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VOL.11 NO. 053

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00



VP Jewel Howard-Taylor

# NPP must be grateful to CDC

# Shock and grieve



Alleged shooter Jovanus Turay

**-As female student fatally shot at school**

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# Continental News

## How a small African territory has upset China

Both Taiwan and Somaliland are basically fully functioning territories which proudly declare their independence but neither is recognised internationally and now, as Mary Harper reports, they are moving closer together. "Welcome to our humble office," says Chou Shuo-Wei Amir, the Third Secretary at Taiwan's diplomatic mission in Somaliland. In fact, "humble" is misplaced as the mission is

rather swish, located in a large villa next to the ministry of religious affairs in Somaliland's capital, Hargeisa.

A Taiwanese flag flutters gently in the warm breeze - its red, white and blue colours striking against the clear blue sky. Although some see their relationship as bizarre, Somaliland and Taiwan are in many ways natural bedfellows. Both are unrecognised internationally and both have larger neighbours - Somalia and China - which

insist they are part of their territories.

Somaliland and Taiwan established diplomatic relations last year to the fury of those neighbours.

Somalia denounced Taiwan for becoming friends with Somaliland. Chinese officials travelled to Somaliland and insisted it sever ties with Taiwan.

It is possible that China sees Taiwan's relationship with Somaliland as a potential disruptor of its Belt and Road

Initiative, whereby it plans to develop sea and land trade routes across Asia, the Middle East and Africa. An obstructive Somaliland, with its highly strategic Berbera port, could block the continuity of its Maritime Silk Road along the eastern coast of Africa. China might also be eyeing the Somaliland-Taiwan friendship a little nervously because it has established its first overseas military base anywhere in the world, in neighbouring Djibouti. Taiwan sees Somaliland as the first step in its ambitions in the region.

"Somaliland is Taiwan's gateway to East Africa," says the Taiwanese representative in Somaliland, Allen Chenhwa Lou, sitting under a picture of his president, Tsai Ing-wen.

"From here I represent Taiwan in 10 East African countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia."

Somaliland is one of just two African territories to have full diplomatic ties with Taiwan. The first was the tiny nation of Eswatini, which forged ties way back in 1968. Mr Lou describes the relationship between the two territories as "win-win". Taiwan offers assistance in agriculture, technology, education, healthcare, elections and energy. Somaliland has a strategic location, rich fishing stocks, natural resources and tourism potential. "Somaliland calls Taiwan its 'big brother'," says Mr Lou. "But I prefer to see our relationship as a sharing and cooperative one. We will always be together with Somaliland."

"We do not need to seek independence right now because we are already independent. What we both need is recognition. Both of us share this difficult situation." BBC



Somaliland's mission in Taiwan opened in September last year

## DR Congo president takes full control in new cabinet

Democratic Republic of Congo's prime minister on Monday announced a new cabinet in a move that consolidates President Felix Tshisekedi control in government.

The new government of the Sacred Union coalition has 57 members including 14 women, with only 10 from the previous cabinet being reappointed.

The Sacred Union is President Tshisekedi's new coalition announced on 6 December after breaking his collaboration with former President Joseph Kabila.

Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, who was appointed in February, has named economist Nicolas Kazadi as finance minister, former civil society activist Antoinette N'Samba Kalambayi

as mining minister and retired general Daniel Asele Okito as interior minister, Reuters news agency reports.

The AFP news agency says figures from the anti-Kabila opposition have been named to key posts, including environment minister and deputy prime minister Eve Bazaiba of the opposition party Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC).

Christophe Lutundula, the new foreign minister, is close to former Katanga Governor Moise Katumbi who attempted to challenge Mr Kabila in the last presidential election, AFP notes.

The former president still retained considerable power even after stepping down following the 2018 elections - as his coalition had won the majority of parliamentary seats in what was widely seen as a flawed election.

In December, President Tshisekedi moved to end the coalition with Mr Kabila and forced the resignation of the prime minister by persuading scores of MPs to defect. BBC



President Tshisekedi moved to end the coalition with former president Kabila in December

## Somali lawmakers vote to extend president's term

Somalia's Lower House of Parliament has voted to approve a bill to extend President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo's term in office by two years.

The controversial special election bill was overwhelmingly approved by 149 members. It needs to be approved by the upper

Former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre, who is now part of an opposition coalition, said the country is in crisis and urged the international community to urgently intervene.

Before the session began, Banaadir region police commander ordered all roads that lead to the parliamentary



President Farmajo welcomed the resolution which approves keeping him in power for two more years

chamber before becoming law. Mr Farmajo welcomed the passing of the bill in the lower chamber, adding that after two years the Somali people will finally be able to elect their own president.

But opposition candidates and some of the regional state leaders have rejected the resolution.

complex to be closed in a bid to stop lawmakers from attending the session.

He said his forces were against what he called a "term extension" for the president, whose mandate had expired on 8 February. BBC

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# 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.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

# COMMENTARY

By Shamshad Akhtar, Ulrich

Volz, Moritz Kraemer,  
Stephany Griffith-jones

## The G20's Missed Opportunity

ISLAMABAD - 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.

# OPINION

By Edoardo Campanella

## Social Capitalism

**M**ILAN - The COVID-19 pandemic has damaged the stock of physical and human capital. Firms have postponed or canceled investment projects, and laid-off or furloughed workers' skills have deteriorated. The crisis, however, has boosted the oft-overlooked variable of social capital, elevating its role as a key source of economic growth.

Popularized in the 1990s by Harvard University political scientist Robert Putnam, social capital refers to "the features of social organizations, such as networks, norms, and trust that facilitate action and cooperation for mutual benefit." A somewhat nebulous concept, it comprises the shared values, behavioral conventions, and sources of mutual trust and common identity that allow a society to function. The more social capital a group has, the greater its willingness and ability to act collectively in pursuit of valuable objectives.

In other words, social capital is the glue that holds communities and nations together. Under the right conditions, repeated and mutually beneficial social interactions lead to faster economic growth, better health outcomes, and greater stability.

In the case of the pandemic, social capital provided the first line of defense against the virus when vaccines and effective medical treatments had not yet become available. Here, individuals taking steps to prevent contagion provided a public good. Each conscious act aimed at reducing exposure to the virus lowered the probability of infection for the rest of the community. In the jargon of economists, those who reduced their mobility and social interactions internalized a negative externality that they otherwise would have imposed on society.

A sense of attachment to a larger group induces people to tolerate the high individual costs of cautious behaviors. A large and growing body of academic research has shown that spontaneous social distancing is more likely in places with better-developed civic cultures. For example, a European cross-country comparison found that "a one standard deviation increase in social capital [led] to between 14% and 40% fewer COVID-19 cases per capita accumulated from mid-March until end of June [2020], as well as between 7% and 16% fewer excess deaths."

Moreover, places with high social capital tend to be more economically vibrant and civic-minded than places where people are isolated. Not surprisingly, in the early stages of the pandemic, the virus spread more rapidly in densely populated cities like Paris, New York, London, and Milan, because nobody realized what was coming. But as soon as the need for behavioral changes became apparent, inhabitants in more civic-minded areas adopted social distancing measures even before formal restrictions were imposed, and they were more responsive to subsequent state directives.

Social capital also played a key role in powering economies through months of lockdowns and remote working. While digital technologies helped people to stay connected, it was social capital that kept those connections alive. Employees working from home remained productive because they had built up a sense of reciprocal trust, shared identity, and common purpose with their colleagues. And on that basis, many were able to develop entirely new (digital) working relationships.

In most cases, companies ended up expanding their internal social capital during the pandemic. Having partly lost their ability to control their workers directly, they ended up empowering them. With more flexibility to manage their time and lives outside of work, many employees could take on even more responsibility and deliver higher-quality output. According to a cross-country survey by the Boston Consulting Group, 75% of employees maintained or increased their productivity despite the pandemic restrictions.

In today's hybrid workplace, social capital is clearly one of the most important factors behind such results. Unlike its physical counterpart (factories, equipment, and so on), social capital does not deteriorate with use - just the opposite. But like any other form of capital, it needs to be maintained and upgraded, and this will be especially true in the post-pandemic phase.

In normal circumstances, our connections and relationships evolve and expand over time. Yet without appropriate measures to reactivate and reopen social networks, months of lockdowns and restrictions could exhaust some relationships or result in group segregation. Owing to what Putnam calls "bonding social capital," people might become so attached to a specific group that they succumb to clannishness or tribalism. Indeed, populism and nationalism are social capital's degenerate forms, and they have been resurgent in some places during the pandemic.

Governments and corporations thus should try to build more "bridging social capital," by leveraging the sense of responsibility, solidarity, and altruism developed during the COVID-19 crisis. This form of social capital links people across different groups, and will be necessary to prevent the next pandemic and to combat climate change. But civic mindedness alone will not be enough. Individuals will need to be convinced to internalize the negative externalities of their actions.

With that goal in mind, governments should extend more autonomy to citizens, positioning themselves less as controllers and regulators and more as catalysts and facilitators. And corporations, for their part, should look for ways to foster a culture of reciprocal trust, invest more in the digital transition, and explore new ways to organize work.

Viewed in these terms, COVID-19 could leave a positive legacy: a firmer base of social capital to underpin the responsibility and altruism that the world will need as it faces the challenges ahead.

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# OP-ED

By Peter Singer

## Extending the Right to Die

**M**ELBOURNE - The right to assistance in dying continues to gain ground. Last month, the Spanish parliament passed legislation, expected to come into effect in June, permitting doctors to assist adult patients to die if they have a "serious and incurable" disease that causes "unbearable suffering." The doctor may either prescribe a lethal dose of a drug that patients can take themselves - a mode known by various terms, including medical aid in dying, voluntary assisted dying, and physician-assisted suicide - or give the patient a lethal injection, known as voluntary euthanasia.

In February, the Portuguese parliament passed legislation permitting voluntary euthanasia for patients who are terminally ill. Portugal's president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, referred the law to the Constitutional Court, which rejected it on the grounds that it was insufficiently precise. Parliament is expected to pass a revised version, which should become law before the end of the year.

Other countries have gone further. Since 2016, Canada has permitted medical aid in dying - both physician-assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia - for patients whose natural death is "reasonably foreseeable." The legislation was a response to a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada holding that existing prohibitions on assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canadians supported the legislation, but, according to one poll, eight out of 10 respondents thought it too restrictive. In a case brought in Quebec in 2019, the province's Superior Court ruled that the restriction of assistance in dying to patients whose natural death was foreseeable violated the Charter of Rights.

In March, after extensive public consultation and parliamentary debate, the Canadian parliament approved amendments making patients eligible for assistance in dying if they have a "grievous and irremediable medical condition," which is defined as "having a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability; being in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability; and experiencing enduring physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to them and cannot be relieved under conditions that they consider acceptable."

Although patients whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable are now eligible for assistance in dying, requests from these patients must receive additional scrutiny, including a mandatory 90-day period in which the patient's eligibility is tested by, for example, counseling or improved palliative care that may alleviate the patient's suffering.

The 2016 legislation required a parliamentary review of the law after five years. In addition to a general overview of how the law is working, the review will consider two issues that will help to shape public discussion of assistance in dying. One is whether advance requests should be permitted (for example, by someone in the early stages of dementia who is still capable of enjoying life, but does not want to live beyond the point when that capacity has been lost). The other issue the review will consider is whether assistance in dying should be available to someone whose intolerable and irremediable suffering is caused by mental illness.

The issue of allowing advance requests for assistance in dying will become more pressing as populations age and more people develop dementia. Last year, the Dutch Supreme Court ruled that doctors cannot be prosecuted for carrying out euthanasia on patients who have given written consent, but subsequently lost the capacity to consent.

The overriding reason for permitting this is that it allows patients in the early stages of dementia to enjoy their lives, without fearing that unless they commit suicide while they are still capable of doing so, they will become what Gillian Bennett, a Canadian advocate for advance requests, called "an empty husk." Bennett took her own life, because she had been diagnosed with dementia and did not want to prolong a life she would no longer be able to enjoy, entirely dependent on nurses who should have been using their vocation to care for patients who could benefit from it.

Canada's 2021 legislation explicitly excludes mental illness as a sole ground for receiving assistance in dying, but the exclusion will automatically lapse in two years. That sets a deadline for parliament to decide what safeguards are needed to ensure that the suffering of mentally ill people who request assistance in dying is truly irremediable.

There can be little doubt that some mentally ill people are not helped by treatment, and do suffer greatly. It is hard to see why, if suffering from an incurable but non-terminal physical illness suffices for assistance in dying, suffering that is as bad or worse from incurable mental illness should not also be sufficient. Moreover, for people who are suffering from untreatable depression or other mental illnesses that do not respond to treatment, merely being judged eligible for euthanasia can in itself make life more bearable.

Mental illness is accepted as a ground for euthanasia in Belgium and the Netherlands. A study of 100 psychiatric patients in Belgium who requested euthanasia on the basis of their psychological suffering found that 48 of the requests were accepted, but eight patients postponed or canceled the procedure, "because simply having this option gave them enough peace of mind to continue living."

The only remaining question might be the reliability of psychiatric assessments of whether a patient's mental illness is incurable and will continue. But in the end, only the patient can judge how unbearable the suffering is, and therefore, how much weight

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JUDICIAL BRANCH  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



PAYNESVILLE CITY MAGISTERIAL COURT  
PAYNESVILLE CITY

NAMES OF THOSE INVITED

April 9, 2021

TO : The Attached names persons and business entities Operators within the City of Paynesville, Township of Congo and its environs, Montserrado County/Liberia

DATE FOR CONFERENCE: Friday, April 16, 2021 in the Chambers of His Honour William G. Saygah, Stipendiary Magistrate, Paynesville City Court

SUBJ. : DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF PAYNESVILLE, TOWNSHIP OF CONGO TOWNSHIP & TOWNSHIPS ILLEGALLY:

DATE : As above.

Dear Occupants:

By directives of His Honour William G. Saygah, Stipendiary Magistrate, Paynesville Magisterial Court, you are cited for a conference in his Chambers, Paynesville Magisterial Court, Paynesville City, on Friday, April 16, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 P.M.

The nature of this conference is that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has filed a complaint/petition before this Honourable Court on and against you by and through its Executive Director (CEO) Honourable Wilson K. Tarpoh of the City of Monrovia have alleged that you have and are violating the ACT creating the Environmental Agency to ensure the protection of its citizen, but you the within named lister have ignored Section 75 Count 2 of the Act.

Because of the nature of this complaint, His Honour ordered that you appear on the date and time mentioned supra to hear your side of the complaint, and that upon your failure to appear, this Court will have no other alternative, but to have you defendants' premises demolished without notice.

You are to cooperate so as to avoid further embarrassment on your part.

By directive of His Honour William G. Saygah, Stipendiary Magistrate, I write.

Kind regards,

Very truly yours,

Henry G. Doelakeh  
CLERK OF COURT

CC: EPA

1. Extension of Zeo Wood Workshop
2. Samuel David
3. USA Auto & Travel LLC
4. Konah Lewis
5. Tommy Woart
6. Tete Gartor
7. Structurest & Police & Police Academy & Boulevard Junctions
8. Wilfred
9. Joe Barne
10. Bishop Alfred Gear
11. J. Five Car Wash
12. Samuel Domo
13. Container & Zinc shops along Police Academy Road
14. Block Factory adjacent Kailando Gas Station
15. Zinc Welding shop after Kailando Gas Station
16. Containers along the Road after Kailando toward Congo Town
17. Container after Kailando Gas Station toward Congo Town
18. Containers place along Police Academy Road
19. Containers and Zinc shop after Kailando Gas Station
20. Container place along Police Academy Road
21. Zinc building opposite Police Academy Road Junction
22. Foundation built in the wet-land on the left side behind the materials store toward the river

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Maryland Police commander disrobed -for beating female officer

Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The Inspector General of the Liberia National Police has disrobed the Maryland county police commander Jacob Comehn

Speaking to this paper over the weekend, Inspector General of Police, Col. Patrick Sudue said, the police commander is disrobed for allegedly brutalizing the female police officer.

Col. Sudue noted that

Monrovia for further investigation.

On Friday, April 9, 2021, deputy line commander for the women and children protection section Sergeant Rebecca Nimely, alleged that she was physically assaulted by her boss, Col. Jacob Comehn for trying to intervene in a case involving her landlord that was being heard by Commander Jacob.

Sgt. Nimely narrated the action by her boss was prompted by information given to him by his deputy that during the recent riot in the county over the murder of a motorcyclist, female officers in Maryland left the streets, something, she noted Col. Comehn didn't inquire but held it against them.

She disclosed that on March 31, 2021, she saw her landlord without clothes sitting on the bare floor in his boxer, which claimed her attention and decided to ask what took him to the police station.

But while the landlord was explaining, she said Commander Comehn accused her of obstructing Justice and sarcastically remarked that they [female officers] failed to make any arrest during the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



for brutally assaulting female police officer Rebecca Nimely, who is the deputy commander for the women and children protection section in the county.

although, he couldn't speak to the situation that led to Commander Comehn's action against the female officer, but the commander has been disrobed and forwarded to

## CENTAL ends Open Expenditure Forums in Bong & Nimba

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency or SIDA, has concluded the first two (2) in a series of seven (7) Open Expenditure Forums expected to be held across seven (7) counties in Liberia.

According to CENTAL press release, the open Expenditure Forums, separately held in Gbarnga, Bong County and Sanniquellie, Nimba County were intended to increase citizens' knowledge and understanding of public spending and make them aware of the importance of openness on societal growth and expansion as well as enhance accountability of public officials to their people.

The forums are being held under the auspices of CENTAL's National Integrity Building and Anti-Corruption (NIBA) program which targets Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Bomi, Gbarpolu

and Montserrado counties, respectively.

At the initial two forums in Bong and Nimba on April 6 and 7 respectively, citizens, including women, youth, students, people with disabilities, community members and leaders enthusiastically engaged and interacted with their local leaders, mainly Superintendents and Project Management

Committees Chairpersons.

In Gbarnga, Bong County, the Protocol Officer in the Office of Superintendent Esther Walker spoke on her behalf. Mr. Daniel Dunoe welcomed the CENTAL team and pledged the County Authority's willingness to working with CENTAL to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



## No class, no race

Starts from back page

Lawrance, Representative Rosana Schaack, who chairs the Female Legislative Caucus, Civil Society and other women groups.

The Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament Sidie Mohamed Tunis says Liberia being the first African country to have a female president and also over the last three years, the first female vice president in the region, Monrovia is the right place that the discussion for women empowerment is held.

He therefore pledges support to do his best to improve the status of women in their respective countries and thanks the authorities of Liberia for granting the regional Parliament the privilege to meet in Monrovia.

Liberia's Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection Williametta Saydee Tarr explains that the Weah administration through the Ministry has done a lot for women and would continue to do more.

She reveals that efforts have been made locally to empower women of Liberia through village savings, and other vocational skills.

According to her, those trainings have impacted lives of females both old and young, but the exercise is constrained financially due to limited budgetary support.

The Chairperson of the

Female Legislative Caucus, Rep.

Rosana Schaack notes they in the Liberian Legislature have been addressing issues affecting women, while stressing a need to increase number of women in the Legislature, and to empower women economically.

Rep. Schaack continues that women in Liberia are still challenged

traditionally, calling for promotion of gender equality to allow women hold public offices and perform public duties at all levels.

The head of Liberia's delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament, Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe, who welcome the regional parliament, said that the Speaker of ECOWAS doesn't need to be welcomed to Liberia, because the country is already his home.

Snowe discloses that Speaker Tunis and President Weah were once class mates in Liberia, specifically at Well-Hellston High School in Monrovia and that the Speaker is also a graduate of the Cuttington University in Bong County, Liberia.

He then thanks President Weah who formerly headed the Liberian Delegation to ECOWAS and opened lots of doors that enable delocalization of the parliamentary meeting. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Bestman Memorial

Starts from back page

will be graced by Mr. John Bestman and other dignitaries, and friends.

Black Star's notable accomplishments are consequent of Pennoh W. Bestman's result-oriented administration, providing exceptional leadership to the club. From 1992 to 2020, Mr. Bestman provided sponsorship, technical guidance, and alms to players and their families.

During his reign, he developed strategic partnerships locally and internationally while providing opportunities to young athletes.

The maiden edition of the tournament was held in 2020 and Liberia Black Star FC clinched the championship trophy, defeating Barnesville Old-timers Sports Association (BOSA) 3-2.

Black Star's Kelvin Sebwe and Soto Roberts scored one

goal each; third goal was an owned-goal by BOSA.

Liberia Black Star was founded on March 15, 1980, in South Beach Community, Central Monrovia, Liberia.

Under the leadership of the late Bestman, Black Star won three championships in one year (LFA National League, LFA Knock-out Championship, and The President's Cup), becoming LFA Triple Champions in 2007. The following year, Black Star represented Liberia at Confederation of African Football (CAF) Club Championship.

The club has an enviable record. In the LFA 1st Division, the Black Star produced players who have had huge impact on Liberian football, including Kelvin Sebwe, Thomas Kojo, Oliver Makor, Alex Browne, and Dionysius Sebwe. The players were also part of the famous 'George Weah Eleven'.

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Rep. Kolubah vows to challenge suspension in court

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County District #10 Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah has vowed to challenge his suspension by Plenary of the House, describing his colleagues who

and that said communication should be sent to the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration for investigation.

The outspoken opposition lawmaker, who is a fearless critic of the Weah administration, said he has not received a written

district#8 Representative Moses Acarous Gray.

According to Representative Gray, the decision remains binding due to the fact that he didn't write the Chief Clarke to state his motion for reconsideration in keeping with their rules.

Also speaking, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers said in line with Legislative practices, the one who's in the position to drive the decision of plenary in favor of or against has decided not to go about challenging the decision of plenary, so it stands.

"And so therefore, Representative Yekeh Kolubah is suspended for 30 meeting days without benefit", Speaker Chambers announced.

On 26 March 2021, the plenary of the House of Representatives took the decision to suspend Representative Kolubah for his direct and deliberate egregious behavior constantly exhibited against the Liberian Presidency.

He said the suspension follows a communication sent to Plenary by ruling Coalition for Democratic Change Representative Thomas P. Fallah of Montserrado County district #5. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



took the decision as jokers.

He said they are jokers because their rules in the House are very clear that any member of the House of Representatives that has problem with another member should write plenary

communication on his suspension so he's not suspended.

Plenary suspended Kolubah for insulting President George M. Weah. This followed a motion for reconsideration earlier filed by Montserrado County electoral

## LDEA dismisses 4 officers -for impropriety

The Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency says it has dismissed four of its officers and suspended one for their as alleged involvement in propriety, specifically selling confiscated drugs in Grand Kru County.

Addressing a news conference recently in Monrovia, LDEA Commander Michael Zaryou said, "We have terminated the contract of four of our officers, and employees, and suspended one for three months without salary."

He identified those dismissed as Arnor Keniwen, County Commander, and his deputy, Albert Sah; Alfred Sonbi, OPS; and Mark Roberts, all of the Grand Kru County detachment, and Uriah Jilah, former commander for New Kru Town who has been suspended for three months without salary.

Commander Zaryou narrated that investigation by the LDEA Professional Standards Division proved

that the officers affected arrested a female suspect Miss Margaret Wolobah with two kilograms of cocaine in Grand

the investigation, they were found culpable for act of irregularities and drugs impropriety, which breaches the Act that establishes the LDEA.

"We want to resend out



Kru, but repackaged and sold the dangerous substance in the county.

He said at the conclusion of

this caveat to all of those who are out there in the constant habit of confiscating drugs that whenever you are

## My focus is citizens' livelihood

-Rep. Enders

By Lewis S. Teh

Montserrado County Electoral district# 6 Representative Rev. Samuel Enders has reminded critics that his primary focus is to improve lives of his constituents rather than getting re-elected.

"Look I have a six-year mandate, and that is to ensure that the underprivileged children are given the opportunity to acquire knowledge" he said.

my focus now is to bring current to district 6, and to improve the livelihood of my people and not 2023."

"what can we do now for people who are struggling is the things we should be talking and not thinking about 2023; for me, I'm not bother, because I had all of my properties prior to becoming a representative", he added.

The lawmaker said he would keep his focus, while his critics talk, pointing that there are children that need to go to school, including about 130



Speaking in a news conference recently, he said those wanting to become representative should begin to show seriousness, and get involved in community initiatives across the district rather than criticizing him, because according to him, his work will speak for him.

"Those who have to do government job before they survive are worrying, because

children who need to go to hospital every day, and these are his concerns.

He called on his opponents in the district to refrain from making cruel statements that have the propensity to tarnish his character, noting, "You might necessarily be in agreement but don't get yourself in spreading misconception about me." **- Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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caught, you will be dismissed and face the full weight of the law", the LDEA boss warned.

The LDEA is a semi-autonomous agency under the supervisory authority of the Ministry of Justice, responsible for effective and efficient enforcement of laws pertaining controlled drugs,

substances and precursors, including essential chemicals.

The Agency also plays a drug-crime focused role in national law enforcement, fights importation and exportation of drugs and controlled substances within the borders of Liberia.

# Français

## LANALA Finances, la première compagnie de micro-finance digitale voit le jour en Guinée

Le monde des microfinances s'est agrandi en République de Guinée avec la création de LANALA Finances, un nouveau-né du GROUPE LANALA Holding composé préalablement de LANALA Assurances SA et LANALA Assurances VIE. Le Directeur Général LANALA FINANCES, Bernard GOUMOU a procédé au lancement des activités de la première compagnie de microfinance digitale en République de Guinée ce lundi 12 avril 2021 au siège de l'institution sis Almamy à la Rue ka.038 dans la commune de Kaloum.

Parlant des motivations du Groupe LANALA Holding, le Directeur Général Adjoint, Mr Labila Doré a dans son intervention déclaré que « Nous sommes partis des études qui ont été faites sur le terrain, nous savons qu'il y a beaucoup de microfinances qui sont là, cependant les clients estiment que les produits et services que ces microfinances offrent ne sont pas très adaptés à leur besoin de financement. Partant de ces études, nous nous sommes fixés des objectifs et des stratégies pour répondre

à leurs besoins »

La Responsable juridique et contentieux, Marie Bambette Camara, a abondé dans le même sens pour dire : « Nous avons constaté qu'il y a une catégorie de personnes qui n'a pas accès au crédit ; notamment les sérès, le boutiquier du quartier, les associations de mototaxis et autres catégories. L'objectif et la valeur ajoutée du service juridique de LANALA Finances, c'est de tout simplement les amener avoir des documents

juridiques, les accompagner sur cet aspect pour qu'ils puissent avoir facilement accès au crédit. Chez LANALA Finances, on reçoit tout le monde. On permet à ces personnes qui n'ont pas de papier de les obtenir pour avoir accès au crédit » A-t-elle déclaré.

Dans la présentation de son institution financière, le Président de la cérémonie de lancement des activités de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Mort de Thomas Sankara: la justice décide de la mise en accusation de l'ex-président Compaoré

Ce mardi, le tribunal militaire a décidé de la mise en accusation de l'ex-président Blaise Compaoré pour attentat à la sûreté de l'État, complicité d'assassinat et recel de cadavres dans le dossier de l'assassinat de l'ancien chef de l'État Thomas Sankara. Gilbert Diendéré, ancien bras droit de Blaise Compaoré, est lui aussi poursuivi. Au total, 14 personnes doivent comparaître devant le

tribunal dans ce dossier.

Poursuivi pour attentat à la sûreté de l'État, complicité d'assassinat et recel de cadavres, l'ex-président devra se présenter devant le tribunal pour un procès. Selon la décision judiciaire, il existe suffisamment de charges contre l'ancien dirigeant pour les faits de recel de cadavres et le tribunal maintient le mandat d'arrêt international contre celui qui vit en exil en Côte d'Ivoire.

Mandat maintenu aussi pour

Hyacinthe Kafando, poursuivi pour assassinat et attentat à la sûreté de l'État. Il est le présumé chef du commando qui a procédé à l'assassinat du capitaine Thomas Sankara et ses compagnons. Également accusé dans cette affaire, le général Gilbert Diendéré, proche de Blaise Compaoré. Dans ce dossier, quatorze personnes sont renvoyées devant la justice.

Dans le même temps, le tribunal militaire a ordonné la mise en détention de toutes les personnes dont les charges ont été confirmées. Les mandats d'arrêt sont donc maintenus contre ceux qui sont à l'étranger.

Fin de plusieurs années d'enquête et de procédure

L'équipe de défense du général Gilbert Diendéré, détenu aujourd'hui dans le cadre d'un autre dossier, avait soulevé l'exception de prescription. Étant donné que l'affaire n'avait connu de traitement judiciaire durant des dizaines d'années, elle devrait être considérée

▶ 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

## LANALA Finances,

LANALA Finances, Dr Bernard GOUMOU, Directeur Général de Lanala Finances dira que « Lanala Finances est une institution de microfinance agréée pour collecter l'épargne et accorder des prêts à ses clients... LANALA Finances est une institution qui s'est bâtie avec une équipe jeune, dynamique et expérimentée et ayant pour leitmotiv "l'innovation" »

Pour Dr Bernard Goumou, Directeur Général de LANALA Finances : « Lanala finances a pour mission fondamentale de promouvoir l'inclusion financière afin de contribuer à l'amélioration du niveau de vie de nos population en général et en particulier celles qui ont un accès difficile au crédit ou à toute forme de financement ».

C'est pour cela que selon lui, LANALA Finances se distingue par 4 points, il dira :

- Nous avons des équipes d'agents mobiles dotés des TPE (terminaux de paiement électronique) qui se déplacent vers les clients facilitant ainsi toutes leurs opérations (ouverture de compte, dépôts, retraits etc..)-
- Nous avons des applications, en occurrences l'application mobile clients, l'application Portefeuille électronique, la biométrie, les SMS Banking qui permettent de faire des opérations bancaires sécurisées sans se rendre dans une agence.

- Nous assurons un accès diligent au crédit.

- Nous mettons met à disposition de nos clients de petits crédits via les opérateurs de téléphonie mobile.

Ainsi pour Dr GOUMOU, chez LANALA finances, c'est la microfinance qui se déplace vers les clients

« LANALA finances est une microfinance digitale. A l'instar de toute la planète qui se digitalise, nous avons choisi dès le départ d'épouser la tendance. Par conséquent le digital occupe une place prépondérante à LANALA

Finances et cela à travers la digitalisation totale de ses opérations, son réseau d'agents mobile disponible à tout temps, son wallet pour faciliter les paiements électroniques des clients ».

Avant de terminer son intervention Dr GOUMOU a lancé un appel à la population guinéenne en ces termes : « A toute la population guinéenne, sachez que Lanala Finances a été créée pour vous dans un seul but, vous aider à la réalisation de vos projets en vous apportant le financement nécessaire et adéquat. Tout a commencé avec LANALA Assurances que vous avez accueillie et plébiscitée. Nous avons continué avec LANALA Assurances Vie que vous avez d'ailleurs soutenue, aujourd'hui, l'œuvre se poursuit avec LANALA Finances. Par Conséquence, qu'importe votre activité, votre âge ou votre revenu, vous êtes les bienvenus chez Lanala Finances ». A-t-il conclu.

En clair, LANALA Finance se donne le devoir de multiplier les points de services et la visibilité de l'institution, assurer la proximité avec la clientèle, minimiser le risque sur le convoyage de cash, renforcer la collecte d'épargne. Permettre également aux pauvres dames d'avoir accès à un financement et de leur donner une éducation financière.

Toujours dans la logique de mieux servir les populations cibles et de participer à l'inclusion financière souhaitée, LANALA Finances développe un projet de « Bank to Wallet/wallet to bank » pour une diversification de l'offre de services et l'amélioration du service à la clientèle avec des coûts réduits. Ainsi la mise en œuvre de « Bank to Wallet » va permettre le mouvement de fonds entre Wallet (compte électronique via Smartphone) et le compte bancaire d'un même client (dépôt, retrait, consultation solde...)

Précisons que LANALA Finances, casse tous les codes en permettant aux populations d'avoir un compte bancaire à seulement 500 Fr Guinéen.

## Mort de Thomas Sankara:

comme prescrite, selon ces avocats qui évoquaient les textes en vigueur. Une exception rejetée par le tribunal.

En revanche, il n'y aura pas de procès pour cinq autres personnes qui étaient citées dans l'affaire, mais qui sont décédées.

Parmi elles figurent Nacoulma Wampasga, le colonel-major Alain Laurent

Bonkian, Tasseré Dianda ou encore Salam Yerbanga. Thomas Sankara était un président adulé par la jeunesse de son pays. Elle avait vu en lui notamment l'homme capable de lutter contre la corruption.

Sa mort avait provoqué un immense choc en octobre 1987 quand le leader de la révolution et 12 de ses compagnons étaient abattus criblé de balles en pleine réunion à Ouagadougou.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Shamshad Akhtar, Ulrich

Volz, Moritz Kraemer, Stephany Griffith-jones

## Une opportunité manquée par le G20

ISLAMABAD - Les ministres des Finances du G20 ont convenu ce mois-ci d'une proposition consistant à émettre pour 650 milliards \$ de droits de tirage spéciaux (DTS), l'actif de réserve du Fonds monétaire international, ainsi que d'un moratoire supplémentaire de six mois sur les remboursements de dette de 73 pays en voie de développement. Bien que cet accord constitue une avancée dans la bonne direction, le G20 a manqué l'opportunité de s'attaquer de front à la crise de la dette qui menace les pays du Sud. Les précédentes crises de la dette auraient dû nous enseigner qu'une réponse insuffisante et tardive était synonyme de reprises qui se font attendre, ainsi que de hausse des coûts de restructuration de la dette pour les débiteurs comme pour les créanciers. Le monde reste ainsi exposé à un risque élevé de reproduction des erreurs qui ont anéanti deux décennies de développement dans les années 1980 et 1990.

Avant même la pandémie, les pays du Sud s'orientaient vers une crise de la dette ; aujourd'hui, la situation est encore plus catastrophique. Reconnaissons au G20 la rapidité de sa réponse en avril 2020, lorsqu'il a approuvé l'Initiative de suspension du service de la dette. Mais bien que l'ISSD ait permis à 43 pays de reprendre leur souffle, en les autorisant à reporter les remboursements aux créanciers publics, cette initiative n'a rien changé à la valeur actuelle nette de la dette de ces pays.

C'est ainsi qu'en novembre 2020, l'initiative a été complétée par le Cadre commun pour le traitement de la dette au-delà de l'ISSD, qui permet à 73 pays à revenu faible, éligibles à l'ISSD, de demander une restructuration de leur dette. Mais ici encore, cette étape dans la bonne direction est insuffisante.

Pour commencer, le nouveau Cadre s'applique uniquement aux pays à revenu faible. Nombre de ces pays ont effectivement besoin d'un allègement de leur dette, mais c'est également le cas de plusieurs pays endettés à revenu intermédiaire, durement frappés par la pandémie. Sur les 124 millions de personnes dont on estime qu'elles se sont retrouvées plongées dans l'extrême pauvreté en 2020, la Banque mondiale considère que 80 % vivent dans des pays à revenu intermédiaire.

Par ailleurs, ce Cadre appréhende au cas par cas les problèmes de dette des pays, échouant par conséquent à remédier à la difficulté d'une stigmatisation durable à l'encontre de tout pays sollicitant un allègement. Outre le fait que de nombreux pays en voie de développement aient désormais concrètement perdu tout accès aux marchés de capitaux, ceux qui parviennent encore à se financer via les obligations internationales sont confrontés à des risques croissants. En anticipation du resserrement des conditions de crédit, les économies des marchés émergents se retrouvent de manière générale fragilisées depuis le début de l'année, les économies en voie de développement représentant 95 % des rétrogradations décidées par les trois principales agences de notation de crédit depuis le début de la pandémie.

Enfin, le Cadre commun ne prévoit aucun engagement des pays créanciers et débiteurs qui consisterait à aligner la nouvelle marge de manœuvre budgétaire avec les objectifs climatiques et de développement convenus au niveau mondial. Les éléments de preuve abondent qui démontrent que les pays vulnérables au climat ont tendance à payer un plus lourd tribut sur leur dette publique, et que le changement climatique augmente le risque souverain. Les pays dans l'incapacité d'investir dans la résilience climatique et le développement présenteront dans le futur une durabilité de leur dette encore plus défavorable.

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Même sans prendre en compte les risques climatiques supplémentaires qui pèsent sur les pays à revenu faible, une analyse du FMI estime que fin février 2021, plus de la moitié des pays évalués par la Fonds étaient déjà en situation ou à risque élevé de surendettement, une situation d'autant plus problématique que de nombreux pays en voie de développement connaissent actuellement un phénomène continu de sorties nettes de capitaux, et que les fonds d'aide versés par les organisations internationales face à la pandémie sont utilisés pour le remboursement des créanciers privés.

Compte tenu de ces difficultés, une refonte du Cadre commun est nécessaire d'urgence, pour permettre un allègement global de la dette axé sur une reprise verte et inclusive. Pour ce faire, nous suggérons les changements suivants.

Premièrement, plutôt que d'attendre que les pays se manifestent pour solliciter dans leur individualité un allègement de leur dette, le cadre devrait admettre qu'une crise systémique nécessite une solution systémique. Le G20 doit encourager à participer à la restructuration de la dette tous les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire dont la dette est considérée comme insoutenable. Par ailleurs, dans l'analyse du poids de la dette, l'examen doit notamment porter sur les risques liés au climat et à la durabilité, ainsi que sur les besoins financiers d'un pays sur la voie de l'adaptation et de l'atténuation du changement climatique.

Aspect tout aussi important, faisons en sorte que les États bénéficiant d'un allègement de dette s'engagent à opérer des réformes qui inscrivent leurs politiques et budgets en phase avec l'Agenda 2030 pour un développement durable et l'accord de Paris sur le climat. Il est nécessaire qu'une partie des remboursements restructurés soit canalisée en direction d'un Fonds pour une reprise verte et inclusive, qui pourrait être utilisé par les gouvernements pour aligner leurs dépenses d'investissement avec les ODD.

Le Cadre doit par ailleurs intégrer plusieurs incitatifs adéquats pour veiller à ce que les créanciers privés fournissent leur part d'effort, en supportant une juste partie de la charge. Dans les cas où une analyse de la durabilité de la dette révélerait un degré d'inquiétude significatif concernant la dette souveraine du pays, il s'agirait pour le FMI de conditionner ses programmes à la mise en œuvre d'un processus de restructuration incluant les créanciers privés.

Sur ce point, les rehaussements de crédit de type Brady, pour de nouvelles obligations échangées contre une ancienne dette, permettraient de faciliter les négociations de restructuration. Dans cet objectif, nous proposons qu'une Facilité de garantie pour une reprise verte et inclusive soit gérée par une banque de développement multilatérale. En cas de manquements au paiement des nouvelles obligations, la garantie serait émise au bénéfice des créanciers privés, et les paiements manqués devraient être remboursés par l'entité souveraine auprès de la facilité de garantie.

Le fait de reporter une inévitable restructuration de la dette ne pourra qu'engendrer encore plus de difficultés pour les pays surendettés et leur population. Les pouvoirs concernés ne parviendront pas à protéger leur population face à cette terrible crise sanitaire et sociale, et seront dans l'incapacité d'investir dans l'adaptation de leur économie face au climat. Il est encore temps pour le G20 d'intervenir en conférant à tous les pays l'opportunité de viser une reprise verte, inclusive et résiliente.

# Shock and grieve

By Winston W. Parley

Police in Monrovia are investigating two high school students, suspect Jovanus Oliver Turay and a person of interest, Matthew Gonkerwon, for allegedly gunning down a fellow student-Precious Ireland early Tuesday morning on campus.

Victim Precious was fatally shot in the neck with a 9mm pistol during breakfast on the Cyber-ED Christian School of Excellence campus in the Sophie Community, Congo Town on Tuesday morning April 13.

She was rushed to a hospital for medical attention, but was pronounced dead upon arrival by nurses on duty. The incident moved parents to rush on the campus to take

Carter explained that Mr. Chapin quoted eyewitnesses and students saying they saw the victim and the two suspects seated in one of the classrooms on the Cyber-ED Christian School of Excellence campus listening to music via an earpiece.

According to him, the principal further narrated that the eyewitnesses said they saw victim Precious lying unconscious following a gun sound.

The police revealed that the parents of the main suspect, JosiaSaah and Turay who live in the USA, have been cooperating with the police here to bring their legal representations to extract statements from the suspected juveniles.

Following the incident, the Cyber-ED Christian School of Excellence initially sent out text messages to parents alerting them of the incident and later

school adds.

The Cyber-ED Christian School of Excellence assures that it will meet with parents to answer any questions and concerns they have, noting that for the privacy of the students and their families, it is not releasing names at this time.

“We are currently in touch with grief counselors and therapists to assist us with comforting and help with guiding our student body through the grieving process. Please join us in prayer for the bereaved family whose daughter lost her life today,” it continues.

Earlier in a message sent to parents, the school wrote expressing regret to inform them that there had been an emergency at the school.

“The children are safe. We will update you when we have



Alleged shooter Jovanus Turay

their children to safety.

“The Liberia National Police has arrested and is investigating two 11th grade students of the Cyber-ED Christian School of Excellence situated in Sophie Community, Congo Town for allegedly shooting victim Precious Ireland on her neck with a 9mm pistol,” the police authorities said Tuesday, 13 April hours after the incident.

According to the police, 16 - year - old suspect Jovanus Oliver Turay and 17 - year - old Matthew Gonkerwon who is listed as a person of interest, were picked up early Tuesday morning, 13 April at 8:00AM by the Anti-Robbery Unit of the Liberia National Police (LNP).

Police spokesman Moses Carter told journalists Tuesday that the School's Principal Mr. J. Emmett Chapin told the Police during preliminary investigation that he was urgently called at 7:45AM by one of his colleagues and informed of a gunshot sound on campus.

issued a press statement surrounding the situation.

In the press statement, the Cyber-ED Christian School of Excellence notes that it is with heavy hearts and much despair to inform parents of a tragic incident that had occurred at the school.

“A student brought a handgun to school this morning. While a majority of the students were eating breakfast in designated locations, this student slipped away to show off the gun to a friend and it accidentally went off,” the school says.

“Staff, emergency medical personnel, Police, and all responded quickly. Parents were informed of the emergency. Regrettably, the student did not survive the shooting. The gun was retrieved and the student is in the custody of Police. A full investigation is being undertaken by the Liberia National Police (LNP),” the

more details. Please be in prayer,” the text message says.

The school says it is saddened beyond words to inform parents that a student brought a gun to school on Tuesday and shot a colleague.

“While a majority of the students were eating breakfast in designated locations, this student slipped away to show it off to a friend and it accidentally went off. The gun was retrieved and the student is in custody now. Parents who can, may pick their students up by noon today,” the message reads.

“Please be in prayer for the Ireland family whose daughter was shot. An emergency parent meeting will be held tomorrow at 6pm,” it concludes.

# CENTAL ends Open

Cont'd from page 6

promote openness in the county's operations and expenditures.

The Chairman of the Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC), Stephen J. Mulbah, provided detailed information on the County Social Development Fund and different projects being undertaken in the county. He said corruption and financial malpractices in the county are based on mere speculations and hearsays, as most of those who spread the false information have made no attempt to seek the right pieces of information due to political and other differences.

He promised to immediately tender his resignation as Bong County PMC Chairman if anyone in the gathering proves that they were ever denied information on any activities/projects being undertaken in the county.

In Sanniquellie, Nimba County, the Assistant Superintendent for Development, Railey G. Myers, the PMC Chairman, Harris Y. Yeanamie and Sanniquellie City Mayor, Miama M. Kamara and other officials were in attendance. The Assistant Superintendent for Development welcomed the CENTAL team and noted that the authorities of Nimba have always been transparent in steering the affairs of the county and expressed willingness to working with CENTAL and other organizations to promote transparency and accountability there and the country at large.

The Chairman of the Project Management Committee, Harris Y. Yeanamie, named those who are signatories to the county's account and provided a detail

description of procurement processes followed for payments.

He also spoke of different projects being implemented, completed, and those yet to get started across the county. Chairman Yamani expressed profound appreciation to CENTAL for convening the Open Expenditure Forum in the county, as it will help to clear most of the doubts and speculations amongst the people about management and implementation of projects. The Nimba County PMC Chairman presented on the topic: ‘Nimba County Development and Social Funds.’

The Open Expenditure Forum is built on existing efforts of the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) in collaboration with stakeholders at county levels, including but not limited to, superintendents, representatives, senators, civil society organizations, women, youths, students and other marginalized groups, street vendors, among others.

CENTAL's Gender Officer, Akiyah Precious Glay gave an overview of the Open Expenditure Forums while Atty. Gerald D. Yeakula, Program Manager, presented on the topic: ‘Budget Transparency and County Development.’

The exercise seeks to enhance dialogue and partnerships between citizens and their leaders and improve relationship between them for smooth project implementation.

It is a three-year program that seeks to among other things, provide citizens access to relevant pieces of information to demand for and take action against corruption in Liberia. -Press Release

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# NPP must be grateful to CDC

By Winston W. Parley

President George Manneh Weah's advisor on communications Mr. Gabriel Nyenkan says the National Patriotic Party (NPP) must be grateful to the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) because the NPP had become a striped frame of a vehicle and could bring nothing to the tripartite arrangement to rules as the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

"[The] NPP must be grateful to the Congress for Democratic Change. Kelvin, we know in this town that the NPP had become a striped frame of a vehicle and could bring nothing to the table, save the experience that you talked about. And that was all. Even money they did not have," Nyenkan claimed during a live talk show on Prime FM Tuesday, 13 April.

The ruling coalition is made up of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) of President George Manneh Weah; the NPP of Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor and the Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP) of former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler.

Nyenkan further

arrangement that makes up the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change does not seem to be an NPP issue, suggesting instead that "it seems to be a ... Vice President Chief Jewel Howard - Taylor issue."

According to Nyenkan, the arrangement shouldn't be an individual thing, but the institution, adding that when NPP Chairman James Biney was trying to do a few things, Vice President Taylor argued that Biney was proceeding wrongly and therefore allegedly undermined his chairmanship.

The presidential advisor on communication contends that there was a fight that took the NPP to court, saying it was all about James Biney siding with President Weah and he was accused of trying to merge the NPP with the CDC as Vice President Taylor was opposed to Biney's moves.

Nyenkan says he understands that Madam Howard - Taylor came from the Executive Mansion as First Lady and had advised the [former] president of this country [Charles Ghankay Taylor] even in her bedroom, but she has to manage the situation now and know that here, she is next to somebody who is the president and she can't always have her way.

"This woman is highly educated, but yet still I expect that she will manage her ego. You know ... maybe the mentality is, but then who is George Weah? But he's president. You know, where does he come from? He comes from Gibraltar, played football and so forth, I have been here, I have been First Lady, you know I have a law degree, I have Master's degree. I have been here in politics all my life," Nyenkan asserts.

He suggests that Vice President Taylor should speak to President Weah honestly on some issues, and if he doesn't go along, she has to leave it.

The former Montserrado County Representative wonders if you will go out opposing a decision reached after a group which you a part of has debated an issue for maybe three hours and your opinion did not eventuate as the final.

"I assume for the argument that "B" is the correct path, but if you don't have what it takes, the pedigree to convince everybody in the room that "B" is the correct path then of course you lose. And when you lose you go with the group because then you



questioned the sort of experience the NPP brought to the table, pondering if the foreign policy construct of the NPP government which ruled Liberia under imprisoned ex- president Charles Ghankay Taylor was the mutilation of limbs in neighboring Sierra Leone and whether this is what the CDC government should follow, among others.

"Now, I will not take anything the NPP people advised on face value because their governance for six years did not speak to the fact that they did well. Let's be honest. In as much as we needed them, but they will give us some practical experience on things," Mr. Nyenkan says.

Besides, Nyenkan claimed that the tripartite

"Because then you must understand firstly he's a man, secondly he's your boss. You will not control your husband just by the fact that you are Vice President of Liberia, just understand that," he continues.

Nyenkan acknowledges that Vice President Howard - Taylor is very knowledgeable and one of the highest educated ladies in government, adding that her experience puts her mass apart from every other lady in this country.

"When you talk politics, [former President] Ellen [Johnson - Sirleaf] first, second, Jewel Howard Taylor. No lady in Liberia's history has had the opportunity to achieve much, to know much about governance. Maybe that's the reason why she feels she should be president instead of vice president," Nyenkan claims.

can't stay with the group and differ with the group," he argues.

"And that's the problem with the Vice President, with all due respect to her and all the guys in the office there. They are my brothers, you know, they are my brothers ... I know them very well," Nyenkan adds.

He explains additionally that he has had issues, whether with President Weah or Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, but when the group takes a decision, you go with the group or resign if you can't propagate the group's decision.

# Maryland Police

Cont'd from page 6

protest, but he had to return from Monrovia before arresting several persons in connection with the violence that was characterized by arson attacks on public and private properties, including a prison compound and the home of Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who hails from Maryland County.

According to Sgt. Nimley,

raining insults on female officers and has poor working relationship with them.

Sgt. Nimley who took up assignment in Maryland County in 2010, said she would seek for reassignment if Police Commander Comehn remains in the county after investigation, because she could no longer work with him, noting that her life is not secure under his



while inquiring from her landlord, her boss ranted invectives, telling her to get her "a-h---" outside to which she advised him not to insult her anymore.

She stressed that upon her response, Commander Comehn rushed on her angrily, and a PSU officer tried restraining him, but he shoved the officer off and then punched her several times in her face, inflicting wounds on her.

She said doctor at the J.J. Dossen hospital in Harper, Maryland County advised that she go to the Jackson F. Doe Referral Hospital in Tappita, Nimba County for an X-ray, but due to lack of finance she has not visited there.

Sgt. Nimely also claimed during the assault, she lost a total of US\$720, her phone and slippers.

She said her boss has always been in the habit of

leadership.

While the case is currently before the Professional Standards Division of the Liberia National Police in Monrovia, the female officer has threatened to take legal step with the involvement of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia.

Several human rights actors and women in Maryland County have condemned the brutality against Sgt. Rebecca Nimely by her boss.

But when this paper contacted Col. Jacob Cumenhn he chose to reserve all comments because the matter is before the Professional Standards Division of the LNP.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# No class, no race in women's participation

## -Liberia's First Lady tells ECOWAS Parliament



"We need a long lasting solution. Over the last decade, it has not been translated into actions; we still have violence against women", the First Lady notes.

Madam Weah, who is also founder of the Clar Hope Foundation, says that her foundation is there to empower and enhance skills of women and girls, saying, "I have always dreamt of becoming an advocate for children around the world. I am committed to seek true empowerment of women across the world."

The meeting which was held under the theme; Empowerment of Women in the ECOWAS region brought together members of the parliament, Liberia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee Maxwell Kemayah, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, Gender Minister Williametta Saydee-Tarr, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar

By Ethel A. Tweh

The First Lady of Liberia Clar Marie Weah has kicked against basing women's participation in leadership on class system, saying participation should involve every female from all classes

and races.

Addressing the opening session of the 54th ECOWAS Parliamentary meeting in Monrovia Tuesday, April 13, Madam Weah said no girl or woman should feel deprived of any opportunity because of her gender.

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# Bestman Memorial Tournament this week

Liberia Black Star will this Saturday, April 17, 2021, hold second in a series of the Pennoh Bestman Memorial Tournament with four top teams clashing for supremacy.

The annual football tournament, dubbed (PWB) Memorial Football Tournament, is expected to be hosted at the popular Alpha Old Timers Soccer Pitch in Zubah Town, Paynesville, outside Monrovia in memory of the team's late President,



The late Black Star President, Pennoh Bestman

Pennoh W. Bestman.

According to a statement from the Liberia Black Star, the four participating teams include: Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Crowd 60-70 Social & Athletic Organization, Gentlemen Old-timers Sports Association (GEOSA), and Liberia Black Star.

There will also be two exhibition matches on the same day with Alpha Old-timers 50 and Above taking on Blazing Star Lodge 17 and Liberia Old-timers National Association (LONA) All-stars

locking horns with the Sports Writers Association of Liberia (SWAL).

The one-day sport event is in recognition of Mr. Bestman's passion, commitment and leadership in promoting football among youth in communities.

The winner of the tournament will receive a large trophy, while all participating teams are expected to receive certificates. The PWB Memorial Football Tournament

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