to the American Journal of Medicine, around 16 million people embark on medical tourism yearly, spending \$45-\$72 billion. That shows the significance of outbound medical care services on the world population. However, due to the restriction, the industry cratered and left millions of people with little or no option of getting their desired healthcare. This is one of the crucial areas where second citizenship can prove to be invaluable as it can be leveraged to seek medical care abroad.

## How to Get a Second Passport

Obtaining a second passport has different procedures depending on the citizenship and immigration laws in different countries. For instance, the eligibility criteria for getting US citizenship include being a permanent resident in the country for a specified number of years. Other requirements are age, good moral character, and physical presence in the country. Other countries with A-list passport privilege also have similar requirements.

In Britain, you must demonstrate at least 5 years of continuous residency in the United Kingdom, with no longer than 450 days spent abroad within the 5-year period. Though the process can appear to be somewhat lengthy due to several steps involved. However, by working with experienced UK citizenship and immigration solicitors, you can fast-track the application procedures and receive your citizenship without delays.

Apart from these, you can also explore the fast and affordable citizenship options in Caribbean countries like Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis. Other countries with similar options include Grenada and Malta. In some of these countries, you can complete the citizenship by investment process in less than 6 months. It usually requires investing a specified amount of money in the country's economy or donate some money. Again, requirements and process vary widely from one country to another. The most important thing is to do your due diligence and ensure you meet the requirements before proceeding with the process.

OlusegunAkinfenwa is a correspondent for Immigration News, a news organization affiliated with Immigration Advice Service London. IAS is a leading UK immigration law firm that helps applicants navigate their British immigration and citizenship application process.



# PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic  
Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

April 1, 2021

## The National Civil Society Union of Liberia (Nacsul) condemns Liberian Journalists

This Exercise is our reaction to Condemnation of two Liberian Journalists by the National Civil Society Union of Liberia (NACSUL) for what it called “negative propaganda against a Liberian Humanitarian”, Dr. Daniel Cassell (The Analyst Liberia, March 1, 2021).

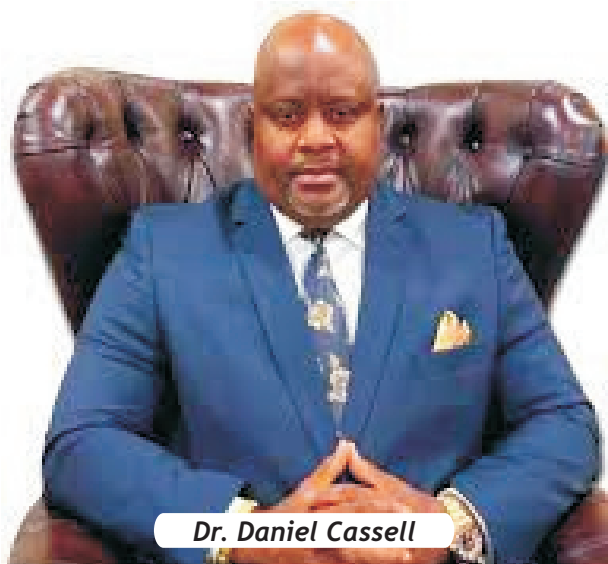
Journalists Charles Yates and Rufus Paul wrote in a Facebook posting that “Dr. Daniel Cassell is a fake humanitarian; that he (Dr. Cassell) is citizen of the USA, loyal and patriotic to that country; and that he comes here, to Liberia, wanting to be president”.

The facts of this matter are that “humanitarian Dr. Daniel Cassell”, like other “politicians”, is Standard Bearer of a recently-organized Liberian political party (People’s Liberation Party, PLP) who spent most of their adult, productive lives in the USA. Moreover, in terms of citizenship relationship, Dr. Daniel Cassell is a foreign national, being citizen of the USA, a foreign country. Therefore, seeking or wanting to be president of Liberia, as he does, is in violation of Article 52 of the Liberian Constitution which “provides that no person shall be eligible to hold the office of President or Vice President unless that person:

a) “Is citizen of the Republic of Liberia; and c), resident in the Republic ten (10) years prior to his/her election . . .”. No amount of humanitarian activities can/and or may repeal/and or vacate this Law.

Although we recognize and appreciate the Dr. Daniel Cassell Humanitarian Foundation’s intentions and reported activities so far, but Dr. Cassell’s very close association with politics, in fact, the founding, leadership as Flag Bearer of the Liberian Political Party (People’s Liberation Party, PLP) and seeking the presidency of Liberia raise several, serious troubling questions regarding political power, ethics and humanitarianism.

Our analysis for this exercise is informed by the English terms, “humanitarian and propaganda”, defined by the Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus. According to the Dictionary, the terms:



Dr. Daniel Cassell

1) Humanitarian is defined as a person, philanthropist who seeks to promote human welfare such as providing human needs - housing, education, healthcare, post conflict and disaster relief assistance, etc. - at no cost or price to recipient/beneficiaries and compensation to the giver. The most important Humanitarian narrative is love/personal desire to give and promotion, sometimes under extreme conditions of personal sacrifices; and

2) Propaganda, defined as an organized program of selected/selective information and publicity used to propagate or advance a doctrine (beliefs), usually ideas, by advertising, promotion, disinformation, rumors and lies.

Meanwhile, modern Political Process in which Dr. Daniel Cassell is involved and engaged is likened to the free-market, for profit economic system characterized by, depends upon and utilizes the strategies of Producers (the political parties); Products (candidates for office); Prices (votes) and Consumers (the voters-citizens).

In the effort to achieve success, the Political Process employs these strategies for competitive price (votes) advertising and the quality of their products (political candidates) to gain maximum consumers (voters-citizens).

Thus, the Political Process includes the basic, critical ingredients of the free-market economic system, ingredients not included nor required for humanitarianism - cost, price (votes) and compensation (Political candidates).

Regarding the allegation of Propaganda, one must show and prove publication of rumors and lies. But the reports by Journalists Yates and Paul that Dr. Daniel Cassell is a loyal and patriotic citizen of a foreign country, the USA, and that he (Dr. Cassell) is founder-leader of a Liberian political party and wanting to be president of Liberia have been found to be true and factual, consistent with the journalists’ professional responsibilities.

Therefore, the allegations made against them (the Journalists) by National Civil Society Union of Liberia (NACSUL) is unfounded, but an apparent corrupt, political posting and posturing.

**Editor’s note: The views and opinions expressed in this articles are that of the author and do not represent those of the New Dawn newspaper or its parent company Searchlight Communications Inc.**

# NEC chair receives general elections report

The National Election Commission (NEC) Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah has received a pack of three documents from the Chairperson of the Independent National Elections Commission of

according to the dispatched from Benin Republic were the Review of the 2019 General Elections-Report of the Commission’s Retreat and Stakeholder Engagement.

The others were, the State of Voter Access to Polling Units in Nigeria and



NEC-Liberia Chairperson, Browne Lanahan receives three Elections Documents from INEC-Nigeria Chairperson, Prof. Yakubu in Benin Republic.

Nigeria, (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu.

A dispatched from Cotonou, Benin on Monday April 12, said, similar presentations from the INEC-Nigerian Chairperson were made to both the Burkina Faso and Benin Chairpersons for their Electoral Commissions.

The three documents received

Report of the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria. A dispatched from Cotonou, Benin said the presentation was made as part of Peer Learning on Elections in the ECOWAS Region.

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

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**Lofa County awaits President Weah**

**--Superintendent Kamba disclose**

Citizens of Lofa County are gearing up to give President George Manneh Weah and party a rousing welcome, County Superintendent William Tamba Kamba discloses.

He explains that currently, various committees have been set up to prepare for President Weah's pending visit to the county.

Lofans want President Weah to carry development to them like he did in his tour of other counties recently.

President Weah lost Lofa County to former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boikia of the ex-ruling Unity Party during the 2017 elections, including by-elections.

The President's governing Coalition for Democratic Change lost the December 8, 2020

Senate.

In its ruling last year, Criminal Court C mandated that he restitutes the money in two installments or go to prison. Senator-elect Samukai has agreed to retribute the amount with citizens of Lofa depositing an initial US\$10,000 into a local commercial bank, as part of mobilization to assist in the restitution.

But Superintendent Kamba informs the people of Lofa that politics is over, and it is now time to unite and put the county's first rather than personal interest.

He further discloses that during the President's visit to the county lots of activities will be held in his honor.

"Lofa County is not a place that belongs to a particular group of people and some individuals should have in mind that President Weah is the head for everybody," the Superintendent notes.

He says individuals on social media threatening to disrupt President Weah's visit to the county are not sons and daughters of Lofa, adding, that real sons and daughters from Lofa don't have such mindset to utter such statement to their leader.

Kamba assures that the people of Lofa County are peaceful and non-violent.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia has not announced an official date for President Weah's visit to Lofa, but in his two last visits recently, Mr. Weah toured counties in Southeast and Western Liberia. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Supt. William Tamba Kamba

Superintendent Kamba says citizens from various districts across Lofa are in high gear to receive the President, including elders, chiefs, traditional leaders, students and marketers, amongst others.

He says the people of Lofa traditionally have great respect for their leaders in line with cultural values.

Kamba continues that

senatorial election in Lofa to ex-Minister of Defense Brownie J. Samukai from the UP.

But Mr. Samukai was indicted, tried and convicted by the Weah administration along with several others for misapplying soldiers' welfare fund, totaling over US\$1 million, a verdict that is seriously impeding his certification by the National Elections Commission in order to take his seat at the Liberian

**"Bong County Health Team is doing well"**

**---Says Asst. Health Minister**

**By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County**

Liberia's Assistant Health Minister for Curative Services Dr. Gorbee Gabriel Logan says Bong County Health Team is doing extremely well in delivering health services to the people in the midst of numerous challenges.

Speaking to a team of journalists during a brief stop in Suakoko District, Dr. Logan said the County Health team has over the past been financially challenged; but in spite of that, it withstands the challenges and has been providing health services to the needy.

According to Dr. Logan, the current challenge faced

by the Bong County Health Team and other health teams across the country was not created only by the coronavirus pandemic, maintaining that it all started during the time of the Ebola virus epidemic here.

He notes that the country's health system started to experience betterment before 2014, but unfortunately, the deadly Ebola virus strangled the system and devastated efforts applied by the country and its partners.

"These are problems [our] health sector has been faced with, so if we see the county health team performing like this, it makes us happy because they are seriously challenged," he says.

Additionally, Dr. Logan tells

journalists that besides the blow received from Ebola, the Coronavirus has also contributed to the current status of the country's health system that was already paralyzed.

He indicates that the Ministry of Health and partners are eager to improve the health system, adding that the overall improvement of the quality and performance in the healthcare system can help providers with reliable, cost-effective and sustained healthcare in every country.

The Former Bong County Health Officer says when the system is improved, the Ministry of Health will achieve its goal of improving care delivery and enhancing patient outcomes.

"The Ministry of Health will

**Police charge man for murdering spouse**

**By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County**

Police in Gbarnga, Bong County have charged and sent to court suspects DoloKollie and Abraham Sumo in connection to the gruesome murder of Hawa Yarkpawolo in Larkpanta, Jorquelleh District #2, Bong County.

According to police investigation, during the late evening hours of Tuesday, 30 March 2021, suspect DoloKollie allegedly chopped and killed Hawa, the woman by whom he had seven children, and then escaped

woman.

DoloKollie and Abraham Sumo are therefore charged with murder and aggravated assault.

Giving his account of the story, suspect DoloKollie blamed his action on jealousy; stating, he suspected his wife of having a loving affair with another person.

He told reporters that Sumo alerted him of his wife going to meet her boyfriend in a nearby town and escorted him to pursue her.

He narrates further that he



the scene.

Addressing reporters on Monday in Gbarnga, 12 April, the Commander of the Crimes Services Division of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Bong Detachment, KelensoFlomo said the prime suspect, DoloKollie allegedly admitted to the commission of the crime of murder during police preliminary investigation.

Meanwhile, Abraham Sumo is being drawn into the case based on allegation from culprit Kollie that he allegedly aided him in killing the

chopped the victim once, while his brother, Abraham Sumo collected the cutlass and finished her up.

Meanwhile, suspect Sumo has denied the claim by Dolo Kollie that he (Sumo) was involved.

Sumo says he was en route back to the town from his farm, when he bumped into three men, who broke the news of the incident to him. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

**Cummings, family**

**Starts from back page**

minute. I urge everyone to continue to abide by the preventive health measures. COVID-19 is real, and unfortunately, is still with us.

Please keep my family in your prayers, as ours will be that you continue to act to keep yourself and your love ones safe."

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forever remain committed to the people that's why the government is doing everything it can to give the necessary supports. And I and assure you that our health

sector will be better," he adds. He however urges the health



# Français

## Secrets d'Histoire : le jour où Laurent Gbagbo a été arrêté

Le 11 avril 2011, Laurent Gbagbo, son épouse et une quarantaine de proches étaient arrêtés par les forces fidèles à Alassane Ouattara. C'était il y a tout juste dix ans.

Laurent Gbagbo a beau avoir avalé un somnifère, il n'a pas dormi de la nuit. Il a l'œil hagard. Il est épuisé, un peu perdu, comme dans un état second. Les commandants Hervé Pélikan Touré, alias « Vetcho », et Morou Ouattara l'entourent. « Ne tuez pas mes enfants », glisse-t-il à l'oreille du premier qui lui enfile un gilet pare-balles. Un rebelle enlève son casque pour le lui mettre sur la tête.

Il est un peu plus de 13 heures, ce 11 avril 2011. L'ancien président vient d'être arrêté par les forces fidèles à Alassane Ouattara. C'est la fin de ce qu'on a appelé « la bataille d'Abidjan ». Un affrontement entre deux belligérants, avec comme arbitre la communauté internationale - la France en tête -, et dont les derniers jours ont été pour théâtre le quartier de

Cocody-Ambassades.

C'est là que se situait la résidence de Laurent Gbagbo, au bord de la lagune Ébrié, coïncée entre la résidence de l'ambassadeur de France et les locaux de la Garde républicaine, aujourd'hui attribués au Groupement de sécurité pour le président de la République (GSPR). Désormais à l'abandon, l'édifice avait été construit sous l'impulsion de Félix Houphouët-Boigny, qui en avait fait la résidence officielle des chefs

d'Étatois.

À l'intérieur de la concession, il y a un parking, une infirmerie et une grande annexe où les délégations officielles étaient reçues, des réveillons organisés et où, depuis le début de la crise, des armements sont stockés. La maison s'élève sur deux niveaux. L'entrée principale s'ouvre sur un grand salon. À gauche, un

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Guinée : Conséquences de la fermeture des frontières avec le Sénégal - Les Guinéens asphyxiés par la hausse des prix de denrées alimentaires

À quelques jours du début du ramadan, les consommateurs guinéens commencent à subir les graves conséquences économiques, sociales et sanitaires de la fermeture des frontières avec le Sénégal décidée par leur président. Si la situation est si grave dans ce pays voisin, c'est parce que non seulement la quasi-totalité des

denrées alimentaires viennent de Dakar, mais encore de nombreux malades guinéens aux pathologies chroniques se soignent dans les hôpitaux sénégalais. Mais ce qui nous intéresse ici, c'est l'« embargo » voulu et imposé par le président contesté Alpha Condé et qui a asphyxié le peuple guinéen à travers une hausse sans précédent des prix de denrées alimentaires... ». « Le Témoin » quotidien sénégalais a

enquêté...

En plus de l'obtention d'un troisième mandat très contesté, car jonché de cadavres, le président Alpha Condé est en passe de mettre en péril la sécurité économique, sanitaire et alimentaire du peuple guinéen. En effet, à une semaine du début du ramadan, les consommateurs guinéens subissent les graves conséquences de la fermeture de la frontière de leur pays avec le Sénégal. Selon de nombreux opérateurs économiques, commerçants, médecins, camionneurs et autres hommes d'affaires guinéens, mais aussi des citoyens de ce pays qui viennent de revenir à Dakar contactés par « Le Témoin » quotidien, les consommateurs sont complètement asphyxiés par la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires. Dans tous les marchés de Conakry, Labé, Kankan, Nzérékoré, Mali etc., le prix du sac de 50 kg de riz qui coûte 12.000 francs CFA au Sénégal se négocie à 20.000 CFA en Guinée, la bouteille de gaz butane de 6 kg (2.900 CFA à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Le registre national d'identification devrait redoubler d'efforts

Le gouvernement du Libéria veut que l'ensemble de la population obtienne des cartes d'identité nationales, surtout les fonctionnaires, mais il se peut que le registre national d'identification, l'organisme d'État chargé de délivrer ce papier n'ait manifestement pas de moyen, au point que les citoyens font la queue pendant des semaines ou des mois pour avoir leurs cartes d'identité.

Le plus dégoûtant encore, c'est que le gouvernement a fait de la possession de la carte une condition sine qua non pour chaque fonctionnaire d'avoir accès à son salaire. En plus, les utilisateurs de téléphones portables sont harcelés pour mettre à jour l'enregistrement de leur numéro en se servant de leur carte d'identité nationale. Pourtant, il faut environ deux à trois mois aux demandeurs pour obtenir une carte d'identité, car le système du registre national est défaillant.

Le groupe de travail national chargé du nettoyage de la masse salariale de l'état a publié une circulaire, avertissant qu'à compter du mois d'avril 2021, les fonctionnaires qui ne disposent pas de carte d'identité nationale ne recevront pas de salaire. Mais concernant le dysfonctionnement des prestations de services au niveau du registre national, aucune mesure n'a été prise.

Il est important que le gouvernement prévoie des mesures d'accompagnement pour chaque politique mise en place, sinon les résultats escomptés pourraient être désastreux. En réalité, tout processus aléatoire finit par créer des inconvénients aux personnes qui devraient en bénéficier.

Compte tenu de la ruée actuelle vers les cartes d'identité et de l'incapacité du Registre national à répondre à la demande, l'on assiste à de sérieux compromis qui pourraient entraîner des conséquences imprévues et inattendues que la nation pourrait regretter ultérieurement.

Nous nous félicitons certes de la délivrance d'une pièce d'identité nationale appropriée à chaque Libérien, mais encore faut-il que le processus soit correctement soutenu tant sur le plan financier que technique. À quoi sert l'annonce d'une politique qui manque de planification appropriée. Cela n'a aucun sens.

Nous appelons les autorités du registre national d'identification à redoubler d'efforts pour répondre à la demande. Il ne suffit pas de forcer les gens à se faire délivrer des cartes d'identité. Il faut prévoir un service efficace.

Le Libéria ne dispose pas d'un système biométrique synchronisé qui améliorerait l'accès facile et réduirait les coûts sur les dépenses nationales, selon la Commission de la gouvernance, un groupe de réflexion gouvernemental.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, presque tous les services, y compris les passeports, les banques, les admissions universitaires et les services mobiles, entre autres, sont pré-conditionnés par des cartes d'identité nationales.

Nous semblons mettre la charrue avant les bœufs, en tant que nation qui n'a pas contribué à faire avancer le Libéria. Comme l'a dit le président, il est temps de calibrer pour garantir un pays meilleur.



# Français

## Secrets d'Histoire :

autre salon et unesalle à manger. À droite, unesalled'attente et le bureau du président.

Deux ascenseurs de chaque côté du rez-de-chaussée permettent d'accéder à deux appartements. L'un a longtemps été occupé par Narcisse Kuyo, qui fut chef de cabinet de Gbagbo, l'autre par le chef de l'État et son épouse Simone - le couple faisant chambre à part.

Au rez-de-chaussée, un escalier mène à un sous-sol sur deux niveaux. On y trouve un bureau, occupé par Gbagbo, une petite bibliothèque et une buanderie. Il y a aussi une pièce de 20 m<sup>2</sup> et un étroit couloir menant à un tunnel. Scellé après la mort d'Houphouët-Boigny, il permettait d'accéder à la résidence de l'ambassadeur de France.

C'est dans ce décor que Laurent Gbagbo et une centaine de proches collaborateurs et de membres de sa famille étaient retranchés depuis le 30 mars 2011. « Ce jour-là, c'était un mercredi. Le conseil des ministres prévu

à la présidence a été annulé. Tout le monde s'est retrouvé à la résidence pour faire le point de la situation. Nous ne l'avons plus quittée », se souvient un ancien membre du gouvernement.

Premiers bombardements  
Les premiers bombardements ont lieu le 4 avril sous une pluie fine. L'après-midi touche à sa fin. Laurent Gbagbo sort de sa douche quand un bruit sourd retentit. « On a d'abord cru qu'ils agissaient d'un coup de tonnerre », raconte un proche de l'ancien président. Gbagbo se mêle au petit attroupement formé dans la cour. Ce ne sont pas les éléments qui se déchaînent, mais les hélicoptères français et ceux de la mission de l'ONU en Côte d'Ivoire (Onuci) qui font feu - une opération couverte par la résolution 1975 du Conseil de sécurité. Ils visent les armes lourdes et les dépôts de munitions des camps militaires d'Akouédo et d'Agban, puis le palais présidentiel et enfin la résidence même du chef de l'État. Un char de la Garde républicaine explose. Il y a des éclats de verre dans la cour, un début d'incendie.

## Guinée : Conséquences

Dakar) coûte 6.000 CFA à Conakry, le litre d'huile végétale (1.200 CFA) est devenu à 2.000 CFA à Labé et 2.500 CFA à Conakry. A en croire Th. B., un commerçant guinéen basé à Labé, pratiquement tous les prix des produits alimentaires importés du Sénégal ont connu de très fortes hausses « Les prix du poivre, du sésame, du sucre, du lait ainsi que des légumes importés sont flambés, battant un record de hausse jamais égalée en Guinée. Si le pays souffre de la hausse exagérée des produits alimentaires, c'est à cause de la fermeture des frontières non seulement avec le Sénégal mais aussi avec la Guinée-Bissau. Car, les rares denrées disponibles sur le marché guinéen sont importées frauduleusement du Sénégal par des voies clandestines. Ce, à cause de la fermeture des frontières » se désolent notre interlocuteur. Et de menacer : « A ce rythme, tout le peuple guinéen finira par se révolter.

Car toutes les couches sociales et ethniques à savoir les sous-sous, peulhs, malinkés et autres souffrent de l'augmentation des prix des produits de première nécessité » ajoute ce grand commerçant guinéen.

Le parc automobile guinéen a subi également de plein fouet

la fermeture de la frontière entre les deux pays. Car, la plupart des pièces de rechanges automobiles et motostellages, les lubrifiants, les pneus, les moteurs, les pots d'échappement, les courroies de distribution et autres accessoires deviennent de plus en plus rares. Garagistes et automobilistes sont dans le désarroi. Et craignent la pénurie totale dès lors que la plupart des pièces détachées sont achetées à Dakar et acheminées en Guinée par la voie terrestre. « Car le marché des pièces détachées automobiles est un secteur très attractif en Guinée. La plupart des revendeurs et fournisseurs s'approvisionnaient au Sénégal. Aujourd'hui, tout le secteur est au ralenti ! » regrette A. Diallo, garagiste installé à Conakry joint par « Le Témoin » par l'intermédiaire d'un de ses amis rencontrés à Dakar.

La Cede a interpellé  
En de hors des conséquences économiques et sociales, la fermeture de la frontière entre la Guinée et le Sénégal a aussi affecté le secteur de la santé.

Pour mieux comprendre l'impact, il est bon de rappeler que Dakar est devenue une destination hospitalière privilégiée de la sous-région. Donc se faire évacuer à Dakar est un luxe voire un espoir de survie pour de nombreux patients guinéens, maliens, mauritaniens, gambiens etc.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Karina Gould

## La clé pour combattre la COVID-19

OTTAWA - Une année s'est écoulée depuis que la pandémie de COVID-19 a commencé à faire les manchettes et à dominer nos vies. Pour bien des gens ici au pays et ailleurs dans le monde, ce fut une année stressante et affligeante comme jamais auparavant. Nous attendons tous que les membres de nos familles, nos amis et les membres de nos communautés soient vaccinés pour pouvoir pousser un soupir de soulagement.

Il est tout à fait naturel que la santé des personnes que nous aimons passe avant tout, mais nous ne devons pas oublier que ce virus ne connaît pas de frontières. Il ne suffit pas de miser uniquement sur nos réponses nationales face à la COVID-19. En même temps que nous nous concentrons sur la vaccination des Canadiens à haut risque, nous devons également nous assurer que le reste du monde est en voie d'être vacciné, lui aussi, et que chacun a accès à des tests de dépistage et à des traitements sûrs et efficaces. Pour vaincre ce virus partout, nous devons le combattre partout.

La lutte contre un virus qui s'étend à l'échelle mondiale est un défi de taille, mais il y a de nombreuses raisons de garder espoir. En décembre dernier, nous nous sommes réjouis de l'administration des premiers vaccins contre la COVID-19 au Canada à une résidente d'un établissement de soins de longue durée, à Québec, et à une employée de soutien, à Toronto. Mais maintenant que le déploiement mondial des vaccins par l'intermédiaire du Mécanisme pour un accès mondial aux vaccins contre la COVID-19 (Mécanisme COVAX) est bien amorcé, nous avons encore plus de raisons de nous réjouir.

Depuis le 24 février, des dizaines de millions de doses ont été acheminées dans plus de 70 pays partout dans le monde. Il s'agit de la campagne de vaccination mondiale la plus grande et la plus rapide de l'histoire. Au Ghana et en Côte d'Ivoire, les travailleurs de la santé et les populations à haut risque ont été parmi les premiers à être vaccinés avec des doses de COVAX, et des campagnes similaires sont en cours au Nigéria, en Jamaïque et en Albanie. Nous sommes témoins de la réponse mondiale à l'œuvre, et nous devons la reconnaître pour l'étape importante qu'elle représente.

Le Canada a adhéré au Mécanisme COVAX en septembre dernier, parce qu'il croyait ardemment en sa mission d'accélérer le développement et la fabrication des vaccins contre la COVID-19 et d'assurer un accès équitable aux vaccins. Le Mécanisme COVAX a été créé pour garantir l'accès à une plus grande variété de vaccins et pour permettre aux petits pays plus pauvres de se trouver sur un pied d'égalité avec les grands pays plus riches. En achetant en gros, le Mécanisme COVAX peut livrer des doses dans le monde entier de la manière la plus équitable et la plus rentable possible.

Le Mécanisme COVAX a été conçu comme un véritable partenariat coopératif. Avec 190 pays participants, il représente près de 90 % de la population mondiale et dispose d'un pouvoir d'achat bien supérieur à celui que la plupart des pays pourraient avoir seuls. De plus, lorsque le

Mécanisme COVAX a été créé, personne ne savait quels vaccins seraient efficaces ni lesquels seraient approuvés en premier. C'est pourquoi le Canada a fait appel à COVAX pour se procurer certaines doses de ses vaccins. L'accord conclu entre le Canada et le Mécanisme COVAX est un complément aux autres ententes que le Canada a conclues et permet d'augmenter ses chances de réussir sa campagne de vaccination nationale, tout en participant à l'effort mondial.

Pour compléter ses propres efforts d'approvisionnement, le Canada a lancé des investissements qui contribueront également à rendre les vaccins, les produits thérapeutiques et les diagnostics relatifs à la COVID-19 abordables et accessibles à l'échelle mondiale. Les divers accords d'achat anticipé du Canada pourraient éventuellement lui permettre d'avoir un excédent de doses de vaccins. Le moment précis où cela se produira sera déterminé dans les semaines et les mois à venir, à mesure que Santé Canada achèvera son examen des candidats-vaccins et que nous confirmerons le déploiement des vaccins au Canada.

Quel que soit le moment où nous atteindrons un excédent, nous travaillerons en étroite collaboration avec nos partenaires internationaux, y compris d'autres pays, l'Alliance GAVI, le Mécanisme COVAX et les fabricants de vaccins, afin d'explorer toutes les options possibles pour garantir que les doses parviennent aux personnes qui en ont besoin. Il faudra du temps pour vacciner l'ensemble de la population mondiale. Le Mécanisme COVAX a déjà assuré l'approvisionnement de plus de 2 milliards de doses de vaccins en 2021, mais il faut maintenant garder le même esprit de coopération mondiale pour garantir que cet approvisionnement continue d'augmenter, afin qu'aucune population vulnérable ne soit laissée pour compte.

Nous pouvons nous réjouir de savoir que nous ne partons pas de zéro. Le Canada finance des projets liés à la santé dans les pays en développement depuis des décennies, et il continuera de le faire. Ces investissements contribuent à la lutte contre la polio, le VIH, la tuberculose, le paludisme et le virus Ebola, et ils se sont avérés essentiels pour aider les pays à lutter contre la COVID-19 grâce à des méthodes éprouvées et souples en matière de santé publique, comme le dépistage de masse et la recherche de contacts.

Si cette crise nous a appris une chose, c'est que nous devons conserver la capacité de nous adapter à une situation qui évolue rapidement. Moins d'un an après que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé ait déclaré que la COVID-19 était une pandémie, nous avons fabriqué et approuvé des vaccins sûrs et efficaces, qui sont maintenant administrés aux personnes qui en ont le plus besoin.

Je ne saurais trop insister sur l'importance du Mécanisme COVAX. Pour la toute première fois, le monde s'est uni pour garantir un accès équitable et universel aux vaccins.

Nos réponses nationales et mondiale à cette crise sont inextricablement liées; c'est pourquoi le Mécanisme COVAX est notre meilleure chance de vaincre la pandémie. Lorsque la coopération internationale réussit, nous en bénéficions tous.



## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# The Truth and Nature of Xinjiang-related Issues

By H.E. RenYisheng, Ambassador of China to Liberia

Recently, some Liberian media have reprinted some false information about China's Xinjiang. In order to help African and Liberian friends know a real Xinjiang, it is necessary to clarify the truth so that it can be viewed and heard squarely.

For a period of time, out of prejudice, ignorance and even malice, some politicians, media, and scholars in some Western countries including the United States have spared no effort to fabricate the so-called "genocide", "forced labor", "re-education camps" and other lies about Xinjiang. These smearing attacks without a bottom line and a convincing basis seriously violate international law and the basic norms of international relations, and blatantly violate justice and conscience.

Putting the hat of "genocide" on China is the biggest lie of the century. Over the past 40 years, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang has doubled from 5.55 million to more than 12 million. The average life expectancy has increased from 30 to 72 years. Is there any kind of "genocide" in the world with a huge population increase?

There is no "forced labor" problem in Xinjiang at all. It is completely out of nothing. In Xinjiang, workers of all ethnic groups freely choose occupations and locations according to their own wishes, and sign labor contracts with enterprises in accordance with the law on the principle of equality and self-consent, and are completely free from any discrimination and coercion. According to data from the Xinjiang Agricultural Department, the harvesting rate of cotton machinery in Xinjiang in 2020 has reached 70%. Growers can order machine picking services through mobile apps without leaving home. It can be said that cotton picking has entered the "Internet +" era. Isn't it ridiculous that some people are still making up stories about the so-called "forced labor" at this time?

There is no "re-education camp" in Xinjiang at all. It is completely fabricated out of thin air. The essence of Xinjiang-related issues is the issue of countering violence and terrorism, de-radicalization, and anti-separatism. From 1990 to the end of 2016, thousands of violent and terrorist cases (incidents) occurred in Xinjiang, which brought serious disasters to people of all ethnic groups. Can any government tolerate this without

doing anything? The Chinese government launched the fight against terrorism in accordance with the law, and at the same time, by drawing on the experience and practices of other countries including the Western countries to establish de-radicalization centers and other preventive counter-terrorism practices, set up vocational skills education and training centers in accordance with the law to save and help people who have committed terrorism, extremism, illegal or criminal acts to achieve stable employment, improve the quality of life, and achieve de-radicalization. This is fully in line with the principles and spirit of a series of counter-terrorism resolutions such as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Xinjiang education and training center is of a school nature, and it is strictly forbidden to insult and abuse students in any form. The so-called "beating and torture", "sexual assault and sterilization against women" and other accusations are simply nonsense. By October 2019, all trainees of the centers had completed their studies, and most of them achieved stable employment and lived a peaceful life. There have been

been reduced to tools for anti-China forces to spread rumors about Xinjiang and smear China's image. In recent years, more than 1,200 diplomats, officials of international organizations, journalists, and religious figures from more than 100 countries have visited Xinjiang. They believe that what they have seen and heard in Xinjiang is completely different from the reports of some Western media and the accusations of some politicians. The French writer Maxime Vivas wrote a book titled "Uygurs, to Put an End to the Fake News".

He used his two personal experiences in Xinjiang to tell the prosperous and stable real Xinjiang, and pointed out that it is those people who have never been to Xinjiang that are making fake news and disseminating the falsehoods. At the recent 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, more than 80 countries expressed their support for China's legitimate position on the Xinjiang issue in the form of joint or individual statements. This fully demonstrates that justice is in the hearts of the people.

At the regular press conference of the Foreign

Ministry of China held not long ago, spokesperson Hua Chunying shared with the press a short video which screened the remarks by Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to former Secretary of State Colin Powell and a retired US Army Colonel, at a forum organized by the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity in August 2018.

He was speaking on the threefold purposes of the US presence in Afghanistan, one of which is to contain China. He said undisguisedly that "the third reason we were there [in Afghanistan] is because there are 20 million Uyghurs [in Xinjiang]. The CIA would want to destabilize China and that would be the best way to do it to foment unrest and to join with those Uyghurs in pushing

the Han Chinese in Beijing from internal places rather than external". This is what the US has said and done.

Facts have proven time and again that the West has meticulously concocted the so-called Xinjiang issue. It was not concerned with the "human rights of the Uyghur people" or the truth, but with the use of the so-called human rights issues to undermine China's security and stability and to impede China's development and growth.

Seeing is believing. The door to Xinjiang is always open. In 2019, Xinjiang received more than 200 million tourists. We welcome friends from all over the world to have the opportunity to visit Xinjiang to learn more about and experience a real and beautiful Xinjiang without being deceived by the "centenary lies". We also call on all media that uphold an objective and fair stand and abide by professional ethics to respect the truth and refrain from spreading false information on Xinjiang-related issues.



no cases of violence and terrorism in Xinjiang for more than four consecutive years, and the rights to life, health, development, and national security interests of all ethnic groups have been maximized.

Over the past 60 years, Xinjiang's economic aggregate has increased by more than 200 times. From 2014 to 2019, Xinjiang's GDP grew at an average annual rate of 7.2%. As of the end of 2019, a total of 2,923,200 people had been lifted out of poverty in Xinjiang, and the incidence of poverty dropped from 19.4% in 2014 to 1.24%. By November 2020, the last 10 poverty-stricken counties of Xinjiang had all completely eradicated absolute poverty. Unprecedented achievements have been made in economic and social development and improvement of people's livelihood in Xinjiang.

Anyone who respects the facts will give a fair evaluation. Recently, the international media including the "Grey Area" of the American independent news website have disclosed that the so-called "Uyghur victims" have been proved to be lying, and they have



# GoL, World Bank sign US\$74.2M financing agreement

Liberia's former Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Atty. Isaac Jackson has accused Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon of being inconsistent and pretending to fight against corruption in the Liberian

scandal like corruption, you step aside to protect the integrity and the image of the institution.

Jackson questions Bility as to what he brings to the party other than taking the party down, noting that the former Liberia Football Association (LFA) president has been found guilty by world football governing body FIFA as being corrupt and banned

must remain firm in the party," he says.

He notes that if you appeal to precedent in the Senate, you must also appeal to precedent in your party [for] consistency.

"But Dillon is not consistent; he's pretending to be ..., he's throwing all these metaphorical grenades at



Isaac Jackson



Sen. Abraham Darius Dillon

Senate, while he allegedly avoids criticizing his party chairman Musa Bility of the Liberty Party (LP) for corruption.

"How can you Dillon be talking about precedent in the Senate, but you cannot talk about precedent in your party. It's disgusting!" Atty. Jackson said Monday, 12 April on a live talks show on Prime FM.

Jackson mentions that Dillon accuses those who are not his friends of corruption, but he avoids criticizing Liberty Party Chairman Musa Bility because the latter allegedly sponsored his campaign.

Jackson argues that everywhere around the world when you are in a leadership position and your name comes into conflict with a

from sporting activities for ten years.

He insists that the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine helped to establish the reputation of LP, but Bility is tarnishing it.

"Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence has to stand up; Dillon will have to stand up and abide by the standard established, practiced and precedent in the party to ask Bility to step aside. So that's what the concerned partisans are doing," he says.

He states that the Concerned Partisans of Liberty Party constitute people who want to uphold the integrity standards that were erected in the party by its founding standard bearer, the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine.

"We believe that the good things that Cllr. Brumskine did

people who are not his friends, then when it comes to his friends, he [uses] soft drug. That's hypocrisy," Jackson accuses Senator Dillon.

He accuses Dillon of working at the Ministry of Justice as Special Assistant to imprisoned former President Charles Ghankay Taylor's Solicitor General, the late Cllr. Theophilus C. Gould and allegedly aided in defending Gould's acts against Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe and Hassan Bility, among others.

He continues that the same Dillon criticizes Senate President Pro Tempore Albert T. Chie for corruption, but allegedly goes in the night to beg the Pro Temp for hand-out. Jackson claims that Liberians have been duped by Dillon's pretenses.

# Dillon is inconsistent

By Winston W. Parley

The Government of Liberia and the World Bank Liberia Country office have signed dual financing agreements totaling US\$ 74.2 million.

The Liberia Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project (LESSAP), valued at US\$64.2 million, and the Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment (REALISE) project valued at US\$10 million were signed on Monday April 12, 2021.

Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah Jr., represented the government of Liberia, while Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara represented the World Bank.

Mr. Tweah said government is working to solve the electricity problem by reducing cost per kilowatt from 33cent to a reasonably reduced amount.

He thanked the World Bank and other partners for continued support to the energy sector, stating it could turn the electricity space around by improving the investment climate.

agreements are ratified as soon as possible because president Weah is a practical president, and he is pressing for results and solving lots of problems.

Also speaking, World Bank Liberia Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara said the importance of both projects cannot be over-emphasized.

"With regard to energy, we are all aware of how much work remains to be done to ensure universal and affordable access to electricity in Liberia" Dr. Nthara said.

According to him, the World Bank and development partners decided to approach electricity problem in Liberia due to the fact that only 7 percent of Liberians have access to grid electricity, with 21 percent having access to off-grid sources of electricity.

Under the project titled: Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment (REALISE), grants and business skills training will be provided to 4,000 vulnerable households to revive and start small businesses.

It will also provide temporary employment and wages to 15,000 poor



"So this project is in the right direction, 64.5 million will solve a number of things in the electricity space.

Minister Tweah said government is moving in a new direction for transformation, adding that the "old aged" problem has to go away.

He acknowledged the Bank's effort in helping Liberia to solve the electricity problem in the post COVID context.

He assured the Bank that the government is committed to ensuring the two

individuals, half of whom will be women, and will target as well low-income communities and poor families in greater Monrovia, says Country Manager Dr. Nthara.

According to him, the project is being financed through an IDA credit of US\$5 million and an IDA grant of US\$5 million will go a long way to complement efforts through the ongoing Liberia Youth opportunities Project, implemented by the Youth and Sports Ministry.

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# Cummings, family in self-quarantine

**-As wife test covid-19 positive**



The Political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander Cummings and wife Teresa Cummings now in self-isolation, following the latter's covid-19 positive result.

In a brief statement issued over the weekend, Mr. Cummings told his followers that he had to cut short his 5-days visit to Nimba and return to Monrovia after news that his wife had tested positive for the virus.

Cummings: "On last Tuesday, April 6, 2021, I embarked on a 5-

day visit to Nimba County. I returned to Monrovia on yesterday to attend the graduation ceremony of a vocational institute, and to spend time with my wife, Teresa, before her travel out of the country which was scheduled for today.

While in Gbarnga enroute to Nimba this morning for the conclusion of my working visit, I received a call from my wife. She had tested positive with COVID-19. I immediately returned to Monrovia to be with my wife. At the moment, Teresa is fine. I am also fine and not presenting any symptoms.

However, as a result of the positive result and consistent with the health protocols, Teresa's travel is postponed. I have also initiated arrangements to take the Covid-19 Test on tomorrow, and will be self-quarantining immediately.

I apologize to the people of Nimba for canceling the last leg of my visit at the last

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# PSG snubbed €300m Neymar offer from Real Madrid

Real Madrid had a €300 million (£260m/\$357m) bid for Neymar knocked back in 2019 claims Wagner Ribeiro, who says Paris Saint-Germain made it clear that even "a billion" would not be enough to get the Brazilian.

The Ligue 1 giants smashed the world transfer record in the summer of 2017 when luring the South American superstar away from Barcelona in a €222m (£192m/\$264m) deal.

Ever since that



agreement, a return to Spain for Neymar has been mooted with Real looking to turn speculation into a transfer at a time in which serious questions were being asked of the 29-year-old's future in France.

Ribeiro, a former agent of Neymar, told L'Equipe: "At that time, he was close to going to Real Madrid. Madrid were willing to pay €300m for him. Florentino [Perez] told me, but Nasser [Al-Khelaifi] refused. 'Not for a billion, he's not going to go!' He told me."

Having seen an exit denied, Neymar has committed himself to the PSG cause. He has scored 83 goals in 106 appearances, helping his current club to a number of domestic honours and the Champions League final.

Transfer talk refuses to go away though, especially as he is approaching the final year of his contract in Paris.

Fresh terms have been mooted, alongside ongoing talk of interest from Barca and Real, but Ribeiro doubts that any other side could afford him.

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